

ECA Newsletter

February 2023

There is a lot going on this month.....

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2023 ECA Dues – Pay Early and Help the Planet

Thank you to everyone who supported the ECA last year by paying annual dues of \$25 per household. Without you, our civic association would not exist and we could not arrange the activities (like the Halloween and July 4 Parades and Parties), events (like the Fall Cleanup Day and the New Year Brunch), and other services (like Neighborhood News and Community Meetings) that bring together our entire community.

But, it's a new year, and our annual reminder letter will go out in a few weeks asking you to help support the ECA again this year. If you make your dues payment now, you can prevent us from using the paper and other resources needed to print and mail a letter – not to mention that we'll also save the costs and labor involved.

Dues are voluntary, and all adults who live in the neighborhood are automatically members of the ECA. However, only households that support the ECA receive a copy of the ECA Neighborhood Directory (updated annually and mailed in the late spring), along with access to the online Directory and phone app. In addition, only supporters are eligible to vote in ECA elections, which are held every other October.

The easiest way to pay dues is to visit our new website's ECA Membership and Dues page [HERE](#). There are easy instructions for using different payment methods (credit card, PayPal, Apple Pay, Venmo, or personal check). You can no longer pay dues via the online Neighborhood Directory (on Membership Toolkit).

We strongly encourage you to use planet-friendly online means of payment. And don't forget to keep a record of your payment so that when I send out another reminder, you'll know that you've already taken care of it.

One final note: Remember that the ECA is a tax-exempt non-profit under section 501(c)(4) of the tax code. However, we are not a charity under 501(c)(3). Contributions to the ECA are usually not tax-deductible. However, you should consult a tax professional for guidance.

New ECA Website and Email Addresses

As noted in last month's Newsletter, the ECA has a new and improved website. The address is the same (www.edgemoorcitizens.org), but the site looks better, has more helpful content, is more secure, and will be easier for us to keep up to date. If you had previously bookmarked pages on the old site, the old bookmarks probably won't work. So, check it out.

And remember that the ECA Board has some new email addresses:

The ECA Board – EdgemoorCitizens@gmail.com

David Barnes – EdgemoorCitizensPresident@gmail.com

Jeffrey Drichta – EdgemoorCitizensTreasurer@gmail.com

Joyce Gwadz – EdgemoorCitizensJoyce@gmail.com

Bridget Foist – EdgemoorCitizensBridget@gmail.com

Other Board members email addresses are available on the [Our Board](#) page of the website.

EC-Net Messages Going to Your Spam Folder?

As long as we're talking about technical issues.... A number of people mentioned that some of their incoming email messages from the ECA neighborhood email group (EC-Net) are being incorrectly sent to their Spam folders. Here are some things you can do to help prevent that from happening. Even if you are not having trouble right now, #4 is a good idea to prevent future problems.

1. Regularly check your Spam folder for misrouted messages.
2. If you find an EC-Net message in your Spam folder, don't delete it. First, mark it as "Not Spam," which will move the message to your inbox.
3. If you decide that you no longer wish to receive EC-Net messages, don't try to stop the messages by marking them as SPAM. That only makes things worse. Although we'd hate to see you leave the group, it's very easy to unsubscribe. Every EC-Net message has an "unsubscribe" link you can click in the message header, as well as unsubscribe instructions at the bottom of the message. Or just [email us](#), and we'll remove you from the group.
4. Add an email filter to prevent group messages from going to Spam. The steps required differ depending on the email program you use. If you use Gmail, follow these simple steps. They must be done on a computer using the Gmail program – filters cannot be set up on the mobile app:
 - Open this or any other EC-Net message in Gmail.

- At the top of the message, just under or next to the sender's name, you'll see "to edgemoor@googlegroups.com (or just "to edgemoor") with a small down-arrow after it. Click the arrow and a small window will appear with a bunch of information about the message.
- Look for the "mailing list" line, and click on "[filter messages from this mailing list.](#)" A new small window will appear.
- Without changing anything in that window, click on "create filter." Another small window will appear.
- Check the box for "Never send it to Spam" and then click on the blue button that says "create filter." That's it.

If you use another email program (Apple Mail, Outlook, Yahoo...), you should be able to find guidance online for making a filter to never send messages addressed to edgemoor@googlegroups.com to the Spam folder.

Another Neighbor Appointed to County Advisory Council

Last month, the Newsletter mentioned a couple of neighborhood residents who were appointed to Montgomery County advisory groups. In addition, another neighbor, Chris Palmer, has been appointed to the Maryland Department of Labor's [Advisory Council to the Office of Cemetery Oversight](#). The Office is responsible for regulating and licensing cemeteries in Maryland. Congratulations, Chris!

Nominations Sought for 2023 "Women Making History Award"

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2023 Montgomery County "Women Making History Award." The award is presented by the Montgomery County Commission for Women and Montgomery Women. The deadline for nominations is 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 7.

The annual award is given in recognition of outstanding women in Montgomery County who are making significant contributions to their vocation and to the community. Award criteria and nomination requirements, as well as a link to the nomination form, are [HERE](#). For more information, you can call Ijeoma Enendu at 240-773-5581.

Update on Capital Crescent Trail Tunnel

County Executive Marc Elrich is once again proposing to delay construction of the Capital Crescent Trail tunnel underneath Wisconsin Avenue until 2028, citing dramatic cost increases (as high as \$82.5 million) and other spending priorities – in particular, school construction. County Council member Andrew Friedson is opposing

the delay. For a more complete discussion of the issue, see the Bethesda Magazine article [HERE](#).

Public Meeting on Little Falls Parkway Roadway Changes

Montgomery Parks will host a virtual public meeting over Zoom on Wednesday, February 15, from 7-8:30 pm, to present traffic data on the most recent Little Falls Parkway roadway changes between Arlington Road and Dorset Avenue. See my previous messages about the project in the November and December Newsletter (which can be found on the EC-Net homepage, [HERE](#)). You can find out more about the public meeting and how to participate on Montgomery Parks' project home page [HERE](#).

There Is No Poop Bag Fairy!

Here's a reminder from neighborhood resident, ECA Board member, and dog owner Alicia Tompkins. A couple of weeks ago, she picked up over 30 bags of abandoned dog poop while walking around the neighborhood. Only a week later, new bags had appeared in some of the same places where she had just cleaned up.

It's wonderful that most people are doing a good job bagging their dog poop. But, there is no Poop Bag Fairy! Please make sure to take the final step and dispose of pet waste bags properly. You're never THAT far to an appropriate place to dispose of a bag (that is, a pet waste disposal station or your own garbage). If you employ a dog walker, please ask them to responsibly dispose of the poop and poop bags. Your neighbors will appreciate it.

Edgemoor Tip of the Month – Metro Senior SmarTrip Card

If you're age 65 or over and use public transit, the Senior SmarTrip Card can give you substantial discounts on Metrorail, Metrobus and many other area types of transit (including Ride On – Montgomery County). The card is easy to get at any Montgomery County Library with nothing more than a government-issued photo ID showing proof of age. For more information about the Senior SmarTrip card and other transit fare discounts, go [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.

