



THE DOWNS

your roots in the community since 1942

Volume 62, Issue 3

Spring 2004

The President's Corner

Keil Green, 2003-2004 GDCA President

With an ever-increasing number of young families moving into Greenway Downs, it is not surprising that the issue of our public schools is a regular topic of conversation in the neighborhood.

As some of you know, last year the GDCA worked with the City Park Citizens Association to host a School Forum. The meeting featured the principals from our area elementary schools as well as representatives from Fairfax County who fielded questions from our residents on a variety of school issues. As those who attended the meeting will recall, the Forum showed just how emotional an issue that this is for our community. The major issues that emerged were the following:

MULTIPLE SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD

There is a great deal of concern that within a very small area (Graham Road to Annandale Road between Route 29/Lee Highway and Route 50), our children are divided into four different elementary schools. A number of parents have indicated that they would much prefer if the districting allowed all of our neighborhood children to attend the same elementary school.

CONCERNS ABOUT THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Based on Standards of Learning (SOL) test scores that are below the Fairfax County average, parents have expressed concern about the quality of public education that is available in our area. While these scores continue to improve and school officials point out that test scores are not always the best measure of a

school, it is nevertheless a key concern that is repeatedly expressed.

SUPPORT FOR THE SCHOOLS

The School Forum, as well as subsequent conversations with some parents who currently have children attending our elementary schools, have made it clear that there is a great deal of support for the schools that our children are attending. With this in mind, there is strong concern that any changes to school boundaries or the creation of a new neighborhood school would force their children to be relocated from a school where they are happy.

Since the School Forum last spring, the GDCA as well as our adjoining neighborhood associations in City Park and Woodley North have been in discussions on how to jointly address these issues. We have held meetings with our supervisor, Linda Smyth, and our School Board representative, Phil Niedzielski-Eichner, to examine what options are available to improve our school situation. We have been informed that the Fairfax County School Board is actively reviewing the situation and needs our input.

In this issue of *The Downs*, you will find a neighborhood survey. This joint Greenway Downs/City Park/Woodley North effort will be distributed to over 1,000 homes. **It is very important that you fill out this survey and return it by mail or to any of the GDCA Board Members** (see p. 4 for the contact information for all Board members) **by Thursday, April 15. The survey will provide us with valuable information not only on the schools, but also on your overall priorities for Greenway Downs.**

This will undoubtedly be a key issue at this year's GDCA Annual Meeting scheduled on May 26, 2004 from 7:00-9:30 p.m. at the Devonshire Community Center. We have invited both Supervisor Smyth and School Board member Niedzielski-Eichner to the meeting, and I would encourage everyone to attend to voice your opinion on this and other topic area. If you would like to discuss this or any neighborhood issue before the Annual Meeting, please contact me directly at 703-868-8231 or ksgreen@lafayette-group.com.

Don't miss ...

Summerfield Traffic Forum
April 62

Senior Residents Luncheon
May 82

Spring Creek Cleanup
May 152

Spring Fest
April 103

FYI and Special Collections
Info3

Yard Sale Registration4

GDCA Contact Information .4

School Surveyinsert
Please complete and return the survey to a Board member by April 15!

Get involved in the GDCA today!

Summerfield Road Traffic Calming Meeting: Tuesday, April 6

A petition effort conducted jointly by the Greenway Downs and City Park Homes Citizens Associations was completed last year, achieving the 75 percent response needed to authorize the creation of a traffic-calming task force. Now we want to hear from you!

A joint neighborhood meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 6, 2004 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the conference room of Devonshire Community Center. The purpose of the meeting is to select neighborhood representatives to the task force and to hear residents' thoughts and ideas regarding specific traffic-calming measures. The task force will help determine what we, as residents, feel are viable options for traffic calming and will work closely with the county traffic engineers as final decisions are made.

If you are can not attend the meeting, but are interested in serving on the task force or have comments or ideas that you would like included in the discussion, please contact Terri Lamb at 703-538-6065 or terri.lamb@cox.net.

Devonshire Community Center is located at 2831 Graham Road (near the intersection of Graham and Lee Highway, across from Magruder's Supermarket). The conference room and parking area are at the north end of the building - closest to Route 29/Lee Highway.

Quarterly Senior Luncheon Saturday, May 8

The next senior luncheon will be held at the French Restaurant, La Cote D'Or, on Saturday, May 8 at 12:00 p.m. La Cote D'Or is located at the intersection of Route 66 and Route 29/Lee Highway. Please contact Scot Walker at 703-534-3230 or scotwalker2004@yahoo.com by Friday, May 7 to make your reservation.

