

The DOWNS

Greenway Downs Citizens Association

Creek Cleanup Set for Oct. 13

Volunteers of all ages are invited to come out on Saturday October 13 from 9 a.m. to noon for the semi-annual clean-up of the Greenway Downs creek.

Much of the marine debris we find on beaches and in oceans originates in rivers and streams. The effects of this debris on our habitats and biological resources are devastating, threatening human health and killing birds, fish, seals and sea turtles through entanglement and ingestion. Last year, 3,970 people removed 124,999 pounds of trash from our waterways in Virginia.

To join in our neighborhood effort, wear comfortable clothes, bring work gloves and rakes if you have them. Signs with more details will be posted in the neighborhood the week of October 8.

New GDCA Board Members Setting Agenda for New Year

The Greenway Downs Citizens Association was founded in 1942 to protect and promote the interests of the citizens of Greenway Downs. All residents of Greenway Downs are eligible for membership in GDCA and are encouraged to join the association. GDCA is a nonpartisan organization, dedicated to fostering friendly and cooperative relationships among members of the neighborhood.

Each year, new members of the GDCA Board of Directors are elected at the annual meeting held in May. This year's meeting was held at the Devonshire Center on Graham Road. In June, the newly elected members met with members of the previous year's Board of Directors to elect officers.

Meetings of the Board of Directors are open to all residents of Greenway Downs. Many residents of the neighborhood, interested in making our community a better place to live, came to the Board's first meeting to offer their ideas and energy. This group of Board members and citizens is working hard to define goals and objectives for the neighborhood and schedule various community events for the upcoming year.

Inside you will find contact information for the new GDCA Board members and volunteers, as well as committees that have been established to address various neighborhood issues. Please contact the committee chair and get involved in the issues that interest you. *Remember--the GDCA exists to serve you, the members of this neighborhood. It succeeds the most when many contribute and let their voices and concerns be known and heard.*

2001-2002 GDCA Board

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Keil Green 538-7353

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Peter Chirico* 534-8868

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Terri Lamb* 538-6065

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Street Representatives

West George Mason

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Cameron Road

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* *Representatives to Fairfax
County Federation of Citizens
Associations*

GDCA Committees Seek Ideas, Talents of Friends & Neighbors

GDCA has formed a number of committees to help address specific neighborhood needs--from traffic control to organizing social events during the upcoming year. These committees are described below, with contact information so you can share concerns, questions, and ideas. If you have the time, interest, and desire, please offer these groups your help. Why not get involved in **your** neighborhood today?

Communication Committee. Produces the *Downs* newsletter. Working on developing new ways to get messages and information out to the residents of Greenway Downs.

Outreach Coordinator: Terri Lamb 538-6065 talmab@cox.rr.com

Newsletter Editor: Jennifer Click 532-9216, jclick@mindspring.com

Social Committee. Coordinates and promotes activities throughout the year, including the Annual Picnic, Halloween Parade, "Couples & Singles" Events, and more. The group is designing and putting together "Welcome Packets" for new resident.

Committee Leader: Jennifer Marks 538-5539, ToddMarks@aol.com

Welcome Packets: Sara Forsyth 237-1330, jsforsyth@yahoo.com.

Traffic & Transportation. Gathers information, complaints and concerns from residents regarding such issues as speeding, reckless driving, need for traffic signs, etc., and directs these concerns to county and governing organizations.

Scott Lawson 531-0180, lawson@rdacustomsoftware.com

Todd Marks 538-5539, ToddMarks@aol.com.

Zoning and Ordinance Committee. For questions regarding zoning or other rules and regulations governing our neighborhood, first contact *Fairfax County Zoning Enforcement of Fairfax County* 324-1300 or zoningcomplaints@co.fairfax.va.us. Contact committee leader for additional assistance.

