

The Hillcrest Newsletter

The ideal community!

FEBRUARY 2013

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

PLACE: HILLCREST RECREATION CENTER
32ND AND DENVER ST. SE
TIME: Saturday, February 2nd from 10am to Noon

FRIENDS OF FRANCIS A. GREGORY LIBRARY MEETING

Place: Francis Gregory Library
3660 Alabama Ave., SE
TIME: 1st Monday of the month at 7pm

PSA 606 POLICE COMMUNITY MEETING

Place: EAST WASHINGTON HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
2200 BRANCH AVE, SE
TIME: February 20th from 7pm – 9pm

ANC 7B MONTHLY MEETING

PLACE: RYLAND METHODIST CHURCH, 3200 S ST., SE
TIME: THURSDAY, February 21st from 7pm – 9pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Black History Month Luncheon
Location: Marriott Wardman Park Hotel Washington D.C.
February 23, 2013, begins at 12:30PM
For more info.: 800.228.9290 or legacyawards@asalh.net

Black History Month Events at the Smithsonian can be found
http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/heritage_month/event_calendar.html

Information or updates on the **Bridge/Waterfront Project**
can be found at <http://www.anacostiawaterfront.org>.

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Historic Look...

I freed a thousand slaves- I could have freed a thousand more if only they knew they were slaves.

Harriet Tubman

Noble, heroic men and women came before us- paving the way. There were times when every unimaginable obstacle stood in their way; however, they plunged forward so that we could live our lives in peace and prosperity. This month let's take time to honor those individuals who served, sacrificed, and died for our creature comforts and fundamental freedoms.

Black History did you know:

Arthur L. Burnett, II, M. D., M.B.A. contributed mechanisms in erectile tissue, that paved the way for development of medications that treat erectile dysfunction such as Viagra. In addition, he has contributed additional discoveries in the area of erectile function after prostate surgery.

George Carruthers invented the far ultraviolet electrographic camera, used in the 1972 Apollo 16 mission. This invention revealed new features in Earth's far-outer atmosphere and deep-space objects from the perspective of the lunar surface.

Many drew a line in the sand and set the pace- now it's your opportunity to do the same! In honor of those who have revolutionized our world, let's make a difference in some way.

2013 HCCA Board is Sworn In



On Saturday, January 5th at the Hillcrest Civic Community Association (HCCA) monthly meeting, Councilwoman Yvette Alexander administered the oath of office to the newly and re-elected HCCA Board Members. The first month in office has proven Board Member's commitment to our community. The members have been diligent in assisting the community in everything from supporting our classrooms, preparing citizen forums, mobilizing citizens for support of our schools, strategic planning for community service, and assisting our valuable and seasoned citizens. A list of HCCA Board Members is found at the end of this newsletter and on the HCCA website, <http://www.hillcrestdc.com/>.



The President's Message

Dear Neighbors:

January has been an extremely busy month. I was sworn into my seat as the Ward 7 member of the State Board of Education. Then I was sworn in to my 4th term as Hillcrest Community Civic Association President. (Okay guys, its time for someone else to step up to the plate) ☺. During all of this my son-in-law decided he wanted to give me a new bathroom, so I've made at least 20 trips to Lowe's, lived in a dust filled house and finally have a new bathroom that I can actually use! (Yeah)!

But I have to admit this has been an exciting time for me. The Board of Directors is working on their 2013 Work Plans, so soon we should be able to let you know what new and exciting things the HCCA has planned for the upcoming year. We have an energetic and dedicated new Board of Directors, who has already come up with some great ideas and projects. I was worried about the newsletter, but Mattie's Communications Committee is doing a great job. The Education and Recreation Committee, Chaired by De'Andre is planning a Truancy Forum in February, the Fundraising Committee, Chaired by Shelia is working up plans for an exciting 2013, and the Environmental Committee, Chaired by Mary has several activities planned, man we are rolling. But remember to keep up this pace we will need you. We need you to keep feeding us your ideas! We need you to volunteer to help! We need you to come to the meetings!

