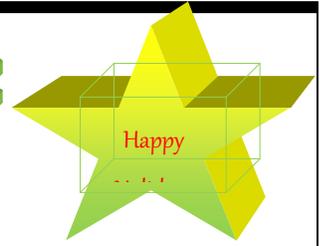




Hillcrest Community Civic Association  
 "Working together for a better community"  
[www.HillcrestDC.com](http://www.HillcrestDC.com)

P.O. Box 30895, Washington, D.C. 20030-0895, phone 202-584-2703

# The Hillcrest Newsletter



**DECEMBER 2012**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

PLACE: HILLCREST RECREATION CENTER  
 32<sup>ND</sup> AND DENVER ST. SE

TIME: SATURDAY, DEC. 1, FROM 10 A.M. TO NOON

### CAROLING AND TREE TRIMMING IN HILLCREST

PLACE: 28<sup>TH</sup> AND PENNSYLVANIA AVE., SE  
 TIME: SATURDAY, DEC. 1, 6 P.M.

### FRIENDS OF FRANCIS A. GREGORY LIBRARY MEETING

PLACE: FRANCIS GREGORY LIBRARY  
 3660 ALABAMA AVE., SE

TIME: MONDAY, DEC. 3, 7 P.M.

### HOLIDAYS IN HILLCREST

PLACE: 2332 33<sup>RD</sup> ST., SE

TIME: SATURDAY, DEC. 8, FROM 5 P.M. TO 8 P.M.

### PSA 606 POLICE COMMUNITY MEETING

PLACE: EAST WASHINGTON HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH  
 2220 BRANCH AVE., SE

TIME: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 19, 6 P.M. TO 7 P.M.

### ANC 7B MONTHLY MEETING

PLACE: RYLAND METHODIST CHURCH, 3200 S ST., SE  
 TIME: THURSDAY, DEC. 20, 7 P.M.-9 P.M.

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## What is the Sustainable DC Plan

**J**oin the HCCA at the last meeting of the year on Dec. 1, at 10 a.m. to hear about the ambitious initiative, Sustainable DC.

Two project leaders from the D.C. government will present. Policy Analyst Dan Guilbeault at the Department of the Environment, and Urban Sustainability Planner Laine Cidlowski at the Office of Planning will discuss the Sustainable DC planning process, its content and some of the ambitious goals within the plan. They will also touch upon innovative strategies to reach those goals and current initiatives occurring across the city that have sustainability impacts. Sustainable DC will leave the District as the healthiest, greenest, and most livable city in the United States. More information about the plan can be found on the website: <http://sustainable.dc.gov/>.

## Hillcrest Announcements



(L-R) WUSATV9 reporter Delia Gonçalves, Washington Informer publisher Denise Rolark Barnes and DCist editor-in-chief Martin Austermuhle joined the HCCA at the November meeting to discuss innovative ways for the membership to approach various media to entice them to cover the community. Moderated by HCCA communications chair, Michelle Phipps-Evans, the workshop, "The Art of the Pitch" touched upon blogs and Twitter being used as media tools; how to get past "if it bleeds it leads;" and how to tell a compelling story.

### Annual Fall Hillcrest Community Cleanup

The HCCA Environmental Committee would like to personally thank everyone who participated in their own way to make the

*Continued on page 2*

annual community cleanup on Saturday, Oct. 27, 2012, successful. Specifically, eight residents and one community worker met on the parking lot of East Washington Heights Baptist Church at 8 a.m. Blessed with good weather, they performed the task of bagging trash and pulling down illegal posters with enthusiasm. Additionally, six residents took charge of their individual streets and cleaned them thoroughly.

The Environmental Committee's goal is to encourage residents of this community to commit to picking up litter in the front and rear of their homes, and to remove illegal posters from trees, light poles and medians on an as needed basis. There also needs to be a concerted effort by residents to properly containerize and dispose their household trash for the weekly collections.

Again, the HCCA Environmental Committee thanks the following for their participation: Mary Hammond, Rita Lowry, Gloria Logan, Derek Grant, Kenneth Burke, Ruth Lewis, James Perkins, Robin Marlin, Phillip Hammond, Elwyn Smith, Mary Ross, George Rose, Kathy Chamberlain, Bob Bush and Carolyn Richardson.

