



of GREENWAY DOWNS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

VOL. VII, NO. 4

APRIL 1969

**ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS**

Our speakers for April represent both sides of the issue, "Gun Registration."

Speaking to us in favor of everyone registering firearms will be **Mr. Edward E. Nicholas, Jr.**, who is the Chairman of the Fairfax County Committee for Responsible Legislation of Firearms. In addition, he serves as Vice-President and Treasurer of the Raymondale Citizens Association where he serves on the Civil Rights and Poverty Committee. Mr. Nicholas is presently Assistant Director (Operations), Office of Personnel Management, National Institute of Health.

Opposed to gun registration is **Mr. Frank L. Cowles, Jr., Esq.**, a practicing attorney in Fairfax City, Virginia. Mr. Cowles is a member of the National Rifle Association, the Fairfax Rod and Gun Club, the 12th Precinct Pistol Club, and Fairfax County Citizens Opposing Gun Registration and Licensing Associated. From 1952 to 1955 Mr. Cowles worked for the Alexandria Police Department where he served as Firearms

**APRIL MEETING**

**DATE** Wednesday, April 23

**TIME** 8:00 p.m.

**PLACE** Devonshire School Cafetorium  
Graham Road and Lee Highway

**SPEAKERS** *Frank L. Cowles, Jr.*  
*Edward E. Nicholas, Jr.*

**PROGRAM** GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION—  
PRO AND CON

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**REFRESHMENTS**

Instructor and captain of the Police Pistol Team. Mr. Cowles lives in Centreville, Virginia.

The members of the Greenway Downs Citizens Association wish to thank these two men for giving up their time so that we can vote more intelligently on this very vital question.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Charles Helein, President

At our last meeting, the membership considered a resolution concerning gun control legislation. Specifically, the major clause of the resolution provided that the Association resolve that

**"The Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, Virginia, adopt rigorous and effective regulations for the sale, use, and possession of guns and specifically the registration of all guns with proper county authorities. . . ."**

After considerable debate, the membership voted to table the resolution, obtain more information on the subject of gun registration, and reconsider the matter at this, the April, meeting. Accordingly, as indicated on Page 1, a speaker in favor of and one opposed to gun registration will present his case, after which the membership will again debate and vote on the foregoing resolution or an amended version of it.

The fact that quite a few members attended the last meeting in order to express their views on this issue is a significant step towards making the Association more active, alert, and responsive to matters of community concern.

Hopefully, the degree of participation and interest expressed at our last meeting will set the tone for future meetings at which other topics and issues of importance to the community will be presented for consideration. For example, future meetings will present programs and propose actions with respect to integration,

drug abuse, low-income housing, teacher's union, county income tax, the President's ABM proposal, the Vietnam War, and other issues under current consideration by our local, state, and national governments.

Too many of us too often operate under the belief that our opinions and views will not influence the position of others, especially those in authority. However true this belief may have been, or may be today, the only effective and constructive way to change the situation is to articulate a position on a given topic and make sure that its merits and ramifications are made known to those in authority. This, of course, takes time, patience, perseverance, and also respect for the opinions of others, especially those which differ from ours, and their right to voice them.

Those residents who are members in good standing have the privilege to debate and vote at the general meetings, make recommendations for or against any proposed course of action and generally put their ideas to work through the Association. If you are interested in taking a more active role in your Association and helping it to function more effectively, the next opportunity will be the meeting on April 23rd when the issue on gun control registration will once again be considered.

## DEVONSHIRE PTA

The next meeting of the Devonshire PTA will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13th. Mrs. Stickney's 5th and 6th grades will present a play. The school band will present a program.

## "DRUG ABUSE"

Mr. Robert Horan, Jr., Fairfax Commonwealth Attorney, will speak on "Drug Abuse" at Falls Church High School at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, April 21st.

### THE DOWNS

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## AN EX-CON ON CRIME

"Crime begins in the home situation." With frank statements like this, Mr. Charles Lankford, counselor at Fairfax House and a 20-year ex-convict, spoke to our Association in February. During his short speech and long question-and-answer period, Mr. Lankford outlined what often makes a youngster become a criminal, what is available to him at Fairfax House, and what needs to be done.

"Let your kid know you care," Mr. Lankford said to underline the point that communication between parent and teen is often lacking when the youngster turns to criminal activity. Quite often he is out to prove that he can do something big, that he can "make it." Sometimes he's only out to get whatever attention this anti-social behavior can win from his parents—even if its *unfavorable* attention.

"A close relationship between the parent and the school is vital." There needs to be more conferences between the parent and the teacher which should sometimes include the student. It is important that the student's views and desires be integrated into the curriculum he follows. At present the schools give up too easily on problem kids. It is also important, Mr. Lankford felt, that dropouts NOT be put in the detention center where they might come in contact with the criminally minded youngsters.

"Drugs are readily available to today's youngsters." Because drugs can be so detrimental to the psychological as well as the physical youngster, it is important that parents become familiar with the symptoms of the various drugs. [See notice of meeting on drug abuse elsewhere in this issue.]

