

# ACADEMY HEIGHTS NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 9337, CATONSVILLE, MD 21228

SPRING 2010

## From the AHCA President's Desk

My wife, daughter and I have lived in Academy Heights for almost twenty-two years. I have served on the Board of Governors for a number of years, and also am a past president of the Civic Association.

I would like to extend an invitation to all residents to attend our monthly Association meetings, which are held at 7:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at Mt. de Sales. One of the things I would like to accomplish this year as president of the Association is to have more people become involved in the business of our community, be it in attendance at meetings, or becoming active members helping to plan and execute various neighborhood events.

We have a number of plans this year for our Association. Those include plans to update our website and to provide the ability to pay dues online. Also, we are in the early planning stages of having another community block party similar to the ones held in the past. I also want to possibly get beyond the notion that the only business of the Association is in regards to restrictions. While they play an important role in maintaining the integrity of our community, they are not the sole reason for existence of our Civic Association.

Please try to attend a meeting, or at least let us know some of your thoughts. Thank you!

John McSweeney

### - - Dumpster Day May 2010 Canceled - -

Due to budgetary reasons, Baltimore County will not be able to fund Dumpster Day as scheduled. There may be funding available for this after July 2010. The Civic Association will remain abreast of the details and try to get our day rescheduled for the fall, perhaps closely following the Fall yard sale.

## Events Calendar

### April 7, 2010 – Monthly Meeting

April 11, 2010 – Easter Egg Hunt

April 24, 2010 – Community Yard Sale

### May 1, 2010 – Rain date for Community Yard Sale

### May 5, 2010 – Monthly Meeting

May 31, 2010 – Memorial Day

### June 2, 2010 – Monthly Meeting

June 14, 2010 – Flag Day

### NO Monthly Meetings July/August

July 4, 2010 – Bike Parade

### September 1, 2010 – Monthly Meeting

September 6, 2010 – Labor Day

September 11, 2010 – Community Yard Sale

September 18, 2010 – Rain date for Community Yard Sale

### October 6, 2010 – Monthly Meeting

October 24, 2010 – Halloween Party

### November 3, 2010 – Monthly Meeting and Nominations for ACHA

November 11, 2010 – Veterans Day

November 25, 2010 – Thanksgiving

### December 1, 2010 – Monthly Meeting and Elections for AHCA

December 19, 2010 – Santa's Visit

December 25, 2010 – Christmas Day

December 31, 2010 – New Year's Eve

## Check Out the AHCA Website!

At the [www.academyheights.org](http://www.academyheights.org) website, you will find:

### Home

- ⇒ Join the Community Email List – go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/academyheights>
- ⇒ Click here for a list of Important Phone Numbers: Includes County Executive, Councilman, Animal Control, Police Non-Emergency, Zoning Enforcement, Recycling, Bulk Pick-Up and Baltimore County Government General Information.

### History

- ⇒ In The News
- ⇒ Community Description
- ⇒ Historical Overview
- ⇒ Historical Significance

### Board Members

- ⇒ Board of Directors
- ⇒ Board of Governors
- ⇒ Committee Chairpersons

### Restrictions and Guidelines

- ⇒ Restrictions Guidelines
- ⇒ Homeowner Guidelines
- ⇒ Satellite Dish Regulations
- ⇒ Amended Bylaws
- ⇒ Applications for making changes to your land and home's exterior
- ⇒ Standards and Guidelines for Architectural and Historical Investigations in Maryland

### Yearly Calendar

- ⇒ Yearly Calendar of Events
- ⇒ Recycling and Trash Collection Schedule

**Newsletter** : Includes archived Quarterly Newsletter.

**Meetings** : Includes list of some of the topics discussed at past meetings.

**Photo Tour** : Selection of photos that have been provided by various members of the community.

**Community Links**: Includes General information, schools, churches, and local newspapers.

**CHECK IT OUT!**

## Christmas 2009 Decorating Winners

Many thanks to the young ladies of the Mount DeSales Academy Honors Art Society. Theirs was the task of judging this years entries for the Academy Heights Christmas Decorating Contest. The winners were:

- Best Lights 5834 Edmondson
- Best Door 457 Whitfield
- Best All Around 308 Stratford
- Most Original 313 Greenlow

Congratulations to this year's winners! The prizes were hand-painted Christmas tree balls done by own Karen Dietzius. Unfortunately, the cold snap we had during the Christmas holidays prevented the placement of the signs in frozen yards.

