

HILLCREST NEWSLETTER

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GUEST SPEAKER: RAHMAN BRANCH, DIRECTOR OF OAAA



Please welcome the Director of the Office of African- American Affairs to the February 2016 meeting. Rahman Branch joined the team of Mayor Muriel Bowser in February of 2015 as Director of the Office of African-American Affairs.

Motivated by Mayor Bowser's desire to ensure that the African-American residents fully partake in the revitalization efforts that are underway in the city, Mr. Branch is committed to enhancing opportunities for African-American residents, through unique partnership and new initiatives in government agencies.

The Mayor's Office on African American Affairs (OAAA) seeks to engage the extraordinarily diverse culture of the African American community in the District of Columbia. OAAA works to empower these residents through equipping them with the government resources and services that they need while also providing programmatic support to each facet of the community.

In 2005 Branch joined the administrative staff of Ballou High School as an assistant principal in the Ward 8 neighborhood of Congress Heights.

Branch later served as principal for the past 6years before joining the office of Mayor Bowser.

Branch holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, a Master's in Education Administration and an Executive Master's in Leadership.

Special points of interest:

- **Hillcrest Community Civic Association Meeting**
 Hillcrest Recreation Center
 32nd and Denver St., SE
 Saturday, February 6
 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM
- **PSA 606 Police Community Meeting**
 East Washington Heights Baptist Church
 2200 Branch Ave., SE
 Wednesday, February 17
 6:00 PM to 7:00PM
- **ANC 7B Monthly Meeting**
 Ryland Methodist Church
 3200 S St., SE
 Thursday, February 18
 7:00 PM to 9:00P

VICE PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Dear neighbors,

What a way to bring in the New Year. Like many, we were shocked and dismayed by a "bait and switch" tactic by Walmart. After more than 20 years of work by this community to have retail, Walmart said it has decided not to build over here in Ward 7 after all. It feels like a slap in the face, especially since the District as a whole has bent backwards to accommodate the company. Many are wringing their hands, throwing complaints on the list servs, blaming the city's politicians and past politicians. Very few people could have seen this coming. So what's next for the Ward 7 community?

We pick up and dust off. There is a need for a coming together of minds and brainpower to see what our next steps are. As far as we know, the housing is still going to be in Skyland and there should be some way to attract the economic power. Already, several retailers have turned down the opportunity. But on Jan. 21, Gary Rappaport (who's leading the development), Deputy Mayors Courtney Snowden and Brian Kenner, both of

THE MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

The month of February will forever be changed in the fall of 2016. A museum dedicated to the recognition of African people to the culture, economic prosperity and history of this country will be completed on the national mall of Washington, DC. The National Museum of African American History and Culture is scheduled to open its doors to the public in fall 2016.

This museum will not only cover who's who in African American history, but will share with the country and the world the historical "watershed moments" of African Americans from the time their African ancestors stepped onto the lands of the Americas. According to the Museum of African American History and Culture, "the full story of the African American experience has been ignored, forgotten, and even actively suppressed, denying all Americans a critical understanding of our national heritage".

As you participate in the many events that will take place within the city this month recognizing contributions of African Americans to this country, take some time if you haven't already done so, and visit the website of the museum AfricanAmerican.si.edu or take a drive by the construction site to see the progress of what is to come. Hopefully you will be inspired to make a donation and become a member. This is a small step in the form of reparations to the people who experienced the only form of chattel slavery the world has ever known.

Join the Hillcrest Community Civic Association
on a trip to



Harrington Raceway and Casino Harrington, Delaware

WHERE WINNERS PLAY!

The casino features 1,800 slots, thrilling table games, a variety of dining options, and the excitement of simulcast harness racing.

