

CITY PARK CITIZEN

Issue 26

June 1995

Summer Picnic, Membership Drive Set for June 24; Park Improvements to be Dedicated

The City Park Civic Association's 1995 Summer Picnic and Membership Drive will be held on Saturday, June 24 (rain date June 25), from 4:00 to 7:00 P.M., at the Jefferson Village Park, on Jefferson Avenue between Summerfield Road and East Tripps Run Road. All residents of City Park Homes are cordially invited to attend.

This year's picnic will be highlighted by a dedication of the pedestrian bridge and commemorative plaque being installed at the Jefferson Avenue entrance to the park. Hosting the dedication, to begin at 5:00 P.M., will be Ms. Joanne Malone, Providence District Representative to the Fairfax County Park Authority.

We will furnish hamburgers, hot dogs, beverages, and disposable goods. We're asking everyone to help by bringing side dishes such as potato salad, beans, etc., or dessert items, and by furnishing coolers for the soft drinks.

If you're not a member, the picnic will be an opportunity to learn more about the Association and how we're trying to improve life in City Park Homes. We hope you'll want to join us! Members of our Board of Directors will be on hand to answer your questions.

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MAY CRIME REPORT -- CITY PARK HOMES

MASON DISTRICT:

2900 block Monroe Pl.
Molotov cocktail thrown.
Minimal damage.

McLEAN STATION:

LARCENIES:
2900 block Adams Place
Jewelry taken from residence.

6800 block Farragut Ave.
Tools taken from parked vehicle

3000 blk Greenway Blvd.
Car window smashed.

VEHICLE TAMPERING
6900 block Chestnut Ave.

BURGLARY
7000 blk. Carlton Ave.
Bedroom ransacked, many items
stolen.

Phase II Road Work Schedule Revised

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDoT) has advised the City Park Civic Association of changes in the schedule for Phase II of City Park Homes Drainage Improvements Project.

The revised timetable calls for the project to be advertised for bids in August or September of this year. Construction will most likely start in the spring of 1996, although it may be possible to perform some work during the fall and winter.

The project was delayed because a consultant's design work for underground utility systems took longer than expected. That work has been completed, and VDoT's Location and Design Section is assembling a final set of plans for submission this month to the Maintenance Division, which will advertise the contract.

VDoT has also informed the CPCA that the portion of Chestnut Avenue from Summerfield Road to the Tripps Run channel may be included in

the Phase II construction. This area is designated as part of Phase III, but was disturbed significantly during Phase I construction. As a result, residents in the area asked VDoT to consider restoring their street earlier than originally planned.

Residents having questions or concerns regarding the upcoming construction work should contact any Board member.

- Albert LaFrance

Picnic continued from page 1

We will need help with set-up, cooking, and clean-up. If you can assist, please call Picnic Chairperson Steve Armstrong on 532-6631 as soon as possible. If Steve's not in, just leave a message with your name and number.

Our Neighborhood Watch coordinator will be on hand to answer your questions about this important program, provide literature on crime prevention, and sign up volunteers to be trained for our community patrols.

And, of course, you'll have plenty of time to just relax and enjoy this City Park Homes summer tradition with your neighbors. You might want to bring your own lawn chairs, since there are only six picnic tables at the park.

Most of all, we **MUST** know how many people are coming. Please take a moment now to call one of the picnic organizers listed below, to tell him or her how many adults and children are coming, and what food item(s) you'll be bringing. If you'd rather let us suggest what to bring, just let us know.

We're looking forward to seeing you on the 24th!

Steve Armstrong (Picnic Chairperson), 532-6631
Betty Charles, 534-4962
Albert LaFrance, 536-2420

Annual Meeting Held on May 10, 1995

The fourth annual meeting of the City Park Civic Association was called to order by President Albert LaFrance on 10 May 1995. The meeting was held in the multi-purpose room of the Devonshire Center, 2831 Graham Road, Falls Church, Virginia.

Secretary's Report

A motion was made, seconded and passed to waive the reading of the minutes of the previous membership meeting. Reports are available and on file for members to review.

Treasurer's Report

President Albert LaFrance announced Jim Feagins, Treasurer for the Association for the past 3 years, has moved out of the City Park area and therefore has resigned his position. Per Board approval President Albert LaFrance has been designated to act as Treasurer until Board elections. As of 10 May 1995 there was a balance of \$475.20 in the treasury.

