



THE "OVERLOOK"

Vol. 3, No. 3, Sept. 2011_

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

From your Editor... Is it possible that Summer is on the wane and fall is 'in the air'? The past three months have had historic natural events in our area: an earthquake, hurricane and historically torrential rains inundating Howard County. They almost made us forget the back-to-back recent blizzards we experienced. What's next? Does anyone see locusts on radar?? Meanwhile, aside from our beautiful local produce, Fall in Howard County has bountiful exciting and educational events for all. Have a grand, and hopefully quiet, Fall season in Snowden Overlook.



Master Board News...*Lou True, President*

We've had a great pool season, thanks in large part to our pool committee headed by Kit Jones and our volunteer Certified Pool Operators who have again made it possible for us to have early, resident-only hours. But wait—the season isn't over yet. The new pool heater should permit comfortable swimming later in the year. As a result, an extended season is planned until September 30th. From September 6th thru the 30th, pool hours will be Mon-Fri: 10 am to 7 pm, residents only (no lifeguard on duty.)

Sat. and Sun.: 9 am to noon, residents only. Noon to 5 pm, residents and their guests with lifeguard on duty.

A weather-proof ping-pong table has been added to the pool level under the patio. Enjoy.

The repairs to the banquet room are now complete, along with the addition of sound-absorbing panels designed to reduce

the noise level during large events. Drywall repairs and repainting are now underway in the interior of the pool level.

Our Social Committee chaired by Karen Paciarelli has continued to assist Carol in providing a rich mix of social events for the community. Thank you all.

Thanks, too, to the volunteers who prepared the clubhouse and pool for Hurricane Irene and the restoration afterwards of all of the outside furniture and umbrellas. Except for a couple of trees that needed straightening, the clubhouse came through the storm unscathed.

Finally, I'm pleased to announce that we have a new board member representing Kendall II: James Ethridge. We look forward to working with James. Many thanks to Steve Reading for his help during his time on the board and his continuing contributions as the new chair of our clubhouse committee.

Messages from our Community Presidents...

Bob Brady, Kendall I... The summer is just about over: the grandkids are back in school; football has begun. In one week we experienced an earthquake and a hurricane. Summer may have started quietly but it is going out with a bang, or should I say "RAIN".

As of August 1st, we have a new management company (WP&M) who will help the board become more responsible to you. The change was made with much thought by your board. WP&M will manage four of our five communities plus the Master Board. We think this is good for Kendall I as it also gives us economy of scale so some of our contracts may cost less than if we did them on our own. Jose Ponton, Jr., is our manager and we are currently going through growing pains of



discovering what he needs from us, and what we need from him.

We are approaching Winter and the potential for snow, hopefully not as much as last year. A letter will be sent to you in Kendall I, as we approach the snow season, to identify those individuals who need their driveway plowed before others. Be aware that the road needs to be cleared first.

Our board is functioning well with Bill Fisher, our Treasurer, watching over every penny we spend. Marion Thompson and Pat Harrington have spearheaded several projects for us, and Larry Lassen, our newest board member, is offering sound advice as we move forward.

If you have a problem we can help you with, please call me at 410.290.1914. I will get the board and Jose involved if necessary. Meanwhile, until the next newsletter, have a great Fall season, Halloween, and enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Lou True, Villas I... We have a new WP&M property manager, Jose Ponton, Jr. Here is the contact information for Jose and Elaine, his administrative assistant.

Jose Ponton, Jr., Community Association Manager; office: 443.796.7387; email: jponton@wpmlc.com

Elaine Muniz, Admin. Ass't.; office: 443.796.7378; fax: 443.213.1657; email: emuniz@wpmlc.com

Jose also manages the Snowden Overlook Community Association which operates the clubhouse and pool, and two other Snowden Overlook communities. As a result, he will be able to be on-site frequently. Your board of directors thanks Scott Colville for his service, and looks forward to working with Jose.

