



# NEWSLETTER

HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 30895

Washington, D.C. 20030-0895

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

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

**Next Meeting:** Saturday, Oct. 6, 2007, at 10 a.m.

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

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



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### Comments?

**Any comments or story ideas, please e-mail the newsletter editor, Michelle Phipps-Evans at [hillcrestdc\\_newsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:hillcrestdc_newsletter@yahoo.com).**

## DPR director Clark ray is the speaker in October

Mayor Adrian M. Fenty announced that Clark Ray has been selected to serve as the city's director of the Department of Parks and Recreation. Ray joined the agency after successfully serving as director of the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services.

"I am excited to be a part of the DPR team," said Ray. "Over the past few years, DPR has made significant strides/achievements in providing fitness and recreation activities for District residents. I am proud to serve as the director and I am looking forward to working with all the talented people at DPR and making the agency one of the best agencies in D.C. government."

As director of the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services, he was responsible for leading the charge to improve the quality of life for District residents through increasing the visibility of the mayor's constituent services efforts and ensuring that city government agencies provide coordinated and scheduled delivery of high-quality basic services for every resident, visitor and business owner.

A results-oriented visionary, Ray brings more than 20 years of community outreach, executive leadership, and education and training to the District of Columbia government. In August 2004, Ray was named director of external affairs for the D.C. Sports and Entertainment Commission. He oversaw, coordinated and managed the location, design and construction of recreational sports facilities. He developed and monitored project budgets as well as implemented and maintained a community outreach plan to ensure that facility designs, development and operations took into their consideration valuable community input.

From 2000 to 2004, Clark served as Neighborhood Services Coordinator in the Office of Neighborhood Services in the Executive Office of the Mayor. Under the Neighborhood Service Initiative, he was responsible for developing a core team of District government agency representatives while simultaneously establishing systems to monitor and maintain coordination of timely responses to service needs of residents. As team leader and coach to core team members from participating agencies, he identified persistent and chronic problems throughout the city's eight wards and developed and organized short- and long-term work plans to meet each need.

In 2000, after serving in the Clinton-Gore White House for six years, (which included being detailed to several federal agencies), Ray served as deputy campaign manager/chief of staff to Tipper Gore for GORE 2000. He was a member of Vice President Al Gore's senior campaign management team and monitored and approved expenditures associated with Mrs. Gore's campaign-related activities and events. Ray has a master's in education from Temple University and a bachelor of science from the University of Arkansas.



## Message from the President

### Dear Neighbors,

Our neighborhood, Hillcrest, has been blessed with many things. Beautiful trees, great houses, good neighbors and a brand new recreation center, located at 32<sup>nd</sup> and Denver Streets, SE. The citizens of our community fought long and hard to bring us this new, state of the art facility. The new Hillcrest Recreation Center has quickly become the heart and soul of our community. We meet there, we exercise there, we play there, and we socialize there.

The real downside to our new center is that after spending all that time, energy and tax money to get this wonderful building, the Department of Parks and Recreation has been less than diligent in providing necessary maintenance. This lack of maintenance has caused major problems for the center. There are several toilets out of order in the ladies room. The roof has leaked over the gymnasium floor, causing it to buckle. The last time I checked there were 15 outstanding work orders pending. Even routine daily maintenance is a problem. The staff, already under paid after working long hours to provide programs for us, should not be expected to clean and prepare the center for the next day's activities.

There are currently five employees working at the Hillcrest Recreation Center. Only one is full time and receiving

benefits. We have lost two excellent directors due to the low rate of compensation. A recreation center, no matter how impressive, is only as effective as the people running it. How does the Department of Parks and Recreation expect to provide quality programs in quality buildings if they do not compensate their employees fairly and maintain their facilities?

We would like to suggest the center director should be compensated based on his or her educational level, the size of the center and the number of programs offered. The remaining staff should be compensated with permanent full time positions and receive benefits. The staff of Hillcrest Recreation Center does an excellent job of developing and running programs. The citizens of Hillcrest expect nothing less.

Now that Mayor Adrian M. Fenty has appointed Clark Ray to the position of director for the Department of Parks and Recreation, we look to him for new and innovative leadership. We collectively request Mr. Clark to take the time to look into these real problems in his agency and develop a plan to correct these deficiencies.

