



of GREENWAY DOWNS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

FAMILY CRAFTS, HOBBIES &
YOUTH AWARDS NIGHT

On Thursday evening, May 27, we would like to have the whole family exhibit their art, hobby or craft to the community. We invite everyone to bring up their artistic creations, handicrafts or hobby collection to Devonshire Elementary School or just come up and view your neighbor's artistic endeavors beginning at 7:30 PM.

We would like to award prizes for the best youth entries in the categories of art, crafts and hobbies.

We will also be awarding the outstanding students in our community for their academic achievements this school year.

As always we will have refreshments and will close the evening with our election of new officers. For further information, call 532-5824 or 536-2739.

Volunteers are needed for our picnic on June 19 to prepare and serve food and to help on other projects. Call Sandy Mann at 536-3272.

Our thanks to the *Myers, Mariners,* and *Tommy Rodriquez* for delivering the last issue of *THE DOWNS*.

EVENTS CALENDAR

- MAY 3 Executive Board Meeting 8:00 PM
2825 George Mason Road
- MAY 5 Deadline for *THE DOWNS*
- MAY 15 Greenway Downs Flea Market
Basketball Court
- MAY 27 Combined Family Crafts and
Youth Night 7:30 PM
Election of Officers
- JUNE 1 Executive Board Meeting 8:00 PM
2825 George Mason Road
- JUNE 3 Deadline for *THE DOWNS*
- JUNE 19 Annual Picnic

REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENTS

Did you know that even though your property does not include such improvements as storm sewers, curbs or gutters, Fairfax County seems to assess your lot as if it did and at a value equivalent to lots in adjoining communities that already have such improvements? Tax assessments can be appealed if the taxpayer can demonstrate inequality in the assessment. It might also be interesting to note that lots (land only) in our community are assessed at a value that works out to \$50,000-\$70,000 an acre. For further information call *Randy Myers* at 536-2739.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Randy Myers, President

The April General Meeting was cancelled so that interested citizens could attend the FY 1977 Budget Hearings for Fairfax County.

Congratulations to our latest Outstanding Citizen, *Henry Rodriguez*, and to *Elouisa Stokes* and *Ben Blankenship* for their Distinguished Service.

My thanks to *Tommy Thomsen* who arranged this year's dinner and the citizens who came to honor our Distinguished Citizens; in addition, I want to thank *Bernie Lucas*, *Joe Goodwin*, *Bob, Lois, Brenda, Greg & Cindy Owens*, *Mary & Paul Millsback*, *Monica Mordin*, *Elouisa Stokes*, *Ben Blankenship*, *Karen Mariner*, *Ray Smart* and *George Schaar* for all helping with the various banquet preparations.

I would like to thank *Falls Church Florist Shop* for donating a lovely centerpiece and *Chesapeake Bay Seafood House*, *Carvel Ice Cream Supermarket*, and *Cakes 'R' Us Bakery* for donating door prizes.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Chairman *George Schaar* and his committee members are in search of a President and Vice President for next year. We desperately need a few people to dedicate their time to our community through the work of our association. So, if you get a call from *George*, we hope you will consider becoming a leader in our community for one year instead of a follower.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Bylaws of the Association call for an audit of the Treasurer's Books each year to be presented at the May meeting. If you have any experience in bookkeeping or accounting and would like to help review our checkbook which might at most have fifty entries, please contact *Randy Myers* at 536-2739.

THE DOWNS

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SENIOR CITIZEN TAX RELIEF

Senior Citizens 65 years of age or older, as of December 31, 1975, who qualify for Fairfax County Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Relief must file their applications by May 1 to be exempted from 1976 taxes. Call 691-2371 concerning Real Estate Tax Relief and 691-2437 concerning Personal Property Tax Relief.

