



HILLCREST HAPPENINGS

Information about Hillcrest Cluster - First Quarter 2024

2024 HCA PROJECTS

The Board of Directors (BoD) for Hillcrest Cluster has an ambitious year of projects planned or in progress. Here are some of what you can expect in the year to come.

Median Tree Replacement

The flowering dogwood trees in the medians on main Saffold Way are being replaced. Dogwoods have a life expectancy of roughly 30 years. Some of the current trees are original from 1969, some are replacements but the original look of consistency is no longer there and when we have replaced single trees they have not always taken root and grown well. With the help of the nursery professionals we have chosen Yoshino Cherry trees to replace all 11 of the dogwoods. These trees are also flowering and much more durable in the weather variations we are now experiencing.

Stormwater Remediation

The plan for stormwater remediation and drainage issues throughout the cluster has been re-examined and validated. Some changes have been made and there are now 4 remaining efforts to complete the plan. The Board plans to execute 2 of these 4 remaining projects during 2024. More information later.

Basketball Court Update

The basketball court needs some attention. In addition to getting the court re-striped the board is looking at a new basketball goal.

We are looking at one that is height adjustable to accommodate some of our younger (and shorter) players as well as those using the traditional height rim. We may also relocate the goal. Watch for this change and if you have suggestions or comments send them to info@hillcrest-cluster.com.

Website Update

The cluster website (Hillcrest-Cluster.com) has been recently updated and improved making it easier to use. There are more improvements being worked for this year. All owners and residents are reminded to check the website when you have a question as it contains a huge amount of information about living in Hillcrest Cluster.

2024 HCA DUES

Thank you to all owners who have already paid your 2024 dues. Well over half of all households have already paid as of the end of February. During January and February we received several inquiries from owners who had not yet received their invoices for 2024. Remember that HCA has contracted with Capitol Property Management (CPM) to send out bills and collect dues. To that end, CPM maintains a list of property owners which they use to send out invoices and any other communications that may be necessary. CPM's data file is different and separate from the data file of owners and residents that HCA's BoD maintains and which is required by law. Some instances of missing dues



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notices were due to CPM's data file not being current. So, if you are a new homeowner on Saffold Way be aware that your contact information and address must be updated or added to CPM's data file. For homeowners AND residents your contact information must be included in HCA's data file. More information on dues and on CPM is on our website under the "Cluster Budget and Dues Information" tab.

MAINTENANCE REMINDERS

TRASH CANS. You are reminded that the cluster maintenance covenants require that "unsightly items" be stored so as to not be visible from the roadway or by your neighbors. The Board has received complaints from some residents about houses failing to store items like trash cans, strollers, BBQs and other items around front entrances or other areas where they are clearly visible to all. Typically these items should be stored inside your house or inside a fenced back yard so they are not visible. All neighborhoods on Saffold Way have places available to store such items, e.g. inside the AC enclosure or other location. The exception is the Bryan Courts neighborhood and the Board provides a solution for that. On the cluster website (www.hillcrest-cluster.com) as part of the cluster standards for Bryan Courts, there are plans for a garbage can enclosure that the cluster has gotten pre-approved by Reston Association Design Review Board. There are multiple designs depending on your specific house number in Bryan Courts. If you choose to create such an enclosure, please notify the board of your intent using a DRB application

from the RA website: This form also can be picked up at the Reston Association Office (12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20191), or you can call (703) 435-6530 to request that the form be mailed to you. Completion will provide a place on the front of your house to store your trash cans between trash collections and save you hauling the cans around to the back of your home.

CHRISTMAS TREES Recently we paid to have accumulated limbs and brush all around the cluster removed. Some of what was removed were Christmas trees disposed of in the wooded areas of the cluster. Everyone is reminded that In January of each year you should put your old trees to the curb for the trash collection folks to take away. There are slightly different rules depending on whether your tree is a natural one or an artificial tree. Additional information, including how to contact the trash collection firm for specific questions, is available on our website at: <https://www.hillcrest-cluster.com/services/>

BAMBOO Bamboo is a rapidly spreading plant that Reston Association has declared an invasive species that must be removed throughout Reston. There are patches of bamboo within Hillcrest Cluster on both common grounds and on some owner's properties. The Board is working with Blade Runners to rid the common grounds of all bamboo. If you have bamboo growing on or near your property please begin working to remove it. If you plan to sell your home and there is an invasive species growing on your property, Reston Association will stop the sale until the species are removed. Thank you for your cooperation.



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PARKING NOTE

As you all know we do not have assigned parking on Saffold Way. A key reason involves how that might be enforced. To that end we have had recent inquiries about how someone might be able to get a specific parking space assigned because of one of several issues, e.g. post-surgery or other medical issue and other very valid points. Past experience has shown that these issues are typically easily resolved by speaking with your neighbors. Speak with those who live near you when you have to work until very late or whatever and ask that they save the last spot near your home for you until you resolve the issue at hand. Normally, neighbors are very willing to help out when needed.