In 2013 I challenge you to attend at least 4 meetings and bring a friend!!! Will you do it? We'll see, hopefully on February 2nd

Celebrating Black History Month



Carter G. Woodson

Black History Month, also known as **African-American History Month**, began in the United States in 1926 by historian, Carter G. Woodson. He announced the second week of February to be "Negro History Week" through his

organization, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASAALH). Dr. Woodson created the holiday to promote, research, preserve, interpret, and disseminate information about Black life, history, and culture to the global community. Negro History Week grew in popularity throughout the following decades, with mayors across the United States endorsing it as a holiday. In 1976, the Federal government acknowledged the expansion of Black History Week to Black History Month by the leaders of the Black United Students at Kent State in 1969. Six years later, Negro History Week expanded to Black History Month and was recognized by the U.S. government. President Gerald Ford urged all Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Skyland Update



Photo Credit: Rappaport Companies: Planned Skyland Town Center, Located at Alabama Avenue and Good Hope Road, SE

Mayor Vincent Gray, Ward 7 Councilmember Yvette Alexander, along with developers, Gary Rappaport of the Rappaport Companies and Chris Smith of WC Smith, held a community meeting on January 3 at the Francis Gregory Neighborhood Library to provide an update on Skyland. They announced a 2014 groundbreaking date for the Walmart Supercenter and 2016 as the opening date. Under the Gray administration, the project is progressing more rapidly than it has in nearly two decades.

On December 6, 2012, the Office of the Attorney General cleared a very large hurdle in the Skyland project. After years of discovery proceedings and opposition from landowners, the district was ultimately victorious in defending the constitutionality of the takings in all cases. This decision came when the D.C. Court of Appeals issued an opinion affirming the district's position in the final Skyland case when it rejected Mary Rose Green's claim that she had not been adequately compensated when DC seized her land. Green could seek a U.S. Supreme court review within 90 days of that decision. But if the Supreme Court does not grant such review, the case is over.

While this is a major accomplishment for the Skyland project, several steps still remain, but the end is in sight. Those steps are tenant relocation; deal negotiation; and approved council legislation allowing for the surplus and disposition of the property in addition to tax increment financing re-authorization.

Julie Kutruff – January Guest Speaker Recap

The featured speaker for January's HCCA's monthly meeting was Julie Kutruff, District Manager for National Capital Parks East. Ms. Kutruff reminded meeting attendees to utilize their valuable parkland and community resources. She encouraged people to volunteer at the Frederick Douglas House. She shared her plans to connect classrooms with parkland. She further explained that students would have an opportunity to camp in the borders of Fort Dupont Park. In closing, attendees were strongly encouraged to send initiatives for park use to her attention. Ms. Kutruff can be reached at Julie_kutruff@nps.gov.

This Month's Speaker

Victoria Wells, Community Advocate for the Coalition, Ward 7 Safe & Drug-Free Communities Coalition (W7SDCC) will be the guest speaker for February. W7SDCC was formally established in March 2011 by Ward 7 residents and is supported by elected officials and community leaders. In July 2012, the District of Columbia Department of Health Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration (APRA) awarded W7SDCC a two-year grant to engage the Ward 7 youth and residents in effecting changes to their environment.

Those specific goals include:

- Increasing youth and community awareness about the harm of underage drinking;
- Increasing the importance of responsible alcohol retailing among Ward 7 alcohol merchants;
- Reducing alcohol advertisements to no more than 15% coverage in/on alcohol outlet window displays;
- Setting a moratorium on new alcohol licenses in Ward 7, except, full service restaurants.

Hillcrest Education

Looking for free entertainment in DC? Don't forget about our local schools. December and January featured lots of fun fair at Beers and Randle Highlands. Students showed off their talents at the Winter Program and Science Fairs. Plenty of free, fun, and educational entertainment.

In December, Anne Beers hosted a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) night for the community. Students in classes from grades pre-k through 5 presented the results of their respective environmental investigations on December 13, 2012. Beers plans to host a STEM summit later in the second semester.

On December 20, hundreds attended Randle Highland's 2012 Winter Program. The event was nothing short of spectacular. All skits and dance routines were very well presented. The highlight and culminating event was the sensational singing and dancing of the mass choir. Keep up the good work!

Also, Randle Highlands hosted their annual science fair. The fair featured scientific research and presentations of well over a hundred science experiments and projects. The event showcased the talent of Randle's best and brightest.