### Reminders from the Restriction Committee

- Glass block is not permitted.
- Fan-shaped window front doors are not permitted.
- Submit change requests for any outside work at least 30 days before project start.

Questions? Contact the Restrictions Committee.

### New Recycling Program Now In Effect

Recycling in Baltimore County is now easier than ever with the start of a new single stream recycling program which began on February 1, 2010. Single stream recycling means that paper, bottles, and cans (all combined in the same container) will be collected each week. New four-year recycling schedules have been mailed. If you have not received your new schedule by now, call **410-887-2000** to obtain a new schedule. Recyclables set out for recycling collection in plastic bags of any type or color will not be collected.

See: [www.baltimorecountymd.gov](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov) for more information.

## Are Your Dues Paid?

Dues are payable by June 30th each year. \$20.00 per household and \$10.00 for seniors 62+. Make checks payable to:

Academy Heights Civic Association  
P.O. Box 9337  
Catonsville, MD 21228

Your paid dues ensures your vote in your community.

## Rental Registration Program A Success

In the first year of Baltimore County's new rental registration program, landlords have complied with program requirements and registered 14,921 dwelling units. This initiative now provides documentation and landlord contact information for these previously untracked residential rental units. The County Code Enforcement Bureau administers this program, which resulted from legislation that was passed by the Baltimore County Council on November 19, 2007. The deadline for mandatory registration was January 1, 2009.

Rental registration protects the safety, health and welfare of tenants of by creating an additional procedure for the enforcement of county codes and regulations. The legislation requires a home inspection of each rental unit by a licensed private inspector. These mandatory inspections ensure that electrical and plumbing systems are functional with no apparent hazards, that windows are operational, that all combustion appliances are properly vented, that there is a secondary means of escape from all sleeping areas, and that smoke detectors are correctly installed and properly located.

Any landlords who have not yet registered their property are advised to do so immediately. Landlords who fail to register rental property in Baltimore County are subject to a \$1,000 civil penalty.

For information regarding rental registration, call 410-887-6060.

## It's Not Too Late to Prevent H1N1 Influenza

Reports that H1N1 illness is on the decline may influence some people to skip vaccination. While it is true that, currently, there are fewer cases of H1N1, no one knows if this trend will continue. The best way to protect yourself and your loved ones from the H1N1 virus is with a vaccination. It is not too late to be vaccinated. If you have not been immunized against H1N1 influenza, please seek a vaccination from your doctor, pharmacist, or local health department. If you have loved ones who have not been vaccinated, encourage them to protect themselves against H1N1 flu, too. See [www.baltimorecountymd.gov/agencies/health/resources/swineflu.html](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/agencies/health/resources/swineflu.html) for more information.

## U.S. Census - Real? Fraudulent Activity or Scam?

The Census Bureau uses a workforce of trained federal employees to conduct a variety of household and business surveys. Don't fall for the many scams that may be out there:

- The Census Bureau does NOT conduct the 2010 Census via the Internet
- The Census Bureau does not send emails about participating in the 2010 Census
- The Census Bureau never:
  - \* Asks for your full social security number
  - \* Asks for money or a donation
  - \* Sends requests on behalf of a political party
  - \* Requests PIN codes, passwords or similar access information for credit cards, banks or other financial accounts.

See [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) for more information.

## Speed Cameras Placed in School Zones

On September 8, 2009, the Baltimore County Council passed legislation authorizing the use of speed cameras in school zones in Baltimore County (Bill 61-09). The passage of that important public safety legislation authorized Baltimore County to implement a speed camera program in up to 15 school zones across the County. On February 22, 2010, Baltimore County began operating two of 15 camera locations. The first two cameras that were installed are located westbound in the 7000-block of Dunman Way near Dundalk Middle School and Dundalk Elementary School; and eastbound in the 1200-block of Sulphur Spring Road in Halethorpe near Arbutus Middle School.

