



Hillcrest Community Civic Association

"Working together for a better community"

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

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

# HILLCREST NEWSLETTER

Hillcrest Community Civic Association Newsletter

April 2017

## In This Issue

- Guest Speaker:  
Earl Eutsler  
DC Urban Forestry  
Administration
- Dog Lost in Hillcrest!
- Zip 20020 is #1
- Message from the  
Membership Chair
- Hillcrest Homerun
- What's the Speed on  
Alabama Avenue?

## Guest Speaker: Earl Eutsler

Mr. Eutsler in his nearly 13 years with the District Government, is proud to have contributed to the general professionalization of the institution. Earl started with The District Department of Transportation (DDOT), Urban Forestry Administration (UFA) in early 2004. He was one of only five arborists on staff. Thousands of dead street trees stood across the city, and requests for service logged by residents were often never inspected. Each year, more trees were removed than installed. By any indicator, this was a program barely managing to mitigate the most hazardous trees in its population.

Earl started his employment at the bottom of the organization, as a Tree Maintenance Control Monitor. He witnessed many of the agency's shortcomings. This perspective provided him an up close view of the types of business process improvements that were necessary to reshape the organization. By developing an inclusive culture, where every team member contributes to developing processes and protocols for carrying out the agency's duties, he help to build a nimble, passionate and innovative organization.

Earl led the team in leveraging the power of innovation to solve intractable problems and answer questions that previously were thought to be beyond the agency's ability. The [Urban Forestry Administration](#) is today an agency that continuously seeks improvements and efficiencies. A prime example of UFA's spirit of successful innovation can be witnessed in the technique pioneered to accurately measure mature trees even after they had been removed. Today, service requests generated through the citywide call center are now resolved in record time, even as request volumes increase.

Mr. Eutsler has a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's College. While at DDOT, Earl earned a master's degree in Environmental Science and Policy from John Hopkins University.



*Earl Eutsler, Chief Forester  
DC Urban Forestry Administration*

## Special Points of Interest

### HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

Hillcrest Recreation Center  
32nd and Denver Street, SE  
Saturday, April 1, 2017  
10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

PSA 606 POLICE  
COMMUNITY MEETING  
East Washington Heights  
Baptist Church  
2200 Branch Ave., SE  
Wednesday, April 19, 6 PM

ANC 7B MONTHLY MEETING  
Ryland Methodist Church  
3200 S St., SE  
Thursday, April 20, 7 PM

# DOG LOST IN HILLCREST!

It was the end of a day, and darkness and a cold wind were descending upon the earth. Joyce Milton knew that her son, Jason, was coming to pick her up from East Washington Heights Church where she serves as Church Secretary.

As Jason pulled into the parking lot, he noticed a strange dog was approaching his vehicle. When he opened the car door, the little animal leapt into the car and promptly took a seat. It showed no inclination to get out.

Both mother and son cautiously reached over to examine the collar of the uninvited rider. It was hard to read any kind of address or name, but they did not give up and finally were able to make out a Hillcrest address a few blocks away.

They knew immediately what they had to do, and accompanied by the four-legged hitchhiker, they drove to the apparent address. When they came to the house they observed a workman engaged in a remodeling project. Jason scooped up the dog in his arms and inquired of the worker if the owner was at home. The answer was no.



Now they had a dilemma. They had a dog, but they did not know what to do with their obtrusive pet.

All of a sudden, they did not have a dog anymore! With a mighty push of its four paws, the animal leapt from the arms of Jason. But the dog never hit the ground. A car had drove up unnoticed (except by the dog). As the driver approached Joyce and Jason, the pet recognized the driver and launched itself into the welcoming arms of its owner.

## Dog found in Hillcrest!

**“CAUTION: In most circumstances, finders of lost animals are advised to call “ANIMAL CONTROL”**



## ZIP 20020 IS #1 IN RATE OF HOME PRICE INCREASES

All of our Hillcrest community lies within the boundaries of U.S. Postal zip code number 20020. Please remember that zip code includes much more than Hillcrest.

Nevertheless, The Washington Post Real Estate Section of Saturday, Feb. 11, 2017 contained some significant news for those of us who live in Hillcrest.

On page 10 and the following pages of that Post section, some pertinent statistics were gleaned. In our zip code 20020, there were 265 unit sales in 2015 at a median price of \$253,000. In 2016, the number of units sold in zip code 20020 increased to 315. **The median price jumped to \$305,000!**

This was a 21% increase in the median price. It marked that biggest percentage increase of any zip code in Washington, DC. Actually, it was the greatest percentage gain in all of the metropolitan areas surveyed, including Prince George's, Montgomery, Fairfax, and Arlington Counties and the City of Alexandria. (Zip code 20784 in Prince George's County came in second).

Keep in mind that the median is not the same as the average. The median is a number that lies exactly in the middle of the numbers under consideration. In the figures quoted above, this means that in 2016 half of the houses in 20020 sold for less than \$305,000 and half sold for more than \$305,000

## MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Members how well do you know your neighbors? Are they a HCCA member? If not, please ask them to join you at our association meeting.....better yet, consider sponsoring them to a one year paid membership. After all, we're all "Working together for a better community."

