March 2013 Volume 54 No. 1





Editor: Mary Twigg P.O. Box 21150 Baltimore, MD 21228

### The Edmondson Heights Neighborhood News

Edmondson Heights Civic Association meets the first Tuesday of the month at Edmondson Heights Elementary School at 7:30. Upcoming meeting April 9. Note: Schools closing because of weather or holidays will automatically cancel the meeting.

## 2013 Project Clean Stream

Are you tired of being cooped up inside all winter? Ready to spend some time outside and enjoy the fresh air? Would you like to work together with your neighbors and even meet new neighbors? If you answer "yes" to any of these questions, come join us on Saturday, April 6, 2013 from 9 am to noon (rain date Saturday, April 13, 2013) at Project Clean Stream in the Edmondson Heights Park. Project Clean Stream is an annual event organized by Blue Water Baltimore and sponsored by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Project Clean Stream is a Mid - Atlantic region wide effort to clean trash from the watershed areas of the Chesapeake Bay from Pennsylvania to West Virginia to Delaware to Virginia and Maryland. The stream in the Edmondson Heights Park feeds into Dead Run which, in turn, flows into Gwynns Falls and on to the Patapsco River and finally, into the Chesapeake Bay. We will be picking up trash such as drink containers, fast food containers, candy wrappers, etc. to prevent this trash from flowing into the Bay and polluting it for the fish, oysters, crabs, as well as the humans who enjoy the beauty of the Bay.

For further information, contact Nancy Stevens at nancy212207verizon.net or 410-788-3105. We look forward to seeing you in the park on April 16th.

#### Pre-School Screening, Pre-Kindergarten Screening and Early Kindergarten Registration for the 2013 -2014 School Year at Edmondson Heights Elementary School

- To screen for the pre-school program, the child's birth date must fall between September 2, 2009 and September 1, 2010. Call the school at 410-887-0818 in late March and April for the dates of screening.
- To screen for the pre-kindergarten program, the child's birth date must fall between September 2, 2008 and September 1, 2009. Call the school at 410-887-0818 in late March and April for the dates of screening.
- To register for kindergarten, the child's birth date must fall between September 2, 2007 and September 1, 2008. Call the school at 410-887-0818 in late March and April for the dates of screening.



#### EDMONDSON HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION \$20.00 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

The 2013 membership annual dues drive is coming!!! Watch your mailbox for the EHCA membership dues letter that will be arriving starting in March and April 2013. Last year's response had a record breaking 229 households, up from 188 in 2011, paying dues providing us with the funding for:

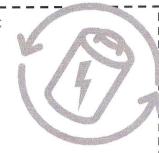
- Four (4) quarterly newsletters delivered to each home by volunteers.
- Sponsorship of the Spring and Fall Yard Sales in the Park.
- Covenant Enforcement Actions.
- Contributions to the Edmondson Heights Elementary School PTA.
- Project Clean Stream in April 2012 supplies and equipment to clean our park with volunteers.
- Supplies for volunteers to remove invasive species overtaking the trees and bushes in the park.
- Website <u>www.ehcaonline.org</u> for the community.
- Flower Beds under the two community signs.

We thank all of you for your past support and look forward to your continuing support. We live in a GREAT community!!!! Let's continue working together to keep it that way.

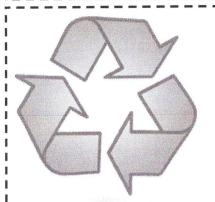
# **Spring Cleaning?**

Spring 2013 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event (Baltimore County residents only)

Sunday, April 14, 2013
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Baltimore County Resource Recovery Facility
Intersection of Drop-Off Drive & Warren Road
Cockeysville, MD 21030



Acceptable Items: Household chemicals, paints & pesticides, medicines, mercury thermometers, fluorescent bulbs, rechargeable batteries, computers & home electronics, and ammunition and automotive fluids for recycling or proper disposal. No trash will be accepted at this event.



# **Recycling Day**

Event: Shredding@Electronics recycling Day
Host: Patapsco Knights of Columbus
Time: Saturday, April 13, 2013 10:00AM

Location: Parking lot on corner Beaumont and Frederick Rd.