Help Needed for Creek Cleanup

Please join us for the Greenway Downs Creek Cleanup on Saturday, May 15 at 10:00 a.m. There are many things to do to get our creeks, parks, and walking paths in shape for summer! This is a great way to give back to Mother Nature and to your community, and children and residents of all abilities are welcome!

Please meet us by the basketball court with your favorite garden tools (pruners, rakes, spades, saws, hedge clippers) and work gloves. We also recommend wearing long pants, long sleeved shirts, and boots or old sneakers.

Can't attend? Conduct your own mini-creek cleanup every time you go for a walk. Simply take an old grocery or newspaper bag to collect trash as you walk. For dog owners, please clean up after your dog each time you walk!

"Greenway Downs Is One Of The Best Places To Live In Northern Virginia!"
-Jim Feagins

**I Support & Promote Greenway Downs Every Day.
For All Your Real Estate Needs Call Your
Neighborhood Realtor...**



703-204-1300

www.time2by.com



FOXES MUSIC Co.

- PRINTED MUSIC
- INSTRUMENTS
- ACCESSORIES
- SALES & RENTALS
- LESSONS
- MAIL ORDER
- CHORAL DEPT.
- REPAIRS

JIM EDMONDS
PRESIDENT

HOURS:
MONDAY-THURSDAY
10 am - 8 pm
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
10 am - 6 pm
SUNDAY NOON - 5 pm

416 S. Washington St., Falls Church, VA 22046
(703) 533-7393 • Fax (703) 536-2171
(800) 446-4414 • www-foxesmusic.com



GERMAN GOURMET

MICHAEL & CLIFF HAENE
Owners

7185 Lee Highway (S. Washington St.) • Falls Church, VA 22046
Tel: (703) 534-1908 • Fax: (703) 237-6302 • www.german-gourmet.com
Hours: Mon. & Sat.: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Tue.-Fri.: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. • Sun.: Closed

DOMESTIC

FOREIGN

Quality Auto Parts, Inc.

7201 LEE HIGHWAY
FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22046

DOUG RIDER

PHONE
(703) 698-5707-8-9

The GDCA would like to extend a special Thank You to Safeway Grocery Store for donating candy for the Spring Fest activities. We appreciate Safeway's continued support of the association and the residents of Greenway Downs!

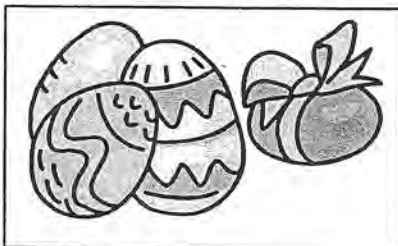
Thank You!

**Spring Fest
Saturday, April 10**

Hippity, hoppity - Easter's on its way! The daffodils are blooming, and it is time to welcome the Easter Bunny to the neighborhood.

Once again the Greenway Downs Citizens Association is joining forces with City Park to celebrate Spring's arrival. Come join your neighbors on Saturday April 10 at Jefferson Village Park (at Jefferson Avenue and Adams Place in City Park). The festivities begin at 10:30 a.m. and will conclude at 12:00 p.m.

We will have a fun-filled morning of games and activities for the children of Greenway Downs and



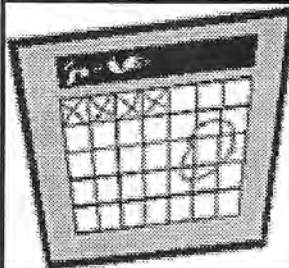
City Park. Parents: please have each child bring an Easter basket to collect eggs and prizes. Children: keep your eyes open for any stray eggs!

Volunteers are needed to help with general set-up (including hiding eggs) and clean-up. Please contact Sara Forsyth at 703-532-8566 or jsforyth@yahoo.com if you can lend a hand before, during, and/or after the event

For Your Information...

As a property owner, you are responsible for disposal of debris generated during tree removal, land clearing, repairs, remodeling, reconstruction, and/or renovations. The Fairfax County special collection service is not designed to accommodate the large amount of waste generated by these types of projects. County refuse collection is provided only for the removal of materials resulting from normal residential use, and routine home maintenance. When planning a large project, check with your homeowners' insurance carrier to determine if the cost of debris removal is covered by your policy. Many contractors can arrange for this service as part of the overall job cost, or you can contact a private roll-off company to make other suitable alternative collection and disposal arrangements for removal of these materials. Check the Fairfax County Web site (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes) for a list of trash and hauling companies.

