



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

APRIL 2011

Next Meeting: Saturday, April 2, 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.

April is Earth Month

DDOT & DDOE To Present On the Environment

John Thomas is the associate director for the Urban Forestry Administration, which is housed in the District Department of Transportation (DDOT). Working at DDOT since May 2003, his division handles all the trees in the right of way between the curb and sidewalk and on properties under the DDOT agency. There are about 140,000 tree spaces in the city and Thomas' group plants more than 4,000 trees every year, removes over 1,500 and prunes over 4,000, all with a staff of 38 to manage the entire program.

Thomas, a District resident, is from Syracuse, NY. He has a bachelor's of science in ornamental horticulture from Cornell University. Most of his experiences prior to DDOT have been related to horticulture. He has worked at the U.S. Botanic Garden; as a fellow at the U.S. National Arboretum; the Wave Hill public garden in the Bronx (he suggests everyone visits the best garden in the U.S.); and as a personal horticulturist for designer Oscar de la Renta for several years.

Brief Presentations from the D.C. Dept. on the Environment:

- **Leah Lemoine** will discuss the River Smart Home program. This District-wide project offers incentives to homeowners interested in reducing storm water runoff from their properties. Homeowners receive up to \$1,200 to adopt certain landscape enhancements.
- **Damien Ossi** will present on the Backyard Habitat program. This is a project designed to reintroduce native species of plants to our area. These plants provide food and habitat for wildlife such as birds and butterflies and preserve our natural heritage.



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A Message from the President

Dear Neighbors,

Sometimes, I really have a hard time coming up with a topic for this monthly letter, so I ask Earl, what would he like to read about. This month he suggested volunteerism. Earl thinks he has retired; I think he is currently unemployed. Anyway you look at it, he has a lot of time on his hands. He has been looking around and testing the waters

Any ideas or articles, e-mail the editor, Michelle Phipps-Evans, at hillcrestdc_newsletter@yahoo.com by the 15th of the month.

on different ways he can serve his community. His efforts are starting to pay off and he has found some organizations he enjoys working with, and is planning on expanding his involvement.

One of the great things about Hillcrest is its civic-minded population. We have many people actively involved in our civic association; and we are actively recruiting for more. But if joining a committee of HCCA is not your cup of tea, there are many other organizations that could use your help. Yes, I said help, not just your money. There are many, many ways you can make a difference by volunteering just

a few hours a month. You can change the life of a child or an abused woman, help cancer patients get to their medical appointments, coach a soccer team, work on a political campaign, and on and on. Whatever talent you have, there is a place for you. The funny thing is that when you reach outward to help someone else, you get so much unexpected joy in return. So, neighbors, continue to reach out if you are already involved, and if you're not, try it. Our community, our city, our world, will be a better place for your involvement, and I know volunteering will enrich your life as well.

Karen

Did You Know You Can.....



- **Turn in Unused or Expired Medication for Safe Disposal?** The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration will host the second National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on April 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit www.dea.gov for locations.

- **Follow Mayor Vincent Gray on Twitter?** Mayor Gray recently joined the social media landscape with the creation of a Twitter account. Follow him @mayorvincegray. He also has a Facebook page at DC One City page.

- **Use the Hillcrest Website for More Than Information?** To keep up with the changing

times, the HCCA website, www.hillcrestdc.com, does not only provide historical information on the civic association through the years; it offers you the option of paying for the HCCA membership online. Save the time writing a check and visit www.hillcrestdc.com/paydues.htm to pay for the \$12 membership.

HILLCREST NEWS AND UPDATES

Global Youth Service Day

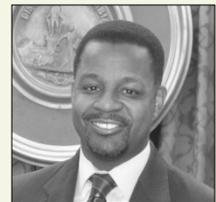
Global Youth Service Day is April 15 to 17. This annual campaign that celebrates and mobilizes the millions of children and youth who improve their communities each day of the year through service and service-learning. Established 1988, Global Youth Service Day is the largest service event in

the world, and the only day of service dedicated to children and youth. GYSD is celebrated each year in over 100 countries. Visit <http://gysd.org/> for more.

Special Election in April

The District has scheduled a special election on April 26, 2011, to fill vacancies in the offices of the At Large Member

Election will fill seat vacated by Council of the District of Columbia Chair Kwame Brown.



of the Council of the District of Columbia, vacated by Chairman Kwame Brown; as well as Ward

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HILLCREST NEWS AND UPDATES

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4 and Ward 8 State Board of Education seats. To see the list of candidates, visit the DC Board of Election & Ethics website at http://www.dcboee.org/election_info/election_year2011/.

