



# THE DOWNS

*your roots in the community since 1942*

Volume 61, Issue 3

Spring 2003

## The President's Corner

*Keil Green, 2002-2003 GDCA President*

Spring is finally here, and with the Annual Meeting scheduled in May, we are wrapping up another successful year in the 61-year history of Greenway Downs. The Greenway Downs Citizens Association (GDCA) Board of Directors along with the residents who volunteer on various neighborhood committees have worked incredibly hard over the past year to better our community by increasing safety, beautifying our surroundings, and more fully involving our members.

This issue of *The Downs* features many articles about the progress we have made on a number of key issues, including red light running at Marshall Street and Lee Highway/Route 29 (see p. 2); traffic-calming measures on Summerfield Road (see p. 3); and neighborhood activities such as the Spring Fest (see p. 2), School Forum (see p. 3), 1st Annual Senior Residents Luncheon (see p. 2), and the Neighborhood Yard Sale (see p. 4 for information and registration form). For a recap of these and all of the events of the GDCA, I strongly encourage you to attend the upcoming Greenway Downs Annual Meeting.

### GREENWAY DOWNS ANNUAL MEETING

The Greenway Downs Annual Meeting will be held **Monday, May 19 (\*\*new date\*\*)** from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Devonshire Community Center located on Graham Road. All residents are encouraged to attend to learn about:

- **Mosquitoes and the West Nile virus** (a representative from the Fairfax County Health Department will present information on ways to lessen the number of mosquitoes in your yard and in the neighborhood as well as

precautions to take to avoid the West Nile virus);

- **Home security and crime update in Greenway Downs** (a representative from the McLean District police department will discuss ways to protect your home and family); and
- **Fire safety** (a representative from the local fire department will discuss ways to protect your home including information about what happened to the home that burned down in City Park earlier this year).

We will also recap the activities of the GDCA during the last year, nominate and vote in the 2003-2004 GDCA Board of Directors, and distribute copies of the NEW neighborhood directory to members. If you did not join our membership during the membership drive, we will have forms available at the meeting (just bring your \$5.00 dues for your copy of the new directory)!

Light snacks and refreshments will be served, so come out and meet your neighbors!

To get to Devonshire from Greenway Downs, make a left onto Lee Highway/Route 29. Turn left onto Graham Road (at the MacGruders Grocery Store). Devonshire is on your left. Parking is located behind the building. Please enter the building through the front entrance on Graham Road.

It has been my pleasure to have served this community as President of the GDCA for 2002-2003. As we vote in a new Board of Directors in May, I encourage all neighborhood residents to get involved, give a little time to the neigh-

borhood, volunteer for a committee, help distribute newsletters and event flyers, make signs, participate in an event, and meet your neighbors. Our residents are the most important component of our neighborhood, and your involvement in the association is imperative to help grow and sustain our community! Please, get involved!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by phone at 703-538-7353 or by e-mail at [ksgreen@lafayettegroup.com](mailto:ksgreen@lafayettegroup.com). I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting!

### Don't miss ...

Red Light Running Meeting Summary .....	2
Spring Fest (Saturday, April 19) .....	2
1st Annual Senior Residents Luncheon .....	2
School Forum Rescheduled (Tuesday, April 22) .....	3
Calendar of Events .....	3
Summerfield Traffic-Calming Update .....	3
Meet Our Newest Resident	3
GDCA Contact Information	4
Annual Yard Sale Registration Form (due May 30) .....	4

## Red Light Running at Marshall Street and Lee Highway/Route 29

On January 22, 2003, the GDCA hosted a meeting on the problem of red light running at the Marshall Street and Lee Highway traffic light. As most know, the Lee Highway light is frequently disregarded by cars traveling along Lee Highway. This dangerous problem is exacerbated by the facts that: 1) the intersection is a pedestrian walkway; 2) there is a lack of visibility looking West on Lee Highway from Marshall; and 3) there has been a lack of enforcement at the intersection.

To address this problem, the GDCA heard from the following speakers at the meeting: Gerry Connolly, Providence District Supervisor; Captain J. F. Bowman, Fairfax County Police; Bruce Taylor, Head of Fairfax County's Photo Red Light Program; and Bill Knost, Representative from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

Based on their presentations and the probing questions asked by our residents, we reached the following conclusions/outcomes:

**Jurisdiction**—At the meeting, we learned that the traffic light is the property of the City of Falls Church. Therefore, any changes made to the light's timing or the light itself will have to be made by Falls Church. Based on our meeting, both Fairfax County and VDOT will be contacting Falls Church to propose changes to the traffic light.

