

# THE HILLCREST NEWSLETTER



## HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

*"Working together for a Better Community!"*

www.hillcrestdc.com

P.O. Box 30895, Washington, DC 20030

November 2013

### CALENDER OF EVENTS

#### OBAMACARE

Sign up now at <https://dchealthlink.com>  
or call 1-855-532-5465

#### HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR DC KIDS

Drop off new toys, books, and clothing  
-Sport and Health, 4001 Wisconsin Ave, NW  
-November 2, 2013 HCCA meeting  
-call Earl Williams at 202-584-2703 for pick up

#### HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC

#### ASSOCIATION MEETING

Hillcrest Recreation Center  
32nd and Denver Sts., SE  
Saturday, November 2, 2013 10AM to Noon

#### FRIENDS OF FRANCIS A. GREGORY

#### LIBRARY MEETING

Francis Gregory Library  
3660 Alabama Ave., SE  
Monday, November 4 7PM to 9PM

#### WARD 7 READS BOOK DRIVE

Smothers Elementary School  
4400 Brooks St. NE Washington, DC 20019  
Monday, November 11 10AM to 2PM

#### PSA 606 POLICE COMMUNITY MEETING

East Washington Heights Baptist Church  
2200 Branch Ave., SE  
Wednesday, November 20, 7PM

#### ANC 7B MONTHLY MEETING

Ryland Methodist Church  
3200 S ST., SE  
Thursday, November 21, 7PM- 9PM

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### This Month's Presenters

**Stacy R. Pace** is a Ward 7 resident and owner of the Pace Group, PLLC, a boutique personal finance law firm in downtown DC. She assists with home buying and sales, and provides personalized, no cost analyses of home values. Stacy has written articles and presented on topics focusing on the economy and related issues. Her firm specializes in bankruptcy, veteran's appeals, identity theft, payments and credits.

Stacy is a member of the Maryland and Washington, DC bars. She holds a law degree from George Washington University Law School and has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Cornell University.

**Michael Reed** works for Groundswell, a DC based nonprofit, that connects communities to clean energy while also saving people and institutions money on their utility bills. He manages the implementation of Groundswell's Community Power Project for Homes, which brings together residents in DC and Maryland to leverage their collective purchasing power to receive favorable residential rates for 100% renewable electricity. Prior to joining Groundswell, Michael was the Green Fleets Coordinator for an environmental non-profit that worked to convert public and private fleets to clean vehicles in New York City. Michael holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the NYU Wagner School of Public service as well as a B.A. in Literature from the University of California, San Diego.



#### Holiday Celebration with Catered Luncheon

Saturday, December 7, 2013

Starting at 10:30AM

Hillcrest Recreation Center

Cost: Caterer is asking \$33.00 per person we will try to keep the price at \$20.00 Per Person

We will know the exact price by Tuesday, November 5th.

Meal count must be turned into cater by November 30th so we must have confirmed ticket numbers prior to the 30th.

Contact Yvonne Burke: (202)584-3018

### **Obamacare: What it means for DC Residents**

DC residents can enroll in Obamacare (The Affordable Care Act) through [DC Health Link](#), the new online health insurance marketplace that opened October 1. DC Health Link has new affordable health plan options for individuals, families and small businesses in the District. You can go to DC Health Link to enroll in a health insurance plan that covers essential benefits, pre-existing conditions, and more. Plus, you can see if you qualify for lower costs.

During the "start-up" phase, DC Health Link Assistants and DC Health Link Certified Insurance Experts (licensed brokers) are available from day one to help all users navigate the process of applying, shopping, comparing, and choosing coverage. Hundreds of trained experts provide "concierge" services to consumers and businesses. Instead of [HealthCare.gov](#), you will use the DC Health Link website at <https://dchealthlink.com> or you can call the contact center at [1-855-532-5465](tel:1-855-532-5465) to connect with trained experts for in-person help.

Coverage in private health plans will begin as soon as January 1, 2014. People with low incomes can also use DC Health Link to apply for Medicaid. Medicaid coverage begins on the first day of the month of application.

### **Federal Government Shutdown 2013 is over!!! Thank You Mayor Gray for Defending DC**

Our neighbor and Mayor, Vincent Gray, declared all D.C. workers "essential" and paid them out of reserve funds during the Federal Government shutdown that lasted 16 days. Without this action, a shutdown could have been damaging to the District.

The deal to end the Government shutdown also included a victory for the D.C. government. The bill that President Obama signed early Thursday morning October 16 funds the Federal Government through Jan. 15, and allows the District to spend local funds through September. D.C. Mayor Vincent C. Gray expressed his relief that the city does not have to worry about becoming collateral damage if the government shuts down again.

### **Holiday Gifts for DC Kids**

The Federation of Citizens Associations of the District of Columbia is asking their member associations to participate in their "Holiday Gifts for DC Kids," campaign to provide new toys, books, and clothing which are distributed in December to DC's foster children via CFSA.

