



NEWSLETTER

HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 30895

Washington, D.C. 20030-0895

www.HillcrestDC.com

HillcrestDC@yahoo.com

Next Meeting: Saturday, May 5, 2007, at 10 a.m.

At the Hillcrest Recreation Center, Corner of Denver & 32nd Streets, SE



Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Message from the President | 2 |
| Special Feature | 2 |
| Hillcrest News | 3 |
| New HCCA Members | 3 |
| Upcoming Event | 3 |
| Community Calendar for May | 4 |

Comments?

Any comments or story ideas, please e-mail the newsletter editor, Michelle Phipps-Evans at hillcrestdc_newsletter@yahoo.com.

NCPSSM Grassroots Director Sue Fryer Ward to speak in May

Sue Fryer Ward is the Grassroots Director for the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare (NCPSSM). She came from the state of Maryland where she was the first secretary of the Maryland Department of Aging.

Before that, she was director of Family Services and director of the Department of Aging for Prince George's County, Md. She is a former

president of both the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) and the National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA). She is also a former commissioner of the American Bar Association Commission on Legal Problems of the Elderly (now the Commission on Law and Aging). She is president of the Maryland Gerontological Association, past chair of the Nursing Home Oversight Committee established by the Maryland General Assembly, past chair of the Board of Hospice of Prince George's County and a founding member of the Maryland Intergenerational Coalition. Ward serves on the Board of Advisors of the National Center on Global Aging and on the Boards of Nexus Health and of LifeSpan.

Born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Ward spent her early years in the capital of the Navajo nation. She studied government at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va., with studies at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, receiving a bachelor's in 1957. She began her social work training at McGill University, Montreal, P.Q. Canada, and received her master's in social work from the University of Utah, Salt Lake City in 1961. She is a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers, is a Licensed Certified Social Worker (Maryland) and a Board Certified Diplomate in Clinical Social Work by the American Board of Examiners.

Ward has won many honors including the Woman of Achievement award, Excellence in Public Service award, the Kathleen Kennedy Townsend Award to Women in Government Service, Brotherhood/Sisterhood Award and the first June Wirtz Volunteer of the Year award, among others. She is a life member of the Maryland Congress of Parents and Teachers.



Message from the President

**TRAFFIC, TRAFFIC EVERYWHERE,
CONFINED TO MY CAR, PULLING OUT MY HAIR.
CAN'T TURN LEFT, CAN'T TURN RIGHT,
WONDER WHAT TIME I'LL GET HOME TONIGHT?**

We are fortunate to live in the nation's capital. We are unfortunate that the Washington metropolitan area is one of the top five regions for traffic density.

At many of our monthly HCCA and PSA meetings, our focus often turns to discussions of our individual traffic concerns. After we express our concerns, we then expect law enforcement intervention will resolve these issues. While officials heading our PSA have been extremely responsive to our requests for assistance, we have to realize they simply don't have the manpower to post officers at all the streets and intersections of our neighborhood, to ticket motorists when they commit a traffic violation.

The question remains, how can we stem the tide of cars entering and exiting the city through our neighborhood streets? The Hillcrest Traffic Calming Committee has done a wonderful job of gathering information from our neighbors and identifying the major traffic concerns. They have also done a superb job in getting these concerns addressed. The question re-

mains, as these traffic calming measures are put in place, do you feel we have really improved the overall traffic picture in Hillcrest? The answer to this is personal. Your answer will be based on your perception of the traffic-related problems on your street and your experiences during your daily commute.

Please remember, those of us who live in Hillcrest are not alone with our traffic woes. There are many communities in and around Washington that experience far worse traffic congestion and other traffic related problems than our fair corner of the city. The entire metro region is looking for ways to improve traffic-related issues. Let's continue to work together as a community to identify problems and find solutions.

Remember to be thankful for the continued cooperation of the officials in our local PSAs, who try their best to honor our requests for assistance with traffic enforcement on the many streets and intersections of our fair neighborhood.

Only with patience, an understanding of the issues and cooperation can we continue to forge a relationship with our city officials and local law enforcement officers, to find ways to tackle our traffic woes.

**Karen Lee Williams, President
Hillcrest Community Civic Association**

Special Feature

Skyland Redevelopment Advances

By Vince Spaulding and Carrie Thornhill



Skyland Shopping Center

Since the first of the year, there has been an acceleration of activities related to the Skyland Redevelopment project. Big things are happening. In February, a town hall meeting, sponsored by the National Capital Revitalization Corporation (NCRC), was held at the Hillcrest Recreation Center. About 60 residents attended, along with Councilmember Kwame Brown, Hillcrest resident and chair of the Council's Committee on Economic Development. Shannon Roberts and Michael Marshall, representing Leo Daly architectural and planning firm, presented an updated version of the shopping center's master plan that had been originally offered August 2006. The new version substan-

tially reduced the density of the project and addressed a number of issues previously raised. Participants gave additional input regarding retail selection, mix of housing, community space, traffic, maintenance and safety. The entire Skyland master plan is available on the NCRC Web site, www.ncrcdc.com.

In March, the Council of the District of Columbia conducted a public hearing, and in April approved a \$40 million dollar Tax Increment Financing (TIF) bond to support the financial viability and infrastructure for Skyland. We understand it is the third largest TIF issued in the city and the first east of the river. In April, HCCA president Karen Williams hosted the board of directors, Councilmember Brown, NCRC and the development team to receive feedback on how the outstanding community issues from the Feb. 10 meeting had been handled. Written responses to a March 1 ANC letter and an oral briefing were presented.

