

ECA Newsletter

November 2022

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Thrive Montgomery 2050

On October 25, as expected, the County Council passed Thrive Montgomery 2050, which now becomes the County's General Plan for the next 30 years. For the Council's press release, go [HERE](#). For the Council's draft of the final plan, go [HERE](#). Note that this document does not include photographs, graphs and tables, as those are being "reviewed for relevance to the adopted text and will be updated accordingly." You'll find a statement from the County Executive, who opposed the plan, [HERE](#).

As you probably know from previous messages about Thrive, this new General Plan makes no specific changes to laws that impact land use, quality of life, infrastructure, amenities, and development. It remains to be seen what actions the new County Council (to be elected next week) will take under the plan. The ECA Board will continue to monitor related developments and keep you updated about changes that may affect our community. To stay informed, consider subscribing to the County Council's press releases, which contain information about new bills, Council and committee agendas, etc. Go to the County Council's website main page [HERE](#), scroll down, and look for "Subscribe" at the bottom left side of the page. You can also follow activities and actions of Montgomery Planning, Montgomery Parks, and the Planning Board by subscribing to their weekly update newsletter, [HERE](#).

Fall Neighborhood Social and Members' Meeting

The first semi-annual ECA Members Meeting and Social was held on October 19th at the Edgemoor Club. We had much larger crowd than for prior Members Meetings and everyone seemed to have a great time. The only official ECA business planned was the

annual treasurer's report. However, in what was possibly the shortest corporate meeting ever conducted, the members voted unanimously to skip an oral report on the ECA's financial status and, instead, receive that information in writing in the next ECA Newsletter. The meeting was then adjourned and we all resumed socializing and enjoyed the delicious food and refreshments.

Thanks to all who attended. Thanks also to ECA Vice President Huda Montemarano, who made all the arrangements, and ECA Board Member Alicia Tompkins, who helped with the setup. Finally, thanks to the Edgemoor Club, its members, and Club Manager Mary Gardiner for the use of their facility.

ECA Finances

As promised, here is a brief summary of the ECA's financial status. These are figures for 2022 year-to-date.

Cash on hand as of January 1: \$46,283.31

Revenue year-to-date: \$8,220.29 (net dues payments; interest)

Expenses year-to-date: \$10,970.63 (administrative - mostly insurance, social activities/events, legal fees)

Current cash on hand: \$43,351.05

[These figures may not quite balance due to outstanding expenses and reimbursements]

Note the expenditure for legal fees, which totaled \$5,578.75. I'd like to explain that expense in detail.

Since it was incorporated in 1982, the ECA has operated as a nonprofit. At that time, small corporations like the ECA could become nonprofits by simple self-declaration, and the ECA declared its nonprofit status under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code when it incorporated. (You can find our Articles of Incorporation on the ECA website [HERE](#).) However, the Tax Reform Act of 2016 changed the law to require that all nonprofits under section 501(c)(4) (the subsection of the IRS code that applied to social welfare organizations like the ECA) notify the IRS of their existence by filing a specific form with the IRS within 60 days. However, many self-declared nonprofits were unaware of this new and little-publicized requirement. The ECA Board only recently learned of this, and engaged counsel to advise it in returning to compliance with IRS rules. With their advice and assistance, we filed the required documentation and are now in compliance with 501(c)(4). We also requested that any penalties be waived, but are awaiting a determination from the IRS on that.

Of course, I will report any further developments. Many thanks to ECA Treasurer Jeffrey Drichta for compiling the financial data, and for his diligent work with counsel on the nonprofit status.

Door-to-Door Magazine Sales

A reminder to be wary of door-to-door magazine sales and similar solicitations. Maybe there are legitimate organizations that sell magazines door to door. But, I've never heard of one. If you search online for "door-to-door magazine sales," you'll find many articles on the topic from news organizations, consumer groups, and police about these scams. Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection has some practical advice – "[The simplest answer is to not open the door at all to a stranger.](#)" The Maryland Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division warns "[\[n\]ever agree to give money over the phone or to a door-to-door solicitor.](#)" If you are the victim of a scam, you can file a complaint with County and State offices [HERE](#) and [HERE](#), or with the Better Business Bureau [HERE](#). If a door-to-door solicitor is abusive or threatening, call the Montgomery County Police (301-279-8000). If there is an imminent danger, call 911.

