

CITY PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION CITY PARK CITIZEN

Issue 9

May 1993

Public Works Notes

Construction on Schedule

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has advised the CPCA's Public Works Committee that plans for rebuilding our neighborhood's streets, curbs/gutters, sidewalks, and storm drains are proceeding on schedule. Construction for Phase I of the three-phase project (Summerfield Road, Adams Place, and the portion of Jefferson Avenue between those streets) is scheduled to begin this July.

Surveyors from an engineering firm contracted by VDOT are now working in the Phase II and III areas to obtain topographic data, locate

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Our deepest sympathies and condolences go to the families of Mr. Al Castle and Mr. Alex Przywara, both of whom passed away recently.

We all knew Mr. Castle of Jefferson Avenue. He was the tall gentleman with the walking stick who frequently strolled through the neighborhood. He always had a warm smile and a friendly hello. Mr. Castle passed away on February 6.

Mr. Przywara lived on Kincaid Avenue. He passed away in early March. Mr. Przywara enjoyed gardening and was always available to chat with his neighbors.

Both of these men have lived in our community for many, many years and will be greatly missed.

Annual Meeting Set for May 12 New Location, Refreshments Featured

The second annual meeting of the City Park Civic Association will be held on Wednesday, May 12, at 7:30 P.M. in the multi-purpose room of the Devonshire Center.

The Center is located at 2831 Graham Road, near the intersection of Graham Road and Lee Highway (Route 29). Ample parking is available at the Center, which is readily accessible to persons with disabilities. Attendees should note that the location is not Graham Road Elementary School, where our previous meetings have been held.

The first item on the agenda will be the nomination and election of four members to the Association's Board of Directors. This election results from the expiration of the one-year terms of Mr. Armstrong, Ms. Chapman, Mr. Feagins, and Mr. Leocha. These incumbent Directors are eligible for nomination and re-election. A letter detailing nominating and voting procedures has been sent to all Association members.

In addition to the new location, there will be another "first" at this annual meeting. After the meeting adjourns, everyone will be invited to enjoy refreshments and snacks with other Association members. Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to meet their neighbors, and to exchange their ideas. The Association will provide coffee, tea, soda, and snack cakes and cookies. This is your Civic Association; the annual meeting will be a good time to kick off another year of projects and activities.

Other items on the agenda will be:

- Plans for summer picnic
- Progress reports and important announcements from standing committees
- Opportunities for volunteers
- Discussion of specific goals and objectives

All residents of City Park Homes are welcome; however, voting will be restricted to Association members.

For more information about the meeting, to verify your membership status, or to request a membership application, please call Albert LaFrance on 536-2420.

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property corners, and set elevation benchmarks. Residents should understand that the purpose of this work is only to obtain accurate information about existing conditions, for engineering design. The surveyors are not marking proposed construction areas. That work will be done just before the start of construction.

Streetlight Matters

Virginia Power operates and maintains the streetlights on our roads. Residents may report malfunctioning streetlights to Virginia Power at 934-9699 from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. Monday through Friday.

The Public Works Committee has delivered to Virginia Power the final list of streetlights which have excessively yellowed plastic refractors (lenses). The Committee has requested that these be replaced so that the lights will provide the proper illumination levels for pedestrian and vehicular safety.

The Committee is also exploring the possibility of obtaining additional lights for areas where residents want them. Fairfax County has a petitioning procedure by which we may be able to have the lights installed at no cost.

The Public Works Committee, co-chaired by Susie Brooks and Mary Ann Daly, implements CPCA policies on public facilities in our community. Residents having questions or comments on the items discussed in this article should call Ms. Brooks at 237-0894 (evenings), Albert LaFrance at 536-2420 (days/evenings), or any Association officer.

—Albert LaFrance

General Meeting Held 9 February 1993

A general meeting of the City Park Civic Association was held Tuesday, 9 February 1993 in the multi-purpose room at Graham Road Elementary School.

President Albert LaFrance called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. Jim Feagins, Treasurer, reported the Association's current balance consists of \$521.86 with a year end balance of \$530.94. The Association's last four debits were as follows: 15 December 1992 - \$19.63 Printing of Childrens' Holiday Party flyer; 12 January 1993 - \$23.20 Graham Road Elementary School multi-purpose room rental; 5 February 1993 - \$20.88 newsletter printing; 5 February 1993 - \$20.00 Federation of Civic Association membership dues.

Albert LaFrance then presented the Neighborhood Watch report on behalf of Pam deWolfe. He spoke briefly on what to do in case of neighborhood incidents such as encounters from door-to-door salespersons. He also announced there had been no crimes reported in the City Park Homes area in the last two months. He encouraged everyone to participate, noting that it only takes one hour a month to make a valuable contribution to the committee. This can even be accomplished while walking or jogging. The report ended with Mr. LaFrance announcing that free training is available by contacting Pam deWolfe at 241-0573.

A brief discussion was held regarding purchasing identification signs to be placed on Neighborhood Watch patrol persons' vehicles. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to have Neighborhood Watch Chairperson Pam deWolfe check into the signs' availability/cost and report findings to the Board of Directors for consideration.

The next topic of discussion was the proposed summer picnic, holiday party and yard sale. The time and dates of these events, where they should be held and costs involved generated a lot of questions. It was announced that Vice President Betty Charles is working on a survey to be distributed for input from the general membership and these results will aid and assist committee chairpersons and members in planning these events. It was also suggested to have Block Captains from each street who would report general concerns creating more participation and interaction within the community.

Andrew Metcalf from the office of Providence District Supervisor Katherine Hanley was then introduced by Albert LaFrance. Mr. LaFrance also announced that the next annual meeting is set for 12 May 1993. The meeting place will be announced in the next issue of the newsletter.

The final committee report was then given by Public Works Co-Chairperson Mary Ann Daly. She advised that VDOT will begin work in the

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Spring of 1993. There is an aerial survey being conducted and the committee received a letter with a chart outlining the proposed work schedule. The work is to be completed by December 1994. It appears that everything is on schedule and the committee has plans for inviting representatives from VDOT's Maintenance Department to meet with the committee and board members once the contracts are completed. The committee is also considering a meeting with the general membership for a question and answer session. Albert LaFrance was extended a special thanks for his survey work of identifying street lights within the neighborhood which need to have refractors replaced and his meeting with Vepco and County officials. In conjunction with the Neighborhood Environment Committee VDOT cleaned up some areas of Carlton, Westcott and Jefferson Avenues which had overgrown shrubbery. If members have difficulties in the public works area they are encouraged to advise the committee and information will be provided such as telephone contacts for problem areas. Also noted was the cooperation and assistance the Public Works Committee has been receiving from VDOT as well from Katherine Hanley's office.

After a brief discussion period on forming a common bond of neighborhood unity, encouraging everyone to respond to the upcoming survey and inviting our neighbors to become active in the association, the meeting was adjourned.

—Susie Brooks
Secretary

CPCA 1993 Schedule of Events

May 8-9	Distribution of CPCA Member Survey
May 12	Annual Meeting and Get-Together, Devonshire Center, 7:30 P.M.
May 17	Deadline for submissions for <u>Citizen</u> issue 10
June 18-20	Distribution of <u>Citizen</u> issue 10
June 26	Summer Picnic, Jefferson Village Park
July 10	Scheduled start of VDOT Phase I street repair
Sept. 9	Deadline for submissions for <u>Citizen</u> issue 11
Sept. 10-14	Distribution of <u>Citizen</u> issue 11
October 25	General membership meeting
October 27	Deadline for submissions for <u>Citizen</u> issue 12
Nov. 26-30	Distribution of <u>Citizen</u> issue 12
December 10	Holiday Party
December 31	Scheduled completion of VDOT Phase I street repair

Four-Way Stop Signs Placed on Summerfield Road

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) recently installed four-way stop signs at the intersections of Summerfield Road with Jefferson Avenue and Custis Parkway.

In a letter sent on March 5 to the residents along Summerfield Road, Providence District Supervisor Kate Hanley reported that the signs were replaced by VDOT as a test case to determine their effectiveness in controlling the speed and volume of traffic on Summerfield. After six months, VDOT will evaluate the results.

