



NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER, 2014

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

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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 and Kassa Kebede.

We now have three openings on the board; please consider volunteering for these positions. One of the open position term expire in January, 2015. The other two terms expire in January, 2016. 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.

2015 SMHOA BUDGET & NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

The proposed 2015 SMHOA Budget has been mailed to all homeowners. If you have not received it, please check our web site or contact Community Association at 301-258-7711, ext. 160, and another one will be mailed to you.

Board Meeting Notices – Nov. 18, Dec. 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.

Please note that the annual assessment has been increased **for the first time in ten years.** The increase amounts to \$40--from \$200 to \$240. However, a discount of \$20 is offered for payments received by 1/31/2015.

The need for the increase is explained in the letter mailed with the budget. The annual budget hearing will be held during the November 18, 2014 Board of Directors meeting. This meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the

3rd District Police Station at White Oak
Intersection US 29 & MD 650
Silver Spring, MD 20904

Arrive via Route 29 north or via New Hampshire Ave (10 minute drive from SMHOA), plenty of parking, well lighted. Community meeting room is right off the main lobby when you walk in.

Note the change of location for this meeting only!

You are encouraged to attend this meeting and bring your comments and questions. Or come to learn more about the operation of your homeowner association. Attendance is encouraged and welcomed.

If you feel that you will have difficulty in making the annual payment, we urge you to let our Treasurer know. The budget letter includes the Treasurer's contact information. Payment plans or other arrangements may be possible. It

is important to make contact early. Untimely payment can result in additional fees that can quickly mount up to more than the original \$220 or \$240. In fairness to the more than 90% of homeowners who do pay on time, SMHOA is going to make very strong efforts to collect overdue payments, including the use of collection agencies and legal action.

NOTICE OF JANUARY ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting for election of Board of Directors and Homeowner concerns will be held on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at Benjamin Banneker Middle School Cafeteria from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Please make plans to attend.

LEAF REMOVAL

Just a reminder, 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 placed curbside on recycling day (Thursday). Please do not rake your leaves onto the Association's common areas. Finally, it is illegal to stuff leaves or grass clippings down storm drains (which can cause flooding) or to pile them curbside in the street (unsightly & a serious public safety hazard for cars, walkers, children, and school busses).

UPDATE ON LANDSCAPING AND GARDENS

The Entrance and Memorial Gardens continue to disappoint in spite of our efforts to improve them. But change is in the wind! With winter coming upon us, the dead plants will be removed and returned under warranty. When spring arrives, replacements and new additions will be planted to create more appealing and colorful gardens.

We are also moving forward to contract with a new landscaping company, the same company that maintains Snowden's Ridge gardens. We have seen this company's work over several years and are confident it will create an attractive appearance and offer professional services for Snowden's Mill. We are aware of the gardens in nearby developments and businesses and are determined to bring our gardens up to those standards.

Some of the major amenities of Snowden's Mill are our common land, the trees which line our streets, and the gardens. We will redouble our efforts to ensure the appearance and care of our community landscaping.

RAPID TRANSIT NETWORK FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY

A representative from Communities for Transit (CFT), a non-profit association, gave a presentation on a Proposed Rapid Transit network being considered for Montgomery County at the September Board meeting.

A plan for transit was approved last year by the County Council. This program is to help alleviate current

congestion in the area and address future traffic concerns. More information can be found about this project at www.communitiesfortransit.org- info@communitiesfortransit.org

The Rapid Transit network is envisioned as a light rail system on rubber tires, but more affordable. Service is to be frequent and reliable (approximately every 5-10 minutes). Fares will be paid before boarding through all doors. The system will include dedicated lanes to bypass traffic and clean permanent stations with arrival information.

Seven corridors are planned:

- MD 355 North (Frederick Road/Hungerford Drive from Clarksburg to the Rockville Metro)
- MD 355 South (Rockville Pike/Wisconsin Avenue from the Rockville Metro to Bethesda)
- US 29 Section 1 (Colesville Road from Burtonsville to New Hampshire Ave.)
- US 29 Section 2 (Colesville Road from New Hampshire Ave. to downtown Silver Spring)
- MD 97 North Section 1 (Georgia Avenue from Olney to Connecticut Avenue)
- MD 97 North Section 2 (Georgia Avenue from Connecticut Avenue/Aspen Hill Shopping Center to the Wheaton Metro)
- MD 586 (Veirs Mill Road from the Rockville Metro to the Wheaton Metro).

US 29 INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The State Highway Association sent out a flier in September with preliminary design details for interchange modifications for Musgrove Road to Fairland Road. They plan to finalize the configuration this winter and have 30% of the design completed by Spring of 2015.

