



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, phone 202-584-2703

# The Hillcrest Newsletter

AUGUST 2012

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING  
 PLACE: HILLCREST RECREATION CENTER, 32<sup>ND</sup> & DENVER ST., SE  
 TIME: SATURDAY, AUG. 4, FROM 10 A.M. TO NOON

FRIENDS OF FRANCIS A. GREGORY LIBRARY MEETING  
 PLACE: FRANCIS GREGORY LIBRARY, 3660 ALABAMA AVE., SE  
 TIME: MONDAY, AUG. 6, 7 P.M.

ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT  
 PLACE: NAYLOR GARDENS, 30<sup>TH</sup> & GAINESVILLE/NAYLOR RD., SE  
 TIME: TUESDAY, AUG. 7, 6:30 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M.

GOOD HOPE MARKET PLACE TASKFORCE MEETING  
 PLACE: GOOD HOPE MARKET PLACE POLICE SUBSTATION, 2800 BLOCK ALABAMA AVE., SE  
 TIME: WEDNESDAY, AUG. 8, 10-11 A.M.

PSA 606 POLICE COMMUNITY MEETING  
 PLACE: EAST WASHINGTON HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH, 2220 BRANCH AVE., SE  
 TIME: WEDNESDAY, AUG. 15, 6 P.M. TO 7 P.M.

ANC 7B MONTHLY MEETING  
 PLACE: RYLAND METHODIST CHURCH, 3200 S ST., SE  
 TIME: THURSDAY, AUG. 16, 7 P.M.-9 P.M.

## Jesús Aguirre is this Month's Speaker

**D**ue to unforeseen circumstances, which forced the HCCA board to cancel July's meeting, the HCCA is pleased to welcome



Director Jesús Aguirre from the District Department of Parks and Recreation at the monthly meeting on Saturday, Aug. 4, at 10 a.m.

Prior to joining DPR, Aguirre served as director of School Operations for the District of Columbia Public Schools.

He began his professional career as a middle school science teacher in Los Angeles. He has managed various programs for a national nonprofit as well as for a small book publisher. Prior to joining DCPS, Aguirre co-founded and operated one of the first charter schools in Arizona that serves under-privileged students in Phoenix.

Aguirre holds a bachelor of arts from the University of Texas at Austin and a Masters in Business Administration from the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University. He now resides in Washington, D.C.

General membership meeting is Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012, 10 a.m., at the Hillcrest Recreation Center on the corner of Denver & 32<sup>nd</sup> Streets, SE.

Note: Meetings are held the first Saturday of the month.

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# Hillcrest Announcements

## 29<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NNO

The 29th Annual *National Night Out Against Crime* in Hillcrest is hosted this year by Naylor Gardens on the first Tuesday in August (Aug. 7) at 30th Street, SE, and Gainesville/Naylor Road, SE, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. As in years passed, Naylor Gardens puts on a great block party with hot dogs, hamburgers, fun and games. It is a time to get out and meet your neighbors and police officers. Don't forget to put your outside lights on. All neighbors are encouraged to wear Hillcrest t-shirts to the NNO.

NNO is a day for law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve to share an evening with an event or celebration to commemorate and develop partnerships. National Night Out is designed to: (1) heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; (2) generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs; (3) strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and (4) send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. ☺

## DCPS Beautification Day

This year, Beautification Day will be Saturday, Aug. 25, 2012, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. This annual D.C. Public School event was established 2005 as a citywide "spruce up" of all DC public school buildings in preparation of the first day of school.

