

# **ECA Newsletter**

**January 2019**

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## Renew Your ECA Membership for 2019

Even though ECA Membership renewal letters will not go out until early this spring, I encourage you to renew online, now. You'll help reduce the cost and effort involved in the renewal process (for both you and the ECA). It's easy to renew online, where you can pay dues using a credit or debit card, PayPal or Venmo. No paper, no stamps, no problem. So please take a few minutes to do it right now, and we'll cross you off the renewal letter mailing list. Of course, anyone who does not renew now online will receive the usual renewal letter in the mail in a few weeks.

To renew online, go to the ECA Membership page on the ECA website ([HERE](#)), and follow the instructions under “To Renew Your Current ECA Membership.”

By the way, if you know of any neighbors (new or longtime residents) who are not aware of the ECA, feel free to tell them about us. If they are interested in learning more, there is lots of information on the ECA website ([www.edgemoorcitizens.org](http://www.edgemoorcitizens.org)).

## Snow Storm Reminders

After the recent snow storm, I heard from several people about sidewalks that were not cleared in the neighborhood, making pedestrian travel difficult and dangerous. One person even mentioned a home where the lawn sprinkler system was still operating, with the water run-off freezing on the sidewalk and roadway.

Please remember that County residents are required by law to clear sidewalks in front of and alongside their properties within 24 hours of the end of a snowstorm. You will find questions and answers about these rules [HERE](#). I'm not sure there is any specific law about lawn sprinklers, but using one in the winter seems like a big waste of water as well as a safety hazard.

### Accessory Dwelling Units

County Councilmember Hans Riemer has proposed changes to the County's rules governing accessory dwelling units (ADUs). ADUs are residences that are within, attached to, or on the same lot as an existing single-family detached home. As the legislative description states, Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 19-01 would "delete many of the current requirements on having an accessory [unit]" in residential neighborhoods such as ours. The proposal can be found [HERE](#). A Bethesda Beat piece on the proposal can be found [HERE](#).

A public hearing concerning ZTA 19-01 is scheduled for February 26 at 7:30 p.m. For more information about how to comment on the ZTA or testify at the hearing, go to the County Council's webpage [HERE](#).

The ECA is working with the Coalition of Bethesda Area Residents (CBAR) to follow developments, especially in how the ZTA might affect residential neighborhoods.

Our Board representative to CBAR is Joyce Gwadz. You can contact Joyce at [JTGwadz@gmail.com](mailto:JTGwadz@gmail.com).

### Energized Public Spaces Design Guidelines

Montgomery Parks is developing new guidelines for the design of parks and public spaces, including the recommended size, types of experiences and amenities that each park type should provide. These Energized Public Spaces (EPS) Design Guidelines are intended to create energized, inviting, easily accessible, attractive, comfortable, and safe public spaces. The goal is to improve park planning and ensure public access and inclusivity in all future park projects in high densely populated areas. They will help create places within a short walk where people of all ages and incomes can meet, play, relax, exercise, enjoy nature, and more.

The public is encouraged to review and submit comments on the EPS Design Guidelines Working Draft, which will also be presented at a work-session with the Planning Board on January 31, 2019. Complete information about the project, including the Working Draft and instructions for submitting comments, can be found on their website [HERE](#).

### ECA Board Changes

Several current members of the ECA Board have assumed new roles:

- At-Large Board Member Jeffrey Drichta has agreed to serve as Vice President (a position that had been vacant);
- Sue Hendrickson has resigned from her position as Secretary, but will remain an At-Large Board Member; and

- At-Large Board Member Bridget Foist has agreed to replace Sue as ECA Secretary.

All Board Member terms expire in October 2019, when we will hold the semi-annual Board election at our fall meeting. Look for more information about the election in a future ECA Newsletter.

#### “Classic” Edgemoor Tip of the Day – Trash/Recycling Collection Notification

With the Christmas, New Year, and Martin Luther King holidays, plus a major snow storm, have you been confused about when the trash trucks are going to stop by each week? You’d have no trouble if you remembered this Tip of the Day from November 2017 (with an updated link):

Tired of putting out the trash on Wednesday evening only to learn that the collection day had been moved to Friday this week? Get email or text updates on changes to the collection schedule by signing up [HERE](#).

Do you have a tip you’d like to share with your neighbors? Please email me your suggestions ([president@edgemoorcitizens.org](mailto:president@edgemoorcitizens.org)).

*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.*