BROWNIE GIRL SCOUTS

Brownie Troop 318 is enjoying another great year thanks to its dedicated leaders and enthusiastic girls. Working hard have been *Mary Beyer* and *Nancy Johnston* getting the year ably started and assisted by *Elouisa Stokes* and *Florence Chapline*. The girls sang Christmas songs to some of our neighbors and, in February, attended a fantastic Father-Daughter Banquet. About then *Mrs. Chapline* moved and *Mrs. Pat Buckstrup* came to help the 25 girls. Then we visited McDonald's where we found out about Hamburger University and how to make a hamburger and pour our own drinks. In March, *Mrs. Johnston* moved leaving a big hole which *Mrs. Banks* is filling. Later that month some of the girls had a delicious dessert cookout. On April 1 we visited television Channel 53 (WNVT) and were given a very complete tour by *Mrs. VonCollin* who we found out is a neighbor. Still to come are a fishing trip, a backyard camping trip, and finally flying up in June.

COMMUNITY AWARDS
OUTSTANDING CITIZEN 1976-HENRY RODRIGUEZ

Henry was born in Tampa, Florida, August 13, 1926 to parents who had originally come from Cuba. He graduated from the University of Florida in Gainesville and spent some time in the U.S. Air Force with duty in the Philippines. He became an airlines travel clerk after his military service; then in the mid-fifties he came to Washington.

He wasn't in the area long before he took up fencing at the YMCA downtown. Then he got foiled, by a pretty young thing in the club from Pittsburg. Joan and Henry met at the club and about all they had to say at first was touche. Later she taught him to ride a bicycle, and she taught him the social graces. Imagine preferring the ballet to good old barbershop singing!

Henry and Joan moved to George Mason Road in Greenway Downs in 1959. They have two sons, Michael--17 and Tommy--14. Not long after moving into the community, Henry became very involved in community affairs:

- He was a delegate to the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens' Associations for five years.
- He became Vice President of the GDCA in 1966.
- He has been mentioned in the GDCA bulletin about 25 other times, in connection with various committees he has chaired, served on, etc.
- He was President in 1971.
- He worked extensively on Custis Parkway Park development, acquisition, and plantings and cleanups during the past decade.
- In the past few years he has been instrumental in Fairfax County's PLUS Program--Planning and Lane Use Control Program--Jim Scott will attest to Henry's value in helping the planners define what neighborhoods in Fairfax ought to be like.
- Now he is a very active member of the Fairfax County Air Pollution Control Board.

Henry has found time to work at his government job, too. He was chosen to be a Congressional Fellow in 1969, which is a high honor for someone in the Executive Branch. In short, Henry is an outstanding citizen and one eminently deserving of our community's highest honor.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDEES

ELOUISA STOKES and BEN BLANKENSHIP who have given many years of service to the community received recognition as Distinguished Citizens at the Award Dinner in March. They have both contributed much time and effort to community related projects over the past years.

JUNIOR GIRL SCOUTS

Girl Scout Troop 857---has been very active since being formed in October. Mrs. Mary Miller has been quite busy with the twenty girls. The troop has attended the Ice Capades, toured a beautifully decorated home at Christmas, gone to the Zoo, and ice skated, and attended a Father-Daughter square dance at Falls Church High School in January. Most recently, the girls had a cookout at Greenway Park. Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Elouisa Stokes (Devonshire GS Troop Organizer) led the troop in this activity and had as helpers and guests--Mr. Shomo and Mrs. Isabel Patterson. An uninvited guest in the form of a neighborhood dog relieved the girls of all their leftovers. The mothers of the girls in this troop have all helped this year in either a visible or invisible capacity and I as a GS mother would like to say thank you all for being a part of your daughter's and my daughter's life, especially when they are at an age when they can benefit so much from organized yet individualized activity--Karen Mariner

FLEA MARKET

On May 15, the Citizens Association will hold a community flea market from 9 AM to 4 PM on the basketball court in the park. This affair will be a community service as well as a means of making a little extra money for the Association. Members of the community may set up tables to sell their own white elephants, crafts, plants, or whatever, contributing 10 percent of their proceeds to the Association. If anyone is interested in just donating items (no clothing) to the Association, the Association will receive all proceeds from those sales. If you would like your donations picked up, please call one of the persons listed below. If you plan to participate in the flea market, we would appreciate a phone call so that we will know how many people to expect. We will appreciate any help we can get. A rain date will be set for the following Saturday. This is your opportunity to clean house. Some surprising items set at flea markets: *half-used cans of paint; nails, screws; etc.; shower curtain rings; drapery hooks; curtain rods; that kitchen gadget you bought in a moment of weakness and never use. . . Kids! This is your chance to clean out your closet and make a little money besides. What about the football helmet you outgrew years ago; the games you never play; the comic books that have piled up, the toys that you are much too old to play with. . . Perhaps you can share your parents' table or if you are old enough, set up your own. LAST DAY FOR PICKUP OF DONATED ITEMS IS MAY 12.*

CALL: Charlotte Whitney--534-9539, Joan Rodriguez--533-7795, or Marty Sowers--534-4463.