Paul & Barbara Savage - 2018  
Charles & Lily Brunswick - 2018  
Gladys Graye - 2020  
Myra Hines - 2018  
Alexis Simendinger - 2017  
Joyce Jamison - 2017  
Joan Pierotti - 2018  
Aaron & Mary G. Smith - 2018  
Mary F. Wilhote - 2018  
Julie Rones - 2017  
Thomas Alexander - 2017  
Bettie L. Alston - 2017  
Brandi Colander & Gisache Andargeh - 2017  
A. Franklin Anderson - 2017  
De'Andre & Lemlem Anderson - 2018  
Donovan Anderson - 2017  
Granville & Johnnie Anderson - 2017  
Helen Louise Austin - 2017  
Jacqueline Powell Bailey - 2017  
Eddie & Alberta Bailey - 2017  
LeGrande & Vassar Baldwin - 2017  
Frederick & Joyce Butler - 2017  
Johnny & Bernice Butler - 2018  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Butler - 2017  
Mannone Butler - 2017  
John & Sue Capozzi - 2017  
Roger & Mattie Cheek, III - 2019  
Sadie Christian - 2017  
Joyce & Linda Church - 2017  
Christine Clark - 2017  
Willie Clark - 2017  
Jeanne & Christian Contardo - 2017

Thank you,  
Phillip Hammond

## A HILLCREST HOME RUN

In regulation baseball, even though a batter may hit a home run ball that sails over the fence, he still must touch all four bases as he runs the route around the baseball diamond.

There are four churches within the boundaries of the Hillcrest Community Civic Association that have pipe organs and Derek Gaither played the organ in all four of these churches. If each organ could be considered a base, it could be said that he hit a home run in Hillcrest.

A pipe organ is a complicated instrument. The sound is produced by air being forced into a pipe or tube (usually either wood or metal.) There is a separate pipe for each note that is to be played. Not all organs are pipe organs. Most other organs rely on electronics to reproduce the sound.

Ryland-Epworth Methodist Church could be considered "first base." Hillcrest resident David Dodson, former organist at Ryland-Epworth, stated that he sometimes would call on Mr. Gaither to substitute for him on Ryland-Epworth's pipe organ.

"Second base," East Washington Heights, is up the hill from Ryland-Epworth. Derek Gaither served as organist and Gospel Choir Director at East Washington Heights. He demonstrated a strong command of that instrument while serving there.

"Third base," was the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, across the street from East Washington Heights. There he faced a different kind of challenge. The Lutheran Church uses a type of organ known as a "tracker organ" in which the power of the fingers hitting the keys opens the valve to whatever pipe is being played. Derek Gaither mastered the challenge of this pipe organ.

Having rounded first, second, and third bases, Derek headed to "home plate" for his greatest accomplishment in Hillcrest. When he arrived at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church on Alabama Ave., that congregation was in the process of having a pipe organ built.

The Peragallo Organ company was the builder. Derek was able to advise the organ builders on the specifications "needed for the size of the worship space and the type of music for which the organ would be used."

Following his tenure at St. Timothy's, Mr. Gaither was invited back to that church to perform a master organ recital in May of 2002. Having "hit a home run in Hillcrest," it was as if he stepped back on to the field to acknowledge a standing ovation from those who admired his skills.

Derek Gaither passed away at the age of fifty in West Chester, Pennsylvania on Dec. 30, 2016 after a two year battle with cancer.

## WHAT'S THE SPEED ON ALABAMA AVENUE?

The posted speed on Alabama Avenue that runs through the Hillcrest Community is 25 miles per hour. However according to the street study performed by District of Columbia Department of Transportation Alabama Avenue, SE Corridor Safety Study, vehicle traffic along the corridor is traveling 10 or miles per hour over the posted speed. The study also shows between 2013-2015 there have been 875 crashes on the corridor. Over 60 percent resulted in property damage, over a third with bodily injuries and four deaths.

Alabama Avenue runs for 4 miles through Wards 7 and 8. The study of the Avenue is from Bowen Road to Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue. There are a lot of stakeholders impacted by the traffic on this corridor. The Alabama Avenue, SE Corridor Safety Study held its first public meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup> of this year to receive input from residents and stakeholders on concerns and suggestions on safety improvements. The next meeting is scheduled for this Spring.

To receive more information go to:

<https://www.alabamaavenuesestudy.com/>.

### Got Ideas!

Email ideas or articles for newsletter by the 15th of the month to:  
[hillcrestdc\\_newsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:hillcrestdc_newsletter@yahoo.com)

### Pay 2017 Dues

Make checks payable to HCCA

Send to : P.O. Box 30895

Washington, DC 20030

Or

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Hillcrest Newsletter brings you the information of the community

### HCCA Board

Karen Williams, President  
Michelle Peete, First Vice President  
Boyle Stuckey, Second Vice President  
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Monica H. Evans, Treasurer  
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Sheila Brown, Chair, Fundraising  
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Michelle Phipps-Evans, Chair, Recreation  
Yantee Neufville, Chair, Streets, Traffic and Transportation

  
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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE