



THE "OVERLOOK"

Vol. 5 No. 4 DEC. 2013

"An independent newsletter by and for the residents of Snowden Overlook"

From your Editor... Another year here at Snowden Overlook is coming to a frigid end. Winter has arrived, blustery with the promise of more to come. However, our spirits here surely will be warmed with all the marvelous activities your Social Committee has planned for December and the following months. Check them out, sign up, and come and enjoy fellowship and fun at our always-active Clubhouse.

The close of the year always reminds us to say 'thanks' to those who have contributed to our blessed community. Your "Overlook" newsletter has continued to bring informative and newsworthy articles to enhance our lives and educate us. In addition to our community officers, we give thanks to those newsletter contributors who consistently bring us expert advice and information in their columns: Dave Davis, Fred Merther, Ray Hurst, Michael Goldblatt, Steve Reading, Pat Harrington. Other contributors keep us up to date on goings-on in our community: Karen Paciarelli, Ronnie True, Jeff Medwid, Sheila Wolf, Linda Bloom. Thank you, all! It is your contribution that makes our newsletter the success it has been all these years.

A special note of thanks to our Lifestyle Coordinator, **Carol Hergenroeder**. At each Clubhouse event, Carol's efforts have made them most enjoyable. A special thank you for the supreme work she accomplished at our most recent event: Snowden's Thanksgiving Dinner, attended by close to 100 neighbors! A logistical nightmare, Carol assured all attendees that ample seating would be provided, and it indeed was grand!

Welcome to.... Christy Wilson, our new part-time office assistant at the Clubhouse. She is the mother of a 13-year-old son, and is completing her undergraduate degree at UMBC in Modern Languages & Linguistics. Christy speaks Spanish and some Portuguese. Her hobbies include reading mystery novels and knitting. She also is interested in learning the Korean language as it is part of her heritage. Having lived in Maryland for 16 years, as an Army brat she originated from Ft. Bragg, North Carolina.

Christy's schedule is having her in the office from 9 am until 1 pm on weekdays. Stop by and introduce yourself.



Master Board
News

Lou True, President...

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| President: | Lou True |
| Vice President: | Mark Bloom |
| Treasurer: | Bob Vogel |
| Secretary: | Bob Brady |
| Member: | Karen Paciarelli |

Possible Changes to Clubhouse: As reported in the last issue, the Board of directors along with the Clubhouse and Gym committees are considering changes to the Clubhouse to better utilize the space available. This includes the possible move of the gym downstairs to provide additional space. As a



possible first step, we are considering moving the existing saunas to the large bathrooms downstairs and eliminating the showers on the upper floor. This could allow the creation of new storage space in their place, including storage for the folding furniture now stored in the hallway. We also are exploring the possibility of adding an external lift to allow easier access to the pool level, particularly for users with disabilities. These topics and others will be discussed at board meetings in the coming months.

The repair in Clubhouse Lobby: You may have noticed that we have had a problem with cracking tile in the lobby. We are hopeful that the new repair completed in November will be a permanent one. It involved a new decorative strip across the lobby floor near the kitchen and a flexible joint to allow movement in the subflooring without cracking tiles. The Board also has approved a thorough cleaning of all the tile flooring on the main level and the staining/sealing of the grout.

Internal Ceiling and Wall Repairs: Also in November, a contractor patched and repaired a number of problem areas in the Clubhouse, especially in the banquet room, living room, and the hallway between the banquet room and gym. The walls also were repainted in the office. The Board also approved a repainting of the walls in the banquet room.

Use of Clubhouse for External Groups: Our Clubhouse is increasingly popular, as the calendar shows. That is a good thing, but can present scheduling challenges. Residents and their guests may, of course, use the Clubhouse facilities as a place to relax, talk, etc., provided that their use does not interfere with scheduled events, and does not deny other residents or the staff the use

of rooms in the facility. From time to time, however, residents may wish to use the Clubhouse for meetings of groups, such as clubs, associations, business groups, etc., consisting largely of non-residents of Snowden Overlook. When this entails use of a room and exclusion of other uses of that room, please be sure to check with our office staff. Carol is responsible for guiding residents in carrying out association policies. In general, SOCA does not permit such uses by outside groups except through rental of the facility. Even then, the rental must be to a resident who *must be present* throughout the event and take full responsibility for it. Rentals generally are restricted to two per month, and in scheduling, SOCA-sponsored events take priority. There are other restrictions as well. So, to avoid problems, please consult with the staff before scheduling meetings or other events at the Clubhouse with such groups.

