

GFCA Annual Meeting

May 26, 2021 at 7PM

President Ed Rich, called the meeting to order via ZOOM at 7:05

Ed allowed members to bring up any topics for discussion. None were presented.

CAR BREAK-INS

Montgomery County Police Department Officer Lanham and Sgt. Perkins attended to discuss a rash of car break-ins and thefts in the neighborhood. Although there have been accounts of such incidents on the Listserve, the police have observed no major trends in our neighborhood. These events are mostly crimes of opportunity, when vehicles and residences are left unlocked, or keys left in the car. No residential burglaries have been reported in our neighborhood. Concerning open investigation in relation to the car break-ins, there are two detectives assigned to car thefts for the entire county. Persons of interest are being questioned, but there is nothing more to report. The officers answered questions from the community, including suggestions for how to deter would-be thieves: Bright lights or motion sensor lights are a good deterrent. Parking on the street puts you further from house lights and makes your car more susceptible.

BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Toby Levin presented the amendments to the GFCA Bylaws, which had been previously distributed on the Listserv. Toby summarized the important changes: 1.) These amendments are intended to clarify that voting is one vote per household. If an owner has multiple residences, he or she still has only one vote. 2.) In terms of voting, we eliminated a cumbersome absentee voting process. 3.) The Nominating Committee has also been eliminated because our pool of potential directors always comes from self-nomination and this has worked very well. 4.) We've allowed our board meetings to be held online, if necessary. 5.) Members of the community can petition for a meeting, reducing the number of petitioners to 5 from 15. 6.) We've tried to make our by-laws more flexible. 7.) Membership information currently consists of our directory, and we've expressly stated that the directory is private, for members' use only, which is a stronger privacy provision. Members in good standing, those who are current in their dues, were eligible to vote. Toby Levin moved and Karen Fricke seconded the motion to accept the Amendments to the Bylaws as presented. A voice vote was held and the motion was carried.

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Marjorie Raley presented the slate of board members. Karen Fricke, Toby Levin, Julie Merberg, and Ed Rich made brief presentations. A voice vote was held and all were unanimously elected.

WASHINGTON GAS AND LIGHT

Emily Mintz took notes for this portion of the meeting. Ed Rich introduced Daminique Branch, our community outreach manager for Washington Gas and Light (WGL). She had a prepared powerpoint presentation.

WGL has 1M customers, with 241,000 meters in Montgomery County

Natural gas is odorless and colorless, but Mercaptan is added to give it a distinctive smell. She emphasized that we should call WGL **EVERY TIME** we smell gas, even if it is a repeat issue. Reported leaks are investigated right away, then evaluated for level of concern. They will score the number of times they've had to come out and the scope of the problem to determine if more work is needed. They keep a log and history of reports and results of investigations. A Grade 2 leak might take up to 6 months to repair, but WGL will not leave any leak in an unsafe condition. She said that most calls are responded to in 20-30 minutes. This timeframe was disputed by a neighbor in the Chat. If the homeowner isn't home, the investigator will leave a door hanger card.

Number to call to report a leak, 844-WASHGAS, 844-927-4427

Neighborhood projects completed thus far:

- 6600 block of Sulky Lane, 1 home left to complete
- 6700 block of Sulky Lane
- 11000 block of Stonewood Lane (*note from Emily: I don't know where that is. Stonewood goes from the 11400's to 11900's*)
- Parts of Tilden Lane (*note from Emily: she went too fast, and I didn't get the #s*)
- Whippoorwill Lane, gas line main replaced and street repaved.

Someone told Ms. Branch that Whippoorwill has been cut into for additional work after the repaving.

WGL surveys neighborhoods every 3 years, with a Periodic Leak Survey. There is a Distribution Integrity Management Program, DIMP. There are annual replacement programs set up for problem areas. Maryland has a program called STRIDE for line replacement. To see a map of future replacement projects, go to washingtongas.com/safety-education/safety/pipe-replacement-projects. This will not include small, individual projects. (*note from Emily: When I checked this map, there are no projects shown in our community.*)

Current and future projects:

Currently, BCA 297849, full main replacement of 1085 feet on Tildenwood Drive from Old Stage Rd to Tildenwood Lane, includes line replacements to 16 homes of the 19 customers in that stretch. Scope of work May 2021-Oct 2021, with repaving the rest of the year.

BCA 299073, full main line replacement of 483 feet on Sulky Lane west of Tildenwood Drive. When she showed us the map, it showed the Tilden Woods side of Sulky Lane, which is east of TW Dr, which we pointed out to her. Scope of work 2022.

Ed will go over the maps with Ms. Branch, who was recently assigned to our area, to highlight the multiple areas that have been reporting problems in the past few years and were not mentioned.

When replacement projects are done, gas is interrupted, then restored by the end of the day. WGL will repair yards affected, when lines to the houses are involved. They do private property restoration, and then come back for permanent road restoration. Emily asked if WGL will restore hardscaping (driveways, walkways) that may be torn up on private property. She thinks that will be restored, too, but she will double-check.

Ed asked her for a comprehensive list of projects that have been completed in the past few years and the service status of our aging gas lines.

She ended with a slide for contact information, but Emily couldn't write down the phone numbers in time. These are the ones she was able to record:

Project construction manager, John Augustus, ja11744@washgas.com
Community outreach manager, Daminiqne Branch, dbranch@washgas.com.

Emily requested a set of the slides, and contact information, in particular, to be provided to us after the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20PM

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Fricke
GFCa Secretary