

August 2015

# HILLCREST NEWSLETTER

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## GUEST SPEAKER: MR. KEENAN, DIRECTOR PRETRIAL SERVICES AGENCY



Clifford T. Keenan is the Director of the Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia. The Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia is the Federal agency responsible for gathering information about newly arrested defendants and preparing the recommendations considered by the Court in deciding release options.

We recommend the least restrictive conditions that promote public safety and return to court. PSA supervises defendants released to the community through a variety of programs that include drug treatment, mental health services and referral to a range of social services. PSA has partnerships with various justice agencies and community organizations as a way to build our capacity for support services for defendants under pretrial Supervision.

Among many of the services PSA provides for the District of Columbia are drug testing and substance use disorder treatment. In 1984, PSA received a grant from the National Institute of Justice to fund the establishment of an onsite drug testing program which included a research component to examine if drug testing at the pretrial stage is effective. The results suggested a relationship between drug use and failure to appear for court and rearrest. Drug trends over

the years have undergone many transitions, and each succeeding phase led to expanded analytical capabilities in the lab and service to the community. Today, the Lab performs tests on tens of thousands of samples each month, which translates to millions of analyses for various drugs each year; and each sample can be tested for up to seven different drugs of abuse.

One of the current challenges for the Agency is detecting emerging new drugs and the changing pattern of drug use in the District. Our new state of the art facility located at 90 K Street NE helps PSA to improve the turn-around time of test results with the acquisition of two new state-of-the-art high speed analyzers. Additionally, space has been set aside for the future addition of instruments geared toward our readiness to test for emerging new drugs.

Clifford T. Keenan has a long and distinguished career in the criminal justice arena. He received his B.A. from Georgetown University in 1976 and his J.D. from the Columbus School of Law at Catholic University in 1983. He began his career in law enforcement in 1973 when he joined the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department. He became Director of Operations at PSA in September 2004. Two years later, Mr. Keenan became Deputy Director of PSA in 2006 and then the Agency's Director in 2013.

## Special points of interest:

- Hillcrest Community Civic Association Meeting

Hillcrest Recreation Center  
 32nd and Denver St., SE  
 Saturday, August 1, 2015  
 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

- PSA 606 Police Community Meeting

East Washington Heights  
 Baptist Church  
 2200 Branch Ave., SE  
 Wednesday, August 19, 6 PM

- ANC 7B Monthly Meeting

Ryland Methodist Church  
 3200 S St., SE  
 Thursday, August 20, 7 PM

## THE ANNUAL JULY 4TH PARADE

The 49<sup>th</sup> annual July 4 Palisades Parade and Picnic festivity was as enjoyable this year as it has been in previous years. HCCA's two co-presidents Michelle Phipps-Evans and Boyle Stuckey and their families joined Hillcrest-Palisades Partnership liaison Robin Marlin and HCCA membership chair Philip Hammond to march along the route. Together they promoted the partnership between the two communities that started in 1997.

The parade started at Whitehaven Parkway and MacArthur Boulevard and attendees walked to the Palisades Recreation Center amid youngsters waiting for candy and other goodies to be tossed. Several of the children in the Hillcrest contingent got into the fun of tossing candy.

The parade attracted floats, several community organizations and even bagpipe musicians and a few politicians. At the end of the parade, marchers and others were treated to face painting, food, giveaways, a moon bounce and more.

"We're hoping to encourage more of our Hillcrest fami-

lies to attend next year's parade and to have an even bigger showing," said co-president Phipps-Evans at the HCCA's monthly meeting on July 11. "It's not too early in the day and it was a lot of fun for our families, especially the live music and the clown."

The Hillcrest-Palisades partnership has been ongoing since 1997. The communities came together under a common interest and goal of improving the city. Eventually, a Neighbors Through Art program evolved, which used art to bring together residents of the Ward 3 community with the Ward 7 community. Robin Marlin has volunteered to succeed Miles Steele.



## HOW DOES HILLCREST STACK UP?

Mr. Sean Murphy is the Managing Editor of *Laurel* (Mississippi) *Leader Call*. He writes in the Dec. 4, 2014 issue about a visit to Mr. James B. Jones, a Laurel resident. (**Mr. Jones is the uncle of Hillcrest's own Ms. Charlotte Johnson**). Upon arriving at the home of Mr. Jones, he noticed that Mr. Jones swung the door wide open, even though he did not know him. (Please don't try this in our metropolitan area!)

Mr. Murphy was about to conduct a very special interview. Mr. Jones was scheduled that very month to receive the *Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur*, the *Chevalier* degree. The order remains the highest decoration for the Republic of France and is awarded for *mèrites éminents* (eminent merit) for distinguished military service or civic accomplishments. This medal is normally "reserved for French nationals". Exceptions, however, have been made for American veterans of World War II who fought in the campaign to liberate France from German occupation.

Managing Editor Murphy went on to explain that "Mr. Jones served in the famed 'Blank Panthers' the first all black tank battalion in the U. S. Army, "created "at the personal request of Gen. George S. Patton."

