

# **ECA Newsletter**

**July 2019**

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## New Member of ECA Board of Directors

The ECA Board of Directors has elected Linda Wenger to fill a vacancy on the Board that was created with the resignation of Julie Clark earlier this year. Linda will serve on the Board for the remainder of this term until this October. Linda and her husband Rob live on Hampden Lane. We are all looking forward to working with Linda on a variety of events and initiatives to advance the interest of residents of the community, maintain an attractive and safe neighborhood, foster interest in civic affairs, and promote the general welfare of the community.

## Montgomery Parks Seeks Public Input on E-Bike and E-Scooter Pilot Program

Montgomery Parks has launched the E-Bikes and E-Scooter Pilot Program, which will allow pedal-assisted electric bike (e-Bikes) and battery-operated scooters (e-Scooters) on certain Montgomery Parks trails from June 1 - December 1, 2019. Montgomery Parks will study the impact of e-bikes and e-scooters on hiker-biker, hard-surface trails. For additional information, please visit the Montgomery Parks E-Bikes and E-Scooters Pilot Program Project webpage [HERE](#). Members of the public can submit comments on the project by clicking on the link to the Open Town Hall on this project webpage.

## Accessory Dwelling Units and Zoning Text Amendment 19-01

On July 23, the Montgomery County Council unanimously adopted Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 19-01, which relaxed the rules for homeowners who wish to build Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) on their properties. You can see the Council's press release, including a summary of the amendment's provisions, [HERE](#).

As you probably know from my previous messages, the ECA opposed this legislation. Although we supported the ZTA's stated goals of increasing the supply of accessory

apartments in the County as a means of providing supplemental income to homeowners and increasing the supply of affordable housing in the County, we believed that the changes proposed would do little or nothing to achieve these goals, and would likely cause substantial negative impacts on existing single-family residential neighborhoods.

Although the Council eventually passed the ZTA, we were able (working with other residential communities and our County Councilperson Andrew Friedson) to achieve some significant changes to the legislation, including limitations on the size of detached ADUs in small lot residential zones like ours.

Many thanks to ECA Board Member Joyce Gwadz for her diligent work on this issue.

### Online ECA Neighborhood Directory and Phone App

The 2019-2020 ECA Neighborhood Directory has been printed and distributed to all dues-paying ECA members. But, remember that the Directory is also available online and with a phone app. You can find more information about how to access and uses these tools on the ECA website [HERE](#). Please note that although there is an iOS phone app, the old Android app is temporarily unavailable. However, the same ECA website page includes a link to a work around that allows Android users to easily access the Online Directory from their phones. The page also includes instructions for retrieving your username and password to access the Directory.

If you have any related problems or questions that are not addressed on the website, feel free to contact me at [president@edgemoorcitizens.org](mailto:president@edgemoorcitizens.org).

### Edgemoor Tip of the Day – Pruning Trees That Block or Crowd the Sidewalk

An ECA member contacted me and asked me to remind residents that they should prune trees on their property whose limbs or branches block or crowd sidewalk. That’s certainly a neighborly thing to do...but there is one caveat. All trees growing on the public right-of-way in most of our neighborhood belong to Montgomery County, not to the homeowner. The County Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining those trees. In fact, the County says that “[homeowners or residents should not remove; plant; prune or maintain trees in the public right-of-way](#).” If a tree that is affecting use of the sidewalk is on the right-of-way, please ask the county to do the pruning. If you are unsure whether the tree is in the right-of-way, ask the County to prune the tree anyway. They will tell you if it’s not on the right-of-way. To make a request online, go [HERE](#) and follow the instructions to create a service request. The request can be made by anyone – not just the homeowner where the tree is located. Be sure to give them your name and address as well as the address where the tree is, using the “Additional Information” box on the request form if necessary. You can also do this by phone by calling 311. (Note that for issues with trees and sidewalks along State roadways like Bradley Blvd. and Wilson Lane, you should contact the State of Maryland Highway Administration [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 area residents. It is distributed on an occasional basis on the EC-Net email list.*