

GDCA runs primarily on donations from our neighbors, which is why we have the membership drive every other year. However, we are still far off from our goal of raising \$2,000. Please consider supporting your community by making your donation today! (tinyurl.com/GDCA2019). By filling out the form and making your donation, you are supporting your neighborhood and you become a member of the GDCA.

BONUS: If you make your membership donation by August 1st, you'll be automatically entered to win a free neighborhood t-shirt and gift certificate to a local restaurant.

Membership Form at www.greenwaydowns.org

GDCA Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2019 at the Home of Dana Diaz

Attendance:

- Iris Trieb
- Ranjeet Singh
- Jenny Girard
- Sara Kelly
- Kevin Swatt
- Matt Beh
- Pat Powell
- Dana Diaz

New Board for 2019-2020

Officer Positions

- President: Sara Kelly
- Vice President: Kevin Swatt
- Secretary: Dana Diaz
- Treasurer: Jenny Girard

Members at Large

- Ranjeet Singh
- Iris Trieb (Social Committee Liaison)
- Matt Beh
- Pat Powell

Budget Report and Membership Drive

Budget Report: Last year we spent more than anticipated because of the neighborhood sign replacement, but overall finished the year in the green. This year we have four major events to plan for: Block Party, the Halloween Pup Parade, the Holiday Events, the Annual Meeting plus potentially a new neighbors event. Other expenses may include the jot form fee (our on-line membership form fee), website domain retention, and other miscellaneous items.

Membership Drive: We're behind this year compared to years past. One of the reasons could be that in years past, the membership drive coincided with the directory deliveries and talking to neighbors may have encouraged donations. To encourage membership donations, we will run a membership drive where donating neighbors will be in the running to win a gift card to a local restaurant or business.

T-Shirts: All sizes including two youth sizes still available except for Large.

Fairfax Federation of Citizens Assoc: Meetings occur once a month and each civic association can have up to two voting members. Once FFCA meetings are scheduled, the board will revisit seeking volunteers (of board members) to go to the meetings.
(see link below for more information)
<http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/>

GDCA relationship with the new Providence District Supervisor

Linda Smyth is retiring. Virginia is a “Dillon rule” state so please see the link to understand what the Supervisor’s Office has the power to do vis a vis the State of Virginia.
<http://www.virginiaplaces.org/government/dillon.html>

GDCA Calendar up through December

The Block Party date is set for September 14, 2019. Other events to be planned at a later date. Ranjeet to spearhead new neighbor welcoming activity idea.

Actively recruiting for new social committee chair (co-chairs) to lead the social committee. If interested in co-chairing, or just helping out with the Block Party, contact Iris Trieb at triebi@hotmail.com

Communications with Greenway Downs

Who do we reach and how? Only half the neighborhood is on NextDoor. We could use sandwich boards to advertise joining the more specific Greenway Downs listserv and events.

Suggestions sent in from Greenway Downs Residents

(note: each suggestion or question will be either addressed or followed up on by a Board member

Q. A Woodlawn resident has reported a missing street light and is asking the Board to help her find a solution.

A. Sara will contact the resident and find out what the status of the resident’s reporting is thus far and follow up on this issue.

Q. When a tree falls, in Fairfax County, it is the responsibility of the owner where the tree falls down, not who the tree belongs too (as in Maryland). I hope it is can be changed. The owner of the tree/s will be more responsible to his/her trees, because regardless where the tree falls, it will be his/her responsibilities to pay for the damaged, cleaning, etc.

Preliminary answer: The matter of trees falling as a result of natural situations was recently affirmed in a June 7, 2012 Virginia Supreme Court decision ([Cline v. Dunlora South, LLC](#)). In this case the court held that the only situation where a property owner can be held responsible to an adjoining property owners is if the property owner did something that made the situation worse than it would be if nature was taking its own course. For example, if the property owner began to cut the tree down prior to the storm and stopped, then the storm toppled the tree. This ruling along with the Common Law related to this subject makes the State law very difficult to change.

Q. A resident on West George Mason Rd. asked why after a storm Marshall Street will get their power/electricity back before other streets.

Preliminary answer: Marshall St. is wired to the same grid that feeds the stoplight on Marshall and Route 29. West George Mason is on a different grid.

Q. Thanks for all you do. It may be to invite speakers eg from VA Master Gardeners group on use of pesticides. Everyone has diff preference on maintaining a beautiful lawn vs edible garden.

Some folks like to hire mosquito killers before a lawn party. Plenty of businesses promise to get rid of these pests. But unfortunately those chemicals also kill honey bees and other beneficial insects. Who can address these issues diplomatically without neighbors getting upset at one another.

A. Many in the neighborhood have small children, pets, and edible plants that may benefit from reducing the use of chemical treatments, as well as overall environmental benefits. We are reaching out and looking to invite speakers from VA Master Gardeners and other representatives, and look into ways to better communicate resolution to mosquito and invasive plant issues.

Q. Getting the roads re-paved in our neighborhood. Several neighbors have approached me about this issue, and a couple pointed out that the top layer of our street got scraped off during the last major snowstorm (a few years ago, when the top of Woodlawn was completely blocked off by snow and it took Fairfax Co. days to clear it). How can we, as a neighborhood, put more pressure/persuade VDOT or Fairfax to do more than fix potholes in our neighborhood? Even FCC got a few of their streets repaved last year. It's our turn!

Preliminary answer:

GDCA brought our VDOT representative to the 2019 Annual Meeting in May. The rep shared updates on road conditions overall in Fairfax County, and also mentioned that several Greenway Downs roads are tentatively planned for repaving in 2020. If these roads end up not getting repaved next year, they should be repaved in 2021. It's unclear which specific Greenway Downs roads are on the list, but GDCA will continue to work closely with this representative to ensure they are aware of the need for repaving in our neighborhood. As a separate issue, pothole repair requests can always be made here: <https://my.vdot.virginia.gov/>.

S. Yes. . . a bench at the top of our park--there are tables and a bench in the play area, but for us old geezers who climb those stairs day after day, it would respite for our souls if there was a place we could sit on after that climb.

Follow up: Board member will contact the Park Authority to explore the feasibility of a park bench near the path near the top of the stairs.

Any questions about the minutes please email greenwaydownsinfo@gmail.com