



***truvo***

***trails***

**JUNE 1991**

**THA/TCC OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND HEADS OF ACTIVITIES**

**Officers/Board of Directors**

President.....	Art Wells.....	323-7367
Vice President.....	Keith Thomas.....	425-5770
Directors.....	Mike McKinley.....	323-0098
	Janice Armstrong.....	978-0429
	Alannah Coshow.....	425-6459
Secretary/Treasurer.....	Ken Anderson.....	(leave message) 978-0859
Record Keeper/Membership.....	Donna Alexander...	(leave message) 978-0859
Pool and Clubhouse		
Reservation/Rental.....	Glenda Trimmer.....	323-9316
Architectural Control.....	Ralph Kennedy.....	978-1177
Audit/Budget Committee.....	Jim Tew.....	323-0509
	Art Wells.....	323-7367
Nominating Committee.....	Alannah Coshow.....	425-6459
Neighborhood Watch.....	Dave Barton.....	978-2580
TCC Committee.....	Janice Armstrong.....	978-0429
Social Committee.....	Sue and Ron Porter.....	764-9677
Park Committee.....	Ron Olesch.....	425-9617
Truro Trails.....	David Jones.....	978-3857
NO ROT Committee.....	Jim Bergstrom.....	978-6541
Gypsy Moth Committee.....	Catherine Bergstrom.....	978-6541
Tennis Court Repair.....	John Brennan.....	978-2622
	Don Johnson.....	978-2641
	Bob Gardner.....	978-0654
School Boundary Change.....	Jane Zivic.....	425-1188
Swim Team.....	Jane Akl.....	280-9730
	Meg Nyborg.....	620-6517
Dive Team.....	Pat Stafford.....	978-3768
	Beverly Blondell.....	323-1503
Tennis Teams/Lessons.....	Judith Rheinstrom.....	425-3315
Messages may be left at any time on the Truro business phone...		978-0859

A PUBLICATION OF THE TRURO HOMES ASSOCIATION

## Meeting Draws All 4 County Chairman Candidates

All four of the announced candidates for the position of chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors showed up to mingle with Truroites prior to the Truro Homes Association spring general membership meeting on May 16.

The two Democratic and two Republican aspirants to head the county board met informally with THA and TCC members, giving the members an opportunity to get acquainted with them. The candidates were:

■ Audrey Moore, Democrat, incumbent board chairman.

■ Jack F. Herrity, Republican, former board chairman (who has since withdrawn from the race).

■ Michael S. Horwatt, Democrat, a Northern Virginia attorney.

■ Thomas M. Davis III, Republican, Mason District representative on the board.

Also present for the pre-meeting get-together were Sharon Bulova,

Braddock (formerly Annandale) District Supervisor, and Jim Lamb, Republican, 39th District candidate for the state House of Delegates.

The candidates and Sharon Bulova spent about an hour with the relatively few Truroites who attended the meeting.

Refreshments were provided for the informal candidates' meeting by Sue and Ron Porter, of 8918 Footstep Court. Fruit punch and brownies were served on a table decorated with red, white and blue campaign table cloths and a straw hat centerpiece.

At the THA business meeting which followed, Capt. Timothy J. Bowen, commander of the West Springfield Station of the Fairfax County Police Department, spoke to the members on crime prevention [see page 10]. Other major matters discussed at the meeting included future budget projections and priorities, the difficulty in forming an active Social Committee, the lack of volunteers for the Neighborhood Watch, and reports from the various THA committees and activities. [See pages 4-6 for a detailed report on these matters.]

A total of 41 THA members attended the May 16 meeting--26 in person and 15 by proxy.

## Truro Gets Its Moth Spraying

Although definite dates for this year's gypsy moth spraying in Truro were unknown at Truro Trails press time last month, the spraying here took place early in the program.

Promptly on April 26, spraying began by helicopter in spray blocks #70 and #92, the two blocks that included the Truro community. The spraying was completed on the following day. The low-flying aircraft made numerous passes over Truro and adjacent communities.

Although this year's spray program is complete, the county still recommends banding of trees during June and July to help eliminate the remaining caterpillars.

