

# NEWSLETTER OF THE CRESTWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Washington, DC



December 2019

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## December Crestwood Events

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL  
CRESTWOOD HOLIDAY PARTY!**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019, 4-7 PM  
HOME OF CHRISTIAN SALINAS AND BRANDON  
GREEN  
4221 MATHEWSON DRIVE NW**

**WE WILL PROVIDE APPETIZERS AND DRINKS,  
BUT CONTRIBUTIONS OF TASTY MORSELS ARE  
WELCOME!**

**RSVP AT CRESTWOODDC.ORG**

## Blagden Sidewalk Update

DDOT states that it is waiting on utility clearances, which it expects to receive this winter, with construction expected Spring 2020.

## Upcoming Events

**12.15.2019** - Annual Holiday Party,  
4221 Mathewson Drive NW, 4-7pm

**12.24.2019** - Christmas Eve  
Caroling, 3904 18th St, NW, 6pm

**1.21.2020** - Joint CCA/SMD 4A08  
Neighborhood Meeting



For over 40 of the past 50 years, Ann and Ed Sheridan hosted caroling on their front porch at 3904 18th Street. When the Sheridans moved out, other lovely Crestwood neighbors continued the tradition.

This year, the new owners of 3904 - Mike, Jen, Jackson, Sadie and Curtis Dabbs - are delighted to host caroling at 3904 18th Street once again!

The caroling starts promptly at 6pm on Christmas Eve, December 24.



Twitter (@Crestwood\_DC)  
Facebook (CrestwoodDC)

## 2019 Turkey Trot Recap



Photo: Galen Kaufman

The 2019 Crestwood Turkey Trot was the most successful yet! It was amazing to see so many neighbors and friends begin Thanksgiving by exercising for a good cause!

In all, we had **210** people register for the Turkey Trot. Thanks to your efforts, we raised over **\$3,700** for our friends at Rock Creek Conservancy, a nonprofit that works to restore Rock Creek and its parklands, and is at the center of the effort to make sure Crestwood residents have a voice in the Carter Barron rehab project.

We're thinking about stepping up our race timing for next year - probably not a full chip-timed system but maybe something more than self-recording - if you have any thoughts or experience and want to help, drop us a line and let us know. You can email [turkeytrot@crestwooddc.org](mailto:turkeytrot@crestwooddc.org).

**THANK YOU to Hala Harik Hayes for conceiving and leading the Turkey Trot every year, and for all the volunteers that make the race possible!**

### CRIMES REPORTED IN POLICE SERVICE AREA 404\* From November 1 through 30, 2019

OFFENSE	In PSA 404 Total	Near Crestwood_ Subtotal	In Crestwood Subtotal : Mon-Thu Fri- Sun		
<b>Assault</b>	1		:		
<b>Burglary</b>	3		:		
<b>Homicide</b>	0		:		
<b>Robbery</b>	6	1	:		
<b>Stolen Auto</b>	3	1	:		
<b>Theft</b>	15	1	:		
<b>Theft from Auto</b>	22	2	4	:	2 2
<b>Other</b>	0		:		
<b>Total</b>	50	5	4	:	2 2

*Thank you to Beverly and John Ostenso for compiling neighborhood crime statistics every month.  
Current and historical crime stats are available at [crestwooddc.org/crime-stats](http://crestwooddc.org/crime-stats).*



# CASA Crestwood Was a Hit!



On a gorgeous Fall Sunday this past October, neighbors, friends, and supporters came, toured, viewed and generated a whopping **\$11,425** for Thrive DC at the 2019 CASA Crestwood Tour of Homes. \$3,425 more than last year!

The neighborhood was awash with people sharing stories, seeing homes, connecting and creating community. This year's CASA home tour was built from the walls of support from our homeowners! It is an understatement that offering your home is a singular gift. We could not have opened up a thing without: **Kevin O. Ward & Tommy L. Callahan, Kathy Stein & George Jansen, Merry & Massie Ritsch, Emily & Keith Murphy, Saint John the Baptist, Jane & Vello Kuuskraa, Mary-Morgan & David Culver, and Myron Murdock and Judith Herzog.**

The CASA planning circle starts working in May and makes sure CASA pulls it off: **John Favazzo, Pavan Khoobchandani, Beverly Wyatt, Daryl Muller & Deb Lathen.**

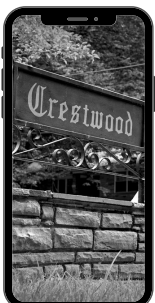
Volunteers are \$10,000 a dozen and CASA only functioned because of the contributions of: **Bonnie Benwick, Deb Saxon, Lidia Campos, Steve Cain, Matt Gianferente, Eugenie Anderson, Grace Park, Sonia Moore-Williams, Janice Sterling, Dawn Prosser,** and all the **MGM** volunteers who ensured the home love happened.