Speed cameras are located at:

- ⇒ Lansdowne High School – 3900-block Hollins Ferry Road (southbound)
- ⇒ Arbutus Middle School – 1200-block Sulphur Spring Road (eastbound)
- ⇒ Woodlawn High School – 1700-block Woodlawn Drive (southbound)
- ⇒ Woodlawn Middle School/Woodmoor Elementary School – 3000-block Essex Road (northbound)
- ⇒ Milford Mill Academy – 3800-block Washington Avenue (southbound)

Important Facts to Remember:

- Speed cameras are all located in school zones.
- They will operate Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- The ticket is civil and the fine is \$40 and NO Points.
- Tickets will be issued to motorists traveling at least 12 miles per hour over the posted speed limit in each of the school zones.
- Warnings will be issued for the first 30 days after each camera is placed into operation.
- The cameras will be in operation on the same days during the same times when schools are out for the summer months. This is being done to protect summer school students as well as to enhance overall public safety around the schools.

## AHCA Officers 2010

### Board of Directors

President: John McSweeney, 410-747-6023, [president@academyheights.org](mailto:president@academyheights.org)  
 Vice-President: Joe Cleaver, 410-788-9396, [vicepresident@academyheights.org](mailto:vicepresident@academyheights.org)  
 Treasurer: Michael Brozic, 410-788-8911, [treasurer@academyheights.org](mailto:treasurer@academyheights.org)  
 Secretary: Vacant position – contact President John McSweeney if interested

### Board of Governors

Kathie Bankert (10) 410-788-7578	John O'Ferrall (11) 410-744-3480
Linda Barnes (11) 410-747-2676	Devon Rothschild (11) 410-719-6080
Nick Brocato (10) 410-788-6415	Keri Shaner (11) 410-788-2551
John Clingerman (10) 410-788-1895	Colin Smith (10) 410-869-9534
Karen DeHoff (10) 410-788-0698	Becky Stoll (11) 410-788-9358
Loretta Hoepfner (10) 410-719-6259	Doug Trail (11) 443-254-2270
Karl Medinger (10) 410-747-7984	Brian Wagner (10) 410-788-4692

*(10) (11) denotes year term of office expires*

### Committee Chairpersons

Restrictions: John O'Ferrall, 410-744-3480, [restrictions@academyheights.org](mailto:restrictions@academyheights.org)  
 Newsletter: Loretta Hoepfner, 410-719-6259, [president@academyheights.org](mailto:president@academyheights.org)  
 Social: Vacant position – contact President John McSweeney if interested

## Academy Heights Covenant of Restrictions

Academy Heights is an attractive and desirable community. The houses are well constructed and maintained. Residents enjoy good property values and a high standard of life. The reason: The Covenants of Restrictions are respected and enforced. In 1949 Academy Heights was planned as a distinguished housing development. To maintain this status, restrictions affecting the outside appearance of homes were imposed on present and future owners and occupants. By purchasing a house in Academy Heights, you have agreed to comply with these restrictions, even if you were not informed of or did not receive a copy of the Restrictions at settlement. The Covenant Of Restrictions, a part of your deed, is an official document recorded among the land records of Baltimore County. Briefly, the restrictions state: "No additions or alterations of any exterior part of the property can be made into plans showing kind, nature, shape, height, colors, materials and location of such additions or alterations be submitted and approved by the Academy Heights Civic Association Board of Governors." Homeowners are expected to maintain the exterior of their homes in good condition and make necessary repairs as needed. The Board of Governors has the right to ensure that these repairs and maintenance are performed so as to preserve good property values and the integrity of the community. Over the years, many requests for improvements have been submitted. Therefore, The Academy Heights Civic Association Officer and Board Members adopted the following guidelines to assist homeowners with frequently requested alterations:

