



NEWSLETTER

HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter
3319 Alabama Avenue, Southeast
Washington, D.C. 20020
www.HillcrestDC.com

Next Meeting: Saturday, November 6, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.

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

November Guest Speakers are Democratic Candidates for City Council Vincent Gray (Ward 7) and Kwame Brown (At Large)

With his long-standing involvement and commitment to children, **Vincent C. Gray** has a solid reputation for being a champion for youth and their families. As Executive Director of Covenant House Washington, Gray continues to achieve milestones in the development and expansion of social, developmental and educational opportunities for children and youth residing in Washington, D.C.

In May 2003, Gray assumed the role of Chairperson of the Ward 7 Democrats following his election in March. He also serves as Chair of the Ward Chairpersons Committee on the District of Columbia Democratic State Committee.

He is a member of several consortia and membership organizations addressing the vital needs of inner city youth. He is the recipient of numerous honors, awards and citations, including the Mayor's Distinguished Public Service Award, and the United Way Outstanding Service to the Community Award.

In the past twelve years, **Kwame Brown** has honed his skills and developed many attributes by diversifying his career path. He has worked in various positions for MCI, Wal-Mart Corporation, CitiGroup, and First Union. In 1999, President William J. Clinton appointed Kwame Brown Senior Advisor at the United States Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency. After one year as Senior Advisor, Brown was promoted by Secretary Norman Mineta as the Director of the Business Liaison Office within the Commerce Department. Currently, Brown is President/CEO of the Maryland/District of Columbia Minority Supplier Development Council. The eclectic mixture of career opportunities has given Kwame Brown invaluable experience in the private, public, and non-profit sectors.

Brown currently sits on the Board of Directors for the DC Children's Trust Fund, and has been involved in community organizations such as the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship. He also works with the Good Samaritan Foundation, which hires students from underprivileged environments to work with successful minority business owners in Washington, D.C. Brown is currently the Co-Chair of the Hillcrest Civic Association legislative committee. He is also the Chair of the Ward 7 Committee on Boards and Commissions.

President's Message

I am using, with the permission of Rev. Kip Banks, Pastor of East Washington Heights Baptist Church, a statement to the members of his church on community building for my "President's Message" this month. Rev. Banks sends weekly inspirational messages to his church members and this statement contains some very good advice on community building:

How To Build Community

We often lament the bad happenings in our community and we speak about the community like it's a monolithic place. But the reality is that very often we're not talking about community, but instead the neighborhoods and places where we live.

Communities are more than spatial realities. Communities are places where people have things in common and live together in unity (Acts 2:44). Communities are a spiritual reality and it takes time to build them. But not only does it take time to build a community, it also takes hard work to maintain it. Here are some suggestions on how we can build and maintain community:

Turn off your T.V. --Leave your house --Get to know your neighbors --Greet people -- Look up when you're walking --Sit on your stoop -- Plant flowers --Use your local library --Buy from local merchants --Share what you have --Take children to the park -- Honor elders -- Support neighborhood schools -- Fix it even if you didn't break it --Have potlucks -- Talk to the mail carrier -- Listen to the birds -- Put up a swing -- Help carry something heavy -- Barter for your goods -- Start a tradition. Ask a question. -- Hire young people for odd jobs --Organize a block party --Bake extra and share -- Listen before you react to anger -- Mediate a conflict. Seek to understand --Learn from new and uncomfortable angles -- Know that no one is silent, though many are not heard. Work to change this.

Vincent M. Spaulding, President, HCCA

Hillcrest Community Center Is Open

The new Hillcrest Community Center is up and running and open to the public. Operating hours are Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and closed on Sundays. Except for a few items, the center is basically completed. This is a beautiful state of the art facility with plenty of space for all the activities for mind and body, youth and seniors. Please come visit and sign up for one of the many programs they offer. I am sure there is one that will fit your needs.

Just to name a few: quilting, knitting, adult basketball, aerobics classes, MS office computer training for all ages, web design, after school homework, African dance classes, personal training, Yoga, Ladies in Training mentoring program, teen club, chess club, story telling, digital photography, Intro to Computers, SAT prep classes, urban investment workshops.

The HCCA and DPR are planning a grand opening for the new Hillcrest Community Center, to be held on December 18, 2004. The entire community is welcome and invited to attend. More information to follow.