MOTHER'S MORNING OUT

Mother's Morning Out at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is a cooperative program designed to give mothers a free morning. It will be in operation every Tuesday morning from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon. There is a nominal charge of 50¢ per child. The age limit is 0 months to pre-kindergarten. Mothers are required to take their turn to supervise for a morning. Anyone interested in participating is asked to come to a meeting at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Woodlawn Avenue & Route 50), May 16th, at 7:30 PM in the Youth Auditorium or call Sandy Mann (536-3272) for further information. Beginning date of M.M.O. is Tuesday, June 1.

VIRGINIA FAMILY DAY CARE ASSOCIATION

The Virginia Family Day Care Association is a newly formed non-profit organization. Membership is open to Family Day Care Providers (persons who baby/child sit for working mothers) who meet the standards set by the Association. Members of this organization are interested in providing good, reliable family day care. Through the Association reliable persons will be available to sit for provider's children enabling them to keep medical appointments, etc., equipment-toy loan cabinet will be set up, and there will also be a FDC Provider referral system put into effect. The next monthly meeting will be held at the Woodrow Wilson Library, May 11, at 8:00 PM in Meeting Room No. 1. Interested persons are invited to attend. For further information call Karen Mariner at 536-1991.

BABY SITTERS

Terry Draper (age 13)--534-3862; Mike Garcia (age 13)--534-3877; Darlene Hedgpeth (age 13)--532-1594; Leslie Klinger (age 15)--533-8051; Mary & Teresa Noles (age 16)--534-5660; Cheryl Rinker (age 12)--532-1020; Debbie Rodgers (age 12)--533-2835; Tom Rodriguez (age 14)--533-7795; Ellen Schaffstall (age 15)--533-0432; Kim & Tammy Streets (ages 16 and 14)--532-0479; Karen Wendel (age 13)--533-9070.

ODD JOBS: Steve Mann (age 14)--536-3272; Tom Rodriguez (age 14)--533-7795; Kermit Woolbridge (age 14)--533-9070.

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OFFICIALS RECOMMEND HOME FIRE DETECTORS

Fairfax County's fire prevention and building inspections officials have recommended that residents give serious consideration to installation of approved early-warning fire detection devices in their homes.

Such systems can save lives of many unaware and sleeping families, and much property damage, but they must be good quality equipment, properly installed and maintained, according to the County Fire Marshal's Office, which recommends:

- o The unit or system selected for purchase must be approved and labelled by a recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL), Factory Mutual (FM) or Canadian Standards Association (CSA). The Fire Marshal's Office can advise buyers if a particular model is approved by a reputable lab, but cannot recommend brands to buy. The phone number is 691-2331.

- o Detection devices must be installed in strict accordance with manufacturers' and testing laboratories' instructions.

- o For guidance in purchasing an adequate number of units and locating them properly, buyers are advised to consult the National Fire Protection Association's Standard No. 74, "Household Warning Equipment." Copies of the pamphlet may be reviewed in the Reference sections of all branches of the Fairfax County Public Library or may be obtained by mail for \$2 per copy from NFPA, 470 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02210. One detector is seldom enough to protect a typical home.

- o Installed units must be maintained carefully, and those operated on batteries need replacement batteries on a regular schedule.

There are no laws or building codes requiring that fire or smoke detection systems be installed in existing dwellings, but the current Virginia Statewide Uniform Building Code requires at least one detector in each newly constructed unit. Some dwellings yet to be built, however, may not contain detection systems because building permits were issued before the Code requirements went into effect. In addition, federal standards now require smoke detection systems in new dwellings built with VA or FHA financing.