



Hillcrest Community Civic Association

"Working together for a better community"

www.HillcrestDC.com

P.O. Box 30895, Washington, D.C. 20030-0895, phone 202-584-2703

The Hillcrest Newsletter

A publication by the Hillcrest Community Civic Association

Working Together for a Better Community

JANUARY 2012

**HCCA
GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING:**
**Saturday,
January 7, 2012
10 a.m.**

**At the Hillcrest
Recreation Center
Corner of Denver
& 32nd Streets, SE**

**NOTE: Meetings
are held the first
Saturday of the
month.**

DCPS Chancellor Kaya Henderson Will Address the HCCA

The District of Columbia Public Schools' Chancellor Kaya Henderson will be the guest speaker at the Jan. 7 HCCA meeting. The Council of the District of Columbia confirmed Henderson as the DCPS Chancellor on June 21, 2011.



A native of Mt. Vernon, NY, Henderson attended Mt. Vernon public schools where she graduated from Mt. Vernon High School with honors. She received her master of arts in leadership from Georgetown University, and a bachelor's degree in international relations also from Georgetown. Her education career began as a middle school Spanish teacher in the South Bronx, and she spent summers overseeing the professional development of new teachers at summer institutes with Teach for America.

In 2000, Henderson began her work with The New Teacher Project, where she eventually became the Vice President for Strategic Partnerships, overseeing the organization's work on improving teacher hiring for school districts from a process, policy and capacity-building perspective. She also launched alternative certification programs including the DC Teaching Fellows Program in a number of districts. In 2001, she worked closely with DCPS leadership and the Washington Teachers' Union to make policy changes to improve teacher hiring in the District. She came to DCPS as deputy chancellor in 2007, where she led the District's human capital efforts and served as the chief negotiator for the 20120 contract between DCPS and the Washington Teachers Union. Her team led the development of IMPACT, a teacher assessment system to ensure an effective teacher is leading every classroom in DC. Henderson's work in developing human capital at DCPS has served as a model for other school districts throughout the country.

Inside this issue:

Message from the President	2
The Enlightened Environmentalist	3
Community Calendar for January	4

HILLCREST NEWS AND UPDATES



More Ways to Get Around—Yay!

As I look back at 2011 in Hillcrest, I see one area of undeniable progress in making our neighborhood more livable—improved transportation options. Thanks in large part to HCCA's Streets, Traffic and Transportation Committee, under the leadership of Veronica Davis, we have gained two new options for transportation to downtown: Bikeshare and the Circulator bus. Bicycles and public transportation are not for everyone, but even those who drive should appreciate that if more people use public transportation, then there will be less cars

(Continued on page 2)

A Message from the President

Dear Neighbors,

The board of the Hillcrest Community Civic Association and I wish you all of our neighbors and friends a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!! We start 2012 with the DC Public Schools' Chancellor Kaya Henderson as our guest speaker. I am sure this will be a lively and well attended meeting. We plan to follow up through the near future with guest speakers from the National Park Service East, Department of Transportation and Office on Aging. If there is an agency you would like to hear from, please let me know so we can schedule them.

The annual holiday party was a tremendous success. The Hospitality Committee will be following up with a survey to see what you liked most about the event and what you would like to see in the 2012 celebration.

I'm going to begin to look for members of the HCCA Nominating Committee around June so we have plenty of time to develop a new slate of officers for 2013.

As the board puts the finishing touches on the 2012 activities, I hope the membership will step up and work with our committee chairs to make 2012 the best year for HCCA ever. We need your support to keep our association the BEST IN THE CITY.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Karen

Any ideas or articles for the newsletter, by the 15th of the month, please e-mail the editor, Michelle Phipps-Evans, at hillcrestdc_newsletter@yahoo.com. Or follow on Twitter @HillcrestWard7 or write it on the Facebook wall.

*Kathy Chamberlain,
1st VP, HCCA*

11th Street Bridge Completion

Mayor Vincent Gray and other city officials recently held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the opening of the 11th Street bridges over the Anacostia River. The bridges are designed to provide a seamless connection between the Southeast/Southwest freeway and the Anacostia Freeway. According to the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) director, Terry Bellamy, this was the first design-build-to-budget bridge project in the District, and the agency is pleased with the results. DDOT has worked extensively with the HCCA and the Ward 7 community through the planning and design stages; and will continue to do so until its completion in 2015. There will be new traffic patterns due to phases of work continuing on the

HCCA NEWS AND UPDATES

(Continued from page 1)

to compete with on the roads.

Hillcrest now has Bikeshare stations at Skyland, Penn-Branch and Fairfax Village. This is a convenient way to get to Capitol Hill and to the blue/orange Metro lines, at least during the warmer months. Although the ride back to Hillcrest can be difficult because of our hills.

Try using the Circulator Bus to get home. Its route and schedule could use some streamlining, but I have found it useful for getting to and from Capitol Hill. Unfortunately the route ends at 30th and Alabama, so it is convenient to only a small part of Hillcrest. It

does not run past 7 p.m., nor does it run on weekends. However, it will run until 9 p.m. on Saturdays starting in April. If you have ridden our Circulator, you will most likely have comments about its route, which to me seems needlessly circuitous. The website www.dccirculator.com shows where to send your comments.

