

The Downs

The Newsletter of the Greenway Downs Citizens Association

Falls Church, Virginia

May 1984

STREET IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

By now residents in Phase II of the Greenway Downs project should have received their construction easement agreements. Everyone should review the enclosed drawing of their lot to determine the area of possible construction or machinery operation. Experience on Greenway Boulevard showed that the construction company did not disturb all the property shown on their construction easements.

If you are a resident on Woodlawn, W. George Mason or Cameron and have not received your easement agreement, you are more than likely in need of a property easement of some type and the County right-of-way agent will get in touch with you.

It is important to return your easement agreement as soon as possible so that the contract can be awarded for construction. If you have any questions, you can contact Patti Rounseval at 691-4297. If you have specific questions on land easements, land acquisition or right-of-way problems, you can contact Jim Ashton at 691-3424.

Patti Rounseval has asked us to announce meetings for citizens in Phase III. A "walking meeting" for Winchester Way residents will be held at 5 pm on May 10, 1984. Residents should meet in front of 2813 and 2814 Winchester. A similar meeting for Summerfield Road Residents will be held at 6:30 pm the same evening. The location for the Summerfield meeting was undetermined as of when the Downs went to print, but residents can contact their block captains, Norman and Debra Soles, at 533-3568 to find out where to assemble. A future meeting will be held for citizens on Custis Parkway and will be announced at a later date.

The following people are block captains and are available to answer questions from residents of their respective streets: Mike Arm, Cameron Road, 534-0225; and Randy Myers, W. George Mason, 536-2739, and Janet Ice, Woodlawn Avenue, 534-9434.

FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED

Do you have love to share and energy to spare? Do you like children? Foster care just might be the answer. Fairfax County needs foster parents!

If you are interested in training to become a foster parent, please contact the Fairfax County Department of Social Services at 703-385-8883. Ask to speak with Jan Greenberg or Sharon Templeman.

OUTSTANDING CITIZEN AWARD TO BE PRESENTED

The Citizens Association is accepting nominations for Outstanding Citizen of the Year. If you know someone whom you think should be considered, call Susan Howlett at 533-0291 with your suggestion. The award will be presented at the Annual Pot Luck Supper on May 18th.

POT LUCK SUPPER AND ELECTIONS

The Citizens Association's annual pot luck supper will be held at the Falls Church Community Center on Friday, May 18th, from 7 to 10 pm. Beverages, plates and plasticware will be provided. Bring a main dish, enough for yourselves and two other people, plus salad, vegetable, or dessert. Whether you are new to the neighborhood or a long-time resident, this is an excellent opportunity to make new friends or renew old friendships. We are trying to arrange to have at least two teenagers for babysitting purposes, so bring your kids and join us!

The Supper will be followed by a general meeting of the Citizens Association, the purpose of which is to elect new officers. The following people have been nominated for positions on the Board:

Jacob Goodwin	Monroe Street	Henry Rodriguez	W. George Mason
Marianne Gick	Cameron Road	Jim Gaul	Greenway Blvd.
Randy Myers	W. George Mason	Susan Howlett	Greenway Blvd.
Beth Bleaken	Summerfield Rd.	Mike Arm	Cameron Road
Ezra Glaser	W. George Mason	Richard Livingston	Greenway Blvd.
Keith Brescia	Greenway Blvd.	Tom Brophy	Cameron Road
Doug Rausch	Greenway Blvd.	Ted Dinkel	Cameron Road
Sheila Burgess	Bolling Road	Carl Kannapel	Winchester Way
Mary Millsback	W. George Mason		

As you can see, we have no nominees from Custis Parkway, Marshall Street, or Woodlawn. If someone on these streets or any other street in the community would like to participate, call Marianne Gick at 532-0734 to place your name in nomination. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the general meeting.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NOTES

This has been an eventful year for the Greenway Downs Neighborhood Watch. At last count about 130 families have participated in the Watch. This is encouraging, but lately there seems to have been a decline in enthusiasm for the program. Participants have looked dejectedly at me at the end of a late evening patrol and said "nothing happened." I think that many of the people who helped out initially may have become somewhat bored with it because most of the time "nothing" is exactly what happens on patrol. But it should be remembered that what we are striving for in a neighborhood crime prevention program is just that - the prevention of crime. When nothing happens on patrol, we are doing a good job. Thanks to Neighborhood Watch programs, Fairfax County is one of the safest major metropolitan suburbs in the entire country.