Additional information: Change of date Event is changed from 4/27/13

For more information call 410-608-9793

To view the event and RSVP, visit: https://edmondsonheights.nextdoor.com/events/31468/?s=ee

## **Councilman Contact Information**

Tom Quirk
Councilman, First District
Baltimore County Council
Old Court House, Second Floor
400 Washington Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204
Phone: 410-887-3386 Fax: 410-887-5791

council1@baltimorecountymd.gov

District Office:
Margaret Stokes
Legislative Aide
754 Frederick Road
Catonsville, Maryland 21228
Phone 410-887-0896 Fax: 410-887-1012
mstokes@baltimorecountymd.gov

# **Important Information**

#### EHCA, Inc. Officers and Board of Governors

EHCA. Inc. - Officers:

President – Quintin Stevens

Vice President - Kathy King

Treasurer - Nancy Stevens

Secretary – Sharon Davis

Sgt-at-Arms – Keith Jenkins

#### **Board of Governors:**

Debra Butler, Michelle Murrill, Mary Twigg, Maxine Jenkins, Kaon Nelson, Lisa Young, Marie Kane, Michael Kane, Edward Svatek, Sr.

The Edmondson Heights Civic Association, Inc. Board

The board has decided to request a community wide code enforcement sweep to be conducted in the spring and early summer. This is a general review of the neighborhood for egregious visible code enforcement violations which can be

easily corrected in most instances. Corrective notices and/ or citations with potential fines will be issued during the sweep for the following:

- \* Untagged/inoperative motor vehicles
- \* Junk, trash and debris
- \* Trash cans without lids
- \* Grass over 12 inches high
- \* Major exterior repairs, etc.
- \* Rat holes in yards
- \* No house number on back or front of home
- \* Chipped and peeling paint
- \* Broken windows
- \* Unsafe sidewalks, porch deck and steps.

The above list is not all inclusive. Other violations may be noted. We strongly recommend that all residents correct all known violations in advance of the sweep in order to avoid a notice and/or citation with potential fines.





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Dates to Remember				
4/6/13	Project Clean Stream: Edmondson Heights Park 9 a.m. to Noon			
4/9/13	Edmondson Heights Civic Association meeting at 7:30 pm in the Edmondson Heights Elementary School Cafeteria			
5/7/13	Edmondson Heights Civic Association meeting at 7:30 pm in the Edmondson Heights Elementary School Cafeteria			
6/4/13	Edmondson Heights Civic Association meeting at 7:30 pm in the Edmondson Heights Elementary School Cafeteria			
6/8/13	Spring Yard Sale in the Park: 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.			

#### Animal Laws-Article 12 Baltimore County Code - save for future reference

- 1. When off the owner's property, all dogs and cats must be walked on a leash. If chained outside, chains must have swivels. Chain collars may not be used, except when training.
- 2. All dogs and cats four months of age must be vaccinated against rabies.
- 3. All dogs and cats must be licensed at four months of age. New pets and all animals moving into Baltimore County must be licensed within thirty days.
- 4. All animals must be provided shelter for protection from wind, snow, rain, cold and the sun, plus adequate daily food and water, in clean un-tippable bowls.
- 5. Owners of female cats and dogs "in heat" must not leave their pets outside unattended. (Although spaying female or neutering male animals is not required, it is highly recommended.)
- 6. It is a violation of the law to allow dogs to bark excessively.
- 7. If an animal bites someone, the owner and the bite victim must report the injury to the Police Department. You are responsible if your pet bites or injures another person or animal, or menaces people in the community.
- 8. Owners are responsible for the timely removal of pet waste on public and private property.
- 9. Do not abandon or neglect pets you cannot keep. Instead, call Animal Control for assistance.
- 10. Any puppy or kitten sold or given away must be at least eight weeks old. Anyone selling or giving away a puppy, kitten, dog or cat must provide a health certificate, signed by a licensed veterinarian, along with a statement indicating date of sale or transfer of animal, description of animal, and immunizations given. The name, address and phone number of buyer and seller must also be provided.
- 11. Inadequate provision of food or water, unsanitary conditions, animal combat, cruelty and neglect are all considered animal abuse.

Residents who are concerned about violations should contact the County Animal Control Office at 410-887-5961.



#### A COVENANT CONTROLLED COMMUNITY P.O. Box 21150, Baltimore, MD 21228 www.ehcaonline.org

## **EDMONDSON HEIGHTS COVENANT GUIDELINES**

#### COVENANT CONTROLLED COMMUNITY

Residents should be aware that a legally binding set of restrictive covenants apply to all property in the Edmondson Heights Community. These Guidelines were established and initiated by the developer solely for the protection of property values within the community. It has been found that in developments such as our own, composed of groups of homes not individually styled, a certain amount of conformity must be enforced in order to preserve property values. They are a part of your deed, as an official document, recorded among the land records of Baltimore County as laws. By purchasing a house in Edmondson Heights, you have agreed to comply with these covenants even if you were not informed of or did not receive a copy of them at settlement. Any house with a violation cannot be sold until the covenant violation(s) have been corrected and approved by the Board of Governors.