Todd Marks 538-5539, ToddMarks@aol.com

Falls Church City Boundary Adjustment. Established to conduct an unbiased investigation into issues surrounding possible annexation of Greenway Downs into City of Falls Church, including feasibility and the potential economic, social, and political impact. Findings will be reported to the Board for consideration. Volunteers to help investigate this issue, as well as community input, are needed. Keil Green 538-7353, ksgreen@lafayettegroup.com.

Creek and Park Committee. Responsible for various activities, such as the Creek Clean up, to keep our neighborhood creek area and park land safe, healthy and clean.

Jo Acosta 538-6615, joacosta@ix.netcom.com.

Thanks to all these people who are volunteering their time, expertise and dedication to making our neighborhood a better place to live.

Please get involved – you too can help make a difference!

Volunteers Increase Neighborhood Safety for All

The Greenway Downs Neighborhood Watch program canvasses the neighborhood by car and on foot, looking for questionable activity, suspicious behavior, and circumstances that seem unusual. Neighborhood Watch volunteers receive training through the Fairfax County Police Department before taking to the streets to keep an eye on Greenway Downs. When they see suspicious activity, Neighborhood Watch members notify the authorities via cell phone. They do not get involved in confronting suspected criminals.

Paul and Joyce Garcia of Marshall Street are the Neighborhood Watch coordinators for Greenway Downs. According to Paul, the amount of time each volunteer needs to spend on patrol depends on the number of people participating in the program. Volunteers typically devote two hours every other month to patrolling. Although every street in the neighborhood is patrolled, Cavalier Trail, Monroe Street, and West George Mason Road do not currently have any volunteers participating in the program. The Neighborhood Watch program is always looking for new participants, and Paul is looking for a Back-up Coordinator to take over duties when he are not available.

A big "Thank you!" for all the time and effort they have put into the program and their continuing contributions. Anyone interested should contact them at (703) 241-2654. For the benefit of all, lets pitch in!

Ways to Keep Your Home Safe from Burglary

More than 8,000 home burglaries happen every day across the country. During recent months, there have been several daytime robberies in the Greenway Downs area. Some break-ins have occurred while residents or neighbors were home. People have had CD players taken from unlocked cars parked on or near their property, as well as jewelry and electronic equipment taken from their homes.

While police reports have been filed and information has been collected, homeowners can take steps to make their properties more secure. Bob Portenier, a former burglar and current security advisor, and Ed O'Carroll, a crime prevention officer with the Fairfax County Police Department offer the following tips:

- **Get an alarm.** "To me, the best insurance a homeowner can have is having a security system," says Portenier. "Don't have a false sense of security that an alarm system is going to keep the bad guy out," cautions O'Carroll. "An alarm system doesn't make your doors any tighter, your windows any stronger ... an alarm system just lets you know when someone's gotten in."

- **Get to know your neighbors.** Join a neighborhood watch program in your area. "Good neighbors are your best defense against burglary," says O'Carroll. "We rely upon neighbors to be the eyes and ears of law enforcement, and oftentimes it's a concerned neighbor, a citizen who has zero tolerance for crime, that makes that all-important call to 911."

- **Install good locks.** Make sure exterior doors and windows have strong locks that are in working order. Don't forget the sliding doors on the patio or balcony, which are common entry points for burglars.

- **Find a new place for your valuables.** Lingerie drawers, night stands, and under mattresses are often not-so-secret hiding places. Burglars don't have time to keep searching for valuables, so keep them in places other people don't.

- **Keep your doors locked at all times.** If you are working in the back yard, lock the front door.

- **Do not leave a key out.** Instead of hiding a key in the yard, give a neighbor one for emergencies.

- **Use timers.** To make your home appear as if it is occupied, use timers for your lights, radios and televisions. "It's good to have the radios and TVs come on and off throughout the day," says O'Carroll. "It gives the illusion of occupancy."

- **Don't advertise your absence.** Park a car in your driveway in your absence, have some garbage left in your cans, stop mail delivery, and consider having your lawn mowed or snow shoveled while you are away.