Mark D. Johnson – Chairman, HCCA Recreation Committee

Success Reigns Supreme

On a typical fall day, cool and cloudy with the chance of rain, Hillcrest volunteers met the challenge. Today, Hillcrest is much cleaner due to the hard work of a small committed group of Hillcrest residents. At the first cleanup site, our efforts attracted the interest of George Norfleet, a resident and member of HCCA, who lives with his wife Faye at 3601 "U" Street, S.E. He joined our group and reinforced our efforts. At the next site, we were joined by Kathy Chamberlain and Cathy Keen, neighbors who live in the 2900 block of "W" Street. The sites were cleaned and the trash collected by DPW by 12 noon. The cleanup sites included the following:

N/S of "U" Street, from Branch Avenue to 36th Street

N/S of Park Drive, from Branch Avenue to 30th Street

E/S of 30th Street, from the Wellness Center to Erie Street

E/S of Branch Avenue, from Erie Street to Southern Avenue

N/S of Southern Avenue, from Branch Avenue to Erie Street

The members of the Environmental Committee would like to "APPLAUD" and "THANK" the new volunteers, George Norfleet, Cathy Keen, and Ann Curtsinger for making a visible difference in the appearance of our beautiful Hillcrest community. I would like to thank them all for making this event a success. The other volunteers were: Mary Hammond, Robin Marlin and myself.

Phillip Hammond, Chair, Environmental Committee

Five Years at Twining - What next?

Time flies! Yes, it's been almost five years since we signed up with the National Park Service (NPS) to adopt Twining Square, the triangle park on Pennsylvania Ave SE between 27th and 28th St. In April 2005, we will have fulfilled our commitment. Now what? It's up to you.

As a community, we need to decide whether to continue. The NPS has done their part in terms of support. They have provided the plantings, compost, mulch, and all other materials we requested. They have invested thousands of dollars in materials; replaced the missing trees and shrubs; provided a source of water for the garden; and even installed two beautiful benches. True, the cobblestone surface still needs repairing, but we hope to get some good news on that very soon. The question is: Should we sign another agreement with the National Park Service, or should we let the park go, hoping that somehow things will take care of themselves? Of one thing we can be certain - the NPS does not have the manpower to maintain the park to the standard we have become accustomed.

When we first adopted the park, we had about 40 volunteers. Now we're down to about 5 regulars. Has the community lost interest? The park is too big for 5 volunteers working a few hours per month. Only if more volunteers join us can we continue maintaining the park. Is everyone just too busy? Are Saturday work sessions inconvenient? Perhaps small groups of volunteers could adopt specific sections of the park, working at whatever time is convenient. What can be done to make it easier for you to participate? If you enjoy the beauty of the park, please consider how it will look if the community abandons it. You have all winter to think about it. As Twining Park takes its winter rest, lets plan for the years ahead. I look forward to your suggestions.

Kathy Chamberlain, on behalf of Friends of Twining Square
202 581-8272; email: kathychamberlain at starpower dot net

Community Calendar for November

- 02 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. –Please VOTE at your polling place!!!
- 06 10:00 a.m. - Hillcrest Community Civic Association Meeting (Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter)
- 10 10:00 a.m.-Goodhope Marketplace Taskforce Meeting, Good Hope Marketplace Substation, Alabama Ave., SE
- 10 7:00 p.m. –Police/Community Meeting, PSA 605B, 6th District Substation, 2701 Pa Ave, SE
- 13 10:00 am—3:00pm –Skyland Townhall Mtg, Winston Ed. Ctr., 3100 Erie St SE
- 17 6:00 p.m. –Police/Community Meeting, PSA 606, 6th District Substation, 2701 Pa Ave, SE
- 18 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. ANC 7B Regular Monthly Meeting
- 27 10:00 a.m. – Friends of Francis Gregory Library, Francis Gregory Library, 3660 Alabama Ave., SE
for more calendar events, check www.HillcrestDC.com/calendar.htm

HCCA Welcomes the Following New Members:

Betty Servaites & John Behrens - 2337 34th Street SE
Ethel Burrell - 3642 Camden Street SE
Liz Garcia - 2515 33rd. Street SE
Dan Olds & Jarvin Davis - 2500 33rd. Street SE
William H. Edwards - 3182 Westover Dr. SE
Alma R. Candeleria - 2005 31st. Street SE
Gregory N. Brown - 2000 Branch ave. SE
Maurice Perry –2627 32nd Street, SE

Have you paid your dues yet?

It's only \$10 per year. Get on track and send your payment NOW!!!!

Names(s) _____
Address _____ zip code _____
Phone number _____ E-mail _____
New Member _____ Renewal _____
Recruited by _____

Make check payable to Hillcrest Community Civic Association and mail to: Dennis Logan, Treasurer,
3624 Austin Street SE, Washington DC 20020 phone: 582-4724