

# ACADEMY HEIGHTS NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 21262, CATONSVILLE, MD 21228

**SUMMER 2010**

## From the AHCA President's Desk

I'd like to extend my wishes to everyone for a safe and happy summer!

This spring saw another successful and always popular "Dumpster Day" in our community. Many thanks must go out to all of those who helped in putting it together. This year, due to County budget constraints, the dumpsters were funded through the use of Association dues paid by members of our community. It was, in the end, a nominal fee and a great service to the residents of Academy Heights.

We also have our annual 4th of July bike parade coming up, and this year we anticipate a few new "wrinkles"; we expect them to be "good" wrinkles, however. Planning has also commenced for our community block party, to be held on Saturday, September 18, 2010. So please be sure to Save The Date!

In the fall edition of the newsletter, you will begin to see another column, entitled, "Academy Heights Post". This will be a column in which articles will be culled from the Association archives. Work should also be finalized by the fall, allowing community members the option of paying their dues online.

These are just some of the upcoming events and services that will be made possible by people in our community working together, and by the dues that our members pay each year. These are just a few of the reasons why our community continues to prosper, and is still a great place to call "home".

John McSweeney

## Events Calendar

### ***NO Monthly Meetings July/August***

July 3, 2010 (Date change!) – Bike Parade

### **September 1, 2010 – Monthly Meeting**

September 6, 2010 – Labor Day

September 11, 2010 – Community Yard Sale

September 18, 2010 – Block Party

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

## **- 3rd of July Bike Parade at 10:00 a.m. -**

Will start at alley behind Greenlow and wind our way around the neighborhood until we reach Christian Temple playground. We will have best decorated bike, best decorated wagon/stroller, best dressed dog, and - new this year - a pie eating contest. As you can see, there is a lot to do and many hands will make light work. If you are interested in helping by volunteering your time or donating items, please contact me asap. Colleen Cummings, 410-744-2506/colleen.cummings@comcast.net, 424 Greenlow Road.

**- Citizens On Patrol -**

Are you interested in helping AHCA's Citizens on Patrol? If so, please contact Loretta Hoepfner (ivolunteer@email.com, 410-719-6259). C.O.P.s are organized groups of citizens who volunteer their time to patrol their neighborhoods, acting as additional "eyes and ears" for their local police officers. The presence of C.O.P. acts as a deterrent to crime and can decrease the suspicious activity associated with crime, thereby enhancing the overall quality of life their communities. Patrol groups utilize foot patrol or their personal cars and have radios or cell phones to communicate with the police. C.O.P. patrollers are observers only. They report criminal and suspicious activity or needs for emergency assistance to the police. They are not vigilantes. They do not carry weapons, or confront persons engaged in criminal or suspicious activity.



**The Growing Home Campaign  
Greening Begins In Your Own  
Backyard, One Tree At A Time**

The Growing Home Campaign provides homeowners with education about the multiple benefits of planting trees and a \$10 savings on the purchase of qualifying trees. The Growing Home program is an innovative way homeowners can help increase the tree canopy in our region. The Growing Home Campaign is a public - private partnership between Baltimore County, Baltimore City, Harford County, local retail nurseries and garden centers and homeowners to encourage planting new trees on private residential land. Learn how each of us can do something to help improve our environment by planting a tree in our own yard. Contact: Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management, 410-887-4488 x287, dcohen@baltimorecounty.gov.

The state is also offering a \$25 coupon towards the purchase of a tree at participating nurseries. Check [www.trees.maryland.gov/pdfs/coupon.pdf](http://www.trees.maryland.gov/pdfs/coupon.pdf) for the downloadable coupon and nursery information. If you need ideas for what kinds of trees to plant, see [www.trees.maryland.gov/pickatree.asp](http://www.trees.maryland.gov/pickatree.asp).

FMI: [www.baltimorecountymd.gov](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov)

**2010 Block Party  
September 18th  
3:00-8:00 p.m.**

Come join your neighbors in a day of family fun and celebration. There will be food, refreshments and music. We are looking for more volunteers for our committee. FMI: George Brookhart, Committee Chairperson, [georgebrookhart@verizon.net.](mailto:georgebrookhart@verizon.net.), 410-747-9453.

Location: Northdale Road between Whitfield & Stratford Road

Rain Date: Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>

**Reminders From  
The Restrictions 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 starting the project.

Questions? Contact John O'Ferrall, Chair, Restrictions Committee, 410-744-3480, [restrictions@academyheights.org](mailto:restrictions@academyheights.org).

**Thanks To All Who Made The  
Easter Egg Hunt A Success!**

Thanks to Erica Fendlay, Suzanne Kantt, Eileen Cleaver, Judi Mahaffey, and Molly and John McSweeney for helping to hide the eggs and/or keeping the kids safe. Thanks to Emma and Abby Kantt for helping to stuff eggs. This is not a small task, and I have lots of "bunny help" from our neighbors. We are also blessed to have a great community partner in Christian Temple. A final thank you to the parents/grandparents who brought their children. We got some very cute pictures, and hope that these will go up on the AHCA website soon!

