



THE DOWNS

of GREENWAY DOWNS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

VOL. XIV, NO. 5

JANUARY 1976

THE OLD HARPER HOUSE, THE HAUNTED HOUSE, GREENWAY DOWN'S CASTLE, IS NO MORE!
(Story of House on Page 3)

FIREFIRE!

All citizens are invited to a meeting in the Devonshire School Cafetorium on Tuesday, February 3. The recent fire and our malfunctioning fire hydrant system will be the main topics of the meeting. A representative from the Fairfax County Fire Department and the Falls Church Water Department will be present to comment on what has been done since the fire and also to answer all your questions. Can you afford to miss this meeting and sit back while your Fire Insurance increases and the threat to your home and family grows? A short business meeting will follow in order to appoint members to an election committee. The meeting time is 8:00 P.M.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Randy Myers, President

You may notice that crosswalks have been painted and signs erected on our streets to help make our children's trip to and from school a little safer. These signs were erected to remind commuters of walking school children; but, I hope they remind our citizens also as they drive. Thank you to all who signed the crosswalk petition; but, it was necessary to get action immediately before county safety funds were exhausted, Unfortunately, some petitions which filtered in late were not counted. Other petitions from some streets never did reach me and it is a shame that just one person on a street negated the whole street by not passing it on.

I want to thank Sherry Brandt, Mary and Paul Millsback and several of their relatives, Col. and Mrs. Cook, Al and Elouisa Stokes, Karen Mariner, Mary Miller, Trudy Dinsmoor, Girl Scout Troop #857, Sue Cloud, Pat Streets, Carol Walker, Kathy Buford, Phyllis Enrico, Sandy Mann, Gladys Keys, Margo Stokes, Dwain Mariner, and Brenda Scott who all helped make our Christmas party a success.

The Health Fair test results have been mailed out and I want to thank Steve Steiner from NIH, Paul and Mary Millsback, Janice Smith, George Scharr, Elouisa Stokes and Gladys Keys for their help in compiling the results. The results have also been mailed to the participants' doctors.

A motion was passed at our January Executive Meeting that a letter be sent to Supervisor Scott concerning the transfer of funds from the Wolftrap area of Providence District to Greenway Downs for improvements to sewers and streets in our community and such a letter has been forwarded to Supervisor Scott. The Executive Board also passed a motion establishing a Greenway Downs Easter Egg Hunt to be chaired by Mary Millsback.

By now everyone knows of the fire and subsequent water problems in our community. I have been in contact with Supervisor Scott, Fairfax County Fire Chief Alexander and Falls Church City Manager

THE DOWNS

VOL. XIV, NO. 5

JANUARY 1976

Published by the Greenway Downs Citizens Association as a community service.

Editor Mrs. Karen Mariner 536-1991

Typing and Printing . . Jerry & Hester Nettles 450-5236

PRESIDENT'S CORNER (Continued)

Wells about these problems and something is being done.

EVENTS CALENDAR

- February 3 ...General Meeting: "Greenway Downs on Fire?"; Speakers from Fire Dept. and Falls Church Water Dept. 8:00 PM
- March 1Executive Meeting
2825 W. George Mason Road
- March 3Deadline for THE DOWNS
- March 25*.....Annual Awards Banquet
- April 5Executive Meeting
2825 W. George Mason Road
- April 7Deadline for THE DOWNS
- April 18*.....Greenway Downs Easter Egg Hunt
- April 22*.....General Meeting
- May 3Executive Meeting
2825 W. George Mason Road
- May 5Deadline for THE DOWNS
- May 27*.....Annual Youth Night
Election of Officers
- June 1Executive Meeting
2825 W. George Mason Road
- June 3Deadline for THE DOWNS
- June 19*.....Annual Picnic

* Tentative

HELP!

Our Annual Awards Banquet will be held in March and I still need volunteer #1. Call me at 536-2739 if you are interested!

From THE DOWNS, VOL. III, No. 2
February 1965

THE HARPER HOUSE

OUR NEW COVER DESIGN

Isn't this a lovely new picture we have for our news bulletin? We are much indebted to Mr. Wayne Shipp of 805 Custis Parkway who designed and drew the picture. He is a commercial artist and did this work as a service to our citizens association. We sincerely thank him for a job well done.

ing the original write-up. However, I will include information to enlighten "new-comers" on the community's past interests in the house.