While interviewing Mr. Jones, Columnist Murphy observed a neighbor approaching the residence. This neighbor supposedly "wanted to check on the time for the next NAACP meeting". Mr. Murphy went on to surmise that this new caller wasn't coming to find out the time of the meeting. It was possible that this new caller had observed a strange car in the driveway and manufacturing an excuse, he made it his business to walk on over and "check on an old friend". Mr. Murphy went on to add, "That's at least how I envision some neighbors still being".

Some Hillcrest neighbors are like that—people look out for each other. There have been burglaries in our community that were thwarted because neighbors were observant of  
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## A REFLECTION OF EAST OF THE RIVER AT THE HONFLEUR GALLERY

The Honfleur Gallery came to East of the River in 2007. According to the gallery's website, Honfleur Gallery is a project of the ARCH Development Corporation, which has 1000 square feet of exhibition space. Why would a gallery which maintains a rigorous schedule of exhibitions and programming that focuses on cutting edge contemporary exhibitions by artists from the USA and abroad come to Anacostia. A Washington Post article on the opening asked, "Does Anacostia need to be saved by art?" The founder Duane Gautier says it is a catalyst for change. Well, will it be? It has been eight years since the gallery came to the area.

The 8th Annual East of the River Exhibition is taking place at the gallery July 10<sup>th</sup> – August 28<sup>th</sup>. Within the exhibition will be photography by Susana Raab.

Raab participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> exhibition with photography entitled "The Invisible Wall", to capture what "East of the River" really means. The exhibit highlighted the difference in economic opportunities when you go behind this invisible wall. This year's exhibition will include a variety of artworks by artists who live, work, or have roots in Wards 7 and 8 according to the Honfleur Gallery website.

Anacostia is our neighboring community. Will we as Hillcrest residents join in to assist the Honfleur Gallery in being the catalyst for change for residents of Ward 7 & 8? The gallery hours are: Tuesday – Friday noon to 5pm and Saturday 11am to 5pm. You may be surprised at what you find there.

## HCCA 2015 POSTER CONTEST AND POSTER PARTY!



This contest is designed for all students between 5 and 17 years old who reside within the boundaries of the Hillcrest Neighborhood as designated in the Hillcrest Community Civic Association (HCCA) Bylaws, Article I, Section 2: Boundaries, which may be found at the HCCA website, [www.hillcrestdc.com](http://www.hillcrestdc.com). Four \$75 prizes will be awarded within the suggested age groups of 5-7, 8-10, 11-13 and 14-17.

Questions may be addressed to Mary Ross at:

[maryross20020@yahoo.com](mailto:maryross20020@yahoo.com).

**All posters will be judged on originality and observance of the following guidelines.**

1. Each poster must be on one of the following topics: Benefits of Black Snakes, Benefits of Honey Bees, Benefits of Bumble Bees, or Benefits of Bats.
2. Use 14" x 22" poster board. This size poster board can be found at Staples.
3. The title of the poster and a two to four sentence statement about the illustration is to appear in the lower right-hand corner of the poster.
4. All words must be spelled correctly. American Standard English must be used.
5. Use any medium except glitter or charcoal.
6. Use of clip art and pre-printed, manufactured, computer generated, stick-on or press-on letters

are unacceptable.

7. Letters must be clearly legible.
8. Entries must be original works.
9. No group entries will be accepted.
10. Each entry must have the following information on the back of the poster:

Student's Name

Age

Home Address

Home/Cell Telephone Number.

### **Deadline for Entry Submission**

All entries must be delivered by 5:00pm, Friday, August 14th to any HCCA Environmental Committee Member:

**Kenneth Burke, Phillip Hammond, John Hawkins, Ruth Lewis, Rita Lowry, Mary Ross**

Or

**Attend the Poster Party, Saturday August 15th  
12:30pm at 2901 Park Drive, SE.**

Learn all about the targeted creatures. Choose one for your topic. Complete and leave your poster at the end of the party. All materials to do a poster will be provided at no charge.

unusual activity and telephoned the police/and or other neighbors. There have been fires in Hillcrest that were snuffed out because neighbors smelled something and said something.

But not all our streets are alike. How does your block stack up? Do not say "I wish my neighbors were thoughtful like that." Rather decide that you are going to be that kind of caring neighbor.

Mr. James B. Jones died on Good Friday, April 3, 2015.



HILLCREST AND NAYLOR GARDENS

## Neighborhood Watch

East Washington Heights  
Baptist Church  
2200 Branch Ave., SE  
(Branch & Alabama Ave)

Tues, Aug 4<sup>th</sup>  
6 PM

### HCCA Board

**Michelle Phipps-Evans, First Vice President**

**Boyle Stuckey, Second Vice President**

**Deborah Johnson, Secretary**

**Monica H. Evans, Treasurer**

**Kenneth Burke, Parliamentarian**

**A. Frank Anderson, Chaplain**

**Ruth V. Lewis, Chair, Communications**

**Jeanne Contardo, Chair, Education and Recreation**

**Mary Ross, Chair, Environmental and Beautification**

**Michelle Peete, Chair, Fundraising**

**Philip Hammond, Chair, Membership**

**James Perkins, Jr., Chair, Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness**

**Linwood Robinson, Chair, Streets, Traffic and Transportation**

### 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



**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