



It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

By Villareal "VJ" Johnson

"It's the most wonderful time of the year..." in the singer, Andy Williams' voice.

Wait, we haven't exhausted the turkey sandwiches, salads, soups, or pot pies! I hope you had a Happy Thanksgiving! But as I think and reflect, it's still the most wonderful time of the year. We are transitioning from gratitude and favor with friends and family, to giving and receiving from friends and family.

While you are full of holiday cheer, think of the Association and its efforts to help our Ward 7 and neighborhood students with scholarship money. Think of your delivery people and sanitation workers. Give them gifts and spread holiday cheer. Think of our local community service organizations and churches like the DC Dream Center, Southeast White House, Ryland Epworth United Methodist Church, St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, St. Timothy Episcopal Church, New Macedonia Baptist Church, East Washington Heights Baptist Church, or Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church. These beacons of hope fed thousands of people, provided COVID and flu vaccines, and helped the needy in our corridor.

At our next general body meeting on December 3, we will fellowship with a potluck. Join your neighbors as we eat, drink and be merry. We also want to light our Christmas Tree with everyone present and sing Christmas carols.

We will share more information about our Christmas Lights contest. The winner will win a cash prize, their home will be featured in The Hillcrest Heartbeat, and membership dues will be paid for two years.

Remember, we are voting on December 3 for Association officers. There is still time to place your name in the hat for service.

There are less than five weeks left in 2022 and we are excited about the new year. We've endured, refined our character, and expanded our capacity. We are ready to be the North Star, shining bright like a diamond for all to see.

Villareal "VJ" Johnson is the current HCCA VP, acting President, and a former Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for five terms.