

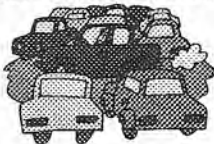
The DOWNS

Greenway Downs Citizens Association

Traffic Trouble?

The GDCA Traffic and Transportation committee is conducting a survey to find the worst "traffic trouble spots" in Greenway Downs. This is your opportunity to speak out about speeding, reckless driving, and other problems you witness in our neighborhood. The goal is to determine the worst areas and provide the county with solid information, so the problems can be addressed.

If you know of a specific problem on your own street or another street in the neighborhood contact Todd Marks (703-538-5539, e-mail Todd.Marks@shawpittan.com) or Scott Lawson (703-531-0180 or e-mail lawson@rdacustomsoftware.com).



GDCA Sponsors Holiday House Decorating Contest

No matter the celebration, December is a month of festive lights and decorations. In the past several years, more and more houses in the neighborhood have been getting into the spirit of the season and adorning their homes with decorations.

This year, the GDCA and area retailers are sponsoring a Holiday House Decorating Contest. Members of the GDCA, the Neighborhood Watch, and the residents of Greenway Downs will judge decorated homes in three categories:

Most Festive: Best use of color/most flamboyant display.

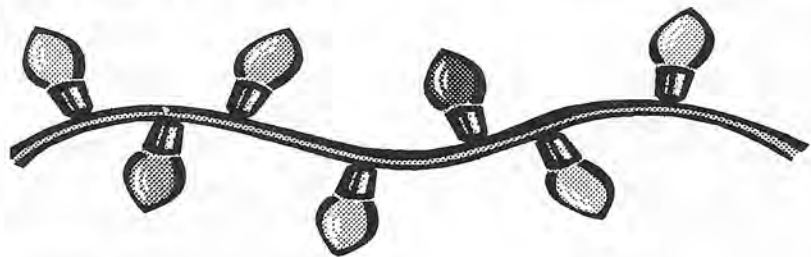
Most Traditional: Best use of classical holiday design elements.

Most Creative: Most original and unusual holiday display.

Neighbors participating in the Dec. 16th Caroling for Cans event (see story, page 3), will also give the judges their input on contestants in each category. The winners will be determined and notified by Saturday, Dec. 22nd with prizes presented by members of the GDCA.

To let the judges know about a "holiday home" on your street or elsewhere in the neighborhood that you feel deserves consideration, please contact **Patty Lister** by phone at (703)-533-7978 or e-mail plister@erols.com.

Time to get those decorating caps on, and let the contest begin!



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Halloween Parade a Sweet and Spooky Success for Neighbors

The Greenway Downs Citizens' Association extends its thanks to all who participated in the Halloween Parade. Without a doubt, October 31st was a fun time for all the little and big elephants, fairies, power rangers, lions, princesses, and pirates who showed up in their creative and adorable costumes.

The adults who attended shared in the excitement as more than seventy youngsters bobbed for apples, marched to the Star Spangled Banner, and gobbled as much candy as parents would allow.

Special thanks go to the members of the Social Committee and all of the volunteers who helped make the Halloween Parade a success. The many donated hours of planning, fundraising, sign creation, and help with set-up and clean-up were crucial in pulling off the event. GDCA also wishes to thank Westlawn Grocery Store and Shoppers' Food Warehouse for their generous contributions of candy and apples.

Neighbors interested in helping plan and organize future Social Committee events can contact Jennifer Marks (538-5539, or e-mail to JenniferLMarks@aol.com) or Sara Forsyth (237-1330, or e-mail to jsforsyth@yahoo.com).

News and Notes...

Neighborhood Watch Bids Farewell and Thanks. On November 1 we received the sad news of the resignation of Jean Skillman as the Neighborhood Watch Block Captain for Marshall Street. After 16 years of dedicated service to the program, Jean has decided to pass the torch along.

There is no way we can adequately thank Jean for all she has done for the neighborhood. Suffice it to say, her name will be among the top volunteers who have worked so hard for our community. She helped make our community a safer and better place for all of us to enjoy. We wish Jean the very best.

GDCA Web Site Coming Soon! The GDCA Communications Committee is working with City Park neighbors Jim Mole and Suzan Richmond of Team Media to create a joint web site with City Park Homes. The new site, www.greenwaydowns.org, will feature items of interest for both neighborhoods such as opt-in areas on crime, car pools, and Mom's Groups. In addition, pages specific to Greenway Downs will include such information as the GDCA events calendar, and contact information and links for the Citizens Association board members.

