

HILLCREST NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year

HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING
 Hillcrest Recreation Center
 32ND and Denver St., SE
 Saturday, January 3, 2015
 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

FRIENDS OF FRANCIS A. GREGORY LIBRARY MEETING
 Francis Gregory Library
 3660 Alabama Ave., SE
 Monday, January 5, 7 PM to 9 PM

PSA 606 POLICE COMMUNITY MEETING
 East Washington Heights
 Baptist Church
 2200 Branch Ave., SE
 Wednesday, January 21, 6 PM

ANC 7B MONTHLY MEETING
 Ryland Methodist Church
 3200 S St., SE
 Thursday, January 15, 7 PM

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear friends & neighbors:

First, I want to thank you for electing me as President of our community association. It is truly an honor to serve my neighbors in this capacity, and I am excited to work with the 2015-2016 board of directors to make our community the best it can be.

Our association was founded on the ideal of looking out for one another as a night-watch group, and the new leadership is dedicated to recommitting ourselves to that principle, as well as maximizing the great potential that lies within the people of this great community. We will make sure to engage the membership because we know that an organization is only as strong as its members. Your ideas and involvement will be essential to the success we will have in the next two years. So please ask those who may have not had time in the past, or others who may have disengaged from civic involvement for whatever reason, to think about reconnecting with our community association in order to be informed of the issues affecting our neighborhoods. We want every person's input on the issues of the day so that collectively we can make the best possible decision for our community. Everyone is welcome to join us on the first Saturday of each month at the Hillcrest Recreation Center at 10:30 am.

And lastly, I want to thank each and every one of you for your anticipated participation in meeting the challenge of striving to make the Hillcrest Community Civic Association one of the premier neighborhood associations in the country. I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

De'Andre

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**GUEST SPEAKER: THE HONORABLE ZOE BUSH
ASSOCIATE JUDGE
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA**



Judge Zoe Bush was appointed to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia in 1994 by President William Jefferson Clinton.

Judge Bush was born and raised in Little Rock, Arkansas. She graduated with Honors from Wellesley College in 1976 and

received a Waddell Fellowship, which permitted her to spend the summer in Ghana to research her Honors thesis in History. Judge Bush received her law degree from Harvard Law School in 1979.

Immediately after law school, Judge Bush moved to Washington, D.C. to serve as a law clerk to the Honorable James F. Merow of the United States Court of Federal Claims. The following year, she was a law clerk to the late Honorable Phillip N. Nichols of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. In 1981, she joined the Office of General Counsel of the Washington Gas Light Company as a rate lawyer, representing the Company in rate proceedings before the District of Columbia and Maryland Public Service Commissions and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. In 1984, she joined the Office of General Counsel of the Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO), where she was promoted from Associate Counsel to Assistant General Counsel to Associate General Counsel.

After ten years of litigation, Judge Bush was appointed as an Administrative Judge on the Board of Contract Appeals for the District of Columbia by then-Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly, later becoming Chief Administrative Judge. During her nearly three-year tenure as Chief Judge, the backlog for bid protests was eliminated and the delay in resolving contract disputes was greatly reduced.

Judge Bush has served in the Criminal, Civil and Domestic Violence Divisions of the Court as well as in the Family Court. She is currently Presiding Judge of the Family Court, Co-chair of the Family Court Organization & Management Oversight Team, Co-Chair of the Implementation Committee of the Family Court, Co-chair of the Family Court Rules Advisory Committee, Co-Chair of Behavioral

Health Committee, Co-Chair of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Juvenile Subcommittee, Co-Chair of the Truancy Task Force and Lead Judge for the Family Court with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Judge Bush also serves as a member of the Superior Court Magistrate Judges Review Committee and the Rules Committee of the Superior Court. She is also past president of the Charlotte E. Ray American Inn of Court.

Judge Bush has been active in bar activities and community service, including the National Association of Black Women Attorneys (NABWA); the Women's Bar Association; and the Greater Washington Area Chapter of the National Bar Association's Women Lawyer's Division (GWAC) and the Judicial Council of the Washington Bar Association. She has served as a tutor and "big sister" for area students. Judge Bush has also been active in the Wellesley College Alumnae Association.

Judge Bush is the proud mother of a daughter.

Professional Group Names Hillcrest Real Estate as Biggest Gainer in 2014

A professional real estate publication has named the Hillcrest neighborhood as having the biggest percentage price appreciation for houses sold in the entire District of Columbia for the year 2014. An article by Lark Turner in the Dec. 8, 2014 issue of *Urban Turf* cited an annual price increase of over 36 percent for the current year. Housing prices rose from an average of over \$241,000 in the previous year to \$330,000 in 2014. Sixty-two homes were sold during the period studied.

This study does not mean that houses in our neighborhood are the most expensive in Washington. For instance, houses in the Palisades neighborhood fetched nearly 1 million dollars on the average. But it does mean that the rate of our increase was the highest in the city.

It should be kept in mind that real estate agents do not define Hillcrest in the same strict manner as does our Hillcrest Community Civic Association (HCCA). Our boundaries are precisely defined in our bylaws. (For example the eastern boundary of our Hillcrest Community Civic Association stops at Pennsylvania Ave.) But our entire HCCA area is

included in the above mentioned study.

One real estate agent living in this neighborhood was asked to explain why Hillcrest has seen such an increase. "Look around you," he said.



