



# THE "OVERLOOK"

Vol. 3, No. 1, March, 2011

**"An independent Newsletter by and for the Residents of Snowden Overlook"**

From Your Editor... Spring is just over the horizon, and so far we have escaped a repeat of the blizzards we experienced last winter. This issue is chock-full of very important information, and you are advised to keep this issue handy for future reference. So, I bid all wonderful neighbors a Happy and Healthy Spring!

**FYI: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>. TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR BEFORE RETIRING SATURDAY NIGHT.**



## Master Board News...

**Janet Henry, President**

The Snowden Overlook (S.O.) Board thought you would be interested in some of the projects we are working on. Here is a brief description of a few of them:

**4-WAY STOP SIGNS:** Because of continuing concerns over pedestrians and cars trying to enter Dried Earth Blvd. safely from Warm Waves and Endless Ocean, the SOCA Board decided to install stop signs on Dried Earth at this intersection, making it a 4-way stop. The signs should be in place some time in March. It is our hope that this will also slow speeders on Dried Earth, further improving safety in the area.

**SOUND DAMPENING:** Excessive noise in the multi-purpose room has long been a problem when the room is fully occupied. The Board has been seeking bids from soundproofing companies to determine the cost of having sound dampening panels installed on two of the four walls. It is hoped that this modification will significantly cut

down on the noise reverberations we are experiencing now, and make being part of a well-attended event there more enjoyable. This project is a high priority of the Board.

**COVERED RECYCLING BINS:** S.O.'s trash and recycling contract is coming up for renewal in the near future. As part of the new contract bids we are receiving, we are making sure that each contractor will supply every house with a *lidded, rolling* receptacle. (One such bin is on display at the Clubhouse.) We are hoping this will eliminate the problem of blowing papers on windy days. In the meantime, please be considerate of others by *placing the papers you want to recycle inside plastic grocery bags and weigh them down* somehow inside the recycling bin. This will save your neighbors from having to patrol the grounds, picking up stray papers that have blown away.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES:

On March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm, a new movie series began with "Pirates of the Caribbean". Mary Huesman has graciously agreed to head this event every Wednesday. Her plan is to show both great classics and new films alike in all categories so there will be a wide variety from which to choose. If you have a film you would like to share, please contact Mary (410.290.0215), or Carol at the Clubhouse (410.872.9311). Would some of you prefer to attend a movie matinee in the afternoon? If so, please let Carol know so we can begin scheduling two showings of the same movie each week.

**NEW POOL TABLE:** The Clubhouse has been the fortunate beneficiary of a handsome pool table from Ronnie True's sister for use by our residents. It is located on the lower level and available for adults to play from 9 a.m. to midnight by using your swipe card at the pool gate entrance. Please reserve your time in the book on the sign-up table outside Carol's **NEEDED-- MORE LICENSED**



**POOL OPERATORS:** The 2011 swim season is not far away and if we are to open the pool early in May and keep it open late into September, we need additional volunteers to be trained to safely open and close the pool. These volunteers will receive the requisite training for free and are asked to donate only a few hours of their time per month. If you would be willing to participate, please contact Kit Jones (410.715.4295; cell: 410.599.1054) or via e-mail at [kitjones2@gmail.com](mailto:kitjones2@gmail.com). Thank you!



## Messages from our Community Presidents...

**John Shirtz, Kendall I...**Kendall Overlook held our Annual Meeting on January 4<sup>th</sup>. It included the voting for two new members for our Board of Directors, who are replacing Pat Thomas and Susan Gearing who we thank for their time on the Board. Please extend your congratulations to Pat Harrington and Marion Thompson. The board members met shortly after the meeting and decided on officers for 2011:

President—John Shirtz (410.872.9293)

Vice President—Marion Thompson  
(410.707.8885)

Treasurer—Bill Fisher (410.290.1023)

Secretary—Bob Brady (410.290.1914)

At-Large—Pat Harrington  
(410.312.0026)

Your representatives on the Board of Directors are here to serve the community. If you have any questions or concerns about anything within the community, don't hesitate to contact one of them.

