

GWCA Membership Meeting – Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Energy Action Fairfax presentation

Wendy Reed from GolinHarris gave a presentation. GolinHarris is the firm hired by the county to manage the energy saving program. Wendy made the following points:

There is a new program initiated by the county and funded by a grant from the Dept. of Energy.

- Community outreach education program
- Aims to help residents learn how to use energy more wisely, therefore reducing our energy load
- 1/5 of energy we use goes to energizing our homes
- Handouts in front of room
- Website will be provided to get more information
- Two ways to save energy at home: make energy-saving upgrades or change the way we use what we have
- Consider taking three to five actions in addition to current practice to make changes to increase energy efficiency

Scott Donaldson from HPS also presented. He performs many home energy audits. He discussed the following points:

- He is a building analyst certified by the Building Performance Institute.
- President of Home Energy Medics—family owned and operated
- Home Energy Consultant
- B.S. in Aerospace Engineering
- Reviewed common myths and misperceptions about energy consumption
- 40% of heating and cooling energy is due to air leaking
- Combustion safety
- Venting and sealing throughout house
- Home energy audit is the first step: analysis uses diagnostic equipment to evaluate the home for comfort issues, energy savings, indoor air quality, and safety issues. It finds root causes, and they develop solutions to address cold/hot rooms, reduce energy bills, and fix health and safety issues. Cost is typically \$395 and takes about four-five hours. The audit can identify 20% or greater savings on energy bills.
- Improvement priorities are air sealing, insulation, air sealing ducts, HVA system upgrade, water heat upgrade, window replacement and appliance upgrades
- Air leakage is the number one source of energy loss
- Q&A

1. Treasury report balance is \$6,260
2. Thank you to Catherine Foltz—former land use representative
3. Land Use position is open
4. Public relations position is open
5. Secretary position will be open
6. Very little support for creating a neighborhood watch program—suspended

VA Delegate Mark Sickles attended and gave a presentation on the state's latest legislative session. Below are some highlights:

- current politics in state legislature are very partisan
- 2 year budget up for approval this year
- 1986 was the last year we raised any dedicated funding for transportation
- Sales tax was raised from 4 ½ % to 5% in 1986
- Governor McDonnell wants to put money from the general fund to transportation—the problem is that too many other things are already underfunded, such as higher education and housing for the disabled. There is a “shaky” bipartisan effort not to make this transfer due to the negative effects on the other programs. They voted against the governor on this.
- A republican from VA Beach proposed indexing the gas tax.
- Express (HOT) lanes—big experiment; time will tell how successful they are
- New legislation: Ignition lock in cars for first DUI (at .08, as opposed to currently .15)
- Voter id requirements might change—currently voter is required to sign on their oath that they are who they say they are.
- Ultrasound required for women seeking an abortion. Invasive ultrasound not approved, so external ultrasound passed, even though early on in pregnancy it can't show anything. Woman must pay for it herself—not covered by insurance.
- Oral chemotherapy: made equal to IV chemo so that insurance charges are equal
- Eliminated the purchase limit of one handgun a month—there are now no limits.
- New retirement system for state employees
- Bills responding to Penn State scandal
- Passed a law allowing adoption agencies to use their religious beliefs to influence adoptions
- Amazon now has to pay taxes
- Bills that failed: school system start before Labor Day, homeschoolers to be allowed to play on public school teams, law requiring photo id to vote, personhood bill, HPV vaccine information, mandatory drug testing for temporary assistance to needy families
- Governor and AG working to get rid of Affordable Care Act. Health care exchange part of this was going to help small businesses
- The judicial nomination of the gay (and highly qualified) Chief Deputy Commonwealth's attorney for Richmond was rejected. The Family Foundation came out against him. (read their statement online <http://familyfoundation.org/2012/05/judge-not-will-general-assembly-on-monday-elect-controversial-attorney-to-state-bench>)

- Penn Daw update from Larry and Melissa Lakey:
- initial plan passed land use; land use meeting on Monday, June 4 at 7:00 at the Franconia Government Center for School and Poag St. land—second go around for proffers
- Planning commission on Thursday, June 14 at 8:15 in the Fairfax Gvt center
- Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, July 10 at 3:30 pm at Fairfax Government center

No 50/50 Raffle

Next meeting is September 18, 2012

Meeting adjourned at 9:12.