

ECA Newsletter

August 2022

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ECA/BOWA Fall Cleanup Day – September 17

Mark your calendars, and start cleaning out the house/garage/shed/yard. The always-popular ECA Fall Clean-Up Day is back. We are once again partnering with [BOWA Design/Build](#) and [123Junk](#) to hold our always-popular Fall Cleanup Day. Trucks from 123Junk will be at the parking lot of the Bethesda Elementary School (7600 Arlington Road) on Saturday, September 17th from 9AM until 11AM. Last year we had two trucks and filled them both by 10:30. This year, we will have 3 trucks. Thanks, once again, to [BOWA](#) for making this event possible.

Bring items for disposal (e.g., broken or over-sized items and junk). Bring items for donation (e.g., gently used home furnishings, toys, clothing and appliances). Bring items for recycling that don't go in the blue bins (e.g., electronics). Do not bring paint, chemicals, gasoline/oil, propane, dirt/soil/rocks, concrete, or junk vehicles

I'll send around another email before the date of the event with additional details. But, mark your calendar now.

Looking Ahead to ECA Fall Membership Meeting

The [ECA Board](#) meets once a month to discuss neighborhood issues, plan events and activities, and conduct other ECA business. Twice a year (spring and fall), we hold open meetings for the entire membership of the ECA – that is, every adult who lives in [the defined area we cover](#). These meetings cover topics of interest to the community. We've had representatives from Montgomery County Police speak about crime; our County Councilmember speak about pending legislation; our Maryland Delegate speak about activities in Annapolis; leaders from Department of Transportation speak about roads; and many more.

We usually hold these meetings on a weekday evening from around 7 until no later than 9 PM at the Edgemoor Club. We start with a social gathering - with wine, non-

alcoholic drinks, and finger food. The meetings are usually attended by a relatively small number of people, and I'd like to find a way to connect with more of our neighbors at these events.

What can we do to get you to attend the Members Meeting this fall? A different day/time? A different location? More social time and less meeting time? A specific topic or speaker or a different approach altogether? I'd really appreciate your ideas or suggestions. Just reply to this email (please do not "reply all").

Proposed Ban on Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

The Montgomery County Council will hold a public hearing on September 20 at 1:30PM to consider a ban on the sale and use of gas-powered leaf blowers and leaf vacuums. You can complete information about the proposed legislation [HERE](#) and read an article about it in Bethesda Beat [HERE](#).

The bill, which was proposed at the request of the County Executive, would ban the sale of the leaf blowers six months after the legislation is enacted and prohibit the use of the leaf blowers one year after enactment. Violations would be subject to a fine of as much as \$1,000. The bill would also authorize a reimbursement program to give a partial credit to residents and businesses who return their gas-powered leaf blower or vacuum to the county and buy an electric leaf blower.

If you would like testify at the hearing or submit written testimony, go [HERE](#).

Indictments for Mail Theft

Many of you may already have heard this, but I wanted to pass it on in case you missed it. On July 29, four people were indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of stealing mail from a U.S. Postal Service mailbox in Chevy Chase as well as multiple postal service mailbox keys. Three have been arrested and one remains a fugitive. The investigation was conducted by U.S. Postal Inspection Service with the assistance of the Montgomery County Police Department and the United States Park Police.

You can read more about it [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

Anyone with information regarding a United States Postal Service letter carrier robbery or mail thefts or other Postal Service crimes should contact the Postal Inspection Service at 1-877-876-2455 or <https://www.uspis.gov/report>. In addition, the Postal Inspection Service is offering a reward of up to \$50,000 for information that leads to the identification, arrest and conviction of any other individuals involved in United States Postal Service letter carrier robberies.

Update on Thrive Montgomery 2050

It's been a while since I wrote about Thrive Montgomery 2050, the revision to Montgomery County's General Plan, so I wanted to give you a brief update.

As you may know, the County Council President early this year requested a racial equity and social justice report from the Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO). In February, OLO reported its finding that meaningful input on Thrive from minority and other under-represented residents was lacking, and that to correct this would require more targeted outreach best handled by a consultant with expertise in this area. (You can read the OLO report [HERE](#).) The Council subsequently selected [Nspiregreen](#), an urban planning firm in Washington DC, to do this work. You can read more about this project, find links to other background material [HERE](#).

On July 19, Montgomery Planning invited residents to "add your voice to this part of the Thrive 2050 process by completing Nspiregreen's survey," now available online [HERE](#). If you have not yet taken the opportunity to express your views on Thrive (or if you have already expressed your views and wish to do so again), I encourage you to take the survey. Although the engagement of Nspiregreen was prompted by the OLO report and, therefore, the survey focuses on minority and under-represented residents, everyone can participate, and the survey also addresses many other aspects of Thrive.

In addition, it is not too late to make your thoughts about Thrive known to the County Council. The Council is expected to resume its review of Thrive in September and will likely vote on it in October. You can email all the County Council members at once (County.Council@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov) or paste your comments into an online form [HERE](#).

For a deep dive into all aspects of Thrive, you can go to Montgomery Planning's Thrive Montgomery 2050 Resources page [HERE](#). To find all the previous discussions of Thrive on the neighborhood email group (EC-Net), go to the EC-Net home page [HERE](#) and type "Thrive Montgomery 2050" into the search box at the top of the page.

Edgemoor Tip of the Month – The Edgemoor Tip of the Month is taking an August vacation this year. Look for a new tip next month. In the meantime...

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.