

# **ECA Newsletter**

**January 2018**

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## ECA New Year's Neighborhood Brunch

Hope you had a chance to stop by the ECA New Year's Neighborhood Brunch this past Sunday. There was a good crowd and it was nice to meet a lot of long-time and new neighbors. If you couldn't make it, we hope you can stop by next year. Many thanks to the members of the Edgemoor Club for once again allowing us to hold the event at the club. Additional thanks to everyone who helped out, especially to Alysa Emden, Hank Levine, and Julie Clark.

## Renovations to Caroline Freeland Urban Park

As you may know, Montgomery County approved a plan to renovate Caroline Freeland Urban Park (at the intersection of Elm Street and Arlington Road) back in 2015. The renovations have not begun yet and, according to the Park Manager, are not likely to begin any time soon due to budget constraints. However, some of the small trees and wooden planters have begun to seriously deteriorate, and the County plans to begin interim repairs to some of those beginning sometime this winter. Staff will be removing the deteriorated raised wooden planters and removing a few small trees in the area. In addition, portions of the wooden trellis and park benches will be repaired and replaced, as needed. Please use caution around work areas. For additional information, please see:

<https://www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/caroline-freeland-urban-park/>  
and

<https://www.montgomeryparks.org/projects/directory/caroline-freeland-urban-park-facility-plan/>

### Fairfax/Clarendon Intersection Revision

Last month, we mentioned the construction work to revise the intersection and Fairfax, Clarendon, and Manning. Although the majority of the work has been completed, the final step, which is to paint new lane markings and crosswalks, has been delayed by the arrival of winter weather. Montgomery County DOT now plans to complete the painting in the spring. Please continue to use caution as drivers and pedestrians become more accustomed to the new intersection configuration.

### Montgomery County Bicycle Master Plan

The Montgomery County Planning Board will conduct a public hearing for the Bicycle Master Plan Public Hearing Draft on Thursday, January 25, 2018 at the Planning Department Headquarters (8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD) from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. For additional information, see:

<http://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/functional-planning/bicycle-master-plan/>

### Bethesda Downtown Plan Implementation Advisory Committee

On December 7, 2017, the Montgomery County Planning Department appointed 14 individuals to the new Bethesda Downtown Plan Implementation Advisory Committee, including seven members from the property owner/business community and seven local residents. The Bethesda Downtown Sector Plan, approved last year, required the Planning Department to establish a representative and balanced Implementation Advisory Committee to coordinate and monitor the progress of development in the plan area, and ensure implementation of the plan's recommendations. This committee replaces the Woodmont Triangle Action Group (WTAG) established by the 2006 Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the 1994 Bethesda Central Business District Sector Plan. You can learn more about the Advisory Committee and the committee members at:

<http://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/communities/area-1/bethesda-downtown-plan/bethesda-downtown-implementation-advisory-committee/>

### A Better Maryland

At the state level, the Maryland Department of Planning has begun conducting community outreach for the state's new development plan, called "A Better Maryland." They will hold outreach events in each Maryland County and Baltimore City, which will include:

- Local planners and other government staff;
- Elected and appointed officials; and

- Members of the public and other interested parties.

All meetings will be open and available to anyone. The Montgomery County session is currently scheduled for March 12, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Montgomery County Planning Department's headquarters (8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD). If you are interested in learning more, see:

<http://abetter.maryland.gov/>and

<http://montgomeryplanning.org/weather-update-community-listening-session-maryland-department-planning-rescheduled-march-12/>

#### Tip of the Day – FreeCycle.org and Freecycle-BCC-MD

Two organizations with similar names and nearly identical missions – reducing landfills by putting in practice the old idiom “one person’s trash is another person’s treasure.” They help connect local people who want to give away things (for free) with local people who want those things (for free). Users can post a notice of something they want to give away or something they want to get and try to find a match. Exchanges must be completely free. They are great ways to clean out unwanted possessions that you don’t donate or resell, or to track down items that you need but cannot buy. Check them out. You’ll be surprised what you can find and what you can unload:

[https://groups.freecycle.org/group/Bethesda\\_ChevyChaseMD/posts/all](https://groups.freecycle.org/group/Bethesda_ChevyChaseMD/posts/all)

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/freecycle-bcc-md/info>

*The ECA Newsletter is a compilation of information relevant to Edgemoor residents. It is distributed on an occasional basis on the EC-Net email discussion group.*