Please help keep Greenway Downs a clean, green, and beautiful place to live!



**GDCA 2003-2004
EVENTS CALENDAR**

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

APRIL 2004

Summerfield Traffic Calming Forum Tuesday, April 6
Devonshire Community Center 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Spring Fest Saturday, April 10
Jefferson Village Park 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

MAY 2004

Annual Neighborhood Yard Sale Saturday, May 1*
8:30 a.m.

*Raindate: Sunday, May 2; 12:00 p.m.
Alternate Raindates if necessary: Saturday, May 8; 8:30 a.m.
Sunday, May 9; 12:00 p.m.

Senior Luncheon Saturday, May 8
La Cote D'Or 12:00 p.m.

Spring Creek Clean-Up Saturday, May 15*
Greenway Downs Basketball Court 10:00 a.m.
*Raindate: Sunday, May 16; 12:00 p.m.

GDCA Annual Meeting Wednesday, May 26
Devonshire Community Center 7:00-9:30 p.m.

AUGUST 2004

National Night Out Tuesday, August 3
Honoring Neighborhood Watch

Special Collections for Bulk and Brush

Separate collection of yard debris is required from April 1 through December 24. Yard debris includes grass clippings, leaves, flowers, plants, vegetables, fruit, pumpkins, corn stalks, weeds, straw, or other yard items that can be securely tied, bundled, or contained (individual bags, cans, and bundles should weigh no more than 50 lbs each.). No poison ivy, dirt, rocks, stones, concrete, sand, bricks, asphalt, insect nests, or hives should be included.

Yard debris must be set out by 6:00 a.m. on our regular collection day, each Friday. In addition, yard debris should be bundled and tied or set out in transparent plastic bags, reusable plastic containers (with lids removed), or brown paper yard debris bags. If collection crews cannot see that a bag or can contains yard debris, it might be left at the curb. County issued trash carts are not to be used for yard debris.

2003-2004 GDCA Board of Directors

President: Keil Green*

2837 Marshall Street, 703-538-7353
ksgreen@lafayettegroup.com

Vice President: Terri Lamb*

2818 Summerfield Road, 703-538-6065
terri.lamb@cox.net

Treasurer: Bob Mansker

2833 Woodlawn Avenue, 703-534-1516
rmansker@aol.com

Recording Secretary: Scot Walker*

2805 Bolling Road, 703-534-3230
scotwalker2004@yahoo.com

Corresponding Secretary: Sara Forsyth*

2838 W. George Mason Rd., 703-237-1330
jsforyth@yahoo.com

Member at Large: Bethany Chirico*

2837 Winchester Way, 703-534-8868
beth_chirico@@yahoo.com

Member at Large: VACANT

*Also serve as street representatives.

Street Representatives

Cameron Road: Todd and Jennifer Marks

2845 Cameron, 703-538-5539
toddmarks@aol.com

Custis Parkway: VACANT

Greenway Boulevard: Maureen Kahr

2754 Greenway, 703-534-3009
rkahr@netzero.net

Monroe Street: Melanie Norton

2837 Monroe Street, 703-752-2798

Woodlawn Ave.: Alex and Margie Kuczkowski

2849 Woodlawn, 703-532-5709
alexkdb77@hotmail.com

Lee Highway: VACANT

Committee Chairpersons

Creeks/Park: Peter Chirico; 703-534-8868

Fairfax Federation: Bob Mansker/Randy Butler

Membership: VACANT

Neighborhood Watch: Paul Garcia; 703-241-2654

Newsletter (*The Downs*): Bethany Chirico

Social: VACANT

Welcoming: Sara Forsyth

Interested in getting involved?

Contact a Board Member to volunteer your time!
Thanks for being part of Greenway Downs!

Annual Neighborhood Yard Sale Saturday, May 1

You don't have to apply for TLC's new home show, Clean Sweep, in order to get your house in tip-top shape for summer - just take part in the annual GDCA Neighborhood Yard Sale, scheduled for Saturday, May 1 beginning at 8:30 a.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, April 30. You may also contact him by phone at 703-534-3230 or via e-mail at scotwalker2004@yahoo.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. Additionally, the GDCA will place large signs on Route 29/Lee Highway and Route 50 to direct traffic to the sales. 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, APRIL 30 to:
Scot Walker; 2805 Bolling Road
703-534-3230; scotwalker2004@yahoo.com



Important Community Survey

Your input is needed into important issues facing our community. The results of this brief survey will provide our community leaders and elected officials with important information about how to better represent the needs of our neighborhood. Please take a few moments to complete the survey and return it to the address on the other side. This survey is voluntary and anonymous, and your individual responses will be kept confidential.

