



Hillcrest Community Civic Association

"Working together for a better community"

[www.HillcrestDC.com](http://www.HillcrestDC.com)

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

FEBRUARY 2011

## Next Meeting: Saturday, Feb. 5, 2011, at 10 a.m.

At the Hillcrest Recreation Center, Corner of Denver & 32<sup>nd</sup> Streets, SE

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

## Council Chairman Kwame Brown Speaks This Month

Council of the District of Columbia Chairman Kwame R. Brown is an innovative leader and native Washingtonian who has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of Districts residents; making education, job creation and economic development the cornerstones of his lifelong service to the community.

Sworn into office January 2011, he is the seventh Chairman to lead the Council of the District of Columbia. Chairman Brown, a Hillcrest resident, will be the speaker at the HCCA February meeting.

As an At-Large Councilman from 2005-2010, Chairman Brown solidified his presence in District government by co-sponsoring more than 170 pieces of legislation. In 2007, he became the Chair of the Committee on Economic Development where he



made certain that developers kept promises made to the city by creating a compliance unit within the D.C. Auditor's office. He has worked hard to protect District communities by increasing the police force, revitalizing neighborhoods, strengthening environmental laws and providing more resources to the victims of domestic violence. His work on the Council led to a landslide victory in his bid for Chairman in 2010, winning nearly 90 percent of the vote.

is a right rather than a privilege, Chairman Brown led the way for the restoration of Phelps Architecture, Construction and Engineering Public High School. At the time of its completion in 2008, Phelps became the first of its kind in the country.

Chairman Brown was one of the many students who attended Phelps—before it fell into disrepair.

Chairman Brown is a graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School. He holds a bachelor's in marketing from Morgan State, and has completed the Senior Executives in Government Program at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and the Business Executive program at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College. He and his wife of 16 years, Marcia, are the proud parents of two children, Lauren and Kwame II.



### Special points of interest:

- HCCA President  
*Promotes One City*
- STTC to Testify
- Safe Drinking Water
- February Calendar

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As a true testament to his leadership, and his firm belief that quality education

## Message from the President

### Dear Neighbors,

2011 started off with a bang. What an amazing turnout for the membership meeting. The place was packed, standing room only. The male members were courteously giving up their seats. Even Earl was there. If I had known that many people were interested in seeing the new Board of Directors being sworn in, I would have booked a larger venue.

OK, OK, we know it was all about the guest speaker, the newly sworn in Mayor of the District of Columbia, Vince Gray. Always a very charismatic, articulate speaker, for the past six months, he has drawn record crowds wherever he has been the keynote speaker. Being his scheduling person would not be on the top of my choice of jobs list.

It was great to see the neighborhood and the ward turn out to support our friend and our

neighbor. Let's all continue to support him in his efforts to turn around the economic crisis, while educating our citizens; keeping our streets and homes safe from crime; picking up leaves; plowing snow; reducing unemployment; fighting for voting rights; and so on and so on.

True believers stand firm even when they realize they are supporting a mere mortal, who will make mistakes and decisions they do not support, especially if they believe, the decisions that are being made are in the best interest of the city as a whole. Mayor Gray's campaign slogan was "One City." Let's support his continuing efforts to make east of the river an integral part of our one city—Washington, DC, the nation's capital, the world's capital.

**Washington, DC! Our City! One City!  
The Best City!**

**Karen**

## Did You Know You Can.....

- **Download D.C. Public Library E-Books on Select Wireless Devices?**

D.C. Public Library users with iPhone or Android devices now have another way to check out books. A software upgrade allows them to browse and download eBooks from the library's catalog to their handheld devices. Check <http://dclibrary.org/node/11964> for more information.

- **Now Follow HCCA on Twitter?**

The Hillcrest Community Civic Association continues to be part of the social media landscape with its recent creation of a Twitter account.

Get updates and other news by following the HCCA @HillcrestWard7 at [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com). Also visit the HCCA's Facebook page, All Over Hillcrest.

- **File Your Taxes on Monday, April 18, 2011?**

Due to the Emancipation Day holiday in the District this year, the deadline for filing income taxes is April 18. Any filer who itemizes deductions on Schedule A have to wait until mid- to late February to file as the IRS must reprogram its processing systems to account for the extension of key provisions. For more info, visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

### Our Deepest Sympathies

The HCCA board would like to extend its condolences to fellow board members, Rev. Kenneth and Yvonne Burke, on the recent loss of their son.

### Text Messaging

If you are interested in receiving emergency alerts or texts from the HCCA communications committee, text the word, "subscribe" to (202) 607-8771.

## February is Black History Month

Any ideas or articles, e-mail the editor, Michelle Phipps-Evans, at [hillcrestdc\\_newsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:hillcrestdc_newsletter@yahoo.com) by the 15th of the month.

**HILLCREST NEWS AND UPDATES**

*Mayor Vince Gray at HCCA*

The top three priorities for the Gray administration are aggressive education reform, jobs for District residents and financial stability, according to Mayor Vince Gray. During an hour-long conversation with the Hillcrest community on Jan. 8, Gray pointed out that the District has a tremendous opportunity to have Wards 7 and 8 join the rest of the city through educational as well as vocational training, which is encouraged as an element toward full employment.

