



NEWSLETTER - MARCH, 2015

Snowdens Mill HOA is managed by –
Community Association, 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 Joe Maas, Vice-President Everett Casey, Treasurer Jay Moses, and Secretary Patricia Brockway. The remaining Directors include: Dennis Holden, Kassa Kebede, Saura Sahu and Leilani Wheeler.

Unfortunately, Joe Tahan, resigned from the board and we would like to thank him for his long service on the board.

Leilani Wheeler was elected to the board during the February Board Meeting.

We still have one opening on the board; please consider volunteering for this position which expires in January 2017. Please send an email to the above address indicating your willingness to serve on the Board.

FROM THE DESK OF THE SMHOA PRESIDENT

This is a new feature in the Mill Wheel.

Let me introduce myself. I am Joe Maas, the new President of our Association. My family became residents of Snowdens Mill in 1979 when we bought our new home at 2213 Aventurine Way. I began serving SMHOA in 1991

Board Meeting Notices – Mar. 17, Apr. 21 and May 19, 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.

as Treasurer and Board Member. At different times over the years, I have served as Treasurer and Board Member, and I served as President in 2002 and 2003. Then back to the Board in 2013, again as Treasurer. My total service has been about 15 years. I just

can't seem to stay away!

There is a reason for this. I strongly believe in our Association and want to help it be the best it can be. The appearance and, thus, the value of Snowdens Mill is the core mission of SMHOA. What our Association does or does not do affects all 582 residents.

Over the next number of months I will be using this column to share with you what is planned; what successes we have; and problems we are facing. The Board will be setting several improvement goals for 2015, and I will tell you about them in the next Mill Wheel. The next Mill Wheel will also include an article explaining the relationship of the two townhouse associations to SMHOA and the responsibilities of each. There has been much confusion about this and I want to try to clear it up.

At the SMHOA annual budget review meeting last November a homeowner suggested we look at a management company he believed could offer what services we need at a lower cost. Then President Casey and I met with the owner of that company. We found out that (1) it was a one person company which would subcontract our needed service to another company; (2) that it

is located in Stevensville, Maryland across the Bay Bridge; and (3) that it has no familiarity or experience with Montgomery County and its requirements affecting homeowner associations. We deemed these facts disqualifying for consideration and, therefore, did not request a cost estimate or proposal.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Everett Casey for five years of dedicated and effective leadership of SMHOA as President. Fortunately, he has selflessly offered to continue to contribute as the new Vice-President. I also want to thank Joe Tahan for his service as Vice-President and Board Member. Also, thanks to Luann Mostello for her service as Treasurer and Board Member. And "Hats Off!" to Melissa Dettloff, our Management Agent, for an outstanding job, supporting the Board and the Association.

I want to welcome Jay Moses and Leilani Wheeler to the Board. Jay will succeed me as Treasurer. He has a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree, so you know he will make a great Treasurer. Leilani is the At-Large Board Member. She has a great interest in the planned further changes to Route 29 and will keep us up to date on this important project.

I seek, encourage and welcome your comments, suggestions, and constructive feedback. As volunteers, we may not be paid in dollars. But we are paid in the satisfaction of seeing our community thrive as we all work together. You may reach me at jm73bug@aol.com or by phone at 301-384-3330 or cell at 301-613-6001.

Yours for a great Snowdens Mill,
Joe

2015 ANNUAL - MEETING REPORT

The Annual Homeowners Meeting was held on January 20, 2015. Everett Casey called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

- Quorum Report: Everett Casey announced that there was a quorum present. Four positions on the board needed to be filled (three expiring terms and one vacancy).
- President's Report & Introduction of board members: Mr. Casey welcomed everyone to the 2015 Annual meeting. He had the board members introduce themselves. He requested the attending homeowners introduce themselves and then thanked everyone for coming.

Committee Reports

- Architectural Control Committee: The chairman, Tracy Shahan, was unable to attend so Everett Casey reported that the main focus was the PIR's and the need to have them approved before any changes are made to the properties. In addition to board member Joe Tahan and himself, Tracy Shahan, Maggie Erzen and Emcee Arah are also on the committee and Everett thanked them for their service.
- Finance Committee: The chairman, Joe Maas was also unable to attend, so Everett Casey reviewed a financial summary for 2014. He also reported that the 2015 annual assessments increased from \$200 to \$240. The

assessments were discounted to \$220 if paid before January 31, 2015.

