

WELCOME

Now that spring is almost upon us, hopefully we can all get out and begin to enjoy our neighborhood. Each of us should make a special effort to meet and welcome the new residents in our community.

ONE HOUR-- 1 out of 8760 this year. Include in your 1988 resolutions contributing at least one hour of your time for the betterment of YOUR community. It is only as good as you make it. You can make a difference by serving or assisting in the neighborhood watch program, the membership drive, passing out The Downs (it's good exercise), community events, becoming a board member (it's not hard, really), etc. To volunteer, please call me at 533-3568.

Norm Soles, President

GENERAL MEETING - March 24th

A general meeting will be held on March 24, 1988, at 7:30 p.m. in the Devonshire School Cafeteria. Have you ever wondered what are the zoning regulations are regarding:

- Barking dogs?
- Unregistered cars?
- Adding fences?
- Building a shed?
- Renting a house to unrelated adults?

Find out the answer to these and any other zoning questions you may have by attending. Our guest speaker will be Mr. William Shoup of the Fairfax County Office of Zoning Administration.

Immediately following, Lander Allin, Project Coordinator, Community Improvement Program will provide an update of Phase III of the street improvement program. Phase III will include Marshall, Summerfield, Winchester, and Custis Parkway, with preliminary work scheduled to begin on Marshall late this spring.

For the benefit of those who did not attend our last general meeting (you missed a good one), accompanying this newsletter is some information on gypsy moths. Please read it carefully, as this pest represents a serious threat to the trees in Greenway Downs.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The annual Greenway Downs membership drive is conducted to update neighborhood residence records and collect membership dues. The major portion of these dues will be used to publish our neighborhood directory, which will be distributed free to each paid member. Your dues are also used to for the publication of this newsletter, the neighborhood watch program, membership to the Fairfax Federation of Civic Associations, and neighborhood sponsored events.

Volunteers are needed on each street to successfully complete the drive, so please consider assisting on your street. It's a great way to get to know your neighbors!

The membership drive will begin around April 1, 1988. Dues are still only \$3.00! What a bargain! So, plan on joining and assisting as much as you can.

ANNUAL DINNER/ELECTIONS - MAY 20th

The Annual Pot Luck Dinner/General Meeting/Elections will be on May 20th, 1988, from 7:00p.m. to 10:00p.m., at the Falls Church Recreation Center. It is not too soon to start thinking about becoming a board member for next year (July 1st, 1988). Also, nominations for the outstanding citizen award will be accepted anytime between now and then. Give it some thought and mark your calanders. We hope to see you there.

BABYSITTING COOPERATIVE

For many parents the Greenway Downs Babysitting Cooperative is the answer to what they need the most-- a little time for themselves. Based on the principle "You care for mine; I'll care for yours", the purpose of the co-op is to exchange services among parents, with the exchange of hours, not money. Parents make the best babysitters. They have the love, experience, and first-hand knowledge of dealing with children. They know how to handle emergencies. Furthermore, the children enjoy being with other children, playing with different toys, learning from an older child, and amusing a younger one.

The Greenway Downs Babysitting Co-op has been in operation since 1979 and for many parents it has been the best way, not only for responsible babysitting services, but also for making new friends for themselves and their children. Interested families within the Greenway Downs area are urged to call for more information.

532-3985 Connie Sullivan
237-1077 Kathy Nelson

TAX HELP FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

IRS tax form help for senior citizens in Fairfax County is provided by VITA volunteers at Thomas Jefferson Library (phone 573-1060). Please follow this schedule:

March

All Thursdays, 7-9 PM
Saturdays, 12th, 19th, 26th, 1-4 PM

April

Saturday, 2nd, 1-4 PM
Thursday, 7th, 7-9 PM
Saturday, 9th, 1-4 PM
Thursday, 14th, 7-9 PM

The Downs

The Newsletter of the Greenway Downs Citizens Association

Falls Church, Virginia

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH SPECIAL EDITION

Keith Brescia, coordinator
phone 536-7734

PATROL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our organized car patrols are a good deterrent against vandalism and disorderly conduct. We constantly need new volunteers to replace those who move away. We especially need more activity from 10 PM until midnight Fridays and Saturdays, which are peak problem hours according to the Crime Prevention Office. This is an easy activity for most people, as two-hour turns on patrol or CB radio base station once every two or three months are excellent contributions. Please volunteer if you have not already done so. If you are an active participant, invite your neighbors, especially the new ones, to join. In addition to fighting crime, it is a great way to get to know your neighbors.

HOME SECURITY

Our patrols need cooperation from everyone to prevent crime as much as possible, and to assist the police in their work when crime sneaks up on us despite our best efforts. Anyone who is a victim of burglary, vandalism, or any sort of harassment must notify the police immediately. Most minor cases of vandalism go unreported, and the police have little way of seeing any pattern to the few that are reported. Be sure to report everything, even if you see no chance of identifying a suspect, and ask your neighbors if they have had any similar incidents. If there is indeed a locally high incidence of vandalism or disorderly conduct, cooperative neighbors can usually identify local troublemakers as prime suspects. My advice is to back up the responding policeman's report by mailing a written account to Officers Larry Clark and Josh Brown, Crime Prevention Office, Mason District Police, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003. Their phone number is 354-5889, and you can leave a brief recorded message on their answering machine if they are not in the office. Give them a description of the incident, including the time, as near as you can tell, at which it happened. If you have any prime suspects, be sure to include the names and phone numbers of any neighbors who can provide concurring information. With such information, Officers Clark and Brown can help in arranging appropriate investigations.