Fairfax House is a place where boys who seem to be wavering on the brink of turning to crime are sent by the courts to live in a disciplined, regimented environment. At a cost of \$600 per month per boy, at least some of which is paid for by the parents, 10-12 boys learn responsibility, orderliness, and school work while trying to figure out how they got into this mess and how to keep it from happening again.

## SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

The next meetings will be held on Wednesdays:

April 23 . . . . . May 28

PICNIC — Saturday, June 14

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Some of Mr. Lankford's suggestions to us as members of an Association were rather unique. He suggested a petty cash fund which members of the community could draw from when things were tight and pay back in good times. He felt that in about the 5th grade the students should study what is right and wrong, including such things as crime, drugs, and alcohol. Volunteer groups, such as Little League, Boy Scouts, and teen clubs, are very good for guiding kids, but the kids must be involved in them; they must take part in the planning of them.

If you realize your own kid is beginning to get into trouble, talk to him about it. Get his view of the problem. When and if you must issue an ultimatum, stick to it. Always do what you say you will do.

Fairfax County needs a psychologist, a psychiatrist, and a free mental health clinic. And even more desperately needed is a Fairfax House for girls who have no place to go at present. Legislation is also needed to make parents responsible for what kids do.

Among other statements Mr. Lankford made were:

Gun registration would cut down on crime by helping with ballistics tests and to trace guns to owners. "I'm in favor of anything that makes it harder for a criminal to get a gun."

We need additional punishment for the criminal use of a gun.

The Supreme Court has helped the criminal because the convict with lots of time on his hands can take advantage of the least little word in a law.

Eighty percent of the convicts are spending half of their lives in jail.

Criminals sometimes say they're addicted to drugs in order to get lower sentences. This is probably reflected in the 80% addiction rate at

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Lorton where there are probably 20% addicted and 60% who just say they are.

Probably Mr. Lankford's last remark was the most forceful. For decent, average citizens to fight crime, we must **stop talking and start acting.**

Join your Citizens Association in **acting!**

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### PICNICS IN THE PARK

For the second summer it is possible to picnic in the park at Custis and Monroe. However, this year, thanks to much hard work by the Fairfax County Park Authority, there are all the embellishments of a city park from cleared brush, 3 picnic tables, 2 grills, and a trash barrel to a bridge over the creek. In fact, two bridges have been installed on Custis Parkway approximately at Monroe and George Mason at a cost of \$250 each, less permanent installation which is still to come.

Unfortunately this hard work by the Park Authority has not been appreciated by all our residents. Several cases of illegal dumping have occurred since the Authority cleaned up. Thus it has been up to those who live nearby to clean up the mess left by others. In addition, those who drive past the park seem prone to leave their marks on the landscape with beer cans, cigarette packs, paper cups, etc. This is not only inconsiderate of those who want to use the park, it is also completely unnecessary. Pockets and litter bags should be used to help keep our roadways and park clean of trash.

### SCOUT NEWS

April is evidently camping month for **Troop 677**. The **Boy Scouts** camped out at Prince William Park, Virginia, the weekend of April 11, and Mr. Yarbrough took the **Webelos** of the **Cub Scouts** on a camping weekend, April 19th.

Speaking of those hard-working Cubs, their Pine Wood Derby was a huge success as testified to by the many residents who attended. The Scouts are pleased to announce that the winners were: 1st—**Ed Yarbrough**; 2nd—**Bob Heath**; 3rd—**David Hendrickson**. The award for the coolest car went to **Billy Weddle**.

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### SOMEONE WHO NEEDS US

The Association is pleased to announce the appointment of **Mrs. Beth Stucker**, 6915 Custis Parkway as Chairman of the Hospitality Committee. While Mrs. Stucker's main duty entails providing refreshments at the general meetings, in addition, she will add the all-important touch of friendliness and neighborliness to the affairs of the Association. If any resident knows of a family that has recently moved into the community, a family with a new baby, or of someone ill or in the hospital, let Beth know and she will see to it that the appropriate expression of welcome, congratulations, encouragement, or sympathy is made on behalf of the Association. Unless you call, there is no way of knowing who to contact. In short, we can all be members of Mrs. Stucker's Committee. Her telephone number is **534-2219**.

### MORE ON BURNING

Many thanks to our residents for upholding the anti-burning ordinance in our area this Spring. We all are breathing easier for it. The Fire Marshal's office is quite worried about the indiscriminate burning that is increasingly taking place in Fairfax County. On one recent three-day weekend, Fairfax County had 95 outdoor fires as compared to 16 on the same weekend last year. In addition to not burning at home, remember to be very careful with matches and cigarettes. Sixty thousand Virginians work in forest products industries; your carelessly thrown cigarette could put them out of business. An important point, too, is that if the fire departments are busy fighting carelessly-started brush fires they cannot protect our homes and lives, too.

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Another Cub Scout paper drive will take place in May. At this time the exact date a truck will be available is not known. The boys hope to be able to issue a flyer with the exact date to inform the community.

**THE CORRECT PHONE NUMBER FOR EXCESS TRASH PICKUP IS 631-1177**