Thrive DC threw it down for CASA with the help from: **Alicia Horton, Daniel Meloy, Mariah Cowser, Catherine Moore and KC Price.**

CASA Crestwood 2019's exclusive sponsors **Jay Fazio and John Mahshie of TTR Sotheby's International Realty** yet again had our back and we are forever grateful!

If you just can't wait to offer your home for CASA 2020 scheduled for October 18, 2020 - please email [woodsassoc@gmail.com](mailto:woodsassoc@gmail.com).

**A special THANK YOU to Denise Woods for - in addition to all the other good work she does - motivating and inspiring us all to give more of ourselves.**



**EMAIL LISTSERV** - Crestwood has an active listserv where neighbors share ideas, tips, items for sale, and much more. The listserv is the **BEST WAY** to communicate online with your neighbors.

To join the listserv or to see archived messages, visit [crestwooddc.org](http://crestwooddc.org).

# Holiday Safety Tips

With all the decorations, shopping, parties, and fun coming up with the holiday season, it's important to be safe while also having fun. SafeWise Security Systems shared five tips to help keep your family and home safe during the holiday season:

1. **Keep your travel plans offline.** If you are planning to travel during the holiday season, keep your travel plans off social media. Never post where you are going, when you are leaving, or when you will be back. This is prime information for a thief because they will know when your house will be empty. Even if you have the highest-level of security on your Facebook or Twitter accounts, posting this personal information is never recommended.

2. **Notify a neighbor.** If you will be out of town during the holidays, notify a trusted neighbor. Ask them to keep an eye on your home and report any suspicious activity. You'll also want this neighbor to keep your walks cleared of snow and to pick up your mail and newspapers while you are away. Make your house look like somebody is home to deter a burglar.

3. **Hide any gifts.** You probably want to keep gifts out of sight from children, but you also want to make sure gifts are hidden from a potential burglar as well. Putting pretty wrapped gifts under the Christmas tree looks nice, but it's also an open invitation for a burglar. Try to keep your Christmas tree, with gifts underneath, away from windows or other places with a view. When you aren't home, it's easy to break through a window and grab all of your gifts. Take care of your electronics as well, those that are meant as gifts and those already in the home.

Keep cameras, CDs, DVD players, computers, and iPads (and their boxes) within your view and out of sight for a burglar.

4. **Watch your lights.** December is the deadliest month for electrical fires. Before you string lights on the house or the tree, inspect the strands to make sure there aren't any frayed cords or cracked lamps. Replace any broken lamps and throw away strands with frayed cords. This will help prevent any accidental fires. You'll want to buy cords that have been tested by an independent laboratory, like the Underwriters Laboratory. Also, be sure to turn any holiday lights off when you go out for the evening or when you go to bed. Try using an outdoor timer to switch lights on and off.

5. **Inspect the furnace and the chimney.** Heating-equipment, like furnaces and fires can many deaths every year in the United States. In fact, in 2008, the U.S. Fire Administration reported approximately 2,650 people were killed by house fires. Take the time to have a professional come inspect your furnace and clean the chimney before you need to heat your home.

\* \* \*

The holidays can be the most wonderful time of the year, as long as you stay safe during them. Be sure to take the precautions you need in order to fully enjoy the season.

## Holiday Tree Collection

DPW will collect Holiday Trees and Greenery 12/27 – 1/31. **Residents are asked to call 311 to make an appointment to schedule their collection between 12/27 - 1/10.** Trees and Greenery should be placed in front of residents' homes or taken to the drop off locations where they will be composted and made available to residents at no charge.

Please remove all ornaments and lights and do not place trees and greenery in bags. After January 31, please place holiday trees and greenery where your trash is normally collected. They will be picked up along with your trash as space in our trucks permits. Unfortunately, trees and greenery collected after January 31 will not be composted.

# Rock Creek Park Update

## Peirce Mill Tennis Center Redevelopment



Superintendent Washburn of Rock Creek Park provided updates on the Peirce Mill Tennis Center at the October Crestwood meeting. Rock Creek Park staff is aware of the dilapidated condition of the tennis courts and, like Crestwood, wants to do something about it. Great, right?

Well, let's remember that the National Park Service has significant deferred maintenance, and Rock Creek Park alone has \$57 million in deferred maintenance. There is a bill in Congress right now that would establish a Public Lands Infrastructure Fund that would help address deferred maintenance needs in the National Park System.