The hurricane caused minor wind damage to three units which has been repaired. In addition, two preventive

maintenance projects are planned in the near term:

- 1) Minor repairs to roofing throughout Villas I to address small problems identified by inspections.
- 2) Caulking the joint between our new sidewalks and curbs. This is an investment intended to avoid problems due to water seeping into the joint and causing damage when it freezes.

Notices will be placed in the message boxes near our mail boxes once the dates of this work are determined.

Oktoberfest—this annual Villas I event will be held on October 2nd at the clubhouse. We will take this occasion to honor Liz and Mark Dunker for their contributions to the Snowden Overlook Community as they are scheduled to move in October. Bring a dish. Grilled meat, paper goods and soft drinks will be supplied. BYOB. Watch for details in flyers in the message boxes, and sign up at the clubhouse.

Karen Paciarelli, Kendall II...

Hi, all. I haven't been at the helm but a couple of months, and enjoying the ride thus far. Each day is a new venture. Phone calls and emails with requests and answers to homeowner questions can be a full time job. Lucky I am retired! I've met just about all of our 54 unit residents, at least those units that are occupied. We have a strong board in place and are working well together to keep all residents informed of happenings within Kendall II and Snowden Overlook. The Maintenance Plan and Snow Policy are top on our list with the new budget plan not far behind.

I'm delighted to mention the wonderful attendance at our monthly board meetings. Both months have had approximately 25 people. Do you think it could be the cookies



and punch prior to the meeting?? Residents are upbeat and motivated right now and excited to know what is going on and be a part of the community.

Good things to come for Kendall II.

Sharonlee Vogel, Ovation...

We have new neighbors, Jim and Lee Spiegel, and Jim Usilton who moved in last month. There are two apartment condos for sale now: one three bedroom/two bath; one two bedroom/two bath. If you know someone looking for a great condo apartment, tell them to contact their realtor about Ovation. The living is easy and fun here!

Our Social Committee has put together some fun events including a wine & cheese tasting in the front courtyard and a Grilling Party in back. We'll be adding a rose garden soon on the north side of Ovation as well as an herb garden for our residents. A "progressive" dinner party is planned for early next year along with K.O. III co-sponsoring the February Wine Club tasting at the clubhouse.

Ovation had no ill effects from the earthquake, aftershock or the subsequent visit by Irene—just wall hangings slightly tilted and leaves all around.

Enjoy the coming fall weather—minus hurricanes or earthquakes!

Shirley Freto, Villas II... As Fall is approaching, I imagine that many of us will be thinking in terms of fall plantings and preparing for the holidays. Villas II is really beautiful and we want to keep it that way.

We are recruiting volunteers for committees. We have a few homeowners who devote their time and thank them so much. I would like to reach out to all the residents to step up to the plate and volunteer for a committee. We need you.

Also, we have a Welcoming Committee and Peggy Coaxum has a sign-up sheet for volunteers at the clubhouse.

We have a wonderful Architectural/Landscaping Committee. Also we have a new Advisory Committee, and are in the process of looking for volunteers for a Garden Committee for Villas II.

In addition, as a reminder: parking is not permitted on the streets, and guest parking spaces are not to be used by the residents. There will be a mailing sometime in October to address parking rules and communication.

As President, I am currently doing an update of our directory and know that we have some new residents. If you are new, please contact me at spfreto@comcast.net so that I can include you in our directory.



Snowden Overlook Website...*Michael Goldblatt*

Remember to click on the links at www.SnowdenOverlook.com for information about activities and resources for residents. For example, the Front Page of the website has a list of upcoming events with each item linked to a page in the website that describes that activity, registration deadline, and fee (if any). Also, the tabs towards the top of each page of the website include links to pages for the clubhouse calendar, community newsletters, association documents, and resident information. The web pages provide the same information that is included in the flyers prepared for each event. So please remember to click on the links.

There are also 'weekly alerts' which



remind residents about events, and RSVP deadlines. It also provides links to agendas for board meetings, and gives community news.

