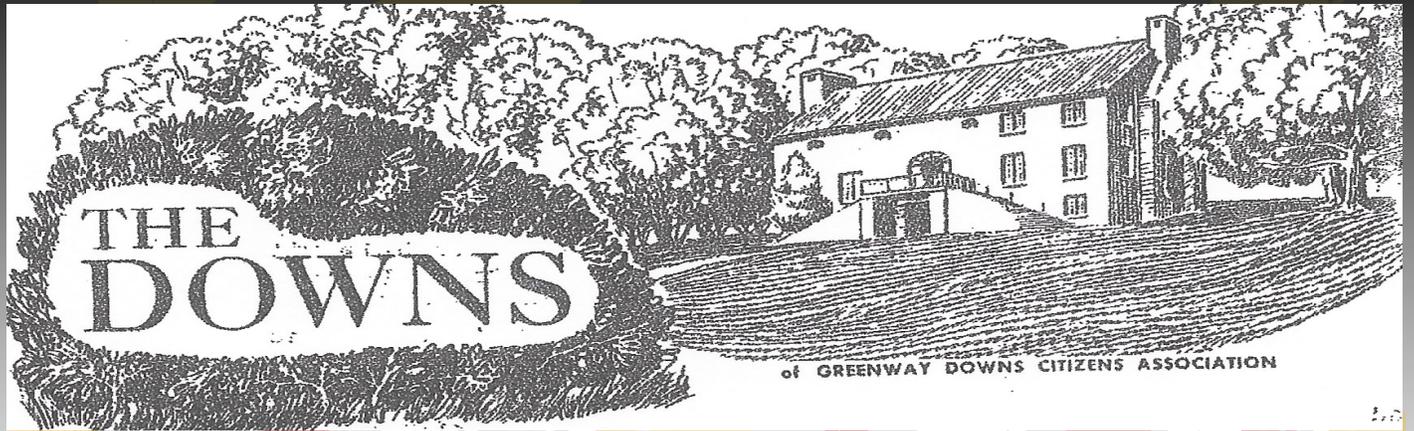


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www.greenwaydowns.org

Greenway Downs Citizens Association

The Greenway Downs Citizens Association is a non-profit, non-partisan association of residents that represents around 450 households in Fairfax County.

The GDCA was formed in 1942 by a group of citizens who were indignant about sewage bubbling up in their back yards and endangering their children playing in the neighborhood stream.

We are a long-standing member of the [Fairfax County Federation of Civic Associations](#).

Find us on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Greenway-Downs-Citizens-Association-130172373032/>

Purchase a Greenway Downs T-Shirt!

Support your neighborhood and purchase a Greenway Downs tee for \$15 each!

Go to www.greenwaydowns.org to see a color photo of the front and back.

All proceeds support Greenway Downs neighborhood activities throughout the year, such as the stream cleanup, an improved neighborhood watch program, the Halloween festival, and the annual block party.

If we are out of your size, we may be able to place an additional order for tees. Cash, credit and check accepted. Email jennyagirard@gmail.com or call 202-549-1214 for sizing details.

Save the Dates!

October 10	Bamboo Removal/Park clean up
October 22	Halloween Pup Parade
October 29 Parade	Fall Festival & Halloween Kids
December 15-17	Holiday House Decorating Contest
December 18	Holiday Caroling & Festival Event

Senior Luncheon

Join the senior lunch group! We meet once every other month for a fun time in a local eatery!

To weigh in on the next date in November please email Mary at emeraldli139@verizon.net

New to Greenway Downs?

Email Sara at edward.f.kelly@verizon.net if you would like a copy of our Greenway Downs Neighborhood Directory

Greenway Downs Citizens Association

President:	Bruce MacNair
	2762 Marshall St.
Vice President:	Lisa French
	2809 Marshall St.
	lisamarienfrench@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Jenny Girard
	7235 Lee Highway
	jennyagirard@gmail.com
Secretary:	Sara Kelly
	2807 W. George Mason Rd.
	Edward.f.kelly@verizon.net
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Member:	Dana Diaz
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	2766 Cameron Rd.
	minardm@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor:	Sara Kelly

Custis Creek & Park Clean Up & Bamboo Project

Saturday, October 8
9-12

(raindate: October 15)

Meet at John Mastenbrook Park Tot Lot

Come join your Greenway Downs/Jefferson Village neighbors for the fall stream and park clean up.