The Communications Committee goal is to have the web site online sometime in the first three months of 2002. Suggestions for information residents want to see included on the web site and other concerns can be sent to **Committee Chair Terri Lamb by e-mail to tlamb@cox.rr.com**.

'Tis the Season to Be Singing!

The GDCA invites everyone in the neighborhood to join in a tradition of spreading joy and happiness this holiday season. The annual GDCA Holiday Caroling Event!

Gather together with your neighbors, family and friends on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 16 to walk throughout Greenway Downs sharing good song and good fun. True musical talent is not necessary – just happy energy and the desire to bring the magic of the holiday season to others.

Because there are about 500 homes in the GDCA area, the carolers cannot stop at every one. The goal is to sing for people who may not be able to get outside much for holiday festivities, such as shut-ins, seniors, or people with very small/new children. **If you know of a home and family (even your own!) that fits the criteria and would enjoy a visit from the carolers, please contact Maureen Berry at (703)-534-9174 or e-mail chrisnmaureen@yahoo.com by Thursday, Dec. 13.**

Let the Little Lights Shine. When you registered a home and address other than your own for a caroling visit, please let the folks know, as the Social Committee has planned a special surprise for them the day of the caroling! That Sunday members of the GDCA will set up luminaria (bags weighted with sand containing small lit candles) in front of the homes where the carolers will sing. The traditional holiday decorations will add a festive air to the neighborhood and help identify the homes to be visited.

Wanted: Hearty Tra-la-las. We're looking for singers of all ages and abilities to join in the fun. Our goal is to have enough singers to break up into several smaller groups and "cover the neighbor" of nearly 500 homes, so we need families, singles, and groups of friends to reach all of the homes. **To sign up, please contact Sara Breaux at (703) 534-0820 or email Bro@kreative.net with the names and ages of participants.** Please also indicate if you will be attending the post-caroling Holiday Celebration (see below).

The Details. Carolers will meet Sunday Dec. 16 at the basketball court in the Greenway Downs Park on Custis Parkway. Dress warmly and festively—holiday hats are encouraged. Bring along your jingle bells or other instruments and a flashlight. We'll sing and revel at the designated homes and any others we can get to from 5:00 to 6:00.

Come in Out of the Cold. And warm-up with your fellow carolers and neighbors at the GDCA Holiday celebration from 6:00 to 8:00 at the home of GDCA President Sara Breaux and her husband Rick. Plenty of food, drink (including the mandatory post-caroling Wassail!) and seasonal merriment are promised.

Caroling For Cans

During the holiday season, many people look for ways to help those in need. This year, in the aftermath of September 11 and its devastating affect on the local economy--particularly for those employed in the hospitality industry--the need for assistance is greater than usual.

As part the holiday caroling event, neighbors will be "Caroling for Cans" to benefit the Falls Church Community Services food pantry. **On Sunday, Dec. 16, put a bag or box of food donations on your front step, then turn on your front light so your donation can be easily seen and gathered in one of "Santa's Wagons" by your caroling neighbors!** Your donations will go to people in need here in the Falls Church area on behalf of the Greenway Down Citizens Association and the residents of Greenway Downs.

Items that are appropriate for donation include nutritious foods such as peanut butter, tuna, stews, soups, beans, vegetables, and fruits; boxed items such as dry cereals, pasta, and rice; and bags of dried beans, rice, and pasta. Because many of the people who have lost their jobs recently and need assistance have families with small children, FCCS would especially appreciate donations of iron-fortified baby cereals, baby formula, soft fruits such as applesauce, powdered milk, and diapers and wipes.

In these trying times, we help ourselves when we help each other. Thanks for helping to make this a better holiday for those who will truly benefit from your thoughtful and very necessary contributions!



La Asociación de Ciudadanos de Greenway Downs (GDCA) y comerciantes del área están patrocinando un concurso sobre decorado de casas para las fiestas. Miembros de la GDCA, de la Vigilancia del Barrio, y residentes de Greenway Downs, juzgaran el decorado de las casas en tres categorías: **Más Festiva** (mejor uso de color/arreglo más llamativo), **Más Tradicional** (mejor uso del diseño clásico de las fiestas), y **Más Creativa** (más originalidad y exhibición más rara).

