



NEWSLETTER

HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 30895

Washington, D.C. 20030-0895

www.HillcrestDC.com

HillcrestDC@yahoogroups.com

Next Meeting: Saturday, April 7, 2007, at 10 a.m.

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

Happy Easter

Comments?

Any comments or story ideas, please e-mail the newsletter editor, Michelle Phipps-Evans at hillcrestdc_newsletter@yahoo.com.

Inside this issue:

Message from the President	2
Activities at the Recreation Center	2
Community Bulletin Board	3
Special Feature	3
New HCCA Members	3
Interstages Update	4
Community Calendar for April	4

State Education Officer Deborah A. Gist to speak in April

Deborah A. Gist has served as the State Education Officer for the District of Columbia since July 2004. In this capacity, Gist has been responsible for enhancing state-level education services and opportunities for all District residents through research, effective policy and programs that ensure the equitable distribution and availability of administrative, financial, and nutrition resources. Under Gist's leadership, the State Education Office has worked to promote learning for District residents of all ages.

Her tenure as State Education Officer has been marked by accomplishment.

During this time, the DC Free Summer Meals program has been consistently recognized by the Food Resource and Action Center as the number one summer feeding program in the country. In addition, Gist successfully advocated for an increase in federal appropriations from \$17 million to \$33 million for the District of Columbia Tuition Assistance Grant program, a grant designed to increase the number of District students who attend postsecondary institutions. Gist also successfully facilitated the reconstitution of the State Advisory Panel on Special Education, providing a forum for parents and other

experts to advise policy makers in the District of Columbia on issues related to special education. Additionally, Gist has positioned the State Education Office to become a source on education policy analysis and reports for public officials and education stakeholders citywide.

Before this, she served for three years as executive director of Serve DC. Gist designed and implemented plans to create the mayor's office on volunteerism and "state" office for national service programs in the District of Columbia.

Under Gist's leadership, Serve DC achieved a 500 percent increase in funding for programs granted to the community, including AmeriCorps, Citizen Corps and Learn and Serve; created the DC Citizen Corps, which trained thousands of volunteers in emergency preparedness; and launched several programs, such as the Mayor's Community Service Awards and the DC Youth Advisory Council.

Previously, she also served as a senior policy advisor at the U.S. Department of Education. She advised the Secretary and Deputy Secretary on selected initiatives and priority issues,



(Continued on page 2)

Message from the President



April showers bring May flowers.

I realize that I have written about the upcoming election for Ward 7 City Council seat before, but I cannot emphasize how important this election is for us as citizens of Ward 7. When I last checked the Board of Elections' Web site, there were 18 candidates on the ballot. That's a lot of weeding to do to prepare for the spring flower that will bloom on May 1. Some of us already have our favorite candidate and are sitting back just waiting for Election Day. Others still don't have a clue about what flower we will plant.

Before we can cast a decisive ballot we must find a way to mow down the choices, sow only the seeds of knowledge, and pull the weeds of derisive politics. We must research the candidates' qualifications, political views and their stand on the issues that will affect our garden.

This is my formula. Feel free to follow it or use it as fertilizer. As long as you vote!!! I'm only looking at candidates that have been blooming in Ward 7 for more than five years. Next, I'm reading the fine points of their planting instructions. Have they been active in the community (remember the community includes all of Ward 7)? How well will they grow in the City Council garden?

Will they stand up for the issues we, as a community, or you, as an individual, find important? Will their roots grow deep? Will they flourish with our support or wither in the heat of the sun? Will they be reachable? Will they listen to us and our concerns or will they promote their own agenda? What seeds will they sow to improve the quality of life in Ward 7? How do they feel about economic development, traffic, schools and other issues important to us?

Ok, these are the questions I'm asking. Now go out and do your own research on the vegetation that is vying for a spot in our garden. Visit their Web sites, Google them, talk to other people who may have previous knowledge about their views and abilities.

Finally, make plans to attend the candidate's forum sponsored by the Ward 7 Democrats and HCCA on Saturday, April 14. But no matter what spade or hoe you use to tackle this project, have your garden cultivated by May 1 and vote for the candidate you feel will best represent you and Ward 7. Dance in the rain!!! Don't hide from it. We need these showers to nourish the flower we're about to plant! Long may it bloom!!!

**Karen Lee Williams, President
Hillcrest Community Civic Association**

DEBORAH GIST TO SPEAK AT HILLCREST

(Continued from page 1)

analyzed proposed policy initiatives, and conducted research and feasibility studies.

In 1996, Gist founded Hillsborough Reads, a literacy program in Florida, and served as director until 1999. Under her leadership, the program had a successful impact on the literacy of young children, and the literacy tutoring curriculum she wrote was used in programs across the country.

The foundation of Gist's career is her eight years of experience as a public school teacher. She taught grades first through third, served as a model teacher and trainer for other educators, and was twice named Teacher of the Year.

Gist earned a master's in public administration from Harvard University, where she was also selected as a Kennedy Fellow and received the Littauer Fellowship for academic excellence and community service. She has a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from the University of Oklahoma and a master's of education from the University of South Florida.

She is active in the District of Columbia as a vol-

unteer mentor and member of the board for Mentors, Inc. She serves as a mayoral-appointed member of the Mayor's Commission on Food and Nutrition and the State Advisory Panel on Special Education. Gist also serves on advisory committees for the DC College Savings Plan and Do the Write Thing. Previously, she served as a volunteer for the DC animal shelter; as vice president of membership of the bipartisan National Women's Political Caucus; literacy tutor for START DC; and as a Sunday school teacher and Deaconess Board Member at National City Christian Church. Gist lives in Ward 6.

