

# **ECA Newsletter**

## **April 2024**

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### 2024 ECA/BOWA Spring Cleanup Day

The ECA/[BOWA Construction](#) Spring Cleanup Day returns! We will be at the parking lot of the Bethesda Elementary school on Saturday, April 13, from 9 AM to 11 AM.

Note the new date.

You can bring items for disposal (e.g., broken or over-sized items and junk), recycling items that don't go in the blue bins (e.g., electronics), and items for donation (e.g., gently used home furnishings, toys, clothing and appliances). The disposal company will separate the material for donation and deliver them to their charity partners, recycle whatever they can, and then dispose of the rest through the local waste and recycling system.

Do not bring hazardous materials - paint, chemicals, gasoline/oil, propane, dirt/soil/rocks, concrete, or junk vehicles.

Drop off will be at the far side of the Bethesda Elementary parking lot, but you'll have no trouble finding us. Just enter the lot from Arlington road and keep to the right and look for the trucks. There will be people to help unload your stuff. In the unlikely event that the trucks fill up before 11, we will close down and I'll send out an email to this group. That's only happened once in the past, but it is still possible. So, if you're planning on arriving on the late side, please check your email before coming.

If you're thinking about residential remodeling work, stop and chat with BOWA's Arjay West about your project while you're there. We'll also have free coffee and doughnuts.

I'll send around another email reminder before the date of the event with any additional details.

### ECA Spring Members Meeting/Social April 25

The 2024 ECA Spring Members Meeting and Social is coming up! We hope to see you at the Edgemoor Club on Thursday, April 25. There will be a social hour from 6:00 PM until 7:00 PM, followed by the members meeting from 7:00 until 8:00, and you're welcome to stay after to socialize a little more until 9:00.

Our special guest speaker will be Maryland Delegate and Edgemoor resident [Marc Korman](#). Delegate Korman will report on the 2024 Maryland General Assembly Legislative session, which ends April 8, and take questions from residents. If you've never met Marc or heard him speak, you won't want to miss this event, which is free and open to all ECA members (that is, all adults living in [the area served by the ECA](#)).

The ECA will provide light finger food and refreshments (wine, beer, soda, waters). If you'd like to bring something to share, feel free to do that, but it's not necessary. If you can't make the 6:00 social hour, that's fine. Come for the meeting at 7:00 and socialize afterward. You'll have a chance to meet some of your neighbors and find out what's going on in the community.

#### Last Chance to Support the ECA for 2024

A big "Thank You" to each and every one of you who supported the ECA this year by paying \$35 annual dues. So far, we received contributions from 287 households (out of 516). Each of those households will receive a copy of the 2024 ECA Neighborhood Directory this spring, and have access to an online version of the Directory. For more information about that, including step-by-step instruction for how to use the online version, visit the [Neighborhood Directory](#) page of the ECA website.

In two weeks, we will compile the mailing list for the 2024 Directory. So, if you intend to pay dues for this year, but have not gotten around to it yet, you still have time to do that and get on the mailing list. Don't wait until the last minute! Just visit the [Membership and Dues](#) page of the ECA website and follow the instructions.

#### Attainable Housing Strategies Initiative Update

On March 21, the Montgomery County Planning Board held a public hearing to receive comments from residents about a draft report on the Attainable Housing Strategies Initiative. You can refer to my previous emails about this initiative and/or visit their website for more information [HERE](#). In my testimony, I conveyed some of the concerns I've heard from neighborhood residents, such as:

- Montgomery Planning is not keeping the commitments made in the 2017 Bethesda Downtown Plan to ". . . [p]reserve and protect existing single-unit residential neighborhoods" near the downtown area from development – a promise that convinced nearby residential communities to support the plan.

- The draft report does not realistically address residents' concerns, such as the potential the impact of new housing density on school overcrowding, infrastructure (roads, water and sewer, etc.), and parking.
- The draft report proposes widespread revision of residential zoning rules without first examining the outcomes and lessons learned from similar changes in other areas.

I encouraged the Planning Board to think independently and cautiously as they implement this plan, which was largely developed under the previous Planning Board, and suggested several more effective ways to increase the supply of more affordable housing in the County instead of massive rezoning of existing residential neighborhoods. Finally, I asked them to ensure that the final report accurately reflects their stated desires to avoid large-scale redevelopment in residential neighborhoods and to make any new construction there compatible with existing homes.

You can watch the entire hearing on the Planning Board website by going [HERE](#). Residents with a strong interest in following this matter should sign up to receive updates on the project [HERE](#). The ECA Board is also still looking for residents who would be consider joining the ECA Board's Housing Committee to monitor projects like this that impact housing policy. If you are interested, please contact me by return email.

#### Little Falls Parkway Update

As noted in last month's Newsletter, the County Council recently approved a plan to modify Little Falls Parkway between Dorset Avenue and Arlington Road. Work on the revisions is now scheduled for sometime this fall. You can read an article about it [HERE](#), and see the full plan [HERE](#).

#### Edgemoor Tip of the Month – Environmental Film Screening and Panel Discussion

Montgomery Parks is holding a free screening and panel discussion on two films from the DC Environmental Film Festival this Thursday from 7:00PM until 8:45PM at Brookside Gardens (1800 Glenallan Avenue Wheaton, MD 20902). Both films deal with water conservation issues and one features the Riverkeeper of the Patuxet River, Fred Tutman. Fred, a descendent of freed slaves who settled in Maryland, is the only African-American Riverkeeper in the U.S. and has dedicated his life to fighting pollution in the Patuxent and the Chesapeake Bay. For more information, 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.*