



NEWSLETTER - MAY, 2014

Snowdens Mill HOA is managed by –
Community Associations, Inc.

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YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors (BOD) has organized its activities into seven committees. The current officers include President Everett Casey, Vice-President Joe Tahan, Treasurer Joe Maas, and Secretary Patricia Brockway. The remaining Directors include: Dennis Holden, Kassa Kebede, and Luann Mostello.

We would like to thank Carlos Iraheta for his service on the board. Unfortunately, due to schedule conflicts, he has had to submit his resignation from the board.

We now have two openings on the board; please consider volunteering for these positions. Send an email to the above address indicating your willingness to serve on the board.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON YOUR ANNUAL \$200 HOMEOWNER DUES

This \$200 dues payment supports the operation of SMHOA. You are billed at the end of December, and payment is due by January 1.

I am happy to report the vast majority of homeowners pay on time. Thank you.

Board Meeting Notices – May 20th, June 17, and July 15, 2014 At 7:30 PM

All Board meetings will be held at: The Community Room in the Giant Food Store in the Burtonsville Town Center unless otherwise notified.

But what if you don't? Not a good idea! The amount of \$200 is modest compared with the dues of other homeowner associations and compared to the value of our homes. And it has been the same amount for over a dozen years. What happens if you don't pay by 1/1?

After 30 or more days have passed without payment, you will receive a late notice. If you still do not pay you will be sent a Notice of Intent to place a lien on your property. This adds \$80 more. So now \$280 is what you owe. You will be given an opportunity to dispute the payment. Then, if you still don't pay after 30 or more days, the lien cited in the Notice will be placed on your property at the court house. This results in your not being able to refinance or sell your home without paying SMHOA \$280 PLUS additional legal fees of at least \$200 or more including interest of 6% a year.. So now you owe nearly \$500 or more. If there is still no payment, a number of other legal avenues are available to pursue collection. And collect we must as we are legally obligated by SMHOA legal documents to do so. I am not going to get into specifics of the additional legal avenues open to pursue collection as I know I can count on your cooperation to pay on time.

Sure looks like paying the \$200 on time is the way to go. And if you have problems paying, you are encouraged to let Community Associations know, and sometimes arrangements can be made to delay payment for a short period. Or you can contact me.

The reason I have written this article is I believe it is

important that you have no surprises if you do not pay on time. Remember we are UNPAID volunteers working on your behalf.

Joe Maas, Treasurer
301-384-3330
jm73bug@aol.com

2014 PRIMARY ELECTION

The 2014 Primary Election is scheduled for June 24th. Make sure you are registered to vote. Voter Registration for the primary in Montgomery County is open through June 3rd. That is also the deadline for changing your party affiliation for voting in the primary.

Early voting is available June 12th through June 19th at

Marilyn J. Praisner Community Rec. Center
14906 Old Columbia Pike
Burtonsville, MD 20866

Political campaigning will be on the rise over the next several months. Campaign signage is permitted in the development. Please exercise restraint in putting out these signs. They must be taken down within 24 hours after the election

CANDIDATES FORUM REPLAY

For those of you who missed the April 16th County Executive Candidates Forum you can watch it at www.mctaxpayersleague.org Just click on "video" in the last sentence of the first paragraph. It is close to 2 hours long. So in case you are debate-weary, here are some pointers as to how you can get to the questions in which you are most interested.

- Opening statements start at the 5:32 minute mark.
- Question on the Maintenance of Effort law - 14:04
- Question on why a business would want to move to Montgomery County - 21:17
- Question on voting rights for Green Card holders - 29:43
- Question on support for BRT - 31:44
- Question on armed guards in schools - 36:22
- Question on plans to address terrorist, biohazard attacks - 43:37
- Question on underage drinking - 51:21
- Question on comparison with Fairfax County - 57:51
- Question on lower property taxes - 1:02
- Question on Silver Spring Transit Center - 1:10
- Question on influence of unions and developers - 1:17
- Question on rising rates for WSSC - 1:24
- Question on increase beyond minimum wage for providers of services for developmentally disabled - 1:27
- Question on funding of snow removal - 1:32
- Question on fairness and equity between MCPS and MCG - 1:39
- Closing statements - 1:45

IF YOUR CELL PHONE RINGS JUST ONCE, DON'T CALL BACK

This article was taken from Home Actions Newsletter and I thought it was interesting.

