



# THE "OVERLOOK"

Vol. 3, No. 4, Dec. 2011

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

**From your Editor...** This month we celebrate an anniversary of sorts, as our issue of "The Overlook" completes five years of publication of a neighborhood newsletter in Snowden Overlook. Originally it was called the "Kendall Connection", as only that neighborhood existed. Your editor gives heartfelt thanks to all the talented and expert contributing columnists who provide the 'meat and potatoes' that go into each issue. December's "Overlook" is one of our most comprehensive issues, chock full of pertinent information. Keep it handy for future reference. And....a happy holiday plus *healthy* New Year to all!

## Master Board News...*Lou*

*True, President*

As we look forward to the holiday season, we can also look back on some recent achievements: Our community owes its thanks to the Snowden Overlook Military Club for arranging a moving flag-raising ceremony in front of the Clubhouse on Veterans' Day, November 11. Old Glory looks especially good flying from our new flagpole.

The wall and ceiling repair and repainting of most of the main floor of the Clubhouse is now complete. In addition much of the concrete sidewalk and curbing in front has been replaced, although some corrections remain to be made. This project included the addition of a ramp in front of the Clubhouse doors and the channeling of storm water from the downspouts on either side of the front door, under the sidewalk and through the curb. This is intended to prevent ice buildup on the sidewalks in the winter.

The terms of two members of the SOCA board of directors expired this year.

I'm happy to report that both Jim Huesman and Bob Vogel were re-elected by their condominium boards to serve new 3-year terms representing Villas II and Kendall III (Ovation) respectively.

For those who enjoy Ping-Pong, be aware that the table has been brought inside and set up for use in the "summer lounge" on the pool level. Have fun!

I do have a more somber report: The Clubhouse has experienced vandalism in the ladies' room on the main level. Please report to the office staff any damage or damaging behavior that you observe. We expect to take additional security measures in the Clubhouse in the near future.

Finally, I have one special request of townhome owners: please avoid blocking the sidewalks when parking vehicles in your driveways. We have several disabled residents using wheelchairs, walkers, etc., for whom this presents problems. Also, for the safety of our pedestrians, please use extra care while driving in the dark.

**A REMINDER—LEASING YOUR UNIT:** In Snowden Overlook certain restrictions apply to all unit owners, tenants, and other residents of the community. These are spelled out in detail, including certain exceptions, in the SOCA documents. Owners should have received these at or before settlement. They, along with other relevant documents, are also available at the Snowden Overlook website at [www.SnowdenOverlook.com](http://www.SnowdenOverlook.com). Among the important restrictions are those applying to the leasing of units to tenants. A brief summary follows: Owners may lease their units, but must comply with the following requirements (SOCA Declaration 9.2.3): **THE LEASE MUST BE WRITTEN AND MADE ONLY TO PERSONS WHO WILL ACTUALLY RESIDE IN THE UNIT. THE LEASE MUST BE FOR AT LEAST 6 MONTHS, NOT FOR**



**TRANSIENT RENTAL. THE LEASE MUST STATE THAT TENANTS, LIKE OWNERS, ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPLYING WITH ALL COVENANTS AND RULES OF THE CONDOMINIUM AND SOCA, INCLUDING AGE RESTRICTIONS. [SNOWDEN OVERLOOK IS A 55+ COMMUNITY.] THIS MEANS THAT EACH UNIT WHETHER OCCUPIED BY THE OWNER OR A TENANT MUST BE OCCUPIED BY AT LEAST ONE PERSON OF AT LEAST 55 YEARS OF AGE. IN ADDITION, NO ONE UNDER 19 YEARS OF AGE MAY RESIDE IN THE UNIT, ALTHOUGH CHILDREN MAY VISIT FOR UP TO 60 DAYS PER YEAR. (SOCA DECLARATION 9.5).** Owners are responsible for assuring compliance by their tenants. A COPY OF THE LEASE MUST BE SENT PROMPTLY TO THE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION.

## Messages from our Community Presidents...

*Kendall I, Bob Brady...* We are getting through the fall season with very few problems. As I write this, it is sunny, relatively warm with a slight wind—great football weather!