**Timing**—VDOT officials spent a day reviewing the traffic signal and determined that there are a number of problems with the timing of the light. Specifically, there is not enough "amber" before the light goes to red in either direction, and there is not enough delay between the signal going to red in one direction and the green signal being activated in the other.

As a first step, we will be working with the City of Falls Church to adjust these timing problems.

**Visibility**—In order to improve visibility from Marshall Street looking West along Lee Highway, we will be working with Fairfax County to determine whether hedges and other visual impediments are County or private property. If the hedges are County property, Supervisor Connolly has said that they will be immediately cut back. If they are private property, we will be contacting the owners to encourage changes. In addition, based on the recommendation of our residents, VDOT will be repainting the "stop line" on Lee Highway in the spring.

**Red Light Camera**—While a number of residents brought up the possibility of installing a red light camera at our intersection, Bruce Taylor from Fairfax County indicated that there are a very limited number of cameras available for this purpose. However, if changing the timing of the light is unsuccessful, Mr. Taylor will send out a representative to record the number of offenses on a typical day. If this number is in excess of 30-35 cars running the light per day, then we will be formally considered for a camera.

**Enforcement**—Because the crash data for our intersection does not put us on the Fairfax County's "Top 10 Worst Intersection List," Fairfax Police are unable to designate their limited officers to patrol the light. Based on the complaints of our residents, Captain Bowman will encourage officers from the McLean station to be aware of the problems with this intersection.

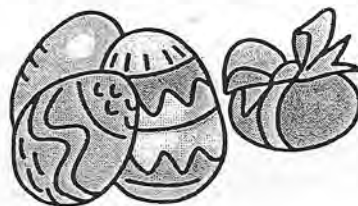
In the coming months, we will keep you informed about the progress on this issue, but please feel free to contact me at 703-538-7353 or by e-mail at [ksgreen@lafayettegroup.com](mailto:ksgreen@lafayettegroup.com) should you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns.

### SPRING FEST

It's time for the Greenway Downs Spring Fest. Yes, Spring is here (hopefully we have finally seen the last of the snow)! Come join your neighbors to welcome the warm weather and Spring blooms on **Saturday, April 19** at Jefferson Village Park (at Jefferson Avenue and Adams Place in City Park) from 10:30 a.m. until noon.

We will have a fun-filled morning of games and activities for the children of Greenway Downs and City Park, so please have each child bring an Easter basket to collect eggs and prizes. And kids, keep your eyes open for the Easter Bunny!

Anyone interested in volunteering to be the bunny, help hide eggs, and/or take pictures, please contact Sara Forsyth at 703-237-1330 or by e-mail at [jsforsyth@yahoo.com](mailto:jsforsyth@yahoo.com).



### First Annual Senior Lunch

On Saturday, February 8, Greenway Down's Citizens Association Board Officer, Scot Walker, organized the first Dutch Treat Senior Luncheon. This year's event was held at the Kitchen Café (formerly Pines of Florence Restaurant) on Lee Highway. The primary focus of the luncheon was to discover what common interests, needs, and hobbies we shared with each other.

After several hours of fun, food, and discussion, we learned that our diversity was our strength—and the only thing we had in common. We did agree, however, to meet again for more senior lunches.

## RESCHEDULED!

**Greenway Downs School Forum**  
Tues., April 22; 7:00 p.m.

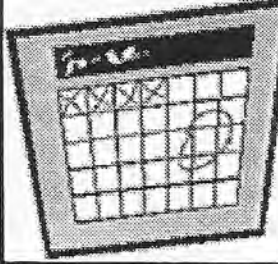
**Timber Lane Elementary School**  
in the cafeteria  
2737 West Street

**B**lizzard-like conditions kept us from meeting in February, but we've rescheduled the Greenway Downs/City Park informational forum with local school representatives.

Please join us on **Tuesday, April 22** at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria of Timber Lane Elementary School (2737 West Street) to ask questions and voice concerns about our elementary school options.

Supervisor Gerry Connolly will moderate the discussion, and Ernestine Heastie, our School Board Representative; Anita Blain, Principal of Timber Lane Elementary School; Deborah Tyler, Principal of Pine Spring Elementary School; and Cora Harper, Principal of Graham Road Elementary School will attend to answer our questions and concerns.

In order to be sure we cover topics of interest to residents, we need your help in planning the agenda. Please contact Sara Forsyth at 703-237-1330 or by e-mail at [jsforyth@yahoo.com](mailto:jsforyth@yahoo.com) to contribute to the agenda or to learn more about the forum.



## GDCA 2002-2003 EVENTS CALENDAR

Be sure to mark your calendars - planning is underway for the following events!  
We hope to see you there!

### APRIL 2003

**Spring Fest**  
Jefferson Village Park

Saturday, April 19\*  
10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
\*Raindate: Saturday, April 26

**Elementary School Forum**  
Timber Lane Elementary School

Tuesday, April 22  
7:00 p.m.

