

# **ECA Newsletter**

**March 2019**

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## ECA Spring Membership Meeting

The semi-annual ECA Membership Meeting for spring 2019 will be held on Thursday, April 11 at the Edgemoor Club. Come early at 6:30 PM and join your neighbors for a glass of wine and hors d'oeuvres (both provided by the ECA). The meeting will follow at 7:15. The majority of the meeting will be devoted to a community conversation with our new Montgomery County Councilmember, Andrew Friedson. He will talk about his priorities for the future, share his thoughts on issue of interest to our neighborhood, and answer questions. After that, we will discuss EC-Net, the ECA's email group. Are the posting rules too restrictive? Too open? Should there be more open discussion and exchange of views on topics of interest to users? Less? Are there other forums community discussion and communication?

## *Friends of Edgemoor* House and Garden Tour

The *Friends of Edgemoor* will host the 2019 Edgemoor House and Garden Tour on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. The tour will include area homes and gardens that showcase stunning architecture, lush landscaping, and elegant decorating. Tea will be served after the tour on the terrace of one of Edgemoor's loveliest estates.

Tickets are available (cash or check only) from 12:00 noon to 3:15pm on the day of the tour at The Edgemoor Club, 7415 Exeter Road, Bethesda, MD 20814. No children under 12 years of age. No dogs except registered service dogs.

The House and Garden Tour raises funds for *Friends of Edgemoor*, a nonprofit service organization formed in 1993. Proceeds have been used to beautify our community, support the landscaping at Bethesda Elementary, provide landscaping and books for the Bethesda Library.

If you are interested in placing an advertisement in the House and Garden Tour Program (which is expected to reach over 500 people), you can find more information [HERE](#). If you would like to make a donation to help defray the costs of the tour, your generosity will be acknowledged in the tour program. For more information on advertising and donations, contact this year's Tour chair, Judy Gilbert Levey at [judygilbertlevey17@gmail.com](mailto:judygilbertlevey17@gmail.com).

### Montgomery County Police/ECA Community Meeting

On Monday, March 18, Montgomery County Police held a community meeting for residents of our neighborhood. Those who attended had the opportunity to talk with police face-to-face about area crime issues and to ask questions. You can read a brief summary of the meeting [HERE](#).

### Home Security Cameras and Sharing Safety/Security Information

One of the topics discussed at the Police/ECA Community Meeting was the use of private security cameras and sharing security camera images and security alerts with neighbors. We discussed the "Neighbors" phone app. It's essentially a social network for people who want to share safety/security information with neighbors. Although originally developed by and for the Ring doorbell/camera, anyone can join the network for free and use the app to share and receive information and alerts. You can find out more [HERE](#). The app can also connect with other social networks like Nextdoor. If you would like to share security camera footage and alerts with neighbors, social networks like Neighbors and/or Nextdoor are the best way to do that.

Although home security cameras may be helpful in fighting crime, they also present some concerns about privacy and civil liberties. (You can see one discussion about this in a recent Washington Post article [HERE](#)). For this reason, posting videos and warnings on EC-Net should only be done when the police have asked for the community's help in gathering or disseminating security camera information.

### Pedestrian Crosswalk at Elm Street and Clarendon Road

At the ECA's request, the County Department of Transportation recently conducted a traffic and pedestrian audit at the intersection of Clarendon and Elm Street. Based on the results of the audit, the County has agreed to add a pedestrian crosswalk across Elm Street at that intersection. As I noted in an EC-Net posting last August, the County is already scheduled to install a new sidewalk on the west side of Clarendon Road between Exeter Road and Elm Street. The new pedestrian cross-walk will

connect the end of that sidewalk to the existing sidewalk on the north side of Elm Street. In conjunction with those changes, the County has agreed to remove the extraneous asphalt area that currently exists in the southwest corner of that intersection and replace it with an extension of the grass right-of-way that runs along the west side of Clarendon. This will prevent cars and truck from parking on that spot and blocking the sight lines of pedestrians and drivers there.

Unfortunately, we were not successful in getting them to install a 4-way stop at that intersection, or a crosswalk across Clarendon at the existing stop sign. Nevertheless, the changes that they are making should significantly improve safety of the intersection.

Construction work is expected to begin in the late spring or summer.

### Elm Street Right-of-Way Walking Path

As I discussed in the November and December Newsletters (see them [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)), the ECA has been working with the County to improve the walkway that goes through the Elm Street right-of-way between Fairfax and Glenbrook Roads by installing a pervious concrete path. Installing the path would require the removal of five trees from the area—four that are dead, dying, or unsafe, and one large healthy Sycamore tree. Throughout this past winter, we've been working on possible ways to save the one healthy tree. With the dedicated help of local resident David Moulton and the tireless work of ECA Vice President Jeffrey Drichta, we explored several options, including rerouting the path, using an alternative material for that segment of the path, and monitoring the tree for health instead of removing it. But, in the end, the County arborist reconfirmed that the tree will have to be removed because the root system will be compromised by the path construction.

Despite the prospect of losing this tree, there is still strong support in the community for the path. So, the County is now completing the necessary steps to start the project. They hope to be able to install the path in the late spring or summer in conjunction with the sidewalk work on Clarendon Road (see above). After the new path is in, we will continue to work with the County to identify locations for them to plant fifteen new trees to replace the five that will be removed.

### There's Still Time to Pay ECA Dues for 2019

If you already paid 2019 ECA dues, thank you for your support. If you have not, you still have time to renew. Remember that only dues-paying ECA members:

- Receive the annual printed ECA Neighborhood Directory;
- Enjoy online access to the directory and use of the Directory app; and
- Are eligible to vote in ECA elections (held every 2 years in October).

You can pay dues using a credit or debit card, PayPal or Venmo following the instructions on the ECA website [HERE](#). Or, you can fill out and mail in the renewal

form you received in the mail. If you have any problems or need help with the renewal process, please contact me by email ([president@edgemoorcitizens.org](mailto:president@edgemoorcitizens.org)).

In addition, don't forget to update your ECA Neighborhood Directory listing information. The paper directory will be printed and mailed in a few weeks, so there is time to make any changes to your listing before that. To update your listing online, see the instructions on the ECA website ([HERE](#)). If you received a renewal notice in the mail, you can make changes by completing the form that came with your letter. Again, if you need help, or just want to send an email with the updated listing information, contact me at the email address above.

### Edgemoor Tip of the Day – Montgomery County's Street Tree Maintenance Program

Did you know that any tree growing in a street right-of-way is owned by the county? Did you know that the Department of Transportation is responsible for the health and maintenance of county-owned trees? Did you know that permits are required to do anything that impacts a county-owned tree? No? Then you may want to check out the Division of Highway Services' Street Tree Maintenance Program. Look on their website ([HERE](#)) for information about:

- The acceptable species of taller and shorter trees for county rights-of-way;
- How to request a street tree;
- How to care for street trees;
- How to request inspection, removal, or pruning of a street tree;
- How to obtain a permit to perform work that may affect street trees;
- How to file a complaint about suspected violations of street tree rules; and
- Much, much more.

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.*