



Academy Heights NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Fall 2024

P.O. Box 3292 * Catonsville, MD 21228 * AcademyHeightsMD.org

2024 AHCA Board of Directors

Officers

President
Joe Shinault
Vice President
Rita Hall
Treasurer
Chris Waterman
Secretary
Meg Dandy

Board of Governors

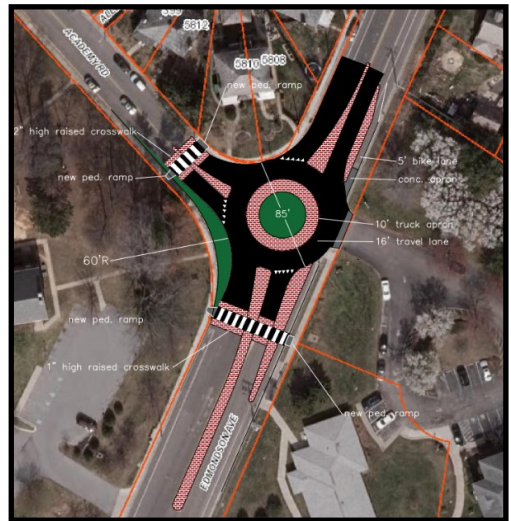
Linda Barnes
Tim Jarrett
Doug Kampe
Christie Kearney
Cathy Plane
Steve Smith

Edmondson Avenue Improvements & Beautification

During my tenor on the Academy Heights board over the past 10 years, a constant topic in varying ways has always been Edmondson Avenue. Going well beyond those 10 years, many residents near Edmondson started to deal with the unfortunate issues around the antiquated sewer system. For many years those neighbors had to deal with some long-term hardships and extensive property damage from flooding due to the undersized sewage system. The County's Sewage Relief Program eventually addressed those issues and was completed in 2020. This project required much disruption to Edmondson. We also have had to deal with occasional water main breaks over the years due to the aging water system. Then the BGE Gas Project began in 2018 that entailed new gas lines to each household. That project took a break in our area for a few years and picked up again this year along Edmondson. This has caused ongoing work along the roadway as BGE addresses households along the road. There has also been the constant issue of speeding along Edmondson, between Academy and Harlem, along with reckless driving. This has been the cause of some serious accidents and damage to resident's vehicles. Also, the ongoing digging and patching along Edmondson has destroyed the designated painted crosswalks. These crosswalks are essential for our bus stops and walkability to neighboring communities.

The Board has regularly attempted to address all of these issues at varying degrees and times over the past decade. This has included board members taking responsibilities of reaching out to our County and State officials, and dealing with multiple agencies and individuals over the years. I want to thank our board members (past & present) for their dedication, specifically Chris Burke, Doug Kampe and Rita Hall.

We are now able to share some promising news that we can look forward to later next year. County Representatives from Bureau of Highways and Traffic Engineering attended last month's community meeting to discuss the plans that are in place for improving Edmondson Avenue alongside the Academy Heights community. The County revealed the details of the plans that include repaving, curbing, center islands, landscaping, improved crosswalks, signage and a traffic circle at Academy & Edmondson. Parking will be removed from the south side and bike lanes added to both sides. The plan is currently concluding a pedestrian walkability and safety study that will result in final updates to the plans. Those results will then be shared with the association for feedback. Full construction of the final plans cannot move forward until BGE has completed their gas line work, tentatively late 2025. However, Traffic will move forward with work on curbs, ramps and drainage. Final construction will take about 4 weeks. We will keep the community aware of any updates.



Joe



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT We appreciate the residents and homeowners that showed their support of our community by contributing association dues in 2024. Contributions were received by 30 percent of homes this year. We hope that more residents will be able to assist in 2025. These funds allow us to support our community mission, which benefits our residents quality of life and property values. Dues for 2025 can be paid now. **ONLY \$20/\$10 for Seniors.** Pay with Zelle to info@academyheightsmd.org, or Venmo, PayPal or check.



HOLIDAY DECORATION CONTEST

How will you be decorating your door, porch and yard for the holiday season? Mount de Sales Academy students will once again be judging outdoor displays as part of the annual Academy Heights Decoration Contest, the week prior to Christmas. They will select winners in four categories, Best Door, Best Lights, Best All-Around and Most Original. Signs will announce the winning display at each home, and winners will receive an exclusive hand-painted 2024 Academy Heights Christmas ornament.

BOARD NOMINATIONS

The Academy Heights Civic Association met on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, where the following nominations for 2025 positions were accepted by the Board....President - *Joe Shinault*, Vice Pres. - *Rita Hall*, Secretary - *Meg Dandy*, Treasurer - *Chris Waterman*, Board of Governors - *Cathy Plane*, *Stephen Smith*

There are still 3 vacancies on the Board of Governors that may be appointed at any time. Homeowners may reach out to the Board if interested in becoming a Board member. Thanks to Adrienne Vedeloff for her years of service on the Board.

Elections will be held at the December 3, 2024 Community Board Meeting at Mount de Sales Academy.

75th ANNIVERSARY!

Our community of Academy Heights will be 75 years old in the new year. This is a great opportunity for us to come together to celebrate our community and share this milestone with the Catonsville area. We are looking for ideas and volunteers to coordinate some events to mark this occasion. It would be nice to have an expanded Block Party and have residents participate in the Catonsville July 4th parade. Please reach out with your ideas or if you want to be involved.

ALLEYWAY PARKING

Due to the ongoing struggles of attempting to locate an open parking space, residents may find it necessary to park in the alleyways. In doing so, residents must be aware of the County laws and the responsibility that is entailed. Baltimore County law states that "A person may not park, stop, or leave unattended a vehicle in any alley leaving less than 12 feet of clearance parallel to the vehicle." Depending on how a vehicle is parked, it may be very difficult to leave 12 passable feet in some sections of our alleys. Most of our alleys are only about 16 ft. wide. Trash and work trucks must have clearance, and emergency vehicles should be able to pass at all times. Residents are further reminded that they should report any vehicles blocking an alley to the BCPD at 410-887-2222. Also, there has been a recent increase of parked vehicles blocking our ADA corner curb ramps. Police randomly patrolling the neighborhood will ticket these vehicles immediately.

UPDATE - The AHCA Board will vote next month to approve an update to the Covenant regarding roofing materials. The allowed color for the option of CertainTeed Grand Manor Shingles will be changed to 'Black Pearl' from the previous 'Colonial Slate'.

fyi - As a new resident of Maryland, you must title your vehicle within 60 days of moving to Maryland. If you delay beyond 60 days, you will not be eligible for a tax credit for any titling tax paid in another state, and you will be subject to a citation fine for an out of state registration.