Mr. Ray, welcome to the Department of Parks and Recreation and welcome to Hillcrest!

**Karen Lee Williams, President  
Hillcrest Community Civic Association**

### A Letter to the Mayor

#### Support for 11th Street Bridge Interchange Improvements

By Vincent Spaulding

*Re: Support of "The Anacostia Waterfront Transportation Mobility Study"*

This letter is in support of the referenced study and in particular the improved interchange at the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge. I am in support of the study recommendations because of the need to improve the thoroughfares and roads in the District of Columbia and in particular the bridge and street systems along the Anacostia River. East Washington, D.C., residents who must cross the Sousa Bridge on Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, to get to their various communities are adversely affected by the decision not to build the Barney Circle Connector.

**THE TRAFFIC NIGHTMARE PREDICTED BY RESIDENTS OF WARDS 7 AND 8 ARE EVEN WORSE TODAY THAN THEY WERE YEARS AGO.**

East Washington, D.C., residents cannot get home without waiting in long lines of traffic because automobiles have completely taken over two lanes of the Sousa Bridge, beginning at Barney Circle, and three lanes

at Fairlawn Avenue on the east side of the bridge, waiting to make a left turn onto Interstate 295 at Kenilworth Avenue to head north. The traffic congestion on Sousa Bridge and Pennsylvania Avenue east of the river has long been a burden borne mostly by D.C. residents east of the river. The congestion limits residents' access to the most basic needs, such as grocery stores, schools and work. Hours are spent in traffic just getting across the river to get home. Also, not having the improved interchange at the 11<sup>th</sup> Street bridge prevents means for an orderly and rapid egress from the District of Columbia by residents of the entire city in the case of a terrorist attack.

As a member of the Technical Advisory Group for DDOT's Middle Anacostia Crossings Study, I learned there is no easy or inexpensive solution to the congestion on Pennsylvania Avenue. DDOT explored a variety of measures, but the only real solution is to connect the freeways to provide commuters direct connections between the Anacostia Freeway and the Southeast Freeway. This will reduce the number of cars turning left from Sousa Bridge and allow better flow of traffic for residents who need to travel along Pennsylvania Avenue.

The improved interchange at the 11th Street bridges, as proposed by the study, is vital to the economic health of East Washington and to the southeast Pennsylvania Avenue corridor; and to ensuring that the benefits of economic growth in the District

are shared throughout the city. No more can the Anacostia River at Pennsylvania serve as a transportation chokepoint and economic barrier.

The construction of this project is needed now to establish a balanced transportation system. As there were opponents to the Barney Circle Connector, I am sure there will be those encouraging anchor-dragging additional studies as a technique to prevent moving forward. Our community is choking on traffic and we encourage that action be taken as soon as possible to abate the problem. Only with approval of the study results will this work happen soon enough to benefit the people who need it today—not when they are old and unable to drive.

In closing, I encourage that action be taken to help the residents of the city who live in East Washington by improving the interchange at the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge, to alleviate some of the traffic congestion along both sides of the Sousa Bridge. Until DDOT can take action to construct a solution to the traffic congestion problems that the Barney Circle Connector would have abated, residents on our side of the river will continue to live with the pain of the not having a congestion-free way of traveling into and from our community.

The traffic relief proposed by the reference projects will assist greatly in reducing traffic congestion in East Washington and

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# Hillcrest Updates

## 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 second annual fall festival successful. We are still tallying up income and expenses but hope to be able to make that report at the monthly meeting. It was truly a day of fun and learning for the whole family. We plan to do this again so please give us suggestions to enhance the affair next year. We are particularly interested in increasing attendance. With that in mind, please let us know what the festival would need to offer to get you and your family to attend and participate.



## Hillcrest-Palisades Partnership to Focus on Culinary Arts: All are Welcome at the Oct. 27 Gourmet Potluck Feast

Just imagine a long buffet table with El Paso's famous Cream-Chicken Tacos, Louisiana Shrimp Gumbo, Lamb Kebabs, Thai Vegetarian Curry, Southern Spoonbread, Spanish Flan, Peach Cobbler—all these and many more exotic and delicious dishes

await you at the [Palisades Community Church, 5200 Cathedral Ave., NW, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, October 27.](#) But please understand: we can only guarantee that these exact dishes will be there if YOU (or your "Neighbor Through ART") agrees to make and bring them.

