

# THE HILLCREST NEWSLETTER



## HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

*"Working together for a Better Community!"*

www.hillcrestdc.com

P.O. Box 30895, Washington, DC 20030

February 2014

### CALENDER OF EVENTS

#### HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

Hillcrest Recreation Center  
32nd and Denver Sts., SE  
Saturday, February 1, 2014 10AM to Noon

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

Francis Gregory Library  
3660 Alabama Ave., SE  
Monday, February 3, 2014 7PM to 9PM

#### PSA 606 POLICE COMMUNITY MEETING

East Washington Heights Baptist Church  
2200 Branch Ave., SE  
Wednesday, February 19, 2014 7PM

#### ANC 7B MONTHLY MEETING

Ryland Methodist Church  
3200 S ST., SE  
Thursday, February 20, 2014 7PM– 9PM

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### *This Month's Guest Speaker* **Rock N Roll Marathon**

Diane Romo Thomas is Director of Community Relations for the Greater Washington Sports Alliance, the regional sports commission for the Greater Washington area, a comprehensive resource for attracting sporting events, delivering community impact programming and developing regional collaboration. The GWSA produced such events as the Rock N Roll USA Marathon and Half Marathon, 2009 NCAA® Frozen Four, and the annual Capitol Hill Volleyball Classic Tournament. Diane also directs the Greater Washington Sports Alliance Foundation which supports youth investment initiatives that provide young people from Greater Washington the leadership skills to live healthier, happier and more productive lives through sports and fitness. Prior to joining the GWSA, Diane worked in the executive offices of Children's National Medical Center for over eight years, managing the annual Children's Pediatric Review Board Course and prior to that worked for the Council of the District of Columbia as a Chief of Staff charged with personnel management, budget oversight, and government and community relations.

Diane received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of San Diego and her Master's Degree in Social Work from Howard University. Diane played NCAA Softball one year at UCLA before transferring to the University of San Diego where she played three years earning All-WCAC Conference Honors. Originally from Los Alamitos, California, Diane now resides in the District of Columbia with her husband and their three children.

### ***HCCA Needs Volunteers***

Your civic association needs help. The new year affords opportunities for service. The Fundraising Committee is looking for volunteers. Please contact Shelia Brown at shb3@verizon.net, if you would like to work on this committee.

We are also looking for a Garden Tour and Hillcrest Day Chair and volunteers. If you are interested in working on any of these committees please contact Karen Williams at klwilliams@hillcrestdc.com.

## HCCA Will Host its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon



The Hillcrest Community Civic Association will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 AM until 2:30 PM, at Gallaudet University's Kellogg Conference Center Hotel, located at 800 Florida Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. Parking is free. Ticket information for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary luncheon

will be provided at a later date.

The idea for the HCCA was conceived on Dennis and Gloria Logan's front lawn on August 8, 1989 during a "National Night Out Against Crime" celebration. Belva T. Simmons was HCCA's official founder and first president. Other HCCA past and current presidents include Paul Savage, Pastor Franklin G. Singer, III, Vincent Spaulding, and Karen Lee Williams.

Mr. Savage will serve as Master of Ceremonies. The luncheon keynote speaker is Mr. Jim Byers, host of WPFW 89.3 FM's "Latin Flavor Classic Edition." Mr. Byers chronicled Hillcrest's history as the centerpiece of "East Washington Heights" - an upscale 1890's development anchored by the Overlook Inn resort - in the chapter he researched and authored for the 2nd edition of *Washington At Home: An Illustrated History of Neighborhoods in the Nation's Capital* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010).

Jim moved to Hillcrest in 1996 and was a co-founder of the Hillcrest Strategic Communications Committee. Centering its publicity campaign upon the 10th Anniversary Hillcrest Garden Tour, the Committee garnered 'lifestyle' features about the Community in every major local paper, WTTG Fox 5 News, and ultimately secured Hillcrest's listing among *Washingtonian* magazine's 'Best Places to Live' in April, 2004. That same year, Mr. Byers began leading his "Hillcrest and East Washington Heights" annual tours as part of Walking Town DC, of which *Washington Post* columnist Marc Fisher wrote, "If you see the Hillcrest tour come up on a future Walking Town DC schedule, grab it!"

### **Hillcrest Resident James N. Short Confirmed as Commissioner to the DC Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board**

**James N. Short** is a D.C. native, retired deputy fire chief, and a former Marshall Heights Community Development Organization board chairman. He was nominated by Mayor Vincent C. Gray to serve a four-year term with the ABC Board of Commissioners ending May 7, 2016. On January 7, 2014, the District of Columbia City Council approved his nomination. It is a great victory for Ward 7 to have a member sit on this powerful board. The HCCA commends the Mayor for appointing Mr. Short, and Mr. Short for his willingness to continue to provide valuable public service to Hillcrest and District of Columbia residents. HCCA

## Letter From The President

It's been a while since I have sat down to address you but as we enter 2014 I wanted to take a minute to thank all of you who work so hard to make the Hillcrest Community Civic Association the premier civic association in the Washington Metropolitan Area. Our members consist of a group of community minded citizens who work to improve the quality of life in our community. However, I have noticed there are some members of our community who seem to take issue with those who are not of the same mind as they. What a boring place the world would be if we were all the same. We may not always agree on the path we want to take or the issues that are important but in the end we should all pull together. Some of us are more vocal than others, some of us prefer to work behind the scenes, but in all of us there are hearts that only want one thing, to be of service. We act as an organization for the betterment of our neighborhood and the majority rules. So let's make a pack in 2014, we don't have to agree, we don't have to have the same point of view, but we will be tolerant of all who participate and all pull together as a community to continue to make our community "Hillcrest" the "Best" place to live in the city. It has been a pleasure to serve my community and to work with so many wonderful people. Thank you for the honor.



looks forward to more Hillcrest residents being appointed and serving on City boards and commissions. Twenty-five years ago, Short assisted HCCA draft its By-Laws.