Beth McSweeney

### Emergency Preparedness

#### Use Caution During Periods of Extreme Heat

High heat and humidity are settling over our region. Extreme heat can cause serious health problems and even death, especially among the elderly and other vulnerable populations. Baltimore County senior centers will serve as "cooling centers" with extended hours until 8 p.m. Call the Department of Aging Senior Center Information and Assistance line at 410-887-2594 for details.

#### Emergency Notifications Available on Twitter

Sign up to receive emergency updates and other information from the Office of Emergency Management on the social networking tool, Twitter. Visit [www.twitter.com/BACOemergency](http://www.twitter.com/BACOemergency) to sign up; the twitter account is BACOemergency.

FMI: [www.baltimorecountymd.gov/News/emergency\\_prep/index.html](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/News/emergency_prep/index.html)



### Elder Abuse Awareness

In Maryland, during fiscal year 2009, the Department of Human Resources' Adult Protective Services staff conducted nearly 6,000 statewide investigations of abuse, neglect or exploitation. If you or someone you know is a victim of elder abuse, please contact one of the following agencies for help.

- Baltimore County Department of Aging: Supports the 60+ age citizens of Baltimore County, helping them to remain healthy, active, safe and independent members of the community. Contact 410-887-2594 or 410-887-2549.
- Baltimore County Department of Health: Provides state and federally mandated assessments of functionally disabled adults, conducted wherever the adult who may be at risk of institutionalization is currently residing. Contact 410-887-2740 or 410-887-2754.
- Baltimore County Police Department: Responds to calls for elder abuse, neglect, self-neglect and exploitation. Contact 911.
- The Pro Bono Counseling Project: Provides free and reduced-cost referrals with licensed mental health professionals. Contact 410-825-1001.

FMI: [www.bcpl.info/stopelderabuse](http://www.bcpl.info/stopelderabuse)



### Dumpster Day A Resounding Success!

Many thanks to Joe Cleaver for organizing this year's annual event and to the countless others who helped. And again this is everyone's dues at work for the benefit of the Community.

**Be Sure to Check Out  
the AHCA Website!**

**[www.academyheights.org](http://www.academyheights.org)**

### 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 21262  
Catonsville, MD 21228

Your paid dues ensures your vote in your community.

### - Local Happenings -

**Lurman Woodland Theatre Summer Concerts:** Saturdays and Sundays through August 29, 2010 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Bring a blanket and enjoy great family entertainment. Free admission to the concerts located at South Rolling Road and Bloomsbury Avenue. FMI: [www.lurman.com](http://www.lurman.com).

**Frederick Road Fridays:** Through September 10, 2010 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free concerts and entertainment located on Egges Lane. FMI: [www.catonsville.org](http://www.catonsville.org).

**64th Annual Catonsville 4th of July Celebration:** On Saturday/July 3, 2010, a day filled with celebrations, including children's games, concerts, races, a grand parade, and fireworks. Free admission for events on Frederick Road. The parade will be held on Frederick Road between Montrose Avenue and Bloomsbury Avenue. The fireworks will be at Catonsville High School. FMI: [www.catonsvillecelebrations.org](http://www.catonsvillecelebrations.org).

### It's Time To Get Summer Ready!

Summer is upon us! BGE's *SummerReady* website provides strategies you can employ to conserve energy and reduce costs without sacrificing comfort, such as:

- Set your central AC at 78°F or higher.
- Have a professional check your central AC.
- Change your furnace filters monthly.
- Seal gaps around windows, doors, and wall outlets
- Check/add insulation in your attic to reach an R-30, the depth of 12-inches.

FMI: [www.bge.com/SummerReady](http://www.bge.com/SummerReady)

### What Can You Do To Be More Sustainable?

#### What Residents Can Do

There are many ways you can become more sustainable at home, and save money in the process. As a resident, you've probably have already been turning off your lights and appliances when not in use to save electricity and money. However, there are many small changes you can make to reduce your energy bills.

#### Quick Tips To Save Energy And Money

- Turn down water heater temperature to 120°F. Every reduction of 10°F can save up to 5% on costs.
- Install energy efficient showerheads—one 10-minute shower per day with an energy efficient showerhead can save 10,000 gallons per year.
- Turn off home electronics when not in frequent use (DVD players, speakers, printers, etc.).
- Reduce cooling costs by planting shade trees and shrubs , especially on the west side of your home.

#### Home Energy Audit

Performing a home energy audit will help you investigate parts of your home that you might not know affect your energy bill. Some of the factors contributing to your bill include insulation levels, tightness of windows and doors, what types of appliances you're using and how often, and other elements.

