



VOL. VIII, NO. 6

MARCH 1970

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

The Greenway Downs Citizens Association is proud to present its second annual Scout Night Program. This time we are looking forward to the participation of Girl Scout Troop 601, Brownie Scout Troop 575, Cub Scout Pack 677, and Boy Scout Troop 677. The ceremonies they plan to present are colorful and meaningful and we hope many of you will come to see your Scouts in Action.

Scout Program

- Opening Ceremony . . . Girl Scout Troop 601
- Song Festival . . . Brownie Scout Troop 575
- Introduction of Scout Officials
- Investiture of
 - Tenderfoot Scouts. . . Boy Scout Troop 677
- Musical Episode . . . Orchestra from Boy Scout Troop 677
- Closing Ceremony. . . Cub Scout Pack 677

Many thanks to the Scouts for presenting this evening. Special appreciation to Mr. Schaffstall, Institutional Representative, who has done the coordinating.

Girl Scout Troop 677 will have Girl Scout cookies for sale at the meeting.

MARCH MEETING

- DATE** Wednesday, March 25
- TIME** 7:30 p.m.
- PLACE** Devonshire School Cafetorium
Graham Road and Lee Highway
- PROGRAMS** Scout Night

BUSINESS MEETING

REFRESHMENTS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

In the spring when a young man's fancy is turning lightly to thoughts of love, your officers' thoughts are turning to next year's officers. Mr. Ben Blankenship has been appointed Chairman of the 1970 Nominating Committee. Paul Davis, Fred Kramer, Danny Brew, and Robert Owens have agreed to serve if elected at the meeting March 25.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Joseph J. Goodwin, President

For the first time, Editor Stokes has asked me to "keep it short," so I will just make a few comments this month.

"Outstanding-Stupendous-Great" just don't begin to describe our Awards Dinner. If you didn't make it, shame on you; but we hope to see you next year. Our Outstanding Citizen-Tommy Thomsen-was as surprised as he is deserving. You know, Tommy, that being our first Outstanding Citizen, you have the double duty of carrying the banner for all those unsung outstanding citizens of years past. Congratulations, Tommy.

An open letter to Benjamin Blankenship, Awards Dinner Chairman, and his staff: Tues., February 24, was a great night for the Greenway Downs Citizens Association. It will be remembered for Good Food, Good Fun, and Good Fellowship. Speaking for our association, I would like to say, "Thank you." It was a magnificent job of planning and coordinating.

In the past month I have filled two appointments. Ben Blankenship has graciously accepted chairmanship of the Nominating Committee which will be forming a slate of officers for next year.

Ronald Bealby of 2843 Woodlawn Avenue, a long-time resident who is active in many youth activities, has naturally been appointed Youth Activities Chairman. He didn't even get a second breath before he was right to work setting up our program for April.

Aside to Tom Wright, Supervisor, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and guest speaker at our Awards Dinner: We **Accept** your request for funds for substandard communities. Thanks!

THE DOWNS

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Now for you, our neighbors, if you haven't been to any of our meetings yet-**DAWGON-NIT**-Come on out. Our meetings are open to **all** residents, whether you are members or not.

Your association is composed of many neighbors giving **Liberally** of their time-being **Conservative** with your association's money-and working **Progressively** in your community's behalf.

SPRING CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN Special Trash Collection Scheduled

Neighbors, here's your chance to do your Spring cleaning and not have to look at the trash along the curb for several days. A special trash collection has been scheduled for Monday, April 6, to pick up **ALL** your trash from attic, basement, garage, yard, and closets. Spend the first weekend in April having hubby and son haul it to the street, and Fairfax County will spend Monday hauling it to the dump. If they don't get all of it on Monday, they will come back on Tuesday. There are only three requirements for debris: 1) It must be easily lifted by the collectors; 2) branches must be no longer than 4 feet and tied; 3) leaves and other yard debris must be in cans, boxes, or bags. **SO**, take advantage of Monday, April 6, to help beautify your yard and house, and thereby do your part to beautify Greenway Downs!

-Kay Powell

SPRINGTIME

Now is the time to plant grass seed, unmulch flower beds and plant many summer and late spring plants. Seeds can be put out now for many flowers and the garden shops and nurseries have an abundance of roses, azaleas, and other types of yard plants. Is your yard ready for spring? Can you do something to improve its appearance? Will you? Your neighbors would enjoy a prettier yard to look at-and so would you!!

-Kay Powell

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Bickham, 2840 Marshall Street, on the celebration of their silver wedding anniversary February 24.