With spring right around the corner, our management company will be looking to do an inspection of the property to assure that all

of our condominium rules and regulations are being followed, and that all changes to the property have gone through the standard architectural approval process. This inspection will ensure we are all in compliance with the regulations that we all agreed to when we moved here.

Just a reminder: due to the normal climate changes that occur every year during March and April, we generally experience more windy days than throughout the rest of the year. Please make a special effort during this time to protect your recyclables and trash from becoming airborne and ending up in someone else's yard. All you usually need is something heavy on top.

**Lu True, Villas I...**Although Spring is fast approaching, mention should be made that our annual budget for the 'rearrangement' of snow, which is intended to last through any snow that falls into next December, appears likely to already be depleted. If someone in the neighborhood knows a dance to prevent more snow and ice, this would be a good time to start moving. Still, the calendar says spring is close; therefore, this also is a good time to start thinking about removing any dead plants in our garden beds and which replacements we'd like to plant. Here's to spring flowers!

We have noticed a number of cars driving at unreasonably high speeds in the neighborhood lately. Please remember that our policy is speeds are to be limited to 15 mph within Villas I. Please remind your guests of this as well.

Some may not have heard that Krista McKee, her daughter, son-in-law, and grandson have all moved to Nigeria for several years. We all wish Krista well on this exciting adventure.

Finally, your association needs



volunteers to join our committees. We could use help in the traffic & parking, landscape, architecture and social committees. Please let any board member or committee chair know of your interest.

**Steve Reading, Kendall II...** So far, this winter hasn't proven to be as 'snowy' as last year, but there have been moments. We have survived the holiday season and are looking forward to March Madness, Tax Day (a daunting thought), and the start of the baseball season. This is the time one hears one of the great sayings that is the harbinger of the coming of spring: "Pitchers & Catchers report". Next we will hear the singing of birds and see flowers starting to bloom. But I'm getting ahead of myself: we still need to weather one more month. So as always, join with your neighbors and enjoy the fun times and varied activities—to include our needed pool table—at the Clubhouse.

**Sharonlee Vogel, Ovation...** We all know that better 'very local' transportation is needed in Howard County. Several S.O. residents have suggested that we group together and support our community by driving our neighbors to shopping, movies, medical appointments, etc.

'Doing our own thing' probably isn't our best choice. If S.O. were to set up its own private service, we would need to be mindful of appropriate legal protections and the infrastructure for requesting/tracking rides. We also would have to establish rules and guidelines for finding appropriate drivers. Further consideration must be given as to how far in advance people would need to schedule rides, handling rides if a driver cannot be found, handling schedule changes (driver or passenger), and dealing with emergencies, including dead batteries, weather, etc.

*But we don't need to reinvent the wheel:* There's a non-profit organization in Howard County that can easily help our neighbors who need a ride: *NEIGHBOR RIDE*. There are also volunteering opportunities with this organization. Neighbor Ride has the entire situation covered, including a \$1 million umbrella liability policy for drivers while on a Neighbor Ride trip.

They're always looking for volunteer drivers to help senior remain active and independent. You can choose from flexible day, evening or weekend hours, *and you can choose only to drive folks from Snowden Overlook*, if you also indicate specific days/times. Drivers are asked to commit to two or more trips a month. Also, drivers may choose rides that fit their schedule and are convenient to their homes, such as our S.O. streets. There is a small, nominal charge to riders. There already are residents in S.O. that use the service or volunteer.

Check out their website at [www.neighborride.org](http://www.neighborride.org) for details, or call Patrice Cerwonka and Rosemary Noble at 410.884.7433; or e-mail at [volunteer@neighborride.org](mailto:volunteer@neighborride.org). This is a great community service for all of us!

Best wishes for 2011.

**Shirley Freto, Villas II...** Spring is almost here, and hopefully the snow will be long gone. Daylight Savings Time begins. Yea! Time for everyone to start thinking about all those flowers to be planted and everyone will be able to walk around Villas II and be really proud of our neighborhood.

Much has been accomplished at Villas II. BG&E has been installing additional street lights; FIOS is reimbursing Villas II for the additional 10 units that previously were not included in our reimbursement. That's a good thing.

