



# 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, Nov. 3, 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.*

## JOHNNY GAITHER IS NOVEMBER'S SPEAKER



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### Comments?

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

**J**ohnny Gaither is the Ward 7 Neighborhood Services Coordinator in the Mayor's Office of Community Relations & Services. He was first appointed to this position August 2005 by Mayor Anthony Williams. He was then reappointed by Mayor Adrian M. Fenty in January, 2007.

Gaither has lived in Washington, D.C., close to 20 years and has attended Mars Hill College in North Carolina and Howard University. Johnny and wife, Dawn, live in the River Terrace community.

To contact him, use the following information:

**Johnny Gaither**

**Ward 7 NSC**

**Office of the Mayor**

**(202) 442-8858 office**

**(202) 340-7948 cell**

**Service Requests (202) 727-1000**

## Hillcrest News and Updates



St. Francis Xavier on Pennsylvania Avenue.

**Upcoming Retail Forum**—The Office of Planning is hosting a Retail Forum on **Monday, Nov. 5, 6:30 to 8 p.m.** at the **St Francis Xavier Catholic Church (Bailey Room)** at 2812 Pennsylvania Ave., SE. The forum will focus on the Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, commercial district, and will include a panel discussion on retail opportunities and challenges in the area. The forum will also include a discussion with residents on shopping habits and buying preferences.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Message from the President



### The Department of Parks and Recreation

**Mission**—The mission of the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation is to maintain the District's parks and to provide diverse recreation opportunities to residents and visitors.

**Vision**—The vision of the Department of Parks and Recreation is to be the national leader in urban recreation and parks administration and to be District's resident's primary source for leisure activity.

According to its own mission and vision statements, the Department of Parks and Recreation strives to be the best in the nation. We who live in Hillcrest have enjoyed a wonderful new state of the art facility at 32<sup>nd</sup> and Denver. We have been blessed with three great directors, two of whom have resigned for more lucrative positions. Today, the roof leaks, the gym floor has buckled, there have been maintenance problems, staffing and program issues, etc.

But the problems we have experienced at our center are indicative of even larger problems occurring throughout the system and the city. According to the newly appointed director, Clark Ray, the Department of Parks and Recreation has suffered from mismanagement for years. These

are my words not his; he was much more diplomatic in his explanation of the issues facing his agency. I was impressed by Mr. Ray's honesty and his responsiveness to our requests.

The Department of Parks and Recreation manages 17 Early Care and Education Centers; 12 Before and After Care Programs; 10 large outdoor pools; 7 indoor pools; 73 recreation centers; 4 large parks; 400 neighborhood and triangle parks; an environmental education center; Head Start Programs; year-round feeding programs; and senior services. According to the information available on its Web site, the Department of Parks and Recreation is functioning with a budget that will only support a full time staff of 621 people. Mr. Ray, I applaud your efforts to date to define the problems faced by your agency, to actively seek solutions, and to reach out to the community with frankness and honesty. Please continue to strive to help the Department of Parks and Recreation to fulfill its own vision, "to be the national leader in urban recreation and parks administration." I propose, we also turn to the powers that be, Mayor Adrian M. Fenty and the City Council to review the situation at the Department of Parks and Recreation and allocate the resources needed to accomplish the agency's own mandate.

**Karen Lee Williams**  
President, HCCA

## Special Feature

### Hillcrest's crime problems need to be addressed

By Paul Savage

Hillcrest residents met Oct. 9 with Assistant Police Chief for Patrol Services Diane Groomes for a frank discussion of crime problems in Patrol Service Area 606. I facilitated the meeting. Also attending were Sixth Police District Commander Robert Contee and Inspector Kevin Anderson. These are the problems Hillcrest cares about, as well as other major crimes. We can't allow Hillcrest to be diminished by external forces, as we need enforcement in these following areas:

**1) Violation of our "Do Not Enter" signs.** We request enforcement of these signs on all Hillcrest streets.  
**2) Speeding is pervasive.** There is speeding on Branch, Alabama and Pennsylvania avenues, presenting



dangerous situations for pedestrians.

There is speeding and unsafe conditions around residential blocks such as Winston, Anne Beers and Randle Highlands schools. Speeding continues although we have speed bumps on most of our streets; but there's little or no enforcement. Speeding is not only limited to private vehicles, but extends to Metro buses that ignore stop signs, large dump trucks and other commercial vehicles.

**3) Enforcement of out-of-state vehicle registration.** Out-of-state vehicles should either register in the District of Columbia or move to where their vehicles are registered, as this is a huge financial drain on Washington D.C.

**4) Traffic Violations.** Vehicles make illegal U-turns in the middle of the intersection at 27<sup>th</sup> and Pennsyl-



vania Avenue, SE, in front the police substation. Vehicles park illegally on the sidewalks on Pennsylvania Avenue, which happens daily at the day care center on the 2600 block. In addition, parking enforcement against large commercial trailers on our residential streets should be in place.

**5) Auto theft, theft from autos.**

There needs to be a more comprehensive approach. We also know many thefts could be prevented if owners used antitheft devices and be more vigilant. We request more education on prevention.

