



Hillcrest Community Civic Association

"Working together for a better community"

www.HillcrestDC.com

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

MARCH 2011

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

At the Hillcrest Recreation Center, Corner of Denver & 32nd Streets, SE

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

How Will The 11th Street Bridge Affect Your Commute?

DDOT Will Answer Your Questions at the Next Meeting

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Most Hillcrest residents are probably aware of the 11th Street Bridge construction, but how many know how their commute over the Anacostia River will be affected?

Come to the March 5, HCCA meeting and find out. The D.C. Department of Transportation (DDOT)'s Project Manager Said Cherifi, and 11th Street Bridge Project Public Information Manager Bryon Johnston, will provide an overview and status report on the project and answer your questions. Below is some background on the project. For more information, visit ddot.dc.gov and click "Projects and Planning."



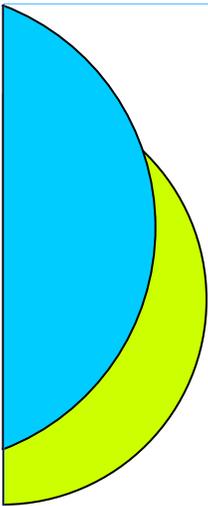
DDOT began construction of the 11th Street Bridge in December 2009 to replace the two existing bridges with three new bridges, and improve the related interchanges. When completed in mid-2013, the \$300-million the project will:

- Improve mobility by providing separate freeway and local traffic connections to both directions of DC 295, the Southeast-Southwest Freeway and local streets on both sides of the Anacostia River
- Provide a shared path for pedestrians and bicycles, as well as rails to allow future streetcar connections
- Replace the existing functionally deficient and structurally obsolete bridges
- Provide an additional alternate evacuation route from our nation's capital, and
- Include new trail connections, improved drainage and other environmental investments.

Projected to serve almost 180,000 vehicles per day by 2030, the existing bridges lack connections to allow travel directly from southbound DC 295/Anacostia Freeway to the Southeast-Southwest Freeway, or from the Southeast-Southwest Freeway to northbound DC 295. The two new freeway bridges will provide these connections. The third bridge will carry local traffic between city streets on both sides of the river and provide additional connections to both directions of DC 295. The project is the largest ever constructed by DDOT and is the first river bridge replacement in the District in more than 40 years.

Special points of interest:

- *Metro Closings First Weekend in March*
- *The Time for Gardening*
- *March Calendar*



Message from the President

Dear Neighbors,

Again, I want to thank you for your support. The February HCCA meeting was standing room only. I hope we can keep up the momentum as we roll through the year. As I write this, I want to take a minute to ask you to let the board know whom you want us to invite to our meetings as speakers. What issues do you want us to address. Just drop me a line at klwilliams@hillcrestdc.com to let us know.

Speaking of support, before we moved up the hill to Hillcrest, Earl and I lived in Uniontown. In case you are not familiar with Uniontown, it is the area around the Frederick Douglas home, just down the hill from Hillcrest. The other day we were riding down Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, and saw a new sit down restaurant and bar called the Uniontown Café on the corner of 13th and MLK Jr. Avenue. They had done a wonderful job of remodeling the façade. The new façade peeked our curiosity, so Earl and I decided to check it out for lunch one day. HCCA, as an organization, does not accept advertisements for businesses in the area but that doesn't mean we can't support them. As we enjoyed our lunch, we saw Hillcrest neighbor Gloria Logan walk in to check the place out.

So that's what I'm advocating. As we drive around the area, we see new businesses, restaurants, etc. springing up all over the place. We who live East of the River have been lamenting over the lack of non-fast food, sit down restaurants for years. We have some new ones here and I see signs of others opening soon. To keep up the East of the River development, we who live here must support them. So as the weather breaks, let's get out, check them out and spread the word. We don't have to leave the neighborhood to get a decent sit down meal. At last!

Karen

Did You Know You Can.....

- **Become a guardian angel, which is recruiting in the area?**

You will be trained to patrol the community, to deter car break-ins, car theft, fights, mugging, etc., and become the eyes and ears of the police and report crime safely. To join the Washington, D.C., guardian angles, you must be 15 and older. Please call (202) 359-0601 or email to washingtondc@guardianangels.org.

- **Go to one site to see out how the health reform law affects you?**

By visiting the District government's website, www.healthreform.dc.gov, you can learn about the

various provisions that affect you in 2011. For eg, children can stay on their parents' policies until age 26; and all health plans are required to cover preventative care with no copayments.