### THE COVER

This is the time of year when folks all over America sacrifice the tranquility of their rocking chair on the porch for a little summer fun at the beach, a visit with grandparents, boating on the bay, traveling to new places. We show the rocking chair this month to remind you that, when you get back, it'll still be here. Meanwhile, wherever you go, have a great vacation!

**FROM THE BOARD**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MAY 1991

By Art Wells

The Board of Directors of the Truro Homes Association met at 8 p.m. on May 14, 1991, at the Truro Community Center. Present were board members Art Wells, Janice Armstrong and Alannah Coshow, and Treasurer Ken Anderson. Jim Bergstrom, chairman of the NO ROT Committee, was present for a portion of the meeting. The major purposes of the meeting were to finalize the agenda for the May general membership meeting and to conduct other items of THA/TCC business.

NO ROT Committee Report

Jim Bergstrom reported on his committee's activities:

■ The overall appearance of the community is improving. There are a few homes which need sprucing up, and this has been verbally communicated to the residents. The committee has drafted a follow-up letter to send in any instance where there is no apparent response. The board took under consideration the draft letter and other follow-up actions.

■ The community sign project is progressing. The cost estimate is about \$2,500, contingent upon the extent to which volunteers assist in preparing the site, etc. NO ROT is now considering recommending that the sign be located on THA property in the vicinity of the Elizabeth Lane-Ann Fitz Hugh Drive intersection rather than the Elizabeth Lane island just off Guinea Road. Jim advised the board that NO ROT expects to have a final plan to submit to the general membership at the September 1991 meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Ken Anderson provided the board a summary of 1991 THA/TCC receipts

and expenditures, which are within budget. Money market interest earned is also doing well.

1990 Audit

The board discussed getting a good start on the 1990 audit with the goal of having it completed by June 30, 1991. A recommendation was made to check out an auditor who specializes in homeowners' associations and charges less than the firm which prepared the 1989 audit. There was discussion of the pros and cons of having the audit done by a THA members who is a CPA versus hiring an outside audit firm. Art pointed out that audit reports are included in the disclosure packets required by Virginia's Property Owners' Association Act of 1989; thus the THA/TCC audits must have an "arm's length" quality. Keith Thomas and Ken Anderson will make a recommendation to the board on who should prepare the 1990 audit.

1992 Budget Projects and Priorities

Janice Armstrong handed out a partial list of projects and other requirements which have surfaced for funding in 1992. Janice emphasized, and the board agreed, that for all practical purposes budgeting is a year-round exercise--not, as it may appear to some, a short drill in the late fall. The board must consider the projects falling due under the THA/TCC Repair and Maintenance Schedule updated by Keith Thomas in 1990. For example, the TCC parking lot needs resurfacing, and that project is already several years behind schedule. The R&M plan provides \$10,000 for this purpose. The board decided that this whole issue should be discussed by Keith and Janice at the May meeting.

Broken Equipment and Fixtures

Janice reported that another basketball rim had been broken. Also, the drinking fountain near the entrance to the tennis courts has been damaged--shortly after being

<p>OFFICIAL THA NOTICE</p>
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repaired by Clearwater at no cost to the TCC. The board expressed its sense of frustration and disgust at what appears to be repeated wanton damage to community property and facilities. The board agreed to:

- Ask Clearwater to install the new basketball backboards immediately rather than later in May as scheduled. The new backboards are designed to withstand the current "dunk and hang" style of play.

- Instruct Clearwater to repair the fountain, which upon closer inspection proved not to be damaged to the extent originally thought. This will be the first charge against the \$500 budgeted for damage repair in 1991. A further occurrence may result in a permanent shutdown of the fountain.

#### TCC Waiting List

Janice informed the board that there are 19 people on the waiting list for TCC memberships. By comparison, many associations have no waiting lists and are having difficulty getting residents to fulfill their membership obligations.

#### Donation

Janice advised the board that Jane Akl had donated a microwave to the swim team. It will be available for use by others also. The board expressed its appreciation to Jane for her contribution.