The Edmondson Heights Civic Association, Inc. (EHCA, Inc.) as successor and assignee has adopted the following Covenant Guidelines to insure that homeowners, who are considering alterations, comply with the Covenant Guidelines. These Guidelines have been modified and adapted from the Original Covenants that were established in March of 1953 and are recorded among the land records of Baltimore County as laws. This revision is effective March 1, 2013. Any deviation from the Covenant Guidelines will require a written submission outlining the type of work to be done and the materials to be used along with drawn plan(s) delivered to the EHCA, Inc. Board of Governors, at P.O. Box 21150, Baltimore, Maryland 21228-0650. You may also deliver your plan(s) to an Officer or Board Member at a regularly scheduled monthly general membership meeting. The EHCA, Inc. Board of Governors retains the sole right to approve or disapprove all plans. Upon approval from the EHCA, Inc. Board of Governors, residents are responsible for obtaining all necessary permits and inspections and for complying with all State and County laws and regulations.

EHCA, Inc. is charged with enforcing these Guidelines and will investigate all complaints and violations, and if necessary, send a violation notice. Depending on the violation(s), the homeowner will be given from 15 days to 60 days to correct the situation. If you are found in violation(s) and you, or anyone acting on your behalf want to discuss it, you must submit a request in writing to meet with the Board of Governors of EHCA, Inc., PO Box 21150, Baltimore, Maryland 21228-0650, stating your situation and the reason for your request. If the violation(s) is not corrected in the stated time period, the EHCA, Inc. attorney will begin legal action. The homeowner with the violation(s) will be responsible for any and all legal fees.

#### **AWNINGS**

Only canvas awnings, either in green canvas or green canvas with white trim shall be on the front or the side windows of end-of-group homes. All canvas awnings must be removed for the winter months. Rear awnings may be of any type or variety desired, but must not extend beyond the house line so as to be visible from the front street.

#### FRONT DOORS, STORM DOORS & FRAMES

Front doors may be painted any color desired, although white is preferred. Storm doors must be painted white wood, white baked-on aluminum or aluminum. Door frames must be replaced in the same style as the original design and must be constructed of wood or Fypon in white only. Vinyl or aluminum cladding, in white only, that maintains the original design is acceptable.

#### SECURITY DOORS

May be installed to replace storm doors. Security doors must be white.

#### END-OF-GROUP HOMES

Facing boards running to the peak must be painted white or covered with white aluminum or white vinyl. White shingles may be replaced or covered with white aluminum or white vinyl siding.

#### FENCES

Must not extend forward of the chimney. Fences are only permitted at rear of property. Chain link fences are preferred.

#### **GUTTERS & DOWN SPOUTS**

Must be white, brick red or dark brown. Conformity within the group is encouraged.

#### **PORCHES**

Front porches must be replaced in the original design and be of concrete. Steps must be poured or prefab concrete, quarry stone or brick. Rear porches may be of wood, concrete or metal.

#### ROOFS

Roofs must be replaced in the same style as the original, and must be in a neutral color, preferably ranging from light gray to black. Attic fan installation must be in the back or side of the roof.

#### PAINTING

All exposed woodwork on the front, side, and rear of a house must be painted white (Exception is rear porches). Front porch railings must be painted either black or dark green. Conformity within the group is encouraged. Front porches and the concrete wall below brickwork must be painted the color of the original concrete. The recommended concrete paint is the following Behr concrete stain formula from Home Depot:

Behr Plus 10 Concrete Stain, Catalina Stone (819), White Base 800 (800)

Colorant	$\underline{OZ}$	<u>48</u>	<u>96</u>
B Lamp Black	0	8	0
C Yellow Oxide	0	12	0
L Raw Umber	0	31	0

#### WINDOWS

Must imitate the original double hung construction with six over six sashes preferred. Both sashes must be able to be moved up and down. Replacement materials must be white or painted white. Security bars or grills and glass blocks are permissible on basement windows only.

#### WOOD STOVES & FIREPLACES

Exposed exhaust piping must be bricked-in, bricks to match existing, and must be located in the rear of the house. If exhaust piping is going through the roof the exposed pipes must be stainless steel and be located at the rear of the house.

