

The Downs

May, 1987

The Newsletter of the Greenway Downs Citizens Association

Falls Church, Virginia

GENERAL MEETING AND POTLUCK DINNER

Friday, May 29, 1987 7:00-1:00 PM

Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church, VA

The Greenway Downs Citizens Association (GDCA) annual potluck supper will begin at 7 PM in Rooms A and B of the Falls Church Community Center. Beverages, bread, butter, plates, and plastic ware will be provided. Please bring a main dish and salad or dessert; enough for your family and two others.

This is an excellent opportunity to meet and talk with your neighbors and friends. Baby sitting will be available in the game room, so bring the entire family!

At approximately 8 PM Katherine Hanley, Providence District Supervisor, will give a short presentation of topics that are of interest to our community.

She will be followed by Lander Allin, Coordinator of the Fairfax County Community Improvement Program, who will provide an update on Phases II, III, and IV of the neighborhood street improvement program.

The general meeting will begin immediately after Mr. Allin's presentation, and will include electing new officers and board members, and presenting the award for outstanding citizen. A slate of officers will be provided at the meeting, and nominations for directors and officers will be accepted from the floor. In the meantime you may call Norm Soles at 533-3568 if you wish to nominate someone or volunteer yourself.

We hope to see you there.

SENIOR CITIZENS SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Senior citizens 55 and over are invited to call the Devinshire Senior Multiservice Center, 698-5799, for information on weekly activities. These include ballroom dancing, table games, bridge, bingo, sewing and more. You may also inquire about the lunch program.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Coordinator	Keith Brescia	2847 Greenway	536-7734
Asst. Coordinator	Tom McDonnell	6825 Custis	536-6042
Block Captains	Janet Ice	2805 Woodlawn	534-9434
	Roscoe Ruddle	2846 Marshall	532-3085
	Jean Skillman	2754 Marshall	241-0932
	Dick Sewall	2829 Winchester	237-4746

General training sessions will be held at the Mason Police Station, 6507 Columbia Pike, at 7:30 PM on the following dates:

Thursday May 21
Monday August 3
Tuesday November 10

Please try to attend one of these sessions if you missed the neighborhood session last fall. The Crime Prevention Officers give us valuable information on what we can and should do to assist in preventing crime. This is a great opportunity to get better acquainted with our police force and to learn how to assist them with our eyes and ears.

We will arrange to have another neighborhood training session later this year. The time and place will be announced in a later newsletter.

Again, we need block captains for the streets not listed above. Please consider volunteering and save me some time and effort in recruiting people for our patrols.

Keith Brescia, coordinator.

STREET IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

Phase II:

Work is continuing on Cameron Road, Woodlawn Avenue and W. George Mason Road. Woodlawn Avenue was paved at the end of April. Restoration work in that area should begin sometime during the week of May 4. The storm sewer easement areas will be restored first, followed by the median and the areas along the street. Grading should begin on W. George Mason Road the week of May 11. Grading will be followed by the pouring of the curbs and gutters, sidewalks and driveway entrances. The road will be paved when the concrete work is complete. The finish layer of asphalt will be applied to Woodlawn Avenue and Cameron Road when W. George Mason Road is paved. Custis Parkway will be resurfaced at that time as well.

The staging area on Custis Parkway will be restored by the contractor once all other work is complete. The trees surrounding the staging area were pruned and fertilized in mid April. In addition, the Park Authority removed a number of trees that were destroyed during the heavy snow storm in mid February. They also pruned several trees to remove limbs damaged by the snow.

STREET IMPROVEMENT, cont.

A June deadline is still expected for the completion of the substantive portion of the construction. Some restoration work will continue into July. In addition, the contractor will be working to correct deficiencies that are discovered during inspections by County and State officials.

Phase III:

Land acquisition is continuing. If you have not returned your signed easement(s) or land dedications, please do so immediately. If you would like to discuss a concern or problem with County staff before signing, contact Jim Ashton, Land Acquisition Agent, Department of Public Works at 691-3424.

Construction is expected to begin early next spring.

Phase IV (Bolling Road):

The design of the proposed improvements is proceeding and the preliminary plans will probably be presented to the homeowners in July. A formal vote on whether to proceed with the construction of the improvements will be taken at that time. If you have any questions about Phase IV, please call Lander Allin, Project Coordinator, at 246-8302.

FAIRFAX COUNTY NOISE ORDINANCE

The remainder of this newsletter consists of reprints of Fairfax County publications concerning the noise ordinance in general and barking dogs in particular. Please read it and act accordingly.

COUNTY OF FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

CONDENSATION OF NOISE ORDINANCE

Policy

Promote an environment for our citizens free from noise that jeopardizes their health or welfare or degrades the quality of life.

Penalty

Misdemeanor. Maximum of 30 days or \$1,000 fine.

Enforcement

By the Zoning Administrator or his agent. An Inspector may issue a "Notice of Violation" to require corrective measures within a reasonable time. If not corrected, the Inspector may obtain a criminal warrant. A Police Officer, or two persons not of the same household, may obtain a warrant to control Nuisance Noises (Article V). The Animal Control Department shall also control nuisance noises caused by animals.

CONDENSATION OF NOISE ORDINANCE, cont.