Speaking at one of his first public meetings since he was sworn in Jan. 2, Mayor Gray reassured members of the Hillcrest community, where he lives, that he will be accessible and available. He warned that the upcoming budget, which will be released this spring, will be difficult, and that there will be shared sacrifices as the administration works toward saving the city, making it one city. You can read the Tweets at [www.twitter.com/hillcrestward7](http://www.twitter.com/hillcrestward7).

*Annual Scouting Family Banquet*

The Annual Pack and Troop 1650 Scouting Family Banquet is scheduled for Feb. 26, 2011, at 6 p.m. at St Timothy's Episcopal Church, 3601 Alabama Ave., SE. The banquet honors the cub and boy scouts and their achievements for the scouting season. Each year, the organizing committee prints a souvenir booklet, which includes congratulations, best wishes, kudos, patrons' and sponsors' listings. Although the banquet is free, ads and pages of special recognition to any scout are sold, along with patrons and sponsors listings are available for sale. BSA 1650 would appreciate your support. If interested in placing an ad, becoming a sponsor or patron, send your ad to Banquet Committee Chair Kanika Brookins via e-mail at [intelmuse@yahoo.com](mailto:intelmuse@yahoo.com). Feel free to stop by St. Timothy's on Sat., Feb. 5, and Sat., Feb. 12, 9:30 to noon to pay for your ad or make a purchase in person. Samples of the booklet available.

*HCCA Streets, Traffic and Transportation Committee Update*

The committee recently put together draft transportation recommendations. Go <http://hccatransport.blogspot.com/2011/01/draft-recommendations.html>. Or see [www.hillcrestdc.com](http://www.hillcrestdc.com). STIC will testify before the Council's Committee on Public Safety & the Judiciary on Feb. 4 at noon, 1350 Penn Ave., NW, Room 412.

**The Enlightened Environmentalist**

**Is Your Drinking Water Safe**

Concerns about lead in the District's drinking water resurfaced in December 2010 with the publication of a new study, which concluded that nearly 15,000 District homes where service pipes were replaced by the District's Water agency between 2004 and 2006 may still have some lead in their water. Officials at DC Water and Sewer Authority say the general water supply is safe.....well below the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s standard of 15 parts of lead per billion. However, a study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said some homes may still have high concentrations of lead.

When should you worry about how much lead is too much? The EPA Action level of 15 parts per billion is the standard for what's ok in water. However, some experts believe even that may be too much. Lead can build up in the body over time. As for lead levels in the blood, "there is no known safe lead level," says Lynn Goldman, a pediatrician and dean at George Washington University's School of Public Health. A blood test is the only way to determine if you have blood poisoning.

Lead is such a health concern, because the buildup of lead in your body can cause lead poisoning, which can have lasting effects on mental and physical development. According to the National Institutes of Health, lead poisoning can cause headaches, muscle weakness, behavioral problems and damaged kidneys, nerves and red blood cells.

Lead poisoning affects all ages; however, children younger than 6 are most vulnerable because their brains are still developing. Small amounts of lead have been associated with low IQ, hearing loss, hyperactivity and a tendency toward aggressive and violent behavior. The District's Department of Health recommends that children receive two blood lead tests: the first between 6 and 14 months; the second between 22 and 26 months. You can contact the department at (202) 671-5000 for more information.

In the meantime, if you have concerns about lead in your drinking water, ask DCWASA at (202) 354-3600, for a free lead test kit and information about your specific pipes. The agency will deliver a kit to you within three to five business days and explain the process of collecting several water samples from you to test your water.

**Courtesy the Hillcrest Environmental Newsletter**

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## Community Calendar for February

- 5 10 a.m. HCCA Meeting, Hillcrest Community Center, 32nd & Denver St., SE  
 7 7 p.m. Friends of Francis Gregory Library Meeting  
 Interim Francis Gregory Library, 2100 36th Place, SE  
 9 10 a.m. Goodhope Marketplace Taskforce Meeting  
 Goodhope Police Substation, 2800 blk Alabama Ave., SE  
 16 6 p.m. PSA 606 Police/Community Meeting  
 Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter, 3319 Alabama Ave., SE  
 20 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  
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 "ALL OVER  
 HILLCREST"  
 FACEBOOK PAGE

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**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES FOR 2011?** Your paid-through date is on the mailing label of this newsletter. If it is earlier than 2011, please send your payment now.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal: \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to: \_\_\_\_ read the newsletter on the web ([www.HillcrestDC.com](http://www.HillcrestDC.com)) or \_\_\_\_ receive the newsletter in the mail. (Please help us save postage by reading the newsletter online.)

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

Annual dues are \$12/year. Make check payable to the  
 Hillcrest Community Civic Association and mail to:

**P.O. Box 30895**

**Washington, D.C. 20030-0895**

Or pay using a credit card online at [www.hillcrestdc.com/paydues.htm](http://www.hillcrestdc.com/paydues.htm)