



Editor : Karin Luoma 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 September 3, 2013. Note: Schools closing because of weather or holidays will automatically cancel the meeting







# **Community Events**

(see page 6 for dates to remember)

# **National Night Out Celebration**

The Edmondson Heights community celebrated National Night Out in our park on Tuesday, August 6, 2013. An estimated 60 neighbors brought their families, neighbors and lots and lots of desserts to Our thanks to the Woodlawn Police Precinct that sent a total of 7 officers as well as to the Woodlawn Fire Department which sent Ladder Truck #13 along with its crew of 4. 1st District Councilman Tom Quirk along with his legislative aides and State Senator Verna Jones-Rodwell of the 44<sup>th</sup> Legislative District in the Maryland Senate, and her legislative aide also came to share the night with us. We deeply appreciated their presence which afforded all of us a chance to speak with these elected officials face-to-face as well as to share concerns regarding criminal activity in our community.

Neighbors had the opportunity to meet new neighbors, catch up with old friends, and watch their children have a wonderful evening playing. There was face-painting; Mr. Bubbles, the clown, made balloon animals for all the children; hopscotch boards were drawn on the sidewalk with sidewalk chalk while moms showed their children how to play; and relay games were held in the valley of the park. The police officers contributed coloring books for each child. The firemen gave tours of Ladder Truck#13 to anyone interested. We even got to hear the siren several times.

# **Edmondson Heights Civic Association**

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

www.ehcaonline.org

# **Maryland Homestead Tax Credit**

For the past five years, the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation has been requiring residential property owners to file a new application to be eligible for the Homestead Tax Credit. You may have received the credit in the past, but if you fail to file an application that benefit will cease. What you need to know now is that the deadline to file, December 31, 2013, is fast approaching.

For those of you who need a small refresher, the Homestead is a tax credit that applies to your primary residence only. The credit limits the amount of your property assessment on which you actually pay taxes. While your assessments may increase dramatically, the credit limits the increase in the taxable portion of that assessment to just 4% per year. Our Taxpayer Services Section works with Baltimore County property owners on a daily basis, and we can clearly see the impact this tax credit has had on some accounts that otherwise would have faced 20%, 40%, or even 60% increases in their tax bill.

The credit itself can be very large during times of high property assessment increases, but shrinks as assessment growth slows or as assessments even decrease (as we have seen in recent years). Some property owners who, through lower reassessments or because they recently moved, may have seen the credit drop to zero and are wondering is it worth filing now. The truth is, no one knows when and if housing prices will rapidly accelerate again, but with the Homestead Tax credit eligibility in place, you can be protected automatically. That's why it's critical that you apply before the December 31st deadline. It's a quick and simple one-time process that can save you substantial money.

If you are unsure if you're approved, or simply want to verify your eligibility, you should visit the State Department of Assessments and Taxation website at <a href="https://www.dat.state.md.us">www.dat.state.md.us</a> and click on "Real Property Data Search." Click on Baltimore County and enter your street address. When your property page is displayed, scroll to the very bottom to see if you submitted the application.

If you haven't filed the application yet, you can reach the Homestead Credit Program by calling (410) 767-2165, or toll free at 1-866-650-8783.



# CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WINNERS!

## 1453 Kirkwood Road "Backyard Oasis"

Perennial border garden, that compliments the screened outdoor room, with ceiling fan and lighting. This is an example of how your back yard can become an extension of your home, for use during at least three seasons of the year.

# 1550 Barrett Road "A Garden and Porch that Says Welcome"

Beautiful small perennial garden, very inviting front porch, with annual flower boxes, excellent use of space (had all the elements that compliment an outdoor room).

# 1642 Kirkwood Road "Foliage Dressed to the Nines"

Beautiful sun and shade garden. A perfect example of how neighbors can dress up some of the beautiful large shade trees, so prevalent throughout our community.

## 1425 Kirkwood Road "A Sea of Color"

Annuals and a touch of perennials, combined to create an exceptional garden. The details are everywhere, the use of space; height, grouping, and color are a feast for the eye.

The attention to details such as flower boxes and decorative

containers are the final touch.



### **Daylight Savings Time Ends**

On Sunday, November 3, 2013 at 2am, Daylight Savings Time ends. Remember to set your clocks back and "gain" an extra hour



# **Residential Smoke Alarms**

New Law Effective 7/1/2013

A New Maryland State Law Requiring a Smoke Detector on each Level of a Home went into effect on July 1, 2013.

For one- and two-family dwellings constructed before July 1, 1975 (this includes all homes in the Edmondson Heights community), must have a minimum of one smoke alarm installed on every level of a home by January 1, 2018.

Battery operated smoke alarms remain acceptable, but the law requires that the alarms be tamper proof, powered by long-life batteries, and possess hush button features to discourage unsafe removal. A smoke alarm may be combined with a a carbon monoxide alarm if the device complies with this new law, Title 12 of the Public Safety Article, and other specified standards.

