

ECA Newsletter

June 2023

Topics in This Issue

1. ECA Spring Social and Members Meeting
2. Planning Board Approves Draft Pedestrian Master Plan
3. ECA Dues Collection Report for 2023
4. Bethesda Market Park Community Meeting (Zoom)
5. Recommendations for Service Providers on EC-Net
6. Welcoming New Neighbors - Update
7. Recycling Achievement Awards
8. Edgemoor Tip of the Month – Bethesda Metro Area Village Wants You!

1. ECA Spring Social and Members Meeting

We had a great turnout for the Spring Social and Members meeting on May 3 at the Edgemoor Club. ECA members who attended heard a great presentation on the New MoCo Bicycle Master Plan and the draft Pedestrian Master Plan. We enjoyed excellent food and drink, good conversation, and a chance to meet some new neighbors.

Many thanks to ECA Board members Huda Montemarano and Alicia Tompkins for organizing and running the event, and to Kathleen Wheaton for her welcome assistance. In addition, thanks again to the Edgemoor Club, club manager Mary Gardiner, and club members for their generosity in allowing us to use their facilities.

If you were not able to make it to the event, I hope you can make it to the fall Social and Members Meeting. I'll send out information after we set the date, which is usually in October.

2. Planning Board Approves Draft of Pedestrian Master Plan

Speaking of the Pedestrian Master Plan - On May 25, the Montgomery County Planning Board approved the draft Plan, the county's first comprehensive master plan to improve the pedestrian experience countywide. The Planning Board transmit the draft to the County Council and the County Executive for public review and final County Council approval. There will be an opportunity for more public comment on the plan with the County Council's public hearing and work session review.

The Pedestrian Master Plan documents the pedestrian experience in Montgomery County today and makes recommendations in line with national and international best practices to improve that experience. The approval of the Planning Board Draft is the culmination of more than three years of Montgomery Planning research, analysis,

data collection, expert collaboration, equitable community engagement and feedback, public hearings and presentations, as well as input and direction from Planning Board members during a series of live-streamed work sessions this spring.

3. ECA Dues Collection Report for 2023

This spring's annual ECA fund-raising effort resulted in 334 household supporting the ECA financially by each paying the voluntary annual dues of \$25. That's over 65% of the 512 households in the neighborhood – the largest number since I've been on the ECA board. We raised a total of \$8,350 for ECA projects, events, expenses, and activities. These include the [July 4th](#) and [Halloween](#) Parades/Parties, the Members Socials/Meetings (see item #1, above), the New Year Brunch, new resident welcome baskets (see item # 6, below) and much more.

Every household that paid dues for 2023 will receive a copy of the 2023 ECA Neighborhood Directory, along with access to the online directory and mobile app. As Voting Members of the ECA, supporters are also eligible to vote in the upcoming ECA Board election this fall. (For more details see the [ECA Membership and Dues](#) page of our website.)

If you didn't get around to sending in a dues payment this year, but still would like to support the ECA, just go to any page of the ECA website, click on the "Pay Dues" button in the upper right corner of the page, and then follow the simple instructions to make your contribution. We have a few extra copies of the new 2023 Neighborhood Directory. Until the supply runs out, we will provide a copy to households even if they missed the April 28 due date.

4. Bethesda Market Park Community Meeting (Zoom)

Montgomery Parks will hold an online community meeting to share preliminary plans for [Bethesda Market Park](#) - the new park under development that will be located adjacent to the historic Bethesda Farm Women's Market and the [Elm Street Urban Park](#) in downtown Bethesda. It will replace the two above-ground parking lots currently located there, which are being moved below ground.

This is the third public meeting about the Bethesda Market Park project. In March, Parks staff held two in-person meetings to gather input from community members about what amenities they would like to see in the park. The public was also encouraged to submit ideas through an online survey. Parks staff incorporated the ideas from the meetings and the survey in the proposed plan.

