

THE HILLCREST NEWSLETTER



HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

"Working together for a Better Community!"

www.hillcrestdc.com

P.O. Box 30895, Washington, DC 20030

October 2013

CALENDER OF EVENTS

HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

Hillcrest Recreation Center
32nd and Denver Sts., SE

Saturday, October 5, 2013 10AM to Noon

FRIENDS OF FRANCIS A. GREGORY LIBRARY MEETING

Francis Gregory Library
3660 Alabama Ave., SE
Monday, October 7, 7PM to 9PM

TRADITIONAL vs. CHARTER SCHOOLS

Randle Highlands Elementary School Gym
1650 30th St. S.E.

Tuesday, October 15, 6:30PM-8:30PM

PSA 606 POLICE COMMUNITY MEETING

East Washington Heights Baptist Church
2200 Branch Ave., SE

Wednesday, October 16, 7PM

ANC 7B MONTHLY MEETING

Ryland Methodist Church
3200 S ST., SE

Thursday, October 17, 7PM- 9PM

HILLCREST DAY 2013

Place: Francis Gregory Library
3660 Alabama Ave., SE

Saturday, October 19, 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

THIS MONTH'S GUEST SPEAKER

Paul Howard Perry

Director of Education and Outreach
Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum

A California native and retired Navy Yeoman, Paul has been a museum education specialist for over 10 years. His previous experiences include Education Consultant with Saudi Aramco in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, Education Director at the Louisiana State Museum in New Orleans, Education Director at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art in Alaska, and Programs Officer at the Seminole Tribe of Florida History Museum.



Paul is a member of the American Association of Museums, and the American Association of State and Local History Museums. He is an alumnus of George Washington University with a Master's in Teaching, and has a BA in Museum Studies from California State University, San Bernardino.

Preserving the History of Hillcrest

HCCA Historian, Gloria Logan, and Member, Julie Rones, are working with the Smithsonian to research, preserve, and commemorate the HCCA's history in preparation for its 25th Anniversary, which will occur September, 2014. The idea for the HCCA was conceived on the front lawn of Dennis and Gloria Logan, August 8, 1989 on a National Night Out Against Crime. Belva T. Simmons of Austin Street was HCCA's founder and first president.

Please plan to attend the HCCA community meeting Saturday, October 5 and bring to share Hillcrest community artifacts (pictures, pamphlets, agendas, banners, maps, deeds, documents, awards, etc.) from your private collection.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Traditional vs. Charter Schools: Are We Redefining Local Control in Public Education?

Join us to discuss the rise of charter schools in our community - what effect does it have on traditional schools, and has the definition of "school choice" changed in the 21st century?

Tuesday, October 15, 2013
6:30PM-8:30PM

Randle Highlands Elementary School
Gymnasium -1650 30th St. S.E

Did You Know?

- 43% DC Public School students are educated Charter schools
- 36 DC Public Schools have been closed between 2008-2013, of which, 40% have been, or will be turned over to Charters
- Over 50% of Ward 7 students attend Charter schools

Panelists

- Gwendolyn Payton, Principal, Beers ES
- Scott Pearson, Executive Director, DC Charter School Board
- Eboni-Rose Thompson, Chair, Ward 7 Education Council
- Abigail Smith, Deputy Mayor for Education, Mayor Gray's Administration
- David Pickens, Executive Director, DC School Reform Now
- Cathy Reilly, Executive Director, S.H.A.P.P.E
- David Ayala, Principal, Kipp DC Public Charter School
- Karen Williams, State Board of Education, Ward 7 Representative

Moderator

De'Andre Anderson, Chair, HCCA Education & Recreation Committees

Food & drinks provided

Hillcrest Day

The Hillcrest Community Civic Association, Anne Beers Elementary School, and the Friends of Francis Gregory Library, would like to invite you to the **2nd Annual Hillcrest Day: Connecting Neighbors**. Hillcrest day will be held on **Saturday, October 19, 2013, from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM** at Anne Beers Elementary School and the Francis Gregory Library (3600 blk of Alabama Avenue, SE. Confirmed activities include a zumba dance party; landscaping tip and tricks; moon bounce; clown; and much more. There will be some FREE FOOD and plenty of music.



Our vision is to provide a fun, family-friendly day that is full of laughter for the young and young at heart. This free community event is an opportunity to bring together neighbors, families, and friends of the Hillcrest Community. We'd like to thank our sponsors **The Rappaport Companies; Competitor Group Inc. (Rock N Roll Marathon); Safeway; Councilmember Yvette Alexander; Councilmember Phil Mendelson; Councilmember Anita Bonds; Councilmember David Grosso, Flexcare Pharmacy; Results Gym; and Citizens Outreach Fund.**

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT HILLCREST DAY!

REMINDER!!

Holiday Gifts for DC Kids

HCCA is a long time member of the Federation of Citizens Associations of the District of Columbia. Several years ago, the Citizens Federation founded a program called "Holiday Gifts for DC Kids," to provide new toys, books, and clothing which are distributed in December, to DC's foster children via CFSA.

Last year, the Citizens Federation partnered with the DC National Guard Family Program, Sport & Health Club, The Janney School, Wells Fargo Advisors and DC Fire Fighters Association IAFF Local 36. We collected over 2,200 presents for DC foster children. HCCA is requested to join in and support the project this year. For more information, contact Earl Williams, Vice President, Federation of Citizens Associations of the District of Columbia at wearwilliams@verizon.net.

