



Hillcrest Community Civic Association
 "Working together for a better community"
 www.HillcrestDC.com
 P.O. Box 30895, Washington, D.C. 20030-0895

July 2016

HILLCREST NEWSLETTER

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HCCA INVITES YOU TO A COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING



Neighbors, let's take a pause in July to discuss issues and concerns you want the civic association to address. Come out for a community discussion and meeting hosted by the HCCA board. Is crime your concern? Litter? The environment? Or the state of middle schools?

We will collect your concerns and work to ensure they are sent to the correct decision makers in the city.

The Ward has recently elected new representation on the Council. It would be helpful if we let our new Councilmember become aware of what are our specific challenges and work together to come up with solutions.

Also, later this year, you have an opportunity to elect a new HCCA board to represent you. What are you looking for? How should the board be your voice? We want to hear from you.

Come on out for our monthly meeting on Saturday, July 2 at 10:30 am at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 3100 Denver Street SE.

Also, as an FYI, we return to our usual format with MPD Chief Cathy Lanier who will be our August 6 speaker.

We look forward to seeing you during our summer meetings.

--Michelle Phipps-Evans and Boyle Stuckey, First and Second Vice Presidents

Special points of interest:

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

JULY 4TH PARADE IN PALISADES

The board of the Hillcrest Community Civic Association invites the community to participate in the 50th consecutive July 4th Parade and picnic: in the Palisades, on Monday, July 4 at 11 am. The parade is an annual event that also brings together the civic partnership that our community and the Palisades community in Ward 3 have celebrated for years.

After the parade there will be the festive annual picnic to continue the fun. It is held at the end of the parade route at the Palisades Community Center at 5200

Sherier Place, NW. There is all sorts of fun for children from the splash pad to a moon bounce.

If you are interested in marching in the parade and representing Hillcrest, please contact Robin Marlin (rrmarlin@verizon.net) or Michelle Phipps-Evans (mbpevans@yahoo.com). Lining up for the parade is at 10 am at the corner of Whitehurst Freeway and MacArthur Blvd, NW. As a tradition we will march and throw candies to the parade viewers, both young and old.

The kids LOVE THIS!!!!

HILLCREST RESIDENT TRAPPED...UNABLE TO EXTRICATE HIMSELF

About the time of the turn of this century, a young woman residing in Hillcrest was sitting in the passenger side of the family vehicle as her mother pulled up to their home. She finished talking on her cell phone and rested it on the car seat. When she opened the car door, the phone slipped off the seat and with a "plop" landed in the yawning mouth of a catch basin (storm drain). It was night.

She let out a plaintive call for help to her neighbors. This was Hillcrest and neighbors help one another. Two adult men quickly responded. One man was wiry, the other was big. They quickly formulated an action plan. The big man fetched a pry bar and the wiry man laid down in the gutter. Somebody fetched a flashlight.

The cell phone could be seen, resting on a ledge. It was not an easy reach. The big man opened the manhole cover as the wiry man extended his long right arm into the dark void. Using the flashlight, the big man called out verbal instructions to guide the extended arm of the wiry man.

The strategy proved successful and the fingers of the wiry man wrapped around the cell phone. Then ever so gently, he bent his elbow and carefully transferred the phone to his left hand where the grateful young woman recovered it.

By then a crowd had gathered. Everyone celebrated! Everyone except the wiry man—he could not get his shoulder out of the catch basin. It was stuck!

As the wiry man lay there in the gutter he thought, "I may have to lie here all night. What if it rains? Suppose some car comes along and wants to park here." This could be a lonely night.

Then he remembered. This is Hillcrest. My neighbors are not going to leave me here!

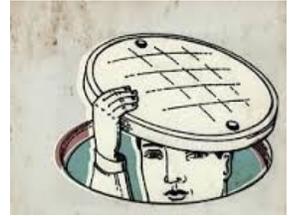
The big man bent over and carefully manipulated the shoulder of the wiry man and helped him to escape. The people cheered!

Fast forward about a year later. The same young woman in the same car dropped her cell phone again. You know it went into the same catch basin and it was night!

Of course the lady asked for help. Of course the same two men responded. The same strategy was executed and the cell phone was retrieved and handed to the young woman. But there was one big difference—the wiry man did not get stuck!

It has now been over ten years since these two episodes occurred. In these ten plus years the young woman has never again dropped her phone into the catch basin.

DC Water has stated that the general public is not authorized to open the manhole to a catch basin. For more information on catch basins, see "Catch Basins Are Not "Catch-Alls" in this issue of *The Newsletter*.



