



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

August 2016

HILLCREST NEWSLETTER

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GUEST SPEAKER: CHIEF CATHY LANIER, METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPT.



The cornerstone of Metropolitan Police Department Chief of Police Cathy L. Lanier's leadership lies in her commitment to reducing violent crimes through the strong relationships she has fostered with partners in community as well as those within the criminal justice system. Strengthened police-community ties have opened avenues of communications, giving victims and witnesses the courage to share valuable information that helps the MPD capture criminals.

Lanier has spent her entire law enforcement career with the Metropolitan Police Department, beginning in 1990. Much of her career has been in uniformed patrol, where she served as Commander of the Fourth District, one of the largest and most diverse residential patrol districts in the city. She also served as the Commanding Officer of the Department's Major Narcotics Branch and Vehicular Homicide Units.

Chief Lanier was named Commander of the Special Operations Division (SOD), where, for four years, she managed the Emergency Response Team, Aviation and Harbor Units, Horse Mounted and Canine Units, Special Events/Dignitary Protection Branch, and Civil Disturbance Units. During her tenure as SOD Commander, she established the agency's first Homeland Security/Counter-Terrorism Branch and created an agency-wide chemical, biological, radiological response unit known as the Special Threat Action Team.

After assuming leadership of the Metropolitan Police Department on January 2, 2007, Cathy L. Lanier was

unanimously confirmed as the Chief of Police by the Council of the District of Columbia on April 3, 2007.

Chief Lanier is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the federal Drug Enforcement Administration's Drug Unit Commanders Academy. She holds Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Management from Johns Hopkins University, and a Master's Degree in National Security Studies from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. She is certified at the technician level in Hazardous Materials Operations.

Nominating Committee Chair Needed

Hillcrest, we are seeking the chair for the nominating committee to begin the process of electing a new board this November to serve for two years, starting January 2017. For our community to be led by a strong board, we need to have a transparent and robust nomination process.

The nominating chair will choose his or her committee and the committee will seek nominations for each of the board positions. By October a list of candidates will be presented for the positions and by November, we will vote. Some current members will indicate whether they will like to be considered for the new term or whether they will leave. More information can be found in the bylaws under officers, <http://hillcrestdc.com/docs/bylaws.pdf>. Please contact any member of the HCCA board to express your interest in being the nominating chair. They can be found here <http://hillcrestdc.com/hccaboard.htm>.

Special points of interest:

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

HCCA 2016 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

The HCCA Scholarship was established in 2015 to help offset the costs of the first year of college for one Hillcrest resident each year. Thanks to the generous support of the HCCA and donors, in 2016 the Education Committee's scholarship selection committee (composed of Dr. Yvonne Coates, Dr. Rustin Lewis, LeGrande Baldwin, and Dr. Jeanne Contardo) was able to award one \$2000 award.



This year's winner is Kyle Newman-Smith. Kyle recently graduated from Gonzaga College High School and will be attending Tufts University in this fall. He plans to major in Economics and play lacrosse, which is especially notable because Tufts has won the National Championship in three of the past five years.

Of Kyle, his coach says, "I truly believe in this young man because he is honest, diligent, and has strong moral character and integrity. His work ethic is second to none and his work around school, in the classroom,

on the lacrosse field, and in service project is inspiring. Kyle ranks as one of the brightest student-athletes I have seen here on campus in a long time!" Similarly, Kyle's English teacher writes, "Kyle writes and thinks with a depth I rarely see in high school students... on a personal level I have seen Kyle act with generosity and compassion... Kyle Newman-Smith gives me hope. Any investment in his future will benefit us all."

The HCCA Education and Recreation Committee will stay engaged with Kyle over the coming year to keep updated on his many successes. Congratulations, Kyle! You make Hillcrest proud.



Kyle Newman-Smith receives his award at the July HCCA member meeting. Pictured with Jeanne Contardo (left) and Yvonne Coates (right).

EYEWITNESS TO MALICIOUS VANDALISM

As members of the Board of Directors of the Hillcrest Community Civic Association entered their meeting room on the west side of the Hillcrest Civic Association facility in June, they were saddened and distressed to see an ugly "sunburst" on one of the windows. Apparently the damage had been done by a rock thrown with vehemence.

The ensuing conversation took off from there. The one question that was batted back and forth was "why?" Many of the comments focused on today's troubled youth.

The following story was submitted by a Hillcrest resident. It really does not answer the question "why." It does reveal some old problems. His words are in the first person and are indicated by italics.

Sometime during the late 1940's my mother took me to visit my uncle and aunt and cousin in their Baltimore home. Their neighborhood was similar to Hillcrest.

I was about 13 and my cousin was a boy about a year older. While the adults talked, he invited me to go with him to see the neighborhood. I gladly accepted his offer even though it was night.

