



NEWSLETTER

HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

3319 Alabama Avenue, Southeast

Washington, D.C. 20020

www.HillcrestDC.com

Next Meeting: Saturday, June 4, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.

At the Hillcrest Recreation Center, Corner of Denver & 32nd Streets, S.E.

NOTE: Meetings are normally held the first Saturday of the month.

JACK EVANS, WARD 2 COUNCIL MEMBER, WILL BE GUEST SPEAKER FOR JUNE MEETING

Jack Evans (Democrat-Ward 2) was first elected to the DC Council in a 1991 special election and was re-elected in 1992, 1996, 2000 and 2004. Jack has served as the Council Chair Pro Tempore (Vice Chair) for the past four years.

Jack is Chair of the Finance and Revenue Committee, which oversees the District's money matters. In addition to being one of DC's toughest budget stewards, Jack has ushered in major reforms, including tax breaks for working families, property tax rate reductions, and incentives for businesses to create jobs in D.C.

Jack also serves on two other Council committees - Economic Development and Health. From 1997-1999 Jack chaired the Judiciary Committee. As Chair he was responsible for numerous police department reforms which facilitated a sharp reduction in D.C.'s crime rate.

Jack has also served as D.C.'s representative to two of the region's most important entities: Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA Board Chair, 1994 and 1997) and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG Board Chair, 1995).

Jack, 51, received an economics degree with honors from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania in 1975, and a law degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1978. He has three children (triplets - Katherine, John and Christine - age 8). Jack's wife, Noel, passed away in September, 2003 after a long battle with cancer.

DC WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY – WATER RATE HEARING

We need as many of our neighbors to attend a public WASA hearing to alert the public on the new rate hikes proposed for fiscal year 2006. The public is encouraged to attend this hearing on Thursday, June 2, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.; Metropolitan Washington Council of Govt Training Room, 777 No Capitol Street, NE. (in walking distance of Union Station)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In my February, 2005 Message From the President, I identified several issues that impact adversely upon the quality of life in our community. Well, I am very pleased to report that Councilmembers Vincent Gray and Kwame Brown have taken actions to address some of the issues I identified that cause discontent and frustration within our lives.

With respect to the absence of laws/regulations that require police officers to hold automobile drivers, who damage or destroy city and/or homeowner property, financially responsible, I am very pleased to report that Councilmember Gray has crafted Bill 16-252, "Real Property Protection from Motor Vehicles Amendment Act 2005". This bill will provide protection to property owners who experience property damage caused by operators of motor vehicles in the District. The Bill also requires MPD police to provide property owners with copies of police reports documenting the damage to real property.

I also talked about the absence of adequate anti-littering laws in the District which provides no authority or responsibility to DC police officers for taking action to discourage littering and trashing the city. I am very pleased to report that Councilmember Brown has introduced Bill 16-10, "Illegal Dumping Enforcement Amendment Act of 2005". This bill amends the illegal dumping enforcement act of 1994 to increase the fines for the disposing of solid waste, hazardous waste, or medical waste on any public or private area in the District of Columbia. Councilmember Brown is also crafting legislation that will give DC police officers the authority and responsibility for taking action to discourage littering and trashing the city. We look forward to that Bill being introduced soon. I am very disappointed to report that, when presented with the need for police involvement in discouraging littering, At-large Councilmembers Schwartz and Mendelson, thus far, have shown very little interest in doing anything to assist in abating the littering problem facing our community and the city at-large.

The other basic quality of life issues that cause discontent and frustration within our community that I identified in the February HCCA newsletter are listed below and are still in need of attention:

- Absence of adequate laws that discourage posting of advertisement signs on city trees and lampposts (see ANC 7B Resolution on Website).*
- Absence of laws that require persons who abandon cars on city streets to be held financially responsible for the expense to the city for removing them.*
- Absence of easily enforceable laws that crack down on persons who live in the District but never registers their cars in the District.*
- Absence of neighborhood friendly regulations and procedures for Group Homes.*

The actions taken by Councilmembers Gray and Brown to address the quality of life issues identified above is very much appreciated and is indeed encouraging. Our Legislative Committee has begun monitoring legislation passed and supported by City Councilmembers. If you are concerned that the Council passes laws that address community needs, you are encouraged to sign up to participate on the HCCA Legislative Committee. You can make a difference if you take a stand!

