

“The Overlook”

“An independent newsletter by and for the Residents of Snowden Overlook”

From your editor...As we speak my computer is recovering from a virus/some outside agent that has seriously delayed the publishing of this issue. My deepest thanks to our Ovation neighbor and computer guru, Steve Barretta, who kindly has walked me thru the process of being able to type and print our June “Ovation”. No embellishments in this issue, just straight talk until my computer recovers. Meanwhile, have a grand summer, read all about what's available/happenings in our wonderful neighborhood and above all, travel safe.

Master Board News...

Lou True, President

Many thanks are due to Janet Henry who, as president of SOCA, put great and good effort into the role of shepherding our new homeowners association into existence and managing many improvements to its services to our community that we now enjoy. I look forward to continuing to work with her.

Recent action: **Gym:** A water fountain was installed, eliminating the cost and storage problems associated with the old bottled water service. In addition, two ceiling fans were installed for the comfort of users. **Pool Heater:** This addition to our pool complex should permit more comfortable swimming this pool season. **Landscaping:** Thank you to the Greenbriar Garden Club for providing plants that were planted in the bed beside the clubhouse parking lot by Pat Harrington, Ronni True, and Shoba Joseph. In addition, our Landscaping Committee has reviewed our requirements and additional plantings are

underway.

V. 3, No. 2 June, 2011

Here are some things to look forward to in the near future: **Recycle Bins:** Our new contract for trash removal and recycling is expected to produce new and larger recycle bins for each townhome resident in Snowden Overlook, perhaps as early as June. These bins have both attached lids and wheels and should help avoid the windblown recyclable materials we have too-often experienced in the past.

Banquet Room Renovation: Our management company, WP&M, will be undertaking a thorough repair and repainting of this room. They will also be installing sound-absorbing panels to the walls, designed to reduce the noise level during large gatherings. While there may be some disruptions in our use of the room during this work, we will attempt to minimize it. Thanks are due to Liz Dunker for her assistance in the planning for this project.

Architectural Change Procedures: These important procedures will be mailed to all residents to guide them in obtaining approval for exterior changes they may wish to make to their units. The documents were drafted by a task force headed by Karen Paciarelli. Other members were: Leon LaPorte, Linda Dillon-Jones, Ronni True, Sue Greer, Lori Kassoff, Kathy Pelch and Marjorie Swyers. Thank you all.

Security: Our Security committee is chaired by Jeff Medwid. Other members are: Dennis Schanahan, Mark Bloom, Kit Jones, Ann McCleaf, Neil Gordon, Alice West and Sandy Reading. The committee is developing options for possible changes to the operation of our front gate and other aspects of security in Snowden Overlook. Look for a security questionnaire and special meetings this summer to get resident views and concerns.

Finally, we must note the departure

of John and Loretta Shirtz from our community. We will miss them both as friends and as a couple who made enormous contributions to Snowden Overlook. Best of luck to them.

Have a great summer!

Messages from our Community Presidents...

Bob Brady, Kendall I... This is my first opportunity to write for the newsletter as President of the Kendall I Association. It is with mixed emotions because John Shirtz resigned at our meeting on 11 May due to his and Loretta's move to North Carolina on 15 June. John did a great job for us in his nearly 1 ½ years as President. I personally feel he moved us in the right direction in many areas. I know that Board members Marion, Bill and Pat feel just as I do, and we wish them all the best as they progress to the next phase of their lives.

Our Board has been active in many ways. Endless Ocean Way and Breaking Waves Drive were resealed on 1 and 2 June, which our Reserve Study indicated should be done. The gutters on all 78 homes will be serviced around 17 June. We are working on a contract for caulking and front trim painting, including the gas meters and covering the bollards.

We will do our advise you as to what we can do for you. On 1 August we will change management companies; we will leave site Realty Group and will be using WP&M which, as it turns out, will manage five of the six community associations that make up Snowden Overlook.

I will have more information for you in the September newsletter, so stay tuned in.

Lou True, Villas I... We note with sadness the passing of our neighbor, Clare McNiff, on May 8th. She will be greatly missed.

