

## **GWCA Membership Meeting – Tuesday, October 24, 2017**

Larry opened the meeting at 7:01. Welcome to all.

Agenda:

- Board elections: The four people who have held office in the past year were reelected:
  - Larry Dempsey, President
  - Parry Carlson, Vice-President
  - Paula Sutherland, Treasurer
  - Monica Rodgers, Secretary
  
- Treasurer's Report: Larry reviewed the report with the membership. The significant expense recently was for the two Little Free Libraries. They cost \$953.62. There were a few small expenses; e.g., hospitality items. The complete report is available upon request.
  
- Meeting Time: Please remember that the meetings now begin at 7:00, instead of 7:30. This change was proposed last year, and following a discussion, the membership agreed to test this earlier start time to determine if it will facilitate increased attendance.
  
- Guest Speaker: Charlie Forbes, Chief, Recycling, Compliance, and Planning Division
  - Definition of solid waste
  - Responsibilities include the following:
    - collection of all solid waste and recyclables in Fairfax County for 44,000 households and for county agencies.
    - Collection of solid waste and leaves in Sanitary Districts.
    - Recycling and Disposal Centers.
    - Community cleanup programs.
    - Provisions of waste disposal service County-wide.
    - Care and maintenance of two closed sanitary landfills.
    - Landfill Gas-to-Energy Projects
    - Specialty waste disposal and recycling (HHW, E-waste, etc).
    - Yard waste and brush recycling.
    - Permitting and compliance.
  - FFC Solid Waste Management Ordinance: regulates, establishes requirements, outlines enforcement protocols.
  - FFC uses an integrated solid waste management program:
    - Collection, transfer, disposal and recycling.
  - Approximately 20 solid waste collection service providers are licensed to operate in FFC.
  - Residents in Sanitary Districts receive weekly collection service from the county.
  - 90% of waste is collected by the private sector.
  
- Basic rules for all trash collectors:

- Most rules apply to everybody.
- Private sector collectors must be certified.
- Collection trucks are inspected and permitted.
- Refuse and recyclables must be collected at least once weekly.
- Service must include collection of recyclables.
- The collector must send out required notifications and an annual statement of service.
- Set-out min/max quantity, collection times, placarding.
- Key differences between county and private service:
  - Petition (county) vs subscription and contract (private).
  - Special tax assessment (\$345 for trash pick-up/0.015% [\$0.015 per \$100 of assessed value for leaf collection]) for county vs. typical payment practices for private sector.
  - Weekly collection (county) vs. more frequent (an option with private collectors).
  - Special collections, bulky items, etc.: county customers get up to 10 special collections a year; private companies charge for this.
  - Single Family Home (SFU) and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and government (county) vs. anything (private).
  - Emergency response obligations (county has these).

Q&A/Additional information:

1. Why do some neighborhoods have leaf collection and others do not? Answer: this is a separate part of the county collection, and residents need to request it from the county and seek approval from a certain number of neighbors. Contact the county for details.
2. Regarding the automation of trash collection, are the collection truck employees losing their jobs as a result of automation? Answer: No; there are always plenty of jobs within the county for them to be transferred, so this is settled with normal attrition.
3. If there were a natural disaster (such as a hurricane), would the county pick up all the trash? Answer: It would depend on the specific details of the disaster, but the county has a plan in place for handling these situations.
4. What about recycling books? Answer: The mixed paper market has changed, so books are now recyclable.
5. Are bedding items recyclable? No; they aren't. There is a risk of bedbugs, disease, etc.
6. How thoroughly do you need to clean recyclables? Answer: not very! In terms of the recycling, the materials will be washed by the companies that buy the recyclables. Washing before the consumer disposes of recyclables is up to the individual's desire to keep odors at bay.
7. Are there compactors on the recycling trucks? Answer: yes.
8. Are there fieldtrips for schools to trash and recycling centers? Answer: yes
9. One member described [www.Freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org), a great website for recycling/reusing items you don't need that other people might want.
10. Are regular batteries recyclable? Not by the county; however, there is a non-profit called Call to Recycle (<https://www.call2recycle.org/what-can-i-recycle>) that will provide a box for shipping the batteries for recycling.
11. Compact fluorescent light bulbs: do not put these in the trash or recycling. The sellers of these light bulbs are required to take them back. For example, if you buy them at Lowe's,

you can return the old ones back to Lowe's (<https://www.epa.gov/cfl/recycling-and-disposal-cfls#whererecycle>).

12. How do you recycle lithium ion batteries? Answer: When recycling lithium ion batteries, use any tape to cover the battery's terminals. This prevents an electrical connection that could overheat a battery and cause a fire.

If you have any questions on anything on this subject, please call Charlie Forbes at (703) 324-5230.

More from the GWWCA President:

- Larry reminded the membership of Nextdoor.com. He describes it as a blog for the neighborhood that also connects us with nearby neighborhoods. In GWWCA, there are currently 886 members in 616 member households out of 1240 eligible households. The website is [www.Nextdoor.com](http://www.Nextdoor.com). Please join if you haven't yet. This is a great tool for sharing information about many subjects, including but not limited to reports of crime in the area, new construction projects in the community, various items for sale, and requests for contractor referrals.
- The GWWCA Board has installed two Little Free Libraries (LFL) in the GWWCA area. The concept is "Take a book; leave a book." One is on Shannon Hill Dr. at Larry's house and the other is on Shaffer Dr at Monica's house. A third one was installed on Redwood Drive by a resident independent of GWWCA. To learn more about LFLs, please visit here: [www.littlefreelibrary.com](http://www.littlefreelibrary.com). These libraries provide books for children and adults. Go visit one and check it out!
- Larry solicited ideas for future meeting topics and/or speakers. Please send your ideas at any time to [gwwca.president@gmail.com](mailto:gwwca.president@gmail.com). What topics will increase meeting attendance? What are your interests and concerns for our community?
- Larry reviewed the latest crime report from the county. Incidents included assault, theft from buildings and vehicles, and vandalism, among others.
- Contact [gwwca.president@gmail.com](mailto:gwwca.president@gmail.com) if you have any questions about GWWCA or are interested in becoming involved.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 7:00.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24.