We are presently in the process of



creating some new committees, and they are "Parking & Safety", "Communication and Welcoming", and "Maintenance". We also have our "Landscaping/Architectural" Committee, and would at this time like to thank Chairperson Marjorie Swyers for doing a really great job. We are still seeking volunteers for committees. Anyone interested should please e-mail me, or you can see our Vice-President Jim Huesman, and he can give you all the details. Homeowners in Villas II step up and volunteer. Your expertise is greatly needed.

We also have signed a contract with WPM Management Company, and our manager Jose Ponton is doing a great job.

As President of the Board of Villas II, I would like to thank the Board of Directors for all of their hard work, effort and energy that they put into being Directors. Thank you all!



### Clubhouse News...

Our Clubhouse is absolutely bursting at the seams with activities; there's literally something for everyone. Check your March calendar to see the 'happenings' this month. Meanwhile, here's some sports activities that you may want to join, with Jeff Medwid chairing these events:



**GOLF:** starts mid-April, Tues & Fridays 4 p.m. @ Timbers at Troy; Ladies Group: play during week @ various courses

Call Jeff at 410.845.548.5206 or you can e-mail him at [jeff.medwid@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.medwid@gmail.com)



Yes, Bocce is coming to S.O., Jeff informs us. A Bocce League will be starting sometime this spring. Information will be coming shortly. Contact Jeff.

The Social Committee has been planning several outstanding events for us to enjoy. All events will take place at the Clubhouse. Make note now on your calendar for:

- Sat., March 12: St. Patrick's Day Dinner
- Sat., April 23: Casino Nite
- Sat. May 21: Spring Fling, with the Savoy Swing Orchestra
- Sun., June 12: Antique Car Show and Cookout
- Sat., July 30: Jazz Band
- Sat., Aug. 20: Steel band (date may change)



**POKER** at the Clubhouse: this event has been expanded. Men's poker is on Wednesdays at 7 pm, lower level. Texas hold-em is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays; other Wednesday nights they play dealer's choice games. Cost: \$10 for poker pot. Check the monthly calendar for date changes.



### Electronic Newsletter...

**Mike Goldblatt**, S.O.'s website guru, has announced it's time to sign up to receive this "Overlook" newsletter—and our Clubhouse calendar—online. Residents can view an archive of past issues at [www.SnowdenOverlook.Com](http://www.SnowdenOverlook.Com) and sign up to



receive new issues by e-mail. Residents can choose to receive an e-mail with any or all of S.O.'s communications, including the Activity Calendar (monthly), "Overlook" Newsletter (this publication, written quarterly), and Kendall II Newsletter (monthly).

Visit the Newsletter Page at the above www. address to subscribe to e-mail delivery of all of the above. Once you've gone to this website, you will be instructed how to sign up—click on "Subscribe" at the upper right corner of the page.

The front page of this **community website** was recently reorganized into 3 columns: monthly activities, upcoming events, and community news. Your comments, suggestions, and questions are very welcome. Submit them by calling Mike at 410.929.4709 or e-mailing him from the Contact Page at the website.

You may now R.S.V.P. to this S.O. website to sign up for any and every Clubhouse activity! Therefore, there is no need to go to the Clubhouse and place your name on a sign-up sheet in the foyer. However, these sign-up sheets will still be available for those wishing to sign up this 'old' way.

[ed. note: Mike has created a most impressive webpage for S.O. The photos included at the top of the first page reflect the loveliness and beauty of our community. It's a top-notch website, one we can all claim with pride.]



## Trips 'n' Tours...

**Sandy Reading**

The bus should be warmed up and ready to roll to the Philadelphia Flower show on March 10<sup>th</sup>. It will depart the Clubhouse at 8 a.m.

and start for home at 6:30 p.m. after a full day in the "City of Lights". We are anticipating a wonderful trip and although the reservations were slow in coming, we surpassed our goal of 30 happy travelers who will return with tales of their adventure.