**D.C. Federation of Civic Associations, Inc.
83rd Annual Awards and Scholarship
Celebration & Luncheon**

On Saturday, October 26, 2013 at 11:00 AM the D.C. Federation of Civic Associations, Inc. will celebrate its 83rd Annual Awards and Scholarship Celebration Luncheon at the Washington Navy Yard NSAW Catering and Conference Center, 1454 Person Avenue, SE, Washington, DC

The goal this year is recognize community leaders and students who have gone the extra mile in making a difference in the Federation, community, and in their future.

The Federation is looking for candidates for:
Outstanding Member Association
Outstanding Member Association Newsletter
Scholarship Awards Recipients
Outstanding Individual in Civil Rights
Consumer Advocacy Award
Outstanding President of a Member Association

To make nominations or purchase tickets at \$60.00 each contact Graylin W. Presbuy at (202) 678-0291; or at presbug@aol.com.

Nominations due by the first week in October!

Austin Street Host Block Party!

On Saturday, September 14, 2013, the neighbors who live on Austin Street in Hillcrest hosted a well-attended block party that enticed several neighbors from other blocks around Hillcrest to the event. Austin Street shared a variety of food, beverages, desserts, and lots of good company. Mayor Vincent C. Gray and Ward 7 Councilmember Yvette Alexander stopped by to enjoy the festivities, talk to neighbors and to enjoy the warm weather.

Also on Saturday the 2900 block of W Street hosted its first garage sale. Neighbors up and down the block cleaned out their garages and put their wares on display. The children sold lemonade. It was a great time for all and a great opportunity to get have a great time, get rid of items no longer cherished, make a couple of bucks and reconnect with neighbors.

Other blocks in Hillcrest are encouraged to throw a block party and other events in their immediate areas. These activities bring us closer together, help us get to know each other to keep our neighborhood a desirable and safe place to live.

The Enlightened Environmentalist

Saving ON A Rainy Day

Ms. Anna-Lee Stangl was on a work assignment in Europe in early 2012 when her work necessitated a move to Washington, D.C. She turned to the Internet to seek good choices in our city. You can guess that Hillcrest showed up quickly! That is how she wound up living in our community. Shortly after moving here, she was made aware of environmentally friendly projects offered by "River Smart Homes", a program of the District Dept. of the Environment (DDOE). This article focuses on one aspect of the changes (rain barrels) brought to her home by "River Smart Homes."

Most of us have been taught to "save for a rainy day." Consider reversing that philosophy. Try saving ON a rainy day. The rain barrel program of "River Smart Homes" offers at least two advantages: (1) Capturing and storing water from



our roofs during heavy rains and then using this stored water on flowers and shrubs during a dry spell; and (2) Reducing storm water that gushes into the streets and the storm drains. The

gush of water in the storm drains is the culprit in the severe erosion that has taken place in our Hillcrest parklands.

Ms. Stangl described to me her experience with "River Smart Homes." After contacting DDOE, engineers from the organization came to her yard and did an audit. She was given the option of accepting or rejecting their suggestions. Among those suggestions, she chose new trees, a rain garden, and of course two (2) rain barrels. "River Smart Homes" paid for part of the project and she was responsible for a co-pay. Ms. Stangl was especially interested in the mechanics of rain barrels. They were octagonal in shape and dark green in color. A hose outlet was at the bottom and looked like an exterior hose outlet on a house. (The hose is fed by gravity which is good for a soaking action.)

Most intriguing was the converter valve. This was a large round knob, easily turned, which quickly determines whether the water from the gutter down spout empties into the barrel (normal

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operation) or continues on the down spout into the splash block or whatever else the homeowner previously used. Hillcrest homeowners: please get on board! Contact "River Smart Homes" at ddoe.dc.gov/riversmarthomes.

Tree Planting Volunteer Event

Date: Saturday, October 12, 2013
Time: 10:00AM
Location: 3810 Southern Ave SE
(The Villager Parking Lot)
Dress Code: Work clothes

Beginning February, 2011, the 961 unit Fairfax Village Community dedicated itself to restoring an abandoned, crime haven basketball and tennis court that was shut down for over 20 years. The community restored the basketball court and is now focused on repurposing the tennis court into a community garden consisting of a fruit tree orchard and edible gardens. Volunteers are needed October 12th to help plant 30 trees with our nonprofit partner, Casey Trees. The project's objective is to continue empowering youth, engaging the local community, partnering with nonprofits and government agencies for sustainable community development. A long-term goal is to participate in the Annual Hillcrest Civic Association Garden Tour.

Got Ideas!

Please email any ideas or articles for the newsletter by the 15th of the month to hillcrestdc_newsletter@yahoo.com

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

Visit our website at www.hillcrestdc.com or join the conversation on our list serve at Hillcrestdc@yahoo.com



**Hillcrest Community
Civic Association
P.O. Box 30895
Washington, DC 20030**

HCCA Board

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Contact information is available on our website at www.hillcrestdc.com

Have you paid your dues for 2013? Your paid through date is on the mailing label of this newsletter. If the date is earlier than 2013 , please send your payment now. The cost is \$12.00/year. You may pay for multiple 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

Please include your name, address, phone number and email address.