Ms. Hanley said that the installation of these signs is an extraordinary event, because the engineering standards which usually govern VDOT's traffic-control decisions would not allow multi-way stop signs on Summerfield. The test is being conducted by the Northern Virginia VDOT office, working together with VDOT's Research Council in Charlottesville, as part of its effort to improve traffic management in Northern Virginia. The test was initiated at the request of Ms. Hanley, in response to reports from civic associations and individual residents.

The City Park Civic Association, together with our neighbors in the Greenway Downs Citizens Association, has been working with Supervisor Hanley and VDOT to help reduce the problems of excessive traffic volume, noise, and speed on our streets. The CPCA's Public Works Committee will collect comments and observations from residents and will advise the responsible State and County officials of this community's opinions regarding the new signs.

—Albert LaFrance

FCCHS Requests Support for All-Night Graduation Party

The Falls Church High School PTSA and senior parents are sponsoring their fifth annual All-Night Drug and Alcohol Free Graduation Celebration on June 21, 1993, at Providence Recreation Center. The purpose of the party is to allow the entire senior class to celebrate together one last time in a safe alcohol/drug free environment. The party, one of many such parties to be held in Fairfax County this year, is endorsed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Fairfax County Public Schools, and the Fairfax County Police Department.

Falls Church High School is the public high school serving City Park Homes. The organizers of this party are soliciting contributions from the community. Checks should be made payable to "FCCHS PTSA Grad party" and mailed to:

FCCHS PTSA Grad Party
2823 Elsmore St.
Fairfax, VA 22031

Residents wanting more information may call graduation party chairman John C. Elkins at 280-8083.

Board of Directors Meeting Held 4 February 1993

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the City Park Civic Association was held on Thursday, 4 February 1993, at the home of Betty Charles. Present were: Steve Armstrong, Susie Brooks, Jane Chapman, Betty Charles, Mary Ann Daly, Jim Feagins, Albert LaFrance, and Joe Leocha.

President Albert LaFrance called the meeting to order at 8:10 P.M. and presented each Board member with an agenda and a proposed 1993 Civic Association event schedule.

Overall goals were then discussed, covering topics such as:

The public Works Committee's goals, such as following up on phase 1, and planning a meeting with Mr. Asgari from VDOT and perhaps having him meet with the public Works Committee and interested Board members to answer questions and concerns within the community as the work for repairs is implemented. Also, a meeting with Civic Association members and VDOT is tentatively planned.

Betty Charles then presented the Board with a rough draft of a member survey from the Board to the membership, to outline and define what is important to the membership. Our work is divided into committees - what role does each committee have a right to do? What are their priorities and how do members feel about these committees' activities and plans?

Each Board member will review the survey and return their comments to Ms. Charles, and it is then to be distributed to the membership for input and review in order to plan this year's events. Before definite planning can take place, members must express an interest. After a discussion on this topic, a decision was made to allot \$75.00 for the annual meeting. It will not only be a meeting but a more or less "Get to Know Your Neighbors" function.

Other topics of discussion were:

Traffic Control - follow up on status with Chairperson.

Welcoming Committee - follow up - with possibility of using survey to see what membership expects from this committee. Presently, a package is being distributed to new neighbors with information about garbage pickups, school registration, recycling, etc.

Board members interacting with the committees was then discussed. There are Board members chairing and co-chairing, as well as participating as members of the Public Works Committee.

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Neighborhood Environment Committee, and Welcoming Committee. Albert LaFrance asked Jane Chapman if she were willing to be a liaison for the Neighborhood Watch Committee, and she accepted. This is an effort to have Board members active on each committee for feedback.

Planning for the proposed picnic, yard sale, and holiday party was discussed. It was decided to wait until the surveys were received back from the membership before proceeding - we must generate enough active participation from the membership before these events can take place.

Albert LaFrance then announced that a meeting with Greenway Downs is set for March 18 [ed. rescheduled to April 29]. It will be published as a Greenway Downs event with City Park invited to participate as well. It is to be held at Devonshire School.