I regret to report that Anne Epstein has resigned from our Board of Directors. Anne has served since the Board was originally elected by residents. She has also supplied invaluable expertise while serving as our Treasurer for that entire period. The community owes Anne its gratitude for her service. I am happy to announce, however, that the Board has elected George Wade to fill her position until the next annual meeting and election in the fall. The new Board also decided on the following roster of officers:

President:	Lou True
Vice President:	Rich Pauley
Treasurer:	Kathy Pelch
Secretary:	Ken MacGregor
Director:	George Wade

Our gutters were cleaned on 5/12/2011. If you observe any overflowing gutters, please notify our WP&M Property Manager, Scott Colville, at 443.796.7399.

Finally, with the arrival of warm weather, let's resume gathering at Secret Waves Square. I propose that we do it on Thursdays at 7 pm. In previous years, we met on Wednesdays, but rumor has it that several of our residents cannot resist the siren call of poker on Wednesday evenings.

Steve Reading, Kendall II...

Summer is fast approaching, but not as fast as the hot weather. For those of us in the Kendall II community, it means we'll be holding our annual board meeting and elections of new board members. This is a great opportunity to see democracy and the right to vote played out at the community level. Remember to vote early...and vote often (ha!).

Summer also signals the beginning of an event-laden summer at the Clubhouse: Men's Club-sponsored breakfast, T-Bird Car Show, Strawberry Social, etc. And that's just June. For the first season since opening, we now have a heated pool. So come one, come all, to enjoy good times and make memories with your fellow residents!

Sharonlee Vogel...Ovation

Spring is upon us and summer seems to already be here! We've begun redoing the landscaping in our front courtyard area which will enhance our curb appeal even more. And now we're looking at plans to redo the landscaping in the back of Ovation to make it more appealing, too. Many of our residents are enjoying working and digging in the garden—all of Snowden Overlook will see the fruits of our labors soon. Our Landscaping Committee has been working hard!

Two of our apartments have resold recently. There are two units currently for sale: a two-bedroom and a three-bedroom have just come on the market. If you have a friend interested in easy living. Tell them to consider Ovation/Kendall Overlook III.

Shirley Freto...Villas II

Summer has arrived: looking around Villas II and the other communities I see a great deal of landscaping with flowers that are really beautiful.

Villas II at the moment is undergoing several changes. We are recruiting for volunteers for two positions on the Board that will soon be opening. I am hopeful that someone in our community will step up to the plate and volunteer for either of these two positions.

Jim Huesman, our Vice President, is stepping down. He has accomplished so

many things for Villas II that I can't even begin to list them all. It would certainly take up a book. Jim, as President of Villas II, having you by my side has been my pleasure, and that of the Board of Directors as well. We hate to see you go; however, I wish you the best. Thank you for your hard work and all of your accomplishments for us.

We have a wonderful Architectural/Landscaping Committee with volunteers who are working very hard in their free time, and we are proud of their accomplishments. Thanks to the Committee.

Also, we have a new Advisory Committee with Norm Goldstein as Chairperson, who is doing a fantastic job. Thanks to Norm and all the Committee members.

We are in the process of looking for volunteers for a Garden Committee to Villas II. So if anyone would like to volunteer, we will be happy to accept.

IMPORTANT NOTE: We would like to remind all of our homeowners that parking is not permitted on the streets and guest parking spaces are not to be used by the residents.

As President, I currently am doing an update of our little directory of homeowners which by now should be completed and will be distributed.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a safe and relaxing summer of 2011.

Snowden Overlook Website..

Michael Goldblatt

A new RSVP page has been added to www.SnowdenOverlook.com to allow residents to RSVP online for monthly activities like Game Night, Friday with Friends, and special events. Use the online RSVP page to have Snowden's Lifestyle Director, Carol Hergenroeder, add or remove

your name to sign-up sheets at the Clubhouse. Remember to cancel reservations if you're unable to attend a program, so that Carol can avoid wasting money ordering too many refreshments.

Also, note that some activities require you to bring a check to the Clubhouse office to pay the activity fee (make checks payable to "SOCA").