- **Install porch and walkway lights** Outside lighting is a good deterrent against crime.

- **Protect your back yard with a fence.** "It shows ownership," says O'Carroll. "It tells people where they should and shouldn't be ... We want to make it difficult for anyone to get back there."

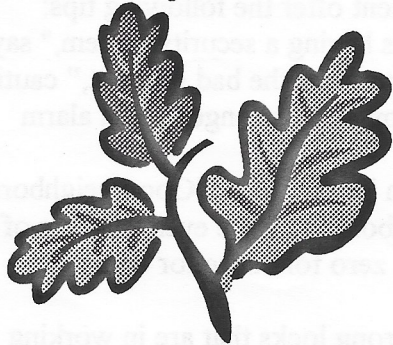
- **Get a dog, or pretend to.** Dogs make most would-be intruders think twice. If you don't want to care for a dog, leave a dog food bowl and chain in the backyard as a deterrent, suggests O'Carroll.

Ghosts & Goblins Plan To Parade in Greenway Downs

Neighbors in Greenway Downs are expecting a spooky night on October 31st as ghosts, goblins, witches—and probably a few Power Puff Girls—take to the streets of the neighborhood for an evening of fun.

The annual fall celebration will kick off this year with a parade, crafts, and music starting at 5:30 that evening in the Tot Lot at the end of Custis Boulevard. Expect plenty of games, candy, prizes, and a good time for even the littlest members of the neighborhood. Costumes are not required, but be sure to bring your camera and plenty of film to this favorite neighborhood event.

All children must be accompanied by an adult. Please bring a flashlight and comfortable shoes for the parade around the perimeter of the park.



Remembering the Victims, Honoring the Heroes

The events of September 11th sent shock waves through the nation and through our neighborhood. A number of our Greenway Downs neighbors are members of the National Guard and Reserves and have been called up to help safeguard our nation. The Jefferson Village Fire Station is the home of Fairfax County's Urban Search and Rescue team, and the firefighters who serve our neighborhood spent countless hours at the sight of the Pentagon bombing. To all these heroes, we extend our thanks as part of a grateful nation.

There are still many ways neighbors can help. In the days after the attacks, blood banks were overwhelmed with donations, but human blood can be safely stored for fewer than 60 days. If you were unable to donate earlier, you can make an appointment to do so now by calling Inova Blood Donor Services at 703-698-3885.

A number of organizations are accepting donations for local victims of the Pentagon attack, including:

The United Way of Washington D.C. 95 M Street SW, Washington D.C., 20024 or call (202) 488-2000. The designation code for donations in Washington, D.C., is 9011.

The Survivors' Fund of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region 1112 16th St. NW, Suite 340, Washington, D.C. 20036 or call (202) 955-5890

American Red Cross, National Capital Chapter 2131 K St. NW, Washington D.C., 20037, or call: 202-728-6400

Garden Exchange Helps Add Variety to Plantings

How many times have you divided your extra iris, day lilies, daffodils, tulips and other perennials and tossed them away? A week later, you walk by your neighbors' yard and envy their perennials. A week after that, you notice that your neighbors have divided their bulbs and ask yourself why you didn't offer to exchange something—anything—to add a different color or a different species to your yard.

Most of us have far too many plants, but we could always use a few different things to balance out our yards. Now gardeners in Greenway Downs will have a time to do just that. On October 6 between 10 a.m. and noon, bring your bulbs to 2805 Bolling Road. Bring a bag of anything and pick up a bag of something else—or hang around and wait for what you want! If you can't make the swap meet, bring a bag of something—with your name and address on the bag—to 2805 Bolling Road a day or so and the Santa Gardener will bring you a surprise. Email scot_walker@hotmail.com (there is an underscore between my first and last names) or call (703) 534-3230 for questions.

EASY RULES: 1) Mark your bag with contents and simple planting/caring instructions. 2) If you cannot attend the swap meet, leave your address on the bag as well.