

# HILLCREST HAPPENINGS

Tidbits of Information About Hillcrest Cluster

Summer 2020

## CORONAVIRUS CONTINUED

The Hillcrest Cluster Association Board would like to thank everyone for all of their diligence, personal efforts, and understanding in keeping themselves and the community safe as we face COVID-19. The disruption caused by the event has not been easy for anyone.

While the threat of the illness is by no means gone, we must be aware of the ongoing direction and recommendations from public health officials, especially as Virginia progresses in its phased approach toward normalcy.

The best sources of information on updates on COVID-19 can be found at the following websites:

- Center for Disease Control:** [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)
- Virginia Department of Health:** [www.vdh.virginia.gov](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov)
- Fairfax County Department of Health:** [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health)

Just as important as staying informed, is how we act as a community to support those in need. Hillcrest Cluster is a very diverse community many of whom may be the most at risk for severe symptoms of the illness. If anyone in your household is in need of assistance, or are willing to offer assistance, please contact the Board at [info@hillcrest-cluster.com](mailto:info@hillcrest-cluster.com). The Board will do its best to connect volunteers with those in need.

## TRASH SERVICE REMINDERS

Waste Collection Schedule:

- Mondays** | Trash & Recycling
- Thursdays** | Trash & Yard Waste

Reminder that trash should be placed in the trash toter provided by American Disposal where possible no earlier than 6:00pm the night before and containers should be collected back to your property by the evening of the pickup day.

Yard Waste should be placed in bio-degradable paper bags or a personal trash container labeled “Yard Waste.”

Tree limbs and bursh must be tied in bundles no longer than 4 feet in length and 6 inches in diameter, and should not exceed 50 lbs.

**Bulk pickup** which is usually provided for furniture and other large non-metallic household items, have been **SUSPENDED** because of COVID-19. If you have items which fall into this category for disposal, you can take them to the Fairfax County Dump (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/locations-hours>)



## FLAG DAY SOCIALLY-DISTANT SOCIAL!

- Who:** ALL neighbors in Hillcrest Cluster
- What:** Social Distance Neighborhood Happy Hour
- Where:** Right outside your home
- When:** Sunday, June 14th (Flag Day) at 5 pm
- How:** Put a flag out, do the social distancing, and enjoy the evening
- Why:** Fresh air is good. Fresh air with neighbors is better.

Not to dismiss the importance of health and safety, we recognize that the stay-at-home guidance for non-essential employees can result in some stir-crazy tendencies. However, as the weather gets nicer it is an opportunity for us to enjoy our own front yards, and wave hello to neighbors from a safe distance.



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## 2020 CLUSTER DUES - DUE JUNE 30TH

A reminder that letters for Cluster Dues went out in December to all homes. **The dues assessment for 2020 is \$1320.00 per house, which are due by June 30th**, after which interest will accrue at a rate of 1.5% per month, charged on the first day of each month in which there is an unpaid balance until the account is paid in full.

If necessary, quarterly statements will be mailed to all HCA members with an outstanding balance on the first of July and October, with additional reminders as needed.

All accounts with an overdue balance on December 31st will be referred to the HCA legal counsel for collection. After the account is referred and after due notice has been given, a lien will be filed against the title of the property. Should the account continue in arrears, further legal action may be taken. All legal expenses, including attorney fees, incurred by the Hillcrest Cluster Association in seeking to enforce its governing documents shall be added to the account balance, and shall be the basis for a lien and/or lawsuit to recover all sums owed.

Checks should be payable to **Hillcrest Cluster Association** and mailed to **HCA c/o Capitol Property Management, 3914 Centreville Road, Suite 300, Chantilly, VA 20151**.

If you would like to be set up for ACH payment, please contact [wmelore@capitolcorp.com](mailto:wmelore@capitolcorp.com)

## LANDSCAPING AT MAIN SAFFOLD WAY

After significant planning and input and volunteer efforts of several Hillcrest residents, the Board is proud to announce a that landscaping upgrades for the beautification along main Saffold Way will begin in June, with plantings along the berm to the right as you exit the neighborhood and the fourway stop by where a tree was removed late last year.

This effort will add and expand a few flower beds, and introduce some native plants & trees to introduce year round color in the area while offering a nice screen for privacy for the surrounding homes. We look forward to the completion of this effort and the ongoing beautification of the community.

## CLUSTER STANDARDS WALKTHROUGHS

The Board would like to officially thank all residents for their active engagement with regards to the recently completed inspection of all 173 homes within the community.

While COVID-19 has introduced unprecedented challenges across Reston and the globe, it has been refreshing to see the dedication from our neighbors in maintaining properties and keeping Hillcrest Cluster beautiful. Thank you to those residents who responded directly to violation notices with expected timelines for addressing concerns and supplementary records of previous RA approvals.

Most of these responses have received personal replies from either Nathan Hagan or Greg Overkamp, but the board would like to remind everyone that the Board puts the safety of our residents first. Address any violations or maintenance concerns associated with your property as weather and public health allows.

Patience is our biggest strength in fighting the impacts of COVID-19.

A reminder if you are concerned about a violation that has been cited, that you can always reach out to the Board for clarification at [info@hillcrest-cluster.com](mailto:info@hillcrest-cluster.com).

