



## NEWSLETTER - JANUARY, 2015

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

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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 Saura Sahu.

We wish to thank Luann Mostello for her service on the board. Her resignation was regretfully accepted during the November Board Meeting as she was moving out of the area.

Saura Sahu placed his name into consideration for membership on the Board at the December meeting and was duly elected to serve as a member. We are pleased to welcome him back, as he was a former Board member.

We still have two openings on the board; please consider volunteering for these positions. One of the open position term expires in January 2015. The other term expires in January 2016. Please send an email to the above address indicating your willingness to serve on the Board.

Besides the vacant positions for the Board, two other board member terms expire in January 2015. If you are interested in helping the community by serving on the Board, please contact Melissa Dettloff.

### **Board Meeting Notices – Feb. 17, Mar. 17 and Apr. 21, 2015 At 7:30 PM**

All Board meetings will be held at: Public Room 3D Police Station at White Oak, 1002 Milestone Dr. Silver Spring, MD 20904 unless otherwise notified.

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

We hope all of you had a wonderful holiday and best wishes for the coming year.

### 2015 ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

The Annual SMHOA meeting will be held at 7:30pm, January 20, 2015, at the **Benjamin Banneker Middle School, Cafeteria from 7:30 to 9:30pm. The address is 14800 Perrywood Drive, Burtonsville, MD 20866.** All homeowners are encouraged to attend as election of new board members is the primary purpose. There are currently four openings for the board and we are looking for nominations to fill those positions. If you have not yet nominated yourself or someone else, please contact Melissa Dettloff at the above phone number or email address for a form. You may also make nominations in person during the board meeting.

### PAY YOUR 2015 DUES BY 1/31/15 TO GET THE DISCOUNT

At the November SMHOA board meeting, the Board discussed and approved the proposed 2015 budget. The \$40.00 a year increase in dues – the first in many years – will provide for the continuation of the inspection service to ensure that our community maintains a good appearance and the homes retain their value. It will also provide for

improved gardens and an increase in budgeted legal fees to ensure that properties violating the standards required by the Covenants can be addressed.

NOTE YOU WILL RECEIVE A \$20.00 DISCOUNT BY PAYING YOUR DUES ON TIME [BY 1/31/15].

### **BE SAFE**

While our community is safer than many, we have received several reports of unlocked cars having personal items taken. We strongly recommend that you always lock your car even if it is in your driveway. Also remember to lock your home and shed, if you have one. And finally, if you see suspicious activities call the police.

### **KEEPING UP APPEARANCES**

While our inspection service and the monthly drive-through by our Management Agent identify homes that have made unapproved changes to the exterior of their homes as well as significant changes in their yards, that is not always enough to ensure that all homes that make changes have met the SMHOA standard outlined in the By-Law Covenants. This is where you come in. While we are not trying to encourage you becoming a tattletale, when you do see significant work under way, please let Melissa know so that we can be sure we help the homeowner get the needed approval. We recently had a homeowner alert us of work underway at a neighbors and we are now working with the homeowner who is making changes to their property. Unapproved changes may need to be removed or undone!!

IF YOU PLAN TO MAKE CHANGES, PLEASE OBTAIN THE REQUIRED FORM FROM OUR WEBSITE OR CALL Melissa at (301) 258-7711.

### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY GREENFEST**

Save the date for the Montgomery County GreenFest, to be held on the Montgomery College Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus on Saturday, March 28, 2015!

Hear from national and local speakers, explore exhibits and talk to nonprofits, participate in "How to" workshops and more. Participants can also visit an electric vehicle display, listen to music or watch an environmental film as a part of the Environmental Film Festival. This free event will be held rain or shine! See more details about attending or participating as a presenter/exhibitor at [www.montgomerycountygreenfest.org](http://www.montgomerycountygreenfest.org)

### **COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEGGETT TO HOLD PUBLIC FORUMS ON FY 16 BUDGET**

Here are a series of great opportunities for the community to provide input for the County's budget for fiscal year 2016 which begins on July 1, 2015 and ends on June 30, 2016. Come out with your questions and suggestions!

- Wednesday, January 14, Silver Spring Regional Services Center, One Veterans Place, Silver Spring.

- Tuesday, January 20, Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center, 3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring.
- Thursday, January 22, Mid-County Community Recreation Center, 2004 Queensguard Road, Silver Spring.

All forums will begin at 7:00 pm.

### **Tax Break Rewards Homeowners Who Make Home Energy Improvements**

If you installed energy-efficient home improvements in 2014, you may be eligible for a \$500 tax credit. Among the home improvements that might qualify for the tax credit:

- Doors
- Windows
- Insulation
- HVAC systems
- Water Heaters
- Roofs
- Skylights
- Biomass stoves

Tax credits are valuable because they offset the tax you owe, dollar for dollar. For example, if you owed \$10,000 in taxes, a \$500 tax credit would reduce what you owe to \$9,500.

The Residential Energy Tax Credit had expired at the end of 2013, but just last week, Congress renewed it through 2014. That means you may be able to claim the tax credit when you file your 2014 federal taxes. Congress did not extend the tax credit through 2015.

**Warning:** It may take a while for the IRS to update its website with information about the renewal, and to post a 2014 version of [Form 5695](#), which you'll use to claim the credit.

Check the [Energy Star website](#) to see if the specific energy-efficiency home improvements you made qualify for the credit. Give that site a few weeks to get updated with the latest information, as well.

#### **The Fine Print**

In general, you'll get a 10 percent tax credit for installing energy-efficiency improvements. But, your tax credit is capped for some items. For example, you can't claim more than \$200 for windows, and a new air conditioner will earn you no more than a \$300 tax credit.

There's also a lifetime cap of \$500, so if you took the tax credit in prior years, you have to subtract the credit you claimed from \$500. For example, if you took \$400 in 2013, you can only take the remaining \$100 in 2014.

The cost to install your energy-efficiency improvements may, or may not, be included. For example, window installation is included, but insulation installation is not.

This tax credit applies only to your main principal residence.

## Where to Get More Info

Houselogic.com has excellent information about taking the tax credit for these items:

- [Biomass stoves](#)
- [Heating, ventilation, air conditioning](#)
- [Insulation](#)
- [Roofs \(metal and asphalt\)](#)
- [Water heaters \(non-solar\)](#)
- [Windows, doors, and skylights](#)

## 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](mailto:pabrockway@verizon.net)).

## TEENS OFFERING SERVICES

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

Elias Boussouf – [mseghirb@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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:

Zerfu H. Kebede & Hiwot W. Weldetsadik on Alabaster Drive  
Zafar Ahmed Syed on Alabaster Drive  
John K & Shiny Daniel on Aventurine Way  
Kenneth J & Veronica S Milcetch on Olivine Way  
Kristina Ellis on Tinstone Ct.

## 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.

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

**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](http://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.)

**Note: For Townhouse areas I and II, you need to report issues regarding streets, sidewalks, streetlights, etc to the proper townhouse association.**

**Townhouse I – 301-384-2572**  
**Townhouse II – 703-631-2013**

## 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](mailto:pabrockway@verizon.net) or to Melissa at [smhoa.bod@communityassn.com](mailto:smhoa.bod@communityassn.com).