



NEWSLETTER - JULY, 2014

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

P.O. Box 1130, Germantown, MD 20875
Email: smhoa.bod@Communityassn.com FAX: (301) 258-8362
(301) 258-7711 x160

HOA website - <http://www.snowdensmill.com>

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 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.

12 INCH GRASS DOES NOT CUT IT

The condition of the grass in our yards plays a big role in the appearance of our community. And while most yards look great, there are a number that have not been cut for weeks. Some are even 12 inches or higher. Montgomery County requires lawns be under 12 inches. Common sense and good gardening calls for grass 4 inches or less. If the grass is above 12 inches we send a letter and notify the County. So please keep your lawns cut to 4 inches or less. This will keep the pleasing appearance for your neighbors and the community, and keep your grass in better health.

Board Meeting Notices – July 15th, AUG. 19th, SEPT. 16, 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.

SIGN OF THE TIMES

If you have been reading the Mill Wheel you know that your association strives to maintain a good appearance of Snowdens Mill to both make it pleasing to look at and to ensure it

maintains its property value.

One area we look at is yard signs. Most of the signs we see are of a size & nature that is fine. However, we have seen signs in our community that are a size & nature that detract from the appearance of the community. We know you don't want that to happen to our community.

The association board of directors is studying the issue of signs & will be announcing a overall policy in the near future. Until then we did want to remind you about political campaign signs. Maryland law allows these in your yard for 30 days before the vote and seven days after. We know we can count on your cooperation.

Making a Difference for Adoptable Dogs

If you'd like to have a dog, but don't want the forever responsibility... why not try fostering? The SPCA/Humane Society of PG County is looking for foster families to give great pets a second chance. The PGSPCA works in Montgomery as well as PG County, and has a number of volunteers in our area. The Weiners, on Ruxton Road, have been fosters since 2003, and have helped more than 40 dogs find new homes.

(They've managed to only adopt 2 of them, known as 'failed fosters'!) Being a foster means opening your home to an adoptable dog from the PG shelter. There are all sizes and shapes to choose from, and you can specify the size, age, gender and best-guess-of-breed for the group's adoption coordinator to look for. They screen and temperament test all the dogs for appropriate traits, behavior and overall adoptability before taking them into the program. The SPCA provides the medical care (and basic vaccinations for your owned dog while you're fostering).

Fosters are responsible for providing food and basic training (if needed), and bringing the dog to at least 2 adoption events a month, so they can meet potential adopters.

If you already have a dog, you can still foster! Many families find that bringing in a foster provides a playmate and companion for their owned dog.

Many people say, "But I could never give up a dog once I've taken it in!" Sometimes that happens (see 'failed fosters' above), but watching someone fall in love with your foster, having the chance to help select its new family... and knowing that there's another foster just waiting for you to take it in makes it worthwhile.

Taking a pooch into your home until it finds its forever family saves 2 lives - the dog you foster and the one that now has room in the shelter - plus, it makes you feel good!

If you'd like to give it a try - even as a short-term 'vacation' foster to see what it's like - or just find out more, let Faith Weiner know - faith@pgspca.org.

Get A Deduction For Giving Home Fixtures A Second Life

This article was taken from Home Actions Newsletter and it seemed worthwhile.

If you're planning a remodel, don't throw away your washer, bed frame with matching dresser or the tile floor from your bathroom.

Instead, give them to a salvage store like Habitat for Humanity's ReStore chain or your local salvage yard. Other homeowners can find your used item and transform it into something unique for their home. And you may be able to deduct the value of the item on your federal tax return.

When you donate your home's used fixtures or other building supplies to a ReStore, (almost every state has one) the profits help fund the local Habitat for Humanity. So you're not only helping someone remodel their home, but also helping Habitat for Humanity build new homes for low-income families.

You don't actually have to take your kitchen cabinets to the store, most salvage yards and stores will pick up larger items.

Some salvage stores, like The Loading Dock in Baltimore, partner with deconstruction specialists who will come into your home and remove your old fixtures in a way that helps maintain their functionality.

Donating your home's fixtures to a nonprofit can also net you a tax deduction, as long as you itemize your deductions (rather than taking the standard deduction), you can likely claim your contributions on your federal return.

Get a receipt from the salvage store showing the name of the charity, date of the contribution and a reasonably detailed description of what you donated. If the value of your donations reaches \$5,000, you should seek a qualified appraisal.

Salvage stores are also heavily used when homeowners need uniquely sized doors, windows and other home fixtures to rebuild older parts of cities. Your contribution helps renew your community.

So if your old kitchen table and wood floor just aren't working out in your home, donate them to a salvage store. You'll help yourself, other homeowners, your community and the environment all in one trip. There can't be a better remodeling deal

Tax laws and tax rules are constantly being updated and interpreted. This article contains general information, so please discuss your individual situation with a trusted tax adviser before making tax decisions.

7 Smart Ways To Trick Burglars When You're On Vacation

This article was also taken from Home Actions Newsletter and has some very good advice.

Take some time before you leave on vacation to make your home less vulnerable to burglars and you'll be able to enjoy your trip that much more:

1. Install dead-bolt window and door locks. They make it more difficult for someone to break in. Ask your agent if you can get a homeowners insurance discount for installing them.
2. Burglar alarms are the best way to alert emergency personal that there's a problem. Installing one could net you a discount of 15 to 20 percent on your homeowners insurance, a savings of \$100 to \$140 a year for the average homeowner.
3. Make sure all entry doors have the hinges on the inside. Replacing the front door with a steel model boasts a solid 85 percent return on value, according to Remodeling Magazine's Cost vs. Value report.
4. Keep your computers off and the Internet disconnected. If someone does break in they won't be able to access your information and cause more damage.
5. Don't give burglars the tools to break into your home. Put ladders, crow bars and anything else a burglar could use to break a window in a locked shed.
6. Put a timer on the TV as well as the lights. Nothing says you're home like the flickering lights of a TV.
7. Install a fake security camera on the outside of your home. Amazon.com sells a dummy camera for about \$10. Put it up high so it's harder to tell it's fake.

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).

TUTOR NEEDED

A tutor in Reading Comprehension for a rising 5th grader is needed. Call (301) 989-2572 if you can provide such a service.

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:

Eddie A. Sines on Serpentine 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.