



HILLCREST NEWSLETTER

The Hillcrest Community Civic Association
 "Working together for a Better Community"
 www.hillcrestdc.com
 P.O. Box 30895, Washington, DC 20030

**Hillcrest Community Civic Association
 And Anne Beers ES
 Hillcrest Day
 Saturday, October 18, 2014**

**HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC
 ASSOCIATION MEETING
 Hillcrest Recreation Center
 32ND and Denver St., SE
 Saturday, October 4, 2014
 10:30AM to 12:30 PM**

**FRIENDS OF FRANCIS A.
 GREGORY LIBRARY MEETING
 Francis Gregory Library
 3660 Alabama Ave., SE
 Monday, October 6, 7PM to 9PM**

**PSA 606 POLICE
 COMMUNITY MEETING
 East Washington Heights
 Baptist Church
 2200 Branch Ave., SE
 Wednesday, October 15, 6 PM**

**ANC 7B MONTHLY MEETING
 Ryland Methodist Church
 3200 S St., SE
 Thursday, October 16, 7PM**

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This Month's Guest Speaker

**Marc Battle, Vice President
 PEPCO Region, District of Columbia
 Exelon/PEPCO Merger**



Marc Battle is Vice President of the Potomac Electric Power Company ("Pepco") for the Washington, DC Region. Pepco is a regulated electric utility that provides transmission and distribution services and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Pepco Holdings, Inc. (PHI). Pepco delivers safe, reliable and affordable electric service to more than 793,000 customers in Maryland and the District of Columbia.

As Pepco Region Vice President, Marc manages public policy and stakeholder relations with District of Columbia officials, community leaders and business, consumer and nonprofit organizations within the Pepco region, ensuring that the Company meets its responsibilities by providing affordable and reliable electricity while maintaining the highest standards of safety, integrity and civic responsibility.

Prior to assuming the role of Region Vice President, Marc served as Associate General Counsel of PHI, one of the largest energy delivery companies in the Mid-Atlantic region, serving about 2 million customers in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland and New Jersey. As Associate General Counsel, Marc represented Pepco before the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia in a wide variety of matters including general rate proceedings. Marc is a graduate of the Howard University School of Law and the University of the District of Columbia.

Hillcrest Day
You Don't Want to Miss This!
Calling All HCCA Members, Family and Friends



Where can you learn about what the Office of Aging has to offer, experience the screams of children playing in a moon bounce, hear your favorite songs played by a DJ, and enjoy the company of your neighbors? **Hillcrest Day!**

HCCA Thanks 25th Anniversary Attendees and Supporters



HCCA wishes to thank our speakers Mr. Jim Byers and Mr. Harry Wingo, Mr. Peacock, the violinist, all our supporters, attendees, sponsors, and the planning committee members for the 25th Anniversary celebration. HCCA commissioned a celebratory video representing the Association's 25 years and its theme: "Reaching Back and Learning Forward."

The video and souvenir program may be posted, later, online on HCCA's website. HCCA owns and retains the copyright for the video. HCCA also plans to donate copies of the video to both the DC Public Library and the Smithsonian Anacostia Museum for their respective digitalized local-community collections. The event, itself, may be shown on DC Cable Channel 16.

A Silent Auction sponsored by Kathleen Donner was held. All of the proceeds from the Silent Auction will be dedicated to the HCCA scholarship fund for a Ward 7 student. The criteria for a future award will be developed later and announced by the HCCA Education Committee. Lastly, the HCCA especially wishes to thank all the city officials, especially those who attended and/or wrote letters of congratulations (the Honorable Phil Mendleson and the Honorable David Grasso), introduced resolutions (the Honorable Yvette Alexander, the Honorable Muriel Bowser, and the Honorable Phil Mendelson), had the Anniversary published in the *Congressional Record* of the U.S. House of Representatives (the Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton), and had a day named in HCCA's honor: The Honorable Vincent C. Gray. HCCA also wishes to thank Carrie Thornhill and the Washington East Foundation for the partnership we formed that helped sponsor the HCCA 25th Anniversary Celebration.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Sessions at Francis Gregory Library

Explore STEM concepts and activities after school every other Monday at Francis Gregory Library. This program is intended for children ages 7-12. Children under 9 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Children can participate in experiments, studying nature, doing real world math problems and even taking the Hour of CODE challenge. Hour of CODE is an introductory lesson in computer science, where children learn basic concepts of problem solving and programming.

