



THE DOWNS

of GREENWAY DOWNS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

APRIL 1980

PROPERTY TAX HEARING

On April 14th, 15th and 16th a public hearing will be held on a County Board of Supervisors' proposal to increase tax levies by 10% for the fiscal year beginning July 1 1980. The hearing will be held on the 14th and 15th at 7:30 p.m. in the Board meeting room, A level, Massey Building in Fairfax and April 16th at 7:30 p.m. at Falls Church High School, 7521 Jaguar Trail in Falls Church. If you want your views to be heard, please attend the meeting. Taxes affect everyone.

PARK CLEAN UP

As some of you may have noticed the past several years have left the Greenway Down Park in a sorry state. Much litter and broken glass has made its way into the creek. Saturday, April 19th has been chosen as the day to clean the park. Meeting time is 9:00 a.m. Adults are needed to remove large items from the creek bed and pick up debris from the banks

Wear old clothes, work gloves, and waterproof boots. Trash bags will be provided by the County.

If you wish to volunteer in advance, call Marty Sowers at 534-4463.

Mark your calendar for April 19th, at 9:00 a.m. Rain date is April 26th.

TRASH PICK UP

Friday, April 18th the County will be sending a truck to the Downs' area to pick up large items of trash, such as tree limbs, appliances, tires, and swingsets.

The truck will collect any item setting at the curb.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

I want to thank the contributors of articles for the Downs. They include Jan Nelson for the article on Washington Gas Light, Marty Sowers for Park Clean up, Carl Silverberg for Crime Watch, Mary Millsback for Calendar of Events and Randy Myers for Membership Drive.

Marianne Horak Gick, Editor

PROPERTY RE-ASSESSMENTS

All of us should have received our tax re-assessment for 1980. The average rate of increase for the County as a whole was 11.0%. According to Ray De Frees of the Office of Assessment, residential assessment increases varied from as little as 0% to 50%. De Frees was responsible for Greenway Downs re-assessment in 1980.

The assessment is broken into two components: building and land. While the rates of increase on each may vary significantly, the overall increase is the one which must be defended by the Assessors.

Real property assessments are a matter of public record. If you wish to learn the assessed value of any property or if you have questions about your assessment, call 691-2371.

NEW GAS MAINS & SERVICES

By now most Greenway Downs' residents are aware of the construction crews that have been burrowing through our community. Those of you not affected by the inconveniences of mud, noise and bumpy driveways may not be aware of the purpose of the work. According to Mr. Polhamus, dispatch coordinator of the Washington Gas Light Company, the utility plans to replace some of the old gas mains and services found in the Downs' area. There is no charge to the customer for this work. Homes on Summerfield, Winchester Way and Cavalier Trail are the only residences to receive these improvements at this time.

I, for one, welcome such improvements, but I also share a concern with my neighbors over the appearance and condition of our properties once the work has been completed. Washington Gas

says not to worry. "We want assure you that conditions (shrubbery and lawns) will be restored, as near as possible, to what they were prior to the construction." Mr. Polhamus advises that anyone who has a problem or complaint as a result of their work should contact W.G.L. on 750-1000. He emphasized importance of identifying the job number, V7832-251, when reporting your problem. A weekly reminder to the above service number would generate results faster than just one call.

The project is scheduled to be completed by mid-May 1980. Hopefully all of us will be satisfied with the end product of the Washington Gas venture. Should there be difficulties in obtaining satisfactory results, I urge you to let it be known at the next Board of Directors' meeting

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April - Membership Drive
- April 14, 15 & 16 Tax Levy Hearing, 8:00 p.m.
- April 18 Large Item Trash Collection
- April 19 Park Clean Up, 9:00 a.m.
- April 23 Board of Directors' Meeting, 8:00 p.m.
- April 26 Rain Date, Park Clean Up, 9:00 a.m.
- May 13 & 14 Devonshire School Hearing, 7:30 p.m.
- Late May Greenway Downs Citizens Association Elections
- Summer Member Picnic

CRIME WATCH
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CRIME WATCH

Recently, the Civic Association approved the formation of a Crime Watch Program. While the topic of crime and protection may not be the ideal one this is a County wide program which has been of benefit to many areas. The goals of the Crime Watch Program are quite simple: to eliminate, as much as possible, crime from Greenway Downs, and to make the citizens more aware of what is going on within the neighborhood.

The Neighborhood Watch Program is sponsored by the Fairfax County Police Department, yet it depends on the participating community. Participants will be trained to record any suspicious activities within their area, and to report such activities to the Police Department, even anonymously. For those who wish to donate a portion of their free time, the program can help organize patrols of the neighborhood. The sole purpose of the patrols is to discourage crime and to report any unusual activities. The Neighborhood Watch Program is not designed to commit participants to definite patrols nor is it designed to impose on those who wish to participate.

Mr. Gerald Mooney of Greenway Boulevard is the Greenway Downs co-ordinator of the program and can provide you with further details you may wish. He can be reached at 553-3666.

DEVONSHIRE SCHOOL CLOSING

The County School Board has been conducting a study since January on a consolidation program for ten schools in Cluster D of which Devonshire School is a part. The Community Advisory Group, established to research the proposal will present its final report to the Board on April 7th. The result of the study, according to Bob Martin of Greenway Boulevard and a member of the Group, will be to recommend the closing of Devonshire. Public hearings will be held May 13th and 14th at Falls Church High School and Jefferson High respectively at 7:30 p.m.

Richard Enrico of W. George Mason is organizing a petition to delay the closing until a time he feels the public has been better informed of the proposal and given alternatives to the closing.

You can call either Bob Martin at 534-0357 or Richard Enrico at 536-2566 to express support.

BRIEF NOTES

Babysitting Co-op: Anyone interested in joining or organizing a co-op can call Marianne Gick of Cameron Road at 534-0732

The next Board of Directors' meeting is scheduled for April 23rd, 8:00 p.m. at the home of Carl Silverberg 2826 West Mason.

Elections of the officers of the Association will be held in late May. Randy Myers and Marty Sowers are co-chairing the Nominating Committee. You can contact either with suggestions on 536-2739 and 534-4463 respectively.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Greenway Downs Citizens' Association membership drive is still on. Many membership forms have been received in the mail where the resident checked the box indicating a desire to join, but then failed to include the membership dues. It would be appreciated if those residents could also forward membership dues as it is our intention to conduct the membership drive as much as possible by mail.

For those residents who already have sent in their membership form and dues, we will be trying to get out membership cards to you as soon as possible.

For those residents who wish to join at this time, it would be appreciated if you could include a self-addressed, stamped envelope such that your membership card could be sent to you immediately.

It would be helpful even if you do not wish to join if you could mail the membership form with just your address on it so that no one need call on you at home. Please drop or mail the membership form to:

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
2825 West George Mason Road
Falls Church, Virginia 22042

Checks can be made payable to the Greenway Downs Citizens' Association. Thank-you.

GREENWAY DOWNS CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION FORM

Do you wish to become a member? YES _____ NO _____

Do you wish to have your name listed in our telephone directory?

YES _____ NO _____

Do you wish to have your phone number listed?

YES _____ NO _____

PLEASE FILL IN AT LEAST YOUR ADDRESS SO YOU WON'T BE CONTACTED AGAIN

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Address _____

Spouse's Name _____

Phone number _____

DUES () \$2.50 Family () \$1.00 Single