



Winter 2020

P.O. Box 3292 \* Catonsville, MD 21228 \* [AcademyHeightsMD.org](http://AcademyHeightsMD.org)

### 2019 AHCA Officers

#### Board of Directors

President - Joe Shinault  
Vice President—Chris Burk  
Treasurer - Chris Waterman

#### Board of Governors

Linda Barnes  
Mischa Bowen-Kreiner  
Patrick Cusick  
Rita Hall  
Doug Kampe  
Christie Kearney  
John O'Ferrall

## Academy Heights—70 Years Young

Hello Neighbors,

As Academy Heights enters its 70<sup>th</sup> year, I wanted to let everyone know our neighborhood continues to shine as a beautiful, desirable and friendly community. Being formed as a covenant community all those years ago has allowed Academy Heights to remain a vibrant, thriving community that we can continue to take pride in. I would like to thank all of the previous board members, as well as the newly elected ones, for all of their support in making our community a happy and safe place to call home over all these decades. And many thanks to the residents that continue show pride in their homes and concern for their neighborhood.

During my five years on the board, there have been many accomplishments and improvements put into place to assist in bringing the community together. Many of these happen behind the scenes, but others such as this quarterly newsletter, our website and Facebook page, the yard sales and Block Party all bring us together as a strong and united community in Catonsville.

Our civic association continues to have a close relationship with the BCPD Wilkens district and our liaison, Officer Keith Boone. They address any concerns that we bring to them, keep us regularly informed, and make sure our neighborhood remains safe. Crime statistics are down in our precinct and our community has only had a few issues with mischievous teens and young adults looking for trouble. The occasional cars that are rummaged through during the night only occur due to residents forgetting to lock the doors. It is very unfortunate, but as long as there are unlocked cars, delinquents will come through looking for them. This is an area wide issue. As more residents continue to install video doorbells, these should assist police and discourage criminal behavior.

Back in 1950, the primary reason for the creation of the Academy Heights Civic Association was to enforce the binding covenants that are required of all 462 homes. Even though the covenants have evolved over the decades, they are still the main focus of the work done by the board and the Architecture Committee. Even though we no longer are concerned with chickens, pigeons, swine and goats residing on properties, there are many other minor violations that we continue to address, as well as some major ones.

Usually many of the covenants violations are minor oversights that residents were not aware of; this is why we stress to take a few moments and become familiar with guidelines posted on the website. Things become more difficult when residents continue to ignore requests to correct violations. This is when a decision needs to be made to pursue legal action which will be a major expense to the homeowner and more importantly to the community.

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## Holiday Decoration Contest Winners

### **Best Door—408 Stratford**

Honorable Mention - 5834 Edmondson

### **Best Lights— 415 Lambeth**

Honorable Mention - 6124 Regent Park

### **Most Original—316 Greenlow**

Honorable Mention- 410 Lambeth

### **Best Overall—6124 Regent Park**

Honorable Mention -316 Greenlow

### **Best Block— 400-408 Stratford**

Each winner received a hand-painted Christmas ornament showing the year and category. Thanks to the students of Mount de Sales Academy for being judges again, and to everyone that made the effort to brighten our community during the holiday season. We once again thank neighbor Karen Dietzius for her talent and time in creating the beautiful ornaments.

(continued from front)

Today, as a civic association, residents are not required to participate or pay dues. We do appreciate the many residents that understand the need for dues and that have paid them. Over each of the past years, about 35% of residents have paid dues, which is a great improvement over the past several years. However, up until the 1970's, almost 80-90% of residents supported the associations by paying dues. No matter the participation rate, the funding still supports all residents of Academy Heights; specifically, by upholding our covenants. Imagine if we did not have covenants or that they were no longer enforced. Very quickly, this would negatively affect the property values of every single resident. This neighborhood would no longer be a desirable place to bring up a family or retire to....as it always has been for 70 years.

So this is the situation we find ourselves in as we are required to make sure that everyone adheres to the covenants, but funds are needed to sometimes ensure enforcement....funds that are voluntary from the community. Every year we ask residents to pay dues and remind them of the activities that are provided by those dues. Many know that we had to cancel our annual Block Party one year due to lack of funds. But the reality is that we unfortunately need to have legal counsel on hand to pursue legal action for covenant enforcement, which is costly. It is always the very last and reluctant choice, but sometimes the only choice; we do not have the option to place fines on violations. So I plead to each and every resident for two things, please abide by every covenant and please support the community by paying your dues. This will keep us going for another 70 years.

That being said, there are many other fun activities and projects being planned and discussed for the neighborhood. I encourage residents to come to a monthly meeting to see what is happening and something might peak your interest to being involved.

- Joe Shinault

## **2020 ANNUAL AHCA DUES**

The 2020 annual residence dues remain  
**\$20 per household, \$10.00 for seniors 62+.**

Your dues support your Academy Heights Civic Association in many ways..  
*Ensure a safe, attractive community by enforcing community covenants.*

*Sponsor the annual Dumpster Day.*

*Promote the annual community Yard Sale.*

*Sponsor the annual Halloween Party.*

*Sponsor the annual Easter Egg Hunt.*

*Publish the quarterly newsletters.*

*Administrative costs for the website, PO Box, etc.*

*Ensure Your vote in community issues in accordance to the AH bylaws.*

*All funds raised go towards ensuring the safety and quality of life in Academy Heights.*

A self-addressed enveloped has been attached  
for your convenience.

Make checks payable to:

Academy Heights Civic Association (AHCA)

You may also pay online via PayPal

at [AcademyHeightsMD.org](http://AcademyHeightsMD.org)

or using the Venmo app.

**Thank You for supporting  
Your community!**



**Saturday, April 11  
at 10:00 am**

*Christian Temple Church  
Playground*

Bring the kids and a  
basket or bucket to  
collect eggs for candy  
and prizes.

## **Whats Happening in the Heights?**

[Join our Facebook Group](#)

[www.facebook.com/groups/academyheightsmd](http://www.facebook.com/groups/academyheightsmd)

[View our Community Website](#)

[www.academyheightsmd.org](http://www.academyheightsmd.org)

[Join our E-Mailing List](#)

[www.academyheightsmd.org/newsletter](http://www.academyheightsmd.org/newsletter)

**Weinkam  
& Weinkam P.A.**

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## **2020 Academy Heights CALENDAR**

February 4 - AHCA Community Meeting

March 3 - AHCA Community Meeting

April 7 - AHCA Community Meeting

April 11 - Easter Egg Hunt (Christian Temple Park)

May 5 - AHCA Community Meeting

May 9 - Spring Yard Sale

May 25 - Memorial Day

June 2 - AHCA Community Meeting

June 6 - Dumpster Day

July 4 - Independence Day, Bike Parade

August 4 - National Night Out

September 7 - Labor Day

September 8 - AHCA Community Meeting

September 26 - AH BLOCK PARTY

October 6 - AHCA Community Meeting

October 25 - Halloween Party (Christian Temple)

October 31 - Halloween in the Heights

November 10 - AHCA Community Meeting & Nominations

December 1 - AHCA Community Meeting & Elections

December 22 - Christmas Decoration Contest

*Please check the website for the most current details on events, dates and times.*

*All monthly AHCA meetings are held at Mount de Sales Academy at 7:30 pm. Board officers may be contacted at [info@AcademyHeightsMD.org](mailto:info@AcademyHeightsMD.org)*