So there is some hope, but there's no guarantee that fund will be established. Basically, there is little to no money right now to do the work that needs to be done to redevelop the tennis courts (either into new tennis courts or something else).

Superintendent Washburn indicated that because this is an important issue both to Crestwood and Rock Creek Park, she may be able to find some money to start the process, but in order to really get this done, at this juncture the only possible funding is from NPS's existing funds - and the earliest those funds might be available at this juncture is FY 2023.

There are a couple of options to move forward sooner rather than later, and the CCA will continue to work with Rock Creek Park.

## Rock Creek Gala Giving

At Rock Creek Conservancy's Rock Creek Gala on October 5, a group of Crestwood neighbors got together, and during the paddle raise portion of the night announced a \$5,000 combined donation from Crestwood neighbors! Well, if that wasn't good enough, it appears that the Crestwood donation prompted some friendly neighborhood rivalry, and a few other neighborhoods quickly whispered to each other and made their own neighborhood contributions! Now THAT is giving!

## Rock Creek Golf Course



The Rock Creek Golf Course has seen better days. The back nine is closed because of safety concerns, and generally it has not been properly maintained for some time.

Rock Creek Park has issued an RFP for a lease for the Rock Creek Golf Course, the Hains Point Golf Course, and the Langston Golf Course combined.

The successful bidder will be responsible for upgrading, modernizing, and maintaining all three courses. There's a thought of installing a driving range in Rock Creek Park and maybe event space or a clubhouse!

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# ANC SMD 4A08

## Commissioner Black

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### DC Comprehensive Plan + Neighborhood Issues

At the October 2019 Crestwood meeting, I called for volunteers to work on the comments to the DC Comprehensive Plan Update. That team was convened and met several times. The final product reflects the consensus of the team. Similarly, ANC 4A extended the team to others for comments. We advocated for protecting DC's limited "single-family" residential housing and the existing neighborhoods, such as Crestwood. We also advocated for an efficient and safe transportation system - that meets the needs for all of us, including seniors, individuals with disabilities. While safety is important, we also need to address transportation efficiency and gridlock.

ANC 4A's adopted comments include:

- Protecting existing neighborhoods
- Ensuring housing near Metro stations and bus corridors is affordable
- Discouraging replacing homes in "good physical condition" with larger, less energy efficient ones
- Supporting the greening of residential alleys where feasible, and especially in neighborhoods adjacent to Rock Creek Park
- Not installing unnecessary or unwanted sidewalks

For a full list of comments, please visit [crestwooddc.org/ANC-SMD-4A08](http://crestwooddc.org/ANC-SMD-4A08).

Neighbors often approach me with questions or requests regarding a variety of neighborhood issues including zoning, environmental concerns, infrastructure, and safety concerns.

I can often help provide context to the issue, raise concerns to the CCA, DC agencies, or ANC 4A, or otherwise help. I encourage neighbors to connect with me at [4A08@anc.dc.gov](mailto:4A08@anc.dc.gov).

More importantly, I encourage neighbors to come to the joint CCA/SMD 4A08 neighborhood meetings that we have quarterly, or to the ANC 4A meetings which are on the first Tuesday of each month other than July and August.

Examples on issues that I've worked on this year include:

- Airbnb issues
- Graffiti in Rock Creek Park under the bridges
- Traffic safety installation at 16th and Buchanan
- Unlawful construction without the appropriate permits
- Seniors, Aging-in-Place initiative for an age friendly neighborhood
- Preserving our public health, welfare and neighborhood character

#### WHAT'S AN ANC?

An ANC is a nonpartisan, neighborhood body made up of locally elected representatives called Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners. They are a unique feature of the District's Home Rule Charter. The ANCs' main job is to be their neighborhood's official voice in advising the District government (and Federal agencies) on things that affect their neighborhoods.

Although they are not required to follow the ANCs' advice, District agencies are required to give the ANCs' recommendations "great weight." Moreover, District law says that agencies cannot take any action that will significantly affect a neighborhood unless they give the affected ANCs 30 days advance notice.

ANC Single Member District (SMD) 4A08 covers all of Crestwood and is the equivalent of census tract 26. The SMD 4A08 commissioner is Gale Black.



# ICYMI - Crestwood's 300th Celebration At Carter Barron

On July 14, 2019 the doors of Carter Barron opened for a brief time to allow a glimpse at the state of the amphitheatre (needs a little love) and to commemorate Crestwood's 300th.

