

# **ECA Newsletter**

## **November 2020**

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### Election 2020

The 2020 Presidential Election is finally here! Some last reminders:

#### 1. Vote-By-Mail

It is now too late to request a mail-in ballot. But, if you already have one, you can:

- Put it in an official ballot Drop Box. You must have your ballot in the Drop Box no later than 8:00 pm on Tuesday November 3. For additional information about Drop Boxes and their locations, go [HERE](#): OR
- Mail it. If you mail it, it must be postmarked no later than Tuesday, November 3 and received by the Board of Elections no later than November 13. However, the Board of Elections strongly advises that residents not mail their ballots this late due to possible postal delays.

#### 2. Early Voting In Person

Your last chance to vote early, in person, is Monday, November 2, 2020, from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm at any one of the early voting centers. The closest early voting center to our neighborhood is the Jane E. Lawton Community Recreation Center in Chevy Chase. The next closest is in Silver Spring. All early voting centers are listed [HERE](#) along with the current wait time at each location

#### 3. Election Day Voting In Person

You can vote in person on Tuesday, November 3 from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm. at any county Voting Center. Do not go to Bethesda Elementary School to vote. Like most regular voting locations, it is not being used this year. The Voting Centers that are closest to our neighborhood are: 1. Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, 2. Walt Whitman High School, and 3. Jane E. Lawton Community Recreation Center. For a list of all the Election Day Voting Centers and their locations, go [HERE](#).

If you plan on going to go to an Early Voting Center on Monday or to an Election Day Voting Center on Tuesday, there are several free and reduced fare transportation options available. For more information, go [HERE](#).

### New Motor Vehicle Law in Effect - Overtaking and Passing Bicycles

Several new Maryland laws related to motor vehicles took effect on October 1, 2020, including one that now requires motor vehicle drivers to give bicyclists 3 feet of space when passing in all circumstances and allows vehicle drivers to cross into a no-passing zone to navigate around a bicycle. In doing so, the motorist must yield to the right of way to the bicycle and oncoming traffic. Previously, drivers were required to give bicyclists 3 feet of space, but were still prohibited from crossing into a no-passing zone, even when passing a bicyclist. [HERE](#) is a link to a public service announcement video about the new law.

### ECA Halloween Goodie Bag Delivery and Halloween Photos

The ECA put together and delivered 90 Halloween goodie bags to neighborhood families who asked to participate in our special 2020 Halloween celebration. Thanks to all the families who participated. We hope everyone enjoys the treats. A special thanks to ECA Board Members Jeffrey Drichta, Bridget Foist, and Huda Montemarano (and to their families) who developed this project and made it happen.

No matter how you celebrated Halloween this year, we hope you'll send us pictures of you, your families, and/or kids dressed up in costumes. Email them to Jeffrey ([drichtaj@mac.com](mailto:drichtaj@mac.com)) and we will post the best pictures on the ECA website in recognition of the special ECA Halloween 2020.

### Welcoming New Residents to the Neighborhood

Quite a few new families have moved into the neighborhood this year and, as part of our efforts to foster community and to welcome new residents to the area, the ECA is now going to be delivering welcome baskets to new neighbors containing gift cards from local merchants along with other gifts and information about the area. Many thanks to ECA Board Members Sue Hendrickson and Huda Montemarano for putting this project together.

Do you have a new neighbor who just moved in? Tell us about them ([eca@edgemoorcitizens.org](mailto:eca@edgemoorcitizens.org)). Tell us about any future new neighbors, too. We'll make sure to drop off a basket to welcome them to the neighborhood.

### Fall Leaf Collection Begins

Montgomery County has put up posters announcing the 1<sup>st</sup> leaf collection of the year. Though posters do not give a specific date for the collection, residents can find the planned start date for the collection by visiting the leaf collection program website [HERE](#). The planned start date for our 1<sup>st</sup> collection is Monday, November 9. That is the earliest day that the county expects to pick up leaves in the neighborhood. The actual date may be later than that, depending on weather conditions and other factors. In previous years, our leaf collections have most often happened right on or soon after the planned start date.

There are two leaf collections each year, usually near the beginning of November and then near the end of November. For the past couple of years, the county has come through and done a 3<sup>rd</sup>, unannounced, pick-up some time in December. Residents should not count on a 3<sup>rd</sup> collection.

The leaf collection program description, along with a neighborhood map, and a tool for finding the planned and actual pick up dates can be viewed online [HERE](#). Our neighborhood is "3F" (Area 3, Subarea F).

Leaf program reminders:

- Do not put leaves in the roadway. There is an extensive discussion on the leaf program website (link above) about why this is important, so I won't repeat it all here. But, there are many excellent reasons, including safety. Please keep the leaves on the grass. Yard maintenance companies should know this rule, but please ensure that yours follows it.
- Do not block the sidewalk with leaves. Curiously, there is no mention of this on the leaf collection website. Maybe they think it's so obvious that it doesn't need to be said. But, it does. Keep leaves off the sidewalk.
- Do not put your leaves on a neighbor's property, a nearby vacant lot, or an adjacent County right-of-way.

### Young People Gathering at Caroline Freeland Park

A few neighbors have expressed concerns about large gatherings of middle school/high school aged young people – often without masks or appropriate social distancing – at Caroline Freeland Park (Elm Street and Arlington Road). I asked Montgomery Parks for their assistance in addressing these concerns and understanding the rules for gatherings in public parks.

First, with respect to gatherings in parks:

*“...gatherings are permissible, as long as they are no larger than 50 people. And masks are not required unless six foot physical distancing cannot be achieved. Lastly, children two and under are not required to wear masks and children are allowed to remove their masks when they are engaged in vigorous activity*

*indoors or outdoors and adults are allowed to remove their masks when they are engaged in vigorous activity outdoors only.”*

With respect to observed gatherings of more than 50 people or smaller gatherings where individuals are not either wearing masks or observing appropriate social distancing:

*“Our patrons and community are our eyes and ears in the parks for us when we can’t be everywhere at once. This pandemic is a community fight and we all play a part in reducing the spread.... What really helps is if citizens can call in to report this when they see it in action, that way Park Police can dispatch an officer onsite in real-time.... The Park Police non-emergency phone number is 301-949-8010.”*

Montgomery Parks also said they would make Park Police and the Park Manager aware of these concerns, and try to have some additional COVID-19 signage installed onsite.

#### Edgemoor Tip of the Month – Tip of the Month Compilation

Looking for a previous Tip of the Month? Or, would you just like to skim through all of them for one you might have missed? Now there’s an easy way to do that. All the previous Tips of the Month are compiled in one place on the [ECA website](#). Go to the “Resources and Links” page and scroll down to “Edgemoor Tips of the Month, Compilation through October 2020.” Or, just click [HERE](#).

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.*