



NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER, 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 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.

GENERAL ELECTION

Early voting for this year's general election is scheduled for October 23rd through October 30th at

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

. Times are from 10:00 am until 8:00 pm.

The times for voting on November 4th are 7:00 am until 8:00 pm at your local polling place.

Don't forget to vote.

Board Meeting Notices – Sept. 16th, Oct. 21st, Nov. 18, 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.

YARD SIGN REMINDER

Political campaigning will be on the rise over the next several weeks. 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.

WHAT'S UP WITH THE SMHOA GARDENS?

For a number of years, many homeowners have expressed their disappointment with the appearance and condition of our entrance gardens. This has been the case especially with the Memorial Gardens at the corner of Aventurine Way and Serpentine Way. The concerns have been (a) the lack of color and (2) the condition of the plants. This has also been a concern of the SMHOA Board. Earlier this spring, a garden improvement effort was initiated by the Board. A garden expert was engaged to develop an overall plan for the gardens to include new plantings with color. This has been done. However, due to a misunderstanding, the plants installed are perennials and will not reach full color for three years. The Board is now looking into including annuals with significant color such as those displayed at the entrances to nearby communities.

RENEWAL OF THE PAINT BRANCH STREAM

At the August meeting of the SMHOA Board, Montgomery County officials briefed us on the major project of restoring the Paint Branch Stream to its proper condition. Currently, there are trees, dirt and silt blocking some of the stream's flow as well as polluting its water. The trout that once swam in the stream are now gone from some parts of it. The areas to be renewed are (1) where the stream flows behind Blue Valley and Aventurine and (2) where the stream flows at the entrance to the park at Serpentine. Later this fall, there will be a public hearing on this project. The work will happen in 2015. Funding has already been provided. Look for further information on this project in future issues of the Mill Wheel.

Will Shutting Vents Cut Your Energy Bill?

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

Closing the air registers in rooms you don't use seems like a good way to potentially save money, but doing so isn't a good idea for several reasons, according to Alison Bailes, whose [Energy Vanguard blog](#) has some of the best building science and energy efficiency advice on the web.

Most vents have a little lever that lets you close the louvers behind the grille. When you block a vent, your HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) system's blower motor will either have to work harder to push air through your home, or it may spin at a lower speed.

"No matter which type of blower motor your HVAC system has, it's not a good thing when it has to push against a higher pressure," she explains.

If you haven't had your ducts sealed, and most of us haven't, putting more pressure into the air system will cause you to lose more air through leaks in the ducts, too.

And the more vents you close, the higher the pressure, the less efficient your system and the more leaking air you'll have.

Low air flow can also cause condensation on your coils to freeze and can cause damage to your compressor.

If you have a furnace, low air flow can be dangerous, Bailes warns. "Low air flow in a furnace can get the heat exchanger hot enough to cause cracks. Those cracks then allow exhaust gases to mix with your conditioned air. When that happens, your duct system can become a poison distribution system as it could be sending carbon monoxide into your home."

Sealing your air ducts and other energy improvements not only cut your electric bill, they can help your home stand apart from the competition when you decide to sell.

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:

Theany Yin and Sreyleap Duong on Alabaster Dr.
Kenneth J. and Veronica S. Milcetic on Olivene way
Ross Gorinson on Serpentine Way
Mulugeta Dessie on Tourmaline Terrace and
Silvanie Saint Fleurant and Irene Joseph Pierre on Tufa Terrace

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.