

ECA Newsletter

March 2018

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2018 ECA Membership Renewals/New Members

Every ECA Member should have received a membership renewal letter in the mail the shortly after it was mailed on March 10. I hope each of you will continue to be a supporter of the ECA. Many ECA members have already renewed. If you have not, please do it today. it's easy. You don't even need the letter. Just go to the Membership page of the new ECA website (<http://www.edgemoorcitizens.org/ecamembership.html>), where you can renew using a credit or debit card, PayPal or Venmo. If you want to renew the old fashioned way, by printing and completing the form we sent you in the mail, that's fine. If you don't have the form, you will find one at this same web page. The modest \$25 annual dues help support a variety of ECA community activities and events, as well as production of the ECA Neighborhood Directory (both paper and digital forms). Please renew. Don't delay.

2018 ECA Neighborhood Directory

...and, speaking of the Neighborhood Directory,... As you may remember, we did not print a hard copy of the ECA Neighborhood Directory last year (although the updated directory continued to be available online and through the HOA phone app). This year, we will print a new, updated one. It will be mailed to every ECA member household later this spring. So, it's important that you update your own directory listing information right away. You'll be asked to do that as a part of the membership renewal process, but you can do it any time. Visit the Neighborhood Directory page of the ECA website (<http://www.edgemoorcitizens.org/neighborhooddirectory.html>) for complete instructions.

New Feature: Bethesda Small Business Showcase

Within the next couple of months, we hope to begin including an occasional item in the ECA Newsletter featuring a Bethesda small business. The plan is to tell the story behind some of the small businesses in our community. If you would like to suggest a business for this feature, just send me an email (president@edgemoorcitizens.org) and tell me why the business would be of interest to your neighbors. If possible, include contact information for the business owner. Please do not nominate a business that you own or in which you have a financial interest. Decisions about which business to feature and the content of the article will be made solely by the ECA Board.

Dogs and the Bethesda Elementary Playing Field

Many of you may have noticed that the fence around the Bethesda Elementary playing field now features a variety of signs, hand drawn by BE students, imploring neighbors who use the play fields to clean up after their dogs. You may even have seen a story on WJLA-TV about it (<http://wjla.com/news/local/students-make-posters-targeting-dog-owners-leaving-feces-on-athletic-field-by-md-school>). The signs are all very cute, but it's discouraging that young children have to resort to this in hopes of keeping their schoolyard clean. Despite the children's efforts, there are still people who don't have the common courtesy and decency to pick up after their pets.

PLEASE don't be a part of this problem. If you use the BE playing field to exercise your pet, keep an eye on things and clean up. Don't leave a bag of poop for someone else to dispose of. And, if you see another person failing to do this, say something (politely).

Of course, there is a related issue -- the need for public dog parks. The County is currently discussing potential solutions with nearby community groups, including the ECA. I will keep you posted on developments.

Facebook and Privacy

In response to recent news stories about the Cambridge Analytica scandal, the Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection has compiled a list of actions you can take to help protect your privacy when using Facebook. The step-by-step guide is available at:

http://montgomerycountymd.gov/OCP/Resources/Files/OCP_News/FB%20Newsletter.pdf.

Edgemoor Tip of the Day – Nextdoor Edgemoor

Nextdoor is a free, ad-supported, online neighborhood social network that has become popular with residents of many local communities in the past couple of years. Many government agencies and organizations have begun to use Nextdoor as a means of communication with the public. For example, the previous item on Facebook and Privacy was circulated by the Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection on Nextdoor. The Montgomery County Police also use it, as does Washington Suburban

Sanitary Commission. Although the ECA does not endorse commercial enterprises like Nexdoor, some neighbors have found it helpful as a supplement to EC-Net, the ECA's neighborhood email list.

While Nextdoor is similar in some ways to EC-Net, it's quite different in several respects. Nextdoor is organized into separate neighborhoods (Edgemoor, Kenwood Park, Battery Park, etc.) and, though it has fewer member households in our immediate neighborhood than EC-Net, overall, it covers a much larger area and has more total members. Nextdoor allows (within limits) users to promote businesses, advocate for causes, and discuss local politics and political candidates. It also allows users to create their own sub-groups for discussion of specific topics, has more options for how users receive messages, and handles content moderation differently. If you would like to learn more, visit https://nextdoor.com/about_us/. To join, go to <https://nextdoor.com/> and type in your home and email addresses.

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.