



Fall 2022

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

2022 AHCA Board of Directors

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Joe Shinault
Vice President
Rita Hall
Treasurer
Chris Waterman
Secretary
Meg Dandy

Board of Governors

Linda Barnes
Mary Cummings
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Cathy Plane
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Steve Smith
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BOARD NOMINATIONS

The Academy Heights Civic Association met on Tuesday, November 1, 2022 where the following nominations for 2023 positions were accepted by the board.

President—*Joe Shinault*, VP—*Rita Hall*, Secretary—*Meg Dandy*, Treasurer—*Chris Waterman*

Board of Governors—*Stephen Smith*, , *Cathy Plane*, *Mary Cummings*

There are still 3 vacancies on the Board of Governors that may be appointed at a later date. Elections will be held at the December 6, 2022 Community Board Meeting at Christian Temple Church.

PROPOSED COVENANT UPDATES

Listed for review, are the Architectural Committees recommended updates to the Architectural Guidelines, to be approved by the AHCA Board. Residents are welcome to provide any feedback during the monthly meeting or may directly contact the board at info@AcademyHeightsMD.org

SHEDS & STRUCTURES

Current:

Storage sheds must be in the rear of the property only. Sheds must not exceed 8' in height AND must not exceed an overall volume of 512 cubic feet. For example, an 8' x 8' by 8' shed would have a volume of 512 cubic feet.

Shall be amended to:

Storage sheds and any exterior structure must be in the rear of the property only. Structures must not exceed 9.5' in peak height AND must not exceed 80 square feet or 8'x10'. All materials and design must receive Board approval.

Rationale: The amended provision will allow homes the option of a larger footprint for sheds and also encompass other outdoor structures, without disturbing the architectural integrity of the community.

PRIVACY FENCES

Current:

Fences may be constructed only in the rear of property or side yard of end unit properties and must not extend beyond the chimney at the end of group homes. The fence must be chain link or picket style. Fences may not exceed a height of 48". Chain link fence color must be forest green, silver, or galvanized steel. Picket fences may be painted or treated with a protective stain with the color subject to Board approval. Picket fences must have some space between pickets, that is, solid privacy fences are prohibited.

Shall be amended to:

Fences may be constructed only in the rear of property or side yard of end unit properties and must not extend beyond the chimney at the end of group homes. The fence must be chain link or picket style. Fences may not exceed a height of 48". Chain link fence color must be forest green, silver, or galvanized steel. Picket fences may be painted or treated with a protective stain with the color subject to Board approval. Picket fences must have 1/2" min. spacing.

A privacy fence may be installed from the rear wall of the house along the property line up to 1/2 length of the yard, but no more than 16 feet long. The fence may be not more than 6 feet tall and cannot be solid panels; there may be pickets (1/2" min. spacing) or shadowbox construction. Privacy fences must be built as self-supporting structures, with posts anchored into the ground. All materials and design must receive Board approval.

Rationale: The amended provision will allow homes the option of some privacy from neighboring yards similar to the privacy fences currently allowed on sides of raised decks and porches.

Chicken Coops

There has been a misconception this year that chicken coops are now allowed on Academy Heights properties. Baltimore County did relax the law this past January, but coops are only allowed on properties of single detached homes. There is also a 25 foot setback from neighboring properties.

Chicken coops are not legally allowed on Academy Heights properties.

Block Party

It was once again great to see so many neighbors come out for our Annual Block Party. Many thanks go to Rita Hall and Kim Shinault for coordinating the event. Also, thanks to the volunteers and our community sponsors. We look forward to continuing this annual traditions next year, but it will only be possible with the neighborhood's support. We will need residents to organize and coordinate activities, and enough sponsorships to make it a fun and successful event for everyone.

Food Truck Tuesdays

Food Truck visits will come to an end in two weeks, after seven months and 10 trucks that visited Academy Heights. We thank all the trucks for participating and the many residents that supported them and enjoyed the terrific meals.

Nov. 8 — *B'More Mojo*

Nov. 15 — *Baltimore Crab Cake Company*

Holiday Decoration Contest

How will you be decorating your door, porch and yard for the holiday season?

Mount de Sales Academy students will once again be judging outdoor displays as part of the annual Academy Heights Decoration Contest. They will select winners in four categories, Best Door, Best Lights, Best All-Around and Most Original. Signs will announce the winning display at each home, and winners will receive an exclusive hand painted AH ornament.

Rat Sweep

The Association is working with Baltimore County to perform a 'Rat Sweep' of the neighborhood in mid-December. This will determine what areas may have rat infestation and if exterminator treatments may be necessary. We will announce more specific information when notified by the County. Rat eradication is only successful if it is a joint effort between the entire community and the County. With the efforts of all Academy Heights residents, we could be successful in eradicating the rat population.

This is what all residents should be doing.....

- Store all trash & garbage in cans with tight fitting lids at all times. Do not leave out bags of trash in yards or alleys.
- Replace all defective trash cans that are broken or have holes in them.
- Don't feed the animals, squirrels or birds outside.
- Remove dog feces immediately.
- Remove any accumulated bulk items or debris from the yard.
- Make sure that vegetable gardens are properly protected.
- Stack any firewood 18 inches off the ground.
- Any areas between rear fences and the alley need to be properly maintained, weeded and mowed, whether it is several inches or a hillside.

Each resident needs to take responsibility to ensure that their property is not attractive to rats and that there are no active burrows in their yards. When Baltimore County surveys the neighborhood for rat infestations, they may fine residents up to \$300 for open trash containers, overgrown yards or excessive debris or junk in yards.

Please do everything you can to make Academy Heights a safer, cleaner neighborhood.

Thank You for your cooperation.



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THANK YOU

Thanks to these
businesses and folks
that have supported
Academy Heights.

Many thanks to the
residents that supported
our community by
paying their 2022 dues.



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