At the suggestion of Joe Smothers, we have added a note about Water Safety to the Pool Page: The purpose of this note is to remind residents about the importance of learning about AED and CPR to save lives. This information is in a link to the page that has information about the AED device in the Clubhouse

<http://www.snowdenoverlook.com/pool>

There is a link to the RSVP page on the front page of the Snowden Overlook website. Web address for the RSVP page is <http://www.snowdenoverlook.com/RSVP.html>

Clubhouse News...

We cannot encourage all residents enough to either walk to the Clubhouse and pick up a Clubhouse Calender located in the foyer, or go online to our Snowden website, mentioned above in Michael's column. That is the only way you will avail yourself of wonderful social opportunities that all committees have planned for us.

Again, it is important to mention the AED device written about in the above Website Column. While at the Clubhouse, it could save your life or the life of a loved one.

On a lighter note, SOCA is considering adding a portable ping pong table to the downstairs of the Clubhouse. If any S.O. Resident has a used one willing to be donated, please call Carol at the Clubhouse at 410.872.9311. A notice already has been placed at the Clubhouse and on the website.

I am very sorry to announce that we are temporarily canceling all planned events of Trips 'n' Tours due to lack of participation at Snowden Overlook. We had to cancel the May trip to Gettysburg because so few signed up. We have considered trying to charter a smaller bus without a bathroom, but it still would be costly for each person.

If enough interest is shown, we can plan the trip to the VIRGINIA WINERIES ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1ST, but we would have to have a 'good faith' deposit from all those interested to give a \$200 deposit to the bus company. Since we had such a very large group interested in returning to see the Cherry Blossoms with lunch aboard the "Odyssey", we may offer this again in the spring.

We should all thank the other Committee members for trying this adventure and their tireless effort to make these trips a success: Kathy Pelch, Judy Morrison and Jan Brady. We will fondly remember all our tours: the trip in the snow to see the Terra Cotta Warriors exhibit; the beautiful holiday exhibit at the Botanical Gardens; gambling at the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City; the fabulous tour of George Washington's Mount Vernon and delicious served luncheon; the high-tech history at the Newseum; and the wonderland of lights at Longwood Gardens outside Philadelphia, plus the Philadelphia Flower Show.

SEE WHAT YOU MISSED IF YOU DIDN'T ATTEND????!!

Retired Military Club (SORMC)...

Bob Brady

Are you retired from the Military? Do you carry a blue ID card? We need you.

Our group has met twice, once in April and again in May. As you can expect, we all have similar desires, needs and expectations. The retired military in our Snowden Overlook community want to help other veterans here

with their entitlements Veterans' Administration questions and questions regarding other military associations.

There is one project we consider very important, and that is erecting a flag pole flying an American flag at the Clubhouse every day of the year. We defended it through our entire careers and the American flag means a great deal to all Snowden Overlook residents, military and civilian. SOCA will consider this and hopefully will accept our request. Our goal is to raise the American flag on Veterans Day, 11 November 2011. Call Bob Brady @ 410.290.1914 for more information.

Insurance Guidelines...

Fred Merther

Now that the vacation season is approaching, it is important to practice loss prevention for your home and its contents. The following thoughts are offered in an attempt to make your home secure while you are away: HOME SECURITY DEPENDS ON A HELPING HAND (AND EXTRA EYES).

It's much easier to relax on vacation if you know trusted neighbors are watching your home. Before you leave town, arrange for them to do the following—and don't forget to return the favor when they take a trip:

- Collect any deliveries. Even if you have mail and newspaper delivery stopped, neighbors should watch for packages.
- Park their car in your driveway occasionally (or move your car) so it looks like someone is at home.
- Set out your garbage can for normal pickup and put it away afterward.
- Maintain your lawn.
- Keep an eye on your property—and call the police if they see something suspicious.
- Act for you in an emergency. Leave them a spare key, instructions and codes for

your security system and information about how to reach you.

IF YOU CANNOT ASK A NEIGHBOR FOR HELP, TO EASE YOUR MIND TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTION:

Keep your travel plans quiet.

If you haven't already done so, install a security system and motion-detector lights.

Ask a friend/relative to stay at your home while you're gone. If that's not possible, ask someone to stop by your house to check on it once or twice a day.

Notify local police about your trip. Some communities offer home-watch programs.