The HCCA board encourages residents to volunteer for its neighborhood schools: Anne Beers, Randle Highlands and Winston Education Campus. Volunteers are needed at more than 100 schools. Efforts will include landscaping, trash pick-up, light painting, planting flowers, and setting up classrooms, creating leveled book rooms and other beautification efforts. DCPS will provide the supplies, water and a t-shirt. More information is on DCPS's website, <http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/About+DCPS/Events/Beautification+Day+2012>

## Upcoming Workshop

The HCCA wants to hear from you as it considers hosting a communications workshop during an upcoming meeting, tentatively scheduled for October. The HCCA Communications Committee is interested in what will interest you specifically. What do you want to know about the art and science of communications? How does it work? How do you approach different constituencies and the media? What about advocacy? *Please continue to e-mail interests and needs to the Communications Chair at [hillcrestdc\\_newsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:hillcrestdc_newsletter@yahoo.com).*

## One City Plan Released

Mayor Vincent C. Gray released the One City Action Plan on July 25, which provides a comprehensive, measurable, transparent strategy for positioning the District of Columbia to be the best city it can be as it moves into the future. Available at <http://onecityactionplan.dc.gov>, the plan allows District residents to easily identify the major strategies being pursued by the administration, explains how they link to its One City vision, details concrete actions being taken or planned to realize each goal as well as key indicators to determine if the administration is being successful, and offers an easy way to know if the administration is delivering on the actions and results it promised.

# The President's Message



HCCA President Karen Williams poses with Ed Portillo, president of the Ward 7 Democrats, during the Palisades Parade on July 4.

## Dear Neighbors:

The HCCA Board of Directors decided to cancel the July meeting, but we really felt the decision to cancel was in the best interest of our community. We are now moving forward and have rescheduled our guest speaker Director Jesús Aguirre from the Department of Parks and Recreation for the August meeting.

I hope all our neighbors have recovered from the storm that blew through our city. As long as I have lived here (all my life), I have never seen anything so destructive move so quickly through our area. I guess the weather patterns really are changing. One thing I loved about our community is we all reached out to help each other. We exchanged info and kept each other informed. Thank you, neighbors, that's one of the main reasons I love living in Hillcrest.

Last month when I was thanking all of the wonderful volunteers, who put together the Home and Garden Tour and Hillcrest Day, I forgot to mention our own Veronica Davis. Thank you, Veronica, for all you do for our community.

Speaking of volunteering there are so many opportunities for all of us to contribute to our community and our city. The end of our terms as Hillcrest Community Civic Association's board members is fast approaching. We need people to serve on the nominating committee, and if interested, to serve on the board. To be a member of the Board of Directors, you must be a member of the HCCA and live within the boundaries of Hillcrest as defined on our website. We are currently looking for someone who would like to step into the treasurer's position. The reason we are looking to fill this spot so early is to allow the current treasurer time to acquaint the new person with the rules and procedures. There are other volunteer opportunities available on the various board committees. Please email me at [klwilliams@hillcrestdc.com](mailto:klwilliams@hillcrestdc.com) if you are interested in any of the volunteer opportunities. Looking forward to hearing from you. As always!

# THE ENLIGHTENED ENVIRONMENTALIST

## TREES PROMOTE A GREEN ENVIRONMENT FOR HILLCREST

*Take pride in our trees, keep them healthy, and  
When in doubt call an arborist.*

The Washington area has experienced several severe storms during the past weeks, which have led to down trees. We can't control Mother Nature; but with the help of an arborist we can save our trees.

When a tree falls, the first inclination most times is to cut down all trees; but try not to panic. Instead of cutting trees down prematurely, as a preventative measure, try taking proper care of your tree, with the assistance of an arborist. Every tree will not fall and every tree does not need to be removed. With the assistance of a certified arborist, we can save our trees. Taking this step, hopefully, will help in preventing your trees from falling.

An arborist is a specialist in the care of individual trees. Arborists are knowledgeable about the needs of trees and are trained and equipped to provide proper care. Proper tree care is an investment that can lead to substantial returns. **Well-cared-for trees are attractive and can add considerable value to your property.**

Hiring an arborist will help you determine the type of pruning necessary to maintain or improve the health, safety and appearance of your trees. The arborist will check for the following; and then recommend any or all of the following techniques, if necessary, for the care of your tree:

- Eliminate branches that rub each other;
- Remove limbs that interfere with wires, gutters, building facades, roofs, chimneys or windows, or branches that obstruct streets or sidewalks;
- Remove dead or weak limbs that pose a hazard or may lead to decay;
- Remove diseased or insect-infested limbs;
- Create a better canopy to lessen wind resistance and reduce the potential for storm damage;
- Train young trees to grow healthy and have proper trunk growth;
- Remove limbs damaged by adverse weather conditions;
- Remove branches (thinning) to increase light penetration;
- Improve the shape or the silhouette of the tree.