#### Revised 2013-03-01

## Keep The Lights On, Please!!!

Help reduce crime!!! By keeping the front and back porch lights on at our homes, we light up the night! This provides visibility both for us and for our neighbors who may come and go during the evening, night and early morning hours.

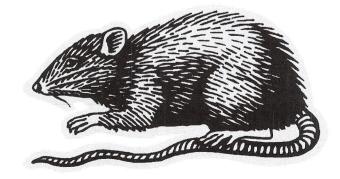


# RODENT CONTROL

The program is complaint driven. When a complaint is received via the Rid Rat telephone line, (410-887-RATS), from the online complaint form at the following website: (http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/permits/ridrats/ratenforcement.html) or from an investigating inspector in the field, the information is entered into a County-wide database. The Rid Rat telephone number and online complaint form are for rodent complaints only. It is important that the complainant provide as much specific information as possible regarding the location of the infestation.

- The investigator for that area will normally respond within 10 working days.
- Properties adjacent to or behind the site identified in the complaint may be surveyed for infestations or conditions which might support an infestation. When evidence of infestation and/or conditions that keep rats sheltered and fed are found, inspectors give information to the property owner to correct the nuisance.
- Should an infestation exist on the property of the County citizens who have asked for assistance, they will be given information to help them correct the problem, and will be asked to take any necessary actions to correct the problem. The property will be reinspected and should the inspector find that no progress has been made, a Notice of Violation will be issued.
- Notices of Violation for other properties will be issued at the time of the initial inspection and must be addressed within the time allotted on the notice or further legal action may be instigated by the County to ensure compliance.
- A person who fails to make the required corrections may be found guilty of a misdemeanor and/or be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$500 per day as assessed by The Baltimore County Code Enforcement Hearing Officer.
- **Extensive Problems**

- In the event that the information in the County-wide database or the observations of inspectors in the field indicates an extensive problem in a particular area, a block-wide or neighborhood survey or "sweep" may be initiated by the County. This action will entail the inspection of all of the properties in the affected area, the issuance of applicable Notices of Violation and the distribution of rodent control information.
- The county also, using a contractor, exterminates rats in neighborhood sweeps. Notices are placed at street entrances when rat poison is put out.
- The final, and most important, prong of the county's
  anti-rat campaign is education. Rats congregate and
  build nests at food sources. Residents are negligently
  or unknowingly feeding rats, who thrive not only on
  garbage, but on food sources like bird seed from
  outdoor bird feeders (even when rodent proof, bird
  feeders leave seed scattered on the ground), dog waste
  and compost piles.
- Residents who think rats are thwarted by a plastic garbage bag have another thing coming. Rats chew right through plastic. Those bags need to be in a can and covered with a lid by county law.
- By itself, the county cannot combat rat infestations; citizen cooperation is required. Be alert to rat presence, phone in complaints and keep property clear of food sources.
- Because of the effect rats have on quality of life and property values, eradication should be a priority.



# **Speed Bumps Calm Traffic**

Traffic calming speed humps have finally been approved for St Agnes Lane and Sanbourne Road. After many years of persistent efforts by the residents along St Agnes Lane and Sanbourne Road, traffic calming measures have finally been approved. We are currently in the process of obtaining the necessary signatures from the homeowners to finalize the

approval. The Edmondson Heights Civic Association, Inc. (EHCA), particularly the residents of St. Agnes Lane and Sanbourne Road, greatly appreciate the efforts of Kevin Kamenetz, County Executive and Tony Baysmore, Special Assistant to the Count Executive, District 1 Councilman Tom Quirk and his legislative aide, Margaret Stokes, to obtain traffic calming speed humps on St Agnes Lane and Sanbourne Road. Many residents along St. Agnes Lane and Sanbourne Road have experienced damage, including total loss, to their vehicles due to passing vehicles using excessive speed on this road. In addition, residents who park their vehicles across the street from their homes have had to be extremely vigilant about crossing the street lest they become targets of the speeding vehicles. Our children, seniors, and other individuals who walk or ride bicycles on this street will be safer in the future with the addition of these speed humps.



Thanks to Nikki Bigelow of Newfield Road, the first speed humps in the Edmonson Heights Community were installed. Pedestrians in our community are safer due to the tireless effort of Ms. Nikki Bigelow. She worked hours and hours just to get the 75% required signatures from her neighbors along Newfield Avenue. Nikki volunteered to spearhead an effort that was not easy. She would not give up until all the necessary names and addresses were on the dotted line. She knocked on 112 doors; hoping to reach folks who would agree that speed on the road needed to be reduced by use of speed humps. The signatures were submitted to Baltimore County representatives; and within 60 days, three speed humps were installed and working as designed to slow vehicular traffic along Newfield Road.

