

# HILLCREST NEWSLETTER

## GUEST SPEAKER: COUNCILMEMBER ELISSA SILVERMAN

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Elissa Silverman has worked throughout her career to make the District's government accountable, responsive, and accessible. After nearly two decades as a reporter, budget analyst, and community activist, she is excited to put her experience to work as an at-large member of the D.C. Council.



Elissa began her professional life as a reporter at the Washington City Paper near the end of Marion Barry's fourth term as mayor and the beginning of Anthony A. Williams' first. For three years she authored the paper's "Loose Lips" column on D.C. politics. She later worked for The Washington Post, covering local business, the 2006 mayoral race, and police, fire, and emergency medical services as a reporter on the night shift.

From 2009 to 2014, Elissa worked for the D.C. Fiscal Policy Institute, analyzing the city's budget, leading advocacy campaigns, and heading a coalition that opened D.C. Council budget negotiations to the public. She also helped coordinate the campaigns that led to an increase in the D.C. minimum wage and an expansion of paid sick days to restaurant workers. In 2012, she helped lead the efforts of the D.C. Public Trust, the grassroots effort to

ban direct corporate contributions and reform the city's campaign finance system.

Elissa grew up in Baltimore, Md., and is a proud graduate of the city's public schools. She earned a bachelor's degree in economics and history from Brown University, where her studies sparked a lifelong interest in urban policy and shaped her thinking on critical issues such as race, poverty, and economic justice. Her work on these issues -- and her frustration that a series of corruption scandals had consumed District government -- compelled Elissa to run for the at-large council seat in the April 2013 special election. She finished a close second.

The following year Elissa decided once again to seek an at-large council seat, this time in the November 2014 general election as an independent candidate. Elissa won through the hard work of many volunteers and a broad coalition of support. Once again, her people-powered campaign accepted no corporate contributions and took no PAC money.

Elissa is a Ward 6 resident and owns a home in Capitol Hill near H Street NE. She is a longtime cyclist, a recreational tennis player, and a sometimes cook. She thanks her parents, Jack and Ruth, and her brother, Jonathan (a Ward 3 resident), for their love and support.

### Special points of interest:

- **Hillcrest Community Civic Association Meeting**  
 Hillcrest Recreation Center  
 32nd and Denver St., SE  
 Saturday, May 2, 2015  
 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM
- **PSA 606 Police Community Meeting**  
 East Washington Heights  
 Baptist Church  
 2200 Branch Ave., SE  
 Wednesday, May 20, 6 PM
- **ANC 7B Monthly Meeting**  
 Ryland Methodist Church  
 3200 S St., SE  
 Thursday, May 21, 7 PM

## GUEST SPEAKER: SCOTT KRATZ, DIRECTOR, 11TH STREET BRIDGE PARK



For the last four years, Scott Kratz has been working with the Washington D.C. Office of Planning and the Ward 8 non-profit Building Bridges Across the River at THEARC to transform an old freeway bridge into a park above the Anacostia River.

Kratz is a resident of Barrack's Row and has lived in Washington D.C. for the last 9 years. He has worked in the education field for over twenty years and began his

career teaching at Kidspace, a children's museum in Pasadena, California and later as the Associate Director of the Institute for the Study of the American West at the Autry National Center in Los Angeles, CA. While at the Autry, he supervised a staff that planned and implemented programs including theater, film, music, festivals, family programs, lecture series, and academic symposia. Most recently, Kratz was the Vice President for Education at the National Building Museum in Washington D.C., a job that first brought him to the nation's capital.

## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Dear Hillcrest neighbors and friends,

Life comes with a certain unpredictability that continues to make it interesting. This year has been a test for the board with the departure of our president, but we continue to pull together as one. It is with pleasure that I, the first vice president, and Boyle Stuckey, the second vice president pledge to carry on the mantle as co-presidents of the HCCA.

Together, with the support of the board, and our beloved community, we believe that we can continue to elevate our civic association in the District of Columbia.

This is the month of May. It's the month for Mothers, and we would like to wish all our mothers, stand-in mothers, fathers in the roles of mothers and all other mothers a happy and blessed Mother's Day. We hope your day is a relaxed one. You deserve it.

Also, May is National Bike Month with the Bike to Work Week on May 11 to 15. This is why one of our speakers this month is so appropriate. Scott Kratz will

be discussing the new 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park, which will create an additional connection from Ward 8 to Ward 6, establishing more opportunities for mobility between our communities. Wouldn't it be great to ride across on a bike and eye a beautiful park, where we can enjoy the serenity of the Anacostia River?

And we're pleased that At Large Councilmember Elissa Silverman will be joining us to discuss some of her legislative initiatives.

