

THE HILLCREST NEWSLETTER



HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

"WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY"

WWW.HILLCRESTDC.COM

P.O. Box 30895, WASHINGTON, DC 20030

April 2013

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

Hillcrest Recreation Center
32nd and Denver Sts., SE
Saturday, April 6, 10AM to Noon

FRIENDS OF FRANCIS A. GREGORY LIBRARY MEETING

Francis Gregory Library
3660 Alabama Ave., SE
Monday, April 1, 7PM to 9PM

PSA 606 POLICE COMMUNITY MEETING

East Washington Heights Baptist Church
2200 Branch Ave., SE
Wednesday, April 17, 6PM

ANC 7B MONTHLY MEETING

Ryland Methodist Church
3200 S ST., SE
Thursday, April 18, 7PM- 9PM

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In Memory of Samauri Jenkins



Thanks to Michelle Phipps-Evans and Lisa Shaw for organizing the March 3rd prayer vigil for four-year-old, Samauri Jenkins, who tragically died in a house fire on February 17. Mayor Gray, HCCA President, Karen Williams, and other community members joined vigil organizers to celebrate the life of Samauri. She was remembered as a beautiful, smart and articulate little girl who loved to sing and dance. The community continues to keep the family of Samauri in their prayers.

Josh Burch is our April Guest Speaker



Josh Burch manages stream restoration projects for the DC Department of the Environment (DDOE) focusing primarily in Wards 7 & 8. Josh, a Native Washingtonian, graduated from Gonzaga High School and earned a BA in Public and Urban Affairs from Virginia Tech. Post college, Josh served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ghana. He worked at several local Non-profits, Earth Conservation Corps, Shaw EcoVillage, and Sasha Bruce Youth Build, where he engaged at-risk youth in community action projects with a focus on environmental stewardship.

Josh will provide an update on the Alger Park project, one of the urban stream restoration projects of the DDOE. It is located in Hillcrest, and bounded by 30th Street, and Hillcrest and Park drives.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Hillcrest Community Civic Association 2013 Poster Contest

Theme: Our Future Depends on How We Protect Our Environment Today



- Qualifying Entrants: Hillcrest residents between the ages of 5 – 17.
- Deadline for submitting Posters: 12:00 Noon, April 12, 2013.

- Awards: Four \$75 cash prizes.

For full rules go to www.hillcrestdc.com, or see Environmental Committee members: Kenneth Burke, Phil Hammond, John Hawkins, Ruth Lewis, Rita Lowery, and Mary Ross.

Volunteers Needed: To Spruce-Up the Butterfly Garden

April 6, 2013, 2:00 PM

Please come out at 2:00 PM on April 6, 2013 to clean up and mulch the butterfly garden. This beautiful garden was planted at East Washington Heights Baptist Church, 2220 Branch Avenue, SE, by the HCCA and the church's community under the auspices of DDOE Backyard Habitat Program in June of 2011.

Invasive Species Removal at Ft. Circle Park in Hillcrest

April 25, 2013, 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM



HCCA, in partnership with the National Park Service and the Anacostia Watershed Society, will engage in removal of invasive plant species. Thurgood Marshall Public Charter School has volunteered 50 – 60 juniors to weed out these species that are harmful to native plants. The National Park Service will provide gloves and tools. Please come out to help. We will meet at the Ft. Circle Park entrance on 28th Street, SE, between Hillcrest Drive and Texas Avenue at 8:00 AM.

Friends of Francis Gregory Library Flea Market

April 20, 2013, 9:30AM

The Friends are holding a Flea Market at the Francis Gregory Library The cost is \$20.00 and you bring your own table. For more information contact Miles Steele at (202)582-7832

HILLCREST EDUCATION

Make a Difference at Anne Beers: Volunteer 15 Minutes on DC-CAS Testing Day



Hillcrest residents are invited to cheer on eager 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade test takers at Beers on Monday, April 22. The DC Comprehensive Assessment System (DC-CAS) test is based on the District of Columbia Public Schools' standards, which define what students should be learning each year. The goal is for all students to score at or above the proficient level on the DC-CAS test.

Join teachers, parents and friends as they support and encourage the "young minds" of Hillcrest. Please consider giving 15 minutes of your time. The pep rally begins at 8:45 AM. If you can join the team at Beers and/or have any questions, please contact Heather Hairston at heather.hairston@dc.gov.