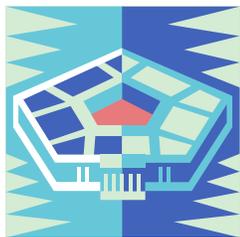
For quarterly information, this newsletter is published and distributed to households and flyer boxes in Snowden Overlook. The newsletter is also available for viewing at the community's website www.snowdenoverlook.com



Clubhouse Events...

As usual, make a visit to the clubhouse and see in the foyer all the activities going on during the month that you can sign up for an enjoyable time. Some of the events are:

- Sept. 17th: Casino Night (fee)
- Sept. 21st 10 a.m. Coffee w. Carol, and guest speaker on Tax Strategies for Seniors (free)
- Sept. 25th: 5 pm, Crab Feast/Pot Luck (fee)
- Oct. 15th: Mystery Theatre
- Oct. 23rd: 7pm, Show Time Singers Concert
- Nov. 19th: Community Thanksgiving Dinner



Retired Military Club...*Bob Brady*

We now have 10 members who meet the qualification of retirement from the uniformed Military Services, Coast Guard and Public Health. We met once in July and will meet again in September/October in order to

discuss the raising of the American flag at the clubhouse on November 1st. Long Reach has voted "yes" once for the flag pole, and needs to vote "yes" again in order for it to happen. I received a letter dated September 1, 2011, which gave us approval for the flag pole. Now we know the American flag will fly 24/7 at our clubhouse. Hopefully we will have a ceremony on November 11th to celebrate this patriotic day. A flyer will announce this ceremony in the event one will take place.

Insurance Guidelines...



Fred Merther

After the recent earthquake, it seemed appropriate to devote this article to Earthquake Coverage. Most homeowners' policies exclude earthquakes but for an additional premium, coverage can be added. An earthquake is defined in the coverage to be added as "earthquake including land shock waves or tremors before, during, or after a volcanic eruption". One or more earthquake shocks that occur within a seventy-two-hour period constitute a single earthquake.

Further wording relates to the deductible which is a percentage, i.e., 10 percent would be a common example of this deductible. This deductible is a percentage applied to a portion of the property value. Each company is different.

Another feature to be aware of in the coverage is an exclusion that excludes exterior masonry veneer. This exclusion can be applicable or waived, depending on the



exposure and the company. As you can see, the coverage can be restrictive due to the size of the deductible, but it may be something you want to discuss with your company or agent in order to get pricing and conditions.



Car Care...*Dave Davis*

Can you believe it? It's September already. Sure hope your auto did well for you this summer for long and short trips.

Something I have observed and watched closely this summer is wiper blades for the windshield and those who also have a rear window wiper. If your car was out in the sun for long periods this summer, those blades are rubber, and the day after day of 100-degree weather took its toll. The blades actually melted and stuck to the window, so when you turned them on, the rubber tore loose, leaving you with no wiper in the pouring-down rains. If only one came off, it left your blade holder scraping the windshield, which could scratch your glass and cause an expensive repair or replacement of the glass.

So check those blades, front and back—don't forget the back! I discovered that if you visit your auto dealer service department, they will replace them with factory equipment, and install them for you. Installing can be quite tricky. Also, Pep Boys policy is if you buy the blades there, they will install them for you free of charge.

Don't forget to do your normal oil and filter change. Those motors ran hot, and will break down the viscosity of the oil early. Remember, "an ounce of prevention...."



Home Maintenance... *Ray Hurst*

Rain, rain rain!! Leaking roofs and wet basements.

Roofs: The local monsoon of the last few days has meant wet basements and leaking roofs for several of our residents. There is little we can do to prevent roof leaks, but after severe rainfall, ceilings on the upper level should be checked for water stains. Call Carol at the clubhouse @ 410.872.9311 immediately to report leaks.

Basement/Lower Level:

First, make sure that water from your downspouts is directed away from the house. Expandable extensions are available which will empty water approximately 6 feet away from the house (into grass or planting beds).

Second, check your sump pump to make sure it is operating. If it has two electric wires coming from the sump pit to the electric outlet. It's really easy to check. The front plug is connected to the float switch on the pump. The float activates the switch when water enters the sump pit. The back line is a direct feed to the pump that bypasses the float switch. Take the plugs apart and plug the back line into the outlet, and listen for the pump running. After checking operation, return the plugs to their original position.