This year, we have permission from the FCPA to continue cutting out bamboo in the park. Let's clean up all the trash and debris from the stream beds and surrounding streets!

Water, trash bags and non-latex gloves will be provided. First come first served for a limited supply of litter grabbers and 1 pair hip waders.

Bring your own cutters for bamboo!

Your teens can earn service points for this event!

Halloween Pup Parade

Saturday, October 22, noon

(rain date: October 23)

Dress up your pup and let it strut its stuff.

Meet in the parking lot at 7247 Lee Highway (corner of Woodlawn and Lee Highway). We will parade down Marshall St., take a left on Jefferson and end at Jefferson Village Park.

Friendly, vaccinated, leashed dogs ONLY. RSVP to Cathy Thatcher at cmthatcher@aol.com or call (text) 703-203-4010. Cathy will be happy to answer your questions about the event.

If you can make it but your pup cannot, no worries, come join the fun. Costumes optional.

Disclaimers:

By participating you are doing so at your own risk. Children are welcome, BUT, this is a dog event so parents are responsible for their child's safety. All dogs must be under the control of a person 18 years or older.

Holiday Caroling & Festival Event

Sunday December 18 6-8 pm

Gather with your neighbors, family and friends to sing and enjoy holiday festivities on the Custis Parkway cul-de-sac at John Mastenbrook Park.

Sheet music & light refreshments provided.

Like to help? Contact Ashley at Ashley.littrell.wood@gmail.com

Join the Greenway Downs Social Committee

Help plan and organize our wonderful community events—Holiday decoration contest, caroling festivities, block party and more

Contact Ashley Wood Ashley.littrell.wood@gmail.com or Lisa French lisamarienfrench@gmail.com

Patios - Walkways - Paver Driveways - Retaining Walls - Fire Pits

CUSTOM STONESCAPING

Your local Greenway Downs neighborhood
stonescaper & landscaper

Jeff Reynolds, the owner of Custom Stonescaping, was born and raised on Monroe street (his parents still live there.) He purchased his grandmother's house on Greenway Blvd in 2014, which is where we currently operate our business. Jeff personally oversees all projects, and clients can feel free to contact Jeff in person.



CustomStonescaping.com

Over a dozen
projects
completed in
Greenway Downs
& counting!

(703) 407-8663

10% OFF for
Greenway Downs
Residents

The Utility Poles on the Median Strip on Woodlawn Avenue

About two years ago, large replacement telephone/power poles were planted in the median strips of Woodlawn Avenue adjacent to existing poles by either Verizon or Dominion Electric with the intent of raising the power lines and other cables above the tree tops in the median strip.

Apparently, Verizon dragged their feet on the project, and the other pole users Cox and Dominion would not move cables until notified or coordinated by Verizon.

Charles Savich, 2801 Woodlawn Avenue, took the issue to the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC), and was able to get the cable and power lines moved to the new pole in front of his house in March of this year. As of yet, Verizon has not removed the old pole. Mr. Savich will submit a letter to the SCC indicating that the work he requested is still not complete.

Meantime, Verizon has not transferred their lines to the 7 new utility poles on the lower half of Woodlawn Avenue, though it appears that Cox and Dominion Electric have.

If you live on Woodlawn, and would like to see the project completed and the old poles taken away, here is the contact at the SCC that Mr. Savich is working with (see below)

Perhaps, if enough Woodlawn residents put this issue on the front burner, the squeaky wheel theory will pay off, the old poles will be removed, and the lines will be transferred to the new poles.

