

# THE HILLCREST NEWSLETTER



## HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

*"Working together for a Better Community!"*

www.hillcrestdc.com

P.O. Box 30895, Washington, DC 20030

January 2014

### CALENDER OF EVENTS

#### OBAMACARE

Sign up now at <https://dchealthlink.com>  
or call 1-855-532-5465

#### HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

Hillcrest Recreation Center  
32nd and Denver Sts., SE  
Saturday, January 4, 2014 10AM to Noon

#### FRIENDS OF FRANCIS A. GREGORY LIBRARY MEETING

Francis Gregory Library  
3660 Alabama Ave., SE  
Monday, January 6, 2014 7PM to 9PM

#### PSA 606 POLICE COMMUNITY MEETING

East Washington Heights Baptist Church  
2200 Branch Ave., SE  
Wednesday, January 20, 2014 7PM

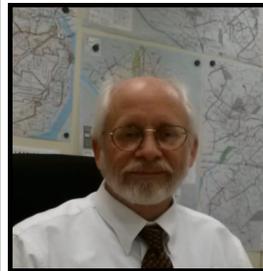
#### ANC 7B MONTHLY MEETING

Ryland Methodist Church  
3200 S ST., SE  
Thursday, January 21, 2014 7PM- 9PM

*We wish all our neighbors and their families, our city officials, and all those who volunteer to make our community a better place, a safe, healthy, and prosperous ...*



### This Month's Guest Speaker



**James Hamre** is Director of the Office of Bus Planning, Scheduling and Customer Facilities (PSCF) and has held this position for the past 4 seasons. This office manages Metrobus route development, planning and scheduling for existing and new

Metrobus services and enhancements. As a part of Metro's Long Range Planning Office, Hamre served 3 years as Senior Planning Manager responsible for Bus Projects and Corridor Planning which develops plans for the efficient and effective evolution of, and investment in, Metrobus and streetcar services and facilities. He served 13 years as Transit Section Chief with the Arlington County, Virginia Department of Public Works. Hamre was active in the formation of MetroAccess and led the creation of Arlington Transit (local bus) and Arlington STAR (paratransit) along with the Arlington Commuter Services Program (TDM and marketing). He participated in the review of over 100 site plans and implemented several capital projects including the Pentagon Transit Center, Crystal City-Potomac Yard Busway and planning for the proposed Columbia Pike streetcar.

**There will also be a presentation by Maya Garcia** from the Office of the State Superintendent (OSSE) introducing the Next Generation Science Standards recently adopted by the State Board of Education.

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## Holiday Gifts for DC Kids

We would like to thank the members of HCCA for their contributions to the Federation of Citizens Association's Holiday Gifts for D.C. Foster Children. There are currently over 3,000 children in foster care. This is the first year HCCA has contributed to this worthy cause and we got 15 gifts from participating members. Our goal is to increase participation in next year's drive, so mark it on your calendar to pick up an extra gift to contribute at next years Holiday Celebration.

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## Education: Application School Update



The Education and Recreation Committee continues to push DCPS's Chancellor Kaya Henderson and Councilmember David Catania to establish an application school to serve all of our high-performing Washington DC students to be located on the east end of the city. We want to thank you for your participation in filling out the survey we launched last month. Your input will help us design the school, and bring quality academic programming to enhance our students' futures, and to best match our educational values.

For information on the findings of our survey, please visit HCCA's website at

[http://www.hillcrestdc.com/docs/  
AppSchSurveyResults.pdf](http://www.hillcrestdc.com/docs/AppSchSurveyResults.pdf)

## Life in Cary, North Carolina, with Fond Memories of Hillcrest

*By Guest Columnist, Vince Spaulding  
President Emeritus, HCCA*

It is with great pleasure that I have this opportunity to again address the members of HCCA, this time, as a past president who has moved back to his home state of North Carolina, after residing in the District of Columbia for over 43 years. So it goes without saying that I still feel strong ties to the Hillcrest community and my many friends. Paula and I decided to move to Cary, NC, because we wanted a slower pace of life, in a place where municipal government worked without me having to do anything but pay my taxes. Cary is located between Durham and Raleigh, off interstate 40, has a population of over 145,000 persons, but refers to itself as a small town, even though it qualifies to be referred to as a city. Cary has been rated the best small city to live in the United States by Money Magazine many times due to its low crime, high quality of schools, access to excellent health care, cost of living, economic development, and the overall quality of life in the community, i.e. no trash, litter, and signs on poles. Nevertheless, to my disappointment, North Carolinians within the past year have experienced setbacks on a broad range of issues. From taxes to social services to schools and election laws, these issues are "turning the clock back" as it relates to North Carolina being the most progressive state in the south. So I am now engaged again in politics, and have agreed to serve as the state-wide Campaign Treasurer for a candidate, who is running for Governor. My candidate is taking a stand against voter suppression, teacher and state employee cut backs, lack of health care for the uninsured, and he has taken a position in support of equality for women, veteran's rights, and for a healthier economy. He has had the courage to step up to the plate and run for Governor in an effort to turn things around and I have agreed to help him. So my days of living the life of leisure and sailing my boat, have come to an end for a

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while.