#### Annandale District Council Meeting

Art and Janice attended the ADC meeting on May 8. The major topic of discussion was pool management and operations. Featured speakers were Steve Grover, Sanitarian, of Fairfax County Health Department's Consumer Services; and David Karmol, Counsel and Director of Government Relations, National Spa and Pool Institute. Two major issues emerged from their presentations which could have a future impact on the operation of the TCC pool:

- As an extension of the Ameri-

ans with Disabilities Act, the Justice Department is finalizing rules governing accessibility to "public" pools. These rules are expected to go into effect after this year. If the TCC pool is determined to be a "public" pool, as defined by the final rules, appropriate facilities will need to be provided to accommodate those with disabilities who wish to have access to the pool. At this point, the specific application to the TCC pool is not known. However, Clearwater will follow developments carefully.

- Increasingly, environmentalists are regarding pool chemicals in the same context as lawn chemicals. Thus, we need to keep a sharp eye on regulations being locally drawn up governing application of lawn chemicals, to insure that pool chemicals are not included within such regulations. Lawn and pool chemicals are two distinct applications and should not be combined within the same regulation.

The ADC voted to change the district's name from Annandale to Braddock.

#### Agenda for May Membership Meeting

The board finalized the agenda for the May 16 general membership meeting. Art reported that three of the four candidates for chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors had accepted the invitation to meet with THA members during the 45-minute pre-meeting period. Art also informed the board that Delegate Allen Mayer's office indicated that he was also available to attend. However, Art informed Del. Mayer's office that time would not permit additional participation. Art also said he had heard that Jim Lamb, Republican candidate for Delegate, 39th District, had also expressed interest in attending. If called by Lamb's office, Art proposed to give the same response. The board agreed. Art also reported that Sue and Ron Porter had volunteered to arrange for refreshments to be available during the "meet the candidates" period.

The next board meeting will be at 8 p.m. on June 20 at the TCC. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
MAY 1991

By Art Wells

The May general membership meeting of the Truro Homes Association was held on May 16, 1991, at the Truro Community Center.

Prior to the business meeting, members met informally with the four candidates for chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors --Audrey Moore (D), John F. Herrity (R), Michael S. Horwatt (D) and Thomas M. Davis III (R). Also present were Jim Lamb (R), a candidate for delegate, 39th District, and Sharon Bulova, Braddock (formerly Annandale) District supervisor. Refreshments were provided by Sue and Ron Porter of the Social Committee. Despite a small turnout of members, the Board of Directors considered this get-together with the candidates a success.

The business meeting began at 8:15 p.m. Present were board members Art Wells, Keith Thomas, Janice Armstrong, Alannah Coshow and Mike McKinley, as well as Treasurer Ken Anderson and most committee and activity chairmen. A quorum of 41 members--26 in person and 15 by proxy--were represented.

Remarks by Capt. Bowen, FCPD

Art introduced Capt. Tim Bowen, commander of the West Springfield Station of the Fairfax County Police Department, who spoke on crime and its prevention [see page 10].

Treasurer's Report

Ken Anderson reported on the overall status of funds, saying that receipts and expenditures are within budget and that interest income is meeting projections.

TCC Membership Report

Janice Armstrong reported on behalf of Donna Alexander, record keeper. She stated that the Truro pool is the only one in this area at full membership. Some neighboring pools are at only 50 percent of capacity and are having severe financial problems. Truro has 19 people on its waiting list. Of these, 11 have paid for leases for 1991-92 and the remaining eight will be approached to buy or lease. Family pictures must be on file at the pool for admittance to the pool. If you have not provided a picture the pool staff will take one for \$5. The money goes to the TCC to cover the cost of equipment and film.

Emerging 1992 THA and TCC Budgets

Keith Thomas discussed projects that are evolving for funding in the 1992 THA/TCC budgets. Keith and Janice spoke of projects coming up for funding under the Repair and Maintenance Schedule and other requirements--new drapes for the TCC clubhouse, completion of the clubhouse fan project, refurbishing the tennis gazebo, the entrance sign, and others. Keith emphasized that budgeting is a year-round activity, not just a late fall exercise, and involves identifying requirements, establishing priorities and operating in a fiscally prudent manner.

