

# The Hillcrest Newsletter

April 2012

## SUPERINTENDENT ALEX ROMERO OF NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS-EAST TO SPEAK



**N**ational Park Service (NPS)'s Superintendent of the National Capital Parks-East (NACE) Alex Romero is this month's speaker during April's Arbor Month. NPS is in the U.S. Dept. of the Interior. Romero, a 20-year veteran of the NPS, began as superintendent in July 2010.

NACE is a diverse park with natural, cultural and recreational resources that include Frederick Douglass, Carter G. Woodson, Anacostia Park, Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Capitol Hill Parks, Baltimore-Washington Parkway, Suitland Parkway and more.

Prior to this, he served as deputy superintendent from 2004 to 2010. Prior to NACE, he was deputy for Prince William Forest Park in Northern Virginia where he was responsible for park operations including more than 15000 acres of Piedmont Forest consisting of natural, historical and recreational facilities and the largest NPS natural area in the national capital region. Before that, he worked at the NPS in New York in similar capacities including as a public health sanitarian. A native of Long Island and Queens, NY, Romero holds a bachelor's in environmental science from SUNY Old Westbury and completed the NPS' executive Leadership Program. He enjoys hiking and physical fitness activities.

## Hillcrest Loses a Giant

*Remembering Dennis R. Logan  
March 1, 1925 to March 2, 2012*



On March 2, 2012, the Hillcrest community lost a stalwart in Dennis N. Logan, who was active as chairman and co-founder of the Neighborhood Watch Program, treasurer of the Hillcrest Community Civic Association for 15 years, board member of the DC Metropolitan Boys and Girls Club, Retired DC Firefighters Association, past president of the NW Kiwanis Club DC, and the Fellowship of Retired Police and Fireman. As a member of the St. Francis Xavier Church since 1965, he served as the usher coordinator, and past president of the Holy Name Society, 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Knights of Columbus and a founding member of the Washington Interfaith Network.

Mr. Logan was born in Rutherfordton, NC, where he attended public schools and served honorably in the Navy. In 1951, he began his

*Continued on page 3*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

|          |                                |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| <b>2</b> | <b>President's Message</b>     |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Hillcrest Announcements</b> |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Calendar of Events</b>      |
|          |                                |

**General membership meeting is  
Saturday, April 7, 2012, 10 a.m. at  
the Hillcrest Recreation Center  
the corner of Denver & 32<sup>nd</sup>  
Streets, SE.**

**Note: Meetings are held the  
first Saturday of the month.**

[www.hillcrestdc.com](http://www.hillcrestdc.com)

# Hillcrest Announcements

## Skyland Update

The D.C. Court of Appeals recently removed restrictions, which now give the city possession of Discount Mart at the Skyland Shopping Center. This was one of the project's longest running cases. Additionally, the city was granted partial summary judgment in February on the AutoZone case; and after a June appeal by one more owner, the city will have clear title to the land, and can negotiate with developer Rappaport. The anchor tenant has already been chosen, which all but assures financing with other leases to follow.

## Crime Prevention Summit on April 28

Hillcrest, "the best kept secret in DC," is a beautiful neighborhood with equally beautiful neighbors. But what is happening to our neighborhood? Car jackings, robberies, burglaries. What's a person to do? Is all lost? Are we just destined to be victims? Shall we throw our hands up and just give up? Lock ourselves in our own homes and give the streets over to the thugs? Or should we stand up, unite and take our streets back block by block. WDDD? What did Dennis Do?

Twenty-something years ago, Dennis Logan, his wife Gloria and some neighbors got together and created the ANC 7B Neighborhood Watch Program. They built a strong foundation, one we must now build upon.