## The Simple Gift

All people have gifts.  
The gift of laughter  
...joy, ...peace, ...insight .  
The list is endless.  
Some gifts are complex.  
Take a lot of effort  
Energy and thought  
To expand;  
To use.  
Other gifts are simple.  
Real simple.  
Take little effort at all.  
Gifts like  
A touch on the hand  
Or a shoulder .  
Gifts like a smile ;  
Just a small one.  
It takes no great leap of faith to smile.  
One smile can warm a sad soul, All day!

...Deborah Johnson

**Celebrating African-American History  
Month 2014  
Theme: Civil Rights in America**

**African-American History Month**, also known as, Black 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 Negro Life and History (now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)). 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." Today, Black History Month is an annual observance during the month of February in the [United States](#) and [Canada](#), and the [United Kingdom](#) in October. It is a time to remember important people and events in the history of the African [diaspora](#).

88<sup>th</sup> ASALH Annual Black History Month Luncheon  
February 22, 2014, begins at 12:30PM  
Marriott Wardman Park Hotel  
2660 Woodley Road, NW

For tickets and more information: 202-238-5910 or [legacyawards@asalh.net](mailto:legacyawards@asalh.net)

**DC Office on Aging Senior Villages  
At-Home Initiative**

Villages are neighborhood - based nonprofit membership organizations supported by volunteers that help older neighbors continue to live safely, comfortably and actively in their own homes, and connect with other neighbors.

Villagers provide opportunities for older neighbors to get together for parties, picnics, happy hours, and visits to local theaters, music and art venues.

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**Enlightened Environmentalist**

**Winter is Here**

As we are in the midst of our winter season, it is good to prepare for all kinds of temperatures. We have seen 65 degree days and 20 degree nights. The weather experts give us several types of weather alerts but what do any of them mean. Here is information that will help you stay informed, safe and prepared for the months to come.

**Winter weather advisory** -- When a significant winter storm or hazardous winter weather is occurring, imminent, and is an inconvenience.

**Winter storm watch** -- A significant winter weather (i.e., heavy snow, heavy sleet, significant freezing rain, or a combination of events) is expected, but not imminent, for the watch area; provides 12 to 36 hours notice of the possibility of severe winter weather.

**Winter storm warning** -- A significant winter storm or hazardous winter weather is occurring, imminent, or likely, and is a threat to life and property. Winter storm watches, warnings, and advisories are issued by local National Weather Service Forecast offices

**If you know** a winter storm will arrive in your area soon, make sure you have the following ready, especially in the case of a severe winter storm:

- Firewood, if you have a fireplace.
- Food that is non-perishable, if you lose power.
- Emergency equipment such as generators and flashlights, tested and ready for use. Water for drinking and cooking, collected in bottles in case your pipes freeze.
- Make sure to charge your mobile phone, laptop and other mobile device batteries.

**Heavy snow accumulation** can pose a threat to your home as it builds up and melts. The three most important precautions to take:

- Watch for snow accumulation on the downwind side of a higher-level roof, where blowing snow will collect. For safe removal that won't endanger you or damage your roof, consult a roofing contractor for a referral.
- Remove snow from basement stairwells, window wells and all walls. Melting snow can lead to water damage and moisture intrusion.
- Keep your attic well-ventilated to maintain a temperature close to that of the outdoors to

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minimize the risk of ice dams forming. A warm attic melts snow on the roof, causing water to run down and refreeze at the roof's edge, where it's much cooler. If ice builds up and blocks water from draining, water is forced under the roof covering and into your attic or down the inside walls of your house.

Water intrusion and flood damage from melting snow and ice can threaten homes, but you can take these steps to help minimize the potential damage.

For more information go to <http://www.weather.com/safety/winter>.

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Volunteers offer free services that can range from rides to and from medical appointments, prescription pickups, yard clean-ups, and simple handyman repairs, assistance with grocery shopping, changing light bulbs in ceiling fixtures, and reading to the visually impaired. Villages also help their members find useful community resources and reliable professionals and licensed vendors. Villages do not provide medical services, but can connect seniors with these services. They typically offer some services not traditionally offered by the D.C. Lead Agencies (excerpted from the DC Office of Aging website). Senior Villages have been established in various neighborhoods across the city. The Pennsylvania Avenue Village East serves DuPont Park, Randle Highlands, Penn Branch, Fort Davis and Hillcrest. Site information:

3130 Pennsylvania Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20020  
Phone: (202) 657-6160

Website: [www.pavillageeast.org](http://www.pavillageeast.org)

Services offered:

- Volunteer transportation assistance to and from medical appointments;

- Prescription pickup;
- Nutrition, health, and medical care information;
- Grocery shopping assistance;
- Daily telephone contact;
- Seminars and small-group discussions;
- Social and religious study activities;
- Cooking and computer classes\*
- Exercise opportunities (walking groups, strength training, etc.);\*
- Major handyman services/contractors/lawn-care;\* and
- Bridge-building (partnership with youth to provide volunteer opportunities such as reading to seniors, light gardening, etc.).

\*Will cost an additional fee.

For more information, call 202-657-6160 and ask for Ethel Wilson, Stella Hall, Robert Richards, or Jackie Stuckey. Or e-mail [rev.ethelwilson@pavillageeast.org](mailto:rev.ethelwilson@pavillageeast.org). Information on a variety of other services offered through the DC Office on Aging, call (202) 724-5622

## 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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