Gypsy Moth Control

Jim Bergstrom reported that Truro had been sprayed by the county, so far with excellent results. Members were cautioned to keep a close check on developments and follow the preventive procedures publicized in Truro Trails.

NO ROT Committee

Jim also informed the members of NO ROT Committee activities, saying that Truro is looking good. He discussed the entrance sign project, saying he would have a recommendation to offer at the September general membership meeting. A suggestion was made from the floor on

What is a Swordfish?  
A pool monster!  
A party animal!  
A swim team member!

establishing a "home (or yard) of the week (or month)" award to further motivate homeowners to maintain high appearance standards for their property.

#### TCC Committee

Janice Armstrong reported on major TCC Committee concerns and issues.

■ Self-help. TCC is basically a volunteer organization. We hire contractors to perform services we don't have the time or expertise to do. We do not, however, have 24-hour janitorial or security services. We depend on one another to run programs, oversee maintenance needs and pick up debris. The grounds contract provides for services every ten days from March to November, the parkland contract every two weeks, and the TCC maintenance contract once a week. Because the same company has both the pool and maintenance contracts, we benefit from daily service in the summer even though we are charged for only weekly services. Problems arising between contract days must be handled by volunteers or contracted for by the hour. If you see gates open, broken glass, trash on the ground, overflowing trash cans or vandalized property, please feel free to remedy the situation, then notify a board member. If the board member finds that the contractor is negligent, he/she will take care of it.

■ Communication. During the open pool season, notices pertaining to daily activities or changes in schedules will be posted at the pool and tennis courts. Information on swim, dive and tennis lessons as well as lifesaving courses will be posted.

■ Vandalism. Maintenance costs for the basketball court and the

drinking fountain exceed \$3,100 a year. This is more than the budget provides for swim team, dive team, tennis or Social Committee. This cost will have to be examined closely at budget time. All other athletic and social programs in Truro have volunteers to protect and maintain them. If there is indeed community interest in continuing the basketball activity, we need a subcommittee to oversee its expenses, maintenance and rules of usage.

■ Clean and Safe. Since Clearwater took over management of the pool, our health department rating has risen from 71 to 95; we are now among the top rated pools in Northern Virginia for health and safety. The many improvements made to TCC property by volunteers also contributed to our receiving a reduction of almost \$1,000 in our insurance premium for 1992. The love of Truro families for their property shows.

#### Social Committee

Alannah Coshow reported the need for more volunteers to staff the committee and organize social activities. Without more interest in the committee, activities Truroites have enjoyed in the past will not be held this year. Members were urged to "talk up" the need for more volunteers for the committee to alleviate this problem.

#### Sports Committees

Reports were given on the status of organized TCC sports by Meg Nyborg (swim team), Beverly Blondell (dive team) and Judith Rheinstrom (tennis). [See pages 7-9 for information on these activities.]

#### Park Committee

Mike McKinley recapped the repair and maintenance projects completed or underway in the parkland, and the major features of this year's maintenance contract with Swift, which includes more frequent mowing and trash removal.

Architectural Control Committee

Chairman Ralph Kennedy updated the members on committee activities. [See the adjacent column for his suggestions on tree and shrub maintenance.] He stated that the committee receives \$60 per inspection under the Property Owners' Association Act. Ralph also asked that anyone with good or bad experiences with contractors inform him; he will maintain a file to assist homeowners interested in the merits of particular contractors.

Nominating Committee

Alannah informed the membership that only Art Wells' term as director would expire in September. She added that Art is a candidate for this upcoming vacancy and that the committee will consider fully any other nominations.

Neighborhood Watch

Dave Barton discussed the continuing difficulty in getting enough volunteers to staff an effective Watch. [See page 9 for a summary of his comments.] Art said that the board will continue to emphasize the Watch and is very appreciative of the Bartons' efforts, which far exceed what would be required if Truroites backed the program by volunteering. He added that it was hard to understand the antipathy to such a proven crime-deterrent program. The members approved a resolution authorizing the board to examine ways of improving participation in the program.

Tennis and Basketball Court Repairs

Art passed along a report from John Brennan that the contractor expects to complete his work before the pool opens on May 25.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10 p.m.