Nominations & Election of Officers

The next agenda item was the nomination and election of four board member posts. After verification of a quorum being met, there was a proposal made, seconded and passed to hold a secret ballot. Nominations were made and votes tabulated. President Albert LaFrance announced the three new board members were Darryl Adams, Steve Armstrong and Jane Chapman. (Nominated were: Darryl Adams, Steve Armstrong, Jim Baker, Jane Chapman, Marcia Cram, Ed deWolfe, and Bob Donahue). There was a tie between Marcia Cram and Ed deWolfe for the fourth directorship. A run off ballot was held and Marcia Cram was elected.

Public Works

Albert LaFrance, committee member, advised plans for Phase II and III are still on the drawing board. VDoT has advised the earliest start date to be November (weather permitting) with construction to start in the Spring depending on drainage issues. Phase II & III could result in resurfacing curbs and gutters. Anyone interested in the plans' progress should contact a Public Works Committee member.

Neighborhood Environment

Betty Charles, Chairperson, advised the Neighborhood Clean-Up on 22 April resulted in a lot of work in a short time. She also advised members to contact the Journal if they do not care to receive the Express especially those who are already subscribing to the Journal. These are sometimes ignored ending up on the streets and therefore, not disposed of properly.

The next item of discussion was the possibility of having some type of wire reinforcement installed over the rocks on Tripps Run to prevent them from sliding in the creek. VDoT is to be contacted to discuss possibilities or alternatives and a report will be made at the next meeting. Betty Charles advised the strip of highway located at Graham and Annandale Roads is up for adoption with a requirement of being cleaned up 4 times a year and a commitment of 2 years by the Civic Association. This entails both sides of Route 50 and Annandale Road. The general consensus of the members attending the meeting was to further check into the possibility of a combined effort with Westlawn Civic Association.

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Meeting continued from previous page

Betty Charles as Vice President, CPCA, attends the Providence District Council. After receiving input from members, she will convey to Supervisor Connolly on behalf of City Park concerns regarding graffiti and progress of Phase II/III. Any information obtained will be reported at the next meeting.

Neighborhood Watch

Pam deWolfe, Chairperson, gave a brief report regarding patrols, plans for a Neighborhood Watch dinner, Neighborhood Watch Night Out and other upcoming events.

Falls Church Coalition

Craig Harner gave a brief presentation regarding the Falls Church Coalition for a Safe Community, an awareness group directed towards reducing problems of drugs and violence. After a motion was made, seconded and passed to join the Coalition group, Craig Harner volunteered to represent the City Park Civic Association.

Summer Picnic

A motion was made and seconded to budget \$150.00 for the summer picnic to be held on 24 June. An amendment was made to the motion to increase the budget to \$200.00. The motion was seconded and passed. Steve Armstrong then solicited volunteers for the upcoming event.

Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 P.M.

-Susie Brooks, Secretary



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT - AUGUST 1

National Night Out is once again upon us - August 1st is the date for an evening of camaraderie, meeting neighbors, and enhancing crime awareness in our community. Planned events including group walks, visits from Neighborhood Watch and police officials, and refreshments start at 7:00 pm at the Kincaid Avenue cul-de-sac.

This annual event is an opportunity for all residents of City Park Homes to come out, meet your neighbors and get involved in preventing crime on your street and in your subdivision. (All residents are encouraged to attend National Night Out activities.)

Crime prevention, home security, and other

pertinent information will be available for all attendees.

New patrollers are always welcome. Those interested in joining the patrol program may apply at National Night Out, or may contact Pam deWolfe, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator at 241-0573.

Illuminating your porch light on during the National Night Out event is your show of support to the program and to the people in your community.

What Does the Association do for Me?

Annual membership in the City Park Homes Civic Association is \$5 per household. So what exactly do you get for your \$5?

Well, your dues support the annual Summer Picnic, the annual Holiday Party, and the printing and distribution of this newsletter to all 500+ households in our neighborhood.

Your dues pay for advertising of the annual Community Yard Sale and rental of meeting hall space for association meetings.