Also in April, having assembled 99 percent of the property at Skyland, NCRC began handing off responsibility for major aspects of the development to the previously selected Skyland Development Team. This team is led by The Rappaport Companies, which has more than 20 years of experience in shopping

(Continued on page 4)

Hillcrest News

Southeast Elm Trees Featured in Casey Trees

Documentary—The large elm trees along Alabama, Branch and Pennsylvania avenues were featured in the Casey Tree documentary in March 2007 for their elegant and imperial beauty, despite the scourge of the Dutch Elm disease. Good Hope Road recently received the new American Elm Tree because of its ability to defy the elm beetle. This documentary will be aired later this spring on PBS. Stay tuned.....

Sports Equipment delivered to Anne Beers—

Education committee chair, Linda Jackson, delivered the sports equipment to Anne Beers Elementary School on April 13. HCCA voted on giving equipment at the last meeting, and they were elated about this gift for the children. Jackson delivered 10 kickballs, 10 basketballs, 10 soccer balls and 16 jump ropes. Thanks for membership support and additional personal contributions made by some members, which made this purchase possible. Also, principal, Gwendolyn Payton, said that the letter by HCCA's president to Superintendent Clifford B. Janey made an impact. DCPS said it plans to replace nonfunctioning blackboards before the end of the year.

Hillcrest Garden Tour—The Hillcrest Garden Tour will be June 16. If you would like to have your garden featured, contact Drew Lesofski at drew at nevadadc dot org or (202) 281-9712.

Upcoming Event

BLESSING OF THE TREES FALL FESTIVAL

The second annual Blessing of the Trees Fall Festival will take place at the Hillcrest Recreation Center on Saturday, Sept. 1. The design of this festival is to present to the at-large Hillcrest community, in a fun-for-the-whole-family-carnival-format, information that will encourage an appreciation for the environment while concomitantly raising money for programs for our schools and youth.



Last year, *with your support*, the Blessing of the Trees Festival resulted in more than \$2,200 being placed in the HCCA treasury, earmarked for schools and youth programs. We would like to substantially increase the amount raised for our children this year.

Won't you plan now to place the Blessing of the Trees in your budget? Put aside funds that will total

Special Election on May 1—Don't forget, this Tuesday May 1, you will be able to cast your vote for the Ward 7 candidate you think will best serve our community. Check your registration status on the D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics' Web site at www.dceboe.org. Registered voters of Wards 3, 4 and 7 who cannot get to the polls on Election Day because of illness, travel or physical disability, may cast an in-person absentee ballot at the board's office, 441 Fourth St., NW, Suite 250 North. Hours for in-person absentee voting are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. This ends Monday, April 30 at 4:45 p.m.

Are You Current on HCCA Membership Dues?

Look at the mailing label on this newsletter, and see the *paid through* date below your name. Remember, HCCA forgave dues earlier than 2006, so the most you owe is \$10 for 2007. Of course, you may pay more and have multiple years covered. If you read the newsletter on the Web rather than the mail, we will try to notify you by e-mail if you are late on your dues. If you believe the paid through date on the label is incorrect, please let us know. Call Kathy Chamberlain at (202) 581-8272, or e-mail Kathy Chamberlain at hillcrestdc dot com.

Want to be Notified by E-mail—

Do you have e-mail and you want to be reminded of neighborhood events? Sometimes, not all announcements

make it into the newsletter. The HCCA membership committee is collecting e-mails of HCCA members only. We won't pass your address to others, and we will blind copy so your address remains hidden from others on the list. We will not use it for political opinions, spam, jokes or inspirational messages, just neighborhood announcements. Please join by e-mailing Kathy Chamberlain at hillcrestdc dot com. Good communication makes for a better neighborhood!



**HCCA WELCOMES
NEW MEMBERS**

- Lakeisha Renee Moore
- Leila Stribling

\$10 to \$150 by August to place an ad in the souvenir booklet. Remember your support constitutes a tax deductible gift. You can also purchase a table to sell arts and crafts and other goods. With this early heads-up, you can begin now to plan what you wish to sell at the festival.

We will be in touch regularly between now and festival. Thank you for your past and future support of Hillcrest children.

Members of the Environmental Committee,
Mary F. Ross, Chair

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SKYLAND REDEVELOPMENT (Continued from page 2)

center development and management, and also includes: Harrison-Malone Development, a D.C.-based minority firm; Marshall Heights Community Development Organization (MHCDO), a Ward 7 community

development corporation; and the Washington East Foundation (WEF), a Ward 7 nonprofit organized by Hillcrest residents. We are excited by the possibilities.

REMEMBER MOM

COMMUNITY CALENDAR FOR MAY

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| 5 | 10 a.m. | HCCA Meeting, Hillcrest Recreation Center 32 nd and Denver Streets, SE |
| 7 | 7 p.m. | Friends of Francis Gregory Library Meeting Francis Gregory Library, 3660 Alabama Ave., SE |
| 9 | 10 a.m. | Goodhope Marketplace Taskforce Meeting Goodhope Police Substation, 2800 blk Alabama Ave., SE |
| 16 | 6 p.m. | PSA 606 Police/Community Meeting Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter, 3319 Alabama Ave., SE |
| 17 | 7 p.m. | ANC 7B Monthly Meeting Ryland Epworth Methodist Church, 3200 "S" St., SE |

PLEASE NOTE: The new mailing address for the Hillcrest Community Civic Association is:

HCCA
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DUES FOR 2007 ARE NOW DUE. PLEASE PAY PROMPTLY.

It's only \$10 per year. Get on track and send your payment NOW!!!!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ ZIP code: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail: _____

New Member: _____ Renewal: _____

I'd like to serve on the following committee(s): _____

Make check payable to the Hillcrest Community Civic Association and mail to:

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