Hey, Dude! What's happening?  
SWIM TEAM!

**FROM THE COMMITTEES**

**ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE**

By Ralph Kennedy

The Architectural Control Committee received two requests for approval of home modifications during the past month and acted upon three pre-sale inspections of homes to insure compliance with THA covenants. No major problems were found with any of these requests. One action still pending from last month concerns an alleged violation of the THA rules involving an apparent abandoned vehicle. We trust that this will be corrected soon.

During inspections of homes, we see a number of instances where trees and shrubs have "taken over" an otherwise well-maintained lot. Now that you are outside working on your lawn, take a few minutes to visualize how your property would look with some judicious pruning or removal of overgrowth. The "cute" three-foot-high hemlock tree of 20 years ago is now probably overgrown or diseased. Accordingly, the tip for this month is: Prune and trim your bushes and trees to allow the beauty of your Truro home to shine through.

**PUBLICITY COMMITTEE**

By Bob and Valerie Sutter

Welcome, New Neighbors

WILLIAMS, Howard and Marilyn  
4100 Necostin Way  
239-9527

Children: \*Patricia (1970)  
Clare (1978)  
Mark (1980)

\*Add to babysitter and odd jobs lists.

Success has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It's what you do for others.  
--Danny Thomas



■ SOCIAL COMMITTEE

## *We Need a Little Help, Friends*

By Sue Porter

Truro has a history of throwing great parties, and we can't let that tradition die. Remember all those fun Father's Day Brunches, summer Shrimp Feasts and Christmas gatherings? They're going to be history unless some volunteers come forward to form a Social Committee.

Because my husband and I love to party, we have agreed to handle the administrative tasks involved in keeping this great Truro tradition going. But we need our neighbors to get the ball rolling. We're looking for an organizer for each specific event during the year. This way, no one will be overburdened and we all can still have some terrific parties.

Two events that have always been on everyone's calendar are the Father's Day Brunch and Kids' Pool Party. An out-of-town trip and full-time jobs unfortunately preclude us from even attending these two gatherings, so we need to hear from someone soon if they are going to be a reality.

As for other events--an Italian night, a Casino night, Oktoberfest or any other excuse for a good time--we're looking for ideas and willing hands to make them happen.

A community without parties would be a tragedy! Please let us hear from you soon. Give us a call in the evenings or on weekends at 764-9677.

## **TCC COMMITTEE**

By Janice Armstrong

The Board of Directors and the Architectural Control Committee thank Clearwater Management for the very well-constructed shed erected to hold trash containers. Because of their help, we will not need a dumpster and will not be subjected

## **FROM THE COMMITTEES**

to the danger of trucks entering the parking lot.

The damaged basketball hoops and drinking fountain have been repaired. The tennis court renovations are complete. The facility is ready for summer use.

FYI--from the National Pool and Spa Institute:

■ The majority of pool drowning victims are under five years old and drown in water less than 3 1/2 feet deep. Please supervise your children closely.

■ 95 percent of litigations from diving accidents are for injuries sustained from diving off the side of the pool--not off the diving boards.

## **SPORTS AND RECREATION**

### **SWIM TEAM**

By Pat Stafford

Apologies to all for not receiving the following in the last issue of Truro Trails; the information was inadvertently delivered to the wrong place!

Registrations for the 1991 Truro dive team are currently being accepted. Forms may be picked up at the pool office. The registration fee will again be \$20, and covers the cost of team parties, NVSL registration and insurance.

Please remember that the team accepts children from age six (or able swimmers under six) through the senior year in high school.

Our coach this year will be Kelly Stafford, a member of the team for many years now, and last year's assistant coach. Kelly brings many fine credentials to this position.

In high school diving this year, Kelly placed fourth in Districts, Regionals and States, and was voted W.T. Woodson's most valuable diver. She was also captain of the Woodson team and was elected to be captain for her senior year. Kelly is certified in lifesaving and CPR and will have her pool operator's license by the time the pool opens.

Kelly will also be giving private diving lessons as she has for the past two years. Please contact her at 978-3768 if you're interested.