- Covenant Enforcement Committee: Dennis Holden is co-chairman along with Tracy Shahan. Dennis reported that the biggest problem is modifications made to homes without approval from the Association. Dennis described how the committee works and how homeowners can help.
- Landscape Committee: Kassa Kebede reported that a big accomplishment for 2014 was the community map that he put together. This map helps the landscapers pinpoint exactly where a problem is so that it can be fixed in a timely manner. He also acknowledged that the landscapers for the 2014 year fell short of expectations. A new contract for landscaping has been let for 2015 and he expects that it will be a better fit for the community. He acknowledged that getting water to the flower gardens is an ongoing problem that still needs to be looked at.
- Communications Committee: Patricia Brockway reported that she now has about 188 emails for members of the community. This is good, but she would like to have more and also would like members to send updates when they get a new email address. This will ensure the community emails being received. She also suggested that the community look for teenagers that would like to volunteer to do yard work, shovel snow, etc. for homeowners.
- Community Security: Dennis Holden had nothing to report, but did say to be watchful for graffiti in the community and to report immediately if anyone does see any suspicious behavior.
- Elections of Directors: There are a total of nine seats on the board. One seat is vacant, and three seats are open for election (Joe Maas, Kassa Kebede and vacant). The nominating committee consisted of those board members who were not up for reelection. The nominating committee presented two candidates (Joe Maas and Kassa Kebede) to be re-elected. Everett asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Jay Moses nominated himself. A motion was made to close the nominations. All were in favor. The three nominees were elected by acclamation to the board with terms ending on 1/2018. One vacancy remained with a term ending in 1/2016.
- Homeowners Forum: There were no questions or responses from the homeowners.
- Adjournment: The 2015 Annual Homeowners meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY GREENFEST

Save the date for the Montgomery County Green Fest, 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

Make Your Own Green Spring-Cleaning Solutions

Three basic green cleaners will help you tackle your two biggest jobs – your kitchen and bathrooms.

All Purpose Spray:

All you need here is a spray bottle (you can pick up plastic ones at the dollar store) and these four ingredients:

1 gallon hot water

½ cup white vinegar

½ cup liquid castile soap

1 Tbsp borax

Combine all ingredients, pour into the spray bottle, and you're done!

Glass and Mirror Cleaner:

This two-ingredient mix is easy to make and works great.

½ cup white vinegar

½ cup water

Pour into a spray bottle. That's it.

Stainless Steel Cleaner:

Does anything need more frequent wiping than a stainless steel appliance? Luckily, this recipe only has two ingredients.

1 Tbsp olive oil

1 Tbsp white vinegar

Just drip olive oil onto a rag, rub the surface to get rid of smudges and then drip white vinegar on the other side of the rag. Wipe, let dry and you're done.

Before You Green Clean

If you've been using a traditional cleaning product in the past, you might not know that they tend to leave behind a waxy residue. Before you start going green, make a quick 5 percent rubbing alcohol-to-water solution to remove it, and then use your new green cleaner.

Smart Home Devices Can Put Your Privacy at Risk

Smart home thermostats, connected kitchen appliances and the fitness monitors we're all wearing offer many amazing benefits, but all those connected devices can also create privacy risks, a report from the Federal Trade Commission says.

FTC Chairwoman Edith Ramirez predicts 2015 will be the year we start hearing about smart home hacking.

"Connected devices that provide increased convenience and improve health services are also collecting, transmitting, storing and often sharing vast amounts of consumer data, some of it highly personal, thereby creating a number of privacy risks," Ramirez said in a recent speech.

The connected devices we use also leave behind a digital trail. "That data trove will contain a wealth of revealing information that, when patched together, will present a deeply personal and startlingly complete picture of each of us – one that includes details about our financial circumstances, our health, our religious preferences and our family and friends," Ramirez said.

Connected device makers may use the data your devices collect to predict your behavior and influence your conduct, much in the same way as store discount cards now allow your grocer to foresee what you'll buy next week.

"This pervasive collection of data inevitably gives rise to concerns about how all of this personal information will be used," Ramirez said. "Will the data be used solely to provide services to consumers? Or will the information flowing in from our smart cars, smart devices and smart cities just swell the ocean of "big data," which could allow information to be used in ways that are inconsistent with consumers' expectations or relationship with a company?"

It's possible that one day big data companies will combine information from different devices. For example, they might combine data about what you're watching on TV with data from your heart rate monitor or data showing when you're using your parking lot security card to enter your condo garage.

"Will this information be used to paint a picture of you that you will not see, but that others will – people who might make decisions about whether you are shown ads for organic food or junk food, where your call to customer service is routed and what offers of credit and other products you receive?" Ramirez asked.

What the FTC Wants

The FTC has called on businesses that make Internet-connected devices to do a better job of protecting your privacy and security, so you don't put yourself at risk when you install devices to improve your home's energy efficiency or wear a fitness band to improve your health.

The FTC wants companies to:

- Build security into devices.
- Manage security at a high level within their organizations.
- Check that outside service providers maintain security standards.
- Find ways to keep unauthorized users from accessing your device, data or personal information stored on a network.

- Monitor connected devices and provide security patches as needed.

As you purchase connected devices, you may want to ask:

- How is this device secured to prevent hackers from accessing my information?
- What data is collected and how long is it kept?
- How do you use the data you collect about me?

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 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 (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.

Evin Dickerson – He is interested in shoveling snow, walking dogs. (240) 595-2385

NEW NEIGHBORS

Please give a friendly welcome to your new neighbors in the community:

Matthew & Melissa Bradley on Chalkstone Way
Matthew S & Laura P Hilliker on Serpentine Way

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"](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 90 degrees 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.)

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 or to Melissa at smhoa.bod@communityassn.com.