**6) Littering and illegal signs.**

More enforcement of littering laws is needed. This includes posting of illegal signs and posters on light poles, trees and traffic control boxes.

**7) Truancy statutes.** Children who should be in school are seen wandering around Hillcrest and other ANC7B communities.

**8) Drug sales.** There are areas

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## HILLCREST NEWS AND UPDATES

(Continued from page 1)

This forum is a direct outgrowth of more than seven years of dedication and hard work by the members of the East of the River Sousa Bridge Pennsylvania Avenue Revitalization Task Force. The forum is part of the Retail Action Strategy, a citywide assessment of the District's retail potential. It will develop approaches to strengthen the city's retail base, ensure that neighborhoods are appropriately served by retail, recapture significant retail spending that flows out the District, promote vibrant commercial districts, and create expanded opportunities for small and local retailers. *For further information, contact Sakina Khan at the D.C. Office of Planning at (202) 442-7600 or e-mail her at sakina.khan@dc.gov.*

**Career Opportunity**—The Federal Aviation Association is taking applications for air traffic controller school. We may know someone in the right age group (under 31) and with some effort they could reach a salary of over \$100,000 with benefits in about three years. You need a high school diploma to apply and credit is given for college on the exam. Visit this Web site, [http://www.faa.gov/jobs/job\\_opportunities/](http://www.faa.gov/jobs/job_opportunities/) for details and to fill out the application immediately even if you don't know if you want to attend immediately—it's the federal government and it may take them months to call.

**For Parents of Toddlers and Infants**—To all Hillcrest residents with toddlers and infants, do you have any ideas on how we can come together as a community to provide activities for these young, developing minds? This conversation started on the HillcrestDC list serv but we will like to compile some ideas and bring them to the relevant HCCA board member. If you hear of other kids' activities, e-mail the newsletter editor, Michelle Phipps-Evans, at hillcrestdc\_newsletter@yahoo.com.

**New Traffic Coordinator for PSA 606**—Lt. Ronald Netter recently appointed Sgt. Erik J.

Branson as the traffic coordinator for PSA 606 during October's PSA and ANC meetings. He is in the process of organizing a plan to systematically provide coverage for all the traffic concerns that Hillcrest has identified. Additionally, he has developed a database that will allow officers from multiple shifts to better share intelligence information for himself and Lt. Netter to more efficiently manage the response of the officers to community needs. *For more information, call him at (202) 698-2088 or by pager at (202) 996-1289.*

## HCCA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBER

- Liz Hammond, 2025 38th St., SE



## Theft from Autos

One of the most common types of theft is theft of valuables from your automobile. Theft from auto is strictly a crime of opportunity that can be prevented if you take away the opportunity. Thieves generally won't waste time breaking into autos without valuables in plain sight.

Recently, the Metropolitan Police Department has recorded an increase in thefts from autos, particularly in the downtown area around the Verizon Center during sporting and other events. If you plan on parking your car in this area, be sure to secure your property. Please take the precautions listed below to help ensure your auto is not targeted by thieves:

- **Keep Your Valuables Out of Sight.** The best way to prevent theft from your auto is to keep valuables out of sight. Never leave cell phones, briefcases, suitcases or electronic devices (palm pilots, laptops, iPods, etc.) in plain view. Take them with you, or secure them—all the time, every time.
- **Use Your Trunk.** If your car has a trunk, use it. Put valuables in there or in a locked glove compartment. Hiding items under seats is better than leaving them in plain view, but placing them inside the glove compartment or trunk is a far better deterrent.
- **Don't Tempt Thieves with New Purchases.** During the holiday season especially, or any time you're shopping, place packages in the trunk, not on the passenger seats or floors.
- **Remove Your Radio Faceplate.** If you can unfasten your sound system and take it with you, or lock it in your trunk. Don't forget to do the same with CDs and tapes.
- **Lock It Up.** Also, keep your car doors and windows locked—all the time!
- **Remember: "Outta sight, outta mind"**—if thieves can't see your valuables, they're less likely to waste their time targeting your auto. Take the time to secure your valuables; it makes a difference.

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**SPECIAL FEATURE** (Continued from page 2)

where drugs are sold routinely. PSA 606 and Sixth District police officers and vice squads know the locations but little seems to be done to stop it.

9) **Prostitution.** This has become a serious problem in various locations, and our local police officers and vice

know where these places are.

These are the kinds of problems that will be routinely addressed if we were operating with a comprehensive plan for community policing in Hillcrest and other ANC7B communities. We look forward to having the full implementation of community policing in our communities.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

3	10 a.m.	HCCA Meeting, Hillcrest Recreation Center 32 <sup>nd</sup> and Denver Streets, SE
5	7 p.m.	Friends of Francis Gregory Library Meeting Francis Gregory Library, 3660 Alabama Ave., SE
14	10 a.m.	Goodhope Marketplace Taskforce Meeting Goodhope Police Substation, 2800 blk Alabama Ave., SE
21	6 p.m.	PSA 606 Police/Community Meeting Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter, 3319 Alabama Ave., SE
22	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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