The dive team historically is a lot of fun. Practice sessions will again be held daily from 4-6 p.m. commencing June 3. Meets are held on Tuesday evenings, with the exception of Divisionals and All-Stars, which will be held on the Sunday following the dual meet season.

We would really like to have a great season. In order to accomplish the goal of winning our division, we particularly need intermediate and senior boys. We truly could have won the division title last year had we been able to place a male body on the board! It's difficult to get any points when there is no diver to participate. So come on out, guys--we truly need you!

The girls are always welcome, and always do well for Truro. So please come back--and bring your friends. Truro has sent several of its summer league divers on to high school, college and U.S. diving.

We are currently selling raffle tickets--half of the profit to the team and half to the winner. Please contact Bev Blondell, Elaine Wellner, or Kelly for more information.

Truro has been asked to host Divisionals this year. (We were also asked to host All-Stars, but opted for Divisionals instead.) Please consider showing us off to the fullest and having a complete, well-rounded team. Sign up! You'll have a lot of fun!

Please note the following dates for pool closings for dive meets. The pool will be closed at 5:30 p.m., open only to adult lap swimmers, and will reopen at approximately 8 p.m. (or at the meet completion). Loud noises are extremely distracting and can be hazardous to young developing swimmers. Nonetheless, we welcome the support of the community and would encourage you to attend these meets. Pool closings are as follows:

Tuesday, July 2....5:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, July 16...5:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, July 23...5:30 p.m.  
Saturday, July 28..Pool will open at 2:00 p.m. due to Divisionals.

We have received several inquiries regarding diving experience and team membership. Please note: NVSL is a developmental league. Everyone has to start somewhere. Even if you have never been off a diving board, please feel welcome to join us. Kelly is there both to teach and to coach. This is where to begin your diving.

## SWIM TEAM

By Meg Nyborg (620-6517)  
and Jane Akl (280-9730)

Curious about the swim team? Mark Spitz or Janet Evans your kid need not be! If he or she is 18 years or younger, can swim the length of the pool, and is a party animal, the swim team may be just the thing. It's never too late to register; forms are in the pool office or you can call either of the above numbers.

Oops...missed the suit sizing! It's not too late for that, either. You can pick up a form from one of us, then either phone or mail the information to Aardvark Swim and Sport. The suit is made by Speedo, the model is "Lazer," and the color is sapphire.

Reminder: Until school is over, swim practice is Monday-Friday:  
13 and over...3:15-4:15 p.m.  
9 to 12.....4:15-5:15 p.m.  
8 and under...5:15-6:00 p.m.

After school closes, swim practice is Monday-Friday:

- 9 to 12.....8:00-9:00 a.m.
- 8 and under...9:00-9:45 a.m.
- 13 and over..9:30-10:30 a.m.

On Friday, June 14, we'll meet at the clubhouse for a pot-luck dinner and general orientation meeting. Details will be forthcoming, but please note the date and everybody plan to come. Saturday, June 15, is our first meet--a practice meet at Truro at 9 a.m. Then on June 22 we have our first dual home meet against Mt. Vernon. We invite the community to come out, buy your breakfast, and cheer for Truro.

A special note to our community members: Home meets require that the pool be closed to the public for a few hours. Please note these dates and approximate times so you aren't taken by surprise after you have already suited up and made your way to the front gate:

- June 15...12:30 p.m. opening
- June 22...12:30 p.m. opening
- July 1.....5:00 p.m. closing
- July 10....5:00 p.m. closing
- July 13...12:30 p.m. opening
- July 15....5:00 p.m. closing
- July 22....5:00 p.m. closing
- July 27....6:00 p.m. closing

And many thanks for all your co-operation.

## TENNIS

By Judith Rheinstrom (425-3315)

Aren't our tennis courts beautiful! We owe huge thanks to all who worked so long, hard and diligently on the renovation project.

Parents: Be sure to check the bulletin board at the tennis gazebo. Hal Bame has put up a poster with all the information on lessons. Keep checking the bulletin board for any changes and announcements.

There will not be a mixed doubles team this year, due to lack of interest.

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

By Dave Barton

Neighborhood Watch has been an active subject of discussion lately. As reported elsewhere in this issue, the local district police commander talked at the May THA general membership meeting.