Fish Fry and Bake Sale

The Metropolitan Police Department's 6DCAC will be hosting a fish fry and bake sale on Friday, April 22, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at 6D's headquarters, 100 42nd St., NE. The proceeds benefit 6DCAC's initiatives, including the annual wards banquet to honor officers and community leaders; and the annual children's holiday celebration in the Sixth District. For more information, contact Julia Irving at (202) 698.1315 or julia.irving@dc.gov or Larry Martin at (202) 698.0955 or larry.martin@dc.gov.

HCCA Streets, Traffic and Transportation Committee Update

The HCCA Streets, Traffic and Transportation Committee recently shared concerns about the level of service of the Department of Motor Vehicles at its oversight hearing on March 10 before the Council of the District of Columbia. Challenges concerning the DMV Penn Branch Service Center include long lines, inefficient customer service, limited public transportation access and limited traffic circulation. The committee offered recommendations, which may be read at <http://hccatransport.blogspot.com/2011/03/hcca-testimony-oversight-of-department.html>. The committee also held a transportation summit with Councilmembers to explore solutions for better public transportation options for Ward 7.

SAVE THE DATE



The Hillcrest Garden Tour Committee is proud to announce the 18th Annual Hillcrest Home and Garden Tour on June 18, 2011. Additional details for the event will come later. Hope to see you there!

HCCA Poster Contest

The HCCA is sponsoring a poster contest for 5-to-17-year-old Hillcrest residents on the subject, *Supporting Our Environment*. Address questions to Mary Ross at dcmfross@cs.com. Deadline is Friday, May 13, at noon.

The Enlightened Environmentalist

Some Tips On Fertilizers

With the coming of Spring, many of us anticipate seeing things grow. Normally, nature has planned for this, but sometimes we want to give nature a little assistance. But our help **may not** be helpful after all. In thinking about fertilizing, we need to get the big picture. A part of that picture is the condition of our Chesapeake Bay. Keep in mind that rain water runoff from our lawns goes into the streets; and the drain system for our streets feeds into the Anacostia River, which feeds into the Potomac River, which feeds into the Chesapeake Bay.

Here are some suggestions and considerations:

- (1) The forestry office of the District of Columbia asks that we do not apply fertilizer to the trees in the sidewalk/street boxes—not in the spring, not in the fall, not in the winter, not in the summer. This means NEVER!
- (2) Most grasses will benefit from an application of fertilizer in the fall. This application will give the fertilizer time to absorb into the ground and roots. A fall application is all most grasses need.
- (3) An exception to this rule is the zoysia variety of grass. Zoysia does need fertilizing between May 15 and June 15. Zoysia needs three successive days of 80+ degrees to start growing. It can do all right without a fall fertilizing.

Remember, the fertilizer companies are in business to make money. Likewise, many lawn care companies are motivated to produce quick and spectacular results. Which do you think is more important to either of them—making money or protecting the Chesapeake Bay?

Courtesy the Hillcrest Environmental Newsletter

March Madness at Anne Beers

Anne Beers Elementary at 3600 Alabama Ave., SE, will be having its March Madness on April 1, from 1:15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m., and is seeking donations and volunteers. Any questions, call Katie Chesterson at (202) 939-4800.

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 CIVIC ASSOCIATION
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Community Calendar for April	
2	10 a.m. HCCA Meeting, Hillcrest Community Center, 32nd & Denver St., SE
4	7 p.m. Friends of Francis Gregory Library Meeting Interim Francis Gregory Library, 2100 36th Place, SE
13	10 a.m. Goodhope Marketplace Taskforce Meeting Goodhope Police Substation, 2800 blk Alabama Ave., SE
20	6 p.m. PSA 606 Police/Community Meeting East Washington Heights Baptist Church, 2220 Branch Ave., SE
21	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
WWW.HILLCRESTDC.COM
COM

HILLCRESTDC@YAHOOGROUPS.COM

"ALL OVER HILLCREST"
FACEBOOK PAGE

TWEET
[@HILLCRESTWARD7](https://twitter.com/HILLCRESTWARD7)

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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

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Or pay using a credit card online at www.hillcrestdc.com/paydues.htm