### **Email Address**



Neighbors, be informed, stay informed, provide your email address to the Association and receive information on community events, police alerts and many other items of inter-

est to the Edmondson Heights community. Your email address will never be sold or given to a third party without your permission. To provide your email address and to start receiving emails from the Association, simply send an email to the **president@ehcaonline.org**, with your name and address. Telephone number is optional. This service is provided only to residents of the Edmondson Heights community. You do not need to be a member of the Association to avail yourself of the benefits of email communications. I look forward to providing you with current information via email.

# Maryland Homeowners Association Act 11B-105

To all homeowners within the Edmondson Heights community, you know or should know that Edmondson Heights is a covenant controlled community and as such falls under the Maryland Homeowners Association Act. All homeowners contemplating renovation or repairs to their homes should check the covenant guidelines to ensure that they are not being violated. Covenant guidelines are published quarterly in our community newsletter, are on our community websites and are recorded among the land records of Baltimore County. The Maryland Homeowner Association Act requires that home purchasers be provided in writing a copy of the articles of incorporation, the declaration, all recorded covenants and restrictions of the primary development to which the purchaser shall become obligated on becoming an owner including a statement that these obligations are enforceable against an owner and current status of covenant compliance. The Edmondson Heights Civic Association, Inc. strongly enforces the recorded covenants and legal action will be taken as determined by the Association Board of Governors and Officers. It behooves all homeowners to ensure continual compliance with established covenant guidelines within the boundaries of Edmondson Heights.

# Fall Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

Sunday, November 10, 2013 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

At Western Acceptance Facility 3310 Transway Road off the 4500 block of 4500 Hollins Ferry Road, Halethorpe

The following materials will be accepted from Baltimore County Residents:

Household Chemicals Paints, Pesticides Medicines Computers Fluorescent Bulbs Rechargeable Batteries Mercury Thermometers Home Electronics

Ammunition and Automotive Fluids for recycling or proper disposal.

# **Baltimore County Code Enforcement**

Goal is to maintain or improve the standards of a community by enforcing the <u>Baltimore County Code</u> and <u>Baltimore County Zoning Regulations</u>. Code enforcement's 25 inspectors respond to some 18,000 code complaints each year and perform a number of functions which include:

- investigating residential/commercial complaints <u>Complaint Reports</u>, updated weekly, list complaints received for a property address that are investigated to determine if a code violation exists.
- sweeping/ticketing neighborhoods for code violations
- approving various licenses, permits (ie motel/hotel, towing, trailer)
- conducting housing inspections for Section 8
- managing the <u>Rat Attack Extermination Program</u> Rat Attack provides rodent control information to the public and enforces County regulations addressing the root causes of rodent infestation.
- enforcing the <u>Rental Registration License Program</u> for all rental property owners and addressing <u>public nuisance complaints</u> (PDF) for dwellings subject to the Rental Housing Registration Law.

# **Common Baltimore County Code Violations Enforced:**

- tall grass and weeds over twelve inches in height
- junk, trash and debris
- rat harborage
- trash cans without lids
- excessive dog feces

# **Common Baltimore County Zoning Violations Enforced:**

- untagged and inoperable motor vehicles
- non-permitted businesses from residences
- site plan and final order violations on commercial properties
- non-permitted commercial vehicles on residential lots
- non-permitted signs

### To Report a Possible Code Enforcement or Zoning Violation:

Please Send a fax to Code Enforcement Department at 410-887-2824, by mail to: Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections, 111 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Room 213, Towson, Maryland 21204 or by internet to <a href="http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/needtocontact/codecomplaint">http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/needtocontact/codecomplaint</a>. You are not required to include your name, address, phone number or email on your complaint. To report a complaint, you must provide the following information: Location of Problem, Zip Code of Problem and Description of the Problem. To receive a written copy of the complaint, you will need to provide your Name, Address and Email Address.

#### **Checking Status:**

To check the status of your anonymous complaint you may call any of the following numbers five working days after Code Enforcement receives the complaint at 410-887-3351,

410-887-3352, 410-887-8099 or you may go to the following internet site:

http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/permits/codeenforcement/index.html
'Complaint Reports'.

### FALL YARD SALE IN THE PARK



Come to the Edmondson Heights Park On Saturday, October 5, 2013 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

# "One Man's Trash is Another Man's Treasure!" Come to Buy, Sell or Trade!!!

Set up a table/space all around the park on Forest Park, Harwall and Granville Roads.

Clean out the 'stuff' in the attic, basement, or closets. Bring toys, baby clothes, jewelry, clothing, shoes,

electronics and whatever else you no longer want!

# Spaces are \$15

Donations will be collected by a member of the Yard Sale Committee.

# Rain date is Saturday, October 12, 2013

Here's your chance to meet your neighbors and make new friends. Enjoy a day out in the park.

For more information:

Contact Nancy Stevens at 410-788-3105 or by email at nancy21207@verizon.net

# Edmondson Heights Civic Association, Inc. Community Clean Up Date

Date: Saturday, September 21, 2013

Place: Parking Lot of Edmonson Heights Elementary School

Time: 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. (or until dumpsters are full)

Special Note: Please be prepared to show proof of residency in Edmonson Heights.