Parking: Recently, commercial vehicles have been parked overnight on Dried Earth Blvd. inside Snowden Overlook. As a reminder, RVs, large trucks, inoperative vehicles and commercial vehicles may not be parked on SOCA property. Commercial vehicles include, among other things, any 'displaying a commercial logo, message or identification.'.

2014 Budget: At its 11/25 meeting, the SOCA Board, after inviting unit owner comments, approved a final budget for 2014 that keeps monthly assessments at the current \$155 per unit.



MESSAGES FROM OUR COMMUNITY PRESIDENTS

Kendall I, Bob Brady... Thanksgiving 2013 has come and gone, and I hope it was a great success for all of you as it was for us. That also means winter is here, and as I write this, it is below 30° and windy. I'm not a big fan of winter and its cold temperatures.

Within the past two months we performed something we have not done before—the stairwells of the inner ring were cleaned and power-washed to include the areas of siding that had mildew. I don't have any idea how many years we can go before this has to be repeated, but it is an expense we don't want to have again anytime soon. At the follow-up inspection, I observed at least two units using the rear stairwell to store objects, and those objects were covering the drain at the bottom. *This is completely unacceptable, and it could easily lead to water in the basement.* Should that occur, I am certain our insurance company and that of the homeowner would REJECT the claim. That puts the Homeowners Association as a potential payee for the damage! As your President and Kendall I representative in these matters, I expect all homeowners to be responsible for their actions.

At our November Board meeting, we considered all that has taken place this year and what the cost has been. It became clear to the Board that our current dues structure was not sufficient for our projected needs for 2014. All questions from the floor were answered concerning the proposed budget, and then the Board voted a \$10.00 per month increase effective in January 2014.

Jack McCleaf gave us a great help in the past two weeks by installing the new flyer boxes; they are situated next to our group mailboxes. Thanks, Jack, for volunteering to complete this project.

Now that winter is approaching, please carefully read **Ray Hurst's article on Water Turn Off** before you leave for even a few days, especially during these cold months!!

Save the Date! Kendall I is having a potluck gathering on Sunday, January 19, 2014, at the Clubhouse at 6:00 p.m. Our Committee consisting of Ann McCleaf, Lori Kassoff, Judy Morrison, Paula Gaither and Jay Dingle have done a great job making this happen. The media room will have the football games on, and we look forward to seeing all of our neighbors there. Check the flyer box for more information to follow soon.

Kendall II, Karen

Paciarelli... Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays to All! The new year is almost upon us, and as we look back we can see how Kendall II is maintaining and improving our community. This year the painting of trim and decks was completed, gutters cleaned, mold and algae removed, trees replaced, and rejuvenation of turf, to mention a few projects....

We are ready to start the new year off under new management. We welcome Natalie Collier, CEO of Metropolitan Management Group and her staff. We are excited about their enthusiasm and fresh, innovative way of doing business, and look forward to an exciting new year.

Lastly, a special Thank You to Carol Hooper and WPM for their years of support and



guidance to Kendall II. Much appreciated.

Villas I, Lu True...

Board Election: On November 21, Villas I held its annual meeting, including an election to fill one expiring position on the Board. Lou True was elected to a new 3-year term ending in 2016. Thanks are due to Mrs. Siddiqui for volunteering to run as well.

2014 Budget: At the same meeting, the Board invited comments from unit owners and then adopted the budget as proposed. The 2014 assessment rate will remain at this year's \$215.00 per unit per month.

