

Message from the President

We have successfully come through another holiday season and another transition in our city and civic association governance. As we walk into the New Year, it is time to return our attention to issues you have indicated are important to our community. The election for the vacant Ward 7 Council seat is fast approaching, and a general concern for Hillcrest residents. Participating in the completion of the planning for the Skyland Project and the Pennsylvania Avenue Revitalization Project are also key matters for us. Also high on your list of priorities are ongoing traffic concerns.

Washington, D.C., has been cited as one of the worse areas for traffic in the United States. While listening to the concerns of my neighbors, it occurred to me that our current traffic plan is not adequate to

solve the problem. As we address the problem on one street, it simply moves the problem to another. We cannot stop the influx of vehicles coming into our community from Prince George's County and other areas. As we continue to put traffic calming measures into effect on our major thoroughfares, we will continue to create problems on our side streets. We need to step back and take a comprehensive look at the traffic congestion in our area, in the city in general; and the new traffic problems that will be created by Skyland and other developments in Hillcrest. Our goal should be to develop a plan that keeps the traffic flow moving freely through our community but protects the sanctity of our neighborhoods.

The upcoming Ward 7 election is paramount for our community. This race has

attracted numerous candidates, some of whom have no track record of community involvement, no proven political experience, nor have they presented a concrete platform. When deciding which candidate to endorse, please remember, we, who live East of the River, have a unique opportunity to have our voices heard. We have the unprecedented opportunity to have four members of the City Council living on this side of the river. Choose wisely, and make sure the candidate you support has more to offer than a slick ad campaign. Examine the slate of candidates closely to ensure you endorse the best qualified to further the agenda of our community! Be the catalyst for change.

Take the time to get involved, and the time to vote!

Karen Lee Williams, President, HCCA

What are the Benefits of Neighborhood Watch, part 2

NOTES FROM THE 6TH DISTRICT MPD

Statistics show that proactive law enforcement, or a community crime prevention program, is more effective in reducing crime than reactive programs.

Neighborhood Watch:

- Establishes a **formal network** for groups to communicate with neighbors, the Police Department and the Neighborhood Services Department (NSD) regarding crime related problems;
- Reduces the opportunity for

- crimes to take place;
- Puts the community spirit back into the community;
- Creates cohesion between neighbors where folks care about each other and watch out for each other's families and property.

Working together as a team, Neighborhood Watch groups, NSD and law enforcement officers can reduce the opportunities for crime.

Citizens who organize and participate in Neighborhood Watch will:

- Watch for and report suspicious persons, vehicles and activities, and listen for suspicious noises;

- Report crimes and criminal activities;
- Practice and promote various crime prevention and home security measures, including:
 - installing deadbolt locks and other auxiliary locking devices;
 - using automatic timers to control indoor lights;
 - identifying personal belongings by engraving a secure number on them;
 - taking other precautionary measures as recommended by the Police Department and Neighborhood Services.

HCCA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS



- Dr. Gladys W. Bray, 3715-A Alabama Ave., SE
- Stephen Broyles, 2802 31st St., SE
- Mark Long, 800 Kenilworth Terrace, NE
- Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert McCoy, 2063 36th St., SE
- Thaddeus McKoy, 3344 Alabama Ave., SE
- James & Helen Purvis, 2031 36th St., SE
- Rose George, 3619 Austin St., SE
- Rudolph & Ophelia K Thomas, 3408 Alabama Ave., SE
- Carrie & Ellis Turner, 3612 Alabama Ave., SE
- Sam & Barbara Wynn, 2044 36th St., SE

What is Senior Check

MPD Assistant Chief Willie Dandridge announces the formation of a new police-citizen program called Senior Check. It is a new way for the police to assist senior citizens in our neighborhoods by checking on their well being, crime concerns and quality of life issues.

Beat officers will visit homes of senior citizens several times during the week to assess their needs. They will inform the seniors about scams, check on their property to ensure that it is safe and secure, and notify the

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Community Bulletin Board



- February 1, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**—MPD Sixth District Commander Robin Hoey is hosting a townhall meeting at the Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter, 3319 Alabama Ave., SE. He will discuss several crime-related topics including: (1) a synopsis of 2006 crimes, (2) back to the beat deployment for 2007, and (3) strategies for 2007. Everyone is invited to voice his or her concerns.
- February 3, 7 p.m.**—Interstages presents “Songs of Protest!” Celebrate the success of neighborhood youth at a program of music and drama focused on the American Civil Rights and Labor Movements at the Community Center in THEARC, 1901 Mississippi Ave., SE. Free of charge. Call (202) 824-0740 for more info.
- Field Representatives needed**—The U.S. Census is hiring D.C. residents to work part-time (varying hours and days) for temporary work (3-4 months) starting @ \$13.01/hr. Work in D.C. communities collecting data for the American Housing Survey (sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development). Field representatives must be U.S. citizens, be at least 18 years old (or if under 18, have a high school diploma or equivalent), pass a 30-minute test and have a land line telephone. Call 1-888-722-8995 for details and to register for testing.
- March 2 and 3**—In tribute to Black History Month, Serenity Players Inc. presents *Waiting to be Invited* by S.M. Shephard-Massat and directed by D.C.’s own Cody Jones. This 60-minute award-winning drama-comedy is on four middle-aged black women who test their newly acquired civil rights in 1964 Atlanta. It will be presented at THEARC Theatre, 1901 Mississippi Ave., SE, on Friday, March 2, 2007 at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 3, 2007 at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are sold at the door on the day of the performance or at www.serenityplayers.org.