Actually he wanted me to meet his gang, a group of about a half dozen boys. He introduced me as his cousin and no questions were asked.

The group began to meander, without any obvious plan. Our wanderings took us away from the residential streets to a rather deserted road, void of any housing. One lone street light illuminated the scene. (It was a type of street light common in that era—a giant, unprotected, naked bulb of sizeable wattage.)

I don't know whose idea it was, but a contest developed to see who could knock out the street light with a rock or "brickbat." The first efforts missed, but with another try there was a shattering of glass and darkness fell upon the street.

At that point a pair of headlights appeared in the distance. Someone yelled, "It's the POLICE!" The gang fled in a panicked run.

Now my folks had taught me, "If you haven't done anything, don't run. So I just stood there and yelled at them, "Why are you all running?"

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AN UPDATE ON THE BRANCH AVENUE PROJECT

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is continuing the work on Branch Avenue, SE. There are several phases to the project, which is expected to be completed no later than Sept. 30, 2016.

July

In July, DDOT began to install flexi-pave at sidewalk locations with tree roots that broke through the sidewalk--13 locations were identified from Pennsylvania Avenue SE to Southern Avenue. The agency has been using new construction materials (brick gutter pans) against new granite stone curbs. This will help to mitigate ground vibrations, and it follows current EPA guidelines for use of porous surface materials where feasible on an undulating roadway such as Branch Avenue SE. Water will flow between the bricks and not the roadway, thus diminishing the

possibility of icing in that part of the road.

August

The public should be aware that DDOT approached this project carefully to include the issue of flooding at the intersection of Branch Avenue and Alabama Avenue. DDOT is working with DC Water on a drainage plan.

There is the possibility that in August, DDOT will have to block multiple lanes at this critical intersection to complete this work. Traffic advisories and notices will go out to the public, and signs will be placed in the area.

Roadway reconstruction will follow the installation of the drainage system; and in mid-September, sod will be placed on the ground to prevent heat from destroying it.

Any questions, please contact DDOT Communication Specialist Alberta Paul at alberta.paul@dc.gov.

HCCA 2016 POSTER CONTEST

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

1. Participants must be Hillcrest residents between the ages of 4 and 17 years old.
2. The judges will determine the four age groups in awarding prizes.
3. Each poster must be on the topic, *What Are Native Species Plants and How Do They Help the Environment?*
4. Use 18"X 24" heavy paper such as poster board or tag board.
5. Use horizontal format.
6. Use any median except glitter or charcoal.
7. Use of computer graphics must be original-no clip art.
8. Letters must be clearly legible.
9. Do not use pre-printed, manufactured, computer generated, stick-on or press-on letters.
10. Entries must be original works of students.
11. The title of the poster, and two to four sentence statement about the illustration is to appear in the lower right-hand corner of poster.
12. No group entries will be accepted.
13. Each entry must have the following information on the back of the poster: Student's Name, Age, Home Address, Home/Cell Telephone Number.

Announcement of Winner

The winners will be informed by Friday, August 9, 2016. Prizes will be awarded at the Hillcrest Community Civic Association Meeting Saturday, September 3, 2016 at 10:30 AM at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 32nd Street and Denver Street, S.E. Washington, DC 20020.

2016 National Night Out

Please join Naylor Gardens on Tuesday, August 2nd in celebrating our National Night Out against crime in the community event! The event takes place in front of the Management Office on 30th Street from 6pm - 9pm. There will be fun, food and a DJ.

We are having a poster contest for all residents up to age 18 to draw a picture of taking back crime in our community. Please submit your entry to the office by 5pm on Friday, July 29th.

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, August 2nd from 6-9pm!



EYEWITNESS TO VANDELISM Continued.....

It turned out it was not the police. But, looking back across over six decades, the thought occurs to me, "Maybe I should have run as fast as my skinny legs could carry me!" If it had been the police, I would have been an accessory before, during, and after the crime.

I was deeply troubled. I was worried about the direction my cousin was headed. Who could I tell? I decided not to be a snitch.

But after all these years, I cannot answer the question: "Why did we break out the street light?

WHY?"

HCCA Board

Michelle Phipps-Evans, First Vice President
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Dear Hillcrest Community,

On behalf of the HCCA Board, we want to thank you for attending our community concerns and engagement meeting in July. We thought the discussion was robust and engaging. We have different perspectives on where our community is, and where it should go; but we are all in agreement that we will hold our leaders accountable, we want to ensure that all Hillcrest residents have a high quality of life and that we feel safe in our neighborhoods.

Your ideas for the HCCA and for our Ward 7 community were sound and we look forward to continuing our work as a community. For the minutes on the July meeting, please visit www.hillcrestdc.com.

Michelle Phipps-Evans, First VP

Boyle Stuckey, Second VP

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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