Also at that meeting, the Board of Directors took on the issue of low Watch participation. Again, sincere thanks are due to all those residents who support this program with their involvement. But that base of support is declining. Summer is bringing some departures of residents, call-in volunteers are few and far between, and continuing efforts to elicit participation have proven difficult on the scheduling side and unproductive in getting new support. Greater involvement by the community would go a long way toward deterring problems and incidents, and would certainly ease the burden of those residents who currently support the program.

Options are to be explored by the board on how to look after our own security interests. One possibility might be to decentralize our Neighborhood Watch scheduling to block captains, who would allocate times and schedule residents in their areas over a given period of time. This would still be on a voluntary basis, but would be worked locally within each block. Other options might consider going more closely to mandatory participation.

Meanwhile, there has been no letup in vandalism. During the past month, there were five incidents of vehicles driving across lawns, four of them on the night of May 22 on Ann Fitz Hugh Drive, the other in late April on Pappas Way. Also in late April, eggs were thrown from a car moving down Wakefield Drive. On April 30, three boys about 11 years old were reported to the police for tossing firecrackers under moving vehicles on Elizabeth Lane near the

pool. And at about 1:30 a.m. on May 19, a mailbox was dented, the front door latch glued and firecrackers set off at a home on Burbank Road.

## Area's Crime Problems

(The following is a synopsis of a talk given by Capt. Tim Bowen, commander of the West Springfield District, Fairfax County Police Department, at THA's May 16 general membership meeting.)

■ ■ ■

County police make about 3,200 call responses, 1,800 traffic arrests and 260 crime arrests a year. Fairfax County has the lowest crime rate of any jurisdiction in the Washington metropolitan area.

Crooks tend to avoid areas they perceive to be occupied by alert, aware citizens who do not hesitate to report suspicious activities and visibly participate in Neighborhood Watch programs. Crime picks up in the warm months, then drops off after school begins each fall, but each new year is always somewhat worse than the last.

Car tampering, vandalism, and personal property (including stereo component) theft are quite prevalent in this area. One practice is for groups of high school students to skip school briefly during the day and target vehicles for early morning theft by the pros. A check with State Farm Insurance Co. showed a payout of \$3 million in the first quarter of 1991 for auto comprehensive claims in Northern Virginia. Advice: Keep cars locked and items of value out of sight. Another tip: Etch a serial number on audio components, etc., beginning with "VA" (e.g., then SSN). The reason: If a suspected stolen item can be traced, a recent Virginia law classes such an act as a chargeable crime.

Gangs are not prevalent in this area, but several groups of youths causing problems and showing some

gang characteristics are active, including some based at Woodson High School. One group is known as the "YTs" or "Young Terrorists." Behavior examples include large group confrontations and hyped media events. Advice: Parental supervision, controls, and interest in what goes on during school, after school, and at times when parents are absent can really make a difference. The trend is to see increasingly younger youths with behavior problems (e.g., 7th graders punching teachers, fighting with each other, and more often observed out after midnight).

Advice on keeping parties under control: Send out notice; admit by invitation only, thus preventing gate-crashers; notify neighbors before the fact; parents attend; evacuate the house as quickly and orderly as possible if the party gets out of control; call the police at the very first sign of trouble; and if you see a party forming while the parents are away, call the police while the party is still forming.

### CLASSIFIED

CHILDCARE--Truro (or nearby) resident wanted to care for infant boy 3 to 4 days a week, beginning July 1. Our house or yours. Non-smoker, references required. Please call Lynne or Jim Strang at 503-3042.

FOR RENT--3-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath townhouse, North Bethany, DE. A/C, washer and dryer, cable TV, dishwasher, swimming pool, beach block. Walk to restaurants and convenience store. Rent Sat. to Sat., \$800 per week in season, \$650 off season. Will do weekends in spring and fall. Call Marge Fallon, 323-8073.

MOVING--Sofa and chair, coffee table, queen-size bedroom set, dining room set, breakfast table set, campaign chests, workbench, ping-pong table, fluorescent light fixtures, reclining chair--all for sale. Call 978-4877.

