



# NEWSLETTER

HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

3319 Alabama Avenue, Southeast

Washington, D.C. 20020

[www.HillcrestDC.com](http://www.HillcrestDC.com)

**Next Meeting:** Saturday, October 7, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.

**At the Hillcrest Recreation Center, Corner of Denver & 32<sup>nd</sup> Streets, S.E.**

*NOTE: Meetings are normally held the first Saturday of the month.*

## DDOT WILL ROLL OUT PLANS FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, SE CORRIDOR FROM THE SOUSA BRIDGE TO SOUTHERN AVENUE



Pennsylvania Avenue, Southeast is one of the greatest streets in the world and District agencies are actively engaging with stakeholders to create a vision for it that suits this distinction. The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has allocated \$14 million for the transformation of the corridor from the Sousa Bridge to Southern Avenue, from a commuter-dominated thoroughfare into a vibrant, liveable, active street for residents, shoppers, workers, and commuters.

In late July 2006, a four-day design workshop was held to identify community and merchant priorities and needs and how the corridor must be designed to advance quality of life and economic vitality along the corridor. Several design options emerged from that intensive workshop. In the past two months, three refined options were evaluated and one has emerged as the preferred alternative for consideration.

**DDOT Project Manager Zahra Dorriz** will present a summary of the design workshop, the design options and the evaluation criteria for selection of the preferred alternative. Hillcrest citizens and stakeholders are encouraged to share further ideas for improvement for the transportation design and streetscape of the corridor. Final design will be presented at a general public meeting the first week of November.



Every parcel along the Great Streets represents an opportunity to showcase the best that the District has to offer. The District is eager to assist potential investors, by providing financial assistance, to realize opportunities along the Great Streets corridors and Pennsylvania Avenue SE is one of those great streets.

### **Message from the President**

Dear Neighbor,

*Now that the September 12<sup>th</sup> election is over, it is time for us to take action to tidy up our community by removing campaign signs remaining in the public space and on lamp posts. We are beginning to see illegal posting of advertisement signs for goods and services placed in the public space and on lamp posts and trees. Folks who pay to have advertisement signs placed in the public space probably believe it is okay to do so because of the campaign signs placed in our community. DC poster law regulations allow the placing of campaign signs but do not allow the placing of advertisement signs for goods and services in the public space. ANC 7B passed a zero tolerance resolution advocating against the placing of advertisement posters within our community. I am very pleased to acknowledge and express appreciation to Adrian Fenty, Linda Cropp, and Vince Gray who respected our zero tolerance poster resolution and did not place their campaign signs on lamp posts within our community. They, instead, placed their campaign signs primarily as yard signs in private homeowner's yards. In closing, I encourage everyone to remove campaign signs remaining within your neighborhood and other types of signs as well.*

*On behalf of the members of HCCA, I extend congratulations to Vince Gray, a member of our civic association, on his victory to become Chair of the City Council this past election. For the first time in the history of home rule, it looks like we may have four members of the city council living in East Washington. And lastly, but not least, I extend congratulations to Mary Ross and the members of the Environmental Committee for a job well done in the conducting of our very first Blessing of the Trees Festival. This was a great event and I look forward to next year being even greater.*

## **THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE BLESSING OF THE TREES FESTIVAL**

The Environmental Committee wishes to acknowledge with great appreciation the support it received from HCCA and the general community, which made our first "tree hugging" festival successful. It was truly a day of fun and learning for the whole family. We've also heard your suggestions to enhance and repeat the affair next September. With your support, we accept the challenge. Mary Ross, Chair, Environmental Committee

## **THE AARP DRIVER SAFETY COURSE IS BEING OFFERED AGAIN**

The AARP Driver Safety Course received rave reviews when it was offered at the Hillcrest Recreation Center a few months ago. Based upon your requests, the course is being offered again. This course is specifically designed for drivers, who are 50 years of age and older. Upon completion of the course, a certificate will be issued which may qualify you for a 10-20% automobile insurance discount (check with your insurance company).