The final item of discussion was the newsletter. It was decided to have some guidelines set regarding articles which are submitted and to define advertisement spaces. A meeting will be held with the newsletter staff, with interested Board members present, to set standards and guidelines.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 P.M. with Board members expressing their thanks to Betty Charles for the use of her home for the meeting.

—Susie Brooks
Secretary

Renewal Reminder

If you have not yet renewed your membership in the City Park Civic Association, please take a moment now to do so. For your convenience, there is a membership application form attached to this newsletter. Please include a completed application with your renewal; it greatly simplifies our record-keeping, and the form now has an up-to-date list of committees and an authorization for your inclusion in the City Park Homes Community Directory.

Our dues are necessary to cover various expenses such as printing costs, corporate fees, post office box rental, Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations membership, Neighborhood Watch vehicle signs, refreshments for meetings, and so on. To date, many costs have been defrayed by unselfish donations of time, talent, and supplies by many of our citizens. It is important to note the wisdom of keeping as much of our treasury as possible in reserve for a "rainy day" when some donated material or service may no longer be available. For example, if we were to pay retail printing costs for our newsletter to be published four times a year, this expense alone would virtually wipe out our treasury!

Our intention is to ensure that our limited funds are used for the good of the majority of our citizens. Rest assured that your money is not spent frivolously. Bids for purchases or services, a budget proposal for an event, collection of receipts for payments; these are just some of the ways in which we seek to control expenses. Requests for expenditures are carefully considered by your Board of Directors, just as they would be in any business.

Our dues are purposely kept affordable, and will be the best five dollars you spend all year! We're growing every day; your support is in your own best interest. Won't you join your neighbors in making City Park Homes better for all of us?

Please make out your check today and mail it to us, or call any Board member to pick it up. For more information, or to verify your membership status, please call Albert LaFrance on 536-2420, day or evening.

—Albert LaFrance
—Jim Feagins

Neighborhood Watch

Our new Neighborhood Watch system is doing great! I have completely revamped the system and everyone has been very patient, cooperative and eager to participate. I believe that I have called everyone who has been through the training session and wants to participate. If there is anyone I have not called, please call me at 241-0573.

I have gone through all of the sign up lists and the membership applications, from the very beginning, to find out if there are any people who expressed an interest in Neighborhood Watch/Safety & Security but have not been trained. I am trying to arrange another training meeting with Officer Clark and then I will be calling on those people soon. We always need more people; please call me if you would like to participate. This may be the last training session in our community.

Two new items have been added to our system. Mrs. Mildred Sharpe has agreed to call and remind us when we have a patrol shift coming up. Also, I have magnetic signs for us to put on our cars when we patrol.

Several people have told me that they got funny looks when they were out on patrol, before we got the signs. That is good news!! It means that Neighborhood Watch is working! We are all part of Neighborhood Watch. We need to be aware of what's going on around us and keep an eye out for our neighbors as well as ourselves. When we all work together, we have a safer community.

Crime-wise, things were fairly quiet, but we have had a few incidents in the past few weeks. We had one home break-in, one car radio stolen, and one animal shooting. I was told that a pizza delivery person left his car running while he delivered to a house on Westcott St. and his car was stolen. Also, a young teenage girl was propositioned by a stranger near her home.

With the onset of the warmer weather, our children are going to be down at the park. Please remind them not to talk to strangers, not even to give them directions. Also, please advise them that the sewers, storm drains and bridges are not good places to play. These areas often collect trash and broken glass, as well as attract rats and sometimes undesirable people. They should also be told to be mindful of their bicycles so that they are not stolen, either in the park or in your own front yard.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone of the guidelines and laws governing door-to-door salespeople that Albert LaFrance told us about at our last meeting. These guidelines came to me from Fairfax County Police.

All peddlers and solicitors must be licensed and must show their County license to consumers who wish to see it. They may not attempt to sell at a house where a "No Peddlers or Solicitors" sign is posted. They may come only to your home between 9 am and 8 pm. They must tell you, if asked, their name and the name of the company or product they represent. They must leave the premises immediately if asked.