Our next exciting scheduled trip is to **Gettysburg, PA** Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. The bus will depart at 10 a.m. and make a stop at the Dobbin House Restaurant—a 1776 stone home—for lunch. On to the Gettysburg Visitor Center, and then we proceed to the highlight of the trip, the Cyclorama for the sights and sounds of "Pickett's Charge". Our last stop will be a guided tour of the Gettysburg Battle Field. We will depart for home and return at approximately 6:45 p.m. This will be a FULL historical spring day in the Pennsylvania countryside for only \$75.00 per person. You can make your reservation for this fabulous trip using the following directions:

**NEW POLICY FOR MAKING RESERVATIONS FOR TRIPS 'N' TOURS EVENTS:** to accommodate many requests, all reservations for our trips will be called in directly to the **Eyre Tour Company**; payment can be made using your **VISA, M/C or AMEX** card. Call **Eyre at 410.442.1330, ext. 3220**, and ask for **Cookie**. Let her know you are with the **Snowden Overlook "Trips 'n' Tours" Group**.

The flyer for the Gettysburg trip is in the Clubhouse, with all the departure, arrival and events-of-the-day schedule. Lunch, tour, tip are all included.

What else is ahead? Mark your calendars now for the following trips:

Thurs., July 14<sup>th</sup>: **Atlantic City casino**; last



year, everyone came back a 'winner' and requested they return to better their odds; bus leaves at 9 a.m. and departs for home at 5:45 p.m. Cost is approx. \$45, with a generous chip allowance upon arrival. Watch for the bulletin.

Sat., Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>: **Wineries of Virginia**; this is a two-winery tour. Note this is on Saturday to accommodate our still-working residents. Bus departs at 10 a.m. and stops for lunch at Wegman's in Sterling, VA (lunch on your own). We'll visit the Breaux Vineyard and Sunset Hills vineyards for both wine-tasting and a tour. Return at 6 p.m. Cost is only \$72 per person; again, watch for the flyer.

We are planning our **first overnight adventure: Williamsburg, VA**, on Saturday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, returning on Sunday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>. We will view all the wonderful holiday displays and customs of this historical area. Our hotel is the Williamsburg Marriott. Dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday are included. There will be a three-hour guided tour, a two-day touring pass, and an evening in "Christmas Town" at Bush Gardens. We're still working on details, but cost should be about \$300/person double, and \$387/single.

Our committee has decided that we need more input and guidance from all the travelers. We have decided, therefore to establish a

### **Trips 'n' Tours Travel Club!!**

This Club will allow us all to better communicate and make suggestions of future trips and procedures. The **first meeting will be 7 pm, Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Clubhouse**. Please come and let us know what you want and how we can improve our trips!!



Theatre Performances... **Jeff Medwid**. Once again, Jeff has graciously set up a group of tickets for the Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup> performance of "Wicked" at the Kennedy Center. Tickets are \$95/person and the deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup>. Contact Jeff directly at 845.548.5206 or by e-mail at [jeff.medwid@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.medwid@gmail.com)

Jeff also states he is getting information regarding baseball tickets for both the Orioles in Baltimore and the Nats in D.C.



### May We Introduce...

Our featured S.O. neighbor this issue is **Selma Meckler**. Selma was the second resident to move to Ovation four years ago. However, Columbia is not new to Selma, as she moved to S.O. from Harper's Choice where she and her late husband, Al, resided for 40 years. A 'pioneer' of Ovation, she was a 'pioneer' of sorts then, too, as they moved to Columbia in its second year of existence.

Our neighbor is a Brooklyn-born lady where, at the age of 13, she met her future husband, Al. After high school, Selma attended Hunter College for three years, majoring in Music, but then left college life to marry Al. They moved to Boston where Al was on fellowship at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.). Selma recalls residing in on-campus housing in what was then known as Quonset Huts—temporary structures built and originally used for the military students on campus during WW II years.

Two sons, Michael and Andy, were born in Massachusetts during Al's time at M.I.T. After earning his Ph.D. in Physics, Al moved his family to Maryland, living in Silver



Spring while he was employed at the National Security Agency (NSA). As Selma was fortunate to have her mother-in-law living close by, Selma returned to college, eventually earning her B.S. degree in Education at the University of Maryland, and her Masters Degree in Special Education. She was an elementary teacher in Silver Spring for five years.