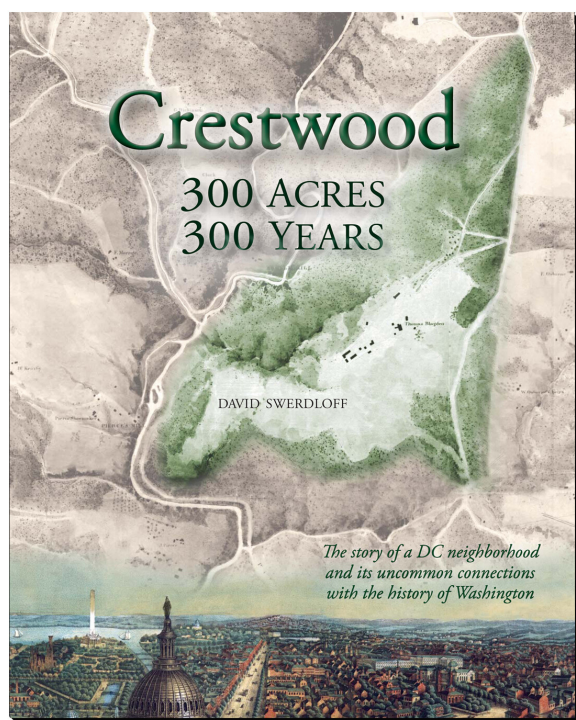
Thanks to **David Swerdloff** and **Danielle Reyes** for creating and leading a hike highlighting some of Crestwood's history, and to **Max Nacheman** and **Anna Nelson** for braving the heat and helping on the tour.

And thank you to **Rock Creek Conservancy** for putting on a great party!

At the party, Councilmember Brandon Todd presented Crestwood with a ceremonial resolution adopted by the DC Council commemorating the 300th anniversary of the parcel that would become Crestwood. The resolution says a lot about the history of our neighborhood and about our neighbors in general! Read the resolution [here](#).



Councilmember Todd presenting the Ceremonial Resolution regarding Crestwood's 300th year at the Carter Barron Party on July 14, 2019.



Crestwood: 300 Acres, 300 Years relates the history of our neighborhood with the help of more than 200 vintage photographs, maps, documents and news articles.

This 132-page book, written by CCA Historian David Swerdloff, costs \$20. All proceeds benefit the Association. To order, please visit [crestwooddc.org/Online-Store](http://crestwooddc.org/Online-Store).

## The Crestwood Citizens Association Board of Directors for 2019-2020 is as follows:

President - Pavan Khoobchandani	president@crestwooddc.org
Vice President/Green Team - Doug Barker	greenteam@crestwooddc.org
Vice President - John Favazzo	jfavazzo@gmail.com
Secretary - Pat Kennedy	secretary@crestwooddc.org
Treasurer/Issues Team - Peter Richman	treasurer@crestwooddc.org
Communications Director - Kathleen Eder	communications@crestwooddc.org

## Action Teams Leads:

Kids Team - Harriet Winslow	kids@crestwooddc.org
Green Team - Doug Barker	greenteam@crestwooddc.org
Social Team - VACANT	VACANT
Public Safety Team	safety@crestwooddc.org
Newsletter Team - VACANT	VACANT
Issues Team - Peter Richman	issues@crestwooddc.org
Aging In Place - Yvonne Baskerville and Jackie Jackson	olderadults@crestwooddc.org

There are plenty of opportunities to get involved, either as an Action Team lead or on an existing Action Team! For more information please contact [info@crestwooddc.org](mailto:info@crestwooddc.org) or the Action Team lead.

## Join the Crestwood Citizens Association!

The Crestwood Citizens Association covers over 800 households in Crestwood.

We provide residents with fun-filled FREE community events like the Easter Egg Hunt, 4th of July Parade, Summer Picnic, Fall Clean-up Day, and Holiday Party to name a few.

We also host fundraisers for worthy charities such as CASA Crestwood and the Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot.

We work together on issues that matter to us and raise awareness about issues that impact all of the Crestwood community.

We need you, Crestwood residents! Please join today, your support enables us to sponsor all of these wonderful neighborhood activities and programs, and to advocate on behalf of you. The Association is open to all Crestwood residents, and the cost is \$25 per family, annually.

To join the CCA, please register by visiting [crestwooddc.org/join](http://crestwooddc.org/join) or by emailing [treasurer@crestwooddc.org](mailto:treasurer@crestwooddc.org).

For newsletter or other sponsorship opportunities, please contact Kathleen Eder at [communications@crestwooddc.org](mailto:communications@crestwooddc.org)