The HCCA invites you to a **Crime Prevention Summit** on **Saturday April 28 at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** at the East Washington Heights Baptist Church, 220 Branch Ave., SE. It will feature a Neighborhood Watch instructor Samantha Nolan, a member of the *Chief Kathy Lanier's* Executive Citizen Advisory Council. The goal of this training is to organize and empower every block in Hillcrest/PSA 606 to fight crime. After we have been trained and organized, we will learn from Cecilia Jones on how to take advantage of the Community Criminal Justice Accountability Initiative." **Please RSVP at (202) 277-7474.** Light lunch served.

## Aya Community Markets Return

The Aya Community Markets begin April 7 and end Nov. 17, every first and third Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church, at 3000 Pennsylvania Ave., SE. This is a farmers market and holistic health experience by Dreaming out Loud Inc. More info at [www.dreamingoutloud.net](http://www.dreamingoutloud.net).

### DO YOU KNOW ABOUT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?

Neighborhood Watch is a program of mutual assistance among neighbors and the police aimed at reducing crime in the community at the grassroots. It encourages strong community involvement, and unity, which are powerful deterrents to crime.

## The President's Message

### Dear Neighbors:

On March 2, 2012, one day after his 87th birthday, our community and our city lost one of its most respected members **Dennis N. Logan**.

Mr. Logan "Dennis," our neighbor and friend was a positive example of civic activist, mentor, friend, husband, and father. He will be sorely missed. We the members of the Hillcrest Community Civic Association resolve to:

Celebrate his life;  
Mourn his loss; and  
Carry on his legacy!

Dennis Rest in Peace!



### RECOLLECTIONS ON MR. DENNIS LOGAN

He was a role model in our community. One way we could remember him is to rename the neighborhood watch to the Dennis Logan Neighborhood Watch Program.

*--Mayor Vincent C. Gray at the funeral service on March 6, and Hillcrest neighbor*

Dennis Logan had passion and joy for every aspect of his life and was genuinely driven by his love for DC and his compassion for those around him. I am deeply saddened for the loss to the Hillcrest community, Ward 7, and the District and heartbroken for the loss of my neighbor and friend. My thoughts & prayers are with his family.

*--Council Chairman Kwame Brown and Hillcrest neighbor*

We remember Dennis as a stalwart of the Hillcrest community who started our Neighborhood Watch program. This successful program brought us together block by block to rid the community of crime. Dennis will be sorely missed. We extend our sincere sympathies to his beloved wife, Gloria, and family.

*--Roger and Mattie Cheek  
In the Washington Post's Obit Guest Book*

He was an example of what we all should aspire to be as men: strong, faithful, dedicated, committed and giving of himself.

*--Winslow Woodland via HCCA Facebook page*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### FRIENDS OF FRANCIS A. GREGORY LIBRARY MEETING

PLACE: INTERIM LIBRARY, 2100 36<sup>TH</sup> PLACE, SE

TIME: MONDAY, APRIL 2, 7 P.M.

### HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

PLACE: HILLCREST RECREATION CENTER, 32<sup>ND</sup> & DENVER ST. SE

TIME: SATURDAY, APRIL 7, FROM 10 A.M. TO NOON

### GOOD HOPE MARKET PLACE TASKFORCE MEETING

PLACE: GOOD HOPE MARKET PLACE POLICE SUBSTATION, 2800 BLOCK ALABAMA AVE., SE

TIME: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 10-11 A.M.

### PSA 606 POLICE COMMUNITY MEETING

PLACE: EAST WASHINGTON HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH, 2220 BRANCH AVE., SE

TIME: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 6 P.M. TO 7 P.M.

### ANC 7B MONTHLY MEETING

PLACE: RYLAND METHODIST CHURCH, 3200 S ST., SE

TIME: THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 7 P.M.-9 P.M.



### CRIME PREVENTION SUMMIT

EAST WASHINGTON HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH,  
2220 BRANCH AVE., SE  
SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2012  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

SPONSORED BY THE HCCA,  
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH  
AND PSA 606  
LIGHT LUNCH SERVED

### Got Ideas????

Please email any ideas or articles for the newsletter by the 15th of the month to the editor Michelle Phipps-Evans at [hillcrestdc\\_newsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:hillcrestdc_newsletter@yahoo.com).

