



HILLCREST HAPPENINGS

Information about Hillcrest Cluster - Second Quarter 2024

2024 HCA PROJECTS

Here is an update on several projects that are planned for 2024.

Median Tree Replacement

The flowering dogwood trees in the medians on main Saffold Way have been replaced. The new trees are flowering Yoshino Cherry trees that are much more resistant to the heat than the previous Dogwoods were. The Dogwoods did well for several decades but we expect that these new trees will serve us even better. Additionally, with all new trees they will all be a similar size and shape making a much better presentation to all while driving onto Saffold Way.

Basketball Court Update

The basketball court update is in process. One contractor has been hired to procure the new basketball goal and install in at the same time procure replacement benches for the school bus stop facing Ring Road and they will also install those. Both installations should be complete by the end of summer.

Website Update

The cluster website (Hillcrest-Cluster.com) is an ongoing effort to keep it current and improve its functionality. A recent addition is the Reston Association's form for submissions to the RA Design Review Board. It has been problematic in the past to download this from from RA's Dropbox site so we put a copy of the form on the HCA

website. You should be able to fill out the form online and then print it making that process easier to complete. If you have not been there recently I encourage you to check it out.

Uninvited Visitors

In the last few months, residents have reported to the Board that three to six vehicles are parking along main Saffold by the four way stop sign, with the vehicles' passengers smoking and dumping trash on cluster grounds. When some residents visibly move to take pictures of the vehicles, the vehicles quickly exit the cluster.

Residents have contacted the Fairfax County Police to report the activity. The police have responded but not in time to stop and talk with the vehicles' passengers. FCPD advised that they are aware of these vehicles and that these vehicles are seen parked elsewhere in Reston. FCPD also stated that without clear signage that Hillcrest Cluster is private property and trespassing is not allowed, there is nothing that can be done by them.

After this input from FCPD and consultation with the cluster's law firm, the Board will install two "Private Property No Trespassing" signs, one at the entrance at Ring Road, and one at the four way stop sign. We will also install a sign at the playground and basketball court stating that the facilities are for the use of cluster residents only. These signs establish the basis for FCPD to enforce Virginia state

law on trespassing if needed. The new signs should be installed within the next 4-6 weeks.

Any resident who sees activity of concern on cluster grounds should contact the FCPD non-emergency number at (703) 691-2131. Your report can be made anonymously if you prefer. Please make your reports before confronting anyone so the police can get here before the loiterers depart. Please contact the Board using info@hillcrest-cluster.com if you have any comments on this issue.

MAINTENANCE REMINDERS

GUTTERS AND DOWNSPOUTS. This is a good time to look at your gutters and downspouts to see if they need any repairs. Also, before the heavy rains that can happen during the summer it is a good idea to get them cleaned out and make sure your downspouts are not clogged. Water backing up behind clogged gutters can get under the shingles and let water damage your roof, exterior walls and more.

OUTDOOR GRILLING This is also the season for getting your barbecue grills busy. Remember that if you use your grill on your wooden balcony or deck to buy a protective pad to place beneath it to avoid the fire hazard if it overheats the wood deck or balcony. Also, for those homes with a balcony that is recessed into the side of your house, remember that heat rises and creates a fire hazard as the heat rises up to the ceiling above your balcony. If you have any question, call the Fairfax Fire Department who are happy to advise you on any fire risks.

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.

CLUSTER CLEANUP

Spring slipped by and we did not get a Cluster Cleanup scheduled. However, we are planning on one this Fall and looking at which Saturday will be a good date. We are working on a list of tasks that we can accomplish within 4 hours and save us paying contractors to accomplish. If you have any suggestions for Cluster Cleanup please send them to info@hillcrest-cluster.com and plan to turn out and help us get some things done and meet your neighbors this fall.

REMINDER

The application called "Next Door" which will send messages that look like they are from Hillcrest Cluster is NOT affiliated in any way with Hillcrest Cluster or the Board of Directors. Next Door is a nationwide application that takes inputs/postings from neighborhoods all over the country. Many sign up and use it but remember, that is not how you should contact your HCA Board or report issues in our cluster.

