

Minutes of the Greater Farmland Civic Association (GFCA)
Community General Meeting
October 18, 2016

The Board of Directors of the Greater Farmland Civic Association met on April 6, 2016 at Farmland Elementary School, Old Gate Road, Rockville MD 20852 at 7:00 PM. Approximately 80 community members as well as Board members Ed Rich, Marta Vogel, Tom Biggs, Toby Levin, and Peggy Slye, along with Committee Chairs Emily Mintz, Pamela Levine and Tracy Miller attended this meeting. President Ed Rich called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM

Community Forum/Member Comments: No comments were provided at this time.

President's Report: President Ed Rich welcomed the community and reported that the annual GFCA membership drive is now underway and letters to all households in the community regarding membership would be distributed soon. Annual dues remain \$25 per household for the year beginning January 2017.

Two upcoming GFCA events were announced, a November community meeting to be held at the newly renovated Tilden Recreation Center and a January Winter on the Farmland event for community families to be held at Farmland Elementary School. Details of these events will be provided to GFCA shortly.

Ed Rich also introduced the three guest speakers for the evening: Officer Oliver Janey, Montgomery County Police, District 2 Community Relations, WSSC Old Farm Creek Stormwater Restoration Project Team representatives and Tim LaCoste of State Farm Insurance.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Tom Biggs provided a written report in advance of the meeting indicating that cash on hand in all accounts totals \$19,534.52 which includes all expenditures year to date in 2016 for GFCA activities and expenses. Current membership includes 441 households.

Guest Speakers:

Officer Oliver Janey from the Montgomery County Police Department, District 2, addressed community members on the topics of community, household and traffic safety. Officer Janey indicated that the Montgomery County Police District 2 covers 54 square miles and that regular reports of emergencies and concerns to the police by the community would assist the police in covering this large area. In order to report concerns effectively to the Police, Officer Janey reminded the community that the official county emergency number 911 should only be used to report true emergencies. Other concerns should be report via the Montgomery County Police Non-Emergency number which is 301-279-8000. He also indicated that the Montgomery County General Contact number

311 should be used for non-police related questions and concerns. Recently, the GFCA area has had 3 reported burglaries and 4 calls regarding traffic matters in the community. Officer Janey also indicated that neighbors who watch for unusual activity in the community and report such issues are very helpful to the police. Officer Janey suggested that when a community member reports a crime or a community concern that they meet with Police Officers to discuss the matter, not simply make a telephone report. If community members see acts of vandalism taking place in the community, they should call the Police, but that they should not attempt to stop the actions underway without police assistance.

Officer Janey also indicated that he heard concerns about traffic issues in the community, especially speeding and failure of drivers to come to a complete stop at intersections with stop signs. He indicated that cell phone videos and/or a description of the car, including make, model and tag number are very helpful to police in following up on such concerns. In answer to a community question, Officer Janey responded that bicyclists are required to follow all traffic rules and regulations which apply to motorists and are subject to the same fines and penalties as drivers for failure to do so. He encouraged community members to call the Montgomery County Police Non-Emergency number to report all concerns and to follow the rule, "If you see something, say something" when in doubt about what should be reported. In response to another community question about home security, Officer Janey indicated that the police will conduct a home security inspection for community members upon request and that such inspections are a regular component of a police investigation following a burglary or home break-in.

A WSSC team, including Jacob Breschner, Justin Stegal, Caroline Stanley and John Mitchell, reported on the new Storm Restoration Project for Old Farm Creek. The purpose of the project to is restore and stabilize Old Farm Creek, including actions to reduce erosion of the creek beds, to remove debris from the creek, to protect mature trees in the area, to stabilize the outflow tributaries from the creek and to protect existing infrastructure. The project will take place over a 10 week period from December 2016 through March 2017. The permit for the project is pending. Work on the project will take place Monday through Friday from 7 AM to 7 PM. Access to the project worksite will be via Old Club Road. The pumps required for the project will be set up and broken down daily. A deer protection fence will be installed around the project worksite. Ecotone Contractors will lead the work on behalf of WSSC. In response to questions from the community, the WSSC team indicated that:

- water quality in the watershed area is generally safe for human contact but that water quality is higher in dry periods rather than after storms;
- trees which need to be removed for the project work will be replaced with similar native trees following the work
- wildflowers will not be replaced;
- fifty-year flood levels had been considered in planning the project as had the
- need to avoid mosquito breeding conditions at the conclusion of the project and
- that tree and shrub varieties selected as replacements will be deer resistant.

Some truck traffic through the neighborhood should be expected during the project and that the timing of such traffic will be coordinated to avoid conflict with local school traffic. Roads in the community will be evaluated pre and post project and any necessary repairs to roads which might be damaged during the project will be conducted based on that evaluation.

Tim LaCoste, an insurance agent with the State Farm insurance company, addressed the community on matters related to homeowners' insurance. Mr. LaCoste advised community members who had questions about whether specific situations were suitable as homeowner's insurance claims to consult with their insurance agent. However, he also advised doing triage first in the case of major damage to a home to avoid additional secondary damage and then contacting the insurance company for assistance. Mr. LaCoste indicated that a special policy endorsement was needed to cover situations which involved water entering the home from outside, including any back-ups of sewers and drains and explained that, in general, damage from falling water was covered but damage from rising water was not. He advised homeowners to check the specific coverages of their policies in this regard.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.