

GWWCA Membership Meeting – Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Larry opened the meeting at 7:30. Attendance was sparse.

Agenda:

- Treasurer's Report: Larry reviewed GWWCA expenditures since September.
- Invited Speaker: Dean Sherik, Community Outreach Liaison, Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management.
- GWWCA.nextdoor.com membership: Please join! Next Door is a very useful tool for residents. It has been used to advertise yard sales, sales of individual personal household items, conveying information about suspicious activities in the area, and updates on development projects that affect the neighborhood, to name a few. Spread the word!
- General announcements and updates:

Penn Daw Plaza is now completely empty. The CVS closed and was replaced by a new one down on Route 1 at Lockheed Blvd. Demolition is supposed to begin soon.

Invited speaker: Dean Sherik, Community Outreach Liaison, from the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management. Preparing Our Community for the Unexpected

- This center conducts the following: planning, training & exercise, outreach, and grants & finance.
- The county Emergency Operations Plan is available online. It provides guidance on the plans for various disasters.
- The World Police and Fire Games is kind of like the Olympics for firefighters and police officers. It involves 10,000 participants from around the world.
- Provides information to the public, coordinates communications among all local organizations and between federal, state and local agencies, coordinates logistics, mutual aid agreements, emergency shelter, etc.
- Emergencies include hurricanes and flooding, fires, snowstorms, and hazardous material spills/leaks. Preparedness for all of these is similar. Recommendations include the following:
 - Have a plan: communications plan, out of town contact, shelter in place, evacuation plan, meeting places
 - Make a kit: each attendee of the meeting received a starter kit. Some items to include are food, water, batteries, flashlights, radio, and cash in small bills.
 - When you check smoke detector batteries, also check your emergency kit for expiration dates. Store these in a cool, dry place in extra suitcases or bins.
 -
- List of websites for emergency information, including emergency alerts (Fairfax Alerts), snowplowing status, and emergency blog.
- Access and functional needs
- Pets
- Roads: traffic alerts allow you to make an informed decision about whether and when to leave
- Citizen Corps Volunteer Opportunities: CERT, Fire Corps, Medical Reserve Corps, Volunteers in Public Service (VIPS), Volunteer Fairfax, and Neighborhood Watch
- Additional Resources: Fairfax County OEM, CDC, FEMA, Red Cross

Questions and Answers followed.

2016 Elections will be at the next meeting on Tuesday, February 6, 2016.

Thanks to everyone who attended, and welcome to all new and prospective members. Happy Thanksgiving. The meeting adjourned at 8:30.