



## SMHOA Board of Directors

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**Community News – September 2017**  
**HOA Website: [www.snowdensmill.com](http://www.snowdensmill.com)**

Snowdens Mill HOA is managed by  
Community Association, Inc.  
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### Upcoming SMHOA Board Meetings/News

2nd Tuesday of the Month – 7:30 p.m.  
October 10, November 14, December 12  
3<sup>rd</sup> District Police Station, Public Meeting Room, 1002  
Milestone Drive, Silver Spring, MD  
Newsletters: March, June, September, December

### Welcome New Neighbors!

Solomon & Shifa Musoke, Aventurine Way  
Angela Goehl & Timothy Snyder, Aventurine Way  
Ayanna Brown, Hidden Valley Lane  
Phuc Ngo, Turquoise Terrace  
Hazel & Josselyn Portillo and Ana Portillo de Roark,  
Turquoise Terrace  
Tekleshum & Dawit Tesfamichael and Meaza  
Weldesilassie, Tourmaline Terrace

### Homeowner Tip

5 Reasons Why Your HVAC Systems Aren't Working Right.

**Clogged Filters.** If you're turning the heat up, up, up or the air conditioning down, down, down, and nothing happens, a clogged filter could be the culprit. Check your filter once a month and plan on replacing every 90 days. If you have pet(s), you may need to replace more often.

**Worn Parts.** Parts (belts and motors) of your heating system can wear out. Problems can be hard to

diagnose without a qualified HVAC tech to check things out. If your system is not working the way it used to, call in the pros. Upfront costs may be a little high, but you'll save money in the long run.

**Leaks.** To diagnose leaks in your system, look for liquid coming from anywhere other than the condenser pipe. Check filter for ice. Leaking refrigerant will cause a filter to freeze the moisture it catches, turning the filter into a Popsicle. If the pipe is leaking at a junction, a seal could be dry-rotted or corroded.

**Electrical Issues.** Even if your HVAC unit is gas or oil-powered, it still has electrical components. The biggest problem seen on the electrical side is with the ignition system. If your unit clicks a lot before it ignites or continues to click without igniting, this is a problem with the electrical igniter.

**Age of Unit.** According to ENERGY STAR, replacing a unit that is 10-15 years old can save you up to 20% on heating/air conditioning costs. You can use the serial number to figure out when your unit was made.

### SMHOA Yard Care Standards, Part II

The June newsletter mentioned a new set of lawn/yard care standards to supplement our covenants. Thanks for taking the time to review these standards. Some of you asked for clarification on "...maintenance of 'foundation' plants..." Foundation plants include: Cherry Laurel, Skip Laurel, Hicks Yews, Densi Yews, Japanese Hollies, Compacta, Azaleas, Boxwood, Burford Holly, China Girl Holly, Gold Thread Cypress and Barberry. These are just some examples. SMHOA

lawn/yard care standards are available online at <http://tinyurl.com/j5egku7>.

### **Autumn Starts September 22**

When you think autumn, what comes to mind? Oktoberfest, sweaters, hot cider, s'mores, leaves! Montgomery County does not provide leaf collection services to the Snowdens Mill community. Homeowners are responsible for collecting and properly disposing of fallen leaves from their property. Collected leaves must be placed in **recyclable paper bags** and should be placed curbside on recycling day (Thursday). Please do not rake leaves onto the Association's common areas, stuff them down storm drains, or pile along the curb. Such violations are serious and enforceable by Montgomery County Code Inspectors with fines of \$500.

Fall/Winter landscape tips include:

1. End of season flowerbed and lawn/yard maintenance should include pulling or spraying for weeds and final mow of lawn.
2. Rake and pick up any remaining leaves on lawn as they can smother the lawn and plants if left on the ground. They can also transmit diseases and pests to a lawn or flower bed.

### **"Don't Be a Litterbug" / "No Littering"**

We've all seen these signs. Recently our community has experienced a high volume of littering and illegal dumping of solid waste and grass clippings. Please think twice before you toss trash and other debris (plastic bottles, cans, boxes, clothes, towels) along our streets and yards while walking or driving. The litter you toss can be blown or washed into the storm drains. Stormwater collection flows into our streams and then the Chesapeake Bay. And littering is illegal and constitutes a fine. Help keep our community clean and safe ... protecting the value of our homes and the environment.

### **To our Beloved Pet Owners**

While walking your pet remember to carry disposable bags to pick up after your pet and dispose of pet waste in a trash can or pet waste receptacle. Thanks for your cooperation.

### **Trash/Recycling Information**

Community-wide trash and recycling pickup is every Thursday. Trash and recycle bins should be placed at the end of your driveway on Thursdays by 6:30 a.m., and no earlier than 7:00 p.m. Wednesday. Trash pickup and recycling moves to Friday during weeks with a Monday holiday.

### **Neighborly Goods and Services**

Michael Ngo is available to cut grass and shovel snow during college breaks. Contact 301-204-3671 or [michaelngo99@yahoo.com](mailto:michaelngo99@yahoo.com).

For real estate needs, contact Becky Meadows, Long & Foster Real Estate, Inc., 202-253-9405 or [becky.meadows@longandfoster.com](mailto:becky.meadows@longandfoster.com).

Bonne Vie Bracelets, by Jazlyn and Taylor. Bonne Vie means *good life*. Bracelets are sold individually and as sets of three. Check out website at [www.bonneviebracelets.com](http://www.bonneviebracelets.com). You can also follow on Instagram @bonneviebracelets.

### **Useful Telephone Numbers**

For medical and other emergencies, call 911. Following are other useful numbers:

County Info/services	240-777-0311
PEPCO (Outages)	877-737-2662
Miss Utility	800-257-7777
Missed Trash/Recycling	240-777-0311
Animal Control	240-773-5960
Poison Control	800-222-1222
Police Non-Emergency	301-279-8000
Street Light Outage	240-777-0311
Street Tree Damage	240-777-7623

### **What's Happening in Your Neighborhood?**

***Wheaton Arts Parade and Festival***, Wheaton Veterans Park, Reddie Dr, Silver Spring

Sun, Sept. 24. Parade 10AM; Festival 6PM

***Fall Fitness Fair***, *LivingWell*, 12004 Cherry Hill Rd, Silver Spring (health screenings, classes, food samples)  
Sun, Sept. 24, 10AM-6PM

***Burtonsville Volunteer Fire Dept. Open House***

BVFD, Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring

Sun, Oct. 15, 12 – 4PM

***Montgomery County Out of the Darkness Walk***

(Benefits American Foundation of Suicide Prevention)

MLK, Jr. Recreational Park, Jackson Rd, Silver Spring

Sun, Oct. 22. Registration/Check-in 8:30AM

Walk 10AM-12PM

### **SMHOA Website**

Snowdens Mill HOA community website ([www.snowdensmill.com](http://www.snowdensmill.com)) allows you to quickly access and download SMHOA forms, including: Property Improvement Request (PIR), Complaint forms, HOA Covenants and Bylaws, and HOA-adopted policies. The Board is always looking for web content and ideas to make our website more useful and interactive. Send ideas to [Melissa@communityassn.com](mailto:Melissa@communityassn.com).