

THE DOWNS

FALL

2020



7151 Lee Highway in 1962 – now Luzmary's Bolivian Restaurant

www.greenwaydowns.org
greenwaydownsinfo@gmail.com

Greenway Downs Citizens Association

The Greenway Downs Citizens Association (GDCA) is a non-profit, non-partisan association of residents that represents around 464 households in Greenway Downs.

The GDCA was formed in 1942 by a group of Greenway Downers who were indignant about sewage bubbling up in back yards and endangering their children playing in Tripp's Run.

We are a member of the Fairfax County Federation of Civic Associations.
(www.fairfaxfederation.org)

Food Truck Fridays in Greenway Downs

The GDCA is launching "Food Truck Fridays" beginning Friday, October 2. We plan to invite food trucks to a convenient location in Greenway Downs and if there is enough interest expand this into a weekly event.

We are developing a website and app that will allow you to see the menus and pre-order! If you would like to stay informed directly about this website and app please email us at greenwaydownsinfo@gmail.com.

Save the Dates

Oct. –Nov.	Food Truck Fridays	p. 1
Oct.10	Plant & Seed Swap	p. 1
Oct. 10	Creek Clean &	
	Invasive species removal	p.2
Oct.24	Halloween Pup Parade	p. 2

Plant & Seed Swap

Date: Saturday, Oct. 10
Where: Cul de sac, Mastenbrook Park
Time: 10-12 p.m.

Take the opportunity to share what you have too much of, and get something new and interesting in return for your garden or indoor plants. We will have tables set up for the exchange. Please label your plants if you can. Details forthcoming on Nextdoor, or join our GDCA list-serve at greenwaydownsinfo@gmail.com to receive details conveniently delivered to your email.

Greenway Downs Citizens Association

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The GDCA would like to thank John at Welsh Printing, 104 E. Fairfax St. in Falls Church for printing our newsletter and for providing us with the historic photo on the front page.

Check out
www.greenwaydowns.org
to see more historic photos.

Custis Creek Clean Up & Invasive Species Removal Project

Saturday, Oct. 10
9-12 p.m.
John Mastenbrook Tot Lot
(rain date Oct. 17)

Come join your Greenway Downs/Jefferson Village neighbors for the fall stream clean up and the opportunity to rid the creek area of invasive species!

Trash bags will be provided. First come, first serve for a limited supply of litter grabbers.

Bring your own gloves, water, and cutting tools.

Questions: email Sara at sararaekelly@gmail.com

Halloween Pup Parade Noon, Sat., Oct. 24

Dress up your pup and let it strut its stuff

Meet in John Mastenbrook Park cul de sac. We will parade to and down Marshall, take a left on Jefferson and end at Jefferson Village Park.

Friendly, vaccinated, leashed dogs ONLY. Any questions about this event, contact Cathy Thatcher at cmthatcher@aol.com or call (text) 703-203-4010 or Jane Torok at 703-244-7390.

Disclaimers:

By participating you are doing so at your own risk. Children are welcome, BUT, this is a dog event so parents are responsible for their child's safety. All dogs must be under the control of a person 18 years or older.

Trick or Treating for the Kids on Halloween

This is a very difficult year to plan a community event for kids to trick-or-treat safely on Halloween. The GDCA is working on it and if you have any ideas please email us at greenwaydownsinfo@gmail.com

An Interview with the Creators of The Marsh Exhibition

By Shira M. Zemel

For many of us, the pandemic has meant quite a few more walks around the neighborhood than usual. Walking down any Greenway Downs street, one discovers the creativity and whimsy of so many of our neighbors: encouragement signs scattered about, heart signs inside windows, Little Free Libraries teeming with books, colorful painted stones, and fantastic social justice signs.

And there is one particular delight many of us have discovered (and if you haven't yet, RUN, do not walk!): The Marsh Exhibition located at 2826 Marshall Street. Created by Amelie Zanon (age 11, Timber Lane 6th grade student) and Darren Zanon (creative dad, Greenway Downs resident for 13 years), the Marsh Exhibition is a rotating exhibit beautifully situated in their front yard. I had the pleasure of sitting down with Amelie and Darren to learn more about how the Marsh Exhibition came to be:

So how did this idea for an exhibit in your front yard take shape?

Darren: This was something I'd been mulling over for a long time. Because you walk by the mini libraries and it's like, oh that's cute but there's so many of them!" So I mentioned it to one of our neighbors at the New Year's Eve party and he was like "Yes! You should totally do that!"

And when you say, you mentioned "it", what do you mean exactly-- what was the initial idea?

Darren: To build a box. To do a museum.

So what was the process for building the box?

Darren: At first it was hard to find clear plastic, it just didn't exist. And this was before the pandemic! I was looking for this stuff in the winter. There's like a really tiny section of Home Depot and they had it in 4 sizes....