BEFORE YOU GO, COMPLETE THIS CHECKLIST TO SECURE YOUR HOME WHEN YOU HEAD OUT OF TOWN:

- Arrange to have mail and packages picked up or held.
- Stop newspaper delivery.
- Move cash, jewelry and other valuables to a safe-deposit box.
- Set lights, a radio and a TV on automatic timers to give the illusion that you're home. Use several for the realistic effect.
- Lower the sound of your telephone ringer and answering machine.
- Leave your regular greeting on your voice mail or answering machine. Don't announce that you are away.
- Turn off water to the washing machine so hoses won't burst and flood the house.
- Lock all doors. Long dead bolts are best. Don't forget the side garage door and rear doors. Sliding doors should be equipped with special locks or, in a pinch, place a broom handle or similar item in the door channel.
- Lock all windows.
- Leave curtains, shades and blinds in their normal position.
- Activate your security system.

Car Care...*Dave Davis*

WOW! Look at all the new cars available, from electric to hotrods. If you want an electric car, everyone from Chevrolet to Rolls Royce is making them. If you want a 'muscle' car, Chevrolet has a Camaro with 556 horse power (hp). Dodge, Ford, Toyota and Lexus have them, as well as Mercedes Benz.

Unbelievable cars are out there, from four-door Ferraris to Bentley convertibles. And there's my favorite: the Bugatti Veyron supersport. You will have to get your order in quickly for that one, since they are making only 40 worldwide. At 1200 hp (!) in a small, 3,000-pound car, Car and Driver says: "It's so fast, drop down oxygen masks should be require." Roadtrack says: "It is smooth and comfortable until you hit the gas; then it slams you back into your seat so hard that you feel like you've been tackled by an NFL linebacker". Motortrend states "top speed is a mere 268 mph; this is a car without equal on this planet". So hurry with your order and check: the price is a mere \$2,400,000. I will look for at least three in our neighborhood!

Don't forget that Cadillac has a 556 hp all-wheel drive luxury car for \$80,000. And there's a Mercedes Benz SLK convertible sports coupe at 362 hp for \$55,000; an Aston Martin Virage convertible at 430 hp for \$152,615; and a Lamborghini Aventador LP700 V-12 at 691 hp for just over \$200,000. So even though gas prices are up, the hotrods are out there. Get your \$2+million out and enjoy one. Oh, and please bring it by my house so I can see it!

Home Maintenance...*Ray Hurst*

In the event of an emergency, you may need to turn off utility services to your home. It is a good idea to identify and label each of these valves and switches and make sure that each member of the household knows where

they are, and how to operate them.

- The main electrical disconnect can be found in the main electrical panel which is usually located in the garage or basement of our homes. The main disconnect is marked "main" or "main disconnect". This switch turns off all the electrical power coming into the house. Individual breakers for lighting and appliances should already be identified and marked.
- The main gas turnoff is located on the gas meter on the outside of our homes. It requires a wrench to turn off the valve. One quarter turn is all that is required to turn the valve off. The main interior gas valve is located in the basement. Gas lines are yellow. The larger line is the main gas line into the house with smaller distribution lines going to individual gas appliances. The lever-like valves can be turned off by hand with one quarter turn.
- The main water turnoff is located in the front section of the basement. There are two valves on the main water line. The first valve after the line enters the house shuts off all the water to the house including the sprinkler system. The second valve located above the first valve and the pressure regulator shuts off all the water into the house, but does not shut the sprinkler system off.

Bay Wise Topics...*Pat Harrington*

STORM DRAINS: The actions we take in our daily lives have a big impact on the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Many people do not realize that storm drains are part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Therefore, any runoff from your driveway, lawns and downspouts go directly into your neighborhood storm drain, carrying pollutants with it. All residents can help the Bay by better management of storm water runoff. The goal is to keep water that falls on a property to stay on that property. How can you as a resident of Snowden Overlook help?

