



Summer 2025

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

### 2025 AHCA Board of Directors

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Board of Governors</u>
<i>President</i> Joe Shinault	Linda Barnes
<i>Vice President</i> Rita Hall	Tim Jarrett
<i>Treasurer</i> Chris Waterman	Christie Kearney
<i>Secretary</i> Meg Dandy	Cathy Plane
	Steve Smith

## MOVIN' ON

My wife, Kim, and I moved into Academy Heights in late 2014. We were downsizing after 25 years in Carroll County and our daughter was teaching at Mt. de Sales and renting with girlfriends in Academy Heights.

And so it began.

I somehow stepped into the role of AHCA President in 2015, taking the reins from George Brookhart who had done a tremendous job for several years. But now, after 10 years, it is time for me to move on. My daughter and son-in-law live in Howard County with our 1 yr. old granddaughter and a grandson due soon. We have now decided to move westward to be closer to them. The September Community Meeting will be my last as AHCA President.

We will miss Academy Heights, more specifically the great neighbors and residents of this community. My time on the board has been very rewarding, even though it has had its challenges. The best part has been being able to meet residents and to be able to assist so many in so many ways over the years. My sincerest gratitude goes to my fellow board members and those that preceded them during my tenure. They all have the best interest of this neighborhood in mind; to assist in keeping it an impressive and desirable community, as it has been for 75 years.

Some may disagree with me, but this is a much improved community from when I arrived 11 years ago. It was getting a little rough around the edges and many things had been overlooked. Refocus on the covenant guidelines have made this a very charming neighborhood to those that pass through or chose to move here. There have been many covenant debates over the years, but we continue to update them as needed, and monitor them as best as possible. Academy Heights would not be this fine community without those guidelines and the people to enforce them.

It has always been a struggle to get residents involved, and this has become more pronounced in recent years. This in turn affects how effectively we can uphold our mission and covenants. Crime and security have been a issue over the years, but we have usually been considered one of the safer communities within Catonsville. Yes, there has been an unfortunate uptick recently, but this is part of the ongoing issues in the Catonsville area that continue to challenge us.

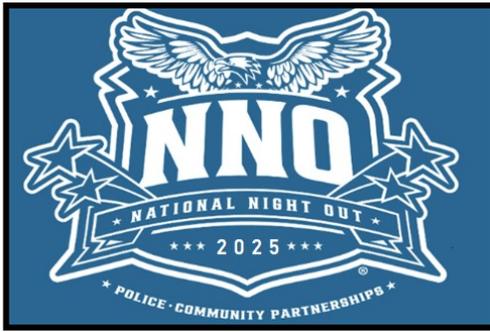
I must stress now, more than ever, that this community needs more involvement from its residents. If not, Academy Heights will begin to falter. There are so many roles to fill in order to support this community. Over the past ten years, my wife and I have composed and delivered every quarterly newsletter, managed the AH website, updated the Facebook page, including the TBT posts, created and distributed the Welcome Kits, applied for annual COP Grants, organized Dumpster Day, maintained the Little Library, and overseen the Christmas Contests and yard sales. These roles now need to be transitioned if they are to continue. You do not need to be a board member to assist in any way, even though we have several open positions. I have had other roles in coordinating rat sweeps, zoning issues, road improvements, abandoned vehicles, etc. I have also had good relationships with our Community Outreach Coordinator, Officer Keith Boone, and Sister Mary Raymond, principle of Mount de Sales Academy, and our local officials.

One of the most important and primary roles of the association, and the most thankless, is enforcement of the community covenants. More folks are needed to support this role. The more that are involved make the process easier for all and more efficient for the neighborhood.

I have enjoyed my time serving Academy Heights and am very grateful for the experience. Many thanks to the residents that have shared kind words and have been proud to support Academy Heights, and special appreciation to VP Rita Hall, the officers and board members.

I wish the very best to Academy Heights. Happy 75<sup>th</sup>!

*Joe*



Many thanks to everyone that came out and supported our annual National Night Out. Again for the 4th year, Academy Heights partnered with the Paradise Community Association and held the event at Christian Temple Church. It was a fun time and a pleasure spending time with neighbors, local representatives and those that protect and serve Academy Heights. Thanks to the those that made the event possible. Many thanks and appreciation to the women and men of Maryland State Police, Catonsville Fire #4, Maryland Transportation Authority Police and Precinct 1 (Wilkens) Police Dept.



## What's 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)

**YARD SALE**

**Saturday, October 4  
 8am - 1pm**

Time for some spring cleaning.  
 Your unwanted items could be someone else's treasure.  
 The community yard sale will be advertised in the newspaper and local social media.

**The mission of the Academy Heights Civic Association** is to preserve and maintain property values by enforcing our covenants and restrictions; protect and improve the quality of life within our community by enhancing the public safety, welfare and interests of our homeowners; to gain consensus and speak as a uniform voice to local government and communities; and to enhance community life by sponsoring gatherings and events that promote active engagement with residents.

## 2025 Academy Heights CALENDAR

September 1 - Labor Day, Recycle 8/2, Trash Pickup 8/5  
 September 2 - AHCA Community Meeting  
 October 4 - Fall Community Yard Sale  
 October 7 - AHCA Community Meeting

October 31 - Halloween in the Heights  
 November 4 - AHCA Community Meeting & Nominations  
 November 27 - Thanksgiving - Trash Pickup 11/28  
 December 2 - AHCA Community Meeting & Elections  
 December 19 - Christmas Decoration Contest

*Please check the website for the most current details on events, dates and times.  
 Monthly AHCA meetings are currently held at Mount de Sales Academy at 7:30pm.  
 Agendas on website. Board officers may be contacted at [info@AcademyHeightsMD.org](mailto:info@AcademyHeightsMD.org)*