



Hillcrest Community Civic Association

"Working together for a better community"

www.HillcrestDC.com

P.O. Box 30895, Washington, D.C. 20030-0895

HILLCREST NEWSLETTER

Hillcrest Community Civic Association Newsletter

January 2017

In This Issue

- Guest Speaker: Vincent Gray, Councilmember for Ward 7
- HCCA Holiday Tree Lighting 2016
- Tale of Two Problems
- HCCA Board Members 2017-2018
- Hillcrest Day 2016

Guest Speaker: Vincent Gray

Please welcome Vincent Gray, recently elected Councilmember for Ward 7, as our speaker for this month's HCCA meeting. A native Washingtonian, Gray has worked in public service and advocated for the residents of DC for more than 30 years. In 1991, Gray was appointed as the Director of the Department of Human Services. He oversaw a staff of 7,000 persons and directed activities related to Public Health, Social Services, Mental Health Services and Health Care Finance.

In 1994, Gray was named the first Executive Director of Covenant House Washington, an international, faith-based organization dedicated to serving homeless and at-risk youth. He led the organization for a decade and was responsible for successful campaigns to purchase and renovate a crisis center for homeless youth and to build a new community

service center in the southeast DC community.

Councilmember Gray was overwhelmingly re-elected by Ward 7 voters to serve again as their council representative. Gray was elected as Councilmember for Ward 7 in 2004. He chaired a Special Committee on the Prevention of Youth Violence, and created the Effi Barry HIV/AIDS initiative. In 2007, he became Chairman of the Council. As Chairman, Gray was a leader in efforts to improve the Council's operations, transparency and oversight capacity, and was a champion for school reform. Vincent Gray was elected as Mayor of the District of Columbia in 2011. He served one term.

Vincent Gray has lived in SE Washington DC in the Hillcrest neighborhood of Ward 7 for more than 25 years.



Vincent Gray, Councilmember for Ward 7

Special Points of Interest

HILLCREST COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

East Washington Heights Baptist Church
Alabama and Branch Aves., SE
Saturday, January 7, 2017
10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

PSA 606 POLICE COMMUNITY MEETING
East Washington Heights Baptist Church
2200 Branch Ave., SE
Wednesday, January 18, 6 PM

ANC 7B MONTHLY MEETING
Ryland Methodist Church
3200 S St., SE
Thursday, January 19, 7 PM





Faithful tree decorators



Family time at the tree lighting

HCCA HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING 2016

The 2016 Tree Lighting Committee wishes to thank all who supported the 3rd Annual HCCA event. Your donations, presence and participation made this another successful event for the community. This year's tree lighting was even more special because a tree was purchased and planted this year. Hot drinks and warm hearts helped to create a special place of holiday cheer for the Hillcrest Community. Let's carry that spirit into 2017. A few pictures that capture decorating of the tree and the tree lighting are included. Additional pictures will be added to the website in the near future.



Community Time

HILLCREST DAY 2016

Hillcrest Day 2016 was a success thanks to our friends and neighbors who participated, all 384 of you!

Our record attendance is proof that this free community celebration gets bigger and better each year. No doubt, our partnership with and free advertising in East of the River magazine helped attract that crowd!

The 5th annual event was held October 15th at the Hillcrest Recreation Center. Mother nature cooperated giving us bright sunshine and warm temperatures, and our brand new partnership with THEARC (Town Hall Education, Arts, & Recreation Campus) provided a dynamic line up of LIVE stage performances from East of the River Steel band to Mike McCoy and Voices United.

The children were entertained with arts and crafts, gardening activities, moon bounces and a wonderful magic show featuring children's comedian

Continued on Page 4...

A TALE OF TWO PROBLEMS

It was over two years ago that members of the Hillcrest Community Civic Association (HCCA) noticed some buckling floor boards in the southwest corner of the meeting room at the Hillcrest Recreation Center. The buckling soon became as pronounced as the waves on a small lake.

The flooring became so distorted that the corner of the room was roped off for safety reasons. The boards in the problem area were ripped out and replaced with new floor planks. It wasn't long before these new boards showed the same "wave effect." Once more the offending boards were ripped up and replaced with sheets of plywood as a temporary solution.

A major remedial construction project began in November. Front end loaders and other pieces of construction machinery showed up outside the building and began work. Soon a shallow trench began to surround the structure.

Continued on Page 3...