SECTION I: OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

For each of the items below, please indicate how satisfied you are with each of the following in our neighborhood.

	<i>Please check one box in each row</i>				
	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Don't know / No opinion
1. Availability of public transportation					
2. Private school options					
3. Public school options					
4. Condition of streets and sidewalks					
5. Traffic within neighborhood					
6. Parks and recreational services					
7. Sense of community / neighborhood identity					
8. Safety / crime rates					
9. Upkeep of houses					
10. Overall quality of life in neighborhood					

Please check one box in each column to indicate which one you believe:

- Is the greatest advantage to living in our neighborhood
- Is the greatest disadvantage to living in our neighborhood
- Is the most important priority for improving our neighborhood
- Will have the greatest impact on future property values in our neighborhood

	<i>Please check one box in each column</i>			
	11. Greatest Advantage	12. Greatest Disadvantage	13. Most Important Priority	14. Greatest Impact on Property Values
a. Availability of public transportation				
b. Private school options				
c. Public school options				
d. Condition of streets and sidewalks				
e. Traffic within neighborhood				
f. Parks and recreational services				
g. Sense of community / neighborhood identity				
h. Safety / crime rates				
i. Upkeep of houses				
j. Overall quality of life in neighborhood				
k. OTHER:				
l. OTHER:				

SECTION II: YOUR HOUSEHOLD

15. What language do you mainly speak at home? ₁ English ₂ Spanish ₃ Other ₄ Mixed

6. Parks and recreational services				
7. Sense of community / neighborhood identity				
8. Safety / crime rates				
9. Upkeep of houses				
10. Overall quality of life in neighborhood				

Please check one box in each column to indicate which one you believe:

- Is the greatest advantage to living in our neighborhood
- Is the greatest disadvantage to living in our neighborhood
- Is the most important priority for improving our neighborhood
- Will have the greatest impact on future property values in our neighborhood

	<i>Please check one box in each column</i>			
	11. Greatest Advantage	12. Greatest Disadvantage	13. Most Important Priority	14. Greatest Impact on Property Values
a. Availability of public transportation				
b. Private school options				
c. Public school options				
d. Condition of streets and sidewalks				
e. Traffic within neighborhood				
f. Parks and recreational services				
g. Sense of community / neighborhood identity				
h. Safety / crime rates				
i. Upkeep of houses				
j. Overall quality of life in neighborhood				
k. OTHER:				
l. OTHER:				

SECTION II: YOUR HOUSEHOLD

15. What language do you mainly speak at home? ₁ English ₂ Spanish ₃ Other ₄ Mixed

16. How many years have you lived in this neighborhood? ₁ Less than 2 years ₂ 2-5 years
₃ 6-10 years ₄ More than 10 years

17. How many members of your household are in each of the following age ranges? *(please enter numbers in the spaces)*
_____ 0 – 5 years old _____ 12 – 17 years old
_____ 6 – 11 years old _____ 18 years old or older

18. In which part of the neighborhood do you live? ₁ Greenway Downs ₂ City Park ₃ Woodley North

Please continue to the other side →

SECTION III: OUR SCHOOLS

If you have any children age 0-17, please continue to questions 18-20. Otherwise, please skip to Section IV below.

If you have any children age 0-5, please continue to questions 21-24. Otherwise, please skip to Section IV below.

19. Do (did) any of your children attend any of the following schools? If so, how satisfied are you with how well that school meets (met) your children's needs?

(please check all that apply)	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Don't know	DID NOT ATTEND
a. Graham Road						
b. Pine Spring						
c. Timber Lane						
d. Beech Tree						

22. Which elementary school is your "base" school?

- ₁ Graham Road Elementary School
- ₂ Pine Spring Elementary School
- ₃ Timber Lane Elementary School
- ₄ Beech Tree Elementary School
- ₅ Other / Don't know

23. Which of the following best describes your current plan for when your child(ren) age 0-5 reach elementary school age? My child(ren) will...

- ₁ Attend our **base public school**
- ₂ Opt out of our base public school but will attend **another public school**
- ₃ Apply to a **magnet school, language immersion school, or gifted center**
- ₄ **Move** to another school district
- ₅ Attend **private school**
- ₆ Be **home schooled**
- ₇ Don't know / Undecided

20. Please indicate how important, if at all, each of the following factors is to you in evaluating whether a school meets your child's needs.