Submit Your Comments! Grade Francis Gregory Library and Other DC Agencies

Last year, Mayor Gray announced grade.dc.gov, a new website for District residents to submit instant feedback about their experiences at D.C. agencies. The city uses this feedback to assign offices and departments real-time grades for customer service. It helps the public engage with the government and government agencies improve the quality of their services. ...Continued on page 4

Earth Day 2013 Broadens and Mobilizes the Environmental Movement



Each year since 1970, on and around April 22, more than one billion people participate in Earth Day-related activities. This modern day environmental movement began with former U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson, from Minnesota, after he observed global environmental damage resulting from a massive 1969 oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. The 2013 Earth Day theme, The Face of Climate Change, puts a face to the effects of climate change on real people, animals and places around the world. The Earth Day network wants ordinary people to become "climate reporters" who will tweet their pictures and stories for inclusion into what will become a digital display using the hashtag #FaceOfClimate, and post photos to Twitter and Instagram using that hashtag. *To learn about other Earth Day activities in and around Washington, DC. go to <http://dc.about.com/od/specialevents/a/EarthDay.htm>.*

Celebrate Spring in DC at the National Cherry Blossom Festival



Spring is here and so is the National Cherry Blossom Festival. It begins on March 20 and will end April 14. This springtime event commemorates the 3,000 cherry trees given to

Washington, DC in 1912 from Mayor Yukio Ozaki of Tokyo. It is an annual celebration of the gift of trees and the lasting friendship between the United States and Japan.

The festival features local and national marching bands, lavish floats, traditional and contemporary arts and culture, natural beauty giant helium balloons, marching bands, community spirit, and other family entertainment.

The **Parade** will be April 13 from 10 AM – 12 Noon, rain or shine. **Location:** Constitution Avenue from 7th to 17th streets, NW; **Cost:** \$20/Per Person for Grandstand Seating;

FREE along parade route. For tickets, call 800-745-3000 or go to www.ticketmaster.com/event/15004933A4A33077.

For information about other April events and general information, Call 877-442-5666 or go to www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/visitor-information.

The Enlightened Environmentalist

Prevent the Spread of Invasive Plant Species

You can help prevent the spread of invasive plants species by becoming familiar with these plants and not using them. Invasive species are plants, from other continents or ecosystems that were introduced into an area by humans. They are considered invasive because they **impact negatively the ecosystems into which they are brought**. Invasive species aggressively push out native plants, sometimes to extinction. Native plants occur in a given area without human support. Plant species native to the U.S were present on the continent pre-Columbus. To get detailed information about invasive plants and how to prevent them from spreading in the mid-Atlantic natural areas, visit: www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/toc.htm.

How Safe is your Home from Fires? Tips from the DC Fire Department



Within a couple of weeks after the fire that resulted in Samauri's death, a second Hillcrest home experienced a fire--one had working smoke detectors and the other did not. Keep your home safe with DCFD fire-safety services:

Home fire safety inspections are available by appointment, call (202) 673-3331. They will check for overloaded outlets, working smoke detectors, unobstructed exit routes from your home, and good visibility from the street.

Fire

A'sia Sutton Smoke Alarm Giveaway Program (ASSAP): To be eligible for a smoke alarm, you must live in DC, show proof of residency, and you must be a homeowner living in the home (no renters). You can submit a service request online. Use the plus sign to search for and complete a Smoke Alarm Request Form. Allow a minimum of 24 hours for request to be processed. For questions or concerns, call (202) 727-1614 or (202) 673-3331.

continued from page 2 **Grade D.C.**
Your remarks are important! The staff at Francis Gregory Library encourages the community to use grade.dc.gov to comment on their experiences at the library. If there are particular concerns about library services, please contact the branch manager, Kerby Valladares, directly at kerby.valladares@dc.gov or call the branch at [202-698-6373](tel:202-698-6373)

Got Ideas!
Please email any ideas or articles for the newsletter by the 15th of the month to hillcrestdc_newsletter@yahoo.com
Or follow on Twitter@HillcrestWard7 or write it on the Facebook wall, All Over Hillcrest
Visit our website at www.hillcrestdc.com or join the conversation on our list serve at Hillcrestdc@yahoo.com



Hillcrest Community Civic Association
P.O. Box 30895
Washington, DC 20030

HCCA Board

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Contact information is available on our website at www.hillcrestdc.com

Have you paid your dues for 2013? Your paid through date is on the mailing label of this newsletter. If the date is earlier than 2013 , please send your payment now. The cost is \$12.00/year. Make check payable to HCCA and send to P.O. Box 30895, Washington, DC e20030 or you can pay by credit card at www.hillcrestdc.com/paydues.htm

Name _____ Date _____
Address _____ Phone # _____
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