

Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC) City of Takoma Park

Meeting, September 22, 2016: Hydrangea Room //7-8.30 pm.

AGENDA

| Issue/ item | Who | Estimated Time | Hour |
|---|------------------------|----------------|-------|
| Welcome | Claudine | 5 min | 7. 05 |
| Guest: Tracy Rezvani, Montgomery County Consumer Protection* | Tracy Rezvani | 40 | 7.45 |
| City Brief; County Brief; Red Cross Oct 15 event | Ron | 20 min | 8.05 |
| November meeting date—17 Nov? | Claudine | 5 min | 8.15 |
| Update re; --Takoma Radio --Outreach: contact with City Council ; web pages --ideas for column; speakers | Claudine and committee | 5 | 8.20 |
| Other items? | ALL | 10 min | 8.30 |

Next Meeting: October 27, Thursday

Upcoming Events

- Takoma Street Festival - Sunday October 2

Emergency preparedness links:

MADRA: Mid-Atlantic Disaster Recovery Association: <http://www.madra.org/>

Training:

- Virginia Dept of Emergency Management: <http://www.vaemergency.com/em/training>
 - Maryland Emergency Management Agency - <http://www.mema.state.md.us/calendar/index.asp>
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency- <http://training.fema.gov/is/crslist.asp?page=all>
 - International Federation of the Red Cross - <https://ifrc.csod.com/client/ifrc/default.aspx>
 - Disasterready.org - <http://www.disasterready.org>

*** Guest Tracy Rezvani—**

Tracy Rezvani is Administrator, Office of Consumer Protection (Investigative Program Administrator).

M. Rezvani is an attorney with over 20 years' legal experience in consumer protection law. She has authored numerous consumer protection publications, managed law firms in consumer protection class action litigation, and advocated on behalf of individuals and non-profit clients. Tracy has extensive experience researching, interpreting and applying consumer protection statutes, working collaboratively with professional and administrative staff, and in public speaking.

EPC Committee—September 22, 2016 Minutes

Speaker: Tracy Rezvani, Administrator, Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection

- Ms Rezvani focused on post-disaster scams. Her office has been actively informing residents of the Flower Avenue apts about the potential for:
 - woodchucks: contractors who may come from out of the area/state and promise to do landscaping, sometimes renovation. They are NOT licensed in Montgomery County, and may ask for more than the maximum 1/3 deposit.
 - ‘affinity fraud’: scammers who claim to have been recommended by a neighbor or church or other group, and promise to fix a home after a disaster
 - ✓ Action: Contact Montgomery County ,Consumer Protection, 240-777-3636. This office has an on call ‘investigator of the day’.
<http://montgomerycountymd.gov/consumer>
 - ✓ Check with others in the group to see if the person really did work at their place and for quality and payment.
 - door-to-door sales persons offering to sell materials for renovation.
 - ✓ Action: contact Takoma Park, Office of the City Clerk or individual council member to see if the person has a Takoma Park license
 - persons claiming to be attorneys or ‘*notarios publicos*’
 - ✓ Action: check to see if the person is licensed in Maryland. Note that *notarios publicos* are notary publics; they are not attorneys in the USA, although they are in some Latin American companies
 - independent insurance adjusters: these people do not work with X insurance company, and may promise to negotiate a better deal.
 - ✓ Action: check with the insurance company to see if the person is legitimate and can negotiate
 - door-to-door charity requests: Use Charity Navigator or BBB to see if these are legitimate

In general: do not pay cash; check on the promises; get several estimates, call Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection to check if there have been claims or problems.

Ms Rezvani shared the attached flyer in English and Spanish. **WARNING**
Some people may try to take advantage of you

- Ron Hardy shared information about the work he’s doing in training City employees: shelter in place, lock-downs, active shooter, etc. Ron is also reviewing the Takoma Park Emergency Plan

- Oct 15: the Red Cross will be doing another fire prevention/smoke alarm check in our area/ Silver Spring.
- Other: investigate local TV 30-second spot by committee members (Ron); follow up with WOWD re radio participation (Claudine); emergency and pets issue
- Oct 2: Takoma Park Street Festival. Volunteers needed.