

ECA Newsletter

May 2022

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Spring ECA Members' Meeting Summary

The 2022 Spring ECA Members Meeting was held on Monday, April 25 at 7:00 PM at the Edgemoor Club. Thank you to those who attended and to the Edgemoor club for allowing the ECA to use the Club facilities for this and other ECA events.

Topics covered at the meeting included ECA membership, dues and finances, as well as Thrive Montgomery 2050. Special guest Delegate Marc Korman spoke about the State legislature, summarized the recently completed legislative session, and answered a variety of questions from the members. Thanks to Marc for an informative presentation.

The next members meeting will be in October (date TBD).

2022 ECA Neighborhood Directory

As you probably know, late each spring, households that have supported the ECA by paying the modest \$25 annual dues by April 30, receive a printed copy of the Edgemoor Citizens Association Neighborhood Directory in the mail. In addition, they have access to an online Directory and mobile app. For additional information, go to the Neighborhood Directory page of the ECA website [HERE](#).

I signed off on the 2022 Directory this morning. It is now at the printer and should be in supporters mailboxes within a couple of weeks.

If you somehow neglected to pay your dues by the end of April, but would like to support the ECA this year, you can still do that. Just visit the Membership page of the ECA website [HERE](#). I'll even hand deliver a copy of the 2022 Directory to your home as long as my supply of extras holds out.

2022 Primary Election – Where, When, and How to Vote

This year the Primary Election will take place on Tuesday, July 19. Voters registered as either Democrats or Republicans may vote in the primary for candidates in their party and for candidates for non-partisan offices. There are three ways to vote:

1. In person on Primary Election Day. You may vote at your assigned polling center which, for this neighborhood, is Bethesda Elementary School located at 7600 Arlington Road, on Primary Election Day from 7 AM until 8 PM. For additional information, go [HERE](#);
2. At an early voting center between July 7 and July 14. Early voting centers are open from 7 AM until 8 PM each day. You can find a list of early voting centers and early voting frequently asked questions [HERE](#);
3. By mail-in ballot. Any registered voter can vote by mail-in ballot. You do not need a reason. The process and deadlines for mail-in ballots are different depending on how you request the ballot (online, by submitting a form request, or in person). For complete information, go [HERE](#).

You can find a list of candidates for Montgomery County offices [HERE](#). We are in County Council District 1 and Board of Education District 3. You can find a list of candidates for Maryland State office [HERE](#). We are in Legislative District 16.

You may find the Voter's Guide from Bethesda Magazine helpful – [HERE](#).

Native and Invasive Plants and Trees

Invasive species are non-native organisms that cause harm to the environment, economy, or human health with damages costing the United States approximately \$120 billion every year. Invasive plants alter the native ecosystem and disrupt biodiversity in forests, meadows, and wetlands. These species have unfair advantages over native plants, especially in human-disturbed habitats. They reproduce aggressively in multiple ways, and at a much faster pace than our indigenous plants. Nevertheless, many are imported, bred, distributed, and promoted for sale in the landscape and nursery industries.

We tried to arrange for a speaker at the Spring Members' Meeting to discuss native and invasive species, but were, unfortunately, unable to do that. Nevertheless, here are some helpful links with information about native plants and trees to seek out and use in your gardens, and invasive species to avoid – some of which are actually illegal to grow in this area.

- For an excellent introduction to invasive plants in Maryland, go [HERE](#).
- For information about invasive herbaceous plants and how to control them, go [HERE](#).
- For information about the Maryland Invasive Plant Regulations, go [HERE](#).
- For a more comprehensive presentation on invasive plants in the home and garden, with many links to other sources, go [HERE](#).

- The [Chesapeake Native Plant Center](#) is a great source of information about natives in our area. In conjunction with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, they publish a huge guide to native species [HERE](#).
- The City of College Park has an excellent guide of easy-to-grow native plants that support pollinators [HERE](#).

Auto/Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Reminder

Several residents contacted me recently to voice concern about inconsiderate and dangerous actions by motor vehicle drivers, bicyclist, and pedestrians in the neighborhood. We've probably all seen examples: pedestrians walking down the middle of the road with headphones on, oblivious to their surroundings or crossing roadways in the middle of the block; bicyclists who speed through stop signs or don't yield to pedestrians; motor vehicle drivers who ignore pedestrians at crosswalks or crowd bicyclists off the road.

We live in a neighborhood where the streets are narrow, often without sidewalks. Please be cautious, careful, and considerate of others who share the streets. Yield the right of way. Pedestrians (which includes individual who are using a wheelchair or skateboard) almost always have the right of way over both motor vehicles AND bicycles. Right of way between bicycles and motor vehicles is more complicated since both are subject to the same rules. For more complete information, go the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration website [HERE](#). There is also an excellent discussion of the issue on the BikeMaryland.org website - for bicycles [HERE](#) and for motor vehicles [HERE](#).

Continuing Issues with Blue Post Office Mailboxes

Maybe you saw the recent article in the Washington Post about the recent dramatic increase in thefts of checks from US Postal Service blue mailboxes, [HERE](#). We have had a few instances of this in our neighborhood, including times when the thieves alter and attempted to cash the check (sometimes successfully). In May 2019, I passed on suggestions about how to reduce the chances of having checks stolen, and what to do if you become a victim.

- Hand outgoing mail to your carrier or mail it at the post office;
- Ask your bank for "secure" checks that are more difficult to alter; and
- If you suspect that your mail was stolen, call the Postal Inspection Service (877-876-2455) to report the theft.

The Washington Post article also noted that Montgomery County Police are working with the Postal Inspection Service to investigate these thefts, so you may also want to call Montgomery County Police (301-279-8000).

If you are unable to resolve the situation satisfactorily, you may want to contact Congressman Jamie Raskin's office for assistance. The person on his staff that handles US Postal Service issues is Christa Burton. She can be reached by email (Christa.Burton@mail.house.gov).

Edgemoor Tip of the Month – Downtown Bethesda Development

This might not be a typical Tip of the Month, but I wanted to pass on an informative article I came across a few weeks ago on a real estate blog called Urban Turf. It lists and describes 22 new real estate development projects that are either underway or planned for Downtown Bethesda. If you're wondering about all the construction activity that's going on, you can find it [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.