Commonwealth of Virginia, State Corporation Commission
Division of Communications
P.O. Box 1197,
Richmond, VA 23218-1197
Telephone (804)371-9420
Telecommunications Specialist H. Jay Garner, III.

Hug Your Inner Ent

By
Lisa Welde

Fall is a good time to take inventory of the not-so-friendly invasive species that have moved into your yard. Greenway Downs is especially besieged by the following invaders: *see list* www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/invspdflist

- [English Ivy](#)
- [Bamboo](#)
- [Kudzu](#)
- [Porcelain Berry](#)

Why are these a problem?

Greenway Downs residents have the most beautiful collection of mature trees right in their own back yards, second to none in all the metropolitan area. Not only are these very trees choked out and deprived of sunlight by these invasive vines, but the small shrubs and native plants are rapidly succumbing as well.

What Can I Do on My Property?

Do your inventory! Educate yourself. Identify the invasive plants.

- Pull, rip, dig, hoe, mow and smother!
- Target these plants with repeated mowing or cutting to weaken them by depleting root reserves and preventing flowering.
- Apply herbicides, depending on the target population and stage of growth.

For a more in-depth discussion of these methods see <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/control.html>

But It's My Neighbor's Tree!

In that case, be a good neighbor! Offer them a helping hand. Be creative! Throw a "Save the tree BBQ"--Let's all work together to keep the trees and native plants in our neighborhood beautiful and healthy for future generations.

What About Our Greenway Downs Parkland?

by
Sara Kelly

I asked the Fairfax County Park Authority if we could tackle the invasive vines that are choking out our trees and shrubs in John Mastenbrook Park and along the Creek while we were doing our semi-annual clean up and removing bamboo. Here is summary of the FCPA reply.

- John Mastenbrook Park is unique in that the Park Authority does not have the deed to the stream valley section of the park. The stream valley was once part of a road right-of-way and "given" to the county, though there is no record of this. Neighbors next to the land then tried to claim it was their own and this was never resolved. Without the deed the Park Authority does not legally own the land, but it appears no one else does either.
- The Park Authority cannot authorize any invasive vegetation removal in other sections of the park it owns near the stream valley because that is almost entirely within what is called a [Resource Protection Area \(RPA\)](#).
- The RPA is designated as part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Protection Act and puts strict prohibitions on any vegetation removal from within an RPA in order to decrease erosion.
- The Park Authority is able to secure permits to remove vegetation in RPAs on land that the Park Authority actually owns, but we are not established as an [Invasive Management Area \(IMA\)](#).

So, if you can get your mind around all that and would like to join a focus group to find a way out of limbo land and rescue our trees, shrubs, and native species, email me!

Sara at edward.f.kelly@verizon.net

Residential Permit Parking District (RPPD)

If you are new to the neighborhood and you are on an RPPD street please contact [FCDOT](#) to register and receive a free permit for each registered vehicle for your address. You will also receive one visitors pass. The fine for parking illegally is \$75, and possible towing at owner's expense.

Greenway Downs Neighborhood Watch

By Jeffrey Taylor

Greenway Downs Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that involves neighbors working with police to keep their communities safe.

All Greenway Downs residents can do their part by calling

- 911 if you see a crime in the act,
- Fairfax County Police Non-Emergency (703-691-2131) if you observe other suspicious activity, and
- Virginia Dominion Power (866-366-4357) to fix any nearby streetlights that are not working properly.
- Alert your neighbors through the [Jefferson Village / Greenway Downs Nextdoor](#) platform

Our Greenway Downs Neighborhood Watch Team consists of 11 volunteers who monitor the neighborhood by going about their regular routines -- walking (with or without dogs), driving, bicycling, etcetera -- and are willing to phone police if there is suspicious activity. Watch team members can also drive around all of our streets with our magnetic "Greenway Downs Neighborhood Watch" signs to "create a presence" and signal that neighbors are watching out for their fellow neighbors.

