



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

June 2015

# HILLCREST NEWSLETTER

## GUEST SPEAKER: ATTORNEY GENERAL KARL A. RACINE

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Attorney General Karl A. Racine brings over 25 years of experience as a practicing lawyer and good steward of leading law firms and organizations to the Office of the Attorney General.



As the Attorney General's mission is to use the law to serve the people of the District of Columbia, Attorney General Racine advises the Executive Branch and other District agencies, defends the city in court, and protects the city's residents. He has pledged to prioritize consumer protection, enforce affordable housing regulations, and find alternatives that can divert young people out of the juvenile justice system.

His commitment to equal justice was inspired by his parents, who fled authoritarian rule in Haiti, to start a new life in the US and by the attorneys of the civil rights movement who used the law to make positive social change.

Racine has deep and wide-ranging legal experience. He volunteered as a law student in a clinic supporting migrant farm worker's rights; represented indigent residents in the DC Public Defender Service; practiced white-collar and commercial litigation with Cacheris & Treanor and Venable LLP; served as Associate White

House Counsel in the Clinton Administration; and served on the District's Judicial Nomination Commission. When Racine became Managing Partner at Venable LLP, where he managed over 600 attorneys, he became the first African-American managing partner of a top-100 law firm. The National Law Journal named Racine one of the 50 most influential Minority Lawyers in the United States.

A lifelong District resident, Racine attended Murch Elementary School, Deal Junior High, and Wilson High, and graduated from St. Johns College High School. He also played basketball in youth sports leagues across the city. Racine is deeply committed to the community, assembling what the Washington Post called "a rich record of community service" and remains involved in a variety of causes, including youth literacy and mentoring.

Racine earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Pennsylvania and his law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law.

- Special points of interest:**
- Hillcrest Community Civic Association Meeting**  
 Hillcrest Recreation Center  
 32nd and Denver St., SE  
 Saturday, June 6, 2015  
 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM
  - PSA 606 Police Community Meeting**  
 East Washington Heights Baptist Church  
 2200 Branch Ave., SE  
 Wednesday, June 17, 6 PM
  - ANC 7B Monthly Meeting**  
 Ryland Methodist Church  
 3200 S St., SE  
 Thursday, June 18, 7 PM

**Justice**  
 cannot be for  
 one side alone,  
 BUT MUST BE  
 for both.  
 - Eleanor Roosevelt

## BIG TURNOUT FOR ALGER PARK CLEANUP

Approximately three dozen volunteers turned out for a cleanup in Alger Park on Saturday, April 25. Some came from Hillcrest, some were members of Boy Scout troop 1650 (also in Hillcrest), and others were from groups across the city. This project was sponsored by the Hillcrest Community Civic Association (HCCA) Environmental Committee and the District of Columbia Dept. of the Environment.

Alger Park is about seven acres in size and lies entirely within the boundaries of the HCCA. To visualize Alger Park, imagine a giant arrowhead. The tip of the arrowhead is the point at which Hillcrest and Park Drives converge.

Storm water runoff has severely damaged the park over the past eighty years to the extent that the interior of the park is not easily accessed by the public. Much of the park is a deep canyon. There are huge scars of naked earth, created by several recent landslides which ripped out ancient trees by their roots. The bottom of the canyon is coated with a thick layer of mud and slime.



Shortly after 9:00 AM, the volunteers split into several work groups. Due to the heavy undergrowth, most of the work groups lost visual contact with each other. Each team had the same goal: drag the debris out of the park and up to the adjacent streets.

Several members of our local scout troop 1650 converged on the muddy bottom land. They focused on an abandoned tire that was mired in the clutches

of the mud. Three scouts tugged and pulled on the tire, but the muck did not want to release the wheel. "Let it go guys," their leader gently encouraged, but these guys did not want to give up. The scouts persevered and the tire was removed.



Another group of scouts came through the valley boasting that they had collected enough car parts to build a car! They did have a drive shaft, an axle, and some other heavy junk.

Many adults were engaged in pulling out stuff that had been thrown into the canyon as if it were a public dump. While the cleanup workers were collecting the debris, several pickup trucks continually circled the park, picking up piles of trash that the volunteers had brought up to street level.

After about two hours, the volunteers gathered at a rendezvous point. The accumulated heaps of trash were "mind boggling." There were four distinct piles. One pile of trash could be recycled, but another mound was worthless trash and garbage. Another pile was heavy metal objects too big to recycle--and this included auto parts, lawn mowers, yard ornaments, and indistinguishable metal. Most astounding was the pyramid of some 59 tires that an uncaring public had thrown into our park.



