

Minutes of the May 21, 2013 Meeting of the Greater Wilton Woods Citizens Association

GWCA President Larry Dempsey brought the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

He reported that membership has grown and is the largest in a number of years. He encouraged attendees to join the neighborhood social networking site, www.gwwca.nextdoor.com.

Treasurer's report: \$3,115 in membership dues has been collected. Mr. Dempsey urged attendees to pay their dues if they had not already done so. Donations were made to Koinonia and to the Edison High School grad night party.

The first presentation was made by Dylan Routt, a Senior Scout in Boy Scout Troop #4077. He is working on his Eagle Scout project, which is to teach flag etiquette and proper flag disposal. His project is supported by AmVets. Troop members will be leaving a bag at each residence in the Greater Wilton Woods area on Saturday, June 1 for residents to put any American flags in that they want to dispose of. The flags will be picked up by the Scouts on Saturday, June 8. There will be a ceremony to properly and respectfully dispose of flags on Monday, June 10 at 7 p.m. at St. Mark's Church (6744 S. King's Highway). Flags may also be brought to the ceremony if the pick-up time is missed.

The main speaker of the evening was Josh Smith from the Fairfax County Department of Health. His presentation addressed mosquito and tick control. He provided a number of brochures on the subject and some mosquito dunks for people to take home.

The mosquito-related portion of his presentation stressed the importance of eliminating any potential mosquito breeding areas, such as standing water. The mosquito dunks he brought are a larvicide for use in bird baths, rain barrels, and downspout extensions – anything that holds water. It is particularly important to empty the downspout extensions of water after a rain. Mr. Smith explained that Asian Tiger Mosquitos are the most common in Fairfax County. The West Nile Virus is transmitted by mosquitos who feed on birds infected with the virus, then they in turn transmit it back to birds and to incidental hosts such as animals and sometimes people. Usually the virus is just transmitted to birds. 80% of the people who are infected with the virus are asymptomatic, 20% contract West Nile Fever and less than 1% of that group has serious complications such as encephalitis. There were 8 cases of West Nile Fever in Fairfax County last year, with one death.

Ticks transmit disease to wildlife and domestic animals. Deer tick larva feed on deer, mice and squirrels. Humans are potential hosts to deer tick nymphs.

The county conducts tick sampling by using CO₂ traps, dragging and flagging. They also collect ticks from veterinary clinics and animal shelters.

The Health Department offers a tick ID service, but do not test the ticks for disease. It is important to get a tick identified as not all are deer ticks.

The *Ixodes scapularis*, or deer tick, is active above 40°. It transmits Lyme disease, which presents symptoms such as a bull's eye rash, fatigue, chills, headache, etc. It was emphasized that you should consult your doctor if you have such symptoms. Untreated, they can lead to other lesions, cardiac involvement and musculo-skeletal problems. The peak of reporting Lyme disease is in June. Other tick-borne diseases include erlichiosis and spotted fever. The most common tick in the county is the Lone Star tick.

Personal protection such as using repellent, dressing properly, showering thoroughly after coming indoors, checking yourself for ticks and tick removal were explained.

The Health Department endeavors to educate Fairfax County residents by community outreach programs and other education efforts. For more information on the Health Department's Disease Carrying Insects Program, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/westnile/>.

The next agenda item was the Lighthouse Baptist Church school. There was a Board of Zoning Appeals Hearing on April 23, but the decision was delayed until July 24.

The next topic was Wilton Road Traffic Calming. Two speed humps (at 5943 and 5955) and one speed table (at the power line right of way) have been proposed. Ballots are being mailed to all affected households and must be returned to the county by June 15. At least 50% of the households must respond and of those that respond, 60% must vote yes.

Some suggestions were made for alternate traffic calming methods instead of speed humps or tables. Stop signs were suggested by some of the residents. Only one stop sign would be allowed and it would have to be at either Oakland or Sharon Chapel. The county DOT said a stop sign could not be installed at the corner of Sharon Chapel Road as there would be a possible issue with merging traffic caused by the island on Wilton Road at that point. A radar sign was denied by the county. One person suggested a mirror on the median, but that is not considered a traffic calming device.

The next agenda item was traffic calming on School Street. A task force has just been formed to study the possibility. Their first meeting will be in June.

A question was asked about the results of a traffic calming study done for Pinebrook and Old Telegraph several years ago. The GWWCA president said he would try to find out what happened to it.

The traffic plan for the Grande at Huntington, a new development to be built on the Fast Eddies site, was discussed. Several plans had been proposed and the current one proposed would make left turns from School Street on to N. King's Highway impossible. The planning commission is meeting on Wednesday, May 23, but the traffic pattern will not be discussed.

The next GWWCA meeting will be on September 17.

With no further questions or agenda items, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.