Or follow on Twitter @HillcrestWard7 or write it on the Facebook wall.

career in the DC Fire Department as a firefighter and progressed through the ranks to Deputy Chief receiving many commendations for outstanding community service. He retired from the DC Fire Department in 1980. Mr. Logan married Gloria Ford on April 14, 1957, and they have three sons—Dennis, Derek and David. A devoted husband and father, Mr. Logan was always ready to lend a helping hand to his fellow man. He always looked at life on the positive side and found something good in everyone.

He lived a full life; full of faith in God, compassion, concern and love for his family, church and community. Gardening and lawn care were his hobbies. He is survived by his wife, their three sons, eight grandchildren, five great grandchildren, two daughters-in-law, two sisters and a host of relatives and friends. In 2010 the Logans were interviewed for an HCCA oral history project on what makes a strong DC neighborhood. The interview is on the HCCA website found here, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8y168v8pJmE>

## THE ENLIGHTENED ENVIRONMENTALIST

### The Year of the Tree



Casey Trees volunteer Andrew Ewing (cap), and Westover Dr. residents, Sarah Hatch and Chris Diggs help plant a new redbud in Ken & Yvonne Corbett's yard.

Photo:  
Yvonne Corbett

Spring appears to be coming early this year. Temperatures are reaching 75 and 80 degrees before March 20, 2012, the start of the Spring season, according to almanac.com. Is it global warming? Maybe. And does tree loss play a part in this warming? The HCCA Environmental and Beautification Committee will continue its mission of planting more trees by declaring 2012 the "Year of the Tree." Yes, the committee is a group of tree huggers. With all the positive attributes trees bring to our environment, we should all start hugging trees. Check the Reason to Plant Trees at [www.caseytrees.com](http://www.caseytrees.com). You'll be amazed at what trees can do.

Casey Trees, an organization that is dedicated to increasing the tree canopy in Washington, D.C., sponsors a Community Tree Planting Project where neighborhoods can have trees planted for free. This spring, Westover Drive became one of 53 Community Planting projects around the city as 14 trees

were planted at properties owned by five residents who expressed collective interest in the program. The Casey Trees team set up on Westover Drive on March 24 with a team of volunteers, and fanned out to the properties receiving new trees. The Casey Team helped homeowners select the sites, plant the trees and provided the equipment such as mulch, water bags and muscle. In return, the tree owners pledged to adhere to a multi-year watering plan, and the neighborhood provided the volunteers with lunch for the day.

“We couldn’t believe our good fortune,” said Alexis Simendinger, a tree recipient. “Within two hours, neighbors took possession of at least \$4,500 worth of new hollies, ginkgoes, redbuds, a cherry and several other species of trees for free. Thanks, and bravo to the hard-working urban foresters at Casey Trees.”

The residents of Westover Drive have set an example for the rest of the residents of Hillcrest to follow. The Environmental Committee looks forward to accepting more tree huggers into its exclusive club. It is so wonderful to turn the corner at Pennsylvania and Branch Avenues in the summer and feel the cool and refreshing air the trees bring to our community. Yeah, I know you have felt it. Now the people who live on Westover Drive will feel it too!

Courtesy The Environmental and Beautification Committee



**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES FOR 2012? *Your paid-through date is on the mailing label of this news-letter. If it is earlier than 2012, please send your payment now.***

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_ Cash ☐ Check ☐



Hillcrest Community Civic Association

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## **The HCCA Newsletter**

**A publication by the Hillcrest Community  
Civic Association**

*The Hillcrest Community Civic Association  
promotes the welfare of our  
neighborhood. Our purpose is simple--to  
voice our concerns to government  
officials, businesses, and residents to  
ensure the best possible living  
environment in the Ward 7 neighborhood  
of Hillcrest.*

### **HCCA Board**

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