At our community association meeting in November we established three Ad Hoc committees to do the following: 1) View all of our architectural guidelines so they are in concert with our Declarations, and also with the SOCA and Long Reach guidelines; 2) Establish a Welcome Packet so any new owners or renters are familiar with what is available to them and what is expected from them regarding: our Declarations, parking, architectural guidelines, age restrictions, pets, renting of rooms in the unit; 3) Review the

Transition Study, Reserve Study Bylaws and Declarations to determine what should be done for our units each year, and what can be postponed until a later date.

New contracts were signed with Mainscapes for our snow removal and Spring/Summer landscaping, etc. A contract was signed to accomplish an audit at the financial year-end. The gutters on the units of the outer ring will be done within the first nine days of December

The Board has been very happy with WPM as our managing company, and with Jose Ponton in particular as our manager. We will continue to have periodic exterior inspections, with notices in a more 'gentle' manner. As we had discussed in our November meeting, we all have the responsibility to live up to the standards we agreed to in order to protect the high standard our community expects.

As we approach the holiday season, the Board wishes you great joy, and hope it brings you everything you expect!

### *Kendall II, Karen Paciarelli...*

Happy Holidays to all from Kendall II. We've all given our thanks for all we are blessed with, and now preparing for the holiday season. Our 2012 Budget has been approved! We have our Snow Plan in place along with an approved Maintenance Policy. I wish to thank the Kendall II Board for all their hard work and accomplishments thus far. We have a strong team that works great together for a common goal. We have closed the loop on many loose ends before we say farewell to 2011. Many new and exciting things ahead at Snowden Overlook in 2012. Happy New Year to all.

*Villas I, Lou True...* Winter fast approaches but we have several things to



report: Contractors recently completed two projects: minor roofing repairs were made throughout the neighborhood to prevent leaks. In addition, flexible caulking was applied to the joint between the curb and our sidewalks. This was done to prevent water from entering the joint and damaging the new concrete when it freezes.

The terms of three current board members are expiring. Proxies/ballots have been mailed to all unit owners listing those nominated to fill those slots. Please return them to our management company, WP&M, so we may have a quorum to permit the election to be completed. This is especially important if you do not expect to be able to attend the annual meeting and election on December 15, 2011, which begins at 7 pm with registration starting at 6:45 pm. Please come and participate in the operation of your condominium association.

A reminder: Please be sure to keep your areaway (exterior basement steps) clear of leaves, ice and other debris. Failure to do so can clog the drain and allow water to rise in the bottom of the stairwell and enter your basement over the doorway sill.

Finally, we had a terrific Oktoberfest get-together at the Clubhouse that doubled as a farewell gathering of residents from throughout Snowden Overlook for our good friends, Liz and Mark Dunker. Thanks to all who made it such a success, including Mary Anne Dupon, Pearl and Byron Foy, Kathy Pelch, Ronnie True, and Patti and Steve Goodman.

*Ovation/Kendall Overlook III,*  
*Sharonlee Vogel...* Hope that your Thanksgiving was delicious and the coming holidays bring joy to everyone! Ovation initiated occasional events in back in our new Grilling Area, accompanied by fair weather

and half our residents out to enjoy the aroma of roasting hot dogs with many side dishes and desserts—everyone had a great time!

On a January cold night we're doing a 'progressive dinner' party right here in Ovation with appetizers on the first floor, salads on the second, entrée on the third and dessert on the fourth. It'll be our first in the building, though several of us have done this before. We're looking forward to the fun as well as the food. Come February, we'll be promoting the Wine Tasting on the 24<sup>th</sup>, encouraging our residents to join their neighbors as Cindy and Dennis Shanahan host the Tasting.

Remember that the Visitor Parking area shared by Kendall II and Ovation/Kendall Overlook III is for visitors—not resident parking!

There are a number of dogs in Snowden Overlook. Do any of them visit nursing and assisted living residences here in Howard County through the "Pets on Wheels" program? It's a wonderful, appreciated job for our canine family members (410.313.7461).

Best wishes for the holiday season and a wonderful 2012!

*Villas II, Shirley Freto...* I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. The weather has been beautiful; however, we all know that it is short-lived and now we are looking forward to winter and the holiday season.

Villas II has had a new contract put together for both landscaping and snow removal. Also, we had a Reserve Study completed and as of January 2012 there will be an increase of \$20.00 per month on our condo fee.

Per the Board's request, our attorney did research on homeowners' responsibilities vs. the association's. As soon as we have completed our review, the Board of Directors



will be looking further in our documents and at that time we will have a list for each of our homeowners.