A special thanks is extended to Department of Public Works (DPW) Sweep Inspector Anita Chavis for providing the community worker, and DPW Supervisor Earl Simpson with the Solid Waste Administration and his staff for providing trash bags and for collecting the debris from the cleanup.

### Burns Prevents House From Burning

Letter carrier Earl C. Burns was walking his delivery route in Hillcrest recently. When he approached the front door of a house, he detected the odor of something burning. A knock on the door was not answered. Burns promptly informed neighbors of what he had detected and continued on his route. Other neighbors were informed of the situation and they tracked down the occupant of the home by telephone.

When the homeowner returned to the premises, the owner discovered a smoking pot on the stove in which all moisture had evaporated and the food had exploded. While there was smoke in the house, no permanent damage occurred. The pot, however, was totally destroyed. Following is a copy of the letter of commendation from the Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe to Burns. Thus it can be said Burns prevented a house from burning:

Dear Mr. Burns, I read with pride of your initiative to notify neighbors of the smell of something burning in a customer's house. Based on your alert, neighbors contacted the homeowner, who returned home to discover she had left a pot burning on the stove. Because of your keen observations, this situation had a positive outcome. I know your customers are grateful for your efforts. Thank you for being the eyes and ears of your community. The Postal Service has played an integral role in the daily lives of

*Continued on page 3*

## The President's Message

### Dear Neighbors:

Welcome to another holiday season. I hope you will join us for our *Holiday in Hillcrest Celebration* on Saturday, Dec. 8, 2012. This event is HCCA's format to reach out to our neighbors who do not normally attend our monthly meetings, and those who do, to come together to celebrate the holidays and our wonderful community. I hope you will all put Dec. 8 on your calendar.

The December meeting will follow our regular format. I hope to see you there. As we start another year, I am asking that you come prepared to let us know what your priorities for our organization in 2013 will be. At the sign-in desk you will find a survey form. Please stop and pick one up, fill it out and return it to the membership chair. Remember, this is your association, so we need your input!

I would like to thank all of you who supported me in my various efforts to serve our community and city. Without your confidence in me, I would not have been able to continue to move forward. I have always known how blessed I was to be a part of this community, and I have enjoyed being of service. To experience the support I received from people all across the ward was overwhelming. There are no words to express how much I owe you all. I pray I can make a difference in the landscape of this city. May we all continue to be blessed!



*COME AND CELEBRATE*

## HOLIDAYS IN HILLCREST

*SPONSORED BY THE HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION*

Music, Wine, Non-alcoholic beverages, Light fare, Desserts

Saturday, December 8, 2012

5 – 8 PM

2332 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, SE

(33<sup>rd</sup> and Bangor)

(Enter the heated party tent on Bangor Street)

### Tickets:

\$15 - Adults

\$5 for Children, 6 – 12

Free for Children under 6

For ticket information, contact Sheila Brown,

202.297.3883 or Earl Williams, 202.584.2703

Tickets will be available at the December HCCA Meeting

**DON'T MISS THIS HOLIDAY CELEBRATION**



## THE ENLIGHTENED ENVIRONMENTALIST

### Tips For Beautiful Flowers in the Spring

“If winter comes, can spring be far behind?” With this thought in mind, and before Father Frost freezes the ground solid, here are a few things you can do to make your garden beautiful in the spring.

There is debate regarding removal of dead leaves from flower beds. There are schools of thought on both sides. Fueled by the proposition that dead leaves must not be placed in landfills, some believe that dead leaves are vital to the ecosystem because they provide slow released nutrients, retain water and neutralize acids. Therefore, leaving dead leaves in flower beds is quite fashionable.

On the other hand, in tree-enriched Hillcrest, leaving leaves as they fall in gardens, particularly in this bumper-crop-of-leaves year, is something to ponder. Will such a mass of leaves, particularly from large leaf producing trees, not only produce a barrier that prevents water from reaching the soil but also screen out desirable ground cover? Leaves don't decompose over the winter, so won't they need to be removed in the spring ANYWAY?

A compromise: Chopping up some of the leaves will hasten decomposition and enable them to provide benefits to the garden as an organic mulch-like cover around trees and shrubbery.

