



## SMHOA Board of Directors

Tracy Shahan, President  
Everett Casey, Vice President  
Joe Maas, Treasurer  
Becky Meadows, Secretary  
Earl Gamache  
Dennis Holden  
Kassa Kebede  
Neil Pedersen

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

Snowdens Mill HOA is managed by  
Community Association, Inc.  
15742 Crabbs Branch Way, Rockville, MD 20855  
Contact: Melissa Wells, 301-258-7711, ext. 160  
[Smhoa.bod@communityassn.com](mailto:Smhoa.bod@communityassn.com) Fax: 301-258-8362

### Calling All Volunteers -Annual Meeting

Jan 16, 2018 – Annual Meeting, William Tyler Page  
Elementary School – All Purpose Room– 7:30PM  
13400 Tamarack Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904  
If you are interested in serving on your SMHOA Board of  
Directors, or a community Committee, please let us know!

### Upcoming SMHOA Board Meetings/Newsletters

2018 Board Dates: 3rd Tuesday/Month – 7:30PM  
Feb 20, March 20, Apr 17, May 15, Jun 19, Jul 17, Aug  
21, Sept 18, Oct 16, Nov 20, Dec 18  
3<sup>rd</sup> District Police Station, Public Meeting Room, 1002  
Milestone Drive, Silver Spring, MD  
**All homeowners are welcome to attend all meetings.**

SMHOA Newsletters: March, June, September, December

### Welcome New Neighbors!

Worku Bayu, Sunstone Court  
Meskerem, Esayas and Yonas Barkie, Tourmaline Terrace

### SMHOA Financial Report

You'll note in the recently mailed 2018 budget a healthy  
financial reserve fund supported by a reserve schedule of  
\$76,000. The special reserve is roughly \$60,000  
depending on year-end expenses. This special fund is  
critical to any lawsuits; homeowners who fall behind in  
association fees. The reserve fund covers unforeseen  
events such as repairs and, if needed, reconstruction of  
gardens and entrance signs. I hope you noticed the lighted  
signs and path lights in the gardens. Nice touch!

### Why You Want To Pay Your SMHOA Fee On Time

Association annual assessments were mailed out a couple  
of weeks ago. The good news is that the 2018 budget calls  
for no change in the annual homeowner assessment of  
\$250, and the board will continue to offer a discount of the  
annual assessment - \$220 – for owners who pay their  
assessment by January 31, 2018. This represents a savings  
of \$30 (12% discount). Dues paid after February 28, 2018  
will have additional costs of collection added. And this  
can add up to hundreds of dollars. The board is working  
very hard to ensure that homeowners who pay on time do  
not have the burden of supporting those who do not.  
Sadly, there are still some homeowners who are several  
years behind, owing more than a thousand dollars per.  
This is not fair to the vast number of you who pay on time.  
Be advised that this year we filed several lawsuits to  
obtain outstanding assessments. The first two went to  
court in November. We are determined to have all fees  
paid in a timely manner.

### Homeowner Tip - Have a greener holiday season:

**Lights.** \$233 million is spent on utility bills each year  
because of holiday lights. Try LED or energy efficient  
bulbs. Incandescent lights draw up to 90% more than LED  
lights, so switching to LED strands - or going with  
wreaths, bows and lawn ornaments that don't use energy –  
can save you a ton.

**Smart Plugs.** Smart plugs monitor energy usage and break  
down into easy reports each month so you know how  
much energy you consume. They can be programmed to

run on timer or from an app on your smart device. If you're away on vacation, you can pull a "home alone" and make it look like you're home, which can deter holiday theft.

**Cook Wisely and in Batches.** Holiday cooking is one of the best parts of the season (hello Pumpkin Pie!). Firing up oven/stove accounts for 4.5% of home energy consumption. Bake in batches so you don't waste energy heating and re-heating oven. Also use appropriately sized cookware. Glass/ceramic pots can be heated to 25 degrees less than recipes recommend and cast iron retains heat. The oven will act as temporary space heater when you're cooking, so be sure to turn down thermostat.

**Light a Fire.** A roasting fire is a festive holiday accessory and a great way to cut down on grid-powered electricity. Try keeping your thermostat 7-10 degrees cooler than normal for 8 hours/day to save up to 10% on your utility bill, i.e., turn down thermostat in early morning and at night, and turn it up during the day. It's sweater weather after all so bundle up and let a fire warm you!

**Use Foyer Wisely.** Try adding a draft-blocking device to insulate home. Open doors inside home to increase proper air circulation and make it easier for your furnace to heat home. Making your home eco-friendly doesn't have to be a burden. In fact, besides saving you some serious change and reducing your carbon footprint, it can actually be a holiday mood booster – making things nostalgic and cozy!

## Winter Weather

### Good Neighbors Clear Their Sidewalks of Ice & Snow. Be A Good Neighbor.



County residents are required by law to clear sidewalks in front of and alongside their properties within 24 hours of the end of a snowstorm.

But don't just do it because it's the law.

- Do it for *schoolkids*.
- Do it for *older adults*.
- Do it for folks who *depend on transit*.
- Do it for *yourself and your family*.
- When shoveling, please keep snow clear from *fire hydrants!*



Take the time during inclement weather and its aftermath to check up on older adults and vulnerable people who live near you, especially those who live alone.

Working together, Montgomery County can stay safe and warm this winter.

## 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 all real estate needs, contact Becky Meadows, Long & Foster Real Estate, Inc., 301-236-4300 (office), 202-253-9405 (cell), 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 Around Your Neighborhood?

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Carriage Rides with Santa**, Briggs Chaney Marketplace, Rte. 29 at Briggs Chaney Rd. Saturday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, 1-3PM

**Difference Makers Winterfest: Arts and Crafts Show** Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Rd, Silver Spring (Shop 50 local artisans and vendors, visit with Santa, Music by MIX107.3, face painting, food) Saturday, December 16th, 10AM-4PM

**Silver Spring Craft Market Pop-Up at Denizens** Denizens Brewing, 1115 East West Hwy, Silver Spring (Shop local vendors for ceramics, jewelry, gifts, etc.) Sunday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> 12-4PM

## SMHOA Website

Snowdens Mill HOA community website ([www.snowdensmill.com](http://www.snowdensmill.com)) allows you to quickly access and download SMHOA forms, i.e., 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.Wells@communityassn.com](mailto:Melissa.Wells@communityassn.com).

**“BEST WISHES FOR A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY  
AND A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!”**