Our Advisory Committee has completed the issue and report of Guest Parking which I'm sure all of you have received. Their next step is to purchase the "Guest Parking Only" signs.

Just a friendly reminder of updates for Villas II Directory. You may contact me ([spfreto@comcast.net](mailto:spfreto@comcast.net)) or any Board member with any changes.

All of our Committees and Board of Directors have done an outstanding job and I thank everyone for all their hard work. I would like to wish everyone a "Very Happy Holiday Season".

### Condolences...

It is with sadness that we report the passing in November of Richard Lieberman, husband of Carole Lieberman who resides in Ovation.

Sympathy is extended to Ovation resident Jeanne Kozlowski on the death of her husband, Craig, who passed away in November.



### SnowdenOverlookWebsite...

*Michael Goldblatt*

[www.SnowdenOverlook.com](http://www.SnowdenOverlook.com), provides several alternatives to learn about weekly activities and special events at the Clubhouse. For a quick look at programs, check the list of activities on the front page of the website (and remember to click on underlined items for more information and copies of flyers). For a chronological view of

programs, click on the link to "Calendar" at the top of each page of the website to view Snowden's Monthly Activity Calendar, or click on the link to "Sign-Up" to have the calendar e-mailed to you. Forward-looking residents can click on the link to "Future Events" to see a list of several months' worth of programs planned by Snowden's Social Committee. And volunteers can check the Men's Club Page (<http://snowdenoverlook.com/MenClub>) and the Wine Club Page (<http://snowdenoverlook.com/Wine>) to see a list of members and dates for hosting breakfast and wine tasting programs. Please let me know if you have any ideas or suggestions for the website—your suggestions are much appreciated. My email address: [michaelgoldblatt@aol.com](mailto:michaelgoldblatt@aol.com)



**Clubhouse...** December is jam-packed with holiday events. Check the December calendar, either on our website or pick up a copy in the foyer. However, one 'event' should be noted: each December, WPM Management has a designated charitable organization to which they donate. This year, they state that "FOR 2011 WE HAVE CHOSEN TO HONOR OUR VETERANS, BY COLLECTING ITEMS FOR DELIVERY TO PATIENTS AT THE BALTIMORE VETERANS MEDICAL CENTER". **Deadline for collection is Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.** In the Clubhouse foyer you will find a box for your **donations**: suggested items are: tooth brushes, shaving cream, large print puzzle books, lap robes, scarves, pens, stamps, envelopes, magazines, tooth paste, playing cards, prepaid phone cards (20 min.) seasonal gloves, stationery, holiday cards they can



give/send, combs, liquid hand soap, non-skid socks, baseball caps, hand-held games. PLEASE: NO FRESH FRUIT/HOME-BAKED FOOD, ALCOHOL CONTENT ITEMS, OR HOTEL SAMPLE ITEMS. **Please be generous and donate to this most worthy cause—again deadline is Friday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>.**

Also under Clubhouse news, please note that Mike Goldblatt and Joe Smothers are arranging a program on *Preventive Health* to be presented at the Clubhouse. In the early months of 2012, Dr. Sibley with the National Institutes of Health will be making a presentation on statins and cardiovascular health—dealing with the prevention of a heart attack, stroke, and blocked arteries. A flyer will be available when the date is firmed up. In the meantime, any resident with high cholesterol or who is eligible for statin treatment can participate in an NIH study of statins by contacting Julia Selah at NIH (301.594.6780, email [julia.selah@nih.gov](mailto:julia.selah@nih.gov)).

Don't forget to ring in the New Year with the Clubhouse annual New Year's Gala on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. Bring your checks to Carol ASAP as there is a limit to attendees.



### Men's Club...Just a

reminder: volunteers from the Men's Club can provide assistance to residents who may have difficulty making minor repairs themselves. Carol or Kim in the Clubhouse office can put you in touch with a Men's Club volunteer. Call 410.872.9311



### Social Committee

**Come All Ye Faithful!** Join your neighbors on **Sunday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>** to go Christmas Caroling; meet at the Clubhouse at 6:50, dressed warmly. The plan:

7:00: Villas II—by model home area on Vast Rose and Sage Brush

7:15: Villas I in the square between Warm Waves and Secret Waves Way

7:30: Kendall II and Ovation—in garden area by traffic circle

7:45: Kendall I—in front of Clubhouse by flagpole

8:00: everyone is invited to join in holiday cookies and beverages in the Clubhouse

The following special future events that the Social Committee has selected will keep all residents eager for them to arrive!

Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>: Ladies' holiday luncheon and gift exchange; \$15 pp. Plus, bring a wrapped \$15 gift for exchange; you are also invited to participate in a cookie exchange that day

Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>: 8 pm New Year's Eve party: \$65/each resident; \$100/each non-resident.

Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>: Omelet Queen, Breakfast for Dinner! 6:30 pm—dress in your PJs! \$10/pp

Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Chili Cook-off, 5 pm

Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>: Superbowl Party

Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>: 7-9pm, Valentine Show, David Bach Trio (Contemporary Jazz), \$10/pp

Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>: 50's Sock Hop, DJ music

March 11<sup>th</sup>: 7pm, Leo & Lynn, "With a Song in Our Hearts", \$10/pp

March 17<sup>th</sup>: St. Patrick's Day Party



## May We Introduce

... *Carol Hergenroeder*, Snowden Overlook's Lifestyle Coordinator. Carol is a Maryland native, born in Towson, and graduating from Salisbury State, majoring in business. However, the 'wild blue yonder' had always captivated Carol. She and two friends decided to become flight attendants, working for Delta Airlines, based out of Atlanta. For four years Carol worked for Delta, flying the East-Coast route and "loved it".

Her future husband was attending the US Naval Academy in Annapolis where Carole met Jim. After graduation, Jim attended flight school in Pensacola, Florida, and rotary wing school in Corpus Christi, Texas. Carole and Jim were married in 1974...twice! A Justice of the Peace performed the first ceremony in San Diego, and they were 'remarried' at the beautiful Naval Academy Chapel back in Annapolis.

As a Navy spouse, Carole found her homes in Pensacola, Corpus Christi, Jacksonville, with a tour also to the state of Hawaii. The Hergenroeder's family grew—really grew, with five children: 2 boys and 3 girls. The most recent new member of their family was added just a short while ago: in October, Carol's third grandchild, (and first granddaughter) was born in York, Pennsylvania. Congratulations!

After Jim's retirement, the family moved to Annapolis where Carol worked in commercial real estate, while Jim worked for the Department of Defense. Sadly, Jim

suddenly passed away in 2001, and Carol took time off from work. By this time her children were adults, aged 18-25 years. Eventually returning to the work field, Carol was hired by Comanco as a Lifestyle Coordinator in Crofton, and at Oyster Cove in Graysonville on the Eastern Shore. Then, to our advantage, Comanco sent Carol to us here at Snowden Overlook. She has worked her since 2005, the year of our inception as a community.

During her leisure time, Carol enjoys bike riding, entertaining, home decorating, and boating on the high seas. She recently purchased her 'getaway' home in Charleston, South Carolina, which will be move-in ready by January. Carole states that the most enjoyable part of her position here is "the wonderful residents in the community. Everyone is so pleasant and friendly, and I love working here." Carol, we return the compliment: we love having *YOU* here.



## Retired Military Club, *Bob*

*Brady*... We are very proud the American flag is flying over our Clubhouse. You can clearly see it as you drive into Snowden Overlook on Dried Earth Blvd. It flies 24/7 and is illuminated from above during darkness.

Our flag is very special to all of us. It was donated by Sharonlee Vogel who with her husband, Bob, resides in Ovation (Kendall III). This is the flag that covered the casket of Sharonlee's father, COL (Ret.) Dwight C. Johnson, USAR, when he was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery in 1990.



COL Johnson entered the US Army in 1932, and was a graduate of the University of Missouri where was in the ROTC program. He served in WWII and was on General of the Army Douglas MacArthur's staff when he returned to the Philippines. COL Johnson was on the USS Missouri on 2 September 1945, when General MacArthur accepted the formal Japanese surrender, ending WWII. COL Johnson retired in the 1950s and is known as one of the original trainers of the Green Berets.

This flag was raised on 11 November 2011, at 9:00 a.m. with a ceremony attended by over 90 residents. Our National Anthem was played, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and refreshments followed in the Clubhouse, which was orchestrated by Carol, our Lifestyle Coordinator.

