

**Greater Wilton Woods Citizens' Association Meeting--Minutes  
May 17, 2005**

Sam introduced Libby Garvey, who is running in the June 14 primary for the 45<sup>th</sup> District of the State Legislature. She is currently on her 3<sup>rd</sup> term on the Arlington County School Board and lives in Fairlington.

John Nyere went over minutes from the last meeting.

Jane Landis reports that we have 155 paid dues from 275 members. Please pay your dues if you haven't yet done so. The balance in the checkbook is \$6,177.79.

Sam announced that John Nyere is leaving his post as vice president of GWWCA. Sam introduced Joe Krycia, who the Board elected as an interim replacement for John for the rest of the year.

Sam informed the membership that the GWWCA donated \$500 to Officer Greg Kotteman for the Police Unity Tour. We received a nice thank you note.

On Saturday, September 10, from 5-7 p.m., there will be the annual two part ceremony at the Memorial Garden. The first hour will be for kids, and the second hour will include the Mt. Vernon Honor Guard as well as a tree planting. The tree will be a weeping cherry, and the planting will contain ashes from the Pentagon, as a weeping cherry at the Pentagon contains soil from our garden.

Regular GWWCA meetings will likely be changed from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, to avoid conflict with the Mt Vernon Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings.. Final decision on this will be announced at the next meeting.

Delegate Mark Sickles came to the meeting to provide an update on happenings in Richmond:

- The so-called "Droopy Drawers" bill was killed in Senate committee after passing in the House.
- The cigarette tax was raised by 30 cents per pack, effective July 1.
- Property tax rates were lowered, although skyrocketing property values still resulted in higher taxes for Northern Virginia citizens.
- Delegate Sickles was able to get the funding formula for libraries changed to benefit areas with high populations, such as Northern Virginia. It is now 30 cents per capita for the entire population, instead of 30 cents up to 600,000, then 10 cents per capita above that.
- There were further discussions on a food tax, Medicaid, medical malpractice reform, and the Chesapeake Bay situation.

Delegate Sickles took questions.

Sam then introduced the Fairfax County Chief of Police, Officer David Rohrer.

Chief Rohrer has been with the FCPD for 25 years and considers it the best in the country. There are 1350 officers and 550 civilian employees. Chief Rohrer stated that he values integrity and fairness in policing. He also favors neighborhood policing.

Chief Rohrer discussed gangs, including MS13 and SSL, which are the biggest gangs in the area. However, several others are gaining footholds in the county. The vast majority of criminal activity by gangs is property-related, not assaults. The FCPD has a dedicated gang unit and a regional task force on gangs. There are 1500 to 2000 identified gang members in the county. Police use enforcement to keep the gangs disorganized and off-balance. While most gangs are involved in drug dealing, Chief Rohrer stated that that is not the case in our county yet. Chief Rohrer stressed the importance of family support of kids to keep them out of trouble. Police are trying to become more involved in prevention to fill the gaps. Kids are being recruited younger than ever, some in middle schools.

Chief Rohrer discussed various non-lethal weapons in certain situations. They include tasers, bean bag rounds, slugs, pepper spray, and pepper ball guns. These are used when possible, when the officers' lives are not threatened.

Members had many questions for Chief Rohrer.

The regular 50/50 raffle was held by Bonnie Clark to benefit the Memorial Garden.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, September 20.