

Meeting Report
ECA Semi-Annual Membership Meeting
April 11, 2019 - Edgemoor Club

The ECA held its Spring 2019 Membership Meeting on Thursday, April 11 at the Edgemoor Club. Many thanks to the Club and its members for their generosity in allowing the ECA to use the Club facilities.

Prior to the meeting, members enjoyed snacks and refreshments. (Food from Pescadelli/Butchers Alley, and wine from Cork 57, both on Bethesda Avenue.) The ECA donated the unused food to Bethesda Cares.

The next ECA Membership Meeting will be in October, and will include the election of Board Members.

Meeting Summary

1. Presentation and Discussion with Montgomery County District 1 Councilmember Andrew Friedson

Councilmember Frideson spoke about his background as a lifelong District 1 resident. He attended MC public schools (Wayside Elementary School, Herbert Hoover Middle School, & Winston Churchill High School,) and the University of Maryland. His family continues to live in the area and he lives close by, near the BCC Rescue Squad on Old Georgetown Road.

He spoke about his plans and priorities, including:

- The importance of constituent services (the basics like trash collection, roads, schools...) and the need to invest in those quality-of-life issues. He and his staff are always available to

help residents with specific needs or problems with county services.

- The need to grow a modern economy that funds and supports our priorities and a sustainable future.
- The current county budget does not fully fund many of our most important priorities, including schools and infrastructure. The challenge is to maintain the county's desirability as a place to live and work given stagnant wages, a rising cost of living, and fewer higher-wage federal government jobs.

In response to questions from ECA members, Councilmember Friedson also spoke about:

- The importance of expanding the role of the Inspector General in Montgomery County and implementing regular audits of county functions/programs.
- The need to fund important county and state programs that support residents with disabilities, including the Maryland ABLE program.
- His strong support of the Villages program (including Bethesda Metro Area Village) that supplements government programs for senior citizens, and the near-future challenges posed by the fact that the proportion of the population that is made up of older seniors is dramatically increasing.
- His willingness to help find more and better ways to combat the huge problem of distracted driving (e.g., texting).
- Changes in the way Montgomery County Public Schools project future student population, which has always seemed to be underestimated. He noted that, contrary to some public perception, the number of new residences being built in the county is not increasing, and the largest driver of increasing student population is turnover of single family homes. Nevertheless, improved projections are clearly needed.
- His support for the repair and relocation of the "Madonna of the Trails" statue (between the old Post Office building and the

Hyatt on Wisconsin Ave) to the site of the Farm Women's Cooperative Market.

2. Edgemoor House and Garden Tour

The *Friends of Edgemoor* 2019 Tour will be Sunday, April 28. It starts at the Edgemoor Club, where tickets can be purchased for \$25 (cash or check only) from 12:00 noon to 3:15pm. The Tour will end at the Ezra House with tea. No children under 12. No dogs except registered service dogs.

3. New Book - *Old Edgemoor – The Heart of Bethesda*

Edgemoor resident and retired attorney Fred Berner has published his book on Edgemoor history. Available at 7605 Glenbrook Road 2:00 and 4:00 Sunday 4/14, and at Politics & Prose. \$30. Fred will also be selling, signing, and talking about the book at the tea at the end of the Edgemoor House & Garden Tour on Sunday, April 28.

4. EC-Net User Guidelines

We discussed EC-Net, the ECA's email list, and whether the current posting rules are too strict and stifle community communication. Those who spoke agreed that the current posting rules are good as they currently exist. Some were concerned about the volume and tone of emails they might receive with a more expansive approach. Some thought that a more open discussion forum could be useful (for example, a second email group that had a more open posting policy), but that it should not be a substitute for EC-Net. Rather, it should be an optional additional system or feature that would allow more topics and more back-and-forth communication between recipients.

We also discussed alternatives to EC-Net that allow more open and collaborative discussion and may be of interest, such as:

- Nextdoor Edgemoor
- The Edgemoor Community Facebook page
- The BCC Community listserv
- Ring Neighbors (for security-related issues)