This event marks the highpoint of the year-long celebration of the **10<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the Hillcrest-Palisades Partnership. If you have not been to a partnership event before, this is a good one to attend, and it's easy to participate. It's a well-known fact: if you can read, you can cook. So try out some new recipe that you have been longing to do, create something original, or make one of your (or your grandmother's) old favorite dishes.

Please join the feast and the fun, reconnect with people from across town, make new friends, and buy a work of art by a neighborhood artist to bring home something tangible from the event. We especially need you to bring dishes, and we need you to make a reservation and tell us what you will be bringing by

Oct. 12. Please make enough so your dish will serve 10 people. And please bring multiple copies of your recipe if you are willing to share it.

All participating artists need to notify Ginny Levy (by email at [fossilhill@erols.com](mailto:fossilhill@erols.com) or by phone at 244-5110) by Oct. 12, giving their name as they wish it to be listed, the title of their work, the medium and the price if the art is for sale. Hillcrest artists should bring their work to Ms. Mtewa at the Francis Gregory Library before 9 p.m. on **Wednesday, Oct. 24**, or make arrangements to get it to Palisades Community Church between 10 a.m. and noon on Saturday Oct. 27. All the art should relate to eating or food. Be creative and have fun!

To RSVP for the pot-luck, please contact Miles Steele by Oct. 12 (either by email at [MS306@comcast.net](mailto:MS306@comcast.net) or by phone at (202) 582-7832) with the following information, or FAX this "Food Participant Form" to him at 582-0078.



### FOOD PARTICIPANT FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact info: \_\_\_\_\_(email); \_\_\_\_\_phone)

Number of people in your family/group \_\_\_\_ (of those \_\_\_\_ are children under 12)

Name of your dish \_\_\_\_\_

Is it a \_\_\_\_ main course, \_\_\_\_ side dish or salad or \_\_\_\_ dessert?

I/we prefer to contribute cash (\$ 10 per adult; \$ 5 for children under 12).

#### Preparation: (check one)

\_\_\_\_ My dish will be ready to serve at 6 p.m.

\_\_\_\_ My dish will need to be heated (give further details on another sheet.)

\_\_\_\_ My dish is cold and will be in a cooler.

## DPW announces free graffiti removal voucher program

The D.C. Department of Public Works announced its Graffiti Removal Voucher Program for District residents and business owners whose property has been defaced by graffiti. Residents may call the Citywide Call Center at **(202) 727-1000** for a free voucher to be redeemed at McCormick Paints at 15th and P Streets,

## Hillcrest Updates

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NW, and Duron Paints at 14th and Clifton Streets, NW. Expect to receive the voucher within five days of the request.



## HCCA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBER

- Steven Mandeville-Gamble  
3355 Denver St., SE

## Special feature

(Continued from page 2)

Capitol Hill, and I encourage that action be taken to make it happen as soon as possible.

**Vincent M. Spaulding, R.A., P.E., is HCCA's past president and past Commissioner, ANC7B04.**

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

6	10 a.m.	HCCA Meeting, Hillcrest Recreation Center 32 <sup>nd</sup> and Denver Streets, SE
1	7 p.m.	Friends of Francis Gregory Library Meeting Francis Gregory Library, 3660 Alabama Ave., SE
10	10 a.m.	Goodhope Marketplace Taskforce Meeting Goodhope Police Substation, 2800 blk Alabama Ave., SE
17	6 p.m.	PSA 606 Police/Community Meeting Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter, 3319 Alabama Ave., SE
18	7 p.m.	ANC 7B Monthly Meeting Ryland Epworth Methodist Church, 3200 "S" St., SE

**PLEASE NOTE: The new mailing address for the Hillcrest Community Civic Association is:  
HCCA  
P.O. Box 30895  
Washington, D.C. 20030-0895**

Have you paid your dues for 2007? Your paid-through date is on the mailing label of this newsletter. If it is earlier than 2007, please send your payment now!

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP code: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

I'd like to serve on the following committee(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual dues are only \$10 . Make check payable to the Hillcrest Community Civic Association and mail to:**

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