Vinyl Siding: All Villas I unit owners should have received a letter dated November 1 that explained what we know so far about the problem of distortions in some of our siding. A special meeting is scheduled for December 2nd, at 7 p.m. at the Clubhouse to provide an opportunity for unit owners to ask questions, make suggestions and express their views on possible approaches to this growing problem.

Gutter Cleaning: This has been schedule for the week of December 2nd, weather permitting.

Committees: We are still looking for volunteers, particularly one willing to chair the architectural committee. Many thanks to all those who already volunteer their time.

Winter: Winter is approaching, and this is a good time to prepare your house for it. Please consider doing the following:

- ✓ Close the valves to your outside spigots. These usually are located near your furnace in the

basement.

- ✓ If you have external basement steps, clear leaves or other debris from the bottom. This will help minimize blockages that could prevent water from draining into the sump. If necessary, the thick, plastic grate over the drain can be removed to clean beneath it.
- ✓ Remove dead plants from your front gardens.
- ✓ As we've mentioned before, please check your downspouts and sump pump outlet to be sure they are carrying water away from your house. If there is erosion or ponding of water, please consider adding splash blocks or extension pipes to these outlets.

Communications: If you are not receiving important notices from the Villas I Board through e-mail, please send us your e-mail address at villas1atsnowden@aol.com. Notices you may have missed recently covered gas meter pipe leaks, tree removal, and Board election information.

Trees: Several of our neighbors have replaced trees in their yards. They experienced savings by joining together with others. Please remember that an architectural change approval from Snowden Overlook and Long Reach is generally required for such changes.

New Residents: Recently, several new families have moved into our neighborhood. Welcome! Please come to our meetings—they are usually held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Check the 'events' calendar available at the Clubhouse or on line



at www.SnowdenOverlook.com.

Kendall III/Ovation, Carole

Lieberman... One day it's warm, pool weather and then, in the blink of an eye, it's cold; the fireplaces are turned on and we enter the holiday season.

Here at Ovation, we are in the process of updating and adding security cameras, repairing a drainage issue on our first, second and third floor decks, and having our garage thoroughly cleaned. Never a dull moment!

Within the building, our residents continue to be very supportive of each other. A few of our residents have recently had difficult health issues. Fortunately, we have been able to provide many types of assistance to those who request it. We have one person acting as the point of contact between the resident in need of aid and those offering it. We have been able to very successfully provide support (rides to chemotherapy, shopping, cooking, visits, etc.) to any resident who requests it. In an over-55 community, this is very helpful indeed.

Villas II, Mark Bloom... Next year's budget was just passed with an increase of \$8.15 per month, primarily to cover remediation of the 'rust' problem on Vast Rose. We have had lengthy discussions and community input for our updated Association vs. Homeowner responsibilities and Landscaping/Architectural guidelines—owners will be mailed the final versions

Gutter cleaning currently is scheduled for December 11th and 12th. The Board will continue to e-mail current information to owners. If you do not have or have not given an e-mail address to me (there are three

households), have your neighbors cover for you. We will only go thru the expense of a mailing for those items we are legally required to do. Our Villas II Board meeting minutes are posted on the Villas II website.

I would like to welcome our new owners, Ken and Joyce Henderson. And don't forget our Villas II holiday party on December 8th. Hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving, and best wishes for the holidays and New Year.



WEBSITE

Michael Goldblatt

December is a good time to explore exercise and social activities available at Snowden Overlook's Clubhouse. Activities are held on a weekly and monthly basis for all sorts of interests. Popular weekly activities include: Exercise Classes, Card Games, Mah Jongg, Men's Club and Bible Study. Monthly activities include Book Club, Care & Share, Coffee with Carol, Duplicate Bridge, Happy Hour, Wine Club, and Game Night. Throughout the year there are special events such as concerts, dances, dinners, excursions, lunches, movies, and speakers.

Learn about coming events by visiting www.SnowdenOverlook.com or by signing up to receive emails with Snowden's Weekly Alert Newsletter or Monthly Calendar. To sign up for the e-mail list, go to website's Subscribe Page, www.SnowdenOverlook.com/Subscribe.html or contact Michael Goldblatt at 410.929.4709. For questions or suggestions, use the Contact Page at the website, www.SnowdenOverlook.com/Contact to e-



mail the Clubhouse staff or webmaster.

ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS AT SNOWDEN OVERLOOK !!

Enjoy the holidays with your S.O. friends by attending one of the many events taking place at the Clubhouse during December.

The **Annual Men's Club Holiday Brunch** is scheduled for Sunday, December 8th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Go to http://snowdenoverlook.com/Breakfast_2013_12_08.html

The **Ladies' Holiday Luncheon** will be held on Monday, December 16th at 11:30 a.m.

Caroling in the Community will be on Sunday, December 22nd, starting at 7:00 p.m.

The fun begins at the **New Year's Eve Party** at 8:30 p.m. on December 31st.

For more information on the cost of these events, visit www.snowdenoverlook.com or contact the staff in the Clubhouse Office at 410.872.9311

Clubhouse News

....Ronnie True,

Well, here we are at the end of another year. It is true that time flies when you are having fun. Some of our S.O. families have now celebrated nine years of living in our great community! Those residents who have given their time and commitment to serve on our Boards, committees and clubs have our sincere thanks. They really help make our

community **THE 55+ PLACE TO LIVE.**

I am really proud of the Clubhouse committee's efforts. This year we helped the SOCA Board with the planning and the accomplishments of installing the awning, painting of the Clubhouse, new tile work repairs, revising SOCA Policies, organization of supplies, new cleaning schedule, etc. Also, a thank you to Carol and WPM for the help in the implementation of our projects. We are looking forward to 2014 and working with the SOCA Board in designing much needed storage areas for the Clubhouse. Your ideas for our Clubhouse are always appreciated.

On a different note, we would like to remind the community that we do have residents who are younger than 55, and they are entitled to the same rights and privileges of our older residents. Often these are the 19+ year-old children of our families. Some are college students who live with their families and come home for the holidays and summer. When you see them at the Clubhouse, welcome them, too, as you would their parents.



SOCIAL COMMITTEE

...Karen Paciarelli

We have brought many fun and exciting events to the community this year, and have even more planned for 2014. As always, Carol's monthly Happy Hour has proven to be our most-attended FREE event. And then there is "Coffee with Carol" with guest speakers, from September into May. Game night is always the first Friday of each month. Please remember to sign up in the Clubhouse or on our website for these activities. A head



count is always helpful for set-up purposes. For your benefit, it is useful to check our website and/or calendar for details and updates. On occasion it is necessary to change dates or times. We also want to thank residents for help with putting chairs away and cleaning of each table at the end of events.

Mark your calendars now for upcoming events:

Sunday, January 12th: Concert: Bob Brewer, "The Man with the Golden Throat", 7:00-8:10 p.m. \$10/pp.

Saturday, January 18th: BINGO, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Bring a \$5 (or less) wrapped "White Elephant" Gift; snacks provided

Sunday, February 2nd: Super Bowl party, 5:00 p.m.

Friday, February 14th: Valentine's Concert event: "Jeannie Finnegan Sings"; 7:30-9:30p.m. Desserts; \$10/pp

Saturday, March 15th: St. Patrick's Day dinner party; catered meal, 6:00 p.m. Cost TBD

Saturday, April 26th: "Glory of Love" party with Frank & Trish Curreri; from Sinatra to Disco and beyond; dance party; 7:00-8:30 p.m. \$10/pp

Saturday, May 17th: Join us for a "Black and White" cocktail party on a Saturday at 7:00 p.m.; Live entertainment. Attire: everyone dress in B/W. Residents will be asked to bring appetizers.

Saturday, June 21st: "Retro Rockets" return for our 1st summer bash; 1st Day of Summer Party; \$10/pp

See you at the Clubhouse!!



SECURITY

Jeff Medwid

The new procedures at the gate have been implemented; however, there are still some rough edges.

