

# **ECA Newsletter**

## **September 2023**

Wait! How did it get to be September already?????

### Topics in This Issue

1. Fall 2023 ECA Members Meeting and Social
2. Backyard Yard Trim and Food Scrap Composting
3. 2023 ECA Halloween Parade and Party
4. Affordable Housing Innovations in Montgomery County
5. 5025 Edgemoor Lane
6. Commercial Signs Posted in the Community
7. Edgemoor Tip of the Month – COVID-19 Information, Masks, and Test Kits

### 1. Fall 2023 ECA Members Meeting and Social

This fall's ECA Members Meeting and Social will be held on Monday, October 2 at the Edgemoor Club. Our guest speaker will be Alan Pultyniewicz, Recycling Coordinator from Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection. Alan will talk and answer your questions about household recycling. We will also hold the biennial election of members of the ECA board.

The social part of the evening will start at 6:00 PM, with light food and beverages (beer, wine, soda, waters) provided by the ECA. If you'd like to bring something to share, feel free to do that, but it's not necessary. Then we will hold the Members Meeting with the ECA board election and our guest speaker's presentation, starting at 7:00 PM - not more than an hour - followed by more socializing until 9:00 PM. If you can't make the 6:00 social hour, that's fine. Come for the meeting at 7:00 and socialize afterward. It will be a great chance to meet some of your neighbors and find out what's going on in the community. I and [the rest of the ECA board](#) would love to meet and visit with you, too.

For the ECA board election, all [current board members](#) are running for reelection, and there are no other candidates. The election should not take more than a few minutes. Note: Anyone who wants to know about election process or who is interested in serving on the ECA board at some time in the future should contact me by replying to this email.

For the recycling presentation, it would be helpful if you could send me any questions or comments about trash and recycling so I can pass them on to Alan and make sure they get addressed. (We will, of course, still have an open Q&A period at the meeting.)

Note: Before you send in or ask question, please check to see if your question is already addressed on the Solid Waste Service website ([HERE](#)). Most trash and recycling questions can probably be answered there.

## 2. Backyard Yard Trim and Food Scrap Composting

Speaking of home recycling...a previous ECA Newsletter article explained how and where county residents can pick up a free yard trim compost bin (go [HERE](#) for more information). But, did you know that there is also a companion composting training manual, or that the County is also holding several in-person backyard composting workshops this fall – also free? The composting manual is available [HERE](#) in English, Spanish, and Chinese. To attend a workshop, you must register in advance. Just click on the date/location to register:

- [September 9, 2023 from 11am to 1pm at Damascus Library](#)
- [September 23, 2023 from 11am to 12noon at Wheaton Library](#)
- [October 21, 2023 from 11am to 1pm at Germantown Library](#)
- [November 4, 2023 from 11am to 12noon at Davis Library](#)

Are you also interested in composting food scraps at home? MoCo also has a limited supply of rodent-proof compost bins, available to residents for free on a first-come, first-serve basis. Two different kinds are available. They ask residents who receive the bins if they would be willing provide some data and feedback of their experiences using them. For more information and to request a bin, go [HERE](#). Act now. They will go quickly.

## 3. 2023 ECA Halloween Parade and Party

You've probably already noticed the Halloween costumes and decorations in some stores. It will be here before you know it. So, don't forget to mark your calendar for the annual ECA Halloween Parade and Party, held in the early evening on October 31. We will send out all the details as we get closer to that date, but expect a big crowd of kids (and adults) in spooky costumes, and a short parade to the Edgemoor club for pizza and refreshments. It's a great way to start the evening's festivities before moving on to trick-or-treating throughout the neighborhood.

You can find photos of previous Halloweens on the ECA website ([HERE](#)).

## 4. Affordable Housing Innovations in Montgomery County

I wanted to pass on an interesting New York Times article about Montgomery County's efforts to address the affordable housing shortage here. (Thanks to ECA board member Eric Rubel for pointing it out.) Although we are nowhere close to solving that housing

crisis, MoCo has made some interesting and innovative steps in the right direction. You can read the article [HERE](#). (NY Times has a paywall, but this article should be accessible to everyone through this “gift” link for about 4 weeks.)

### 5. 5025 Edgemoor Lane

Many neighborhood residents are aware that the property at 5025 Edgemoor Lane is owned by the Montgomery County Board of Education. It was purchased by the BOE many years ago as a part of their plan to expand the Bethesda Elementary School property. That plan was shelved a long time ago (though it could just as easily be resurrected at some point). In recent years, the ECA has tried to make sure the BOE maintained property so it did not become an eyesore.

A few weeks ago, you may have noticed workers removing the windows from the house and boarding up the window openings. The BOE said that they intend to demolish the house and “restore the grounds.” They still have no plan to sell the property. I’m trying to get some specifics about what the property will look like after this restoration and when it will happen. I’ll pass on any additional information I receive about it.

### 6. Commercial Signs Posted in the Community

You may have noticed a recent increase in the number of commercial advertisements popping up on grass areas in and around the neighborhood in the public rights-of-way (e.g., near the sidewalk, in a median). In response to a question from a neighbor, I did a little research to find out what the rules are for putting up those kinds of temporary signs. You can find the rules [HERE](#). Any permanent sign in a public right-of-way requires a permit from the County, but these “temporary signs” do not. However, temporary signs must (among other requirements):

- Be a minimum of 25 feet from any driveway, entrance, intersection or traffic control signal;
- Not be placed on a median strip or highway divider;
- Be 30 inches or less in height;
- Be put up only on weekends or Federal Holidays; and
- Be removed within 24 hours of the same weekend or Federal Holiday during which they were put up.

Residents can report non-compliant signs by calling 311.

### 7. Edgemoor Tip of the Month – COVID-19 Information, Masks, and Test Kits

You’ve probably heard or read about a recent increase on COVID-19 infections. If you want the most up-to-date information, including how/where to get test kits and masks, transmission rates, etc., you can still find all of this on the Montgomery

County COVID-19 Information Portal. Did you know that you can still get rapid test kits and N-95 masks at most library branches? Would you like to dig into the data, including the County's Wastewater Surveillance reports? Go [HERE](#) to find what you need.

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.*