Official Position of Greenway Downs Citizens Association Concerning Drug Abuse

The following proposed statement will be discussed and put to a vote at the March 25 meeting of Greenway Downs Citizens Association:

Recognizing that drug abuse is a serious problem in our community, which can have serious mental and physical affects on the drug user and may have grave side effects upon the entire community, we hereby encourage and support the efforts of our governing bodies, public officials, professional organizations, business communities, and the public in general to effectively deal with this problem.

We also recognize the need for deterrent action imposed by the courts on those guilty of committing illegal drug acts. It is our opinion that leniency should be shown to first offenders convicted of using drugs illegally. However, those who attempt to profit financially through the illegal sale of drugs should be dealt with more severely. Specifically the use of marijuana should be treated as a misdemeanor, trafficking in marijuana or the more dangerous LSD, heroin, barbiturates, amphetamines, etc. should be considered a felony and punished accordingly.

DOGS MUST BE LEASHED

Several incidents in the Downs of dogs biting children have been brought to the attention of *The Downs*. In Fairfax County it is unlawful for a dog owner to permit his dog to run at large and the dog owner must keep his dog confined to his premises.

The Dog Warden is at 10600 Page Avenue, Fairfax, and may be called at 273-1300. It is the big dogs which frequently run in packs that are the greatest danger. Won't you do your part to protect our children by keeping your dog home?

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Wednesday March 25
Tuesday April 28
Wednesday May 27
Saturday. . . . Picnic June 13

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

All open burning is prohibited in all areas of Fairfax County like Greenway Downs where leaf collections and regular trash collections are provided. Leaf collections will begin in April. Leaves must be piled at the curb—free of twigs and limbs—to be vacuumed. The smoke put into the air by burning makes breathing very difficult. Please uphold the law.

MOVED

The Fairfax County Extension Office has moved from Fairfax Circle to 3945 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax 22030, which is the lower floor of the new post office building right in Fairfax City. The phone number, 273-7813, is unchanged.

NEW DIRECTORY

Shannon & Luchs, a local real estate company, has offered to publish, at no expense to the association, a directory very similar to the one the association has published in the past. Mrs. Faye Drennen, who has approached your officers, has requested that the members be aware of this generous opportunity. A copy of such a directory already done by Shannon & Luchs will be available at the March 25 meeting and a vote will be taken at that time.

NEW SOLICITORS ORDINANCE

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has recently passed a solicitors ordinance which requires house-to-house peddlers, solicitors, and canvassers to have a license from the Police Department.

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DINNER LEFTOVERS

Bob Owens, who took excellent pictures of our dinner, will have proofs available at the meeting March 25 for \$1.50 each.

For those who couldn't attend, Mr. Wright announced that he has received our petition for a curb and gutters survey and has forwarded it with the notation that the county consider ours a substandard community and allocate special funds set aside to upgrade such areas. This would mean that the county could assume a larger share of the cost of curbs and gutters in our community.

Many thanks to Falls Church Florist who donated a lovely bouquet for the head table. It was enjoyed thoroughly and presented to Mrs. Thomsen after the dinner.

continued from previous page . . . SOLICITORS

This must be carried with the solicitor and any householder may request to see it, effective April 15. The license has the name and photograph of the solicitor, the kind of goods to be sold, the name of the employer, the date of issuance and the date of expiration, and the signature of the Chief of Police.

APRIL IS YOUTH MONTH

OK, here's your chance. Our April meeting is being planned by Mr. Bealby, Youth Activities Chairman, with those under 21 in mind.

We are very interested in seeing and hearing what the youth of our community are doing and thinking. In that vein, we are interested in athletics, education, hobbies, jobs.

The focus will be all the great achievements, hobbies, jobs, etc. young people are doing from football to A's and science projects, from spelunking to collecting coins, or attaining Eagle Scout—whatever is your bag.

Call Mr. Bealby, 532-1102, if you or someone you know is doing a good job at any task. We are out to find our outstanding youths; we know you're living here in the Downs, now stand and be recognized.

**HAVE YOU SEEN THE INSERT
IN THIS ISSUE?**

OUTSTANDING CITIZEN—THOMAS THOMSEN



*Mr. Thomsen (left) receives award
from Mr. Goodwin*

Mr. Thomas Thomsen was named Outstanding Citizen of Greenway Downs at the first annual Citizen Appreciation Night. About 85 people attended the event to honor Mr. Thomsen and to taste-test the outstanding fare presented by the chefs of Greenway Downs.