For those with one wire from the pit to the outlet, it is necessary to add water through the access opening in the sump pump lid to activate the pump. If the pump doesn't work, it should be replaced immediately.

A useful and inexpensive device to alert us for water intrusion is a battery (9 volt) water alarm that sounds a very loud alarm when as little as 1/32" of water is detected.



Place the alarm on the top cover of the sump pump and other alarms at any other areas prone to water intrusion. The water alarm and downspout extensions can be found in most hardware stores for under \$20.



Tech
Talk

...*Steve Reading*

“Clouds” (Computing Environment)

To the expressions, “on cloud nine”, “every cloud has a silver lining”, and “is your head in the clouds”, you can add “are you using cloud computing?”

If you use Hotmail, Twitter or Gmail, then you’ve had experience with cloud computing. The software and storage doesn’t exist on your computer—it’s on the service’s computer. The “cloud” allows you to upload and store your digital files: music, photos, videos, documents; then access them from any location with an Internet connection. You’ll never again lose your files from a hard drive crash or a lost or stolen laptop. The “cloud” can be considered your personal hard drive in the cloud.

Cloud computing works by hosting your information on computers ‘out there’ ‘in the cloud’. The cloud is basically a batch of computers called data centers or servers that hold your information (files, images, videos, etc.) and can be located anywhere.

The underlying concept of cloud computing dates back to the 1960s when a computer scientist opined that “computation may someday be organized as a public utility”. The term “cloud” itself is used as a metaphor for the Internet, based on the cloud drawing used to depict the Internet in computer network diagrams.

Advantages of cloud computing: no expensive software to buy; avoids the expense of updates and maintenance; access programs and files from anywhere; and run complicated programs without the tech experience.

Are there problems with the cloud? If your internet goes down, your access to your data also disappears. There are security concerns with the data and the risk that companies will use proprietary formats for the files (and charge you accordingly).

So choose wisely when picking a service to use with your important data and make sure it can be downloaded if needed. The wave of the future is ‘in the clouds’!



Bay Wise Topics...
Pat Harrington

“Brown Marmorated Stinkbug” (BMSB)

This alien invader arrived in the United States from China in the late 1990s, first recorded in Allentown, PA, in 1998 and now documented in 30 states. It has no natural enemies in the USA. The BMSB is a major agricultural pest and a minor but extremely aggravating household pest.

For the homeowner they start to gather on houses on warm fall days seeking protection over wintering sites. What to do?

- Drop in soapy water (they fly down so scoop from below)
- Vacuum up in the house and outside (they will stink up the vacuum temporarily)
- Plug up holes in the house with a silicone-latex caulk
- Repair or replace damaged screens
- Replace weather stripping and door



sweeps

- Light traps can be made or purchased

There are no recommended insecticides for use inside the house to kill them.

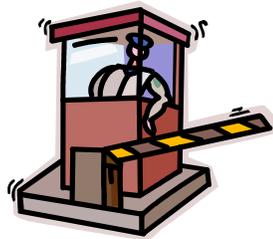
Experimentation is being conducted on three tiny Asian parasitic wasps that lay their eggs inside BMS eggs, destroying them at the rate of 50-80%. It will take a couple of years before the safety of this wasp is verified.

For additional information:

<http://www.hgic.umd.edu/content/brownstinkbug.cfm>

Security Corner

...Jeff Medwid



[At this time, your editor would like to thank resident Kurt Peppel for his many years as contributor to the Security Corner column. Jeff is the SOCA Board Security Committee Chairperson]

The committee showed great interest on matters of security of the community. From the questionnaire of five questions sent out July 1, 2011, 165 were returned filled out. I'd like to thank Carol at the clubhouse for setting up a sign and reminding residents to fill out and return their questionnaires.

The Security Committee and SOCA board held two community discussions on July 8, 2011, one in the morning and another in the evening. Over 150 residents participated in the two meetings.

