



of GREENWAY DOWNS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

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JANUARY 1970

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

Drug abuse is more than a loudly decried subject; it is, unfortunately, a way of life to too many people who either don't know or don't care about its hazards. As newspapers constantly report tales of drugs in junior and senior high schools and raids where thousands of dollars worth of drugs are found right here in Fairfax County, parents must become aware of the seriousness of the problem and what they can do to avoid it.

As a follow-up to our December 2 meeting, the January meeting will present a panel of people involved with drugs or addicts in some way. As we go to press, an attorney in private practice in Falls Church has agreed to come. He has worked as a city prosecutor on some drug cases and as a defense lawyer on others. Also present will be Col. Stremling whose son recently died of a methadone overdose. The program committee is also hoping to have a psychiatrist and perhaps a police officer involved with addicts.

The interest generated at the last meeting has prompted this panel and it is hoped that all parents who are interested in their children and teens will attend. This is a problem that could hit your home.

JANUARY MEETING

DATE Thursday, January 29

TIME 7:30 p.m.

PLACE Devonshire School Cafetorium
Graham Road and Lee Highway

PROGRAM A Panel on Drug Abuse

BUSINESS MEETING

REFRESHMENTS

DRUGS AT HOME

After viewing a disturbing film of interviews with previously hooked young people, the large audience attending our December meeting listened intently while Investigator William Leuzi of the Intelligence Unit of the Fairfax County Police Department outlined the drug abuse problem in our area.

To begin, he divided addicts into three categories: 1. doctors and nurses whom the police

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Joseph J. Goodwin, President

Each month, my good friend, Mrs. Stokes, points her finger at me and tells me to have an article for her—on time. I try to tell her that I sell papers, but I *ain't* no writer. Nevertheless, she gets her article (?).

I am very pleased with the activities of the GDCA. Going back, our Christmas sing-along was a tremendous success and our December meeting generated quite a bit of interest. In fact, enough so that a special committee has been formed under the Community Action Committee to come up with a statement from GDCA concerning drug abuse. However, this subject has so many aspects—legal, emotional, medical—that the Committee has asked for an extension of time and the opinions of experts in other fields regarding drugs. The January 29 meeting will, hopefully, give us a deeper insight into this very grave problem, and thus enable us to act more intelligently.

In the past your Association has been very active in keeping our community up-to-date on many local problems—drainage, street lights, flooding, vandalism. The present administration would like to carry on this good work but further expand our activities by urging you, our neighbors, to stop hiding behind closed doors—do something. Speak out on crime, the war in Vietnam, discipline in schools, cost of living, inflation, and, especially, this month's program, drugs. Unless you are heard by talking, writing, and voting, you will just have to accept things the way they are, and will be.

Our Hospitality Hostess asked me to invite you to the refreshment break around 9 p.m.

THE DOWNS

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even if you can't make it to the earlier program. She has a new coffeepot and would like to test its capabilities. Man, I can hardly wait for our big February banquet, featuring the greatest chefs in the world. See you on January 29—and, bring a friend.

A BLAZING SUCCESS

With a "ho, ho, ho" and a "Deck the Halls," the first annual Christmas bonfire began. The 200 who attended need not be told it was a blazing success. The large, beautifully-shaped tree donated by the Boy Scouts shined in the firelight and if anyone was cold, it wasn't from a lack of hot fire, cider, or strong voices. Many thanks to all who donated their time, especially Mr. Alan Whitney, chairman of the event, Mr. Goodwin, Mrs. Blankenship, Mrs. Stuckert, and Santa who delighted many children with his arrival. It has been happily recommended that we repeat this event next year. Hip, hip, hooray!

PROGRESS ON CUSTIS PARKWAY

Frank Peterson, Streets and Utilities Committee, has done it again. After many frustrations and tales of lost deeds, he reports that the county has turned over the section of Custis Parkway from Summerfield Road to Bolling Road to the Virginia Department of Highways which anticipates paving it by fall! And they said it couldn't be done.

And if that weren't enough, he has received a promise from the Fairfax County Department of Public Works that they are planning to perform maintenance on the portion of the creek from Greenway Boulevard to the culvert to stabilize the banks which have been greatly eroded in the past year. This is planned for the summer. Although this will not permanently repair this problem, it will be a big help until something more permanent can be budgeted.

Mrs. Jane Norman informs us that the Lee Highway widening project is still very much alive. Falls Church city is including some funds for the project in its 1970-71 budget. The Virginia Highway Department is researching titles and easements. As soon as they complete their study, Mrs. Norman expects negotiations to resume and will keep us informed on progress.

Drugs at Home . . . continued

seldom see; 2. the accidental addict who becomes addicted during the course of medical rehabilitation; and 3. the criminal who turns to drugs to escape from life and must often support his habit with criminal activities. It is this third type of addict that concerns the police department and, unfortunately, parents.

To the parents, Officer Leuzi pointed out that a kid is usually introduced to drugs through his association with kids who are users. He wishes to be accepted by the crowd; he hopes to gain self-confidence, or he may wish to escape his environment. Often, too, his first experience is with pills from his own or his friend's medicine chests. For this reason, the Department recommends that all old medicines be destroyed and that the prescriptions be torn up or burned and not just thrown away.

Parents can help their kids by watching for changes in personality—a desire to withdraw, to be alone, and a change to the mod in thought and dress.