As a member of the Federation, this is an excellent way for members of HCCA to share the "Joy of Christmas" with DC's foster children. Last year, the Federation collected over 2,200 presents for DC foster children. HCCA, let's help the Federation help twice as many foster children enjoy the holidays!

You can drop off toys at Sport and Health, 4001 Brandywine St., NW, until December 14, 2013; at the November 2, 2013 HCCA meeting, drop them off at my home or I can pick them up from you. Until December 13, 2013. I will place a list of suggested gift ideas on the listserv or call Earl Williams at 202-584-2703 for gift ideas or if you have any questions. Thank you for your support.

### **More Library Time, More Lunches, More Pizza, More New Hours at Francis Gregory and and Other DC Public Libraries**

Starting Oct. 1, 2013, all DC Public Library locations will open on Sundays and offer expanded hours during the week. Celebrate the libraries' Sunday and expanded hours with us! Enjoy family programs, demonstrations and more. To check the calendar for events near you go to [francisgregorylibrary@dc.gov](mailto:francisgregorylibrary@dc.gov) or call 202-698-6373.

As you discover more at your libraries, you can also win more -- lunches or pizza for your friends and family! Starting Oct. 1, pick up a game card at your nearest library. Each time you visit a library, get a sticker for your game card. When you have four stickers, complete your card and turn it in at a nearby library.

That's it! You'll then be entered to win up to 10 lunches (adults) or 10 pizzas and 30 drinks (kids and teens) for you and your friends.

### **WARD 7 READS BOOK DRIVE SAVE THE DATE**

**November 11th  
10am – 2pm**

**Smothers Elementary School  
4400 Brooks St. NE Washington, DC 20019**



Help our community execute the largest book drive in Ward 7 Washington, D.C. history! Our goal is to deliver over 20,000 books and guarantee a new book for every elementary school student in Ward 7! This year, we're partnering with Octo Consulting, Oliva Consulting, Project 7 Refocus, and

First Book to meet our goals.

Donate. Every \$10 you donate buys 3-4 new books for children in need—though any amount is appreciated. All donations are fully deductible and First Book will provide a receipt for tax purposes. To donate via the virtual book drive, please use the following link: [www.firstbook.org/Ward7Reads](http://www.firstbook.org/Ward7Reads).

Join the Extravaganza. On Veteran's Day, November 11th, we'll hold the Ward 7 Reads! Extravaganza. We will also have information for parents on the school lottery, reading programs and after school programs. Parents should bring the entire family for a day full of food, moon bounces and educational activities for kids.

**East of the River Application School:  
Education and Recreation Committee's On-Going  
Discussion With Councilmember Catania and  
Chancellor Henderson**

The Education and Recreation committee members met with Chancellor Henderson and Councilmember Catania, regarding the establishment of an application school east of the river. This summer, the committee submitted a proposal to Chancellor Henderson on behalf of parents and students who seek a high-quality educational option in Wards 7 and 8. Chancellor Henderson made a commitment to work with committee members to bring a high-standard academic program to our area. The committee is scheduled to meet again with Councilmember Catania and Chancellor Henderson later this month to discuss the 3 options DCPS will present.

**Enlightened Environmentalist Annual Fall Cleanup:  
"Thank You Residents and Friends of Hillcrest"**

The Environmental Committee of the Hillcrest Community Civic Association would like to personally thank everyone who participated in their own way to make the annual fall cleanup successful. On Saturday September 21, residents, friends and MPD met at 8:00AM on the parking lot of the East Washington Heights Baptist Church. Specifically, 16 participants arrived on time and received their supplies and work assignments with enthusiasm. Approximately 10 block leaders took charge of their individual streets and cleaned them thoroughly. The Committee's goal is to request regular scheduled mechanical and manual street and alley cleaning from the DC Department of Public Works. However, we feel that residents have a responsibility to clean the front and rear of their properties on a regular basis, as well as perform proper disposal of their household trash for weekly collections.

Participants who made the cleanup successful:

Chandra Walker	Mary Hammond	Diane Scroggins
De'Andre Anderson	Carolyn Ray	Ruth Lewis
Sheila Brown	Rita Lowry	Eddie Witten
James Perkins	John Hawkins	Kenneth Burke
Robin Marlin Hammond		Willard Poteat
Phillip Hammond	Ofc. Andre Persaud	

Block Leaders

Elwyn Smith	Ardie Myers
Gloria Logan	David Kirkpatrick
Hudie Fleming	Michelle Phipps Evans
Yvonne Dupree	Veronica Davis
Karen Williams	3744 Camden (name unknown)

At the conclusion of the cleanup Mary Ross, Chair of the Environment Committee, hosted our annual picnic with hamburgers and other refreshments at her

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## The Enlightened Environmentalist

### Fall: A Time to Exclude Bats, Mice and Asian Stink Bugs from Your Home

If you have found bat dropping (similar to but larger than those of mice) in your attic or elsewhere in your home, now is the time to evict them. Bats consider the attics, chimneys walls and hollow floors of our homes excellent shelter because they are dark and dank.

