



HILLCREST HAPPENINGS

Information about Hillcrest Cluster - Fourth Quarter 2024

Goodbye 2024

The last three months of 2024 were busy on Saffold Way. The board of directors were busy with cluster cleanup, looking for new candidates for the board's upcoming vacancies and getting the new digital voting system put in place and ready to go.

Website Update

The cluster website (www.Hillcrest-Cluster.com) is the target of 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. A recent update to the website is the addition of the HCA Cluster Census Form set up to be emailed to the board when you fill it in. If you, or a neighbor you know, are not getting the emails that are sent out from the board to all homeowners and residents, suggest that they go to the website and fill out the census form so we know how to contact you.

Cluster Cleanup

The Cluster Cleanup on 19 October was a great success. Thank you to all who came out to work for our neighborhood. We hope those who came out were also able to meet a new neighbor or two. There will be another cleanup in the Spring, watch for the date when it is announced.

Board Elections/Annual Meeting

The annual meeting for all Hillcrest Cluster homeowners and residents was held at the Lake Anne RA Community Center on Thursday evening, 12 December. It was a good meeting attended by over 25 homeowners and residents. There were many questions and

lively discussions. The presentation by the Board of Directors has been posted on the HCA website for all who may have missed the meeting. Two key items of note from that meeting are 1) the HCA 2025 budget and 2) results of the election of new members for the Board of Directors.

As presented the budget for 2025 must absorb several significant cost increases for services. Accordingly, it is necessary for the annual dues to increase from \$1,360 for 2024 to \$1,400 for 2025, an increase of 2.9%. As in the past, early payment of your dues by the end of February will get you a discount to only \$1,340 owed. To gain this discount your dues MUST be PAID IN FULL and RECEIVED not later than 28 February 2025. Full payment of the \$1,400 dues must be received by 30 June 2025. Dues not paid in full by 30 June 2025 will be assessed a late payment fee of 1.5%, applied to the unpaid balance at the end of each month until paid in full. After 31 December 2025 all unpaid balances will be referred to HCA legal counsel for collection and all legal and collection fees incurred will be charged to the homeowner.

This year, for the first time, election of board members was conducted using the ElectionBuddy app on the HCA website. This allowed all homeowners to vote using the website which took only minutes to accomplish. It also provided independent tracking of all votes, instant and independent compilation of the votes on the day of the annual meeting and saved very significant costs and time that it previously took to develop, print and mail a hard copy paper package for the annual meeting. There were four candidates for the three vacancies on the board. The final results of the voting was:



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- Amir Golalipour, 46 votes
- Richard Stevens, 37 votes
- Zack Fink, 31 votes
- Dan Cwieka, 30 votes

Amir and Richard were incumbents, now reelected to another three-year term and all welcome Zack Fink as our newest board member. The December meeting of the Board of Directors, traditionally held immediately after the annual meeting so the new board members can elect a new slate of board officers, was cancelled. So, the new slate of Board officers will be announced after the next board meeting in January 2025.

Reach Out To The Board

At the annual meeting someone asked if it was possible for homeowners and residents to suggest ideas for consideration by the Board of Directors on ways to improve the neighborhood for everyone. The answer is absolutely yes. There are 173 homes on Saffold Way and within them many great ideas on how to make life on Saffold Way better and the board welcomes the input. Email your ideas, thoughts and/or questions to info@hillcrest-cluster.com.

Speeding...Again!

This was another topic discussed at the annual meeting. The question was asked whether we had considered installing speed humps/speed bumps to control speeders. This has been a very hotly discussed item at different times in the past. Most people do not like driving over them and the contractors who come to plow snow hate them. Delivery services do not like them and for all of these reasons we have never moved forward to install them. Now, as pointed out by several residents, particularly those living along main Saffold Way, feel the time has come for speed bumps if residents

cannot control their speed. There are thankfully, many young children in our neighborhood and they walk, ride scooters and chase dogs and toys into the street. That is why our speed limit is 15 mph. Please, please slow down and let's not have to get someone injured or killed before we get speeding under control.

Dog Poop....Again!

This was another question raised at the annual meeting. As has been published many times before, failing to pick up after your pet is 1) a violation of Fairfax County law, 2) a violation of HCA Cluster By-Laws and 3) very inconsiderate of everyone else who walks around our cluster. As noted on page 38 of the HCA Cluster Handbook, there are designated areas for dog walking along the perimeter of the cluster, along Ring Road, North Shore Drive and Baron Cameron Drive. If you are walking your dog please use these areas and please pick up after your pet. Your neighbors will thank you.

Neighborhood Yard Sale

On Saturday, 3 May 2025 there will be a cluster-wide yard sale for all residents. The Board will purchase advertising for the event and signs will be posted at the entrance to Saffold Way. Since there are 173 homes that could be putting their wares out for sale, this event typically draws big crowds and is a very successful event for all who are selling off their items no longer needed. So mark your calendar and start collecting and organizing the items you will be putting out for sale.