#### Shorthand Guide to Making Sustainable Changes In Your Yard

- Start your own garden of native species - try growing your own vegetables.
- Use electrical or manual mowers and yard equipment instead of gas powered equipment.
- Use organic fertilizers if possible.
- Install a rain barrel or cisterns to capture rainwater for watering purposes.
- In the warmer months, water in the early hours of the morning to reduce water evaporation.

FMI: [www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/executive/sustainability/residents.html#Quicktips](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/executive/sustainability/residents.html#Quicktips)

### New Recycling Program Now In Effect

Recycling in Baltimore County is now easier than ever with the single stream recycling program. Single stream recycling means that paper, bottles, and cans (all combined in the same container) will be collected each week. Recyclables set out for recycling collection in plastic bags of any type or color will not be collected.

FMI: [www.baltimorecountymd.gov](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov), 410-887-2000.

### Sunday Farmer's Market 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

The Catonsville Sunday Farmers' Market will be open through November 21, 2010, rain or shine on the parking lot in the 730 Shopping Center behind Friendly's. The market will feature a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, bison, plants and specialty baked goods. Community groups and local restaurants will be invited to participate during the season while local musicians will entertain market visitors. The Sunday Farmer's Market is sponsored by the Greater Catonsville Chamber of Commerce.

FMI: [www.catonsville.org/events/farmersmarket.html](http://www.catonsville.org/events/farmersmarket.html),

### Baltimore County Reminds You...

All homes must have house numbers posted on the rear of their homes.

**It is illegal to:**

- ▶ Block handicapped ramps
- ▶ Park facing the wrong way on the street
- ▶ Park too close to a fire hydrant

### You, Your Dog, and Your Neighbors

**Be kind to your dog and your neighbors - obey the law and use common sense.** It is the responsibility of the owner to pick up after their dog, to ensure the dog is vaccinated, is licensed by Baltimore County, on a leash when not in the yard, and to provide adequate food, water, and shelter for their dog. It is a violation of the County noise ordinance to allow dogs to bark excessively. If needed, Baltimore County Animal Control can be reached at 410-887-5961. For unclean yards, contact the Baltimore County Health Department at 410-887-4065.

### Donate, Don't Dump!

FMI: <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/publicworks/recycling/loadingdock.html>

Baltimore County has partnered with The Loading Dock, Inc. ([www.loadingdock.org](http://www.loadingdock.org), 410-558-3625) to accept reusable building materials at the Eastern Sanitary Landfill in White Marsh and the Baltimore County Resource Recovery Facility in Cockeysville. Residents donating to The Loading Dock, Inc. who wish to receive a tax deduction letter may take a receipt form with them to mail in or register their donation online at The Loading Dock. Materials accepted include:

- Cabinets (kitchen and bath)
- Carpeting (remnants-rolled, new)
- Countertops
- Doors
- Downspouts and Gutters
- Fans (ceiling, attic and exhaust)
- Flooring
- Insulation (bagged)
- Hardware
- Lighting
- Lumber (over 4 feet, no nails)
- Roofing materials (whole packs/rolls)
- Shelving
- Sinks
- Tile (new)
- Toilets
- Tools
- Tub

## Pedestrian Safety Campaign Launched

Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith and Police Chief Jim Johnson have launched a pedestrian safety campaign focusing on three key areas: Education, Enforcement and Engineering. While crime is down, the County has experienced a slight increase in pedestrian related traffic crashes and fatalities over the past three years.

### Suggestions For Safe Pedestrian Crossing

- Always cross a street or road at a crosswalk or traffic light that has a crosswalk - never jaywalk.
- Stress the importance of safe walking habits with family members and others.

### Suggestions For Pedestrian-Friendly Driving

- Children act before they think - never assume that they will look both ways to cross a street.
- If someone is standing on a curb, be proactive and slow down.

### Suggestions For Safe Jogging

- Enjoy the sounds of nature and leave the mp3 player at home.
- Observe the rules of the road.
- Wear bright clothing or a reflective strap or vest so motorists can see you.

### Suggestions For Safe Bicycling

- Wear a bicycle helmet. It is the law for those 16 years old and younger, but everyone benefits from wearing safety equipment.
- When you are bicycling you must follow the rules of the road.
- Use hand signals to let others know when you are turning. Motorists can't read your mind.

FMI: [www.baltimorecountymd.gov/News/releases/0511pedestrian.html](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/News/releases/0511pedestrian.html)

## 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

_____ Vacant Position _____	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
<i>(10) (11) denotes year term of office expires</i>	

### 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 until 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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District Office:  
 754 Frederick Road  
 Catonsville, Maryland 21228  
 410-887-6896 Fax: 410-887-1012  
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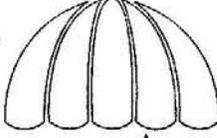
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