We do look forward to hearing from you. We want to know what ways you think we can continue building our civic association to take its place in the pantheons of the most effective civic associations in the history of the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,

Michelle Phipps-Evans and Boyle Stuckey  
Co-Presidents

## EDUCATION AND RECREATION COMMITTEE UPDATE WARDS 7 & 8

Did you know that ward 7 has the second largest group of children ages 4-17, behind only ward 8? Together, 39% of all school age children live in either ward 7 or ward 8. Moreover, Washington, DC's school age population is projected to increase 22% by 2022, signaling an increasing need to focus on education in our communities.

Two reminders about upcoming Hillcrest education deadlines:

- The Hillcrest Community Civic Association will award one \$1500 scholarship to a deserving senior in high school who lives in the Hillcrest Community. The application is available at

<http://www.hillcrestdc.com/scholarship.htm>

and must be postmarked on or before **May 11, 2015**. Three finalists will be called for a personal interview at the Francis A. Gregory library the week of May 25, 2015. The winner will be announced on June 6, 2015.

- The Anne Beers Elementary School PTA is hosting a yard sale at Beers on Saturday, May 2 from 11am-2pm, on the Alabama Avenue side of the school. All

proceeds will benefit school enrichment activities.

Questions, comments, or requests to be added to the Hillcrest Education and Recreation Committee distribution list should be sent to the chair, Jeanne Contardo, at [Jeanne.contardo@gmail.com](mailto:Jeanne.contardo@gmail.com).

## A VISIT TO THE RECYCLING PLANT IN ELKRIDGE MARYLAND

After lengthy communication with the District of Columbia Department of Public Works (DPW), several members of the Hillcrest Community Civic Association (HCCA) visited the regional recycling plant in Elkridge, MD. on Friday, Feb. 13. This facility is operated by the Waste Management Corp. on contract with DPW.

The goal of this trip was to find out what really happens to the material we dump into the blue containers and set out in the alley each week. Do you think that the newspapers and bottles wind up in the garbage dump? Wrong answer. Even with the stuff that gets thrown in by mistake or indifference, only 7% of the recycle matter has to be treated as garbage.



Some years ago, District residents had to carefully separate their recycle matter according to paper, bottles, and cans. That concept is "old school" now. Today DPW uses the "single stream" practice in that all recyclables are placed in the same blue can.

There were four members of the Environmental Committee who participated in the educational tour. They were Mary Ross, Chairwoman; Ruth Lewis, John Hawkins, and Kenneth Burke.

The committee arrived at the Elkridge facility early which gave them an opportunity to make some exterior observations. Three things stood out at this point: (1) The constant stream of fully loaded trucks entering the plant after being weighed; the huge bales of compacted plastic waiting to be hauled away; and (3) the incredible number of sea gulls circling the plant.

The plant was well equipped to receive visitors. Each person on the tour was given a helmet, goggles, and earphones. The earphones served a dual purpose: (1) to protect the visitors from the loud noise inside the

working area and (2) to enable the tour guide to be heard via a radio connection with the earphones.

The impression inside the plant was one of rapid movement. The conveyor belts rolled steadily, while workers made quick decisions on what should be pulled and sent on a different journey.

Wind currents, filters, grids, and electronic fields (plus human intervention) were used to separate newspaper from cardboard, plastic bottles from metal cans, and aluminum from steel cans.

It is the goal of this operating company to get the recycled material moving out of Elkridge in about one day from the time of arrival. To do this they operate 24 hours a day, employing three shifts.

Aluminum cans are likely to be shipped to an American industry or bottling plant. Within a month or two, some of the aluminum will be processed and appear on your grocer's shelves, filled with beverages. Newspaper may wind up on a ship bound for China. "It is cheaper to ship waste paper to China than to move it to Georgia," our guide explained. This represents an export for the US economy.

"Are peanut butter jars a problem for your operation?" a committee member asked. "No," replied the guide, "because the contents will be burned off." "What kind of stuff does give you problems in your operations?" another member asked. "We don't want plastic bags," said the plant representative. "Discarded electrical cords can be a major issue because they can wrap around machinery."

There is money to be made in recycling. The Waste Management Corp. makes money, not only from the District's recyclables, but also from material brought in from all

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over Maryland, parts of Pennsylvania, and even some from Virginia. Some of that profit is returned to the District of Columbia government. Another way the District Government benefits financially from the recycling program is that every ton that goes to ElkrIDGE is one less ton of trash the District has to haul to a land-fill.

The Enlightened Environmentalist



### HCCA Board

**Michelle Phipps-Evans, First Vice President**  
**Boyle Stuckey, Second Vice President**  
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**Linwood Robinson, Chair, Streets, Traffic and Transportation**

### 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](http://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](mailto:hillcrestdc_newsletter@yahoo.com)

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



**Hillcrest Community Civic Association**

*"Working together for a better community"*

[www.HillcrestDC.com](http://www.HillcrestDC.com)

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