Amelie: But we already had the piece of wood, right?

Darren: Yeah, the piece of wood holding it up is the piece of scrap wood from our porch. So, I had the post, and then I went to Home Depot to buy the clear plastic stuff, and then I designed it up, and then I was like, it's just gotta be waterproof.

OK so now you have this awesome box. What's next? What's been your process for developing the exhibits?

Amelie: Well, we've done a bunch. First it was the airplanes one, then the bubble house, then the GPS one. Then tornados and now our current one, butterflies.

Darren: We pick a topic, do some research, figure out the one-box summary. We choose information that's both interesting and maybe a little off-the-wall, so to speak. When we first started doing it the kids still had school, but I was home all the time so I started researching. And then Amelie would work on layout and design. And then for the butterfly one, Amelie did the entire thing.

Amelie: Yeah, so one of the kids from up the street put in a suggestion to do butterflies. So I just started researching butterflies. Because we learn about butterfly life cycles in second or third grade, so I took what I knew from then and then built on it. And the flowers that are in there, I painted cotton balls!
I have another idea to do one about Jamestown. Because we recently went to Williamsburg and when we stopped into Jamestown, I remember being so obsessed with it. That was so fun for me. So, we'll do that one soon. Maybe not the next one, but sometime.

Have you had good reception from the neighborhood?

Darren: Oh yeah, people come by all the time and say "this is so cool!" In fact, most of the suggestions in the suggestion box are just to keep doing it.

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Amelie, what else do you like to do for fun?

Amelie: Well, I'm the co-editor of the Marshall Street Tribune! It's a newspaper for our street written by a bunch of kids on the street. We write about all sorts of topics from local crime (a missing remote control!) to local business (start-up lawn mowing business by neighbor Declan Henderson, age 8), fashion trends, restaurant reviews, horoscopes, sports, national news, and there's even an opinion column.

Whoah! I had no idea there is an even more local news source than the Greenway Downs Newsletter, very cool. Thanks so much for talking to me today! Oh and by the way, how did you choose the name "Marsh Exhibition"?

It's because the exhibit is on Marshall Street and we thought it sounded good.

This conversation has been edited for concision and clarity. You can take a look at photos from past exhibits on Google Maps (bit.ly/marshexhibition) or just search "Marsh Exhibition" in Google.

What Neighbors are saying about the Marsh Exhibition:

"We love to stop and check out the latest exhibition on Marshall! Our 3 year old is always excited to learn something new."
-Lisa Hughes, Monroe Street

"I love the details in the different exhibits"- Caroline French, age 9, Fashion Contributor to the Marshall Street Tribune

"Aren't the butterflies strong enough to have the box fly away?" -Matt Ball, Mayor of Cameron Road

"I was blown away by this perfect display of creativity as I was walking the dog one day. As an exhibit designer, perhaps I'm a little biased, but the thought that went into the research, the adorable designs, and the fact that the construction itself has held up in the elements-- such a sweet little COVID silver lining and just down the street" -Samantha Scott DuVal, Associate Exhibit Designer, The Design Minds in Fairfax.

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DRAINAGE ISSUES:

- Down Spouts
- Dry Wells
- Stairwell Drains
- Swales
- Dry Creek Beds
- Window Wells
- French Drains
- Wet Yards
- Failing Walls
- Culverts
- Rain Gardens
- Slope Stabilization
- Erosion Control
- Waterproofing



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The Hungry, Hungry Hippo Restaurant Review
By
Scot Walker

Camba Café
7177 Lee Highway
703-677-1530



The Camba is reimagined space from the old Spice Store and the Hunan Café- still under construction so currently only serving snacks and lunch. It's a pleasant small group, including Rosa and Tono, who suggested the best sandwich for me – steak and fried egg, so totally characteristic of Andean fare. So, I had the Sandwich de Chorrellana with fries for a total of \$7.85, an affordable lunch for anyone.

The meal was pleasant. I grew up with quick fried steaks and have traveled extensively in South American, so I always fee at home when I visit Camba Café. I'm giving four happy hippos, with the hopes that I can come back for dinner service sometime soon.

Join the Greenway Downs Email List Serve and get the latest info on Greenway Downs events and activities. Email greenwaydownsinfo@gmail.com with "subscribe" in the subject line.



