



# HILLCREST HAPPENINGS

## Information about Hillcrest Cluster - Third Quarter 2024

### 2024 HCA PROJECTS

Here is an update on several 2024 projects.

#### **Basketball Court Update**

The basketball court update, to install a new goal, is in process. One contractor has been hired to procure the new basketball goal and install it. We anticipate this being completed by the end of September.

#### **Website Update**

The cluster website ([Hillcrest-Cluster.com](http://Hillcrest-Cluster.com)) is an ongoing effort to keep it current and improve its functionality. If you have not been there recently I encourage you to check it out. On the website you can find current and back issues of *Hillcrest Happenings* as well as the minutes of the past Board of Director's meetings. One 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.

#### **Bus Stop Benches**

The wooden benches built on Ring Road at the school bus stop were beginning to rot away. We did some repairs but there was a definite hazard from possible splinters. So, we have replaced those benches with some that will last much longer.

#### **Cluster Cleanup**

It is time once again for Cluster Cleanup where volunteers from among all residents and owners come together to 1) get to know

one another and, 2) accomplish some small projects and save paying a contractor to do them. This effort goes a long way toward keeping our annual dues as low as possible. We will gather between 9:00am and noon at the basketball court to take on projects and then go get them done. The date is Saturday, 19 October with the following Saturday, 26 October as rain date. John Koebert is leading the charge and has a list of tasks that need volunteers which he will be sending out to everyone. Additionally, if you see some small task you could do, or that you might need a little help doing, let John know so he can put it on the list. I hope to see you all out there!

#### **Board Elections/Annual Meeting**

It is that time of year when the board begins preparations for the election of new members to the HCA Board of Directors and planning for our annual meeting. This year we have three (3) board positions that will be vacating. For 2 of this positions the incumbent member of the board will be running for reelection. But we need a new candidate for the third vacancy. Several members of the board have been on the board for multiple 3-year terms. It would be good for the cluster and for the board if we had some new, perhaps younger, candidates to join the board. It is always good to hear and consider new perspectives on the issues facing HCA. If you would like to toss your hat in the ring, please send a short (2-3 paragraph biographical statement to [info@hillcrest-cluster.com](mailto:info@hillcrest-cluster.com) so voting owners and residents can know a little about you. Explain how long you have lived on Saffold Way, what ideas you have for changes to improve our



# HILLCREST HAPPENINGS

Third Quarter 2024

little community for everyone. Please send your biographical statements in by the 10th of November.

This year, the information package that is sent out for the annual meeting will NOT be sent via USPS mail but will be totally digitized. It will be sent to all residents via email and will also be on the HCA website. This will include adding a new application, ElectionBuddy, to enable digital voting for board candidates to simplify that process, automate the counting of the votes and hopefully generate increased participation in the process. Watch for an upcoming email with full details.

## Halloween is Coming

It is soon time for Halloween which can sometimes be a big event...or not, often depending on the day of the week and the weather. Since Saffold Way is the only neighborhood in this corner of Reston with sidewalks and street lights, we sometimes get lots of Trick or Treaters from the surrounding area. Enjoy the holiday.

## Safety First Tip

When getting into your car to go, or after arriving at your destination, remember it is a good idea to immediately get out of your car or to start it and depart. All law enforcement agencies advocate this practice to reduce the number of car jackings. When you are sitting inside your car, focused on your mobile phone or on finishing some broadcast on the radio, is when you are very vulnerable to a car jacker. I see many residents sitting in their cars on Saffold Way like this and many others doing the same in parking lots around Reston. Be aware of your surroundings at all times

and be safe.

## Uninvited Visitors

Thank you to all who have helped, we seem to have fewer of these guests lately. The Fairfax County Police have been quite responsive when called and perhaps our course of action is working. Time will tell.

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](mailto:info@hillcrest-cluster.com) if you have any comments on this issue.

**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 fall 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.

## Neighborhood Communications

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.