To RSVP for STEM, please call the children's room at: 202-698-3873.

Come join neighbors, family and friends at Anne Beers Elementary School on October 18th to celebrate the wonderful community of Hillcrest. From 11am-4pm, discover what it means to be a Boy or Girl Scout, laugh at the neighborhood clown, and enjoy a hot dog with your community. Hillcrest Day offers you the opportunity to gather information from different organizations in our Information Alley, allow your children to build a community out of cardboard boxes, and spend time with your neighbors. We are also having a bake sale to raise funds for the HCCA scholarship fund.



You don't want to miss this opportunity. If you would like to volunteer or donate an item to the bake sale, please contact Michelle Peete at (202) 291-1974.

See you there!

Proposed Changes to Circular Route

In Hillcrest we are just barely served by the Skyland-Barracks Row circulator bus, which turns around just behind Safeway. The proposed new route will take even this away, and cover Alabama Ave to Congress Heights, a corridor that already has lots of Metrobuses. I think Hillcrest is getting a bad deal here. The circulator Bus should cover more of Hillcrest, not less, because we have so few public transportation options. The plan is at <http://dccirculator.com/Portals/0/docs/2014-DC-Circulator-Transit-Development-Plan-Update-Report.pdf> The proposed new route is on p. 77. Send your comments to circe.torruellas@dc.gov

Below are the comments I sent.

Here are the problems with the current Skyland Circulator Route:

1. It includes Anacostia Metro Station, so competes with WMATA bus routes and makes the trip to/from Capitol needlessly long. Many riders at Eastern Market pass up other Metrobuses to the Anacostia Metro in favor of the Circulator bus because the Circulator bus is cheaper. Metrobus does a good job of serving the Anacostia Metro station, both from the Goodhope Rd Corridor and from Eastern Market. The Skyland circulator only adds to the congestion at Anacostia Metro. The route west should be Goodhope Rd, across the local 11th St bridge, to Barracks Row.
2. Skyland Circle does not cover Hillcrest-- the Alabama Ave corridor between Skyland and Fairfax Village. Ridership would increase if Hillcrest were better served. This corridor is poorly served by Metrobus, except during AM and PM rush hour when the V5 runs.

Hillcrest Community Civic Association (HCCA) Urges
All Mayoral Candidates to Address Quality of Schools East of the River!



September 15, 2014

X for Mayor Campaign
Attn: Ms./Mr. X
Washington DC

Dear Mayoral Candidate:

To our disappointment, Mayor Gray has adopted a set of changes to DCPS's assignment policies that will drastically affect students east of the Anacostia River. According to a *Washington City Paper* analysis—over 1,200 students will be reassigned to a new school. More egregiously, in ward 7, almost every affected student will be forced to attend a school with worse scores on the DC CAS test than they currently attend when the boundary plan goes into effect in 2015. Redrawing boundaries to the detriment of students east of the river is unacceptable, and we hope that this will not be a part of your vision for the city's educational system next year. We must work on the quality of schools before we work on the boundaries.

The DCPS boundary assignment plan raises a second, significant, concern for us. As you likely know, last year, the Hillcrest education committee partnered with DCPS and the DC Council's Committee on Education to work on the creation of a selective application-only school east of the river. Currently, over 40 percent of our middle school-aged students, and over 70 percent of our high-school age students leave ward 7 to attend a DC public school in wards 1-6. Most of our middle schools are listed on DCPS's 40 lowest performing schools, and all of our high schools east of the river are in that category. We believe that students east of the river should not have to travel west to obtain a quality education; however, currently, schools in wards 7 and 8 do not offer the type of academic rigor to help our children succeed.