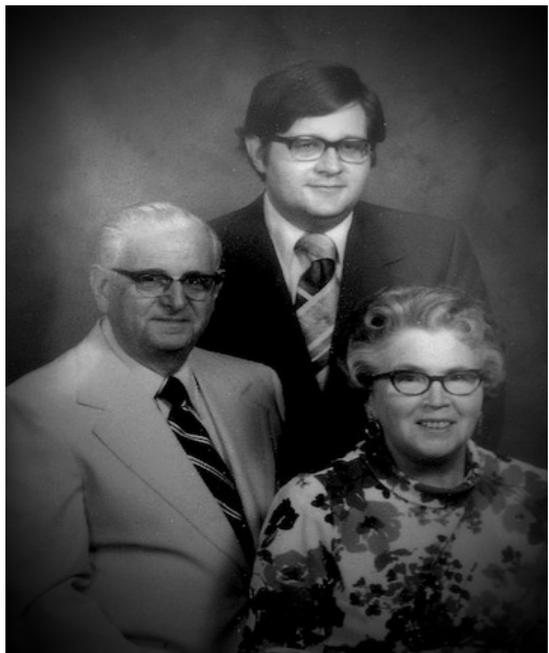
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The Legacy of the Cunningham Family

by
Annaka Moses
Age 17



At the bottom of Cameron Road, down towards Custis Parkway, there is a house on the right-hand side of the intersection. This house was built in the late 1940s, but was recently renovated by a young couple who just had their first baby.

Would you believe that this new family is only the second family to own that house? The original owners were Jewel and Neal Cunningham, and for me to write about their history covers a great deal of the history of our neighborhood.

Jewel was born in Georgia in 1910 and raised in Florida. She was considered the perfect southern lady. Neal was born in 1907 and raised in southern Illinois. Jewel was nine years old during the 1918 Influenza pandemic and fortunately she survived to later attend nursing school in Tampa, Florida and move to Washington, D.C. to work as a nurse. Neal moved to Washington D.C. in the 1930s to begin working as a surveyor for the United States Geological Survey. There he would later meet Jewel.

After Jewel and Neal married in 1939 they lived for a brief period in Anacostia, Washington D.C. They did not especially enjoy the environment in Anacostia, especially the humid summer heat. According to Jewel, residents of their apartment district would sleep in the grass by the river to combat the insufferable heat.

Unfortunately, in her early thirties, Jewel had contracted tuberculosis from her job and had to live in a tuberculosis sanatorium for eight years. Jewel eventually retired from her career as a nurse during her stay at the sanatorium. Fortunately, in the early 1940's antibiotics were permitted for public and commercial use and this allowed Jewel to be properly treated and cured. Though she feared that her age and medical issues would prevent her from having children one day, Jewel eventually gave birth to their son, Neal Cunningham Jr. She was absolutely overjoyed and the Cunninghams frequently referred to Neal Jr. as "the miracle child."

While Jewel was in the sanatorium before their marriage, Neal Sr. had boarded in a house at the top of Cameron Road and he there grew to love the neighborhood. After Neal Jr. was born, the Cunninghams followed the migration to the suburbs and in 1949 moved to Greenway Downs. According to the Cunninghams, the neighborhood was very much different than it is now. So many other families had migrated here that there were a lot of children (the Baby Boom generation).

Jewel had a profound love of children, and she took pride in raising Neal Jr, as well as looking after every other child in Greenway Downs. According to Jewel, because there were no fences in the backyards when they moved in, she and other mothers built a sandbox in the backyards between Summerfield and Cameron Roads (towards the bottom of the hill). The children were allowed to play outside with each other as the mothers watched from the kitchen windows.

Cameron Road used to dead-end at Custis Parkway, so many people used Cameron Road as a sledding hill during the winter. Jewel strongly disapproved of this practice, asserting that it was too dangerous and that adults should know better. Unsurprisingly, she was not very sympathetic when someone knocked out their front teeth while sledding down Cameron Road.

When the Cunninghams first moved to Greenway Downs the ground was mostly barren. Greenway Downs residents decided to liven up the neighborhood by planting fast growing trees like Poplars and shrubs like Rose of Sharon. Poplar trees grow to be quite tall and their shallow roots make them hazardous in heavy storms. Rose of Sharon may be beautiful, but they spread at alarming rates and to this day there are still plenty of them remaining in Greenway Downs.

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The Cunninghams struggled with the local wildlife, which was quite prevalent because of the Custis Parkway creek. Bats were especially an issue because they frequently spotted bats in their attic and once in their bedroom. Jewel spoke of an encounter she had with a snake: Jewel initially believed that an object in the front yard was a hose, but when she attempted to pick it up, she was shocked to discover that it was a snake. Jewel apparently screamed so loudly that a neighbor ran to her aid. The neighbor hit the snake with a shovel, and they assumed from its limp, lifeless body that it was dead. To preserve the snake's body for Neal to see when he came home from work, she displayed it in front of their house. Evidently, the snake must have only been stunned since the body had vanished by the time Neal returned home.

Although the Cunninghams loved the Greenway Downs community, they had some reservations. Due to the frequent changes of the county's borders, Neal Jr. went to three different elementary schools. Jewel especially disapproved when the City of Falls Church took T.J. Elementary School from Greenway Downs. In the early 1990s, when residents voted to accept annexation by the City of Falls Church, Jewel and other senior residents vehemently opposed this notion. Additionally, the Cunninghams feared the increasing traffic in the neighborhood. Jewel particularly did not appreciate the traffic on Arlington Boulevard, once contending that "people drive fifty miles an hour there!"