Thank you, Nikki Bigelow. You are a great neighbor and true friend of the Edmonson Heights Community Association.

- Keith Jenkins, Sergeant of Arms, EHCA

# **Community Websites**

EHCA, INC. is proud to sponsor two websites for the community's use and benefit. www.ehcaonline.org The official website for the community accessible to all users of the internet providing a great source of information about Edmondson Heights with links to resources and a calendar of upcoming events. Newly redesigned to make it more user friendly. An email link to communicate directly with the EHCA president is provided and suggestions to improve or correct the information on the site are welcomed.

https://edmondsonheights.nextdoor.com, A social interactive website strictly for use by registered residents of the Edmondson Heights community. This website is free and very easy to join. This site can be used to communicate with your neighbors, ask questions, discuss community wide issues publicize neighborhood events, recommend local businesses and service providers, sell, share or donate things you no longer need, etc. Links to government resources like schools, county offices, police, and many other things are provided. If you haven't checked these sites out, I recommend that you do so the next time you are on your computer. I think you will like them.

## What Happened in the Park?

After many long months (since the derecho storm last June), Baltimore County's Property
Management responded to our community's request to clear the downed/damaged trees in the
Edmondson Heights Park. The tree removal contractor worked during the second week of
January 2013 and, much to our surprise, included removing the fallen trees from the valley floor which had prevented the mowers for mowing much of the park's valley. Our residents will now have access to areas of the valley that have been inaccessible for several years. Please come to enjoy our much improved park this spring, summer and fall. It is a wonderful place to get away from the hustle and bustle of daily life and enjoy nature close to home.

## **Holiday Decoration Contest**

Our neighborhood looked so beautiful during the holidays! The winners in all categories were as follows:

Traditional: 1136 St. Agnes Lane
Children's Theme: 1417 Langford Road
Best Daytime: 1212 Harwall Road
1115 Harwall Road

All winners were awarded a WalMart Gift Card.

## **Daylight Savings Time Starts**

On Sunday, March 10, 2013 at 2 a.m., Daylight Savings Time begins for 2013. Remember to set your clocks forward. Yes, we 'lose an hour'. Also, remember to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

## Edmondson Heights Civic Association website -

Visit *your* website to learn more about *your* neighborhood and to contact officers.

www.ehcaonline.org









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# Special

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#### A COVENANT CONTROLLED COMMUNITY PO Box 21150, Baltimore, Maryland 21228-0650 www.ehcaonline.org

#### ADVERTISING RATES IN OUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTERS

Edmondson Heights Civic Association, Inc. (EHCA, Inc.) represents 1010 town homes located between Route 40 and Ingleside Avenue in zip code 21207. We conduct various activities throughout the year ranging from Community Clean-up Days, to Community Yard Sales to Picnics, etc. as well as publish four (4) community newsletters per year. Being a civic association, instead of a Home Owners Association (HOA), means we do activities and events that involve all residents within our community, including our Elementary School, the PTA, Parks and Recreation, various Youth Programs and our local Baltimore County Police and Fire Departments.

SIZE	ONC	E TWICE	4 TIMES A YEAR
<b>Business Card</b>	\$20.00	\$38.00	\$72.00
1/6 Page	\$25.00	\$47.50	\$90.00
1/4 Page	\$30.00	\$57.00	\$108.00
1/2 Page	\$55.00	\$104.50	\$198.00
Full Page	\$100.00	\$190.00	\$360.00

## ALL RATES ARE FOR COPY OR CAMERA READY ADS

All 1/6 Page, 1/4 Page, 1/2 Page and Full Page ads for a full year will also have their ad on our web site: ehcaonline.org

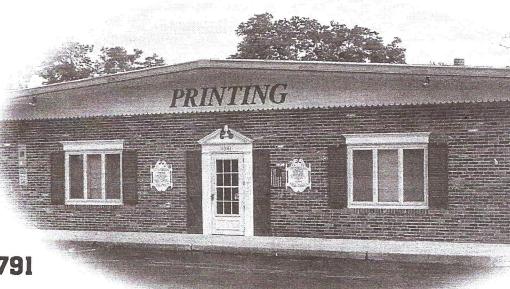
Please e-mail any questions or concerns to us thru our web site above or mail them to EHCA, Inc., P.O. Box 21150, Attn: Editor, Catonsville, MD 21228-0650.

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