	<u>Between Hours</u>
<u>Specific Prohibitions</u>	
Loud speakers & amplifiers (exterior of buildings)	11:00 PM-7:00 AM
Operating construction equipment (outdoors)	9:00 PM-7:00 AM
Repairing vehicles or equipment (outdoors)	9:00 PM-7:00 AM
Powered model vehicles (outdoors)	9:00 PM-7:00 AM
Refuse collection in residential neighborhoods	9:00 PM-6:00 AM
Truck loading or unloading (outdoors)	9:00 PM-6:00 AM
<u>Public Entertainment</u>	
Posting a sign near entrance when sound producing equipment produces pressure levels of 90 dBA or greater. "WARNING! PROLONGED EXPOSURE TO THE SOUND ENVIRONMENT WITHIN MAY CAUSE HEARING IMPAIRMENT."	
<u>Quiet Zone</u>	
The Board of Supervisors may prescribe noise restrictions in specified areas (i. e., hospital).	
<u>Maximum Permissible Sound Pressure Levels</u>	
Unlawful to operate any stationary noise source, when measured at the lot line which exceeds: 55 dBA-Residential zone; 60 dBA-Commercial zone; 72 dBA-Industrial zone. Domestic power equipment (lawnmowers, etc.) may exceed these limits provided they operate between the hours of 7:00 AM and 9:00 PM and do not constitute a "noise disturbance."	
<u>Motor Vehicles</u>	
The maximum sound pressure level emitted by motor vehicles which are operated on public right-of-way must meet the requirements of Section 108-4-5 of the Noise Ordinance of Fairfax County.	
<u>Nuisance Noises</u>	
The following acts are declared a noise disturbance when plainly audible across property lines or through partitions:	
(a) TV, radio, musical instruments between the hours of 11:00 PM and 7:00 AM.	
(b) Animals that howl, bark, meow, squawk frequently or habitually at any time.	
<u>Variances & Exemptions</u>	
The Zoning Administrator may grant for a period not to exceed one year.	

THE BARKING DOG

A dog is a wonderful companion. He loves his owner-family; he misses them when they're gone, and he wants to protect them when strangers come around. These are traits we admire in our dogs -- and these are precisely the traits that trigger behavior problems which we -- and our neighbors -- may not admire.

One such behavior is excessive barking. It can drive neighbors literally to tears, to abusive language -- or worse. Roughly 85% of the noise complaints received by Fairfax County relate to dog noises; residents are reminded that frequent or habitual barking or howling constitutes a "nuisance noise" which is classified as a misdemeanor, with a maximum sentence of 30 days or \$1,000 fine.

Why does a dog bark? Because he is bored or lonely; because he hears other dogs barking; because he is warning someone or something off the property; or maybe because he is just so glad to see his owner home again that he cannot contain himself.

It today's world of rising crime, many dog owners want their dogs to bark to scare away intruders. Fine; but the barking need not continue. Much barking is simply because the dog, often left alone for long hours while the family is away, begins barking from boredom and frustration. This is what angers neighbors so often, and it can be corrected.

What can you do when a dog barks constantly? There are many methods to try. Obedience school may be one solution, and should make the dog a better companion in other ways as well. (He'll learn the meaning of "NO!")

If the dog is left outside all the time, bring him in when he barks or keep him inside as much as possible. (This may only reinforce his barking if he does it to get attention, but it does relieve neighbors.) Barking is probably most irritating when others are trying to sleep, so try to keep the dog quiet then.

A second pet or a toy may relieve boredom and thus reduce barking, and perhaps a radio left on while you are away may also help.

If you want to try training your dog yourself -- and it isn't as difficult as you may think -- here are several methods that may work. Both require patience and persistence, and do not hurt the animal. Try them on a weekend when you are home.

THE WATER METHOD

- Fill a plant mister or squirt gun with water and have it ready for use.
- When the dog starts barking, say "Quiet!" and squirt him while he is barking. Each time he barks needlessly, give him a squirt or two until he stops. This will not work unless you do this each time he barks. Pretty soon all you will have to do is say "Quiet!" and he will cease barking. This will probably take at least two or three days.

THE BARKING DOG, cont.

THE ISOLATION METHOD

- Since most dogs bark more when they are alone, they must be taught to accept being alone and to be quiet.
- Put the dog into an "isolation room", being sure he has a toy to keep him occupied.
- When he starts barking, whining, or howling, scold him and bang on the door. (A rolled-up newspaper make a louder sound and saves your hand.)
- Eventually the dog will stop and settle down. When he has been quiet for a certain amount of time -- say, a half an hour to begin with -- let him out and praise him for being such a good dog. Let him be with you for an hour.
- Put him back into the "isolation room" for another time period. Gradually these time periods can be lengthened. Do Not let the dog out when he is barking; or you will only reinforce the bad behavior.

Remember, dogs don't like being neglected any more than people do. Be sure to devote some time each day to your dog. He is not a watchdog machine; he is a live companion animal.

SUGGESTIONS TO CONTROL DOG'S BARKING

1. Bring the dog indoors when you leave property.
2. Don't allow the dog to bark for prolonged periods when you are home.
3. Check the local library for books on dog obedience.
4. Dog obedience courses are offered by community/school activities division.
(Classes offered at different levels - from 3 months of age up)
Call 691-2672
5. Commercial dog training schools (see Yellow Pages, under PETS).
6. Board the dog at appropriate location (see Yellow Pages, Under DOG).
7. Discuss the situation with your veterinarian.