Register today for the driver safety course, which will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2006 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hillcrest Recreation Center at a cost of \$10 per person. To register, call Ann Curtsinger at 582-2775 or send an e-mail to [anncurt459@aol.com](mailto:anncurt459@aol.com). The AARP driver safety course is also offered online at [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org) at a cost of \$15.95 for members and \$19.95 for non-members.

## 911 MEMORIAL CEREMONY: REDEDICATION OF GATEWAY PARK

On Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006 over 50 neighbors and friends came out to witness the re-dedication of the Penn Branch Citizens-Civic Association Gateway Park. This lovely park is the pride of the community and has been evolving over the past 15 years, under the guidance of its Public Works Committee. The committee recently applied and won the national 911 federal grant to place further enhancement throughout the park.

This led to the beautiful ceremony rededicating the park to the 17 District of Columbia residents who were killed on American flight 77 on September 11, 2001. The service was led by Reverend Kendrick Curry, senior pastor of Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church, accompanied by the youth ministry, who had Voices of Angels Pastor Karen Curry and one of Penn Branch's own Reverend Mona Odom.

A beautiful plaque now hangs under the gateway welcome sign, listing all of the victims names. Some of the victims included students from three of our local schools-- Leckie ES, Ketcham ES, and Bertie Backus Middle School. All of the names can be seen from Pennsylvania Ave. SE; along with a beautiful District of Columbia state flag and a memorial bench. The Penn Branch Civic Association thanks everyone who took time out of their busy Saturday to remember the loss of such precious lives.

## NEIGHBORS THROUGH ART NEED YOU!

As a part of the D.C. Capital Fringe Festival, "Neighbors through ART" presented "Diagonal Voices/Echoes" on Saturday, July 22, 2006 at the ARC on Mississippi Ave, SE where several of our Hillcrest neighbors were honored. (see August issue of the HCCA newsletter) Now, the group "Neighbors Through ART" is ready to begin planning for next year's program, which will mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the partnership between the Hillcrest and Palisades neighborhoods. The committee needs your help to make next year's event a success.

Your ideas are not only welcome, they are essential! The first planning meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 19th at 7:30 PM** at Peter Fitzgerald and Jim Whittaker's house located at **4935 Eskridge Terrace, N.W.** in the **Palisades neighborhood**. If you would like to be part of the planning, please call Alice Stewart (Palisades) at 364-1505, or **Miles Steele (Hillcrest) at 582-7832** and let them know that you'd like to be part of the process, and you will be given directions to the meeting.

For newcomers to our area, or to those not yet in the loop, the partnership's mission is for residents of both neighborhoods to get to know each other, to find common ground, and to develop a strong sense of kinship across town. The group has, in previous years, organized an Arboretum tour, testified together before City Council on environmental legislation, conducted a joint community service project, mounted an art exhibit, made music together, visited a museum, commemorated the 50th anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education, and just recently performed in the Fringe Festival. Through these collaborations, the group has found that people whom they would otherwise not have had contact with are now new friends, neighbors, and collaborators. Although the Palisades and Hillcrest neighborhoods are in opposite corners of the city, group participants have much in common, and the partnership has brought the two neighborhoods together. The only thing that's more fun than going to a partnership event is to be involved in the planning. Please join Alice and Miles (and other neighbors) on October 19th!

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

2	7 p.m.	Friends of Francis Gregory Library, Francis Gregory Library, 3660 Alabama Ave., SE
7	10 a.m.	HCCA Meeting, Hillcrest Rec Center 32 <sup>nd</sup> and Denver Streets, SE
11	10 a.m.	Goodhope Marketplace Taskforce Meeting Goodhope Police Substation, 2800 blk Alabama Ave SE
18	6 p.m.	PSA 606 Police/Community Meeting Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter, 3319 Alabama Ave., SE
19	7 p.m.	ANC 7B Monthly Meeting Ryland Epworth Methodist Church, 3200 "S" St, SE

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***Dues for 2006 are now due. Please pay promptly.***

It's only \$10 per year. Get on track and send your payment NOW!!!!

Names(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to serve on the following

committee(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to Hillcrest Community Civic Association and mail to: Monica Evans,  
Treasurer, 3909 Camden Street, SE, Washington, D.C. 20020