THE ENLIGHTENED ENVIRONMENTALIST

IT'S WINTER AGAIN

Winter is the season that officially begins December 21 and lasts until March 21. The weather is cold and has fewer hours of daylight. Here in DC we have experienced winter temperatures and its accompanying effects from November to as late as April. One of the occurrences we have seen for the past 10 year is snowfall. Whether it's an inch or 2 feet, having the necessary equipment on hand makes for a less complicated snow experience.

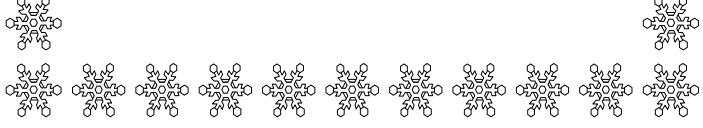
Here are a few suggestions:

A shovel, warm work gloves, ice scraper, Ice Melt/salt or sand (Your table salt can also to the trick), Salt spreader, Snow Blower (electric/cordless), Firewood (for the well maintained fireplace) and flashlight with batteries.

Additional items that may be needed but require a little more thought and research are snow plows, generators or maybe even a saw.

Although reports say our snowfall totals have declined over the years, the Farmers' Almanac is calling for our snowiest time this winter to be mid January and February. While this remains to be seen, being prepared is never a bad idea.

Take Action Be Prepared!!!!



HCCA HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTENING 2014



The strangest thing happened as I was leaving my position as Chair of the HCCA Fundraising Committee - We squeaked out one more event.

This was a somewhat unconventional effort by a "jump team" – Joint effort by the HCCA Fundraising Committee/Environmental Committee joined by the Ward 7 Christmas Committee and others. At least 50 people attended the event and all seemed to really enjoy it. Mayor Vincent Gray stopped by and led the countdown to the tree lightening.

There were several phases to the project.

1. Friday, 12/5 Tree picked up
2. Sunday, 12/7 – 1:00 p.m. Manual labor of selecting the right spot, dug the perfect hole for the bucket, placed rocks and water in the bucket and secured the tree with stakes
3. Saturday, 12/14 – 8:00 a.m. Decorated the tree
4. Saturday, 12/14 – 6:00 p.m. Tah Tah! The Tree Lightening

Thanks so much to all who contributed:

- Mary Ross – Designated Phil as the environmental committee contact person
- Phil and Mary Hammond – Tree pick up/planting/tree topper
- Robin Marlin – Tree planting/decorating/lighting/ornaments
- Earl and Karen Williams – Tree planting/decorating/lighting
- Yvonne Dupree – Tree planting/decorating/lighting
- Cynthia Jefferson – Kids gift decorative collection boxes, cookies
- Boyle Stuckey – Planting/lighting/logistics/table
- De'Andre Anderson – Planting/lighting
- David Kirkpatrick - Santa
- Officer Savannah – MPD presence

Mayor Vincent Gray – Lightening countdown

Lisa Shaw and Caleb – Tree planting/decorating

Ward 7 Christmas committee - Caroling

Kids – Turn on the tree lights.

Many thanks for the donations from neighborhood businesses and residents:

McDonalds – Coffee, cups and condiments
Lamont Mitchell Catering– Hot Apple Cider
Earl/Karen Williams – Cookies
Sheila Brown – Cookies
Gloria Logan – Cookies
Terrance and Michelle Peete – Cookies.

Back stories – Adrenaline and creative juices flowed with lots of testosterone but everyone focused on the project at hand. We have a few pictures to document some of these back stories that will be posted on the website.

This event also served as a drop off point for unwrapped gifts for children who are homeless or in foster care. Earl thanks the community and reports that he took several bags of items to the sorting location in preparation for distribution.

Also, people made donations to the HCCA scholarship fund which increased that fund to a little over \$2,000.00. The official report will be included in the January HCCA Treasurer's report.

This was a fun filled event for the jump team and the attendees. Hope HCCA will do this again.

HCCA Board

De'Andre Anderson, President
Michelle Phipps-Evans, First Vice President
Boyle Stuckey, Second Vice President
Deborah Johnson, Secretary
Monica H. Evans, Treasurer
Kenneth Burke, Parliamentarian
A. Frank Anderson, Chaplain
Ruth V. Lewis, Chair, Communications
Jeanne Contardo, Chair, Education and Recreation
Mary Ross, Chair, Environmental and Beautification
Michelle Peete, Chair, Fundraising
Philip Hammond, Chair, Membership
James Perkins, Jr., Chair, Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness
Linwood Robinson, Chair, Streets, Traffic and Transportation

Contact information is available on our website at
www.hillcrestdc.com

Have you paid your dues for 2015?

Your paid through date is on the mailing label of this newsletter. If the date is earlier than 2015, please send your payment now. The cost is \$15.00/year, \$24.00 for 2 years. Make check payable to HCCA and send to P.O. Box 30895, Washington, DC 20030 or you can pay by credit card at:

www.hillcrestdc.com/paydues.htm

Got Ideas!

Please email any ideas or articles for the newsletter by the 15th of the month to hillcrestdc_newsletter@yahoo.com

Follow on Twitter @HillcrestWard7 or write on the Facebook Wall, All Over Hillcrest

Visit our website at www.hillcrestdc.com or join the conversation on our list serve at Hillcrestdc@yahoo.com



Hillcrest Community Civic Association

"Working together for a better community"

www.HillcrestDC.com

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