You still have time if you act within the next couple of weeks to plant bulbs that produce flowers in the spring. The idea is to have them in the ground six weeks before the ground is frozen solid. All spring flowering bulbs, including tulips, will bloom the first spring after planting. However after the first year, my tulips failed to bloom. Relocating them to areas of the garden that had full sun to light shade during the summer resulted in tulips blooming, if not perennially, more often. So, consider summer sunlight when choosing a place to plant bulbs. Additionally you might still divide and transplant existing bulbs and other perennials during this time.

Finally, for azaleas that will produce large beautiful blooms, sprinkle Epsom salt around the perimeter of the bush. If it doesn't rain or snow within a few days of your doing this, water your azaleas. You will be pleased come spring!

HCCA Environmental Committee

#### Hillcrest Announcements, Continued from page 1

American citizens for 237 years. Through the faithful completion of their daily rounds, and by going the extra mile for customers whenever needed, letter carriers maintain and strengthen this proud tradition. Your efforts remind us all of the ties that bind communities and our country together. We are fortunate to have an employee of your caliber as part of our postal family. Well done!

#### Caroling in Hillcrest

Join your neighbors in the second annual caroling and tree trimming celebration on Saturday, Dec. 1, at 6 p.m. Meet in the park across the street from St. Francis Xavier Church on 28<sup>th</sup> Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, SE. Refreshments will be available. For more information, contact Lisa Shaw at (313) 350-7529.

#### Five Year Economic Development Strategy

Mayor Vincent C. Gray released Nov. 14 the city's Five-Year Economic Development Strategy. It provides a roadmap for creating 100,000 new jobs and attracting \$1 billion in new revenue for the District over the next five years. The strategy includes six transformative visions for the District economy. For more information, visit the website at <http://dmped.dc.gov/DC/DMPED>

#### The New Hillcrest Board

At last month's meeting, the HCCA voted for its board to serve for the next two years. Below are the names of the board membership:

- Karen Williams, President
- Michelle Phipps-Evans, First Vice President
- Boyle Stuckey, Second Vice President
- Deborah Johnson, Secretary
- Monica Holman, Treasurer
- Kenneth Burke, Parliamentarian
- Frank Anderson, Chaplain

#### Committee Chairs:

- Mattie Cheek, Communications
  - De'Andre Anderson, Education and Recreation
  - Mary Ross, Environmental and Beautification
  - Sheila Brown, Fundraising
  - Philip Hammond, Membership
  - David Kirkpatrick, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
  - Mark Johnson, Streets, Traffic and Transportation
- In January, their contact information will be available on the website at [www.hillcrestdc.com](http://www.hillcrestdc.com). HCCA thanks Linda Jackson and her team for leading this effort.

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## Got Ideas????

Please email any ideas or articles for the newsletter by the 15th of the month to the editor, Michelle Phipps-Evans, at [hillcrestdc\\_newsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:hillcrestdc_newsletter@yahoo.com).

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

Visit the website at [www.hillcrestdc.com](http://www.hillcrestdc.com)  
Join the conversation on the listserv at  
[HillcrestDC@vahoogroups.com](mailto:HillcrestDC@vahoogroups.com)

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES FOR 2012?** *Your paid-through Date is on the mailing label of this news-letter. If it is earlier than 2012, please send your payment now. The cost is \$12/year.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash  Check



Hillcrest Community Civic Association

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P.O. Box 30895

Washington, D.C. 20030-0895

## The HCCA Newsletter

*A publication by the Hillcrest Community Civic Association*

*The Hillcrest Community Civic Association promotes the welfare of our neighborhood. Our purpose is simple--to voice our concerns to government officials, businesses, and residents to ensure the best possible living environment in the Ward 7 neighborhood of Hillcrest.*

### HCCA Board

Karen Williams, President

Kathy Chamberlain, 1<sup>st</sup> VP

Boyle Stuckey, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP

Yvonne Dupree, Record. Secretary

Monica Evans, Treasurer

Kenneth Burke, Parliamentarian

John Hawkins, Chaplain

Mary Ross, Chair, Environmental

Philip Hammond, Chair, Membership

David Kirkpatrick, Chair, Public Safety

Michelle P. Evans, Chair, Communications

Veronica Davis, Chair, Street, Traffic, Transportation

Sheila Brown, Chair, Fundraising

Yvonne Burke, Chair, Hospitality

Vacant, Recreation and Education