We hope to have a ceremony annually on 11 November to ensure that our veterans are never forgotten, or taken for granted.



**Craft Corner, Sheila Wolf...**Our Craft Room has been very busy with appetizer making, sewing, woodworking and knitting. Sign up to learn **paper collage**. This is usually taught at the college level, but we are bringing it to our Clubhouse. It will be held in the Craft Room every Wednesday morning in January. In February, you will be able to learn to make a bracelet for Valentine's Day, and later in the month learn to make apple pie—in a jar! A play-reading session will be scheduled in March. Watch the flyers at the Clubhouse and sign up for something, or volunteer to teach a craft. Participants have had a lot of fun. Flyers also can be seen on

our Snowden Overlook website. For more information contact Sheila Wolf at 410.290.1006.



### Car Care, Dave

*Davis...*It's that time of year to look 'where the rubber meets the road'! Soon we will have snow, sleet, salt, etc., etc. Therefore, it is time to take a trip to the 'tire doctor' to check the tread depth for traction and to limit sliding. They also will check for even wear on the tire so one side is not bald from running without proper pressure. Also, your tires took a beating on roads with temperatures in the 100s this summer.

Make sure your tires have an M&S rating printed on them. That's Mud and Snow rating, and proper P.S.I. (air pressure rated by the manufacturer) so you know how much pressure to keep on the tires. When you keep the tires properly inflated and rotated, you should get 45,000 miles on a set safely. When you replace tires, do it in a *set of four*, not just two. Four equal better wear, ride, traction and handling.

When shopping for tires, remember there's a large markup, so work your best price. Everyone have a happy holiday, and travel safely!



### Baywise, Pat

*Harrington...* 'RECYCLING'

Recycling is beneficial to the environment because it keeps items out of the landfill. We all can do a better job recycling, especially at our Clubhouse. Many recyclable items end up in the regular trash cans. Look for the new



labels on the stainless steel receptacles and place items accordingly.

Items to be recycled are:

Paper: white and colored paper, magazines and newspapers, drink boxes. NO FOOD SOILED PAPER PLATES OR CUPS

Plastic: bottles (lid caps and labels do not need to be removed), tubs, jars, trays, disposable cups, plates (relatively clean or lightly rinsed)

Cans: drink and food, empty aerosol cans, aluminum foil, pie and cake pans

Glass: bottles and jars of any color

Cardboard: flatten all boxes to less than 4'X6'

We have large bins now, so let's make sure we recycle everything possible, but let's do it correctly. For more specific information on recycling and a printable Recycling Guide, go to

<http://www.co.ho.md.us/ResidentialRecycling.htm>



Insurance Guidelines...  
*Fred Merther*

INSURANCE MYTHS

Many times I hear people in conversations, or even in the media, make incorrect assumptions about various insurance situations. Here are some examples:

**Landlords will cover the loss of my property in the event there is a fire, water damage, or some other event in my rented home or apartment.** That is an incorrect assumption to make! Landlords always protect themselves in your lease so that they'll have NO responsibility to a tenant in the event of loss. Protect yourself with a

renter's policy—for as little as \$10-\$20/month you can cover your furnishings, clothing and other belongings in the event of loss.

**Our condo association master policy is all the coverage I need.** Again, an invalid assumption! Your master policy will not cover your own furnishings, additional assessments, and your individual responsibility imposed by condo agreements. A condo UNIT OWNER policy should be purchased to protect you.

**I don't have to tell my insurance agent that my home is currently vacant.** Vacant properties—and there are many of them—have unique exposures that usually cause insurance companies to restrict coverage. You may be jeopardizing what you think is valid coverage—you should discuss this with your agent, as there are ways of covering vacant properties that may be appropriate.

**I need a separate policy to cover my jewelry, boat or other 'extras'.** These items can be added on to your homeowner's policy for a much more cost-effective solution than insuring them on their own.

**Because the market value of my home has diminished, I should reduce the coverage on my homeowner's insurance.** This is incorrect and misunderstood. The homeowner's coverage you purchase needs to cover you for what it would cost to rebuild the house, and is not related to market value. Lumber and labor costs have not diminished. The best way to handle this is to purchase "Guaranteed Replacement Cost"

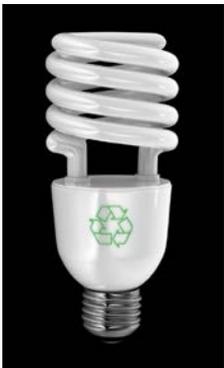
homeowners coverage that will respond to the costs of repairs when a loss occurs.