HCCA BOARD 2017-2018

The HCCA Members elected new HCCA Board Members at the November 2016 meeting. The following elected members will serve a two year term on the HCCA Board. Councilmember Vincent Gray will conduct the swearing in ceremony at the membership meeting on January 7th.

HCCA Board Members 2017-2018

President—Karen Williams

First VP—Michelle Peete

Second VP—Boyle Stuckey

Treasurer—Monica Evans

Secretary—Yvonne Dupree

Parliamentarian—Kenneth Burke

Chaplain—Vacant

Communications Chair—Ruth Lewis

Education Chair—Jeanne Contardo

Environmental & Beautification
Chair—Mary Ross

Fundraising Chair—Sheila Brown

Membership Chair—Phillip Hammond

Public Safety/Emergency
Preparedness Chair—James Short

Recreation Chair—Michelle Evans

Streets, Traffic and Transportation
Chair—Yantee Neufville

A TALE OF TWO PROBLEMS Continued...



Because of the construction, space could not be guaranteed for the HCCA annual holiday event in December. East Washington Heights made its Fountain Hall and kitchen available to the HCCA.

A new problem then arose. The expectation was that ticket sales would cover the cost of the advance down payment to the caterer for the luncheon. (Announcements were made about the coming affair beginning in the September HCCA meeting.) The caterer even extended the deadline for the deposit. However, the actual cash sales for tickets fell flat. Yvonne Burke, Chair of the Hospitality Committee, made it clear that the party was not canceled because of the change in venue, but because the deposit funds were not forthcoming from the sale of tickets.

Even though the luncheon was canceled, the HCCA held its December membership meeting at East Washington Heights Church.

Back to the Recreation Center. Ms. Gwendolyn Crump, Director of Communications for the DC Dept. of Parks and Recreation (DPR), has provided some helpful information about what is going on at the Center.

Part of the construction project is an in-depth attack upon the water seepage in both the meeting room and the gymnasium. A new drainage system is being installed. When it is completed, the plywood flooring in the meeting room will be replaced with plank flooring.

Much more is going to happen than improved drainage. We can anticipate enhancements to the building which will bring it into compliance with the 2012 "Americans with Disabilities Act." These improvements involve bathroom and kitchen renovations, resealing "identified windows with a leaking concern", and a new concrete walk for back exit doors.

The good news is that the staff at the Hillcrest Center, in coordination with program managers from DPR, will seek to keep our "Rec" Center open during the entire construction process. Some rooms will be taken out of service as they are "individually remodeled." The Communications Director went on to state that "the entire remodeling project should be wrapped up by the end of February" (or the "first of March 2017).

"I always wondered
why somebody doesn't
do something about
that. Then I realized
I was somebody."
~ Lily Tomlin

Hillcrest Day 2016 Continued...

Fast Freddie.

Thank you to the vendors who participated in our annual "information alley," and the volunteers and Hillcrest Day Planning Committee members including Karen & Earl Williams, Kim Douglas, Gaya King, Michelle & Terrence Peete, Dorothy Jackson, Jeanne Contardo, Darrell Perry, Kanika Brookins and Michelle Phipps-Evans. Special shout out to THEARC Executive Director Edmund Fleet and the Rec Center staff: Henry Moton and Tameka Borges.

This free event could not be possible without the generous donations of our corporate sponsors: Walmart, Rappaport/Skyland Development Corporation, and Safeway.

Many thanks to THEARC's I Can technical theater interns who were invaluable in their contributions to Hillcrest Day 2016 and produced this wonderful video: <https://youtu.be/Tvx86gv0nsc>.

See you in 2017!

Delia G. Perry
Hillcrest Day Chair 2015 & 2016

Got Ideas!

Email ideas or articles for newsletter by the 15th of the month to:
hillcrestdc_newsletter@yahoo.com

Pay 2017 Dues

Make checks payable to HCCA
Send to : P.O. Box 30895
Washington, DC 20030

Or
www.hillcrestdc.com/paydues.htm

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Hillcrest Newsletter brings you the information of the community

HCCA Board

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Michelle Peete, First Vice President
Boyle Stuckey, Second Vice President
Yvonne Dupree, Secretary
Monica H. Evans, Treasurer
Kenneth Burke, Parliamentarian
Ruth V. Lewis, Chair, Communications
Jeanne Contardo, Chair, Education and Recreation
Mary Ross, Chair, Environmental and Beautification
Sheila Brown, Chair, Fundraising
Philip Hammond, Chair, Membership
James Short, Chair, Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness
Michelle Evans, Chair, Recreation
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