I hope you all have noticed the new sign on the left side as you pass the guardhouse that reads: **NO TAILGATING**. That means no "piggybacking" as you go through the gate. Note, however, you do not need to let the gate totally close before you re-activate the gate to open. As soon as the gate starts to close, you can put your activation card out for the reader, or drive up to the reader/activator, and the gate will open. If you "piggyback" and follow right behind another car, you are in violation of the rules. **Violators will be notified in the near future.**

Note that there is a list of unit owners maintained by Carol in the Clubhouse that is basically for the circumstance of admitting someone/visitor when the owner is not at home. If you have not provided this information to Carol, please do so ASAP. The guards will have ready access to this list to let these visitors into Snowden Overlook when you are not at home. If you are at home, the procedure is that the Guard will call your unit and let the visitor in, based on your acknowledgement of the visitor.



FITNESS CENTER

Linda Bloom

The scheduled preventive maintenance company serviced our gym in October. I am proud to say that our gym is in excellent condition. Our next service will be in January.

The new elliptical recumbent bike continues to be a favorite of many residents. Again, for health reasons, I would like to remind people to wipe the equipment down before and after use. Also, if no one is in the gym when you leave, please turn off all the lights, fans and the television.

I would like to send my very best wishes to everyone for a joyous holiday season.



MILITARY-GOV. CLUB

Bob Brady

What I have realized over the past year is that it is very difficult to get people together at a specific time, as we all have many things to do and many places to go. Therefore, we are putting the Mil-Gov Club on hold for awhile. When something comes up that appears to be important to our club, we will try to gather. Meanwhile, thank you for what you have done for your country, and for Snowden Overlook. The flag in front of our Clubhouse was our finest contribution!

I will continue to advise you when we raise a new flag and who is its donor.



INSURANCE GUIDELINES

Fred Merther

RISK MANAGEMENT:

HOMEOWNERS OBLIGATIONS

In the past this column has addressed the problem of water damage to our homes. discussion of the use of insurance to mitigate these types of losses has been extensively explained in many of these articles.

A recent Kendall I Board meeting and a discussion of losses to our homes (including but not limited to water damage) alerted me to the fact that **we have an obligation to try to prevent these types of losses.**

{PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FOLLOWING IS SPECIFIC TO THE KENDALL I COMMUNITY AS FRED MERTHER IS A RESIDENT THERE. HOWEVER, IT IS ADVISED THAT ALL HOMEOWNERS IN THE OTHER S.O. COMMUNITIES CHECK THEIR BY-LAWS TO SEE WHAT THEIR OBLIGATIONS ARE. THIS ARTICLE IS WRITTEN TO ADVISE ALL S.O. RESIDENTS TO KEEP UP WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES}

I am referring to the Kendall Overlook Condominium, Inc., By-Laws. **Article XIII: Maintenance Repair and Replacement** reads in part as follows:

“By way of example and not as a limitation,



the following items o maintenance, repair and replacement **shall be performed by the Unit Owners** and such maintenance, repair and replacement shall NOT be the responsibility of the Council or an item of Common Expense

- A. Any heating and air conditioning systems.....
Additionally, to prevent freezing of any water in any pipe, plumbing fixture or other facility in the condominium, and to minimize the heating costs of any adjacent Units and common elements, each Unit Owner, at his own expense, shall maintain the temperature inside his Unit at not less than sixty-two degrees Fahrenheit throughout each calendar year. **Furthermore, each Unit owner shall shut off any water main serving such Unit if the Unit Owner will not be residing in the Unit for more than five (5) consecutive days.**

- D. Fireplaces, including the inspection and cleaning of all fireplaces and fireplace flues at least once annually
- E. All chutes, flues, ducts, conduits, wires, water pipes, sewer pipes, sprinkler pipes and condensate lines or other apparatus whether or not installed or contained within the Unit but serving only that one Unit, including the inspection, cleaning or flushing of all such items at least once annually;”

I have listed above what I believe to be the more important items to prevent loss. Note: As respects the temperature requirements, this is also found in most insurance policies referring to unoccupied premises. If you do not maintain the heat properly, you void the

coverage.