As mentioned, the Meckler family later settled in Columbia, when Al was asked to set up the Physics Department at the then-new University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) campus nearby. Their daughter, Karen, was born in Columbia. Then Selma's illustrious career with Howard County commenced. For nearly three decades she was an educator, starting at Faulkner Ridge, the second school built in the county. She was a team leader there, and subsequently was asked to set up a Resource Room at Faulkner Ridge for special needs children. This was a unique facility for the county—The County Diagnostic Center (CDC)—where Selma was mentored by a Master Teacher in the specific methods of educating and training special needs students. When her training was completed at the school, Selma remained there for several years in the Resource Room, then was asked by the county to become one of their Trainer Teachers. After 29 years in the education field, Selma retired, only to set up her own tutoring business in her home in Harper's Ferry for special needs students. Her specialty was training dyslexic students. This lasted for 15 years.

In 2000 after a brief illness, her husband of 53 years passed away. Six years elapsed before Selma decided "it was time" to move from her large home. Ovation was the perfect fit for her. "This was the right move", she states. "I had been looking for a long time." What made this the perfect fit for

Selma? Many factors, she replies. Among them: the apartment had to be large enough in which to fit the many pieces of furniture she wished to bring to her new home; and proximity to her daughter—mother to Selma's grandchildren—who lives very close by. "I knew I could be comfortable here. It was exceeded my expectations." She enjoys her neighbors, the social connection, the activities not only at the Clubhouse but also here in Columbia and surrounding area.

Selma has *no free time!* An avid bridge player, she also is a faithful twice-a-week swimmer. But her passions are her culture and educational activities/classes/seminars that she attends several days each month—some each week! She is enrolled at HCC's Art Museum class. She is a member of SEA—Senior Entertainment & Arts committee at the Bain Senior Center, selecting activities and seminars for senior citizens. She subscribes to several theatres/music venues in Columbia, Baltimore and Washington, D.C. But she is most avid about—and wants everyone to know about—OSHER, a program sponsored by the Johns Hopkins Learning Program for Adults. [ed. note: see more information on OSHER in this issue] The Columbia Gateway Johns Hopkins campus is where Selma attends these classes. She states this program is a 'must' for seniors who are intent on broadening their horizons, from educational topics to the arts and culture.

An article about Selma would not be complete without mentioning her three grandchildren—Josh, Matthew and Jessica—and almost-one-year-old *great granddaughter*, Autumn, the latter residing in Tarrytown, NY. Ovation, and indeed all of Snowden Overlook, is blessed to have in our midst such a vibrant, interesting and lovely resident. She is an inspiration to all who know her; we should aspire to her heights!



## Insurance Guidelines...

**Fred Merther**

As Spring approaches, thoughts turn to improvements and repairs to our homes for the coming summer months.

When contractors, repair persons, or service providers are used, it is important to remember the potential exposures they represent. Normally, if any of these individuals are injured on your premises, causes injury to others, or damages property, you may be responsible.

A simple way to eliminate this risk is to ask any of these providers for a certificate of insurance from their insurance carrier showing the coverage **they** have in force. The certificate will show General Liability Coverage, Auto Coverage, and Workers' Compensation that is in place along with the dollar limits applicable to each.

It also is proper for you to be named on the certificate as an Additional Named Insured. When you are named on the certificate, the provider's insurance becomes **primary** and your insurance coverages are protected from incurring losses. It is important to protect your coverage and to maintain a clean loss record, as a good record is important for future renewals and possible rate reductions.

Asking for a certificate of insurance is a normal procedure in the business world, so do not hesitate to ask for one the next time someone is working on your premises.



## Tech Talk... *Steve Reading* "Satellite TV"

Have you ever wondered what the technical differences were between satellite and cable TV service? Cable TV service, aptly named, involves putting down miles and miles of cable (either fiber optic or coaxial) to bring the signal from the antenna to your villas. On the other hand, Satellite TV delivers your home entertainment straight to your TV from the sky, using communication satellites in geosynchronous orbit around the earth. The satellite beams down a signal to the satellite dishes mounted on rooftops, and elsewhere. The satellite dish is a parabolic (a geometric shape, basically a curve against a line) antenna, which receives the signals from the satellite and redirects them to a signal receiver (and decoder) and onto your TV.

Where are the satellites? They are always located south of Texas (they orbit the equator); and depending on where you live, they will be at an elevation angle between 30 and 60 degrees. For S.O. the point angle is more toward 30 degrees. This is important because the satellite dish antenna must be able to 'see' the satellites, without obstruction (e.g., trees, other roofs, etc.)