An important development towards the goal of continued program viability is that the Neighborhood Watch has been incorporated as part of the Greenway Downs Citizens Association. The Association has been in existence for over forty years and it is hoped that the union of the the two groups will strengthen both. Keith Brescia, who has recently taken over the reins as primary coordinator of the Watch, has been nominated for a seat on the Board of Directors of the Citizens Association.

Keith took over for Tom McDonnell, who had been Watch Coordinator since the inception of the program a year and a half ago. Tom was diligent in his organizing efforts and is to be commended for his success. On behalf of the community, thank you Tom.

As a final note, I'll repeat an appeal I've made in the past. If you haven't participated in the Watch, please consider doing so. Additional volunteers are always needed and welcomed. Your participation can range from active patrolling to merely looking out your own windows. Please don't think that we don't want or need your help just because you haven't been personally contacted. Volunteer now! Call Keith Brescia at 536-7734 or Tom McDonnell at 536-6042.

WITH GRATITUDE

Residents of Greenway Downs surely remember the calamitous fire which struck the home of Paul and Joyce Garcia last January. The blaze which broke out quickly destroyed most of their house and property. I recently received an open letter from the Garcias in which they expressed their heartfelt gratitude to those people who came to their aid after the fire. Neighbors came through with clothing, money, and much needed moral support. Space limitations prevent me from reprinting the whole letter here, but suffice it to say that the Garcia family knows what it means to have friends and they are thankful they do.

LET'S BE NEIGHBORLY

Two recurring sources of complaints which have been expressed to me involve refuse collection and leash laws. With regard to refuse collection, there are a few very simple steps you can take as a responsible citizen and neighbor. First, refer to your Fairfax County Citizens Handbook. It states the rules and regulations clearly. If you don't have the Handbook, call 631-1484 for information and to arrange for special collections. Use common sense in what you place at the curb for collection. The County has a list of items they simply will not pick up. Don't assume an item will get hauled away just because you managed to get it to the curb. Call and find out if the County will dispose of it for you. Finally, out of courtesy to your neighbors, bag loose papers and trash and don't put them at the curb until the night before pickup. In this way your trash won't end up on a neighbor's lawn on windy days.

This brings up the other complaint I want to address. Many of us do bag our refuse for proper disposal and place it neatly at the curb, only to find it scattered over our streets and lawns thanks to a neighbor's unleashed dog! Now you may like dogs and hopefully you like your neighbors, but you are not obligated to like your neighbors' dogs, especially if they get into your trash cans or leave a mess on your lawn. If you own a dog, please be aware of the responsibilities which accompany that ownership. If you have an inconsiderate neighbor whose dog is consistently allowed to run free, do not hesitate to call the animal warden (830-3310) if the dog causes you problems.

The bottom line is let's all be neighborly. A little observance of the golden rule can go a long way.

THANK YOU JACOB

Jacob Goodwin, 1984 president of the Greenway Downs Citizens Association, resigned effective April 4th, because of out of town work commitments. Henry Rodriguez, Association vice-president, will preside for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Jacob worked diligently on behalf of the citizens of Greenway Downs and is to be commended for his community service efforts.

AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSED ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

In the December 1983 issue of our newsletter, the new proposed by-laws of our citizens association were printed and distributed to all the residents of Greenway Downs.

At the last meeting of the Executive Board of the Greenway Downs Citizens Association some additional changes to the new by-laws were proposed and approved. These changes were then forwarded to our volunteer attorney, Morris Nunes, for his comments and approval.

The proposed amendments to the new association by-laws printed in the December 1983 Downs Newsletter appear below:

ARTICLE IV

4. All persons, natural and unnatural, eligible for membership become a member upon paying the membership dues.

ARTICLE V, Section 1

after "month of", insert -- May --

after "year 198", insert -- 5 --

ARTICLE V, Section 5

delete "one-half", insert -- not less than one-third --

ARTICLE V, Section 7

delete "Each member entitled to vote shall be", insert
-- Members are --

after "one vote", insert -- per mailing address, business
or residence --

after "Virginia", insert -- or in these By-Laws --

after the last sentence, insert -- Plural members from
the same mailing address, business or residence
may divide their vote in equal fractions among
the members. --

ARTICLE VI, Section 5

delete "two-thirds", insert -- more than one-half of the
current board --

ARTICLE VII, Section 1

delete "at the regular September meeting", insert
-- on the first day of the fiscal year following
the election of officers --

An additional amendment is proposed to follow the present by-laws.

ARTICLE III, Section 4, insert

4. No commercial enterprise or any political candidate shall
be endorsed by the Association.

Each of the above amendments will be voted on by the membership at
the annual meeting on May 18, 1984.