



**September 2015**

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

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## **It's Back Again .....**

Welcome to the relaunch of the Academy Heights Newsletter. The newsletter has had many incarnations over the history of the neighborhood and we hope this attempt will be successful with the support and input of the community. The newsletter will be produced quarterly (January, April, July & October) and will primarily be distributed in an electronic format via email. This is why we have been reaching out to obtain email addresses of all AH neighbors. This email distribution also saves on the cost of printing almost 500 copies of each issue and attempting to deliver to each home. The concerns of those without access to receive the email version, and those that just like to read off of paper, has led to the installation of a newsletter box. The box will be located at Northdale & Whitfield, and will contain copies of the latest newsletter for any residents. We look forward to your feedback and input in making this a successful and useful newsletter for Academy Heights. Please share any comments at [NewsAcademyHeights@gmail.com](mailto:NewsAcademyHeights@gmail.com).

### **AHCA Officers**

#### **Board of Directors**

President - George Brookhart

Vice President - Joe Cleaver

Treasurer - vacant

Secretary - Beth McSweeney

#### **Board of Governors**

Cheryl Armstrong

Linda Barnes

Chris Burke

Colleen Cummings

Mark DeHoff

Nikki Green

Rita Hall

Doug Kampe

Ponpang Laksanalamia

John O'Ferrall

Joe Shinault

Becky Stoll

Patrick Young

John McSweeney

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# Academy Heights EVENTS

## CALENDAR

Sept. 15-  
AHCA Meeting

Sept. 26-  
Block Party

Oct. 6-  
AHCA Meeting  
(Nominations)

Oct. 10-  
Fall Yard Sale

Oct.  
Halloween Party -  
TBA

Nov. 3-  
AHCA Meeting

Dec. 1-  
AHCA Meeting  
(Elections)

Dec. 19-  
Decoration Contest



### **7th Annual Block Party**

**Saturday, Sept. 8, 3 - 8pm**

*FOOD, REFRESHMENTS, MUSIC & LOTS A FUN*

Streets will be blocked and the party will be located at Greenlow & Northdale.

More details will be communicated including assistance that will be needed.

### **Halloween Party**

**Date & Time TBA**

*CRAFTS, CANDY, FOOD, CANDY, CRAFTS, CANDY, PRIZES, CANDY..*

For Academy Heights Kids of all ages...just need to wear a costume.

More details to come. Please check the website soon for more info.

All monthly AHCA meetings are held at Goals on Edmondson Ave at 7:30pm, unless otherwise noted. The meeting room is located in the rear of the building behind the indoor fields.

## ***2016 Academy Heights Civic Association Elections***

There are many residents with great ideas for this community that are shared with neighbors and also shared on the Academy Heights Yahoo group. But many ideas never go beyond just being discussed.

Now is the opportunity to get involved, implement some changes, and new ideas. This can be accomplished by attending monthly AHCA meetings, or by filling a position on the AHCA Board of Directors or Board of Governors.

Nominations will be accepted at the October meeting and homeowners will vote at the elections held at the December 1st meeting. You must be a member in good standing to vote - that means you must have paid your dues.

All four officer positions will be vacant and in need of volunteers. The treasurer position is currently vacant, and after 4 years as President, George Brookhart will be retiring from the board. His dedication to the board and Academy Heights has been very much appreciated. Also, several Board of Governors positions will be elected.

We encourage all residents to consider participating on the Board. It is a great opportunity to be aware of the issues that are important to our community and to assist in resolving them. It would be a welcome change to see new faces and hear new ideas in 2016.

## **The Great Slate Debate**

The Board recently spent a few months investigating roofing alternatives in response to homeowner's requests. This process involved speaking with other communities that have addressed the same issue, visiting those neighborhoods, speaking to many local contractors, and participating in presentations by contractors regarding the use of slate, synthetic and asphalt materials.

The majority of roof decking in AH only allows for the placement of natural slate. The spaces between the wood planks in your attic allow for ventilation. All alternative roofing must have a solid decking such as plywood. Therefore, replacing with an alternative material would involve the removal and replacement of the entire roof; a significant additional cost. This also affects the appearance by raising the roof height compared to the neighboring roofs, and requiring noticeable flashing installed between the different roofing materials.

In the early fifties, Academy Height roofs were all covered with Bangor slate out of Pennsylvania. This was an inexpensive slate at the time with a life span of about 50 years. Today, it is very difficult to locate Bangor slate in the required larger size used in AH. Most slate now comes from Vermont and has a lifespan of 100 years. There are cheaper alternatives such as Chinese slate which is thinner and may last 30 years. These are all average lifespans based on the actual history of the slate.

Modern synthetic slate has been around for about 20 years and has a varied history. Some early versions have been failures and have come and gone, and many lawsuits have come about because of these issues. The Board

reviewed the most common synthetic slates used today that have a 50-year warranty. When put alongside natural slate, they look like synthetic slate. They can fade quickly and do not have a proven history. This entire investigation had begun on the premise that allowing synthetic slate would be huge cost savings to the community. Unfortunately, the cost is as much or more than natural slate.

Asphalt was not within the scope of the initial discussions. However, once the realization that synthetics do not allow any cost savings, asphalt was discussed. The best slate asphalt shingle does not compare to natural slate and would change the entire aesthetic dynamic of the neighborhood. The cost savings were minimal (maybe 30%) and would involve that the entire roof be removed and replaced with solid roof decking prior to the asphalt shingle installation.

After a thorough investigation, the board decided by vote that there were no alternatives for the community to consider that would be a significant cost savings and also stay somewhat true to the aesthetics of Academy Heights.

Any questions or concerns may be presented at the next community meeting on September 15th.

## REMINDER

Parked cars, Trash pick-up and Alleys are not a good combination. In order to ensure that trash and recyclables are picked for you and your neighbors, please do not park in the alleys on Monday and Thursday mornings. This is also good practice in order to avoid a fine.

## Why Pay Dues?

Your Academy Heights Civic Association requests that every homeowner contribute annual dues of just \$20. Paying dues allows you to hold a position on the board, as well as to vote for board members. More importantly, dues support the many wonderful events in this community (Easter Egg Hunt, Dumpster Day, Halloween Party, etc.). Also, many expenses that are not as obvious (flyers, website, PO Box). And with more participation, it allows more events to be held for the neighborhood, the kids, and the adults, and for donations to local causes and neighbors in need.

But why should you pay dues if you do not participate in these activities and do not attend meetings? Social activities bring our neighbors together and allow us to become a stronger community. This results in Academy Heights being a desirable place to live and improves the quality of life for us, and adds to the value of our homes. So, thank you to those who continue to pay dues and a special thank you to those that started paying dues this year.

Dues may be mailed or paid via PayPal. Details are on the website, [AcademyHeights.com](http://AcademyHeights.com). They will also be collected at the Block Party.

Dues are only \$10 for Seniors(+62)!