The cost is \$35
(with \$15 free play)

For reservations contact: Sheila Brown @ 202-297-3883

Nancy Harris @ 202-575-2696

Please provide your Player's Club information when you make a reservation

Date:
Thursday,
March 31
2016

Depart 32nd & Denver
Street SE at 10am
Depart Harrington
Casino at 4:30pm



A MESSAGE TO THE HCCA MEMBERSHIP

"HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016"

The Membership Committee thanks you for your membership and attendance at our monthly meetings. The HCCA endeavors to provide sound leadership, meetings that are informative, educational, fun and thought provoking. The goal of the Membership committee is to have 500 paid members each year. The recruitment of new members is ongoing through personal outreach efforts. As a gentle reminder of past due membership dues, the committee will be contacting members within the next few weeks of their status, before purging their names from the membership list. If in doubt about the status of your membership, please contact Phillip Hammond at 202-582-3059 or mdhammond2@hotmail.com

Thank you,
The Membership Committee

PACK & TROOP 1650 FAMILY BANQUET

The Annual Pack and Troop 1650 Scouting Family Banquet

**St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
Saturday, February 27, 2016 at 6:00pm**

Each year, at our Scouting Family Banquet we celebrate scouting by honoring our Cub and Boy Scouts and their achievements for the scouting season.

Each year we prepare a Souvenir booklet to honor our scouts and to raise money to offset costs of camping, uniforms and equipment.

At this time we ask for your financial support by placing ads in our Souvenir Booklet.

Contact Deborah Johnson regarding how to place an ad and the cost or to simply contribute to our scouting program at ajohn10305@aol.com.

I GUESS I'LL BE SHOVELIN' OFF (the sidewalk)

Several months ago, local news media announced that the city was tightening the enforcement of sidewalk snow removal requirements by both business and home owners. Here is a summary of what is expected of home residents.

FIRST: the good news. Some of us in Hillcrest with six foot sidewalks have been clearing the entire six foot width. Relax--one need only clear a minimum of 36 inches.

SECOND: residents must remove the snow and ice within the first **eight hours of daylight after the snow ends.**

Residents who fail to remove or cover snow or ice may be issued a notice of violation within 24 hours of failure to remove the snow or cover the ice. (There seems to be a discrepancy between this and the above paragraph.) But only one notice of violation may be issued in a 24 hour period for the same property. The fine for

residential property is \$25.00.

THIRD: property owners are also required to clear a path through the curb cuts and curb ramps.

FINALLY: residents who are disabled or 65 years of age or older are exempt from the penalties **if they have filed and been approved for an exemption.** *It is important to file this application every year.* Copies of this exemption form may be obtained via leaf.dpw.dc.gov/WSAExemption/

When filing for an age exemption, proof of age must be provided with a copy of a government issued identification. If filing for a disability exemption, proof must be established either by participation in a government issued assistance program or a doctor's certificate. The details and particulars are listed on the exemption application.

Continued on Page 4....

I GUESS I'LL BE SHOVELIN' Continued ...

Appreciation is expressed to Ms. Linda P. Grant with the Department of Public Works for some of the background material for this article. However, she is not responsible for the accuracy of the summaries as written above.

For more information on the requirements during a snow event, visit the District's snow website at snow.dc.gov.

VICE PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE Continued...

whom focus on economic development and opportunity, said Skyland's development is a priority. We need more than words. But it should be reiterated that the Hillcrest community is open to working with our ANCs, other civic associations, our Council leadership, the Bowser Administration and all stakeholders. We need to find another positive way in which change is made in Skyland. Let's meet.

Michelle Phipps-Evans
Boyle Stuckey
HCCA Vice Presidents

HCCA Board

Michelle Phipps-Evans, First Vice President
Boyle Stuckey, Second Vice President
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Mary Ross, Chair, Environmental and Beautification
Michelle Peete, Chair, Fundraising
Philip Hammond, Chair, Membership
James Perkins, Jr., Chair, Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness
Linwood Robinson, Chair, Streets, Traffic and Transportation

Have you paid your dues for 2016?

Your paid through date is on the mailing label of this newsletter. If the date is earlier than 2015, please send your payment now. The cost is \$15.00/year, \$24.00 for 2 years. Make check payable to HCCA and send to P.O. Box 30895, Washington, DC 20030 or you can pay by credit card at:

www.hillcrestdc.com/paydues.htm

Got Ideas!

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

Follow on Twitter @HillcrestWard7 or write on the Facebook Wall, All Over Hillcrest



Hillcrest Community Civic Association

"Working together for a better community"

www.HillcrestDC.com

P.O. Box 30895, Washington, D.C. 20030-0895