If you did not get the flier or want more information, visit SHA's website at www.roads.maryland.gov and click on Projects and Studies, SHA Projects Page, Montgomery County, US29, Columbia Pike, SRI – Musgrove Road to Fairland Road.

You may also contact: Mr. Marcus Tadros – Project Manager. His email is mtadros@sha.state.md.us

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL LAWS

It has been brought to the **Snowdens Mill Homeowners Association** Board's attention that there have been numerous violations to the Montgomery County Animal Control laws in our neighborhood relating to neighbors walking dogs without leashes and not cleaning up after their dogs. We take this issue very seriously. We know that all of our neighbors want a safe, healthy, and clean environment for their families and to that end, we would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about some of the animal control laws and request that you please abide by them to help make the neighborhood a place we can all be proud of and where we live in quiet and peaceful enjoyment. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Please read on page 4, a summary of selected animal control laws in Montgomery County. There are penalties for violating these laws. Please don't think that if you let your dog go unleashed or not pick up after them for *even one time*, that it's okay. It's not okay. Try to imagine if you were the neighbor having to constantly clean up after someone else's dog or step in feces all the time. That doesn't seem very fair or neighborly now, does it?

DUMPING ONTO THE COMMON AREAS

We have received several reports of either homeowners or contractors dumping yard waste or construction material onto the common areas. Not only is this illegal but it impacts the beauty of the neighborhood.

According to the Department of Environmental Protection, illegal dumping is defined as solid waste (trash, garbage, junk, yard waste, leaves, construction debris, demolition debris, furniture, appliances, or tires) at a location other than a legally permitted facility. Additionally, illegal dumpers may be subject to a \$500.00 civil fine and possible criminal prosecution.

For more information on illegal dumping, visit the DEP website
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/community/illegal-dumping.html>.

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).

PIANO TEACHER WANTED

A resident in Snowdens Mill is looking for a piano teacher who also resides in Snowdens Mill. If you are available, please call (301) 384-7994.

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:

Shah, Khalid I and Afshan on Alabaster Drive
Melissa & Matthew Bradley on Chalkstone Way

Ross Gorinson on Serpentine Way
Laura & Matthew Hilliker on Serpentine Way
Olubukola O. Akande Elemoso on Tourmaline Terrace
Bess M. Teller 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.

SUMMARY OF SELECT ANIMAL CONTROL LAWS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY



Animal Defecation ("pooper scooper" law)
(Montgomery County Code, Sec. 5-203(a)(2): Penalty for Violation - \$100

An owner must not allow an animal to damage or defecate on property outside of the owner's property. An animal may defecate on public property or the common area of property in which the owner shares an interest if the owner immediately removes and disposes of the feces by a sanitary method approved by the Director. Feces may be picked up in a plastic bag. If this bag is placed inside another plastic bag, it may be put out for disposal in your normal household trash.



At Large: Penalty for Violation: \$100 for first offense, \$500 for each subsequent violation.

Any dog is at large if it is outside the owner's premises and not leashed, unless it is a service dog, is in a dog exercise area designated by the Maryland National Capital park and Planning Commission, or is participating in an approved activity.

Any other animal (i.e., cat or livestock animal) is at large if it is outside the owner's premises and not leashed. The common area of a homeowner's association, condominium or cooperative is not the owner's premises.

Unwanted Contact: Penalty for Violation: \$500

The pet owner must prevent unwelcome or unsolicited threatening physical contact or close proximity to a person or a domestic animal that occurs outside the owner's property that may cause alarm in a reasonable person, such as biting, chasing, tracking, inhibiting movement, or jumping.



When pet waste is disposed of improperly, water quality isn't the only thing that suffers — your health may be at risk, too. Adults working in their gardens, children playing outside and family pets are the most at risk for infection from

some of the bacteria and parasites found in pet waste. Contrary to popular belief pet waste does NOT make useful fertilizer, parasites carried in pet waste can cause diseases in humans and should not be used in compost or thought of as fertilizer. If you are too busy or dislike picking up pet waste, then consider calling a pooper scooper to help out with the job of pet waste removal.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

- **Keep your dog on a leash when outside.**
- **Pick up pet waste. It is not a fertilizer.**
- **Carry disposable bags while walking your dog to pick up and dispose of waste properly. When you dispose of pet waste in the trash, wrap it carefully to avoid spilling during collection.**

The above information is contained in the following website:

Montgomery County Animal Services Division

<http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/poltml.asp?url=/content/POL/districts/MSB/animal/summarylaws.asp>