

ECA Newsletter

December 2023

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1. 2024 ECA New Year Bruch

Mark your calendars! The annual ECA New Year Bruch will be held on Sunday January 7 from 11:30 AM until 1:30 PM at the Edgemoor Club. We will have coffee, bagels, doughnuts, muffins, and lots of other food and drink, as well as champagne to toast the arrival of 2024. Feel free to bring a food item to share, although that that's not necessary. We'll have plenty for everyone.

Look for additional details later this month.

2. Updated and Expanded ECA Trash and Recycling Webpage

As noted in last month's Newsletter, the guest speaker at our Fall Members Meeting and Social (MoCo Department of Environmental Protection Recycling Coordinator Alan Pultyniewicz) had a lot of valuable advice about household recycling, composting, waste reduction, and trash collection. As promised, we've incorporated that information into the [Trash, Recycling, and Leaf Collection page](#) of the ECA website.

Just a few of the frequent misconceptions he addressed:

- Milk, orange juice, and similar containers made of coated paper go in the paper recycling bin – even if they have plastic spouts. You don't have to remove the spouts.
- All paper mail goes in the paper recycling bin – even if it has plastic address windows. The same goes for cardboard containers with plastic windows (e.g., pasta boxes). You don't have to remove the windows.
- Household batteries cannot be disposed of in trash or recycling bins because they are a fire hazard. You can take them to the Shady Grove Transfer Station. Want an easier way? Take them to Strosneiders, Home Depot, Lowes, uBreakiFix or another store that recycles batteries.
- By now, most people know that plastic grocery bags don't go in recycling bins, but should be returned to a grocery store. But, did you know that this is also true of all kinds of plastic film (bread bags, zip-lock type bags, bubble wrap, dry-cleaning bags, plastic wrap that hold together soft drink bottles, etc...)? Did

you also know that plastic film taken to all major grocery stores in the area gets recycled into Treks composite decking boards (more info [HERE](#))?

- Most used durable medical equipment (wheelchairs, scooters, crutches, hospital beds, etc...) can be dropped off at the Shady Grove Transfer Station to be refurbished and re-used through the Maryland Durable Medical Equipment Re-Use Program. For more info, including how to get large items picked up, go [HERE](#).

Want to learn more and get the latest on waste reduction and recycling? Subscribe to the Department of Environmental Conservation's *Civic Loop* newsletter by email or text. The December issue has helpful ideas about reducing waste during the holiday season. Go [HERE](#) and follow the instructions.

3. MoCo Police Private Security Camera Incentive Program

You may have heard about a new program by Montgomery County Police that will reimburse residents and businesses in select areas of the County if they install security cameras. But, if you are thinking of buying a home security camera, don't get your hopes up. The program focuses on "areas experiencing relatively high incidents of crime." Since crime in this area remains low, the incentive is not available in our neighborhood. That may be bad news for those hoping to offset the cost of a security camera. But, it's continued good news for neighborhood safety and security.

If you are interested in learning more about the program anyway, go [HERE](#).

4. Animal Adoption Fees Waived

Thinking about getting a pet for your household? It just got a lot easier to adopt a pet from the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center. The Adoption Center is full, and has no room for new animals. So, they are waiving adoption fees for all animals until further notice. All types of animals are available for adoption including dogs, cats, guinea pigs, rabbits and reptiles.

The center is located at 7315 Muncaster Mill Rd. in Derwood. The phone number is 240-773-5900. The center is open six days a week (it is closed on Wednesdays).

You can learn how to adopt [HERE](#), and see what animals are available for adoption [HERE](#). Note that Animal services is always looking for foster homes for some animals. More information [HERE](#).

5. Zoning Text Amendment on Residential Parking Minimums

As you may have already heard, County Councilmembers Evan Glass, Andrew Friedson and Kristin Mink just introduced Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 23-10,

which they say will “encourage the development of housing, including affordable units, near transit corridors and would help Montgomery County reach its climate goals by taking cars off the road.” If adopted, it will exempt residential construction within ½ mile of a Metro or Purple Line station from the current minimum parking space requirements in the zoning code, which require two off-street parking spaces for a single family home in a residential area (such as our neighborhood). The change would not apply existing residences. You can view the draft ZTA [HERE](#). A County Council hearing is tentatively scheduled for January 16.

According to an article in the Washington Post ([HERE](#)), all County Councilmembers expressed support for the measure, even though they have not yet sought public input. The article also mentions that additional change are planned with the residential parking permit program, though no details have been released.

If enacted, this ZTA could impact our community in the future, but it’s not clear at this point what that impact might be. The ECA Board will monitor the progress of the legislation and let you know of any significant developments.

If you would like to see what part of the neighborhood is within ½ mile of the Bethesda Metro station, you can go to a Montgomery County map in an online atlas ([HERE](#)). On the left side of the screen, under “LAYERS” check the boxes next to “Metro Station Buffers – Half Mile” and “Property Polygons.” Uncheck all the rest of the items in the list if any are checked. On the map on the right side, drag the map so that Bethesda is in the center and then zoom it to see the detail. Alternatively, you could type in your address in the box on the upper left of the map. You may have to drag the map around some more or zoom in or out again to get the right area in the center. The orange circle shows the area affected. The area within a half mile of the Purple Line station is very similar, but not available on the map.

Anyone who would like to provide comments about the ZTA can find information about how [HERE](#).

6. Edgemoor Tip of the Month – Guide to Tree Care in Montgomery County

Have you ever wondered how to care for trees in your yard? When to call in an expert? What various symptoms of stress might be caused by? “Healthy Trees, Healthy Communities” is a joint project of Conservation Montgomery and the Montgomery County Government – the first guide produced specifically to address how to maintain trees in Montgomery County. And it’s available online for free. Check it out [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.