A cautionary note on installing a dish antenna in a 'condo' community: although the FCC (1996) doesn't allow the prohibition of installing dish antennas (which must be 39.37 inches or LESS in diameter) it does allow for some considerations. Currently, the owner/installer in S.O. is required to submit an architectural change request to the applicable Condo board and provide a waiver against damages that occur because of the installation.

That aside, satellite TV can provide a



viable alternative to cable TV in bringing you your favorite sports, news, movies, family entertainment and more.



## Home Maintenance...

**Ray Hurst**

[Ed. note: reprinted from Feb. 2008 issue of "Kendall Connection"; an appropriate article for this time of year]

If you have been using your fireplace during the last couple of years, you may have noticed that the glass has clouded. To clean the glass, follow the manufacturer's instructions to remove the glass panel. (Manual is included in the warranty package given by the builder.) This usually consists of removing the small hood at the top of the fireplace and pulling out the bottom screen to expose the latches holding the glass at the top and bottom. Following the instructions, remove the glass and set it on a flat, non-abrasive surface. The inside can now be cleaned with a non-abrasive cleaner (Brasso, Glass Wax). Reverse the procedure to replace the glass. You will be amazed at the difference a little interior cleaning will make.



## Car Care...**Dave Davis**

Spring is on the way. Thank heavens! I'm sure your cars look like salt more than paint by now. In the last "Overlook" issue, we mentioned elbow grease which is what is now protecting our paint; but you still need to wash the salt out from under your car and off your fender walls and grills. Also, be sure to spray out those radiators and around the wheels.

I am sure that your car took care of you this winter if you did the required

maintenance in the fall. Now prepare it for spring and summer. Have the battery checked for how well it is holding charge. If a cell is going bad, you may have to call AAA or some other company to put a new battery in your auto (not cheap), from \$150 up. Make sure your tire pressure is correct, and have your brake shoes and rotors checked along with all fluid levels.

Some of us might be in the process of getting rid of our old cars and buying new ones. If so, get with a sales person and dealership you trust. Most dealers have factory incentives and are very anxious to put you in a new car. Take advantage of this, as they have had very few sales this winter. Your auto took a beating in the cold weather, for sure. We hope you have a trouble-free spring and summer. None of us needs more problems.



## Save the Bay/Master

### Gardener...**Pat Harrington**

"Eat Locally Grown and Raised Food"

Growing your own food or at least eating locally produced food is good for the environment, and your taste buds.

1) COLUMBIA GARDENERS: You can rent your own garden plot and grow your own produce. The contact for all the gardens is [columbiagardens@gmail.com](mailto:columbiagardens@gmail.com). There are also gardens in Long Reach and the West side.

2) COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE (CSA): You can support a local farmer and share in the harvest. It is similar to a co-op. For information, go to [www.futureharvestcasa.org](http://www.futureharvestcasa.org) or call 410.604.2681 There are several CSA farm operations in Howard County.

NOW IS THE TIME TO SIGN UP FOR



COLUMBIA GARDEN PLOTS AND CSA!

3) AMAZING GRAZING. Directory is available through the Future Harvest site. This is a directory of farmers raising grass-fed animals in MD, PA and WVA.

4) FARMERS MARKETS operate during the growing season in several Howard County locations. Oakland Mills VC, East Columbia Library, Glenwood Library are just a few.

Patuxent Pkwy; 38 Maryland wineries, live entertainment/food; tickets @ Dept. of Rec. and Parks, 7120 Oakland Mills Rd.; on-line purchasing at [www.wineinthewoods.com](http://www.wineinthewoods.com)

\* Recycling: call 410.313.6444; ever wonder what's considered recyclable and what is not? Go to [www.howardcountyclecyles.org](http://www.howardcountyclecyles.org)



Dr. Calvin Ball, Chair, Howard County Council, District 2 [Ed. note: Dr. Ball issues a monthly e-letter to his constituents listing highlights of what has taken place the previous month. To read his complete bulletin, go to [www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/Dist2\\_Bio.htm](http://www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/Dist2_Bio.htm)