The problem in northern Fairfax County is especially acute in the Falls Church and McLean areas. Prevention is a big job. At present four men cover the entire county in reference to drugs. On top of stopping drug traffic in the county, these men do the teaching about drugs in the county schools and to civic groups such as ours.

Suggestions for Prevention:

1. Parental control is needed in many cases. Know where your kids are and whom they are with. Be sure they are aware of the dangers of drug use and abuse. And, don't turn your back if you discover they are abusing drugs.

2. Officer Leuzi feels more laws are needed to crack down on the peddler who only gets 1 year in jail at present (misdemeanor for dangerous drugs, i.e., amphetamines, barbiturates, and LSD) and up to a \$1,000 fine. He would also like to see a paraphernalia law passed which would allow the police to arrest someone who has on his person the paraphernalia used in injecting drugs even though no drugs are found.

3. As a preventive technique, this officer also feels very strongly that the Health Department or the schools themselves should take over teaching about drugs. Officer Leuzi feels it takes too much of his time, that he is not trained to teach, and that he often must break his cover disguise in order to teach a class. He also feels that as a police officer he has too authoritarian an image to effectively teach about the dangers of drugs.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Thursday	January 29
Tuesday	Dinner—February 24
Wednesday	March 25
Tuesday	April 28
Wednesday	May 27
Saturday	Picnic—June 13

BEAUTY IN THE DOWNS

by Kay Powell

Congratulations to all residents of Greenway Downs for the lovely holiday decorations. There appeared to be many more than usual and all of them were lovely. I heard many favorable comments from various residents and visitors and agree that we looked very nice all spruced up!

Due to the weather and road conditions, our judges were unable to complete the judging on schedule. Therefore it wasn't until New Year's Day that I was able to award the ribbons. All of the recipients seemed pleased and equally surprised when I knocked on their doors.

Our judges wish to remain anonymous but I feel you should know that they were Mrs. Betty Van Hart of Jefferson Village and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hill of Devonshire Gardens. I cannot say enough nice things about these kind people who spent several nights during the busy holidays judging our homes.

This year's Grand Prize went to Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Joseph, 2847 Marshall Street, for their lighted nativity. It was truly lovely. The balance and coordination of this decoration was a major factor in its selection.

Other blue ribbon winners were:

Dorothy Ramale	2818 Woodlawn Ave.
Mr. & Mrs. William F. Collins	2842 Monroe St.
Mr. & Mrs. C. F. Erickson	6829 Custis Pkwy.
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Thomsen	2763 Cameron Rd.
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Foreman	2829 Winchester Way
Mr. & Mrs. George C. Metts	2809 Bolling Rd.
Mr. & Mrs. Paul S. Frye	2831 Summerfield Rd.
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hammack	2756 Greenway Blvd.
Mr. & Mrs. John Iacono	2835 W. George Mason Rd.

Congratulations to each of you.

LADIEEEES AND GENTLEMEN!!

Get ready for a truly historic happening for the Greenway Downs Citizens Association. Announcing a social event of the first order. A Gala! A Tribute! A Must! All set? Okay, here goes the first notice. Read every word!

*First Annual Greenway Downs
Outstanding Citizen Appreciation Night
and
Covered Dish Supper*

February 24, 1970 7:30-10:00 p.m. Devonshire Cafetorium Informal

Yessir. Greenway Downs' outstanding citizen will be named at a covered dish supper and special appreciation program on February 24. The honoree has just recently been decided upon, following careful consideration by a committee composed of Henry Rodriguez, chairman, Jake Jackson, Joe Goodwin, and Ben Blankenship.

GDCA President Joe Goodwin announces that special invitations will be going out soon to all known past presidents of the association to join in this special community get-together. He is lining up a featured speaker for the occasion, too.

Bernie Lucas, head of food arrangements for the affair, says beverages and rolls will be provided, as will silverware, paper plates, etc. Each couple is requested to bring a main dish and a salad or dessert. Bernie, GDCA's Hospitality Hostess Beth Stucker, and Joanne Goodwin will welcome volunteers to help with things. Call Bernie at 534-6884.

Preparations for appropriately honoring our community's outstanding citizen on February 24 are well underway. Specific details are, of course, secret. They are being arranged by an honorarium committee composed of Charlie Reeves, Fran Fisher, Joan Bealby, Marilyn Morrison, Danny Brew, and Ken Walton. Publicity and personal arrangements are being handled by Ben Blankenship, Esther Swire, Robert Owens, and Elouisa Stokes. Jake Jackson is planning the seating and head table details.

You'll get another announcement concerning this reeally big show shortly before it unfolds. Meanwhile, reserve the date on your calendar—Tuesday night, February 24. Don't miss it. Our community has needed to have an event like this for years. A good turnout for the first major effort of its kind here will encourage a repetition next year—and give us a chance to honor another of our neighborhood's many deserving citizens.

SCOUT NEWS

Boy Scout Troop 677 is happy to announce successful Christmas tree sale. Every tree on the lot was sold thanks to the long hours put in by the boys and their dads. Thanks, too, to all who bought trees. The profit will send several boys to camp this summer.

A second announcement is very happily made at this time. John Redden has attained the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank a scout can achieve. Congratulations, John, from all of us.

We realize this means a lot of time and energy has been expended.

On January 24-25, the boys will be camping out at Burke Lake on their annual Winter Camporee. This year, dreams of snow may be a reality, but at least that beats the mud, doesn't it, boys?

Girl Scout Troop 601 has delivered the last two issues of *The Downs*. Thank you very much, girls. We all appreciate your help.