Congratulations to all participants and thank you for entertaining and educating our community. We will be sure to support future events. Our kids have unimaginable talents we have yet to tap!

General membership meeting is

Saturday, February 2, 2013, 10am, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center on the corner of Denver & 32nd Streets, SE.

Note: Meetings are held the first Saturday of the month.



February Gardening Tips

Did you know that this June will usher in the Twentieth Annual Hillcrest Garden Tour? Wouldn't it be wonderful if every yard in Hillcrest was a visual treat during this year's garden tour? It can happen

with just a little work and commitment on the part of every home owner. The following are some suggestions for things you can do for the month of February. The tips are taken from "Month-By-Month Gardening in the Mid-Atlantic" by Andre and Mark Viette with Jacqueline Heriteau.

Lawns

Areas in need may be over seeded in February. Even if the ground has several inches of snow, seeds may still be sown. Remember to water just-seeded areas. Of course if you sow with snow on the ground, the melting snow will take care of the watering task for you. With regard to feeding your lawn, first applications of organic fertilizer can be done between this month and April; initial chemical fertilizer for the season can be applied between this month and next.

Perennials

Begin cleaning debris from perennial beds. To avoid contamination of your compost pile discard this waste as it might contain pests and disease. Plants that have been pushed out of the ground by frost heave should be pressed firmly back in place. Apply a 2 – 3 inch layer of mulch.

Shrubs

Fertilize shrubs late February or early March. Ask dealer for the best fertilizer for your particular shrub. Follow directions. If you don't have room for much additional growth cut the recommended amount of fertilizer in half to moderate growth.

Bulbs, Corms, Rhizomes, and Tubers

As spring flowering bulbs begin to push through the soil, water them weekly if rain and snow are absent. For daffodils, amaryllis and hyacinths add a half dose of liquid house plant fertilizer to your watering can every other week. Bloom booster type fertilizers for African violets are suggested.

TRUANCY

A crisis in DC Public Schools

Join us to discuss school truancy in a forum - Parents will learn the new truancy guidelines for DCPS

Saturday, February 23, 2013
from 11:00am - 1:00pm

DID YOU KNOW:

- 20% of DC students are truant (5 times the National average)
- K-8 had at least 10% of DCPS students miss more than a month of school in 2011
- DC school system's overall graduation rate is only 56%

Panelists:

- **Adele Fabrikant**, Deputy Chief, Office of Youth Engagement, DC Public Schools
- **David Catania**, Chairman of the Committee on Education, DC City Council
- **Jeffrey Brown**, Counselor, Anne Beers Elementary School
- **Dane Jefferson**, Assistant Principal, Randle Highlands Elementary School
- **Tamika Williams**, Parent, Anne Beers Elementary School
- **Matrina Matthews**, PTA President, Randle Highlands Elementary School
- **The Honorable Zoe Bush**, Judge, DC Superior Court

Moderator:

De'Andre Anderson, HCCA Chair, Education & Recreation Committee

Location: Anne Beers Elementary School
3600 Alabama Avenue, S.E., Washington, DC 20020

Food & drinks provided

HCCA Education & Recreation Committee

Got ideas?????

Please email any ideas or articles for the newsletter by the 15th of the month to hillcrestdc_newsletter@yahoo.com.

Or follow on Twitter@HillcrestWard7 or write it on the Facebook wall, All Over Hillcrest.

Visit the website at www.hillcrestdc.com
Join the conversation on the listserv at HillcrestDC@yahoogroups.com

Have you paid your dues for 2013? Your paid-through date is on the mailing label of this newsletter. If it is earlier than 2013, please send your payment now. The cost is \$12/year. Make check payable to HCCA, and send to PO Box 30895, Washington, D.C. 20030-0895

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Amount: _____

E-Mail: _____

or you can pay by credit card at www.hillcrestdc.com/paydues.htm

THE HCCA Newsletter

*A publication by the Hillcrest Community
Civic Association*

The Hillcrest Community Civic Association promotes the welfare of our neighborhood. Our purpose is simple--to voice our concerns to government officials, businesses, and residents to ensure the best possible living environment in the Ward 7 neighborhood of Hillcrest.
hillcrestdc_newsletter@yahoo.com.

HCCA Board

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

Contact information is available on the website at www.hillcrestdc.com



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