The dumpsters will be at the school for this once a year event, Rain or Shine. First come, first served. Once the dumpsters are full, you will be turned away. Per Baltimore County, the dumpsters cannot be overflowing.

# Acceptable

**Yard Waste:** Includes brush, leaves, small tree stumps, logs and wood pieces under 6 feet long. Brush must be cut down, no full size tree limbs.

**Scrap Metal:** Includes metal furniture, lawn chairs, lawn mowers without fluids, washers, dryers and other household junk that is primarily metal.

**Residential Waste:** Includes non-metal appliances, furniture, repair and remodeling scraps, old rugs and carpeting.

Additional Information Can be Found on the Community Clean Up Insert

# **Community Events**

Mark your calendar for EHCA meetings at Edmondson Heights Elementary School the first Tuesday of every month.

This is your neighborhood. Join your neighbors to keep it wonderful!

# **Dates to Remember**

8/26/13	Edmondson Heights Elementary School: First day of school
9/03/13	Edmondson Heights Civic Association meeting at 7:30 pm in the Edmondson Heights Elementary School Cafeteria
9/21/13	Community Clean Up Day, 8 am to 11 am in the Edmondson Heights Elementary School Parking Lot
10/1/13	Edmondson Heights Civic Association meeting at 7:30 pm in the Edmondson Heights Elementary School Cafeteria
10/5/13	Fall Yard Sale in the Park: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
10/12/13	Rain date for Fall Yard Sale in the Park: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
11/5/13	Edmondson Heights Civic Association meeting at 7:30 pm in the Edmondson Heights Elementary School Cafeteria
12/3/13	<b>Edmondson Heights Civic Association</b>

# 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. It also provides security for the homeowner/resident. It deters individuals from 'hanging out' in dark areas. It discourages foot traffic through alleys and dark paths. Finally, it helps the police as they patrol the neighborhood. Use fluorescent floodlights or compact fluorescent bulbs in the porch lights to reduce electricity usage.

# **Edmonson Heights Civic Association, Inc.**

# Income & Expense Report 1/1/2013 - 6/30/13 6 Months Year-to-Date Income

EHCA Annual Dues Advertising Income Yard Sale in Park Interest Earned	\$3,510.00 \$ 424.00 \$ 233.00 \$ .50			
<b>Total Income:</b>	\$4,167.50			
Expenses				
Membership Dues & Letters	\$ 657.56			
Newsletters (2 quarterly)	\$ 521.06			
EHES Book Fair Fund	\$ 300.00			
Insurance	\$ 286.50			
Community Signs	\$ 275.00			
Storage Unit Rental	\$ 252.90			
I Power - EHCA Website Fees	\$ 242.08			
P.O. Box Rental	\$ 224.00			
Covenants Notcies (inc. title search)	\$ 210.60			
Corporate Filing Fees	\$ 145.00			
Gift Cards	\$ 100.00			
Miscellaneous Supplies	\$ 101.23			
PCRC Dues	\$ 30.00			
Total Expenses: \$3,345.93				

# Edmondson Heights Civic Association \$20.00 Annual Dues Drive

The 2013 annual dues drive is ongoing. Dues are \$20.00 per residence. In order for us to continue the many activities of the association, we need your participation in the association as well as your dues of 20.00. If you haven't already returned your dues, please do so as soon as possible and also please consider becoming an active participant. To pay your dues, make a check or money order payable to EHCA, Inc. in the amount of \$20.00 and mail it to EHCA, Inc., PO Box 21150, Catonsville, Maryland 21228. Thank all of you for your support and we look forward to your continuing support. We live in a GREAT COMMUNITY!!!! Let's work together to keep it that way.



#### A COVENANT CONTROLLED COMMUNITY

P.O. Box 21150, Baltimore, MD 21228-0650

www.ehcaonline.org

#### **EDMONDSON HEIGHTS COVENANT GUIDELINES**

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. 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 of middle group homes and/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.

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### Continued from Previous Page

#### 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 but 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	OZ	48	96
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. Both sashes must be able to be moved up and down. Replacement windows 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.

These Covenant Guidelines are subject to future changes at the discretion of the Officers and Board of Governors. This revision having been voted on and approved by the Association Officers, Board of Governors and general membership is effective March 1, 2013.

President, Edmondson Heights Civic Association



P.O. Box 21150, Baltimore, MD 21228-0650

www.ehcaonline.org

# **Advertising Rates for Our Community Newsletter**

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	ONCE	TWICE	4 TIMES A YEAR
Business Card	\$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
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#### 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: www.ehcaonline.org

## EHCA, Inc, is Proud to Sponsor Two Websites for Our Community

#### http://www.ehcaonline.org:

Official website for the community accessible to all users of the internet providing a great source of information about Edmondson Heights with links to county resources, newsletters, membership information. service providers and a calendar of upcoming events. Email link to contact the EHCA president is provided.

### https://edmondsonheights.nextdoor.com:

Social interactive website for use only by registered residents of the Edmondson Heights community. This website is free and very easy to join.

If you haven't checked these sites out, I recommend that you do so the next time you are on your

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# **Special**

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