This ordinance also applies to flyers left at your door or on your car. Exceptions to this ordinance include Boy/Girl Scout drives and sales, March of Dimes, heart funds, churches, high school band uniform drives, etc. Violators should be reported to the police at 691-2131 or to Fairfax Co. Dept. of Consumer Affairs at 324-5900. For more information, contact the Dept. of Consumer Affairs, or pick up the pamphlet, "Door-To-Door Sales" at any County Governmental Center.

—Pam deWolfe

Opinion

What is the value of the Civic Association when our state and local governments ignore us? Worthless.

Such is how I feel as a member of the Board of Directors when I saw the new stop signs on Summerfield Road.

Elsewhere in the Citizen is an article on the stop signs VDOT recently placed on Summerfield Road. What the article conveniently omitted telling us is that VDOT didn't have the courtesy to consult with our Civic Association. Nor was any individual citizen consulted as far as I am aware of.

And did you know that the traffic on Summerfield Road does not justify 4-way stop signs according to VDOT standards? What rules does VDOT follow?

We don't need the hassle these signs are causing—unnecessary stops, sign blight, extra wear and tear on our cars and increased air pollution.

I encourage City Park residents to write VDOT and Supervisor Kate Hanley, and let them know that you feel that VDOT abused its powers by installing the stop signs without citizen or civic association review and comment.

Let us hope that it's a totally different VDOT group that is going to rebuild our roads this summer!

—Bob Ritter

CPCA President replies:

Mr. Ritter is in error when he asserts that citizens and civic associations were not consulted in connection with VDOT's decision to test traffic control measures on Summerfield Road. In fact, VDOT undertook the study of traffic problems on Summerfield, and the implementation of traffic controls, as direct result of individual and civic association complaints to Supervisor Hanley.

Last year, the CPCA and the neighboring Greenway Downs Citizens Association jointly wrote to Supervisor Hanley, explicitly requesting her support in controlling traffic on Summerfield. In addition, members of various committees from both associations have discussed the problem and possible solutions in detail with the responsible county and VDOT officials.

So far, the opinions we have heard from residents have been overwhelmingly favorable toward the four-way stops. Most feel that the minor inconveniences caused by the new signs are outweighed by the potential for alleviating very real dangers to life and property posed by high-volume, high-speed traffic flow along what is supposed to be a residential street.

The placement of four-way stop signs on Summerfield Road demonstrates that, far from being "worthless", the CPCA can be effective in focusing the attention of government on the needs and desires of our community.

—Albert LaFrance

City Park Citizen City Park Civic Association Residents Newsletter

OFFICERS

Albert LaFrance
President 536-2420

Betty Charles
Vice President 534-4962

Susie Brooks
Secretary 237-0894

Jim Feagins
Treasurer 237-8815

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Armstrong

Susie Brooks

Jane Chapman

Betty Charles

Mary Ann Daly

Jim Feagins

Albert LaFrance

Joe Leocha

Bob Ritter

City Park Civic Association
P.O. Box 2232
Falls Church, VA 22042

Citizen Advertising



**Child Care With
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If you would like to place an ad in the CITIZEN, mail it to: CPCA,
P.O. Box 2322, Falls Church, VA 22042 or call Albert LaFrance at
536-2420

Business card size display ads are \$8.50 for members or \$11.25
for non-members. Please submit camera ready art for business
ads.

CITY PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Membership Application

Name(s) _____

Childrens' Names and Ages: (Optional; For Event Planning): _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

DUES: \$5.00 annually per household, payable at time of membership application.

Renewals are payable by March 1 for all members.

Members joining between November 1 and March 1 pay part-year dues of \$2.50 upon application

Please make check payable to City Park Civic Association.

Mail to: City Park Civic Association

P.O. Box 2232

Falls Church, VA 22042

I am interested in serving on the following committee(s):

☐ Public Works

☐ Welcoming

(New Neighbors)

☐ Safety and Security

☐ Special Events

(includes Neighborhood Watch)

☐ Neighborhood Environment

☐ Traffic Control

☐ Newsletter

I/we authorize publication of the following information in the City Park Civic Association Community Directory: (check all that apply)

[] My name

[] My house number

[] My street

[] My home telephone number

Signed: _____ Date: _____

[] Please DO NOT list me in the Directory.

[] I am interested in advertising my business or profession in the Directory. Please contact me with the details.