If Your Cell phone Rings Just Once, Don't Call Back

A call to your cell phone preceded by just a single ring or two could mean you're being targeted by international phone scammers.

When you call back to see who called you, you'll be told you reached the operator and asked to hang on. While you're on hold, you're being billed at least \$30 -- \$19.95 for the international connection charge plus \$9 a minute for every minute you stay on the line listening to that cheerful hold music.

Welcome to the latest attempt to scam money.

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission has had reports of calls like this coming from Caribbean phone numbers with three-digit area codes. Scammers know the three-digit numbers make them look like U.S. area codes instead of international phone numbers.

The area codes include: 268, 284, 473, 664, 649, 767, 809, 829, 849 and 876.

To protect yourself, call your cell phone carrier and opt out of "third-party billing" for your family member's lines.

If you've already been victimized by this scam, ask your cell phone carrier to remove the charges. If it refuses, file a complaint with the Federal Communications Commission.

REQUEST FOR EMAIL ADDRESSES

If you have not already done so, please continue to send your email along with your name to the secretary of the board (pabrockway@verizon.net).

TEENS OFFERING SERVICES

This is a new section listing neighbor teens who are interested in working in the neighborhood. We will be happy to add additional names, etc.

Elias Boussouf – mseghirb@yahoo.com (301) 384-7994

Elias will do yard work: leaves, mowing, snow shoveling, etc. He is also interested in doing pet care.

Na'im Matthews-Johnson – ultimatenaim@yahoo.com (240) 245- 6656

Na'im will do iPhone screen replacement and iPhone LCD replacement.

NEW NEIGHBORS

Please give a friendly welcome to your new neighbors in the community:

Timothy Ford on Aventurine Way

TRASH / RECYCLING

Community wide trash and recycle (Blue Bins) pickup is every Thursday morning. Garbage and recycle bins should be placed at the end of your driveway by 7:00 a.m. Thursday and no earlier than 7:00 p.m. Wednesday. Kitchen refuse and trash waste should be placed inside covered, plastic trash containers.

All trash and the blue recycle containers must be stored out of sight from the street, such as behind your house or in the garage...

Bulk Items: Please call Montgomery County at 240-777-6410 before 11:00 a.m. on the business day before (Wednesday) your trash collection day. Any requests received after 11:00 a.m. will be scheduled for the following week. You are allowed five free pickups per year.

You can check with the Division of Solid Waste Services web site <http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/swstmpl.asp?url=/content/dep/solidwaste/index.asp> to see if pickups have been delayed. That link also contains a sign-up for their email announcements of holiday pick-up changes that you may find of interest.

SMHOA WEBSITE

The Snowdens Mill HOA community website at <http://www.snowdensmill.com> allows you to quickly access and download SMHOA forms, including the PIR form, the Complaint form, HOA covenants and Bylaws, and policies adopted by the HOA. The Board is always looking for web content contributors and ideas to make our website more useful and interactive.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Montgomery County has implemented a **311** phone number for non-emergency information and services. For emergency calls you should still use **911**.

PEPCO (Outages)	877-737-2662
Miss Utility	800-257-7777
Missed Trash / Recycling	311
Animal Control	240-773-5960
Poison Control	800-222-1222
Police Non-Emergency	301-279-8000
Street Light Outage	311
Street Tree Damage	240-777-7623

Reporting Street Light Outage or Malfunction – Montgomery County manages the maintenance of street lights positioned on metal street light poles. To report an issue related to a street light on a wooden pole, please contact PEPCO at the above number. Streetlight malfunctions include Cycling (light goes on and off), Dim (light not as bright as it should be), Knockdown (light pole has been knocked over) Leaning Pole (pole is far past 90degrees to the ground), Outage (dark) and Steady Burn (light does not turn off).

All Montgomery County Information, including how to apply for county building, shed, and fence permits plus information on events, can be found at: www.montgomerycountymd.gov. (Remember, you must submit a PIR to the SMHOA Architectural committee for any alterations that require a county permit or changes the appearance of your property.)

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEES AND IDEAS

We need more residents to step forward and help out. **Want to make a difference?** Join a committee, work to create a new one or help with this newsletter. We are always looking for articles or ideas for articles for the newsletter. What would you like to see? As editor, email ideas to pabrockway@verizon.net or to Melissa at smhoa.bod@communityassn.com.