A bright orange truck from the Dept. of Public Works showed up as scheduled and removed the trash and heavy metal. The recyclables and tires were removed later.



*Music doesn't lie. If there is something to be changed in this world, then it can only happen through music.*

*Jimi Hendrix*

# Capital Jazz Fest

## Hampton Jazz Festival

## Richmond Jazz Festival

## Richmond Jazz Festival

## THE IMPACT OF RUST ON THE ENVIRONMENT

It has been called “the great destroyer and the evil.” The Pentagon refers to it as “the pervasive menace.” A Defense Department spokesman has said, that the Navy’s number one foe isn’t a foreign country, but oxidation itself. It cost America more than \$400 billion per year.....because it is everywhere and dangerous, it is the enemy of metals, particular iron, which is a sizable challenge when it comes to keeping machinery working properly. Rust destroys cars, fells bridges, sink ships, sparks house fires. It spreads like cancer in concrete and spells trouble for everything from canned vegetables to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System. Rust represents the disordering of the modern, and yet a rust free world would be a world without metal. In 1980, the torch of the Statue of Liberty was at a definite risk of structural failure, because a third of its framing rivets were loose, damaged or missing. The National symbol of freedom had to spend years in a cage of scaffolding before repairs could be made. Most recently, the Washington Monument needed repairs from rust damages, and currently, the US Capitol is undergoing repairs, because of rust corrosion. The Ball Corporation’s food safety division employs dozens of chemists to make sure that inner

coatings of metallic cans do not poison or spoil the taste of food or beverages. While there have been challenges, there has been successes with the invention of stainless steel and the invention of the “smart pig.” A 16 foot long, 10,000 lb. massive robot equipped to inspect the 800 mile Trans-Alaska Pipeline system, to look for corrosion and leaks. Few automobile companies have steered clear of corrosion. The DeLorean made its bodies out of stainless steel, the old Land Rovers had galvanized chassis, and some 1965 Rolls Royce had galvanized under bodies. At the insistence of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), there have been many automobile recalls, to many to highlight for this article. However, thanks to better design, galvanized parts, improved primers and paints, and tests in salt mist facilities---giant steam ovens for cars.....auto manufacturers got a handle on corrosion more or less around Y2K (2000). The Ford F-150 pickup truck may be on the right track to lessen corrosion in their vehicles by introducing their 2016 truck model with an aluminum body. “BRAVO” to Ford.” In conclusion, when is the last time you purchased a “**RUST**” product, or have you noticed, “**THE GREAT DESTROYER?**”

The Enlightened Environmentalist

## SPECIAL DAYS IN JUNE

### Flag Day

According to the National Flag Foundation, on June 14th, 1885, Bernard J. Cigrand, a 19 year old teacher at Stony Hill School, placed a 10 inch, 38- star flag in a bottle on his desk then assigned essays on the flag and its significance. This observance, commemorated Congresses adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777. This observance was also the beginning of Cigrand’s long years of fervent and devoted effort to bring about national recognition and observance of Flag Day. The crowning achievement of his life came at age fifty when President Wilson, on May 30, 1916, issued a proclamation calling for a nation wide observance of Flag Day. Then in 1949, President Truman signed an Act Of Congress designating the 14th day of June every year as National Flag Day. On June 14th, 2004, the 108th U.S. Congress voted unanimously on H.R. 662 that Flag Day originated in Ozaukee County, Waubeka Wisconsin.

### Father’s Day

In June of every year, we honor fathers. The first Mother's Day was celebrated in 1914, but a holiday honoring fathers did not become official until 1966, when President Lyndon Johnson declared that the third Sunday in June would be Father's Day. President Richard Nixon made this proclamation permanent in 1972. But this doesn't mean that the holiday was not celebrated before this time.

The idea for Father's Day is attributed to Sonora Dodd, who was raised by her father after her mother's death during childbirth. While listening to a sermon at church on Mother's Day, she thought about all her father had done for her and her siblings and decided fathers should have a day, too. Because Dodd's father was born in June, she encouraged churches in her area, Spokane, Wash., to honor fathers that month. The first

Continued.....

Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane in 1910. Over the years, the idea spread, and people lobbied Congress to establish the holiday. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson, who had signed a proclamation establishing Mother's Day, approved the idea, but never signed a proclamation for it. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge made it a national event to "establish more intimate relations between fathers and their children and to impress upon fathers the full measure of their obligations." (www.usa.gov)



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### Have you paid your dues for 2015?

Your paid through date is on the mailing label of this newsletter. If the date is earlier than 2015, 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](http://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](mailto:hillcrestdc_newsletter@yahoo.com)

Follow on Twitter @HillcrestWard7 or write on the Facebook Wall, All Over Hillcrest



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