



January 2017
P.O. Box 3292 * Catonsville, MD 21228 * AcademyHeightsMD.org

Looking Ahead

I thought I would take this opportunity to share some thoughts and updates with the community after my first year as board president. Currently, the newsletter is the most efficient way to communicate to all AH residents. Our website and email system is an excellent communication tool to reach out to residents, but less than half of the residents have signed up to receive email alerts and updates. I hope you take a moment to sign up on the website.

First, I would like to thank all of the board members, including the two newly elected members for all of their efforts in 2016. Also, special thanks to the Architectural Committee for their efforts in supporting our covenants and addressing the needed changes in processes and procedures. The past year was a time spent on discussing ongoing concerns, changes and updates needed to move the AHCA forward for the benefit of the residents, their property values and their quality of life. This year we hope to finally see some action on those discussions. We do expect to make some needed changes and amendments to the association by-laws and architectural restrictions sometime this year. These will require input and approval from our residents. I strongly encourage everyone to be aware of these conversations, either by attending meetings or reviewing minutes on the website.

The Architecture Committee has been diligently discussing ways to resolve violations and quickly and efficiently process applications. Their primary focus is to enforce the community covenants, which apply equally to every homeowner and resident, and it is up to each to be aware of them. Violations can be costly to both the resident and the association, due to correction of the violation or the legal process to enforce the covenants. The minor violations are the ones that continue to appear throughout the community. These include missing storm doors, improper house numbers (only black or brass on white), incorrect or neglected door trim, awnings not removed for winter, etc. Residents who ignore notices and refuse to remedy these minor violations can cost themselves and their community association increasing costs in legal fees.

We had some great social events last year that were well attended. It was great to see so many neighbors out for the block party and we hope to have more successful and maybe additional events this year. But this all comes at a cost; so as the year begins, we ask that you pay your annual civic association dues and then we can plan some great events for the adults and children of the Heights to enjoy. (An envelope has been attached for your convenience or you may use PayPal on the website).

AHCA Officers

Board of Directors

President - Joe Shinault
Vice Pres. - Matt McKnight
Treasurer - Chris Waterman
Sec. - Jeannette Bonomo-Thomas

Board of Governors

Linda Barnes
Mischa Bowen-Kreiner
Chris Burk
Mike Granito
Nikki Green
John O'Ferrall
Beth McSweeney
John McSweeney
Troy Smith
Becky Stoll
Patrick Young
George Brookhart

All monthly AHCA meetings are held at GOALS on Edmondson Ave. at 7:30 pm. The meeting room is located in the rear of the building. Board officers may be contacted at info@AcademyHeightsMD.org



Decoration Contest Winners

Best Door—6115 Northdale

Honorable Mention - 349 Whitfield

Best Lights—316 Greenlow

Honorable Mention - 6124 Regent Park

Most Original—403 Greenlow

Honorable Mention- 313 Stratford -6137 Northdale

Best Overall—6124 Regent Park

Honorable Mention -401 Greenlow

Best Block—401-411 Greenlow

Check out all of the photos on the website

The Annual Block Party

Another great event in Academy Heights, the 2016 Community Block Party was a great success. Bringing together neighbors of this wonderful community. Fabulous food was provided by our caterer, Martin Culotta. Martin and his crew provided delicious Pit Turkey, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Italian Sausage and Baked Bean. Many of our neighbors pitched in and brought some tasty deserts and side dishes. Music was provided by Brian Cooney.

The kids loved sliding down the grassy hill on cardboard boxes, as it is the favorite event every year. There were many smiles in both the Face Painting and Balloon Animal lines. Cotton Candy went along perfectly with a good Hotdog.

The big excitement every year is when the fire trucks arrive. Enjoyed by young and old alike, touring these big red trucks brings a smile to every face. The members of the BCFD, Catonsville Firehouse entertained everyone with their demonstrations and even allowed one of our residents to suit up in their special firefighting gear. A really big Thank You goes out to the members of them for taking time out of their busy schedule to come to our event and entertain us. This year they even brought a huge tray of cookies.

The Annual AH Block Party is an event that brings our community closer together. Its an opportunity for everyone to meet their neighbors and have a great time. "This is what community is all about". Be sure to mark your calendars for the 2017 AH Block Party which will be held on Saturday, October 7, 2017. We want to give thanks to all of our sponsors who through their generous donations made this event happen;

*Candle Light Funeral Home by Craig Witzke Di Roma's Café' – Yvonne Haddaway Maryland State Delegate Patrick Young
The George Brookhart Team at Keller Williams Integrity Real Estate Sierra Pacific Mortgage – Barry Heisey*

Thanks also to both John McSweeney & Joe Cleaver for all their time, energy and donations, without you this event could not happen. Thanks to all who came early, stayed late and pitched in throughout the event. All of you make our community what it is, "A Great Place To Live".

What's My Home Worth?

There were 29 homes sold in Academy Heights in 2016. That amounts to a 6% turn over rate or 6% of the homes in Academy Heights changed hands last year. So, on average 3 homes sell in Academy Heights per month. Don't worry, that's a low turnover rate. Some communities have a 10% to 12% or higher turnover rate. It also shows that our community is stable and people move here and stay here. After all, we are one of the "Best" communities to live in around Baltimore. Don't you think so? These numbers also tell us that we are a sellers market with 3 homes selling per month and currently there are 3 home up for sale. The average sold time for a home in Academy Heights is 25 days. With all of that said, the biggest question on your mind is, what are homes selling for in our community? Glad you asked. Understand that End of Group homes tend to sell for a higher price than interior homes and much depends on the condition of a home and its upgrades. So the average "Sold" price of a home in Academy Heights in 2016, "Drum Roll Please" is \$248,725. Academy Heights is known as a quality community with well built homes. Residents here take pride in their community and do a good job of maintaining their homes and showing pride in ownership. OK, now that the secret is out, don't pack up or put that For Sale sign out in your yard. We like our neighbors and want you to stay. Have a great winter and I hope to see you around at one of our many community events. *George Brookhart*



Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, April 15
at 10:00 am

*Christian Temple Church
Playground*

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



Several months ago, discussions began at the monthly community meetings regarding the need for Dog Waste Bag Dispensers to assist pet owners and alleviate the unwanted waste sometimes found throughout the community. We continue to look for community input as we determine possible quantity and locations of the dispensers. Please attend the next meeting to share your thoughts.



2017 Academy Heights CALENDAR

February 7 - AHCA General Meeting

March 7 - AHCA General Meeting

April 15 - Easter Egg Hunt (Christian Temple Park)

April 4 - AHCA General Meeting

May 2 - AHCA General Meeting

May 12 - Spring Yard Sale

May 29 - Memorial Day

June 3 - Dumpster Day

June 6 - AHCA General Meeting

July 4 - Independence Day, Bike Parade

September 4 - Labor Day

September 5 - AHCA General Meeting

September 23 - Fall Yard Sale

October 3 - AHCA General Meeting

October 7 - AH Block Party

October 29 - Halloween Party (Christian Temple)

October 31 - Halloween in the Heights

**November 7 - AHCA General Meeting
& Nominations**

December 5 - AHCA General Meeting & Elections

December 15-20 - Christmas Decoration Contest

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