(Note: after typing the "2", type the "underline" symbol, then the "Bio.htm"—this doesn't show up on the website address due to the entire listing being underlined)

Here's what Dr. Ball has listed that would be of interest to residents of S.O.:

- \* His phone number is 410.313.2001
- \* Howard County Council has two vacant positions; contact him at the above website
- \* April 2<sup>nd</sup>: Green Fest 2011: 10-2 pm shredding opportunity; also, bring old bikes; Goodwill truck will be there to collect clothes, electronics, dishes, etc.; contact Dr. Ball's office (number above)
- \* April 9<sup>th</sup>: Walk in the Parks series; Columbia Volksmarch Club; contact H.C. Rec. & Parks, 410.313.4700
- \* April 30<sup>th</sup>: Earth Day celebrations; at all H.C. parks; call 410.313.4624 to sign up
- \* May 21-22: Wine in the Woods (19<sup>th</sup> year); at Symphony Woods @ Little



Want to Broaden Your Horizons? Learn about the OSHER Lifelong Learning Institute at Johns Hopkins University

[Ed. Note: The following description is from the Osher Spring 2011 course schedule book]

Dedicated to lifelong learning the Osher at JHU program was created in 1986 with a mission to enhance the leisure time of **semi-retired and retired** individuals by providing stimulating learning experiences and the opportunity for new friendships.

Osher at JHY builds on the rich resources of an internationally renowned university to offer members an array of educational and social opportunities.

Programs are offered on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Columbia Center of The Johns Hopkins University, 6740 Alexander Bell Drive, Columbia [less than 5 minutes from S.O.!] They include courses/seminars on literature, science, politics, the arts, religion, etc., etc., etc.

For additional information on membership, please contact the program's administrative office at 410.516.9719; also, go to [www.osher.jhu.edu](http://www.osher.jhu.edu)



### Let's Eat Out...

Literally, “just up the road” is a fairly new dining experience awaiting you at the **Coal Fire** Restaurant at Shipley’s Grant. Go right on Snowden River Pkwy from Dried Earth; make a left on Rt. 108 and take the first right into Shipley’s Grant.

Coal Fire is open daily for lunch and dinner, and they have taken a different approach to the food they serve. Just about all of the ingredients are prepared in house: they make their mozzarella cheese on site, by buying the curd fresh; they make their three sauces with care: Classic is Italian traditional; Signature has an added sweet and spicy flavor; and Spicy is ‘amped’ up from the Signature sauce.

Their pizza—which is their signature food served—is baked in a coal oven in the tradition of old world style, which is the opposite of baking pizza in a wood burning oven. This is the hotter oven, producing 900 degree heat—“a hotter oven is a better oven”, states Brian Kannee, co-owner with Dennis Sharoky. The pizza dough is hand-made, and aged a couple of days.

Salads are a specialty, too. Their Grilled Caesar Salad is topped with homemade Caesar dressing, and a favorite with the regulars. Subs and pasta round out the menu.

The restaurant can seat 60-85, with an extended area for dining in warm weather on their patio. Décor is simple, yet warm, and their bar is separate from the main dining area. Coal Fire has quickly become a regular dining spot for nearby residents.

Telephone number is 410.480.2625; website is [www.coalfireonline.com](http://www.coalfireonline.com)

Try Coal Fire, where pizza is “charred

to perfection”. And say hello to Brian and Dennis.



### Handy Telephone Numbers to Have on Hand....

- Clubhouse: 410.872.9311
- BGE: 1-877-778-2222
- HC Gen. Hospital ER: 410.740.7777
- Water & Sewer Emer.: 410.313.4900
- Columbia Ass’n.: 410.715.3000
- Fire Dept.: 410.313.6000
- E. Columbia Library: 410.313.7700
- MVA: 410.768.7000
- Police Dept.: 410.313.2200
- H.C. Parks & Rec.: 410.313.4700

### Closing Thought...

*“The place to be happy is here. The time to be happy is now. The way to be happy is to make others happy, too.” (Robert C. Ingersoll)*

*Jan Brady, Editor*

[jrbobbrady@comcast.net](mailto:jrbobbrady@comcast.net)

[This newsletter is the sole responsibility of the Editor.]