



NEWSLETTER

HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter
3319 Alabama Avenue, Southeast
Washington, D.C. 20020
www.HillcrestDC.com

Next Meeting: Saturday, February 7, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.

NOTE: Meetings are normally held the first Saturday of the month



Guest Speaker for February 7, 2004

Anthony A. Williams
Mayor of the District of Columbia

The Honorable Anthony A. Williams, Mayor of the District of Columbia, is coming to Hillcrest in February and will speak at the February HCCA meeting.

Mr. Robert Bobb, the new City Administrator, graciously switched places with Mayor Williams and served as our speaker for the January meeting after we were informed by the Mayor's office of an unalterable commitment that would prevent his appearance.

During his presentation, Mr. Bobb provided an update on the status of the Skyland Shopping Center project. Financing is moving forward under a 108 application and legislation will be introduced in February to support the project. The NCRC board will meet in January regarding the project, and an update will be provided in the March newsletter.

Mr. Bobb also discussed his work on the health care alliance; the restructuring of property management; youth services administration; and efforts to put more police officers in neighborhoods with involvement by all government agencies to help reduce crime and violence. There was a lively discussion focused primarily around the Skyland project, economic development east of the river, and education.

The HCCA greatly appreciates Mr. Bobb returning from an out of town trip to talk to the residents of Hillcrest about their concerns and about what's going on in local government. He proved to be an outstanding speaker, who facilitated a great discussion with the community. A parting sentiment by one resident summed it up nicely when he said that "hiring Robert Bobb was one of the best decisions the Mayor has made".

Message from the President

Dear Members of HCCA

I identified expanding the size of HCCA membership from our present level of 365 family units to 500 family units as one of the top ten items I intend to focus on during my tenure of duty as your president. The size of the civic association membership carries great weight when we are addressing issues important to the Hillcrest community to various Government officials. Also, when providing input on pending or needed legislation that may impact upon the Hillcrest community, the strength of our organization is a major consideration by the Mayor or members of the City Council when making decisions. One easy and very quick way to meet this goal is for every member of HCCA to recruit one new member within the next 60 days. In order to monitor how well we are doing with this initiative, we have modified the association dues form. The form now contains a space for the new member to indicate the name of the HCCA member who did the recruiting. Our Membership Chairperson will be tracking how well we are doing and is developing a plan of action to recognize the persons who recruit the most new members at our 15th HCCA Anniversary Dinner being planned for this year. Hillcrest is a great community filled with wonderful people. The more folks who become engaged the better the quality of life will be in Hillcrest; and it can become an even better place to live, work and raise a family.

Sincerely,

Vincent M. Spaulding, President HCCA

Personnel Changes in MPDC Affecting Our Community

Chief Ramsey recently announced the promotion of Winston Robinson Jr. to Assistant Chief in charge of Regional Operations Command (ROC)-East, which includes the Sixth and Seventh Police Districts. Robinson fills the position held by Jose Acosta, who retired from the MPDC in early January.

Since 1993, Robinson has been commander of the Seventh District. Some Hillcrest residents remember Robinson from the days when Hillcrest was in the

7th District. He was a responsive, accessible, proactive commander who regularly attended community meetings. He knows our community well, and we welcome him to ROC-East and look forward to working with him again.

Commander Evelyn Primas, a Hillcrest resident and 25-year veteran of the MPDC, assumes leadership of the Court Liaison Division, which oversees the scheduling and appearance of MPD officers at trials and other court-related activities. Congratulations, Cmdr. Primas!

Removal of Political Signs for Presidential Primary Vote

This is to encourage community action "**in the form of removal**" of political posters installed for the District's non-binding Democratic presidential primary vote that occurred on January 13, 2004. It is unfortunate that the persons who installed the signs are not equally interested in removing these eyesores. Also if you are tired of those illegal posting of signs installed on trees and lamp poles in violation of the District's poster laws that make your neighborhood look trashy, they should be removed. Signs advertising "Hub Cap Sale", "Home Buying", "Quick Loans", "Maryland Night Clubs" are still being installed in our community even with the police being on alert for these illegal acts. These types of activities, if not abated, send a message to persons interested in doing other illegal activities that it is okay to do so. The best defense to discourage the installation of illegal posting of signs in the community is to remove them as quickly as possible. There is a cost to the sponsors of illegal sign installations. Quick removal results in the sponsor not benefiting from the costs of the sign; and they normally go away. The Mayor's call center is available to assist in the removal of illegal sign postings and the issuing of fines to offenders. They can be contacted at 202-727-1000 or by use of your PC, i.e. www.dc.gov. Also, if you see signs in Maryland, please contact Mr. Paul Franklin who handles sign removals in Prince Georges County at 301-513-7311 or 301-513-7489. Mr. Franklin is very interested in the abatement of illegal sign postings and encourages that you leave a message on his answering machine, if you call and he is not there. Vincent Spaulding

Hillcrest Community Civic Association Proposed guidelines for management of meeting time

Draft: 1/10/04, to be approved by HCCA Board

The Hillcrest Community Civic Association is proud that its monthly meetings are among the best-attended of any civic association in the District of Columbia. Every monthly agenda includes reports from HCCA committees, discussion of community issues, and presentations by invited speakers. Given the desire of the Board and Members for meetings that explore issues in an efficient manner, while providing an opportunity for everyone to be heard, the following guidelines are proposed.

