



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, April 2, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.
At the Hillcrest Recreation Center, Corner of Denver & 32nd Streets, S.E.
NOTE: Meetings are normally held the first Saturday of the month.

THERESA LEWIS, CHIEF OF STAFF, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS (DCRA) WILL BE GUEST SPEAKER FOR APRIL MEETING

Theresa Lewis is currently the Chief of Staff in the Office of the Director. Ms. Lewis is a graduate of the Center for Excellence In Municipal Management, George Washington University, where she became a Certified Public Manager. She is a 27 year veteran of the District Government, serving all but 2 years at the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA). In 1983, Ms. Lewis was very instrumental in establishing DCRA, which in its early years was considered one of the premier agencies in the District government. In DCRA, Ms. Lewis was responsible for creating the One Stop Business Center and served as the Manager. The Center won the Technology Achievement Award in 1984 while under her management. Ms. Lewis has also served as the agency's Management Analyst, Executive Assistant to the Director, Administrator of the Housing Regulation Administration, and a Deputy Director. Needless to say, Ms. Lewis's knowledge of the agency has been and continues to be invaluable as the agency seeks to make significant improvements in its program operations.

WASHINGTON SENIORS WELLNESS CENTER APPROACHES ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

As the Washington Seniors Wellness Center approaches its 20th anniversary in June, expansion and renovation are underway. Changes include a new fitness center, which will be twice the size of the existing fitness center; a new entrance and lobby area; two new activity/classrooms; and a "Gentlemen's Parlor". Construction is expected to be completed August, 2005. Programs at the Center continue during the construction. Please join the WSWC for fitness, nutrition, and health and wellness activities planned to make aging a fun and positive experience.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Neighbors,

In order to continue to have a strong and vibrant community, with some political say so we must remain active, stay involved in city issues that impact upon our community, and speak with one voice to public and private sector powers. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank Steve and Kathy Stark (who first alerted the community), Jim Byers, Ann Curtsinger, Raymond Keith, Kathy Chamberlain, Paul Savage, and others (who may have) sent e-mails to Channel 9 TV station expressing dissatisfaction with the one-sidedness of the "USA Tonight with Derek McGinty" news story regarding the redevelopment of the Skyland Shopping Center and the use of eminent domain. A very special thanks is extended to Raymond Keith, Chair of ANC 7B, who also appeared on the McGinty news show and very ably told our side of the story. A special thanks is also extended to Jim Byers, former ANC 7B Commissioner, who in addition to sending a very compelling e-mail to Channel 9, sent a letter to the editor of the Washington Post expressing our side of the story, which was published. Also, last month, I accepted an invitation from A. Scott Bolden to appear on his WOL radio program to talk about neighborhood associations and their role in community building. I bring the foregoing to your attention to further publicize and recognize some of the things we are doing to protect and support the quality of life we desire for our community.

Again I say, in addition to your association membership, talk to your neighbors, encourage them to join our civic association so we can reach our membership goal of 500 households, and become an active participant in association business. As we move towards the next political season, your support and the expression of your views and concerns becomes more important than ever!

Sincerely, Vincent M. Spaulding, President, HCCA.

BUS TRIP TO MIDWAY CASINO IS FULL

The fundraising committee has sold all the seats on the bus for the trip to Midway Casino on Monday, March 28th. But, stay tuned to upcoming issues of your newsletter. The committee is planning at least three more trips this year that will be as much fun as the Midway journey.

ANY INTEREST IN LEARNING SPANISH?

We are in search of residents who may be interested in learning Spanish on Saturdays. Sam Williams, Director, Hillcrest Community Center, has agreed to invest in sponsoring a Spanish language class at the Center if there are enough people who agree to participate. So far, only three persons have indicated a willingness to commit to the class. If you would like to join this Spanish class, please contact Faith Lyles at faith_lyles@dcd.uscourts.gov.

AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS BEING CONSIDERED

At the March HCCA meeting, members present heard a recommendation from the Parliamentarian, Rev. Kenneth Burke, to make amendments to the Association's by-laws. The membership voted to publish the proposed amendments in the April newsletter so that members can review before a vote is taken at the April 2nd meeting. The proposed changes follow:

Repeal the only section of ARTICLE 9 which now reads:

ARTICLE 9 (AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS)

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT

Subject to the power of this association to adopt, amend or repeal the Bylaws of this association and except as may otherwise be specified under provisions of law, these Bylaws, or any of them, may be altered, amended, or repealed and new Bylaws adopted by approval of the Board of Directors.

Adopt 5 (five) new sections to Article Nine which shall read as follows::

SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors by a 2/3 affirmative vote at any meeting of the Board in which a quorum is present and the approval of 2/3 of the members of the association present and voting at a regular monthly meeting. Any such amendments shall be in accordance the provision of law.

SECTION 2. NOTICE REQUIRED OF INTENT TO AMEND

No proposal shall be put to a vote before the association unless such proposal will be read at a regular membership meeting of the association prior to the next regular membership meeting at which the vote on the proposal shall be taken.

SECTION 3. LIMIT ON CHANGING PROPOSALS

Any attempt to change or amend the proposal as written shall be ruled out of order at both meetings of the association.

SECTION 4. SUGGESTIONS FROM ASSOCIATION

All proposed amendments to these Bylaws shall originate with the Board of Directors. However, the association may address resolutions to the Board of Directors suggesting possible changes to these Bylaws.

SECTION 5. SUSPENSION OF BYLAWS NOT ALLOWED

There shall be no waivers or suspension of the Bylaws. Any motion contrary thereto shall be deemed out of order.

NEW TREE CUTTING RULES

The D.C. Department of Transportation has finalized and implemented the Urban Forest Preservation Act of 2002, stipulating that a property owner must obtain a permit from the District government before removing a non-hazardous tree. A non-hazardous "special tree" is defined as any tree growing in public or private land with a circumference of more than 55 inches when measured at a height of 4.5 feet. The new regulations authorize a removal permit if a) the tree is declared hazardous to life or property by an arborist from the department's Urban Forestry Administration or the International Society of Arboriculture; b) the property owner plans to plant saplings whose total circumference will equal or exceed that of the removed tree; c) the property owner pays \$35 per inch of circumference to the Tree Fund; d) the tree is a type exempted from the act. A permit can also be obtained through a combination of b and c. To apply for a removal permit, go to the website www.ddot.dc.gov or contact the Public Space Permit Office at 202 645-6140.

Dues for 2005 are now due. Please pay promptly.

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 _____

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

Make check payable to Hillcrest Community Civic Association and mail to: Evelyn Primas, Membership Chairperson, 3341 Alabama Avenue, SE, Washington, D.C. 20020-1462 Phone: 202 584-6617