**I have coverage on my old car that will automatically cover my new car for a temporary period.** This is a common statement that auto salespeople will make, which allows you to drive from the dealership without updating your coverage. The concern



is that even when partly correct, it only matches the coverage of the prior policy that you had . If you did not have physical damage coverage on your old vehicle, it will not be there to cover the new one until you bind that coverage with your agent.

Make sure you don't make assumptions based on incorrect myths. Talk to an insurance professional who knows the business.



Tech Talk,  
*Steve Reading*

“THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE”

The era of the conventional light bulb, also known as the incandescent light bulb which was the brain child of Thomas Edison in 1879 is about to run its course. Starting in 2012, thanks to the Energy Independence Act of 2007, the 100-watt incandescent light bulb will no longer be available. This fate will be followed shortly by the 75-watt, 60-watt and then (in 2014) by the 40-watt.

So does this mean that we are going to be ‘in the dark’ from now on? No, because as with nature, technology abhors a vacuum.

**The key replacement types are: compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) and light emitting diodes (LEDs).** There are more types, but for most purposes CFLs and LEDs are the leading contenders.

**CFLs** produce light when an electric arc passes between cathodes to excite mercury and other gases producing radiant energy, which is then converted to visible light

by a phosphor coating.

**LEDs** are bulbs without a filament. In technical terms it is a chemical chip embedded in a plastic capsule. These tiny devices create light with an extremely small amount of electricity. Because they are small, several LEDs are sometimes combined to produce a single light bulb.

The main advantages of CFLs are: high energy efficiency, long operating life, and even light distribution. However, because of the enclosed mercury (toxic substance), EPA has recommended “clean-up and disposal” guidelines (not a good thing).

LEDs are low in power consumption and have a long life span. However, they are more expensive.

When it comes to selecting the right replacement light bulb, it is good to know something about *how efficient* (what you get out of something compared to what you put in is efficiency) the different options are. The efficiency of different bulbs can be compared by looking at how many lumens (the amount of light that a light source produces) are produced for each watt (the amount of electricity consumed by a light source) of energy.

This comparison is made easier by another feature of the Energy Independence Act: new packaging requirements, which started in mid-2011. The packaging label must emphasize the bulb's brightness **MEASURED IN LUMENS** rather than a measurement of watts. That is because watts are a measurement of energy use, not brightness (or efficiency). The new lighting facts label provides information about the following: brightness, energy cost, life expectancy, light appearance (‘warm’ or ‘cool’), wattage, and mercury content.

Among other things, the new packaging requirements will change the way we refer to light bulbs. Instead of buying a



'72-watt light bulb', we will now purchase a '1500 lumens light bulb' or '2500 lumens light bulb'.

***"Fiat lux"...let there be light!***



### Home Maintenance, *Ray Hurst*

#### "CLOSING DOWN YOUR HOME FOR EXTENDED PERIODS"

Here are some tips on how to prepare your home for long periods of absence. These are suggestions; however, your home may require more or less preparation:

- Shut off water at the main turn-off, located in the basement.
- Clear the area around the drain outside the basement door.
- Lower the thermostat to 55-60 degrees
- Replace the thermostat batteries.
- Shut off water supply lines for the outside hose faucets and open outside faucets.
- Turn off humidifier.
- Add a cup of water and one tablespoon of vegetable oil to the bottom of the dishwasher. This will prevent the gaskets from drying out.
- Turn water heater temperature setting to vacation mode on gas heater, or lower thermostat setting on electric water heater to lowest setting.
- Turn off PC, TV, radios, clocks, cable boxes, and other electronics.
- Place a few lights on timers to make the home look occupied.
- Disable the automatic garage door opener at the wall control.

- Lock the garage door to the interior.
- If you have food in the refrigerator, leave it alone—the refrigerator uses less energy as it is not being opened. If it's empty, set the temperature to the lowest setting; to prevent mold and mildew, do not turn it off.
- Add a couple of tablespoons of vegetable or mineral oil to drains—this prevents evaporation in the trap which could lead to sewer gas entering the home.
- Add ¼ cup of bleach to toilet bowls and cover with plastic wrap to prevent evaporation.
- Cancel newspaper delivery and make arrangements for your mail to be picked up or forwarded.
- Have a neighbor or friend monitor your home and pick up any unsolicited newspapers or ads.