CATCH BASINS ARE NOT "CATCH-ALLS"

Recently, a Hillcrest resident watched as an unusual looking truck with a DC Water logo pulled up to a street corner in our community. A motor powered shovel was mounted on the vehicle. Unlike most powered excavation shovels, this one was round in shape.

The crew opened the manhole cover on a storm drain (henceforth referred to as a "catch basin") and proceeded to excavate several loads of wet soggy leaves. The crew chief informed the Hillcrest neighbor that this was something the DC Water service tried to do once a year for every catch basin in the city.

Ms. Pamela Mooring, of the Office of External Affairs at the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water), helpfully shared additional information

about the catch basins in the city. About one-third of them feed into a combined sewer system, where sewage and storm water are carried in the same pipe. DC Water is in the midst of a massive public works project to build a large underground tunnel system that will hold the combined sewage and storm water in large storms so that it does not overflow into a waterway.

On the other hand, in about two-thirds of the city (the newer sections), the storm water and sewage pipes are separate. These storm drains are managed by the DC Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), and feed directly into creeks or streams. A number of these may be found in our Hillcrest community.

Continued on Page 3...

NATIONAL ICE CREAM MONTH



July is National Ice Cream Month? President Ronald Reagan signed Proclamation 5219 on July 9, 1984. The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 298, designated July 1984 National Ice Cream Month and July 15, 1984, as National Ice Cream Day. To read Proclamation 5219 access <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-98/pdf/STATUTE-98-Pg3618-2.pdf>.

According to Nationaldaycalendar.com, Ice Cream Day is celebrated each year on the 3rd Sunday in July and is a part of National Ice Cream Month. Nationaldaycalendar.com states it is believed that ice cream was first introduced into the United States by Quaker colonists who brought their ice cream recipes with them. Their ice cream was sold at shops in New York and other cities during the colonial era.

Below is some other trivia about ice cream:

- ◆ First Lady Dolley Madison served ice cream at the Inaugural Ball in 1813,
- ◆ 1832 – African American confectioner, Augustus Jackson created multiple ice cream recipes as well as a superior technique to manufacture ice cream,
- ◆ 1843 – Philadelphian, Nancy Johnson, was issued the first U.S. patent for a small-scale hand-cranked ice cream freezer.

Many ice cream retailers will celebrate the day with free ice cream. Listen for free scoop offers on the local television news, social media and radio! Isn't summer wonderful!

THE SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

This year the Folklife Festival celebrates **resilient communities** around the world. Discover how the **Basque** country sustains culture, drawing on traditions to innovate in a rapidly changing world. Learn renowned cooking techniques and phrases in the Euskara language.

Experience *bertsolaritza* poetry competitions and stone-lifting matches. Explore the **Sounds of California** through the music and stories of communities shaping the diverse state. Interact with artists in music workshops and stretch out on the lawn for an evening concert series. The festival will be from June 29 to July 4; and then July 7 to July 10 on the National Mall.

More information <http://www.festival.si.edu/>

When on a Summer's Morn

*"When on a summer's morn I wake,
And open my two eyes,
Out to the clear, born-singing rills
My bird-like spirit flies.*

*To hear the Blackbird, Cuckoo, Thrush,
Or any bird in song;
And common leaves that hum all day
Without a throat or tongue.*

*And when Time strikes the hour for sleep,
Back in my room alone,
My heart has many a sweet bird's song --
And one that's all my own."*

- *William Henry Davies*

CATCH BASINS ARE NOT "CATCH-ALLS" Continued....

It was noticed recently that one catch basin in Hillcrest was jammed full of empty soda pop bottles. The spokesperson for DC Water stated that this does not mean that those bottles were thrown into the catch basin. They could have been carelessly tossed into the street or on sidewalks and the rainwater carried them into the drain.

By way of related news, the street renovation project

underway on Branch Ave, does include major reconstruction of some catch basins. The one at the southwest corner of Branch and Alabama Ave., has been flooding during heavy rainfalls.

Submitted by The Enlightened Environmentalist

Contribution by Ms. Pamela Mooring, External Communications Manager for the DC Water and Sewer Authority

FIREWORKS SAFETY

Fireworks are synonymous with the celebration of Independence Day. Yet, the thrill of fireworks can also bring pain. According to US Consumer Product Safety Commission, 230 people on average go the emergency room every day with fireworks-related injuries in the month around the July 4th holiday. Remember, fireworks can be dangerous, causing serious burn and eye injuries. You can help prevent fireworks-related injuries and deaths. How? By working with a national, state or local organization where you live to promote fireworks safety in your community. Refer to Metropolitan Police Department brochure for safety tips: http://mpdc.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/mpdc/publication/attachments/fireworks_safety.pdf.

HCCA Board

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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



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