Your \$5 keeps you informed of what is going on in and around your neighborhood, and provides you the opportunity to get involved in issues affecting you and your neighborhood by joining a committee.

Your dues buys you a voice in community issues and concerns and representation in numerous community, county and regional coalitions and initiatives.

You support the efforts of your neighbors in their quest for neighborhood beautification, personal safety and community solidarity.

Not bad for 5 bucks, huh?

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Immediately following the annual meeting on May 10, Albert LaFrance called a meeting of the Board of Directors. He opened the meeting by asking for nominations of officers for 1995-1996. Marcia Cram and Albert LaFrance both received nominations for President. A vote was taken and Albert LaFrance was elected President.

As a result of nominations and voting the following officers were elected as follows: Vice-President: Betty Charles; Secretary: Susie Brooks and Marcia Cram: Treasurer.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to send

letters of appreciation to former Treasurer Jim Feagins and former newsletter designer Tom Saunders for their valuable services to City Park Homes.

There were brief discussions regarding the civic association picnic scheduled for 24 June 1995, Neighborhood Watch events, and the newsletter.

President LaFrance announced a meeting of the board to discuss the newsletter would be held on 8 June 1995. A motion was then made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting.

-Susie Brooks, Secretary

"Adopt-A-Highway" Report: Rt. 50 Already Taken

At the City Park Civic Association's annual meeting, the group expressed interest in adopting the portion of Route 50 from Annandale Road to Graham Road, as a joint effort with the Westlawn Civic Association which borders Route 50 on the south.

Westlawn's association was interested in the venture and all systems were readied, but upon a follow-up call with staff from the Adopt-A-Highway program, we learned that the stretch of road was "under adoption". Boy Scout Troop 660, which meets at the Knox Presbyterian Church, has officially adopted the highway.

Congratulations to them on their efforts! For those CPCA members would like to assist with clean-up projects, don't despair - we have lots of projects! Call Betty Charles at 534-4962 to learn how you can help, or to discuss your own ideas.

- Betty Charles

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The Fairfax County Police Department, Lieutenant Sellers, the Crime Prevention Office, and the officers of the Mason District Police Station all extend their thanks and appreciation to Albert LaFrance, Ted Dulaney, Jeremy Rima, Kelle Schnabel and the deWolfe family for their extraordinary efforts in mobilizing swiftly to participate in an area wide Police search in May.

An elderly gentleman with Alzheimer's disease and high blood pressure was visiting from North Carolina and wandered away from a relative's home in the James Lee community. City Park Neighborhood Watch patrolled from Arlington Boulevard to Lee Highway before joining with the police and assisting with door to door canvassing of the businesses from Seven Corners to Yorktowne. The gentleman, Mr. Bradley, was found the following day in a shopping center in Washington D.C.

The crime report is now featured on the front page of the CITIZEN. This area has been experiencing an alarming rise in

incidents. I hope many City Park residents will volunteer for Neighborhood Watch. If patrolling is not an option for you, please keep an eye turned to your windows, looking out as often as you can. Remember that you need to look out the back windows as well as the front, in the daytime and nighttime. (Turn the lights off at night so you can see better.) Look out if you tend to get up in the middle of the night, and don't forget to check in the neighbor's yards too. This type of patrol is called a "Window Watcher" and we need several of those on each street if possible. Window Watchers should attend a training meeting if it is at all possible.

This is the season for con artists, mail fraud, telephone scams, solicitors, home improvement or repair rip offs and "gypsy" crimes. A con artist is usually a person who is a good actor and has the ability to gain someone's trust in a short period of time. The typical con artist is seldom violent and usually has a great sense of timing.

Although these sound like overused cliché's, they really are

good reminders of vital safeguards.

1. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
2. If you're getting something for nothing, it is usually worth what you've paid for it.