The meeting will be over Zoom on Wednesday, June 14, from 7:00-8:30 PM. Registration for the meeting is optional, but if you register [HERE](#), you can sign up for future updates on the project

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81901492875>

Phone number: 312 626 6799 Webinar ID: 819 0149 2875

5. New EC-Net Feature - Recommendations for Service Providers

One common way residents use EC-Net (the neighborhood email group) is to look for recommendations for a particular kind of service provider (e.g., doctor, plumber, painter, baby sitter). The group's posting rules prohibit sending responses to those kinds of messages to the entire group (only to the person who asked) – one of the many ways we keep the volume of unwanted messages to a minimum. However, some other users may find that kind of information helpful. ECA member Andrea Raab came up with a suggestion for how to make that information available to anyone who wants it, but without sending it out to another 600 or so people in the email group who don't.

If you want to recommend a service provider to neighbors, or you are looking for a service provider, please check out the [ECA's Compilation of Service Provider Recommendations](#). This Google Spreadsheet contains provider recommendations compiled by neighbors, for neighbors, arranged by type of service. If you want to recommend someone, please feel free to add them to the spreadsheet, which is open to everyone. If you're looking for someone, check the spreadsheet before posting a request in EC-Net. If you receive recommendations from other neighbors, please feel free to add them to the document so they'll be available to everyone. If you have difficulty accessing or using the spreadsheet, just email EdgemoorCitizens@gmail.com and we will be glad to help. Bookmark the document so you can find it when you want it, but there's also a link on the EC-Net page of the ECA website.

The current version of the spreadsheet has only a few recommendations in it, but the number will grow as you and others add recommendations.

6. Welcoming New Neighbors - Update

A little more than 2 years ago, the ECA started a new project to foster community by welcoming new residents to the neighborhood. ECA Vice President Huda Montemarano (along with former Board member Susan Hendrickson) developed the project, and has been delivering welcome baskets to new neighbors containing gift cards from local merchants along with other gifts and information about the area. We've tried to find and contact all new residents who move into the neighborhood and, although we missed a few, we think we found most of them.

Last week, Huda delivered our 50th (!!) welcome basket to a new family on Moorland Lane. Thank you, Huda.

Do you have a new neighbor who just moved in, or know of someone who will be moving in soon? Tell us about them (edgemoorcitizens@gmail.com), even if you don't know their name(s) yet. We'll make sure to stop by with a basket to welcome them to the neighborhood.

7. Recycling Achievement Awards

In case you missed it, Montgomery County recently celebrated the 24th Annual Recycling Awareness Week. Each year, the County honors individuals, multi-family properties, businesses, organizations and government facilities for outstanding achievements in waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. You can find a list of this year's County Recycling Achievement Award in the press release [HERE](#).

Want to know more about best practices in recycling right here in our neighborhood? Start with the [Trash, Recycling & Leaf Collection](#) page of the new ECA website, where you'll find a concise summary of the neighborhood trash and recycling basics. (For example: "What goes in that small blue bin?" "How can I sign up for an email/text reminder about changes in the collection date?") There are also Recycling Tips and Tricks, as well as links to more comprehensive information on the County Solid Waste Services website and other resources.

8. Edgemoor Tip of the Month – Bethesda Metro Area Village Wants You!

Are you over 50 and seeking to engage more with the community? Maybe you're much younger and looking for a way to help others in your neighborhood and contribute more to the community? [Bethesda Metro Area Village](#) may be for you.

BMAV is one of 74 "villages" in the Washington region that are in the [Village to Village Network](#) - part of the aging in place movement, which helps older adults enjoy a rich, independent and healthy quality of life when they choose to age in their homes and communities. BMAV social members enjoy a wide range of events and activities, while full-service members also have access to volunteers who can assist them with chores, transportation, companionship, home upkeep, and other help maintaining residence in their homes. BMAV volunteers are essential for BMAV to be able to provide these service to full-service members.

If you're interested in becoming a social or full-service member of BMAV, you can find more information [HERE](#). Although there are fees for membership, BMAV offers subsidized memberships to those with a need.

If you're interested in volunteering with BMAV, you'll find more information [HERE](#). Many BMAV members also volunteer. Volunteers must be 18 years old, undergo a background check, and complete a training with BMAV. Students under 18 are also welcome to volunteer as technology tutors in sessions that take place at the library. Contact Executive Director Elizabeth Haile, director@bmavillage.org or 240-630-2628 for more information.

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.