Paula has become engaged in volunteer work at the American Red Cross, Dress for Success, and is heavily involved in working on scholarship committees for her sorority and former high school. So I can say that we are both duly engaged in activities that keep us actively involved in things that give us a reason to get up and get going every day.

In closing, I look forward to getting my HCCA newsletter every month, I am frequently on the phone talking to my many friends and buddies in Hillcrest, and I try to visit the community as often as I can. I will always consider Hillcrest home. My cell phone number is still a 202 number, and I enjoy reading about all of the various new initiatives and community engagement activities underway. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas, and I wish you a Happy New Year. I still have on my to do list to attend Hillcrest meetings from time to time. My best regards to everyone! You can reach me by email at, [vspauld78@gmail.com](mailto:vspauld78@gmail.com).

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### **Sign up for Obamacare/ Health Insurance at the next HCCA Meeting**

When: Saturday, January 4, 2013  
Time: Starting at 10:00  
Location: Hillcrest Recreation Center  
(Computer Room)

If you or anyone you know needs health insurance, please come to the next HCCA meeting. DC Health Link Assisters will be available to answer your healthcare questions and enroll residents in affordable public and private health insurance plans through Obamacare. DC Health Link Assisters will help you find quality, affordable health insurance through the new DC Health Link marketplace. There is no cost to you.

## **New Hillcrest Playground Opens**



Hillcrest resident, Taleyah Evans, recently pushed herself off on a swing at the newly renovated playground at the Hillcrest Recreation Center on Denver Street in Southeast.

“This is so exciting, and so much fun,” said Taleyah, 9. “I’m waiting for summer for the spray park to open up so I can jump into the water.” Little Taleyah climbed, jumped, seesawed and swung as she tried all the equipment at the playground, which opened Dec. 2 at a mayoral ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Mayor Vincent Gray, Ward 7 Councilmember Yvette Alexander, ANC 7 B05 Commissioner Robin Marlin, Hillcrest Community Civic Association president Karen Williams, interim director of the Department of Parks and Recreation Dr. Sharia Shanklin, and the director of the Department of General Services Brian Hanlon joined the community to cut the ribbon to open the playground. Students from the Anne Beers Elementary School joined in the ceremony as well.



The playground embraces a “green” theme with bamboo elements matching the Hillcrest community of well-manicured lawns, rolling

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**Correction:** In the article by Paul Savage "Hillcrest Community Civic Association (HCCA) Past, Present and Future (page 2, December 2013), the year in the first sentence should be 2014 instead of 2013. The sentence should have been "As we approach the dawning of 2014, I look back over the early years of HCCA with great fondness, respect for our many accomplishments and a renewed spirit in what is possible in the years ahead."

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hills and gardens. It features new 5- to 12-year-old play equipment, new 2- to 5-year-old play equipment, a four-person wee-saw, Mobius climber, new community garden and a new splash pad with tons of water play and spray features. This playground is part of [Mayor Gray's Play DC Playground Improvement Initiative](#), which targeted 40 citywide playgrounds for renovation throughout 2013 and 2014.

## 2013 Holiday Luncheon

A great time was had by all who attended the HCCA Annual Holiday Celebration. We would like to thank the Hospitality Committee headed by Yvonne Burke for all their hard work. The room look fabulous, the food was plentiful and great, the music helped set the mood as the HCCA membership had a great time just catching up and socializing. Then the surprise

visitor from the North Pole stole the show. HCCA would like to thank all who supported this event. We have the reputation of being a politically active association but its okay to have fun sometime, we look forward to many more fun events in the future.



## HCCA Board

Karen Williams, President  
Michelle Phipps-Evans, First Vice President  
Boyle Stuckey, Second Vice President  
Deborah Johnson, Secretary  
Monica H. Evans, Treasurer  
Kenneth Burke, Parliamentarian  
Frank Anderson, Chaplain  
Mattie Cheek, Chair, Communications  
De 'Andre Anderson, Chair, Education and Recreation  
Mary Ross, Chair, Environmental and Beautification  
Sheila Brown, Chair, Fundraising  
Philip Hammond, Chair, Membership  
David Kirkpatrick, Chair, Public Safety/  
Emergency Preparedness  
Mark Johnson, Chair, Streets, Traffic and Transportation

Contact information is available on our website at [www.hillcrestdc.com](http://www.hillcrestdc.com)



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