

Summertime Is Here!

By Villareal "VJ" Johnson

"Summer, summer, summertime. Time to sit back and unwind..." This catchy 1991 rap by DJ Jazzy Jeff & the Fresh Prince reminds us to take a break from the norm, (new COVID normal) and get into summer. Children are out of school, ready for fun! Our work schedules are relaxed, and our vacation plans are underway. We will celebrate July 4 on Monday.

Due to the holiday weekend, the Hillcrest Community Civic Association (HCCA) will host its next hybrid meeting on the second Saturday, which is July 9 at the Hillcrest Recreation Center. The meeting begins at 11:00 am and those attending in person will enjoy coffee and tea from our local Starbucks.

Summer officially began on June 21, the same day as the DC Primary Election. The voters decided to give Muriel Bowser the Democratic nomination, along with Anita Bonds and Phil Mendelson, all of whom have been allies and have been responsive to our members' and neighbors' needs. Let's continue to work with those who work with us on achieving the mission of the association, which in short, is a prosperous community that values a high quality of life.

Education

The HCCA has started the engagement process for the #schoolpool, soliciting buy-in and support from the Randle Highlands and Anne Beers Elementary Schools' Parent Teacher Organizations, in partnership with stakeholder groups, for the replacement school. The association also supports Councilmember Vincent Gray in his vision for an inclusive task force that will navigate all stakeholders through the building of a new aquatic center and renovation of the Hillcrest Recreation Center. Additionally, our HCCA scholarship committee will announce the award winners of the HCCA and the Yantee Neufville Memorial scholarships.

Congratulations to the students who will each receive \$2,000 awards.

Community Engagement

The HCCA will return to its engagement activities, such as the garden and cultural walking tours, the casino bus trip, Hillcrest Day (Sat. 9/24), and Porchfest (Sun. 9/25), which will be in Hillcrest this year. The committees have met about Hillcrest Day and Porchfest and are looking for volunteers, more information provided in this newsletter. A community kickball event, held between the men of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and the men of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., will occur at the Ft. Davis Recreation Center and is tentatively scheduled for the third Saturday in August.

There was great excitement regarding the swearing-in of Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson as the first African American woman to sit on the Supreme Court. There was also great disappointment in the overturning of Roe v. Wade. The HCCA leadership honors women and their choice to choose what's best for their lives and their bodies.

While things are still a little uncertain in the world around us, we can be confident that our community of friends, neighbors, and family, remain our strength and comfort. Remember to jam Summertime, because it is.

Please reach out to the HCCA with questions or comments by emailing us at comms@hillcrestdc.com.