

ECA Newsletter

November 2018

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Montgomery County Bicycle Master Plan

On Tuesday, November 22, the County Council unanimously approved the County's Bicycle Master Plan, which has been in development for over three years. The Plan recommends a network of more than 1,000 miles of trails, paths and protected bike lanes in order to make Montgomery County a world-class bicycling community. The goal is to ensure cyclists of all ages and abilities are comfortable and safe riding to transit stations, employment centers, shops, public facilities and other destinations. The Plan proposes a new bikeway classification system that organizes bikeways based on their level of separation from traffic. Long-term bicycle parking stations are recommended at all Metrorail Red Line and many MARC Brunswick Line, future Purple Line and Corridor Cities Transitway stations to encourage bicycling to transit.

To learn more about the plan click [here](#).

Semi-annual ECA Membership Meetings

The most recent semi-annual ECA membership meeting was held in October, and the next one will be in April. When sending out the summary of the last meeting, I asked for suggestions for how to increase attendance at these events. Many thanks to the people who already contacted me with suggestions (such as including snacks and refreshments, making the meetings more like social events, or scheduling the meetings at different times). But, I'm still interested in hearing other residents' ideas about this. If you have any suggestions or comments, please email me at president@edgemoorcitizens.org.

More on Residential Parking Permits and Visitor Permits

If you've been following ECA Board Member Joyce Gwadz's postings on residential parking permits, you already know that residents can now obtain two visitor parking permits for each address. (See that posting [here](#).) The County's residential permit website also has some new features, including two different Q&A pages ([here](#) and [here](#)). There is also a "Plate Checker" where you can look up whether a particular vehicle has a valid permit ([here](#)). Finally, there are instructional videos showing how to use the digital residential permit system ([here](#)). If you've never heard of 7-day temporary permits, 3-month medical permits, 6-month contractor permits, or temporary "call offs," you might want to check these pages out to learn what options you have beyond your regular parking permits.

Elm Street Right-of-Way Path

ECA Board Member Jeffrey Drichta has been working with County officials for several months to discuss improvements to the path that goes through the Elm Street right-of-way between Fairfax and Glenbrook. The County has finally agreed to replace the existing stone and dirt path with a pervious concrete path (as now exists along the right of way between Fairfax and Exfair). Much of their discussions have been about the effect of the path construction on the trees.

To install the pervious walkway (that is one made of special concrete that allows water to soak through it instead of pooling), they must excavate deep enough to install drainage underneath. The County Arborist identified 8 large trees whose roots would be adversely affected by the excavation, and would need to be removed. The 8 trees, all along the Glenbrook side of the path are:

- 3 Ashes that are either dead or dying:
- 1 Elm that is a safety hazard as it currently exists (because it is leaning severely); and
- 4 Sycamores that are healthy.

Jeffrey and I looked over the site and concluded that the community probably could not support a plan that removed 4 large, healthy trees. Therefore, we revisited the site with the Arborist and field supervisor and worked out a modified routing of the path that would avoid harming 3 of the 4 Sycamore trees. So, as plans stand right now, the County proposes to remove 5 trees, only one of which is healthy. They will also replace those 5 trees with 15 new trees (they must replace any trees they remove 3-for-1). The new trees would be planted by the County in the right-of-way, or if that space is not appropriate, in other areas of the Edgemoor community.

Jeffrey and I also met at the site with all of the residents who live along that section of the path to discuss these plans.

As with any County project, there are still some additional steps that need to be taken before breaking ground. But, we are hopeful that the work can be done this coming spring, when a crew will be in the area to install new sidewalks on Clarendon Road and Bethesda Avenue.

ECA 2019 New Year Brunch

Mark your calendars! The annual ECA New Year Brunch will be held on Sunday, January 6th from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the Edgemoor Club. I'll send out more information as we finalize arrangements. But, you can count on good food and refreshments, as well as an opportunity to meet get to know more of your neighbors.

Edgemoor Tip of the Day – Unwanted Marketing Mail, eMail, and Phone Calls

Are you receiving too many unwanted marketing mail, calls, and emails? There is no magic solution that will make them all go away, but there are a few things you can do that may reduce their numbers.

- For direct mail advertising (junk mail), register with the [Direct Marketing Association's mail preference service](#). You'll need to sign up for an account and pay a \$2 fee. Then you can opt out of any or all direct mail marketing by members of the Direct Marketing Association.
- For email advertising, the [Direct Marketing Association also has an email preference service](#). This service is free.
- For telemarketing phone calls, register on the [National Do Not Call Registry](#). It's free.
- For pre-screened offers of credit or insurance, register with [OptOutPrescreen](#), operated by the four major Consumer Credit Reporting Companies. It's free.

All these service are recommended in a [Federal Trade Commission article](#). Don't expect them to get rid of all of the unwanted solicitations. The Do Not Call Registry and the DMA email preference service, in particular, are not as effective as they should be. But, every little bit helps.

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