### MAY 2003

**GDCA Annual Meeting**  
Devonshire Community Center

Monday, May 19  
7:30 p.m.

### JUNE 2003

**Yard Sale**

Saturday, June 7  
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

### AUGUST 2003

**National Night Out**  
Honoring Neighborhood Watch

Tuesday, August 5

### Summerfield Traffic Calming

**M**embers of the GDCA and City Park Citizens Associations spent the Fall and Winter going door-to-door collecting signatures requesting analysis of traffic-calming measures on Summerfield Road from the 361 homes in the County-appointed "petition area." In order to move forward with developing a traffic-calming plan, 75 percent of the 361 homes need to sign. As of this writing we are short by 28 signatures in the two neighborhoods and hope to have the required number within the next few weeks. If you were unable to sign the petition previously and are interested in signing now, please contact your street representative (listed on the back of the newsletter)!

When we reach the 75 percent mark, a joint committee of Greenway Downs and City Park neighborhood residents along with representatives from the County's Residential Traffic Administration Plan will work together to create a plan to slow traffic on Summerfield Road. If you would like to volunteer to serve on the committee to help develop the plan, contact Terri Lamb at 703-538-6065. All neighborhood residents are encouraged to volunteer for the committee, as we will need representatives from the entire neighborhood, not just Summerfield Road.



### Our Newest Resident

On your next walk through the park, be sure to visit our new American Sycamore tree next to the basketball court. Craven's Nursery planted the tree in early Spring as a replacement to one destroyed in an accident. We thank Craven's and all of the residents involved in bringing the new tree to Greenway Downs and look forward to watching its growth!

## 2002-2003 GDCA Board of Directors

**President:** Keil Green  
2837 Marshall Street, 703-538-7353  
ksgreen@lafayettegroup.com

**Vice President:** Bethany Chirico\*  
2837 Winchester Way, 703-534-8868  
beth\_chirico@yahoo.com

**Treasurer:** Erik McNair\*  
2845 Monroe Street, 703-534-1856  
erikmcnair@yahoo.com

**Recording Secretary:** Scot Walker\*  
2805 Bolling Road, 703-534-3230  
scot\_walker@hotmail.com

**Corresponding Secretary:** Terri Lamb\*  
2818 Summerfield Road, 703-538-6065  
terri.lamb@cox.net

**Member at Large:** Sara Forsyth\*  
2838 W. George Mason Rd., 703-237-1330  
jsforyth@yahoo.com

**Member at Large:** Maureen Berry\*  
2818 Marshall Street, 703-534-9174  
chrisnmaureen@yahoo.com

\*Also serve as street representatives.

### Street Representatives

**Cameron Road:** Todd and Jennifer Marks  
2845 Cameron, 703-538-5539  
toddmarks@aol.com

**Greenway Boulevard:** Maureen Kahr  
2754 Greenway, 703-534-3009  
rkahr@netzero.net

**Woodlawn Ave.:** Alex and Margie Kuczkowski  
2849 Woodlawn, 703-532-5709  
alexkdb77@hotmail.com

**Custis Parkway:** Beth Stucker  
6915 Custis, 703-237-5916

**Lee Highway:**

### Committee Chairpersons

Creek/Parks: Erik McNair  
Fairfax Federation: Terri Lamb  
Membership:  
Neighborhood Watch: Paul Garcia; 703-241-2654  
Newsletter (*The Downs*): Bethany Chirico  
Social: Sara Forsyth  
Welcoming: Sara Forsyth

## Annual Neighborhood Yard Sale Sat., June 7, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

They say that everything old is new again, so now is the perfect time to get rid of your "antique" dining room chairs and out-dated wardrobe. We're sure there are some teenagers in the neighborhood who would love your lava lamp or "vintage" album cover collection. The annual GDCA Neighborhood Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday, June 7 from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

If you would like to participate, please complete and return the form below with \$5.00 to Scot Walker, 2805 Bolling Road, no later than Friday, May 30. You may also contact him by phone at 703-534-3230 or via e-mail at scotwalker2002@hotmail.com. The \$5.00 charge covers advertising the sale in local newspapers and reproducing the neighborhood yard sale map, which is distributed on the morning of the yard sale to all of the houses participating in the sale. This event is widely attended every year, particularly when we team up with City Park! Now get out there and clean out your closets!

### Greenway Downs Neighborhood Yard Sale Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Large or special items for sale (crib, bike, lawn mower, toys, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Complete and return this form with \$5.00  
**NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, MAY 30 to:**  
Scot Walker; 2805 Bolling Road  
703-534-3230; scotwalker2002@hotmail.com