



VOL. VI, No. 7

October 1968

### ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

This month the residents of Greenway Downs will have the opportunity of seeing Boy Scout Troop 677 and Cub Scout Troop 677 combine to perform their colorful Patriotic Opening Ceremonies. This group, which has approximately 60 boys enrolled, was organized in 1954, and has, through the years, performed many services for the community. It was the Scout Troop that first solicited funds to replace the original street signs in Greenway Downs. The boys have contributed their time to help plant seedlings and build a stone bridge at the Izaak Walton League near Manassas; they cleaned debris and undergrowth from the original D. C. boundary marker at the junction of Arlington and Fairfax Counties and Falls Church City; and, of course, they deliver *The Downs* alternately with the Girl Scouts.

Among the many projects the Scouts have are the Boy Scouts' annual Christmas Tree Sale and the filling of Goodwill bags, and the Cubs' frequent paper drives. These projects allow the Scouts to participate in the many activities planned throughout the year, including the Fall, Winter, and Spring Camporees and summer camp. During these camps, the boys must show their skill in the requirements for the First

### OCTOBER MEETING

**DATE:** Friday, November 1  
**TIME:** 8:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Devonshire School Cafetorium  
Graham Road and Lee Highway  
**SPEAKERS:** Boy Scout Troop 677  
Cub Scout Troop 677  
**PROGRAM:** Patriotic Opening Ceremonies

### BUSINESS MEETING REFRESHMENTS

and Second Class badges as well as some newly acquired skill tested for the first time at the particular camp. And, it must be added, these boys are not "fair weather scouts." In 1966 the Winter Camporee was held during one of the biggest snowstorms, and last year, anticipating the snow that never came, the boys pulled their sleds through the mud!

This month we have the opportunity to see this fine group of boys perform. Please come and support **your** troop.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Irene T. Smith, *President*

We had a very nice turnout for our speakers last month on the subject of credit buying. You should read the article elsewhere in this issue which gives the high points of this program. It seems new schemes are constantly being dreamed up to entice consumers into buying more than they can afford. This, of course, means you pay for this "privilege" of deferring paying for the things bought and this in the end means the cost of purchasing such items has been considerably more than you may be aware of. Credit buying has its place, but it is being advertised as a magic means for having everything you want with no strings attached. The truth is that credit has very strong and costly strings attached to it. Many people, especially young couples, find they are so heavily involved in credit buying that they cannot see their way out in the foreseeable future. This has the effect then of limiting their future purchasing power, and at last some firms are becoming concerned at the prospect of losing such people as customers.

With the fall season comes the chore of trying to keep up with those beautiful falling leaves we sometimes drive miles to see! Don't forget to pile those leaves where they can be cleaned up every other week according to the schedule listed in this issue. Of course, you can save the County considerably on the cost of such, and do yourself a favor, if you will mulch your leaves with your power lawn mower and incorporate them into your garden. Garden experts have been "preaching" this for a long time and I can assure you there is no better soil conditioner available than ground-up leaves, if you will just take the time and effort necessary to make use of them.

I hope to see many of you at our Scout Program on November 1.

### THE DOWNS

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## MONEY AND INTEREST

How much does that money cost? That question is the most important one the credit buyer can ask, according to Mr. Andrew Best, our September speaker. Since as high school graduates we will make around \$247,000 in our lifetimes, we should be aware of the cost of the interest tacked onto our purchases. At present Americans are spending more on interest than the entire national debt. By shopping for money as carefully as for a dress, a chair, or a house, the buyer can save substantially. For instance 6% per year is quite a bit less than 1% per month—a total of 12% per year!

Ask yourself these questions before you decide to use credit for a purchase. How will the payments fit into my regular spending? How much will the credit cost? Will this product outlast the repayment time? Will my income continue for the life of this credit? and, What are the service guarantees on this product?

How much will credit cost? Check these three points to determine the true cost of credit: (1) rate of interest, (2) length of time to repay, and (3) whether charges on installment credit are figured on the unpaid balance or on the original principal.

Use the following formula to determine the "true" interest rate:

$$r = \frac{2 m D}{P (n + 1)}$$

r = annual rate of interest, m = number of credit periods in 1 year, D = total charge (dollar cost), P = principal of cash advance, n = number of payments the contract actually calls for.

In addition, Mrs. Behra, President of the Virginia Citizens Consumers Council outlined the work her council is doing in informing the public and keeping an eye on legislative developments that affect the consumer. With an increased membership in the past few years, the Council hopes to have a greater voice on behalf of the consumer at the next General Assembly meeting.

The Council has also opened a telephone service with recorded messages changed twice a week. On Thursday through Sunday, a voice will advise the consumer on some aspect of food buying; on Monday through Wednesday, a voice will advise on some non-food aspect of buying. The number for Dial-a-Consumer is 549-4220.

Many thanks to Mr. Best and Mrs. Behra for their helpful talks.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARK COMING!

Yes, we are to get a neighborhood park on the land immediately behind Devonshire School. This lovely, little wooded spot is to be developed to provide a few picnic tables, play equipment, and connecting walks to the school and into Graham Road from this area. A special fenced-in play spot for little tots is planned as well as equipment for larger children. It is designed as a walk-to play area for the community's children. Look for the work to begin on this, we hope, shortly. Our president attended a meeting last June at which time we had a chance to approve or disapprove the plans for this spot.