Sincerely, Vincent Spaulding, President, HCCA

PLAN TO ATTEND A HEARING

There will be a hearing before the City Council on Tuesday, May 31st at 11:00 a.m. in the D.C. Council Chambers (5th floor), John Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., about the "Omnibus Public Safety Act of 2005". This is an important piece of legislation

which is designed to make our neighborhoods safer through a host of measures such as enhanced penalties for gun crimes, enhanced penalties for crimes against children and seniors, and the creation of a number of new criminal offenses. Community members and community leaders are encouraged to attend the hearing to express their views on this important piece of legislation, which was introduced by the Mayor. Please let the Council know what your community thinks.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HILLCREST GARDEN TOUR

Since this year's garden tour will be self-guided, we need additional volunteers to be greeters, working with the host home owners to facilitate visits. We need volunteers to perform other functions the day of the tour, such as distributing bottled water along the route, helping set up refreshments, clean-up, and other tasks. Please consider volunteering. Your assistance will help ensure the tour's success.

The garden tour will be held on **June 18, 11:00am-2:00pm, with a reception from 12:00pm-3:00pm. The tour starts at 3365 denver St SE.**

If you can volunteer, please contact Marvin Bowser at 583-1091, Kathy Chamberlain at 581-8272, or Mary Hammond at 582-3059.

In addition, the reception committee wishes to request contributions of the following:

Any kind of salad with a non-mayonnaise based dressing; veggie trays; cheese trays; fruit salads; baked beans; any kind of cookies (but no cakes or pies); chips, etc. For further information about food donations, please contact Dorothy Anthony at 202 583-0913.

SO CLOSE.... AND YET SO FAR

One of the goals I established when I became president of HCCA was to reach a membership of 500 households by the end of 2005. We are currently at 460 households (plus or minus). I have encouraged every member of HCCA to sign up at least one new member. If the foregoing is done we would meet and far exceed our membership goal. There is political power in having a large membership as we compete for our fair share of city resources and services. For everyone who has helped with our membership drive thank you; and for those who have not gotten around to doing their part, please pitch in and help. We are very close to meeting our membership goal, but we can't seem to crack the 500 mark. Hopefully, we can meet our goal very soon.

Vincent Spaulding

THE FIGHT AGAINST LITTER GOES TO THE SCHOOLS

The Environmental Committee of the Hillcrest Community Civic Association is reaching out to three local elementary schools in an effort to develop future leadership in the fight against litter.

The committee anticipates that students from Ann Beers, Randle Highlands, and Winston schools will participate in the campaign which begins the week of June 6. The plan is to teach the importance of eliminating litter by a multi-faceted approach which includes the writing of essays, field observation, and hands-on involvement in the picking up of litter. The Hillcrest Community Civic Association will reward the winning essays with a cash prize. The winning school will be awarded a banner for the current year.

HCCA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:



Curtis Baker –2116 31st Street, SE
William & Shirley Brannum – 2101 31st, Street, SE
Shawn E. Daniels. -- 2917 Hillcrest Drive, SE
Preston & Peggy Edwards- 2205 Branch Avenue, SE
Dorothy A. Handon – 2200 31st Street, SE
Reginald & Nancy Henry – 2125 32nd Place, SE
Earl & Bertram Nicholls – 2856 Fort Baker Drive, SE
Herbert & Yvonne Williams – 3703 Bangor Street, SE
Michael S. Woods – 2017 – 31st Street, SE

Dues for 2005 are now due. Please pay promptly.

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

Names(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 Hillcrest Community Civic Association and mail to: Evelyn Primas,
Membership Chairperson, 3341 Alabama Avenue, SE, Washington, D.C. 20020-1462
Phone: 202 584-6617