



Hillcrest Community Civic Association
 "Working together for a better community"
 www.HillcrestDC.com
 P.O. Box 30895, Washington, D.C. 20030-0895

March 2015

HILLCREST NEWSLETTER

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GUEST SPEAKER: CHAIRMAN PHIL MENDELSON

Phil Mendelson was first elected to the Council of the District of Columbia in November of 1998 as an At-Large Councilmember. He served the District in that role until June 2012 when, following the departure of the previous Council Chairman, Phil was selected by his colleagues to take over that role. In November 2012, District voters overwhelmingly elected Phil as Chairman of the Council.

As Chairman, Phil leads the Council on all legislative matters. Phil also presides over the Committee of the Whole which includes: the DC Auditor; Board of Zoning Adjustment; District of Columbia Community College; District of Columbia Retirement Board; District Statehood Commission; District Statehood Compact Commission; Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority; Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments; National Capital Planning Commission; Office of Budget and Planning; Office of Planning; Office of Zoning; Tax Revision Commission; Tobacco Settlement Financing Corporation; University of the District of Columbia; and the Zoning Commission.

In 2014 Phil was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), a position he also held in 2004. The COG Board is comprised of local and state elected officials from the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Vir-

ginia. As Chairman, Phil will continue to work with regional colleagues to further the common goals and interests in moving the region forward.



Phil has been an active participant in District politics since 1975, when he became a member of the McLean Gardens Residents' Association. In this role he was a large part of the effort to save the 43-acre housing complex from destruction. In 1979 Phil successfully ran for a seat on the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) and continued to serve as an ANC Commissioner until he took office as an At-Large Member of the Council.

Prior to becoming Chairman, Phil served eight years as Chair of the Council's Committee on the Judiciary. In this role he was responsible for oversight over the District's public safety agencies—including the Metropolitan Police Department, Fire & Emergency Medical Services Department, and the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia—as well as legislation impacting criminal laws in the District. As Chair of this Committee, Phil conducted robust oversight over the operations and budget of those agencies under his jurisdic-

- Special points of interest:**
- Hillcrest Community Civic Association Meeting**
 Hillcrest Recreation Center
 32nd and Denver St., SE
 Saturday, March 7, 2015
 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM
 - PSA 606 Police Community Meeting**
 East Washington Heights
 Baptist Church
 2200 Branch Ave., SE
 Wednesday, March 18, 6 PM
 - ANC 7B Monthly Meeting**
 Ryland Methodist Church
 3200 S St., SE
 Thursday, March 19, 7 PM

Guest Speaker continued...

tion, and guided numerous public safety measures through the Council. Among the bills approved by the Council during his term as Chair were: a number of omnibus public safety measures; reform of, and updates to, the District's gun laws (in response to the Supreme Court's Heller decision); marriage equality; medical marijuana legislation; the establishment of an elected Attorney General; and an overhaul of the District's drunk driving laws.

Phil believes that government should be an honest, efficient delivery of services, and that the District should help those least able to help themselves to develop the skills to become self-sufficient and end the cycle of poverty. Phil believes that government must accomplish this without increasing the tax burdens already shouldered by our middle income residents. Throughout his years of public service, Phil has maintained that the District, as

the nation's capital, should be a model of service delivery—in public education, public safety, and public health.

Phil came to the District from Cleveland, Ohio in 1970 to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from American University. He grew up in a family dedicated to public service. His mother was a national crusader for nursing home reform. His grandmother had been President of the Michigan State League of Women Voters, was appointed by President Roosevelt to the Federal Office of Price Administration, and was a founder of the Grand Rapids Urban League.

Phil has an adorable daughter Adelaide, who attends DC Public Schools. He lives in Northwest DC.

