

ECA Newsletter

May 2020

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2020 Presidential Primary Election Will Be Primarily Vote-By-Mail

The 2020 Presidential Primary Election, originally scheduled for April 28, will be held on Tuesday June 2. This will be primarily a “vote-by-mail” election, which means the Board of Elections recommends that you vote by mail unless you are unable. The BOE will mail mail-in ballots to all registered voters in Mid-May. All ballots will come with a return envelope and prepaid return postage. Ballots must be mailed back and postmarked no later than June 2.

Voters who cannot mail in ballots may drop them off between May 21 and June 2 at one of 5 designated drop-off locations in Montgomery County. Voters unable to vote by mail will be able to vote in person on June 2 at one of 4 locations in Montgomery County, the closest one being in Silver Spring. [HERE](#) is the list of ballot drop off locations and voting centers. Do not go to your usual voting location to vote or drop off ballots.

For complete information about the election, visit the BOE website [HERE](#). The page includes instructions for how to have your ballot mailed to a different address than the address on file with the BOE.

In order to vote in any election, you must be registered to vote. If you have not yet registered, or if you need to update you registration, you can do that [HERE](#).

Changes to Montgomery County Public Library Digital Services

Montgomery County Public Libraries made changes to its digital services on May 1. They launched Hoopla, a web and mobile library media streaming platform to provide cardholders with immediate access to digital movies, music, e-books, audiobooks and television – much of it focused on kids ([HERE](#)). This includes the full online version of the New York Times, including the Learning Network, Lens (photography blog), guides and more.

Because the library introduced its own independent Overdrive ebook collection in February ([HERE](#)), the cloudLibrary ebook service is being discontinued. Materials owned by MCPL on cloudLibrary are being transferred to the Overdrive ebook platform.

All digital services are free and available 24/7 with a library card.

Travel and the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection sent out a newsletter last month titled “Travel Plans During a Pandemic?” It includes helpful advice on how to deal with various travel-related issues raised by the pandemic. There are links to a variety of resources, including lists of cancellation/change policies of all the major airlines, car rental agencies, hotels, and cruise ships. You’ll find a copy of the newsletter [HERE](#).

County Council Straw Vote on Capital Crescent Trail Tunnel

On April 30, the Montgomery County Council unanimously voted to support full funding for the construction of the Capital Crescent Trail Tunnel at a cost of \$54 million. Under this scenario, construction would begin in 2023 and completed in 2026. Although this was an informal straw vote and the issue is far from final resolution, the Council has shown its intent to continue to fund this project. You can read a Bethesda Beat article summarizing the issue and vote [HERE](#). There is a detailed discussion of the tunnel construction and funding issues in the County Council Staff Report [HERE](#), starting at the bottom of page 5. (Note, however, that the Council vote effectively rejected the staff recommendation to support, at least temporarily, a lower cost alternative approach.) If you would like to watch and listen to the Council discussion of the issue, you can view it [HERE](#) starting at about time marker 2:30:55.

Please, Please, PLEASE Pick up after Your Dog

Neighborhood residents continue to be frustrated by a few dog owners who don’t properly pick up after their dogs or don’t properly dispose of the waste. The problem seems to be getting worse instead of better. It’s the number one complaint I receive from ECA members and it’s now almost impossible to walk any street in the neighborhood without seeing piles of dog poop or abandon poop bags.

PLEASE, be considerate. Pick up the poop. Take it home with you. Don't leave the bag of poop and think you'll remember to come back later to pick it up. Dispose of it in your own trash. If someone walks your dog for you, make sure they are doing the same. People are tired of stepping in dog poop, picking up abandoned bags of poop, and cleaning smashed bags of poop someone else dropped in their garbage cans.

If you see someone who does not follow these simple rules, say something to them (nicely). If you can't bring yourself to say something, and you know who the person it, then email me and I'll try to contact them.

Navy Blue Angels and Air Force Thunderbirds Honor Frontline Workers

For those of you who were unable to catch the flyover of Suburban Hospital on Saturday morning in honor the region's health care and other front-line workers fighting the COVID-19 outbreak, you can find a short video posted on Instagram by County Councilmember Evan Glass [HERE](#).

Edgemoor Tip of the Month – Corona Montgomery Cable Chanel

Montgomery County's public, education and government cable channels have launched a new *Corona Montgomery* channel to provide information to all residents, including those who don't have access to hi-speed internet and technology. It is currently showing critical Covid-19-related information from county agencies and municipalities. It will soon feature virtual community content created by businesses, nonprofits, educators, students and performance artists while Maryland's stay-at-home order is in effect. Go to channel 10 on Comcast, Verizon and RCN. There is also have an online site ([HERE](#)), which shows the cable content and has many COVID-19 resources and links.

Do you have a tip you'd like to share with your neighbors? Please email me your suggestions [HERE](#).

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.