An arborist can also determine the following about a tree:

- If it is dead or dying;
- If it is considered irreparably hazardous;
- If it is causing an obstruction that is impossible to correct through pruning;

- If it is crowding and causing harm to other trees;
- If it needs to be replaced by a more suitable tree;
- If it is located in an area where new construction may require it to be removed because it will not be able to survive.

When selecting an arborist, check for his or her membership in professional organizations such as the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) or the American Society of Consulting Arborists (ASCA). Such membership demonstrates a willingness on the part of the arborist to stay up to date on the latest techniques and information regarding tree maintenance and care. Always ask for proof of insurance because many home owners have had to pay out large amounts of money for damages caused by uninsured individuals claiming to be tree experts, such as handymen who ride through neighborhoods looking for tree work.

Check for the required permits and licenses before contracting with a person to perform tree maintenance or removal. The District of Columbia requires all companies affiliated with tree trimming, pruning, and removal in the District of Columbia to have a current valid permit. These individuals will also be most familiar with District laws as it relates to tree removal and trimming. Ask for references to find out where the arborist or company has done work similar to the work you are requesting and try to get more than one estimate, unless you know or are comfortable with the arborist you have chosen.

Be wary of individuals who go door to door and offer bargains for tree work. Most reputable companies are too busy to solicit work in this manner. Improper tree pruning and trimming to the tree can take many years to correct itself and, in some cases, it can never be corrected thus ultimately may cause the tree to deteriorate. For example, practices such as topping a tree, removing an excessive amount of live wood, using climbing spikes on trees that are not being removed, and removing or disfiguring living trees will cause unnecessary harm to the tree. So, keep in mind that by hiring certified arborists this will ensure that only the "best practices" for tree trimming and removal will be performed on your tree.

Remember your tree is **an investment** to your property and its proper care is essential to its long life. During these past months many residents have said, "On those 100 degree days, oh what one would not give for the *"shade of a tree."* Remember, your trees help to keep your cars and your homes cool and shaded; and tree canopies create a singular shaded cool area for sitting underneath. For that, *we need to reward our trees.* For that, *we need to keep our trees healthy, and not take them for granted.* ☺

**Robin Hammond Marlin**  
**HCCA Environmental Committee**

## Got Ideas????

Please email any ideas or articles for the newsletter by the 15th of the month to the editor, Michelle Phipps-Evans, at [hillcrestdc\\_newsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:hillcrestdc_newsletter@yahoo.com).

Or follow on Twitter @HillcrestWard7 or write it on the Facebook wall, All Over Hillcrest.

Visit the website at [www.hillcrestdc.com](http://www.hillcrestdc.com)  
Join the conversation on the listserv at  
[HillcrestDC@yahoogroups.com](mailto:HillcrestDC@yahoogroups.com)

## The HCCA Newsletter

*A publication by the Hillcrest Community  
Civic Association*

*The Hillcrest Community Civic  
Association promotes the welfare of our  
neighborhood. Our purpose is simple--to  
voice our concerns to government  
officials, businesses, and residents to  
ensure the best possible living  
environment in the Ward 7  
neighborhood of Hillcrest.*

### HCCA Board

Karen Williams, President  
Kathy Chamberlain, 1<sup>st</sup> VP  
Boyle Stuckey, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
Yvonne Dupree, Record. Secretary  
Monica Evans, Treasurer  
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**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES FOR 2012?** *Your paid-through  
Date is on the mailing label of this news-letter. If it is earlier than 2012,  
please send your payment now.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash  Check



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