The Harper House, as most of us have called it, was once known as the Dulaney Barn and was used as a storehouse for 150 barrels of gun powder during the War of 1812. It was at one time part of one of George Mason's farms and supposedly George Washington left his horse and carriage in the barn at various times. Mr. and Mrs. Carl B. Harper purchased the barn in January 1934 and converted it into a beautiful and intriguing home. It was covered with Falls Church Pink Granite, cut from the quarry by the Falls Church Motel. The original wood of the barn became the interior walls and other wood from old buildings was purchased and used in the interior decorating of the house. The tile roof came from an old Washington mansion. Many unusual features were incorporated into the construction of the house owing to Mr. Harper's inventive genius. The secret stairway behind the fireplace and the drawbridge stairway to the third floor were simply wonders as far as the neighborhood children were concerned, and the swinging balcony, copied from a French chateau seemed more than elegant. Doors had wooden dowels for doorknobs, bedroom doors slid up and down instead of out and probably what everyone remembers best is the way the Harpers let the kids in on Halloween to tour the house and the specialness of being a welcome friend and helper of the Harpers.

When Brenda Owens was small she visited the Harper House frequently. She would help Mrs. Harper bake cookies or dust, and enjoyed sharing a cup of tea with her on occasion. The house was filled with beautiful antiques and art objects from around the world. Brenda remembers how beautiful the hand painted ceramic tiles surrounding the fireplace were as the house was warmed by that extra glow in the winter time. She remembers the big Christmas tree and the genuineness of the friendship offered, and she remembers the sweetness and affection accepted as only a child could accept it with an open heart and with a feeling of security. Brenda and Mr. Harper would sometimes sit and talk in the yard where they could enjoy the sun and the fresh air. Mr. Harper had built a special garden seat of stone and it was while seated on this that he would tell Brenda stories about the house and the things he had built. Mr. Harper taught Amelia Earhart to fly the twin engine airplane and he flew the test plane for Charles Lindbergh and was one of our country's top men in the field of aeronautics. But, most of all, he was a friend to the children in Greenway Downs, a man who built a mysterious, castle-like house that even had a moat around it, a kind man who loved children and was willing to share his time with them. The Harpers -- Brenda's special friends -- I feel like I knew them too.

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

The Greenway Downs Citizens Association welcomes all of our new neighbors who may have recently moved into our area. We are one of the oldest continuously active citizens associations in the county and pride ourselves in keeping abreast of happenings in our community and county. We also sponsor many community services and activities during the year. We should shortly be starting our annual membership drive and look forward to your family joining our family. For any information on our community, please call Randy Myers at 536-2739.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Greenway Downs Citizens Association Annual Christmas Party was held on December 19 with the whole family invited. Each family donated non-perishable food items which were packed in gift boxes decorated by the children and presented to the Falls Church Community Service Council's Food Cupboard. The program featured Devonshire Junior Girl Scout Troop #857, under the leadership of Mary Miller, which presented a musical ensemble of carols and the play "Twas the Night Before Christmas." 'Kevin The Magic Maker' provided further entertainment and made Santa Claus magically appear. Santa Claus listened to each child's Christmas wishes and gave each a present out of his bag. The evening concluded with refreshments and a group Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long accompanied by Trudy Dinsmoor on the piano and Alan Stokes on the projector. Our thanks to Co-Chairpersons Sheri Brandt and Mary Millsback and their volunteers and to those of you who attended for a very enjoyable evening.

Our thanks to members of Junior Girl Scout Troop #857 and to Steve Mann and Tommy Rodriguez, and Randy and Chad Myers who delivered the December issue of THE DOWNS.

ADVERTISE IN THE DOWNS
Only \$1.00 per column inch

FLEA MARKET

This is to give you advance notice that in May the Citizens Association plans to hold a community "flea market" where you can sell your junk, crafts, plants, baked goods or whatever with a percentage going to the Association. If you have any suggestions or would like to help in any way, please call Charlotte Whitney, 534-9539; Joan Rodriguez, 533-7795; or Marty Sowers, 534-4463.

MISSING

Black cat (shoe scraper) taken from porch at 2835 Cameron Road. Anyone with information, please call: 532-3194.

Engraver available for marking person property. Call: 534-3197.

Television Repair Service. Call Charlie Mariner at 536-1991.

Typing services on IBM selectric. Call Sandra Mann at 536-3272.

Plumbing and Heating. Sales-Service-Installation. Complete Sewer Service. Call: O.W. (Bill) Smith at 430-1700.

PAINTING AND DECORATING
INTERIOR & EXTERIOR
LICENSED & INSURED
QUICK & RELIABLE SERVICE
WORK GUARANTEED

CALL AFTER 5:00 PM 256-9874

BABY SITTERS

- Terry Draper, age 13 534-3862
- Mike Garcia, age 13 534-3877
- Darlene Hedgpeth, age 12 532-1594
- Leslie Klinger, age 15 533-8051
- Mary Noles, age 16 534-5660
- Teresa Noles, age 16 534-5660
- Debbie Rodgers, age 12 533-2835
- Ellen Schaffstall, age 15 533-0432
- Kim Streets, age 16 533-0479
- Tammy Streets, age 14 533-0479
- Karen Wendel, age 13 533-3065

ODD JOBS

Steve Mann, age 14 536-3272