If you undergo any exterior home projects, including painting, be sure to check with the Design Standards for your section which can be found online at [www.hillcrest-cluster.com/cluster-standards/](http://www.hillcrest-cluster.com/cluster-standards/), and if you have any questions email the board at [info@hillcrest-cluster.com](mailto:info@hillcrest-cluster.com).

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Following the 2019 Annual Meeting, the newly elected Board of Directors for Hillcrest Cluster Association had 3 vacancies. Recognizing this, the Board has reached out to a number of residents who had expressed interest in serving on the board, but who did not apply to run prior to the Annual Meeting. In accordance with the Cluster By-Laws, a vote for appointment was taken for each candidate. We are proud to announce one new board



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members who have agreed to serve, and were confirmed by vote:

## **MAHESH RENGASWAMY** (11067 Saffold Way)

Mahesh has lived in Hillcrest Cluster for almost 10 years, and enjoys the community we share. Professionally, he runs Business Operations and Strategy at Thomson Reuters, and has experience to bring to bear in many areas including organizational, communication, and information technology skills. He hopes to use these skills on the board to build a stronger sense of community. He has expressed priority of interests in the community environmental, safety, and wellbeing efforts.

Please join us in welcoming Mahesh to the Board, who as an appointed member will serve a 1-year term which expires at the Annual Meeting in December of 2020.

With these appointments, Hillcrest Cluster Association has a full Board for the first time in a few years. We are incredibly proud to have such active engagement from our community, and remind all residents that Board members are volunteers and neighbors. With all vacancies filled, the full Board roster is below:

- Nathan Hagan** | 11142 - President
- Richard Stevens** | 11170 - Vice President
- Greg Overkamp** | 11100 - Treasurer
- Ben Miller** | 11119 - Secretary
- Rob Creegan** | 11081 - At-Large Member
- Sonia Patterson** | 11124 - At-Large Member
- Mahesh Rengaswamy** | 11067 - At-Large Member

Please remember that several board positions will be up for election at our Annual Meeting in December, including all three At-Large positions which are currently filled by appointees for a 1-year term. We urge you to consider running for the board to serve your community. An official solicitation for candidates will go out in the fall.

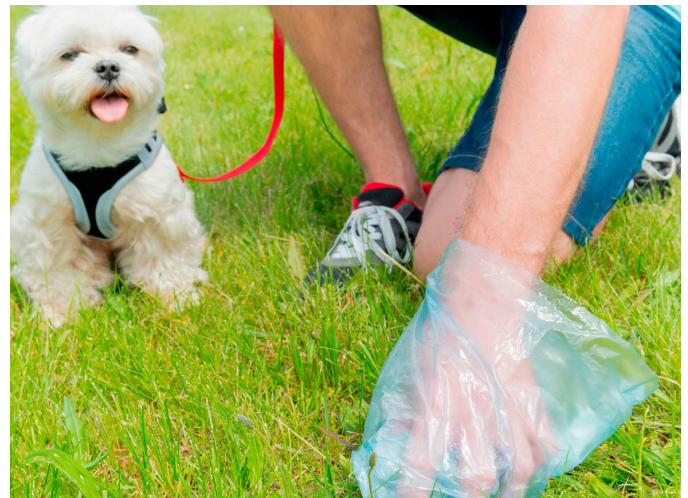
## **ANIMAL WASTE REMINDER**

Here in Fairfax County, we love our dogs and clean water, too. We can have both if dog owners are responsible and clean up after their pets.

Pet waste contains fecal coliform bacteria and can transmit diseases and parasites such as salmonellosis, cryptosporidiosis, and hookworm - just to name a few. These can make both humans and pets sick. Decaying pet waste can also contribute to fish kills in local streams and the Potomac River.

Always clean up after your pet. **IT'S THE LAW.** Failure to properly dispose of dog waste is a Class 4 misdemeanor and **subject to a \$250 fine** (County code, Section 41.1-2-6).

Several friendly reminder signs have been added around the cluster to help reinforce this for petowners passing through.



## **RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE: GARDENING**

Spring and early summer are perfect times to get outside and make progress on or update your home. While maintaining your garden is a year-round activity, this time is ideal for some key tasks.

You should take the opportunity to clean up leaves and garden debris, which can collect and trap moisture leading to mildew and water damage especially when adjacent to the walls of your home.



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General gardening is a perfect spring/summer activity as new plants have the opportunity to thrive in the milder weather. Removing weeds will help the desirable plants stay healthy, and applying new topsoil and mulch can introduce much needed nutrients for plant growth and create protective layers to mitigate further weed growth. As a reminder for homeowners looking to mulch that red mulch, though available at local hardware and landscaping companies, is not permitted by Reston Association.

Lastly, some properties in the cluster have lawns which need to be mowed regularly by the homeowner. This maintenance is not performed on your personal property by our landscaping vendor, Blade Runners.

We look forward to seeing all of your hard work come into bloom through the year, and appreciate your personal contributions to beautify your homes and improve the look of the cluster.



## PARKING COURTESY

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The Hillcrest Cluster had a healthy long discussion last year regarding some parking challenges around the neighborhood. One outcome of this discussion and the corresponding resident survey was to reinforce through communications the importance of courtesy between neighbors when it comes to parking.

If your household has 2 or more cars or guests visiting resulting in additional cars, please be courteous to your neighbors and consider parking excess vehicles in less populated portions of the neighborhood or along Ring Road.