	Essential	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very important	Not at all important
a. Safety of school					
b. Convenient location					
c. Scores on standardized tests					
d. Gifted and talented prog.					
e. High academic standards					
f. Language immersion prog.					
g. ESOL program					
h. Other parents/kids share our values					
i. My child has classmates in my neighborhood					
j. Class size					
k. Diversity of students					
l. Educational resources					
m. Quality of school facility					
n. Modified school calendar					
o. Strong parental involvement					
p. Percentage of students with free/reduced price lunch					
q. Bus transportation					
r. Special education prog.					
s. All-day kindergarten					

24. Please indicate which of the following comes closest to your own attitude about the public elementary schools in this neighborhood.

- ₁ "I am satisfied with the public school choices currently available in our neighborhood."
- ₂ "I might send my kids to public school, but I am not satisfied with the choices currently available."
- ₃ "I do not expect that I would send my kids to a public school in this neighborhood even if the options changed in some way."

25. If all families in the were in the same elementary school district, what impact would that have on the likelihood of your sending your child(ren) to the neighborhood elementary school?

- ₁ Much more likely
- ₂ Somewhat more likely
- ₃ Somewhat less likely
- ₄ Much less likely
- ₅ It depends on which elementary school becomes our neighborhood school
- ₆ Don't know / no opinion

21. Please indicate below whether you favor or oppose exploring the following options.

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Don't know
Entire neighborhood is in one elem. district					
Parents may choose among public elem. schools					
Build a new elem. school for our neighborhood					
Develop a "magnet" school program at one of our					

THANK YOU!

Please return your completed survey to:
 NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY/c/o Chris Fleury, 6935
 Carlton Avenue, Falls Church, VA, 22042

If you have questions or wish to get involved, call:
 Julia Kurtz (City Park Homes) at 703-534-6805
 Sara Forsyth (Greenway Downs) at 703-237-1330
 Melissa Zwahr (Woodley North) at 703-876-1733

Si necesita ayuda con llenar la encuesta, puede llamar a Ben Pierson a 703-237-4172.

	Essen	Very Impor	Some Impor	Not v impor	Not a impor
a. Safety of school					
b. Convenient location					
c. Scores on standardized tests					
d. Gifted and talented prog.					
e. High academic standards					
f. Language immersion prog.					
g. ESOL program					
h. Other parents/kids share our values					
i. My child has classmates in my neighborhood					
j. Class size					
k. Diversity of students					
l. Educational resources					
m. Quality of school facility					
n. Modified school calendar					
o. Strong parental involvement					
p. Percentage of students with free/reduced price lunch					
q. Bus transportation					
r. Special education prog.					
s. All-day kindergarten					

21. Please indicate below whether you favor or oppose exploring the following options.

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Don't know
Entire neighborhood is in one elem. district					
Parents may choose among public elem. schools					
Build a new elem. school for our neighborhood					
Develop a "magnet" school program at one of our existing elem. schools					

- ₆ Be home schooled
- ₇ Don't know / Undecided

24. Please indicate which of the following comes closest to your own attitude about the public elementary schools in this neighborhood.

- ₁ "I am satisfied with the public school choices currently available in our neighborhood."
- ₂ "I might send my kids to public school, but I am not satisfied with the choices currently available."
- ₃ "I do not expect that I would send my kids to a public school in this neighborhood even if the options changed in some way."

25. If all families in the were in the same elementary school district, what impact would that have on the likelihood of your sending your child(ren) to the neighborhood elementary school?

- ₁ Much more likely
- ₂ Somewhat more likely
- ₃ Somewhat less likely
- ₄ Much less likely
- ₅ It depends on which elementary school becomes our neighborhood school
- ₆ Don't know / no opinion

THANK YOU!

Please return your completed survey to:
 NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY c/o Chris Fleury, 6935
 Carlton Avenue, Falls Church, VA, 22042

If you have questions or wish to get involved, call:
 Julia Kurtz (City Park Homes) at 703-534-6805
 Sara Forsyth (Greenway Downs) at 703-237-1330
 Melissa Zwahr (Woodley North) at 703-876-1733

Si necesita ayuda con llenar la encuesta, puede llamar a Ben Pierson a 703-237-4172.

SECTION IV: YOUR COMMENTS

Please return by April 15, 2004