Activities at the Hillcrest Recreation Center

The Hillcrest Recreation Center offers the following activities for the young and the young-at-heart: **After-school Access; *Interstages; *Arts & Crafts; *Kids Club; *Pee Wee Basketball; *Junior Basketball; *Aerobics; *Adult Basketball; *Mocha Moms; *Yoga; *Supreme Teens; *Young Ladies on the Rise; *Sewing Circle; *Over 30s Pickup Basketball; *Hand*

*Dancing; *Wheelchair Basketball.*

For more information, contact the center at 3100 Denver St., SE, at (202) 645-9200.

Hours of Operation (Fall and Winter):
Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

For a complete listing, check out the Hillcrestdc.com Web site.

Tip of the Month

Spread LOVE for Black History Month—Volunteer with youth once a week. To become a weekly academic tutor or music teacher at Interstages, email Rosemary.Ndubizu@interstages.org or call (323) 397-8247.



Special Feature

Neighbors Meeting Neighbors The 2000 36th Street, SE, Holiday Block Party

By Carrie Thornhill

There is just nothing like being neighborly. I ran into a civic friend from my past in the Good Hope Safeway a few months ago. We had a wonderful chat, catching up on old times. As we were about to walk away, I said, “since you are shopping at the neighborhood grocery, you must live nearby.” She said, “Yes, 36th Street.” I replied, “Oh, what block.” She said the 2000 block. I added, “So do I.” Come to find out, she lives on my street and I had never seen her. I told her we needed to connect on the block.

I went home and told my next door neighbor what happened and asked if she knew her. She said no. This was just not acceptable to us. We decided it was time to convene our new and old neighbors. Since she had recently built a beautiful addition to her home, she would be the host. I told her I would do the invitations and have the food prepared. We agreed to host our neighbors at a holiday party, after Christmas on Dec. 29. Fifteen households were represented in the 30 or so persons present.

And did we have a great time together. We enjoyed a complete dinner in a beautifully decorated setting, told wonderful jokes and stories about our neighbors and neighborhood. We talked about the importance of knowing and looking out for each other. I collected 11 memberships for the Hillcrest Community Civic Association for 2007.

What we did not expect to hear was that this was the first time some of our neighbors had been in another neighbor’s home. We learned that invitations to previous get-togethers were not extended to all neighbors. Going forward, we will attempt to make the holiday party an annual event. A new neighbor enthusiastically volunteered to host the block in spring. And I disseminated a directory of these 15 households.

There is a three-fold moral to this story. First, make no assumption that all your neighbors know each other on your block. Second, block parties are great, but make sure all neighbors are invited. Third, an annual event and a directory help to sustain neighborly feelings and community building all year and take it to the next level. Finally, remember to take pictures. We forgot to do so.

Senior Check

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next of kin of any situation that warrant immediate attention. The assistant chief says the program is in its infancy stage, but wants the beat officers to begin knocking on doors immediately. He is asking Hillcrest residents to call

Sergeant Brown or Detective Brown at (202) 645-5333 with ideas to help formalize the Senior Check program with the names of neighbors who might benefit from this service. It is Dandridge's vision that Senior Check becomes a city-wide program, another way to better serve the residents of the District of Columbia.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

3	10 a.m.	HCCA Meeting, Hillcrest Recreation Center 32 nd and Denver Streets, SE
4	7 p.m.	Friends of Francis Gregory Library Meeting Francis Gregory Library, 3660 Alabama Ave., SE
14	10 a.m.	Goodhope Marketplace Taskforce Meeting Goodhope Police Substation, 2800 blk Alabama Ave., SE
21	6 p.m.	PSA 606 Police/Community Meeting Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter, 3319 Alabama Ave., SE
22	7 p.m.	ANC 7B Monthly Meeting Ryland Epworth Methodist Church, 3200 "S" St., SE

PLEASE NOTE: The new mailing address for the Hillcrest Community Civic Association is:
HCCA
P.O. Box 30895
Washington, D.C. 20030-0895

DUES FOR 2007 ARE NOW DUE. PLEASE PAY PROMPTLY.

It's only \$10 per year. Get on track and send your payment NOW!!!!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ ZIP code: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail: _____

New Member: _____ Renewal: _____

I'd like to serve on the following committee(s): _____

Make check payable to the Hillcrest Community Civic Association and mail to
P.O. Box 30895
Washington, D.C. 20030-0895