

HILLCREST NEWSLETTER

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GUEST SPEAKER: LAMON BYRAMS, ENERGY CONSULTANT



The month of April is recognized by HCCA as a time for environmental awareness. Therefore our guest this month is a young man who has always been interested in the going green movement that is taking

the world by storm. For five years, LaMon Byrams has worked as a sub-contractor for the local utility company Pepco. His ambitions were to inform people about the going green initiative programs.

LaMon worked as a program enrollment representative for Pepco's Energy Wise Rewards Program, and also educated Pepco customers about Quick Home

Energy Check-Ups. Recently, he has embarked on a new mission to not just help people see the importance of energy efficiency. He is now educating people on how solar panels are important to cutting down energy cost, adding value to homes, and helping the environment.

People are unsure about the industry simply because they don't know much about it. LaMon will explain solar energy in a simple way that will be easy for anybody to understand.

LaMon is a student at the University of Maryland College Park. He is also a recipient of the Hillman Entrepreneurs Program and Scholarship at the university. LaMon will earn his bachelor's degree this year in Mass Communication and a minor degree in Technology Entrepreneurship.

GET RID OF PESTS WITH PLEASANT SMELLS

Spring is here! Soon we'll have great weather, lovely flower, shrubbery and plants... and spiders, deer, mice, centipedes, etc. Here are a few easy, environmentally friendly tips to get rid of these pests and still enjoy the beauty of your yard.

- **Deer:** A cheese grater and bar of Irish Spring soap is all you need to keep deer off your shrubs and flowers. Grate the soap as you casually walk in your flower bed. The deer hate the smell of the soap and will stay away. Reapply the soap about every 4 weeks.
- **Mice:** Place a cotton ball in a plastic jar top. Drop several drops of 100% essential oil of peppermint (from the health food store) on the cotton ball and place it in the corner of your kitchen or other places where mice have been seen. Replace monthly.



- Special points of interest:**
- **Hillcrest Community Civic Association Meeting**
 Hillcrest Recreation Center
 32nd and Denver St., SE
 Saturday, April 2, 2016
 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM
 - **PSA 606 Police Community Meeting**
 East Washington Heights
 Baptist Church
 2200 Branch Ave., SE
 Wednesday, April 20, 6 PM
 - **ANC 7B Monthly Meeting**
 Ryland Methodist Church
 3200 S St., SE
 Thursday, April 21, 7 PM

GET RID OF PESTS WITH PLEASANT SMELLS Continued...

- Spiders: In a spray bottle, place a cup of water; add 10 drops of 100% essential oil of peppermint. Spray around the door frame. Using a natural cleaning solution also works. In a gallon of water, place a half cup of vinegar and two teaspoons of essential oil of peppermint. You may use this solution on all surfaces. Not only does it clean well, but it chases the spiders out. Your house will smell good, too.
- Centipedes: Use a teaspoon of 100% tea tree essential oil (from the health food store) in a cup of water. Spray the solution around windows and doors. Repeat every couple of months.



HCCA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



To be eligible you must

- Be a Hillcrest resident
- Be a High School Senior
- Have a GPA of 2.5 or higher



Application Checklist:

- Completed Application Form
- High School Transcript
- Three Letters of Recommendation

Get recognized for your **LEADERSHIP**

Win awards up to **\$2,000** for college

Email or Mail your application today

Mail: Hillcrest Community Civic Association
Attn.: Dr. Jeanne Contardo, Chair
Education & Recreation Committee
3209 Alabama Ave SE
Washington, DC 20020

Applications due May 1, 2016

Download your application here



www.hillcrestdc.com

Send your completed application here



Jeanne Contardo, Chair
jeanne.contardo@gmail.com

Selected applicants will be chosen for an in person interview at Francis A. Gregory Library two (2) weeks after the application due date

Tuition/Fees

Textbooks

Housing Fees

Dorm Equipment

Hillcrest Community Civic Association Education & Recreation Committee

BRANCH AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION SET

Branch Ave. is slated for major surgery. This is not your routine "in and out" procedure.

For several years, Hillcrest residents, the "Streets, Traffic, and Transportation" Committee of the Hillcrest Civic Association (HCCA), and leaders of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission, have pushed for substantial corrections to this roadway. Now it is about to happen.

Late in the fall of 2015, Mr. Linwood Robinson, Chair of our "Streets, Traffic, and Transportation" Committee, came before a regular monthly meeting of the HCCA and gave a "heads up" of what was going to happen to Branch Ave. In mid-January, 2016, members of that committee were invited to the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) to hear a power point presentation about the Branch Ave. project. At the March meeting of the HCCA, Mr. Yantee Neufville, also a member of our Transportation Committee, gave us a detailed description of what lay ahead.

In an e-mail sent by Ms. Alberta Paul from DDOT, the start date was announced as no later than March 28 (the Monday after Easter). The completion time is estimated to be 4.2 months which will take the work into August, 2016. The targeted roadway is Branch Ave., from Pennsylvania Ave. to Southern Ave., SE. (This section lies entirely within the boundaries of HCCA).

This is not just a re-paving job! The above mentioned e-mail speaks of taking 12 inches off the roadway and "re-pouring the concrete base."

That is only the beginning. DDOT recognizes that there is a flooding problem on the southwest corner of Alabama and Branch Aves. when there is a heavy rain. The plan is to remove and replace all catch basins and add a new one at Alabama Ave. Longer bus pads are also in the works.

Hillcrest residents know how heavy the traffic is on Branch Ave., especially during rush hours. For that reason, DDOT is limiting the construction work time from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM. The contractor is only authorized to do "two blocks at a time, one side at a time."

There will be a critical problem when the work takes place on that segment of Branch Ave. lying between Alabama and Southern Aves. Hillcrest residents know that for much of that stretch, there is a median that allows only one lane of traffic in each direction. DDOT is urging drivers to use alternative routes to Branch Ave. via streets that legally allow traffic.

Chairman Linwood Robinson has commended the DDOT staff "for their response to our committee concerns and sharing of information" and noted that this a "thoroughly planned project."

In the early part of the Twentieth Century, Branch Ave. was only paved with loose gravel. One group of citizens went on record as saying that was a waste of money, because after each heavy rain, much of the gravel would wash away. Evidently someone listened!

WHAT'S GOING ON IN APRIL?

Spring in Washington brings us warmer weather, blossoming trees, flowers and scrubs. Some might say the dreaded allergy season, but we won't discuss that here.

Washington, DC comes alive outside in April. It's times to shed the winter ware and soak up some sun rays. One way to do this is to checkout some of these April events going on around town. The following is a list of some of "What's Going On In April".

Hillcrest Unity Walk— April 16th

DC Emancipation Day— April 16th

Anacostia River Festival—April 17th

Earth Day— April 22nd

National Park Week— April 16th –24th

APRIL BLOOMS

According to the National Arboretum the following plants bloom in April.



HCCA Board

Michelle Phipps-Evans, First Vice President
Boyle Stuckey, Second Vice President
Deborah Johnson, Secretary
Monica H. Evans, Treasurer
Kenneth Burke, Parliamentarian
A. Frank Anderson, Chaplain
Ruth V. Lewis, Chair, Communications
Jeanne Contardo, Chair, Education and Recreation
Mary Ross, Chair, Environmental and Beautification
Michelle Peete, Chair, Fundraising
Philip Hammond, Chair, Membership
James Perkins, Jr., Chair, Public Safety/Emergency
Preparedness
Linwood Robinson, Chair, Streets, Traffic and
Transportation

Have you paid your dues for 2016?

Your paid through date is on the mailing label of this newsletter. If the date is earlier than 2016, 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