In 1969, Neal retired from the United States Geological Survey and to spend more time outside took up gardening. He was up at 5:30 AM and outside with his wheelbarrow. Neal would turn his yard into a tomato garden and every square inch of the backyard and the sides of the house, would be covered with tomato plants. Neal was red-green color blind, so he tended to accidentally pick his tomatoes before they were ripe. For this reason, the Cunninghams would always have tomatoes ripening on their kitchen counters. In addition, Neal also planted flowers such as daffodils and lilies of the valley and would distribute roots and bulbs from his garden amongst his neighbors. To this day, his flowers' descendants can still be found in Greenway Downs, and even as far as Gaithersburg!

Neal always reflected his love for his community in his gardening, and he was always willing to help other gardeners. My parents, who were close friends to the Cunninghams, once had a truckload of mulch deposited in their driveway by tree trimmers. Neal immediately came to their assistance with his wheelbarrow and distributed the mulch around the neighborhood. Additionally, Neal installed a platform bird feeder in his backyard in order to bird watch. To outwit cats and squirrels he created elaborate traps that would spray water on any intruding animals. During his retirement, Neal was an avid follower of the space program and the Cunninghams would take trips to Cape Kennedy to see the rocket launches.

By 1990 the Baby Boom generation were all grown up and, much to Jewel's dismay, there were barely any children left in Greenway Downs. However, Jewel was especially excited when a new generation of children arrived in the mid-nineties, including my sister, for whom Jewel was practically a grandma. My sister would play at the Cunninghams' house and receive birthday and holiday gifts from them. During the holiday season, Jewel would invite neighborhood children to see her Christmas display, including their decorated tree and the train set around their dining room table.

Neal Jr. was always interested in technology. He taught himself how to use and repair computers and he built a computer for himself from a kit. Following in his father's footsteps, Neal Jr. worked at the USGS in the computer-related field. Jewel and Neal both had heart conditions in their old age so they expanded their house in the 1980's so Neal Jr. could live there and this allowed them to stay in their home. Macular degeneration took most of Jewel's eyesight and since she could no longer read, she listened to books on tape, especially the bible.

Neal Sr. died in 1995 and Jewel died in 1999, both at the age of 88. At Jewel's funeral, Neal Jr. gave a eulogy in which he paid tribute to his parents' love and compassion, proclaiming that because of the love that they had shared, he would honor their memory by loving his community. Neal Jr. remained in his boyhood home and continued his parents' community presence by helping and supporting his neighbors with a compassionate spirit.

Neal Jr. enjoyed the diverse ecosystem developing in the neighborhood and would talk to my mother about the coyotes, foxes, bald eagles, owls, deer, hawks, etc. In one conversation with my mother a few days before he died, he remarked, "It's getting to be like Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom around here lately." Neal Jr. died of natural causes in 2017 at the age of 68. The Cunningham family may be gone but I hope their legacy of love and compassion for each other and their love of community will live on.



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GREENWAY DOWNS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Join your Greenway Downs Citizens Association (GDCA)

For a suggested \$20 donation you will help support our Annual Neighborhood Block Party, Halloween Pup Parade, Meet & Greet for new residents, John Mastenbrook Park clean up activities as well as other neighborhood improvements.

(If you prefer to use our on-line form with Paypal, please go to tinyurl.com/GDCA2019)

Visit our website at www.greenwaydowns.org for more information about Greenway Downs

Please return this form to
GDCA Treasurer
2814 Winchester Way, Falls Church, VA 22046
(checks can be made to GDCA)

PART I: GDCA MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

Name: First: _____ Last: _____

Other household members (optional) First: _____ Last: _____

Address: _____

Street: _____ Zip: _____

If you would like to receive the most up-to-date information about neighborhood events email greenwaydownsinfo@gmail.com with subscribe in the subject line.

PART II: GREENWAY DOWNS SURVEY

Your input here is much appreciated! It helps the GDCA understand what you value most about our community and what kind of activities you enjoy.

What GDCA events would you attend?
(check all that apply)

- Annual Block Party
- New Neighbor's Meet & Greet
- Halloween Festival
- Halloween Pup Parade
- Food Truck Fridays

What do you like most about Greenway Downs?
(rank 1-4, 1 most important)

- Neighbors
- Neighborhood Diversity
- Schools
- Walking to shops and restaurants
- Other

What are your biggest neighborhood concerns?
(check your top 2)

- Thru traffic/speeding cars
- Crime (car break ins etc.)
- Schools
- Parking
- Other

What Year Did You Move into Your Current House?

Comments: