



Hillcrest Community Civic Association

"Working together for a better community"

www.HillcrestDC.com

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

FEBRUARY 2010

Next Meeting: Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010, at 10 a.m.

At the Hillcrest Recreation Center, Corner of Denver & 32nd Streets, SE

NOTE: Meetings are normally held the first Saturday of the month.

Speaker to be Announced

The HCCA had invited the general manager for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, John Catoe, to be this month's speaker. However, earlier in January he had resigned his post, effective in April. We will announce a replacement at the monthly meeting. We look forward to your continued support.

The Results of the Third Annual Holiday Decoration

The HCCA recognized the 11 winning households for their outstanding holiday decorations this season at the January meeting. The winners are listed to the right.

The HCCA Home Decorating Contest Committee, Marvin Bowser, Kathy Chamberlain, John Johnson, Tom Beach and Mike Harrod had a great time touring the neighborhood in the almost two feet of

(Continued on page 3)

Table with 2 columns: Home Owner, Award. Lists winners like Ed and Jill Shea (Best Traditional Display), Carrie Free (Best Traditional Display), etc.

Community Calendar for February

- 6 10 a.m. HCCA Meeting, Hillcrest Community Center, 32nd & Denver St., SE
8 7 p.m. Friends of Francis Gregory Library Meeting, Francis Gregory Library, 3660 Alabama Ave., SE
10 10 a.m. Goodhope Marketplace Taskforce Meeting, Goodhope Police Substation, 2800 blk Alabama Ave., SE
17 6 p.m. PSA 606 Police/Community Meeting, Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter, 3319 Alabama Ave., SE
18 7 p.m. ANC 7B Monthly Meeting, Ryland Methodist Church, 3200 "S" St., SE

Scout meeting every Saturday morning, 9:30 a.m.—Cub Scouts; 11 a.m.—Boy Scouts at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

Special points of interest:

- HCCA Holiday Home Decorating Contest winners.
Notes from the Open Forum. Were your issues addressed?
Farewell letter from the Spauldings.

Inside this issue:

Table with 2 columns: Article Title, Page Number. Includes Message from the President (2), Did You Know You Can... (2), Hillcrest News and Updates (3).

Message from the President

Dear Neighbors,

At the first HCCA meeting for 2010, we held an open forum. The purpose of hosting this forum was to give the membership an opportunity to express their topics of concern. In this newsletter, you can review the complete list of these concerns.

At the conclusion of the meeting each issue was assigned to a board committee to investigate, develop a plan of action and present this plan to the membership. Many of the concerns fell to our Street, Transportation and Traffic Committee (STTC). I am, therefore, requesting any member who has an interest in working on solutions to one or more of these problems, please attend the next meeting of the STTC. Contact committee chair Carrie Thornhill to find out the date, time and location of the next meeting.

There was also a request to start a Housing Committee to investigate what is happening to properties in our community. We need members who are interested in developing a Housing Committee to please step forward. If you are interested, you can me call at (202) 584-2703 or email me at klwilliams@hillcresdc.com.

In case you didn't know, our long time PSA Lieutenant Ronald Netter has been transferred to Central Cell Block. We'll miss him but we wish him well. Our new PSA Lieutenant is Mark Hodge, (202) 698-2088.

Well, enjoy the rest of the month, and I hope to see you at the next meeting.

Karen

Hillcrest Open Forum

At the January meeting, the HCCA held an open forum to give residents the opportunity to discuss the issues they need addressed. Several residents discussed their issues, which ranged from cell phone services to crime and trash in the neighborhood to more community outreach and

participation. Following are the issues raised and the HCCA committee to which they were assigned.

Concerns

EDUCATION/RECREATION COMMITTEE

- 1) Need more involvement from the community in the new Francis Gregory Library and its development.
- 2) Continue collaboration with the Pali-

sades Civic Association and increase participation

STREETS, TRAFFIC, TRANSPORTATION

- 1) Circulator Bus: There is a need to increase public transportation between Hillcrest and Capitol Hill. With the Pennsylvania Avenue construction and parking restrictions on the Hill, driving there is becoming increasingly difficult.
- 2) A crosswalk is needed in front the Francis Gregory Library.
- 3) Follow up on the traffic redirect that would make 27th Street two way.
- 4) Illegal turns at Branch and Alabama avenues. ANC7B is working on it.
- 5) DDOT has funds for alley repair and paving. Members should contact Alberta Paul at Alberta.paul@dc.gov.
- 6) More sidewalks are needed in Hillcrest.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- 1) Follow-up with Lt. Mark Hodge on prostitution and other crimes in the Park Drive area. Also, Park Police needs to be involved as the wooded area is Park Service's property.
- 2) Increased involvement with Neighborhood Watch (NW). Increase the level of communication on the activities with HCCA.

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Did You Know You Can.....

• Get Free Computer Classes at the Library?

If you are over 55, and you live in Ward 5 or 7, you might be able to take free computer literacy classes at the Frances A. Gregory Neighborhood Library, 3660 Alabama Ave., SE, and the Woodridge Neighborhood Library, 1801 Hamlin St., NE.

The courses will cover computer basics, and include how to use a computer to manage health and finances, access government services and apply for jobs.

After 32 hours of instruction, participants will receive a free refurbished computer and may be eligible for two years of free Internet access. The program is a part-

nership between the DC Public Library, the D.C. Office of the Chief Technology Officer, and three nonprofits, Byte Back, First Time Computers, Cricket Wireless and One Economy. To register, please call (202) 529-3395 .



HILLCREST NEWS AND UPDATES

A Note From the Spauldings

Dear Hillcrest,

I'm sorry to have left D.C. without saying goodbye. Paula and I decided to move to Cary, North Carolina, over a year ago for family and life transitional reasons. We put our D.C. house up for sale last spring. After months of nibbles but no bites, we had resigned ourselves to spending Christmas in the District, and maybe staying until the housing market recovered.

Our house sold in November, however, and we had to be out in five days—not much time to say our good-byes. It was an extremely hectic time, and I'm not so good at good-byes even under normal circumstances. Let me take this opportunity to say thank you, Hillcrest Community Civic Association, for being the strong organization that you are, and the best civic organization in the city. We're keeping our membership, of course.

To my many friends in Hillcrest, please don't consider this a goodbye. Paula and I will be in the D.C. area frequently—we have daughters in the area.

Please stay in touch. My email and cell phone number are the same and should be included in the new HCCA directory.

Sincerely,
Vince and Paula Spaulding



Art News

Serenity Players will perform a production, the "Paul Robeson Story," by Philip Hayes Deane. It stars Hugh Staples as Paul Robeson and James Foster Jr. as Lawrence Brown, the pianist.

It will be at THEARC at 1901 Mississippi Ave., SE, starting during Black History Month on Friday, Feb. 5, at 11 a.m. matinee and 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, Feb. 6 at 1 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 7 at 4 p.m. Seating is limited so reservations required. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors, and children under 18. Call Doris A.M. Thomas at (202) 575-4248.

Hillcrest Open Forum

(Continued from page 2)

3) Recruit NW block captains; increase outreach within the community. Need more strengthened communication and involvement. Need to fill block captain positions.

HOUSING (NEW)

1) Create a housing committee to know what is happening with housing such as ex-offender reentry programs, group and vacant homes.

2) Need someone to take the lead on communicating to the residents that the community standards are deteriorating (trash, parking in yards, junk in yards)

ENVIRONMENTAL

1) Get support from ANC7B and Councilmember Yvette Alexander on the erosion at Algiers Park bounded by 30th and Park streets. Public alley on 30th Street is compounding the erosion because the city has not provided drainage in that area.

GOODHOPE MARKETPLACE

1) Continue the efforts to get the Marketplace owners to maintain the property,



especially the Safeway.

MEMBERSHIP

1) More community outreach to increase membership and participation. Need to find ways to meet new neighbors.

NO COMMITTEE ASSIGNED YET

1) 311 Services are not reachable by cellphone. Hillcrest needs someone to give specifics on how the system works.

2) Frequent updates on the Skyland and Penn Branch Shopping Center projects.

3) Find a way to have the city advise residents of upgrades and work planned in the neighborhood. Although certain parts of the properties are city owned, it would be great to know what is going on so that if work is needed to be done on one's property, it is done correctly and does not add damage to the property.

Hillcrest Holiday Decorating Contest *(Continued from page 1)*



snow.

This year's winners.

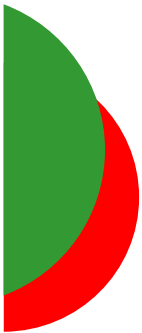

Committee

members, and talented artists, Kathy Chamberlain and John Johnson, created the hand-painted ornaments, which I presented to our winners this year. Some of our winners attended the HCCA meeting in January as seen in the above photo. Many thanks to all and we look forward to next year.

—Marvin Bowser



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WE'RE ON THE WEB
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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES FOR 2010? Your paid-through date is on the mailing label of this newsletter. If it is earlier than 2010, please send your payment now.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ ZIP code: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail: _____

New Member: _____ Renewal: _____

I prefer to: ____ read the newsletter on the web (www.HillcrestDC.com) or ____ receive the newsletter in the mail. (Please help us save postage by reading the newsletter online.)

I'd like to serve on the following committee(s): _____

Annual dues are \$12/year. Make check payable to the
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