



Summer 2024

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

2024 AHCA Board of Directors

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Many thanks to everyone that came out and supported our annual National Night Out. Again for the third 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, Engine 47, Maryland Transportation Authority Police and Precinct 1 (Wilkens) Police Dept.



COMMUNITY MEETINGS & BOARD POSITIONS

Academy Heights holds monthly Community Meetings that are an opportunity for residents to share their opinions, ideas and concerns, and to be informed of what is happening in our neighborhood and surrounding community. All residents are always encouraged to attend. Homeowners are also asked to consider sharing their time and talents by taking a position on the Academy Heights Civic Association Board. There will be several board positions available for 2025 and nominations will be due in November. The Board meets once a month, with a summer recess. Please email your interest or any questions to info@AcademyHeightsMD.org.

BIKE PARADE – Thanks to the many residents (of all ages) that participated in the annual July 4th bike parade tradition. Considering the heat, it was a nice turnout with lots of red, white and blue. Special Thanks to Carroll Gourley and his Jeep for leading the way once again.

SHRED & DUMPSTER DAYS - Thanks to all the neighbors that assisted and participated in another successful day of dumping. Two full dumpsters were hauled away. Thanks also to Kelli & Mike Kulnich of Corner House Realty for co-sponsoring the Shred Day event.



2024 Academy Heights CALENDAR

September 2 - Labor Day, Recycle 8/3, Trash Pickup 8/6
September 3 - AHCA Community Meeting
October 1 - AHCA Community Meeting
October 5 - Community Yard Sale
October 31 - Halloween in the Heights
November 5 - AHCA Community Meeting & Nominations
November 28 - Thanksgiving - Trash Pickup 11/29
December 3 - AHCA Community Meeting & Elections
December 18 - 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

The Academy Heights Annual BLOCK PARTY that was scheduled for September has been cancelled. An effort will be made next year to hold the event if there is enough community interest.

A new slate community sign was erected this month, replacing the one that was damaged in a storm last year. Thanks to Pat Cusick for his assistance in overseeing the replacement at Edmondson Ave. near the playground.



Senior Crime Prevention and Awareness

from BCPD Community Services Unit and Citizens on Patrol

WHEN SHOPPING

1. Keep gifts and valuables out of sight in your car. Lock your packages in the trunk.
2. Have your keys ready to enter your vehicle when you approach it. Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings.
3. Lock your doors IMMEDIATELY after entering your vehicle.
4. Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay with a check or credit card when possible.
5. Place wallets in your front pants pocket, instead of a back or jacket pocket.

IN THE MALL

1. If you take a break in a restaurant or the restroom, don't place your packages on the floor.
2. Try to make your most expensive purchases LAST. This will reduce your exposure to costly losses.
3. Avoid using restrooms that are tucked away in a back area of a mall concourse or department. Instead, find a restroom near the mall's food court or other busy area.

CREDIT CARD PRECAUTIONS

1. Make sure your credit card is used for only one transaction, watch transactions carefully. Be aware of CARD SKIMMING.
2. NEVER give out information about your credit card to any phone solicitor.
3. IMMEDIATELY report the theft or loss of credit cards.
4. NEVER give your social security number to a phone solicitor or a store clerk.
5. Do not use your credit card to purchase items on the internet, unless YOU initiated the contact and make sure the site is secure.

WHEN DRIVING AROUND TOWN

1. Keep your vehicle doors LOCKED at all times.
2. At intersections, leave room between your vehicle and others for an escape.
3. DON'T STOP for flashing headlights. Police do not use this method to stop vehicles.
4. If your car breaks down, stay INSIDE until police or a road service arrives.
5. If you are driving in an isolated/remote area, and someone motions to you that your vehicle has a problem, or if your vehicle is bumped by another vehicle, be suspicious of the event. Stay in your vehicle and call 911. It may be necessary to get the other drivers attention, and motion to him to follow you. Drive to a gas station, convenience store, or highly populated area before exiting your vehicle.

WHEN PARKING

1. Wait until you get to your vehicle, before UNACTIVATING your alarm. Deactivating your alarm prior to arriving at your vehicle, will give the criminal your intended destination.
2. If you feel that you are being followed to your vehicle, re-enter the store and have security escort you to your vehicle.
3. When you arrive at your vehicle, look under and in the back seat of your vehicle before entering.

TRAVELING OUT OF TOWN

1. Leave a house key with a trusted neighbor.
2. Make your home look occupied. Leave the window blinds in their normal positions, and use timers to turn on lights and radios.
3. Do not stop newspaper and mail delivery. Have a friend or a trusted neighbor pick up your newspapers and mail each day.
4. Plan your route in advance and choose well-traveled roads.
5. Tell someone where you are going, the route you are taking, and your expected times of departure and arrival.

AT HOME

1. Never open your door to a stranger. Ask the person what they want before opening the door. If they claim to be a representative from a local utilities company, cable company, etc., call the company and verify the person's identity using a phone number that you acquire from the phone book. Do not ask the person at the door for the company phone number. Do not let them in the house while you verify their identity.
2. If a stranger knocks on your door and asks to use your phone, if they ask for a drink of water, or a match to light a cigarette, etc, do not let them in your house. Tell them to leave and advise them that you are going to call the police.
3. Do not accept unsolicited offers by strangers to repair your home. Examples could include: roof repair, painting, driveway repair, free home inspections, etc. These strangers who arrive at your home unannounced are actually transient criminals who travel up and down the East Coast every spring and fall. They will tell you they have building materials left over from a previous job, and will be able to repair your home for a fraction of what an area contractor would charge. This is a scam! Legitimate contractors do not work this way, it is not cost effective for them. If you need work done to your home, ask a neighbor or friend to recommend a reliable local contractor.
4. Do not hide a spare key to your home under a front door mat or other conspicuous place. Burglars know exactly where to look for spare keys.