I personally responded to a serious case of car window smashing on Bolling Road which occurred during the night of August 1-2. We had patrol cars on the streets from 8 until midnight that night and they reported

no suspicious activity, so the act must have happened after midnight. The victim believes it was done by teenage neighbors and/or their playmates, and he says these neighbors have harassed him on and off during the past eight years. These allegations, if true, indicate a locally serious problem. Residents of Bolling Road can help by keeping a sharp lookout from their homes. If they have recurring problems with rowdy teenagers, they should notify the police as I have described above.

In an incident the following night, about 11:30, a couple on Custis Parkway near Marshall St. heard some thumping noises in front of their house. The next morning they found the cover of the gas meter opened, and a broken antenna on one of their cars. I cannot imagine why anyone would fool around with the gas meter, but it may have been some sort of a larceny or burglary attempt.

TRAINING SESSIONS

Attendance at the training sessions held by the Crime Prevention Officers is a must for all active Neighborhood Watch volunteers. Officers Clark and Brown tell us what to look for, what to report, and what not to do. I can schedule a training session at Devonshire, and I will keep you informed about sessions at the police station for those who cannot attend the local one. In the meantime, remember that we are "eyes and ears" only. Patrols must not personally intervene in a situation. It is risky and often counterproductive. Simply keep the police informed and do your best to avoid confrontations. When not on patrol, be alert for suspicious activity in or around your neighbors' homes, especially when they are away. That is our best defense against burglary.

If you have not attended a training session in the past year, please plan to attend the next one. If you have never attended one, the Crime Prevention Officers insist that you patrol only with a partner who has had the training. I admit I have been pretty lax about this, and we have some catching up to do. We need the training to be really effective, and your cooperation will be most appreciated.

IMPORTANT DATES

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| September 20 | Neighborhood Watch Picnic at Mason District Park, on Columbia Pike just west of Sleepy Hollow Road. Police helicopter and computer dispatch system on display. All active Watch members and their families welcome. Please bring a covered dish meal. 11 AM - 4 PM. |
| September 25 | Neighborhood Watch training session at Mason Station, 6507 Columbia Pike, 7:30 - 9 PM. |
| October | To be announced: Neighborhood Watch training session at Devonshire. |

ABANDONED AND INOPERABLE CARS

As you may have read in the newspapers, Fairfax County has amended the junk vehicle ordinance so the Police Department can tow away inoperable cars from private property as well as from the street. Officer Brown notified me that he has personally contacted several Greenway Downs residents who have such vehicles, and he asked me to let the community know that strict enforcement will begin on Monday, August 11. The ordinance defines inoperative vehicles as those which are not in operating condition or which for 90 consecutive days or longer have been partially or totally disassembled by the removal of tires, wheels, or other essential parts required for driving the car. Each owner has ten days to repair or get rid of the car after receiving an official violation notice from the Police Department. After ten days the police can have them towed away.

ABOUT THE HELICOPTERS

It's time for another talk about the Police helicopters. Many people are calling in to see what is going on when they hear or see the copter hovering around--especially at night with that huge spotlight on. Here is what you need to do.

- DON'T CALL THE POLICE DEPARTMENT JUST TO ASK WHY THE COPTER IS THERE. Its presence alone tells you something is wrong. It could be a burglary, robbery, stolen car, lost child, injured person or worse. In emergencies more police activity occurs even at the station and Emergency Operations Center, so an unnecessary call will only slow the process.
- DO LOOK OUT YOUR WINDOWS FOR ANY SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY--PEOPLE RUNNING, HIDING, ETC.--AND STAY INSIDE YOURSELF. If you do see something suspicious that you feel relates to the copter's presence, then call and give as much information as possible.
- IF YOU JUST MUST KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, THEN CALL THE CRIME PREVENTION OFFICE, 354-5889, AND LET US GIVE YOU WHAT CAN BE RELEASED AT THAT TIME.

It's good to be concerned about potential problems, but an unnecessary call at the wrong time is not the proper action.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

name home phone work phone	name home phone work phone	name home phone work phone
STREET		
name home phone work phone	YOUR HOME	name home phone work phone
name home phone work phone	name home phone work phone	name home phone work phone
STREET		

INSTRUCTIONS: FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH THE APPROPRIATE INFORMATION

- Know your neighbors and their vehicles by sight. Obtain their phone numbers; give them yours.
Think prevention
Resist crime, remove the opportunity.
Report suspicious activity to the Police IMMEDIATELY
Join the team- "NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH".

If this chart does not fit your location (corner lots for example) you can modify it as needed. The important idea is to be familiar with all neighbors adjoining your home.