March is Women's History Month

Metro Closing Stations First Weekend in March

To comply with National Transportation Safety Board recommendations, Metro will be closing the Orange/Blue Line from Stadium Armory to New Carrollton and Benning Road the weekend of March 4-6. Service will be impacted, and Metrorail stations will be closed from 10 p.m., Friday, March 4, to closing on Sunday, March 6. Updated info will be placed on Metro's website at <http://www.MetroOpensDoors.com>. For more information on traveling by Metrobus or Metrorail, customers may call (202) 637-7000 or TTY (202) 638-3780.

HILLCREST NEWS AND UPDATES

PSA 606 Meetings Moved

Starting Wednesday, March 16, at 6 p.m., the monthly PSA 606/Neighborhood Watch meeting will be held at East Washington Heights Baptist Church, 2220 Branch Ave., SE, in Fountain Hall. This hall is located in the lower level of the main sanctuary building; not to be confused with the educational wing, which is the building closest to Alabama Avenue. Entrance to Fountain Hall is about halfway back of the parking lot and down the exterior steps. The lot and steps are well lit.

Let us take this time to thank the Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter and Pastor Franklin G. Senger III for the many years of support the Hillcrest neighborhood has received. We also would like to thank East Washington Heights Baptist Church and the Rev. Kip Banks for opening their doors to the community. We look forward to many years of cooperation.

Mini Solar Fair at Hillcrest

Learn how you can put solar on your own home. Learn how you can lease solar to bring down your PEPCO bills in your apartment building, home, church or school. Ward 7 Solar Coop and DC Solar United Neighborhoods (DC SUN) will share the latest on-going solar with residents of Ward 7. Learn about policies that will make solar accessible and affordable to any resident of DC. Learn about opportunities to get involved! There will be representatives of DC SUN at the meeting as well. Join the Ward 7 Solar Coop!

John Capozzi, Hillcrest resident

Anne Beers Seeks Donations for Game

Anne Beers Elementary at 3600 Alabama Ave., SE, will be hosting a students vs. teachers basketball game on March 11. During the event, the school is hoping to have a healthy food concession stand, and is seeking the community's help. Please do not donate peanuts as some children may be allergic. Donations and volunteers are needed. Any questions, call Katie Chesterson at (202) 939 4800.

The Enlightened Environmentalist

March: The Time for Gardening



March not only ushers in winter's end, but is the time to begin the work that results in the beautiful lawns and gardens that are a hallmark of Hillcrest. There is much you can do in March to ensure that your garden is lovely and enjoyable throughout the growing season.

Begin by removing and discarding dead vegetation and all debris that have accumulated over the winter. Start summer flowering bulbs indoors this month. If you wish to plant them directly outside, wait until the danger of frost has past, which, in our area, is around April 15. Flower and vegetable seed planting indoors, under lights, may also begin during the month. Remember to keep the soil moist.

Deciduous shrubs that have become overly large, and you wish to reduce in size, ideally can be pruned in March. Using a pruning saw or lopper, a shrub's size can be reduced by one third. With regard to evergreen shrubs, the month of May is thought to be a better time for pruning. However, pruning broad leaf flowering evergreen shrubs such as azaleas and rhododendrons should be undertaken only immediately after they finish blooming, thereby avoiding disturbing the buds of next year's blooms.

In mid-March when the ground is no longer frozen or excessively wet, planting trees and shrubs are in order. Planting at this time will give trees and shrubs an opportunity to root well before the heat of summer. This is also the time to relocate shrubs in your garden. Maintain the soil's moisture around new and transplanted trees and shrubs by watering them with 10 to 15 gallons of water weekly through the spring.

As spring flowering perennials push through the soil, lightly fertilize them once. Some gardeners swear by a fertilizing solution of a tablespoon of Epsom salts to a gallon of water. The same concoction may be used to fertilize the lawn. Remember that plants require water this time of year. If it does not rain, water them every 10 days.

Finally, March is the time to begin steps to enjoy your lawn and garden during the summer without mosquito pests. Our feathered friends will put songs in the air while taking mosquitoes out of it. If you have an existing bird house, this is the time to clean it. If not, plan to add a bird house or two that attract birds that catch flying insects in the air. Birds that serve this purpose well are swallows. Consider providing housing for bats, also. They are excellent at reducing the mosquito population.

Courtesy the Hillcrest Environmental Newsletter

Hillcrest Community Civic Association
 HILLCREST COMMUNITY
 CIVIC ASSOCIATION
 P.O. Box 30895
 Washington, D.C. 20030-0895




Community Calendar for March

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| 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
East Washington Heights Baptist Church, 2220 Branch 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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 HILLCREST"
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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) 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