Los vecinos participantes en el evento de Cantos de Villancicos por Enlatados, del 16 de Dic. (ver más abajo), también podrán contribuir con su opinión a los jueces en cada categoría. Los ganadores serán determinados y notificados el 22 de Dic., con los premios otorgados por los miembros de la GDCA. Para que los jueces puedan saber sobre una "casa festiva", en su calle o por el vecindario, y que Ud. piensa que debe considerarse, favor de contactar a Patty Lister, al (703) 533-7978, o al e-mail plister@erols.

Cantantes de Festividades Anuales Cantarán Villancicos por Enlatados

Juntese con sus vecinos, familiares y amigos, el Domingo 16 de Dic., en la tarde, y comparta buenas canciones y diversión, en el evento anual de Canto de Villancicos, de la GDCA. No es necesario tener talento musical, solo la energía y deseo de brindar a otros la magia de las festividades.

Debido a que existen alrededor de 500 hogares en nuestra área, los cantantes de villancicos no pueden parar en todos ellos. El objetivo es cantar a la gente que no puede salir a estas festividades, tales como confinados en sus casas, gente de mayor edad, o gente con niños muy pequeños o recién nacidos. Si Ud. conoce algún hogar o familia que gozaría de una visita de los cantantes de villancicos, pueden contactar a Maureen Berry al (703) 534-9174, o al e-mail, chrisnmaureen@yahoo.com, antes del 13 de Dic. También buscamos cantantes de todas las edades y habilidades para juntarnos en la diversión. Para inscribirse, favor contactar a Sara Breaux al (703) 534-0820 o al e-mail, bro@kreative.net, con los nombres y edades de los participantes. Después de los cantos de villancicos, calientese con sus compañeros de canto y vecinos, en una celebración de las festividades de la GDCA, de 6:00 a 8:00 en casa de la Presidenta Sara Breaux y su esposo Rick.

Como parte del evento del canto de villancicos, los vecinos "Cantarán por Enlatados", en beneficio de los Servicios de la despensa de alimentos para la Comunidad de Falls Church. El Domingo 16 de Dic. coloque una bolsa o caja con donaciones de alimentos, delante de su entrada y encienda su luz para que su donación sea fácil de ver por sus vecinos cantantes de villancicos. Sus donaciones irán a los necesitados en el área de Falls Church, en nombre de la Asociación de Ciudadanos y de residentes de Greenway Downs.

Artículos aptos para donación incluyen mantequilla de mani (cacahuete), tuna, guisados, sopas, frijoles (habichuelas), vegetales y frutas; y productos encajados o enbolsados, como cereales secos, pastas, arroz y frijoles secos. Debido a que mucha gente necesitada de ayuda tienen familias con niños pequeños, la Com. de Falls Church aprecia especialmente donaciones fortificadas con hierro en cereales y fórmulas para bebés, leche en polvo, frutas suaves, como compota de manzana, y pañales y toallitas de limpiar.

Notas y Noticias

Molestias de Tráfico. El Comité de Tráfico y Transporte está llevando a cabo una encuesta con el fin de encontrar los "sitios de molestias de tráfico" en Greenway Downs. Esta es su oportunidad de dejar en claro problemas que Ud. es testigo, como de exceso de velocidad, manejo imprudente, y otros problemas que Ud. haya visto en nuestro vecindario. Si Ud. sabe de un problema específico en su propia calle o en otra área de nuestro vecindario, favor contactar a Todd Marks (703) 538-5539 o e-mail Todd.Marks@shawpittan.com o a Scott Lawson (703) 531-0180 o e-mail lawson@rdacustomsoftware.com

Vigilancia del Vecindario Despide con un Adios y Agradecimiento. El primero de Nov. recibimos la triste noticia de la renuncia de Jean Skillman al puesto de Capitán de Cuadra de Vigilancia del Barrio, para Marshall St., después de 16 años de dedicación al servicio. No hay manera adecuada para agradecer a Jean por todo lo que ha hecho. Ella nos ayudó a hacer de nuestra comunidad un lugar más seguro y mejor para todos nosotros y le deseamos lo mejor.

Gracias a los Voluntarios del Desfile de Halloween. La Asociación de Ciudadanos de Greenway Downs agradece a todos los que participaron en el Desfile de Halloween. Agradecimientos especiales van a los miembros del Comité Social y a todos los voluntarios que hicieron del Desfile de Halloween, un éxito. Gracias a las tiendas de Westlawn Grocery Store y Shoppers' Food Warehouse por sus generosas contribuciones de caramelos y manzanas.