It hasn't happened in the recent past, but in the event that any specific criminal issue arises, watch volunteers can mobilize and brainstorm with the police to reduce crime. Watch team members **do not** involve themselves directly in correcting the criminal activity; we simply monitor and contact the police and let the police do their jobs.

Overall, Greenway Downs is a safe place to live and we try to keep it as safe as possible.

If you'd like to be a volunteer on our neighborhood watch team -- or if you just have questions about our program -- please contact me at (571)277-2121 and I'd be happy to help meet any of your needs.

What is Nextdoor?

Nextdoor is a free private social network designed to enhance neighborhood communications. For the last several years, Nextdoor has proved to be a useful tool for Greenway Downs and Jefferson Village to communicate with each other, and the surrounding communities using a well-organized visual interface. Postings are categorized as follows: Classified, Crime & Safety, Documents, Free Items, General, Lost & Found and Recommendations.

Even though Greenway Downs and Jefferson Village are governed by two separate Civic Associations, we combined the two geographic areas into a bloc for the purposes of Nextdoor. To date, our combined newsfeed is 965 neighbors strong!

So, check it out! It is a moderated group. Only those with addresses that fall into our geographic location can join, and they must use their real names.

On Nextdoor, You can choose to receive only our newsfeed, or you can see other communities as well. Even better, you can change your settings to receive a specific category like "crime and safety."

Go Green! Save a Tree!

If you found this Newsletter on your doorstep, this means you are not on the Greenway Downs private email list-serve. It is easy to join this email list.. If you join, you will only receive *The Downs* in its color version, periodic event updates, or requests for your input on issues specific to Greenway Downs.

To join, send your email and street address to Sara at edward.f.kelly@verizon.net
If you have missed our back-issues you can read them at www.greenwaydowns.org

Abandoned Property at 6801 Custis Parkway

A gentleman on Bolling Road has been disturbed by the lack of county action regarding the abandoned property at 6801 Custis Parkway, and asked the Board to look into its fate.

This property was blighted in 2012 and the structures demolished by Fairfax County in 2013. Since then, the lot has become overgrown, full of trash, and on occasion hosted a large boat or two.

After the demolition, The County took the property owner, ie a mortgage company, to court to recover costs but the company demonstrated they did not really own the property. Now it is 2016 and not only are there back taxes, but a lien on the property.

In general, according to Supervisor Linda Smyth's office at Providence District, a lien that has aged is eventually sent to the Department of Tax Administration (DTA). If the DTA cannot solve the issue they send it to a Collection Agency.

Apparently, the Custis property is somewhere between the DTA and a Collection Agency. If the Agency cannot collect, the property will be put up for a real estate auction.

What makes this property rather unique is its proximity to Tripps Run. It is a beautiful spot. However, not only is it on a floodplain, but it also falls within the Resource Protection Area (RPA). These will complicate construction on the lot, and contribute to the cost of any building.

Here are some handy links if you would like to read up on these issues. You can look up your own property to see if you are in a floodplain or within a RPA.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/stormwater/floodmaps.htm>

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/navbar/faqs/floodplains.htm>

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/navbar/faqs/rpa.htm>

Condition of Our Greenway Downs Roads

by Jenny Girard

reprinted in part from The Downs, Fall 2015

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) owns and maintains our roads in Greenway Downs. According to VDOT last year, this is where we stand:

- In Northern Virginia, there are about 10,700 miles of roads, of which about 8,000 are in poor condition.
- Funding is determined through the state political process.
- VDOT is short on funding.
- Poor/very poor roads are prioritized. For example, high volume roads in an area that hasn't had repairs for a long time, or a road near schools where there is a safety issue, will get priority.

To find the condition of your road or check roads scheduled for repair, go to www.virginiaroads.org and enter your address in the search box in "Pavement Conditions & Pavement Schedules". If you click on the hashtag, a pop-up will tell you the condition of your road and year of data.

If there is a UPC code listed, you can check the timeline for the repair by going to <http://dashboard.virginiadot.org/> and plugging the UPC number in "Projects" search box.