- Direct the runoff from your home's rainspouts into a planting bed or lawn, but away from foundations. This gives the water a chance to soak into the ground and also water your shrubs, plants or grass. Do not direct your rainspout's splash pans onto driveways or sidewalks (impervious surfaces).
- NEVER throw pet waste, trash or anything into a storm drain.
- Take your car to a commercial car wash (they recycle the water). When you wash a car in your driveway, the dirt from your car which contains oil, gas, rubber from tires and road pollutants, plus the detergent you use, go directly into the storm drain and eventually into the Bay.
- Want to know more? Visit the Chesapeake Bay Foundation website @ www.cbf.org

Tech Talk...*Steve Reading*

“Why Does Toilet Water Move When It's Windy?” (or...one of life's many mysteries)

The answer is a combination of science and plumbing! In many homes—at least in the U.S.--part of the plumbing system is a pipe that runs up and out to the roof. This outlet, called a 'vent stack' allows sewage gases to vent outside instead of through the toilet. The stack also allows air to move through the pipes which makes wastewater drain smoothly and keeps obnoxious gurgling to a minimum (the plumbing part of the answer).

When the wind blows over the vent stack outlet on the roof, the air pressure in the pipe is lowered. This is Bernoulli's principle, discovered by the renowned mathematician Daniel Bernoulli, who first published its formulation in 1738. The principle, in tech speak, says that as the speed of a moving fluid increases, the pressure within the fluid decreases; which, by the way, is the same principle that gives airplanes their lift. The lowered pressure in

the pipes creates a slight suction effect throughout the plumbing system, pulling on water in the toilet below. As the wind kicks up and dies down, the suction gets stronger and weaker, and the water in the bowl sloshes around accordingly (the science part of the answer).

You can demonstrate this by using two drinking straws and a cup of water. Hold one straw straight up in the cup of water; use the other straw to blow air directly across the straw in the water. As you do so, water will move up the straw and the level of water in the cup will drop. I believe you can use wine in place of the water, which makes cleaning up afterwards more interesting.

In and Around Howard County...and “Let's Eat Out”

This is a 'combo' column this issue, as due to your Editor's computer 'troubles', browsing the websites for Howard County and CA (Columbia Ass'n.) has been impossible. Therefore, a very basic suggestion for all: Check out the numerous goings-on in our wonderful city; there are celebrations galore on the Town Center waterfront all summer long, including evening movies, entertainment, art exhibits, etc.

For the “Let's Eat Out” part, consider packing up a picnic lunch or, what some might prefer, a picnic supper, and drive to Centennial Lake for a lovely evening repast. And don't forget Ellicott City's Shakespeare Festival presentations in June and July. Al fresco dining/picnic-style can be included there. So many of us have wonderful decks, so invite some neighbors and enjoy an old-fashioned BBQ/cookout: hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, brownies & ice cream, delectable Maryland fruit of the season, and don't forget our fabulous Maryland Silver Queen corn on the cob. What could be better?

Summer's here—get outside, ride a bike, hit the 92 miles of Columbia's walking/biking trails, swim laps in our fabulous pool, not to mention tennis at our numerous neighborhood tennis courts.

“Play Ball!” Right in our midst we have not one, but two professional baseball teams: Baltimore's “Orioles” and D.C.'s “Nationals”. Both parks are spectacular venues and many jut go to the games to visit the ball parks, and *then* watch the games.

It's “tee-up” time—we have SO MANY golf courses nearby. DON'T FORGET THE U.S. OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP is right in our backyard this year at Congressional Golf Course in Bethesda: \$50 for practice rounds June 13-15. For tickets, phone 800.698.0661

AFT (American Film Institute) on Colesville Rd. (Rt. 29) in Silver Spring celebrates a film festival from June 20-26; call 301.495.6720, or go to www.silverdocs.com

Smithsonian Folklife Festival: June 30-July 11, on the Mall in DC. Between the U.S Capitol and the Lincoln Memorial. For details call 202.633.6440. www.festival.si.edu

And there's nothing more enjoyable than a stroll along the Annapolis waterfront, a mere 35 minutes away. Great sightseeing, great dining, and great shopping.

We indeed reside in a jewel of an area, especially in the summer. After reading about all of these opportunities, why go away? We have it ALL right here in our backyard.

Closing Thought...(for the upcoming Independence Day Celebration)

“America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.” (Alexis de Toqueville)

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