Thanks to Lou True for sharing his experience and checklist.



### Security Corner,

*Jeff Medwid...* The Security Committee including Chairman Jeff Medwid, Mark Bloom, Neil Gordon, Kit Jones, Ann McCleaf, Sandy Reading, Dennis Shanahan, Joe Smothers and Alice West have been working hard over the last few months to prepare their final recommendations to the SOCA board, which was presented on November 28<sup>th</sup> at the monthly SOCA Board meeting.

The Monday night presentation by Jeff Medwid included quotes and



recommendations to install up to 5 video cameras at the guard house with DVR equipment to record video surveillance of all activities coming, going and at the guard house 24/7. Part two of the presentation included quotes and recommendations to install up to 5 video cameras at the Clubhouse using the existing DVR equipment already installed there. In addition, a final recommendation for updating the duties and responsibilities of the guards was also provided to the SOCA Board.

The interaction with the SOCA Board, Security Committee and Snowden Overlook residents was very active and positive toward the proposals. However, the SOCA Board deferred a vote on all three recommendations, citing a need to review the proposals and recommendations in more detail. The Board asked the Security Committee for at least one additional quote from at least one additional vendor for the video camera as well as answers on several technical issues about the equipment. The committee agreed to provide the requested information ASAP.

## HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL

Our representative on the Howard County Council is Dr. Calvin Ball, who also is chairperson of the Council. Any queries you may have for Dr. Ball can be sent to him at [.cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:.cball@howardcountymd.gov). His website is [www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/Dist2Bio.htm](http://www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/Dist2Bio.htm)

*The following is information from Dr. Ball's December newsletter:*

There is now FREE metered parking for Historic Ellicott City through January 2, 2012. However, parking on Main Street—

which is not metered—still is limited to two hours.

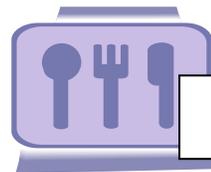
The 18<sup>th</sup> annual Symphony of Lights is open, and runs through January 1<sup>st</sup>. It is a 20-30 minute drive-thru of 70+ light displays of color, design and animation. It is located off Broken Land Parkway in Symphony Woods.

The Master Garden Program will now be featured at The Other Barn. It is free and informative. On Wed., February 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm, the program will be about composting.

[www.oaslindmills.org](http://www.oaslindmills.org)

Bulk Trash pick-up returns!—it must be scheduled by calling 410.313.644 or go to [www.HowardCountyBulkPickup.org](http://www.HowardCountyBulkPickup.org)

CA's Senior Shuttle for Cultural Events: this is a FREE shuttle to cultural events in Howard County. It occurs during weekend and evening events. However, pick-up must include groups of 4 or more aged 60 and above. Call 410.715.3087.



Let's Eat Out!

[This is the fourth appearance of a 'twist' for eating out in December. Hope you enjoy this reprise.] Instead of dining at a restaurant, why not open up your wonderful, lovely and inviting home to a neighbor for a cup of coffee/tea, lunch, brunch, or a casual supper. This is the season of giving, and what could be nicer or more welcome than receiving a phone call from neighbors inviting you to their homes to good conversation and refreshment, whether it be a snack or a 3-course meal?

It's your choice, but make that phone call you've been meaning to do since you moved here, and get to know your neighbors;



they may indeed prove to be your new 'best friends'! In turn, don't be surprised if *your* phone rings shortly thereafter, inviting you to *their* home to 'break bread'. Try it—you'll really enjoy it.

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



### SERVICE PROVIDERS...

Kendall III (Ovation) President Sharonlee Vogel compiled for her neighbors a comprehensive list of service providers who had been hired by residents of Ovation. These are tried and true folks; she graciously allowed us to reprint this list, to include vendors for appliance work, carpet cleaning, home improvements, painting, etc. This list is being reproduced under separate cover for your convenience.

Thank you, Sharonlee. It's a great New Year's gift to all!

### Closing Thought...

*"When you meet someone, you judge them by their clothes; when you leave them, you judge them by their heart."* (Russian proverb)

*Jan Brady*, Editor

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