Activities at Hillcrest Recreation Center

- We have our newly formed Teen Counsel to work with the Friends of Hillcrest and the civic association. This counsel will give teens a voice and to work in community outreach. Volunteers are needed to work with the counsel and its programs. Don Murray was our first guest speaker in March.
- Meetings take place Mondays on a bi-weekly basis at 7 p.m. The next meetings are April 2, 16 & 30.
- Tee ball, Minor League & Little League baseball start April 1. See recreation staff for details.
- Volunteers needed for operating a Bingo night. Orvin Wright has details.

Community Bulletin Board

- **Volunteers needed for GreenDC Week 2007—** Volunteers needed to help with the 2007 Annual GreenDC Week Earth Day Celebration on Friday April 20. Be part of this citywide endeavor to educate D.C. residents and engage them in activities that encourage and promote environmental sustainability, green building principles, reduced energy consumption and climate change emissions; as well as ways to improve air, water and land quality. Help is needed with event logistics, flyer distribution, photo documentation, and manning recycling stations. Volunteer 4-6 hours by calling (202) 671-1404 today! Or email andre.javier-barry@dc.gov.
- **Mark Financial Literacy Month in April—**You're welcome to join the DC Saves Campaign. The D.C. Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking (DISB) has joined the campaign to give you strategies to get out of debt and build wealth. Identify savings goals, open a free bank account and start saving. DISB will be hosting "Money-Saving Wednesday" seminars at noon throughout April. Topics include Making Saving a Habit (April 4), Five Keys to Investing Success (April 11), ABCs of Saving for Education (April 18) and Planning a Worry-Free Retirement (April 25) at

its office, 810 First St., NE, #701. DISB will also be hosting a larger event on the ABCs of Saving for Education on April 26, from 3 p.m., at Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library at 901 G St., NW, Main Lobby.

- **East of the River artists at Smithsonian—**On May 13, Ward 7 Arts Collaborative Inc. will cosponsor an historical exhibition called "A Creative Profile: Artists of the East Bank" at the Smithsonian Institution's Anacostia Community Museum, 1901 Fort Pl., SE. The exhibit is the first-ever exhibit of artists from Washington, D.C.'s Wards 7 and 8 in a Smithsonian museum. The exhibition includes works in a variety of media—sculpture, painting, photography, craftwork and mixed media by several different artists. The show will run during summer, ending Aug. 12. In coordination with the exhibit, the collaborative will host artists' talks at some Ward 7 elementary schools. For more information, contact Wanda Aikens, Ward 7 Arts Collaborative interim executive director at (202) 396-1200 X107 or email: ward7artscollab@yahoo.com. For museum activities, <http://anacostia.si.edu/calendar/calendar.htm>

Special Feature

Wild Critters of Hillcrest By Kathy Chamberlain



It's Springtime! Have you seen any interesting wildlife in the neighborhood? No, not that kind of wildlife, I mean wild critters. How's your photography? In Hillcrest, we are blessed with an abundance of natural wooded park space, home to deer, foxes, squirrels, raccoons and birds of many varieties.

They are often more visible in spring as they seek food for their young, sometimes in our yards. Some time ago, Vince Spaulding snapped pictures of a fox in his backyard, and later, a deer. If you have a digital camera, take a picture and we'll add it to "Wild Critters of Hillcrest" on the Hillcrest Web site. See what we have so far at www.hillcrestdc.com/critters.htm. Just a few rules: 1) only wild critters, no domestic ones; 2) they must be from the Hillcrest neighborhood or nearby (say where the photo was taken); 3) the photographer's household must be a member of the Hillcrest Community Civic Association.

Please send no more than two photos with each e-mail, although you can send more than one e-mail. Send to kathychamberlain@hillcrestDC.com. Let's have some fun!

Congratulations

HCCA will like to congratulate Gloria and Dennis Logan who will celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on April 14, 2007. The couple was married at St. Peter Claver's Catholic Church in Baltimore, Md., in 1957. We wish you the very best.



HCCA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

- Michelle E. Amos, 2332 33rd St., SE
- Marty V. Jones, 3005 Erie St., SE
- Jeff Carr, 3002 Minnesota Ave., SE
- Levitha Owens, 2846 Ft. Baker Dr., SE

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HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

INTERSTAGES UPDATE

- ◆ Interstages joined the Young Women's Drumming Empowerment Project to perform "Wade in the Water" at a showcase at Burke High School.
- ◆ Ruby Hayes, "Princess of the Blues," provided a guest artist workshop.

- ◆ Students set new academic goals for the spring semester.
- ◆ Interstages is expanding in April! There are seven slots open. If you know a 6th-, 7th- or 8th-grade girl from the District, encourage her to check out this opportunity to discover talents, strengthen and develop skills.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR FOR APRIL

7	10 a.m.	HCCA Meeting, Hillcrest Recreation Center 32 nd and Denver Streets, SE
9	7 p.m.	Friends of Francis Gregory Library Meeting Francis Gregory Library, 3660 Alabama Ave., SE
11	10 a.m.	Goodhope Marketplace Taskforce Meeting Goodhope Police Substation, 2800 blk Alabama Ave., SE
18	6 p.m.	PSA 606 Police/Community Meeting Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter, 3319 Alabama Ave., SE
19	7 p.m.	ANC 7B Monthly Meeting Ryland Epworth Methodist Church, 3200 "S" St., SE

PLEASE NOTE: The new mailing address for the Hillcrest Community Civic Association is:

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

DUES FOR 2007 ARE NOW DUE. PLEASE PAY PROMPTLY.

It's only \$10 per year. Get on track and send your payment NOW!!!!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ ZIP code: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail: _____

New Member: _____ Renewal: _____

I'd like to serve on the following committee(s): _____

**Make check payable to the Hillcrest Community Civic Association and mail to
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