

HCA Meeting – 23 October 2019

When the first 2019 public meeting of the HCA was scheduled in September, we could not have imagined that the Washington Nationals would be playing the second game of the World Series! We were grateful that a dedicated group of about 30 people attended the meeting. The main order of business was to pass a budget for the year 2019-2020, which was approved through a vote of the attendees.

Most of the meeting, however, was taken up by an informative, 45-minute presentation about Emergency Preparedness by Joe Corona, CEM, Outreach Coordinator, Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEMHS). Mr. Corona narrated his slide show with a lot of useful information and responded to numerous questions from the audience. In addition, he gave out copies of the 16-page “Emergency Preparedness Workbook” which was published by the Montgomery County Government.

His email address: Joe.Corona@montgomerycountymd.gov

Among his presentation’s major points:

- The importance of overcoming “normalcy bias” and planning for emergencies.
- When to Shelter-in-Place and when to Evacuate.
- Shelter-in-Place Emergency Kit.
- Evacuation: the vital importance of a “To Go Kit” (also called a “bug-out bag”).
- Avoid driving into rushing water. Key phrase: “Turn around, don’t drown.”

(Note: one foot of water can separate a small car from the pavement; two feet of water can move most other vehicles.)