The key findings from a combination of the questionnaire and the meetings are listed below along with the security committee

recommendations:

1. The residents overwhelmingly prefer to stay with the current security gates and not change to the simple railroad type gates.
2. The recommendation of over 60% of the residents who participated in the questionnaire and over 90% of the residents at the two meetings was to retain the guards at the clubhouse. There was significant discussion to evaluate an off-site security company to remotely monitor and control traffic coming in and out of the community. This option was resoundingly rejected.
3. The security committee is reviewing the roles and responsibilities of the guards at the present time with Jose Ponton and will make recommendations to the SOCA board in September, enhancing their duties.
4. The residents also overwhelmingly liked the proposal to install video cameras at the guard house. The security committee is evaluating several vendors to install cameras in the near future.
5. A proposal to put additional reflective stop signs on both the front and back of the security gates has been recommended by the security committee and will be installed shortly.



In and Around
HOWARD
COUNTY...

During these next months of the fall season, Howard County offers a 'cornucopia' of happenings for all to enjoy and in which to participate. Here are several events from which to choose:

- ✚ **Ellicott City Literary Pub Crawl:** Discover what famous historical characters visited Ellicott City. Stop at Diamondback Tavern, Rumor Mill, etc. First Thursday of each month. \$10, starts at 7pm. Reservations: 410.303.2959.
- ✚ **The Past with Pastry:** Fridays at 7 pm. Tea on the Tiber, enjoy dessert and hear Ellicott City Restoration's literary tour of Ellicott City. \$25. Reservations: 410.303.2959

The following information was obtained from the monthly electronic news bulletin from **Dr. Calvin Ball, Chair, Howard County Council, District**

http://www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/Dist2_Bio.htm

It is recommended that you check Dr. Ball's thorough and informative monthly bulletin. All information pertains to his constituents. Snowden Overlook lies in his district.

- ✚ Howard County Redistricting Commission meeting: Wed., Sept. 21st, 7 p.m. George Howard Bldg., 3430 Court House Dr, Ellicott City

- ✚ Sept. 11th—a special remembrance ceremony was held at Centennial Lake at 8:30 a.m. Many elected officials, including Dr. Ball, offered words of gratitude and marked this special occasion.
- ✚ Master Gardner Program: at the "Other Barn", Wed. Sept. 14th, 7 pm. "Fall Vegetable Gardening"; Feb. 15th: "Composting" www.oaklandmills.org
- ✚ Women Fest 2011: Thurs. Sept. 15th, 10-3 pm @ Gary Arthur Community Center, 2400 Rt. 97, Cooksville; womens' health, wellness, fashion, beauty. FREE interactive programming. Call 410.313.5440
- ✚ September is "National Preparedness Month" in Howard County. Prosper, plan and stay informed. Visit <http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/R/EADYNPM>
- ✚ Cultural Arts Festival in Oakland Mills, Sat. Oct. 15th, 11-4 pm @ Oakland Mills Village Center. Call Brigitta Warren @ 410.7304610
- ✚ **50+Expo. SAVE THE DATE!!** Friday, Oct. 21st 9-4 pm, Wilde Lake High School. 140 vendors and exhibitors, all-day entertainment. FREE. www.howardcountymd.gov/OA/50+expo.htm
- ✚ Neighbor Ride Volunteers—give seniors the gift of independence by volunteering as a driver. Hours are flexible. Call 410.884.7433
- ✚ Support your local Farmers' Market. East Columbia Library parking lot. Thursdays 2-5 pm
- ✚ Bulk Trash Pick Up: call for information + date. Must be scheduled. 410.313.6444. Includes mattresses,



chairs, sofas, etc. Items must be on the curb by 6 a.m.