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The City Park Civic Association 1995-1996 Board of Directors

Albert LaFrance,
President 536-2420

Betty Charles,
Vice President 534-4962

Susie Brooks,
Secretary 237-0894

Marcia Cram,
Treasurer 538-7193

Darryl Adams, 237-4872

Steve Armstrong, 532-6631

Jane Chapman, 532-1188

Mary Ann Daly, 532-2406

Pam deWolfe, 241-0573

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CPCA 1995 Calendar

June 24	Summer Picnic, Membership Drive, and dedication of bridge and plaque, Jefferson Village Park, 4:00 to 7:00 pm
June 28	City Park Homes Civic Association Evening at Chili's
July 14	Submissions due for "Citizen" issue 27 (National Night Out issue)
July 24	Distribution of "Citizen" issue 27 completed
August 1	Neighborhood Watch "National Night Out"
August 25	Submissions due for "Citizen" issue 28
September 9	Distribution of "Citizen" issue 28 completed
September 19	Home Security Seminar series Part I, 7:15 pm, Mason District Police Station
September 19	General membership meeting
September 27	Home Security Seminar series Part II, 7:15 pm, Mason District Police Station
Fall	Community Yard Sale
October ?	Candidates' debate(s) (to be determined)
October 5	Home Security Seminar series Part III, 7:15 pm, Mason District Police Station
October 11	Neighborhood Watch Training Session, 7:30 pm, Mason District Police Station
October 20	Submissions due for "Citizen" issue 29
October 21	Open House, Mason District Police Station, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
November 4	Distribution of "Citizen" issue 29 completed
November 14	General membership meeting
November 15	Submissions due for "Citizen" issue 30 (Holiday Party issue)
November 30	Distribution of "Citizen" issue 30 completed
December 1	Holiday Party - Devonshire Center

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3. If it doesn't sound logical, don't fall for it. Watch for fast talkers.

4. If you don't read it, or don't clearly understand it, don't sign it. Don't let them read it to you or explain it IN LIEU OF reading it yourself. You could be signing away your house unknowingly, for example.

Words to watch for:

"You have won..."; "All you have to do is pay the delivery fees and taxes"; "I'm with a charity." "Call this 900 number..." Also watch for strangers with far out stories. "I'm a TV producer. All you have to do is sign up for our classes..." If you are talking to a stranger, watch for signs of misdirection, keep an eye on your surroundings, or do what we teach our children, don't talk to them. Some unscrupulous people even use a "lost dog" story or ask for a drink of water. Don't give a stranger any money to "show your good faith." and don't let them talk you into withdrawing money for ANY reason. If anyone ever asks you to TELL

them your PIN number, something is very wrong. Do not trust strangers who offer instant cash. Other key words; cash only, today only, contest, last chance or left over material.

What can you do? Call the police on anyone who seems too suspicious. Obey your instincts. These types of criminals are hard to catch. If you want to make a charitable donation, give it, but to the organization, not the telemarketers. Make sure that anyone who works on your home is "licensed, bonded and insured." Consider putting a "No solicitor's" sign on your door. Anyone who ignores that sign is breaking the law. All solicitors MUST be licensed in Fairfax County, with the exception of those involved in agricultural areas, tree trimmers, etc. (Write down their name and address if you should decide to hire someone, ask to see their driver's license, but don't let them into your house until you've checked them out and hired them.) Remember that anything sold from reputable door to door salespersons can

usually be found IF YOU INITIATE THE CALL, through the yellow pages.

Some other tips: Get your mail ASAP, especially if you receive checks through the mail. Consider direct deposit. DESTROY all unwanted credit cards and credit card applications. Never just throw them into the trash. Check your statements carefully. NEVER GIVE YOUR CREDIT CARD NUMBER OUT, especially over the phone. HAVE THEM SEND YOU WRITTEN INFORMATION.

NEVER purchase something unseen. Be wary of home repair schemes and driveway resurfacing. Be alert when you shop by mail and avoid chain letters. Check out businesses with the Fairfax County Office of Consumer Services and the Better Business Bureau.

Please do not hesitate to call me to volunteer or if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at 241-0573.

- Pam deWolfe

City Park Homes Civic Association Evening at Chili's

Residents of City Park Homes are invited to join their neighbors for an early evening of conversation, good food and relaxation at the Chili's Restaurant on Annandale Road and Arlington Blvd. on Wednesday, June 28 from 4:30 pm - ??.

Food and beverage specials will be in effect until 6:00 pm. Dress will be casual - stop by

after work, or grab the kids and come on by. We will be meeting in the lounge area. Let a CPCA member know if you had a good time - - we'll plan more social events for the future!

Beat the heat, store the lawn mower, leave the car, and walk on down to Chili's for a fun evening.