Reporting Problems with the Condition of County Property

Have you noticed an issue with County-owned property (e.g., trash in the right-of-way, damaged equipment in a playground, signs of neglect or disrepair in a park)? Who do you contact? If the location is a right-of-way, contact the Department of Transportation [HERE](#). You'll find a long list of problems to report, along with instructions. If the location is a park or playground, contact Montgomery Parks [HERE](#). For any other problem, or if you're unsure whether it's a park/playground or right-of-way, just call 311 or visit the online 311 service [HERE](#).

Halloween Parade and Party

Despite a little bit of rain, the annual ECA free Halloween parade and pizza party was held on Monday and was another smashing success. Kids and parents had a great time celebrating Halloween in style. Thanks to ECA Treasurer Jeffrey Drichta for all his work planning the event, and to all the volunteers who help out (ECA Board Members Huda Montemarano and Linda Wenger; Rebecca and Marc Korman, with Harrison & Abby; Rebecca Dillon with Jacob; Jean Dudek; Nick Clark, John & Lynne Ford; Katharine Weatherman; Dee Ramos; Raquel and Alvin Carlos; Kavita Patel). My apologies to anyone I've omitted. And, thanks once again to the Edgemoor Club for letting us use their party room.

As mentioned in the July ECA newsletter, the ECA website cannot be used to post photos (long story). Look forward to a new and improved website in 2023. In the meantime, here is a spooky photo of the marchers this year:



Leftover Halloween Candy

Speaking of Halloween, did the low turnout due to rain leave you with an excess of leftover candy? ECA Board Member Alicia Tompkins will be glad to take it off your hands and donate it to the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Drop it off at her home (7203 Fairfax Road) any time through this Sunday, November 6. Please make sure it is bagged securely. There will be a collection box by the front door.

Acoustics and Ales Event

Montgomery Parks is hosting its final “Acoustics and Ales” event on Saturday, November 5, 2022, "[Acoustics and Ales](#)" from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. The event will feature non-alcoholic beverages for purchase, in addition to beer from Landmade Brewing and True Respite Brewing, and food from Steezeburger and Salat Food Truck. Musician Brian Weber will provide live music. Adults, children (and dogs) are welcome. For more complete information, including how to learn about weather-related cancellation, go [HERE](#). Note that [Elm Street Urban Park](#) is on the east side of Wisconsin Ave next to the parking lot behind the Farm Women’s Market.

Little Falls Parkway Reconfigured (Again)

As many of you may have already discovered, Little Falls Parkway was reconfigured yet again last week. Between Arlington Road and Dorset Avenue, it is now one lane in each direction, with both lanes on the same side of the former median strip. The plan is to make the open space where the other two lanes used to be (on the opposite side of the former median strip) in to a new linear park with seating, games (such as ping

pong and corn hole), entertainment, events, and food trucks. The space is now open for recreation use 7 days a week. For more information, got [HERE](#).

Edgemoor Tip of the Month – Fall Leaf Collection

It's that time of year again. You've seen the signs posted in the neighborhood about the first Fall Leaf Collection, which will start "in a few days." What does that mean? Though posters do not give a specific date for the collections, residents can find the planned start date for each of the two collections by visiting the leaf collection program website [HERE](#). Our neighborhood is "3F" (Area 3, Subarea F), and the planned start date for our 1st collection is Monday, November 7. That is the earliest day that the County expects to pick up leaves in the neighborhood. The actual date may be later than that, depending on weather conditions and other factors. In previous years, our leaf collections have most often happened right on or soon after the planned start date. There are usually two leaf collections each year, the 2nd one occurring near the end of November – frequently the day after Thanksgiving. The actual start date will be posted to the website later this month. In the past, the county has sometimes come through and done a 3rd, unannounced, pick-up some time in December, though there is no guarantee that they will do that this year.

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.