If you want the Circulator to truly serve Hillcrest, try it out, then please participate in meetings where routes and schedules are discussed, or at least provide your comments to the STTC Chair Veronica Davis at vod2@cornell.edu. Now for us walkers, if we could just get sidewalks on one side of the street in every block of Hillcrest....

(Continued on page 3)

HILLCREST NEWS AND UPDATES

(Continued from page 2)

bridge. Go www.ddot.dc.gov or call (202) 673-6813 for more information.

Keeping Safe

Due to a recent spike in crimes near Hillcrest homes, the HCCA asks that you to leave on your porch lights to assist as a minor deterrent. And be aware of your surroundings at

all times. Report anything that seems suspicious.

DC Chew's Inaugural Market at Skyland

On Saturday, Dec. 10 and 17, DC Chew hosted two seemingly well-attended farmers' market at the Skyland Shopping center. There, Hillcrest neighbors caught up with each other and made new friends while poring over fresh peppers, smoked salmon, freshly brewed organic coffee,

Asian spiced hummus and more. A project by the Office of the Deputy Mayor and sponsored by the Mayor, DC CHEW (Community, Harvest, Education in Ward 7) became the place for our local community to buy sustainable, locally produced food, watch chef demonstrations, learn healthy eating tips and enjoy entertainment. The farmers' market will return May 2012. For more information, visit its website at www.dcc Chew.com.

The Enlightened Environmentalist

Living Green

Recycling Yard Waste, Our Leaves and Grass

Many people don't understand the value of recycling grass and leaves. Since some municipalities allow leaves and grass clippings to be bagged and put out for trash pick-up, they send the wrong message that this is the best way to dispose of yard waste. Sadly, this practice does more harm than good by overfilling landfills with plastic bags that don't readily decompose. When you recycle grass and leaves, you are doing what's best for your lawn and the environment.

It isn't necessary to send leaves, grass and other yard waste to a landfill since it isn't really "waste." Yard clippings are full of valuable nutrients that can be used in your yard, garden or compost pile. When you recycle grass and leaves, you are saving yourself time and money while conserving valuable landfill space.

One of the easiest ways to recycle your leaves and grass clippings is simply by leaving them on your lawn. This practice is often called ***grasscycling***. You can chop leaves with your lawnmower and let them stay on your lawn just as you did with the grass you mowed. This practice saves you money since you'll need less fertilizer. Grass clippings are rich in nitrogen and will release these nutrients back into your lawn as the clippings breakdown. Contrary to what many people believe, leaving clippings on your lawn won't cause thatch build-up.

If you just can't stand leaving clippings on your lawn, then try creating a ***compost pile***. This will allow you to make your own ***organic compost*** that can be used throughout your landscaping. Composting can be as simple as making a pile in a corner of your yard or as elaborate as a composting system or ***composting bin***. To compost your grass and leaves, add them to your chosen compost system. Fresh grass with dried leaves make a good combination. Keep an even balance of dry and wet materials; and making sure the pile gets adequate ventilation will ensure that your compost breaks down properly without any offensive odors. Keep adding to your pile, including kitchen scraps if you'd like, and you will eventually end up with a pile of nutrient rich compost that can be used all over your landscape. Avoid using any animal or dairy products in your compost pile as this created odors and can attract pests. According to ***Ohio State University***, "The more surface area the microorganisms have to work on, the faster the materials decompose."

Good Luck and Happy Greening our Environment!!!!

Courtesy the Environmental and Beautification Committee

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 CIVIC ASSOCIATION
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Community Calendar for January

- 7 10 a.m. HCCA Meeting, Hillcrest Community Center, 32nd & Denver St., SE
- 9 7 p.m. Friends of Francis Gregory Library Meeting
Interim Francis Gregory Library, 2100 36th Place, SE
- 11 10 a.m. Goodhope Marketplace Taskforce Meeting (Safeway Discussions)
Goodhope Police Substation, 2800 blk Alabama Ave., SE
- 18 6 p.m. PSA 606 Police/Community Meeting
East Washington Heights Baptist Church, 2220 Branch Ave., SE
- 19 7 p.m. ANC 7B Monthly Meeting, Ryland Methodist Church, 3200 "S" St., SE

**Scout meeting every Saturday morning, 9:30 a.m.—Cub Scouts;
 11 a.m.—Boy Scouts at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church**

WE'RE ON THE WEB
 WWW.HILLCRESTD.C.OM
 HILLCRESTD.C@
 YAHOOGROUPS.COM
 "ALL OVER
 HILLCREST"
 FACEBOOK PAGE
 TWEET
 @HILLCRESTWARD7

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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES FOR 2012? Your paid-through date is on the mailing label of this news-
 letter. If it is earlier than 2012, please send your payment now.

Name: _____ Date: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Amount: _____
 E-Mail: _____ Cash or Check

New Member Renewal Name & Address in Hillcrest Directory Y or N
 Receive the newsletter in the mail Or, read the newsletter on the web (www.HillcrestDC.com)
 I'd like to serve on the following committee(s): _____
 (Visit the website for a list of committees)

Annual membership fee: \$12 per household per calendar year. Make check payable to HCCA, and
 mail to: Hillcrest Community Civic Association, P.O. Box 30895, Washington, D.C. 20030-0895
 Or pay using a credit card online at www.hillcrestdc.com/paydues.htm