- Monthly meetings begin promptly at 10 am and should end by noon. The Board commits to this schedule and asks the help of Members and guests in making it happen.
- The President (or presiding officer) will announce blocks of time for consideration of topics – including committee reports, old/new business – and will allot specific time for debate after a motion is made. The written meeting agenda will continue to include timing of meeting sections.
- Each committee chair and scheduled presenter will strive to follow the prescribed time.
- Committee reports will be better coordinated in order to avoid duplication or redundancy. Chairs will note the distinction between information and action items, and will provide the Board in advance with written requests for action items. Committee chairs will request extra time, if needed, for major initiatives or important reports to the community. The Board will explore alternate ways of circulating data to the Membership outside meeting times – for example, providing crime statistics or school data through e-mail or in the HCCA newsletter.
- Guest speakers will be provided with guidelines informing them of start/end times, format of 20 minutes for presentation, and 40 minutes for questions.
- During discussion following the guest speaker's presentation, Members are encouraged to follow a one-minute rule: Questions or comments should take no more than one minute, and be directed at the topic raised by the speaker.

- In this discussion, and in the “community concerns” section at the end of each meeting, Members are encouraged to raise matters of broad interest to the Hillcrest community. Questions involving individual issues (such as a particular utilities problem or police report) should be taken up directly with the agency in question, outside of meeting time.
- HCCA's parliamentarian will be asked to write a succinct “Robert's Rules” on major points of meeting order. This will be distributed to Board and members to provide clarity about procedures. The Parliamentarian will advise the Board on points of meeting order, and will be a member of the leadership team for each monthly meeting. Nelson Smith, Secretary, HCCA

New Newspaper, *The Hillcrest View*, Hits the Streets

The premier issue of the Hillcrest View, a free newsweekly, was unveiled on January 15th. The editor, Bruce Jones, hopes to reflect the collective hopes and dreams of the Southeast community by sharing stories, successes, and struggles. Jones' vision is that the written word will ignite community action on challenging issues and will serve as the catalyst to create a brighter future of our own making. Mr. Jones will make remarks about the newspaper at the February HCCA meeting.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Garet, Matthew, & Ann Borenstein
3115 Westover Drive, SE

Elwyn, Erica Smith & Darryl Love
3622 Austin St., SE

Next ANC 7b Meeting, February 19th, 7-9 p.m. Ryland Epworth Methodist Church

3200 “S” Street, SE

ON THE AGENDA:

Discussion & vote on zoning variance for Westover Drive, SE

Discussion & vote in support of redevelopment of Skyland Shopping Center

Full agenda will be posted at www.anc7b.org by Feb 13th

Street Sweeping Halted for Winter

Parking restrictions on posted street cleaning days throughout the District have been lifted through March 12th to coincide with the annual winter suspension of mechanical street sweeping operations by the D.C. Department of Public Works. Motorists who park along posted, alternate-side street sweeping routes will not be required to move their cars on street-sweeping days during the hiatus. City officials said no tickets will be issued for parking in violation of street-sweeping zone restrictions until the sweeping operations resume on March 15th.

Officials said the mechanical sweepers will be used on an unscheduled basis, without parking restrictions, when weather conditions permit throughout the winter. In sub-freezing temperatures, the sweepers cannot be used because they spread a thin layer of water under their rotating brushes. Officials note this could create hazardous driving conditions or impede snow removal efforts.

Community Calendar for February

- 7 10:00 a.m. - Hillcrest Community Civic Association Meeting (Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter)
- 11 6:00 p.m. – PSA 608 Community/Police Meeting, 6th District Substation, 2710 Pa. Ave., SE
- 18 6:00 p.m. – PSA 610 Community/Police Meeting, 6th District Substation, 2710 Pa. Ave., SE
- 19 7:00 p.m. – ANC 7B Monthly Meeting, Ryland Epworth Methodist Church
- 28 10:00 a.m., Friends of the Francis Gregory Library Meeting, 3660 Alabama Ave., SE

for more calendar events, check www.HillcrestDC.com

Join the Hillcrest Civic Association. Only \$10 for a full year!

Name(s) _____
Address _____ zip _____
Phone Number _____ Email _____
Recruited by _____

Make check payable to Hillcrest Community Civic Association and mail to: Dennis Logan, Treasurer,
3624 Austin Street SE, Washington DC 20020 phone: 582-4724