HILLCREST PARTICIPATIES IN RIVERSMART HOMES PROJECT

Slowly, but steadily, plans are advancing for a major restoration project in Hillcrest's Alger Park. This park is bounded by Hillcrest Drive, Park Drive, 30th St., V Place, and 31st Streets SE and lies entirely within the boundaries of the Hillcrest Community Civic Association (HCCA). Interestingly, this park was turned over to the District of Columbia some decades ago by the National Park Service. It has been ravaged continually by storm water runoff for over seventy-five years. More news about the history and devastation of this park will follow in a latter issue of *The Hillcrest Newsletter*.

RiverSmart Homes, a program of the District Department of the Environment (DDOE) has a major role in this undertaking. This agency is appealing to all residents in the Hillcrest community to help contain the storm water that is the source of the problem.

There are several possibilities for participation. These include: planting shade trees, and installing rain barrels, rain gardens, and pervious pavers. There is a cost to the home owner, but the RiverSmart Homes project will help with the expenses.

Erin Fenton, representing the Watershed Protection Division of the DDOE, recently appeared before a

meeting of the Hillcrest Community Civic Association Environmental Committee. She explained that many of the projects listed above have a benefit to the homeowner. "The idea of the rain barrels is not just to catch the water and hold it, but to store the water as a source for watering yard plants."

Some residents of Hillcrest have already come on board with this project. A home on W St., SE was featured in *The Hillcrest Newsletter* last year. This home had rain barrels and a rain garden installed.

No two homes in Hillcrest are alike and that is a good thing! The RiverSmart program offers a free audit of each property in order to determine what will work for that yard. For more information call the District Dept. of the Environment at (202) 535-2252.



BECOME A WATERSHED STEWARD

Have you ever considered what you can do to better the environment for yourself and leave the world a little more breathable and aesthetically pleasing for your grandchildren and others coming after you? If so, consider becoming a Certified Master Watershed Steward.

Master Watershed Stewards partner with their communities to identify Anacostia River pollutant sources and develop ways for reducing them through discontinued use, replacement of environmentally harmful products by those that are environmentally friendly, and implementing practices that keep storm water runoff contained on your property.

Certification is obtained through completion of a 14-session course and completing a class (community-involved) capstone project, and a smaller capstone

project which can be done on your property.

The classes will be held at the Francis Gregory Library, 3660 Alabama Avenue, SE, and begin Tuesday, March 3, 2015 from 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM. While most classes will be held on Tuesdays, two- three will be held on Saturdays. There is an attendance requirement of 85 – 90%.

This course is presented at a cost to the Anacostia Watershed Society of \$2500 per participant. However each attendee is asked to pay a fee of \$75 which will be waived for anyone unable to pay.

For further information please contact Vaughn Perry at vperry@anacostiaws.org, or (202) 441-7159.

We look forward to seeing you on March 3rd.

TRIP TO CASINO HARRINGTON DELAWARE

Join the Hillcrest Community Civic Association's trip to



Harrington Delaware

Date: April 16,
2015

Leave at
10:00am from
32nd & Denver



4 ½ hours of Las Vegas style action with live blackjack, craps, roulette, and more!

The cost is \$35 with \$10 free slot machine play.

For tickets contact: Sheila Brown @ 202-297-3883
Nancy Harris @ 202-575-2696

LETHARGIC RACCOON CAPTURED ON 32ND STREET, SE

Neighbors in the 2100 block of 32nd St., SE reacted with concern on Sunday afternoon Feb. 1st when they noticed an extremely lethargic raccoon lounging on public space. A call was put into Animal Control; but it was "Super Bowl" Sunday and that agency was short of manpower that day. It was sometime before personnel were able to arrive from Animal Control. By that time (believe it or not) the raccoon was still hanging around and showed no interest in moving. The animal was captured in a humane manner and taken away for observation.

This is another indication of the danger of letting cats and dogs run loose. If this raccoon was seriously ill, it posed a danger to curious cats and dogs.

"EVERYBODY CAN BE GREAT BECAUSE EVERYBODY CAN SERVE."

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Have you paid your dues for 2015?

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



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