## FEDERATION BANQUET

Your president and her husband attended the annual Federation of Citizens Associations banquet held September 27 at the Charterhouse. It was an interesting experience—my first. There were about 60 civic associations represented there that night, but I was the only woman president in attendance. After we had eaten, each president was asked to introduce himself and tell which association he represented and, in a few short remarks, tell what each one is primarily concerned with. I gave as our concern the unceasing rise in taxes. However, I was the only one who gave this problem. The others mentioned either rapid transit development, unfair tax assessment of real estate, or zoning changes. I couldn't honestly say that I had heard from our area that this was an all-absorbing interest here. If I am wrong, however, more of you need to come to the meetings and speak up. Your association can only represent you properly if we hear from you.

Mrs. Smith, *President*



## More Graduations—Congratulations to you!

Patricia Skillman Lewis, daughter of Mrs. Jean Skillman, 2754 Marshall Street, received her B.A. in Elementary Education from the University of Florida on June 8. . . . William McCormack, 2757 Greenway Blvd., received his B.S. in Accounting from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, in June.

## SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

ELECTIONS      Tuesday      December 3

VOTE ON NOVEMBER 5

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## LEAF COLLECTION DATES

The Department of Public Works has announced its leaf collection schedule as follows:

Nov. 4, 5; 18, 19, 20; and, Dec. 2, 3, 4.

Leaves that are bagged or boxed and placed at the curb on our refuse collection day, will be collected with the trash.

Smoke from burning leaves creates a severe irritation to those of us who suffer from asthma, emphysema, or other lung diseases. The accumulated fumes are hardly bearable to the rest of us. Please, when you rake your leaves, think of your neighbors before you set a match to the pile. Open burning is also illegal in our district. Call 273-3455 or 273-2000, ext. 216, 217, for further information about leaf or trash collection.

## The Greenway Downs Directory

The long sought-after directory of Greenway Downs residents has been sent to the printer. Advertisements are being compiled and we hope to have the completed directory by December 1. Anyone desiring to place an ad in the directory should call Mr. Reeves, 534-4876, for more information.

## VOTE!

On November 5, registered Greenway Downs residents may vote for President of the United States at Devonshire School, Lee Highway and Graham Road, between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. In addition to the presidential election, Greenway Precinct voters will decide on the \$61.9 million to finance Fairfax County's part of the rapid transit system, and on passage of liquor by the drink, and on a \$82 million state bond issue.

## SCOUT NEWS

**Paper Drive Success**—The Cubs of Pack 677 had a most successful paper drive in September. They made a profit of \$56. Many thanks to the parents of the Cubs who helped the boys pick up the papers and to the residents who contributed their papers and magazines. The next paper drive will be in December.

The Webelos took part in a Webelo Day Cook-out at Burke Lake on October 19.

There was a good attendance at the Scout School Night at Devonshire School. At that meeting, there were two new parent volunteers to help as leaders, and, as a result, we now have openings for six more boys. Anyone who is interested in joining the Pack can call Mr. Yarbrough, 534-6502.



### Boy Scout Advancements

As a result of a hot summer camp at Camp Goshen in July, the following aquatic badges were received:

**Bobby Ein**—Swimming and Canoeing;  
**Eldon Jackson**—Mile Swim, Swimming, and Rowing;  
**John Schaffstall**—Swimming, Mile Swim;  
**Randy Simounet**—Rowing, Mile Swim;  
**Tommy Stoddard**—Rowing, Life Saving, and Conservation and Natural Resources;  
**Ned Wright**—Swimming and Canoeing; and,  
**Mark Bealby**—Swimming.

Congratulations to **Tommy Stoddard** who has recently attained the rank of *Life Scout*.

There has been a great response to the First Aid Course instructed by Mr. Hall. The boys will be selling Christmas trees again this year.



### Girl Scout Activities

The girls of Troop 601 spent the day at Cabin John Park on October 19. A tour of the White House is planned on November 1.

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO ORGANIZE  
OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY. WITHOUT  
VOLUNTEERS, THERE WILL NOT BE  
A PARTY THIS YEAR!

Call Mrs. Smith — 532-1559

## STORM SEWER REPORT

The construction on the storm sewer along Custis Parkway has moved along at a more rapid pace during the past month than was the case previously. The size of the two boxed culverts is correct as specified—four by six feet each. This should certainly handle the drain-off from storms in a much better manner than we have ever experienced in the past. A recent examination of the creek bed revealed that it is quite small and of course any heavy rainfall soon overflows the banks of the creek as it naturally formed. The project will end just past Cameron Road and no change in the current contract calls for it to extend to the next street, Greenway Blvd., although there had been rumors to this effect.

At the last general meeting a motion was made to have a letter written to our Supervisor, Mr. Tom Wright, asking that he try and help us with two problems in connection with this construction work. One was the dangerous intersection of Summerfield Road and Custis Parkway, and the second was the dust problem in that area due to the construction work. The letter was written and the contractor has been instructed to see that the dust is treated so it no longer causes trouble, but the State Highway Department has to act on the request we made to have Summerfield closed at this intersection until the street can be returned to its full width for traffic use. We have not been able to learn of any change affecting this intersection so far. A further report will be given at the next meeting, November 1.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

At the September meeting the following people were elected to serve on the Nominating Committee: Mr. Thomas Thomsen, Chairman, Mrs. Betty Jacobs, Mr. Elling Reich, Mr. Henry Rodriguez, and Mrs. Elouisa Stokes. It is the purpose of this committee to propose a list of candidates for 1969 officers of the Greenway Downs Citizens Association. The proposed slate will be announced at the November 1 meeting.