- ✚ AOK (Assisting Our Kids) Mentoring/Tutoring Program: Adult volunteers are needed to work with Howard County schools K-8, and also after-school programs. Call 410.730-6030. Email aokmentor@gmail.com
- ✚ Recycling...Dos and Don'ts: For a complete list of what is considered recyclable, visit www.co.ho.md.us/DPW/docs/recycling_chart_web.pdf or call 410.313.6444. For the most up-to-date information, call 410.313.7678
- ✚ **How and When to Use the Emergency Room!** "Minute Clinics" are a great resource to receive medical attention on a weekend, late nite, or simply when your regular physician cannot see you. Includes coughs, colds, ear infections, minor burns, strains/sprains, etc., and NOT medical emergencies. Most accept insurance. For providers visit <http://www.co.ho.md.us/health/docs/urgentcarecenterslist5-2010.pdf> or call 410.313.6300.
- ✚ Recycle old TVs: recycle analog TVs rather than throwing them away. Use Best Buy's Take-Back program; also Alpha Ridge Landfill, 8am-4pm Mon-Sat; call 410.313.6444.
- ✚ Alzheimer's Early-Stage Programs Now Available: Early Stage Social Club meets Wed. & Fri. 9am-1pm. Prescreening. Call Judy Miller @ 410.313.5441.dg

[ortal PublicMeetings.htm](#)

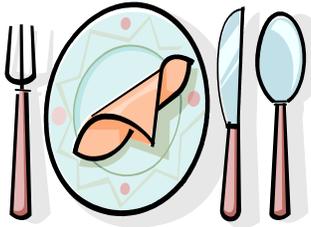
Also listed in Dr. Calvin Ball's bulletin this month is the following directory you may want to clip and keep in a handy place:



Important
Contact
Information

- ✓ Having an emergency? Dial 9-1-1
- ✓ To report an incident, non emergency: Call 410.313.2200
- ✓ To make an anonymous tip: (violence, damage to property, etc.), call 410.313.7867
- ✓ Looking to prevent auto theft? www.co.ho.md.us/Police/pd_autothft.htm
- ✓ Looking for personal safety tip? Visit www.co.ho.md.us/police/pd_personalsafety.htm

The following link will get you to a list of upcoming Howard County Council meetings open to the public:
http://www.co.ho.md.us/News/HCG_P



Let's Eat Out!

Although the summer is indeed coming to a close and few will be venturing back to the shoreline in the next several months, it is still a good idea for you to jot down the name of this dining venue when you return to the beach...or if you would like to enjoy a fall drive on the Eastern Shore. **Jimmy's Grille in Bridgeville, Delaware**, is definitely a throwback to the great little local eateries we found in the '50s. The atmosphere is strictly a stretched-out diner and the menu reflects that description. Bloggers have described Jimmy's as: "If you're on your way to the Maryland or Delaware shores, don't miss this place for your dining"; "homestyle cooking with generous portions and great yeast rolls"; "friendly wait staff".

Jimmy's is probably best known for its delicious—and NOT greasy—fried chicken. Prices reflect the 'diner' mentality: 1 piece of fried chicken + 1 side = \$4.50; 2 pieces of fried chicken + 2 sides = \$6.95. And what sides! sweet potato soufflé (my favorite) macaroni and cheese, scalloped apples, cole slaw (the best I've tasted in years), corn pudding. BTW: did we ever mention diet food in this article?? Forget about it!

Meatloaf, roast beef platter, BBQ ribs, and beef liver are just some of the other entrees. And the desserts!! Their lemon meringue pie's meringue goes "sky high" as one blogger noted. Each piece of pie (and there are numerous types of fruit pies) is \$3.50; however an entire pie is only \$12.00 and that is why we saw so many customers leaving the restaurant with a huge, white

square dessert box on our first visit.

Subsequently we found ourselves walking out with....a whole lemon meringue pie!

Jimmy's is 85 miles from Snowden Overlook, off Rt. 404 (Maryland 404, then Delaware 404); enter Bridgeville, left on Market, right on Main St. to 18541 S. Main. It will be on your left. Phone 302.337.7575. [Note: a popular Kendall I neighbor tipped us off to Jimmy's....when we were about 3 lbs. lighter than we are now.]

Closing Thought....

"A simple judge of my character is how I treat a person who can do absolutely nothing for me." (anon)

Jan Brady, Editor

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