1. All gutters and down spouts must be of copper construction or aluminum painted white or brown.
2. All windows: front, back, side and basement MUST have dividers, with the same number of panes as the original windows. Glass block windows are not allowed.
3. All exterior trim and doors must be white and of original design. Trim and doors must be free from peeling paint and no bare wood visible. If trim is to be covered with either aluminum or vinyl, it must conform to the original design.
4. Storm doors must be of original design or of aluminum or wood painted white with at least half the construction open for glass or screen.
5. PORCHES: Front porches and steps must be of original design and construction and made of concrete. Back porches and decks: Must not exceed 19'6" wide by 9' deep. All decks should be made of steel, concrete, wood or alternate building material. Alternate building materials are subject to approval by the Restrictions Committee on a case by case basis. Steel porches and railing must be painted forest green or black. Wood porches and railings must be painted gray, white or unpainted if constructed of pressure treated lumber. Residents with elevated porches/decks with ground level walk out basements that wish to either add a staircase or replace the existing porch/deck and add a staircase MUST ensure that the stairs are built PARALLEL to the porch/deck and not perpendicular (coming straight out).
6. Front porch railings must be forest green or black.
7. Mailboxes must be black, green or brass. If BLACK OR BRASS they attach to the brick in front of the home just below the house numbers, or if GREEN to the side of the porch railing if it is green.
8. House numbers must be black or brass, placed on a white piece of wood, attached to the brick in front of the home just below the porch light.
9. Front porch lights must be black or brass.
10. AWNINGS:
  - a. Awnings, front and side of property, must be seasonal of canvas or cloth only. Forest Green color only with edge trimmed in white or green. The awnings must be removed for the winter season. The supports and poles may remain standing through the year.
  - b. Awnings, rear of property, may be of any variety or type desired by the homeowner, but they must not be visible from the front of the home or extending beyond the house line. If canvass, green or brick in color, if metal, green or white.
  - c. ROOFING MATERIAL MUST BE SLATE.
  - d. FENCES: Chain link or picket type are allowed in rear of property only. Solid PRIVACY FENCES ARE PROHIBITED. Chain link fences can be forest green, silver, or galvanized. Picket fences can be white or unpainted if constructed of pressure treated wood. Fences can be 42" high maximum and must not extend beyond the chimney at end of group homes.
  - e. Storage Sheds in the rear of the property and must not be visible from the front of the property. Sheds are limited to 150 cubic feet (cf) volume IE: 5' wide by 5' deep by 6' high.
  - f. Swimming pools must be temporary in the rear of property only and removed in the fall and winter seasons.
  - g. All masonry foundations must be painted white, gray or sandstone.
  - h. Attic vents must be in the rear of the house, not visible from the front of the home and painted brown or black.
  - i. The use of DBS, MMDS AND TVBS satellite dishes is now acceptable. Dishes may not exceed 30 inches in diameter. Approval for installation including location must be received from the Restrictions Committee 30 days prior to installation. Refer to satellite dish installation guidelines.

When planning an improvement or change to your property, you MUST SUBMIT a plan of your project to the RESTRICTIONS COMMITTEE 30 DAYS BEFORE you begin work. The burden is on the homeowner, not the Board of Governors. The Restrictions Committee will review the application and issue a letter of approval or denial as the application may warrant. Restrictions violations may be reported by any resident to the Board of Governors or any member of the Restrictions Committee. Report violations promptly. The neighborhood will benefit from the elimination of an unsightly or dangerous condition and the homeowner may be spared a costly removal if warned in time. Enforcement is handled by the Civic Association, who will investigate the complaint, and if necessary send a violation notice. The homeowner is given 60 days to correct the situation. If not corrected in this time frame, the Association's attorney will begin legal action. The homeowner will be responsible for any and all legal fees.

Approved by vote, Nov 8, 2006, Board of Governors. This list is not exhaustive. Retyped Nov 16, 2006.

Restrictions Committee Chair: John O'Ferrall, 410-744-3480, restrictions@academyheights.org

### Classified Ads

The ads in the AHCA newsletter are paid advertisements. **The AHCA does not endorse their products or services.** Let our advertisers know where you saw their ad. For information on rates and to place ads, email: [president@academyheights.org](mailto:president@academyheights.org)

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 Towson, Maryland 21204  
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 754 Frederick Road  
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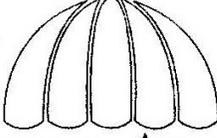
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