In presenting the engraved silver brandy snifter to Mr. Thomsen, Mr. Joseph Goodwin, President, expressed the Association's appreciation for Mr. Thomsen's long service, which dates from the early fifties, and for the accomplishments made during his term as president in 1963. Mr. Thomsen, who was so surprised he did not recognize an enlarged boyhood picture shown just before the announcement, was at a loss to express his thanks to the group. In addition to the snifter, Mr. Thomsen received a scrapbook with a biography written by Mrs. Esther Swire and the enlarged picture.

Also attending the ceremonies were eleven past presidents and Mr. Thomas Wright, our representative to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Wright spoke briefly on the recent trip of the members of the General Assembly to Northern Virginia to view our problems first-hand:

The following is the biography compiled by Mrs. Swire.

From a farm in South Dakota, by way of Iowa, Nebraska, World War I, the Philippines, and around the world, Thomas Thomsen came to Greenway Downs in 1949 to do his bit to help make it the comfortable and friendly community that it is. He has held almost every office, elective and appointive, and has carried out his duties devotedly and faithfully.

"Tommy," as he is affectionately called, was born on October 9, 1893, and raised in rural America. After graduating from high school, he attended a two-year church school and then received his B.A. from the University of Iowa. He majored in sociology and taught for a while at Grand View Junior College in Iowa.

World War I cut into his life and his career. While stationed in the vicinity of the Argonne Forest, Tommy lost his hearing and, for a time, his sight, during a bombing raid which failed to dislodge him from his post. His sight returned, but his hearing loss and shell-shock kept him in European hospitals for a year after the war. Tommy received the Purple Heart for his gallantry.

When he returned home he decided against teaching, mainly because of his deafness. So, he entered the University of Iowa again, this time to study law, hoping to go into probate work. He received his degree three years later and set up shop in Elkador, Iowa. Later he opened a credit bureau in Nebraska City and for a time he also worked as executive secretary of the Chamber of Commerce there. A Civil Service job as adjudicator with the Veterans Administration followed in 1945 which took him to the Philippines for two years. He continued handling death claims when he returned to the states, and retired from Civil Service in 1962.

It was while he was practicing law in Elkador that Tommy met his lovely lady Frances Thomsen on a blind date. They were married in 1935. This was a turning point in his life in more ways than one, for Mrs. T. persuaded him to get and use a hearing aid. This is how most of us in Greenway Downs have identified him—the cord from his hearing aid acting as a mark of distinction. But no more! A recently developed operation has restored Tommy's hearing. The stapes bones, injured about fifty years earlier, have been replaced by plastic ones. They work well, responding to sound vibrations just as they should. A miracle, it would seem!

Although retired, Mr. Thomsen is a very busy man. He works part-time as a real estate agent, shares his wife's absorption in gardening and traveling, is an expert cabinet maker, and is in love . . . with his three and a half year old great-granddaughter, Wendy. Wendy is the daughter of Tommy's grandson Alan J. DeRaad and the granddaughter of Tommy's stepdaughter Esther.

Tommy and Fran have done more for our community than just maintaining those beautiful gardens around their big rock home on Cameron Road.

He served as Greenway Downs' delegate to the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations in the early fifties. Our organization was concerned with collecting money for citizens to obtain street lights, with getting a Japanese beetle control effort underway, and, in the later fifties, with smoothing the transfer of our children to the new Devonshire School.

Tommy served on the Association's executive committee in 1955, perhaps inspired by his wife's stint two years earlier as vice-president and as co-chairlady of the spring cleanup drive.

With this background in community involvement, an experienced and still enthusiastic and seven years older Tommy Thomsen became president of Greenway Downs Citizens Association—in 1963.

"You owe it to yourself and your neighbors," Tommy wrote in the first issue of *The Downs* to be published on a monthly schedule during his year in office, "to give some time to the community and its development."

And then he and his vice-president Archie Sanders and his secretary Irene Smith set out to live up to that advice. They worked successfully for a traffic light at Marshall and Lee Highway; they increased the pressure on the county to start solving the creek drainage problem at Custis Parkway; and their efforts resulted in improved paths for children walking to school. Tommy's service to the community has continued at a vigorous level since then.

Embellishing these achievements, a style and grace to the man tell more about him than words can describe. His demeanor confirms that there is more to life than bread alone. Tommy is a long-time member and leader of the Bethel United Church of Christ in Arlington.

Past presidents of Greenway Downs—front, left to right—Ben Blankenship, Charles Helein, Irene Smith, Judge Vail Pischke, Jake Jackson, and Joseph Goodwin. (back row, left to right)—Walter Mace, William Youngs, L. Ray Smart, Thomas Thomsen, John Sullivan, John Owen, and Supervisor Thomas Wright