While we were gratified that our proposal for an application-only middle school was incorporated into the Mayor's 2015 DCPS boundary plan, we have concerns about naming Ron Brown in Deanwood as its location. To date, that site has not been vetted and DCPS has not had the opportunity to conduct feasibility studies of other possible sites that should be under consideration. As a community, we believe there are significant problems regarding the safety of the Deanwood location and also the compromises that would have to be made to use that building well, as it is much larger than what we initially proposed for the school.

Should you become the next Mayor of the District of Columbia, we would like to work with you to discuss the location of this citywide application-only middle school, and the implementation of the school boundary plan.

We would love to hear from you regarding this urgent need to address the quality of schools east of the river. We look forward to a response from you at your earliest convenience regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

De'Andre Anderson, Chair
Education and Recreation Committee
202-652-0597

Cc: Other mayoral candidate
Cc: Other mayoral candidate

The Enlightened Environmentalist

Save the Monarch Butterfly



The Monarch Butterfly is in danger. This species of butterfly has declined by 90% in the last 20 years. This decline has been linked to genetically modified organisms (GMOs). GMOs are plants that have had their DNA changed by the addition of genes from other

species. These chromosomal changes were advanced to make GMOs herbicide resistant and pesticide tolerant.

The milkweed plant is one of the plant species that has directly declined drastically from the introduction of GMOs and the accompanying pesticide drenching of farmland by Agri-farmers. The Monarch Butterfly will only lay its eggs on the milkweed plant, and the Monarch larva will only eat the milkweed plant. Hillcrest residents, 5 to 17 years old, were invited to learn about the Monarch Butterfly and to draw posters telling how we can bring back the Monarch Butterfly from the brink of extinction. From the thirteen entries, four winners were selected. The winners' names, ages and comments to save the Monarch follow:

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Audrey Contardo, Age 5: "Plant more milkweed. Don't poison the earth."

Myles Bell, Age 9: "Monarch butterflies are dying out. Here are three things you can do to help them. Plant milkweed. 2. Plant flowers that produce nectar. 3. Join websites on Monarchs."

Alejandro Gonzales-Evans, Age 11: "We can save the Monarch Butterfly by giving them food in your own garden or other places with gardens. The nectar they drink helps them migrate to Mexico for the winter."

William Bell, Age 12: "How to help plant milkweed. (Milkweeds are food for caterpillars.) Grow and maintain flowers. (The nectar is food.) Keep butterflies away from lizards or spiders. (Lizards, spiders and other insects are predators.)"

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Isn't thoughtfulness and respect for all living things flourishing in Hillcrest?

Note: The posters will be on display Hillcrest Day.



3. Skyland Circle covers Eastern Market to Potomac Ave, a waste of time. The bus is usually empty for this segment—most riders get off at Eastern Market. Many Metrobuses serve Penn Ave between Eastern Market and Potomac Ave, so again, the Circulator bus is competing with WMATA.

4. Skyland Circular does not run late enough in the summer for riders to get home from Nats games, so why would we take it TO Nats games? It stops running around 7pm in the wintertime, so riders cannot use it to get to/from dinner on Capitol Hill. These are among the reasons why ridership is low. Perhaps ridership would increase if the hours were more reasonable.

Kathy Chamberlain

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Have you paid your dues for 2014? Your paid through date is on the mailing label of this newsletter. If the date is earlier than 2014, 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

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Phone # _____

Amount _____



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

Need a Ride? Services for Seniors

Seabury Connector takes you to medical appointments, treatment services, as well as personal business related to public benefits such as Social Security, housing assistance, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. (SNAP)

Phone: 202-727-7771 Monday-Friday-7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please schedule rides 3 days in advance.

Rides are free but enrollment is required.

Washington Elderly Handicapped Transportation Service Office

Phone: (202) 715-7649

Call 'N' Ride Transportation Program: provides seniors with deeply discounted vouchers for door-to-door taxicab transportation service of the destination of their choice. The amount of the discount is based on a sliding fee scale. Seniors may use the coupons for any transportation purpose. Call the [Washington Seniors Wellness Center](#) located at 3001 Alabama Ave.

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