EE has found that releasing in the attic an insect fogger containing pyrethrins will result in bats immediately leaving your attic. The two top manufacturers of insecticide for home use make a fogger containing pyrethrins, advertised as a flea and bedbug fogger. Each of these companies issues the product in lavender colored packaging.

If you've heard what you suspect as bat movement in your walls, EE has found a method to let our mosquito eating friends know they are not welcome: Saturate a cotton ball with 100% oil of peppermint and place it in the wall through an access panel (such as the one where the water shut off valve for the house is located). Bats will take wing out of your house. One hundred per cent oil of peppermint can be found at the health food store.

Bats are creatures of habit, and they will return. Therefore it is important to find your bat doors and seal them up. Look in the area of the roof for entry points as small as 3/8" wide. Inspect areas such as vents, louvers, chimneys and openings from warped/missing boards. Prevent future bat entry with chimney covers, mesh hardware such as chicken wire, silicone, etc.

In seeking methods to evict bats, EE discovered that fogging the attic with pyrethrins also kills Asian stink bugs. We have all heard the rumor that sting bugs are invisible. Try pyrethrins and test it for yourself.

Further EE discovered that mice will not visit areas in which the scent of oil of peppermint prevails. In addition to putting cotton balls saturated with oil of peppermint in the walls, place them under the kitchen sink and behind the kitchen stove and refrigerator. Additionally in a pail, mix a cleaning solution of 1 and 1/2 gallon of water, 1/4 cup of white distilled vinegar and two teaspoons of 100% oil of peppermint. Wipe down kitchen appliances, and cabinets and damp mop tile and wood floors with this solutions. The vermin will bid you good-bye and never look back.

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home. A special thanks is extended to Officer Andre Persaud for his safety oversight and to Earl Simpson, Supervisor with the Solid Waste Administration of Public Works, and his staff for providing bags and the collection of debris from the cleanup.

### Obamacare Q&As

#### What is Obamacare?

In March 2010, President Obama signed comprehensive health reform, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), into law. Often referred to as Obamacare, the law makes preventive care—including family planning and related services—more accessible and affordable for many Americans. While some provisions of the law have already taken effect, many more provisions will be implemented in the coming years.

#### What if someone doesn't have health coverage in 2014?

If someone who can afford health insurance doesn't have coverage in 2014, they may have to pay a fee. They also have to pay for all of their health care.

#### What happens when an uninsured person needs care?

When someone without health coverage gets urgent, often expensive, medical care but doesn't pay the bill, everyone else ends up paying the price. That's why the health care law requires all people who can afford it to take responsibility for their own health insurance by getting coverage or paying a penalty. People without health coverage will also have to pay the entire cost of all their medical care. They won't be protected from the kind of very high medical bills that can sometimes lead to bankruptcy.

#### What is the fee in 2014 and beyond?

The fee in 2014 is 1% of your yearly income or \$95 per person for the year, whichever is higher. The fee increases every year. In 2016 it is 2.5% of income or \$695 per person, whichever is higher. In 2014 the fee for uninsured children is \$47.50 per child. The most a family would have to pay in 2014 is \$285. It's important to remember that someone who pays the fee won't get any health insurance coverage. They still will be responsible 100% of the cost of their medical care. After open enrollment ends on March 31, 2014, they won't be able to get health coverage through the Marketplace until the next annual enrollment period, unless they have a qualifying life event.

#### What is the Minimum essential coverage?

To avoid the fee in 2014 you need insurance that qualifies as minimum essential coverage. If you're covered by any of the following in 2014, you're considered covered and don't have to pay a penalty: Any Marketplace plan, or any individual insurance plan you already have; Any employer plan (including COBRA), with or without "grandfathered" status. This includes retiree plans; Medicare; Medicaid; The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP); TRICARE (for current service members and military retirees, their families, and survivors); Veterans health care programs (including the Veterans Health Care Pro-

gram, VA Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA), and Spina Bifida Health Care Benefits Program); Peace Corps Volunteer plans; Other plans may also qualify. Ask your health coverage provider.

#### How do you get more information?

For more information on Obamacare, go to <https://healthlink.com>. You can also call the contact center at 1-855-532-5465 or you can visit [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov), the official Affordable Care Act website at [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov).

## HCCA Board

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Mark Johnson, Chair, Streets, Traffic and Transportation

Contact information is available on our website at [www.hillcrestdc.com](http://www.hillcrestdc.com)



HCCA wishes all our members, friends, and neighbors a very blessed and

*Happy Thanksgiving!*



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