I think it also is interesting to note that we in Kendall I **are obligated** to keep ducts clean (I.e., drier exhaust ducts). This is a matter that we in Kendall I have recently addressed—making available the specific company to contact for cleaning. I also think the need FOR ALL OF US IN SNOWDEN OVERLOOK to be proactive in protecting your home from loss is quite clear—especially **your obligations** as spelled out in your community’s By-Laws.



HOUSEHOLD
HINTS

Ray Hurst

WATER TURN-OFF

[As a resident of Kendall I, Ray referred to Kendall I By-Laws in writing this. However, as in the Insurance Guidelines article, it was felt that ALL S.O. RESIDENTS would benefit from this article and should check with their own community’s ByLaws to be proactive during times away from home]

Winter weather has arrived, increasing the potential for freezing and leaking water lines. Winter vacations will be occurring soon, and our “Snow Birds” will be taking off for warmer areas. It is important to know how to turn off your water supply to avoid damage to your Units

All S.O. units have 2 separate water systems. One supplies the faucets and plumbing fixtures and the other supplies water to the unit’s sprinkler system. The main water line is a black plastic pipe entering the house at the front basement wall. This is usually located in an unfinished area of the basement or a



closet. The main water valve for the plumbing system is located on a white pipe above the water meter (a box with a yellow sticker stating "Howard County Bureau of Utilities"). In the 'on' position it is lined up with the pipe. To shut the water off **turn the valve ¼ turn so that it looks like a "+"**. This turns off the unit's water without affecting the sprinkler system.



TECH NEWS

Steve Reading

"THE TWELVE ELECTRONIC GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS 2013!" (Stocking Stuffers, and then some)

There's a lot of great new technology and electronics that became available in 2013. So if you're searching for that perfect gift that hits a home run with the gadget lover on your shopping list, here's a sample:

Group 1: \$50 to \$100 (For those with extra large stockings)

- 1) iSound iGlowSound Dancing Light Speaker:: Lights change and dance to your tunes!
 - 2) Bluetooth Gloves: When the temperature dips and you're bundled from head to toe, you can keep your fingers toasty and answer calls with these tech-enabled knit gloves. These mitts sync with your smartphone. To answer calls, simply use the classic "call me" pantomime—the left glove's thumb contains a speaker and the pinky packs a petite but powerful microphone.
 - 3) Rise & Shine Natural Wake-Up Light: Rise & shine is a radio, sound machine and lamp that will wake you gently. Sleep mode feature slowly decreases lamp's intensity to aid in falling asleep peacefully and gradually. Then, it allows your sleep cycle to finish and helps wake you more refreshed and alert with a 'natural' sunrise.
 - 4) Magic Wand Remote Control: When you wave this realistic magic wand at the TV to turn it on, change the channel, or adjust the volume, you'll really feel a surge of wizard-like power. The motion-sensitive, button-free universal remote offers you 13 predefined movement "spells" that you can cast to make all manner of devices including TVs, DVD players, DVRs and even iPod docks obey your commands.
- Group 2: \$24 to \$50:**
- 5) Google Chromecast HDMI Streaming Media Player: Chromecast is the easy way to enjoy online video and anything from the web on your TV. Plug it into any HDTV and control it with your existing smartphone, tablet, or laptop.
 - 6) iPod Shuffle or SanDisk Sansa Clip Zip: These devices should really only be purchased as a secondary music player—one that's exclusively used while working out in the gym or jogging. That said, it does a good job fulfilling its singular mission: playing music.
 - 7) D-Link DIR-605L Cloud Router: This device provides a great solution for those who just need a simple wireless network to share the Internet access among devices.



8) Just Mobile AluPen Stylus: This is a pencil-shaped stylus that gives you precise control over your iPad, iPhone or iPod touch. The AluPen sits perfectly in the hand to make drawing and writing a uniquely smooth and enjoyable experience.

Group 3: under \$25

- 9) Pillow Speaker: Put a speaker under your pillow—this incredible device gives you a private concert without disrupting the quiet of others.
- 10) Walkie talkie handset: This will remind you of the 70s when you had a CB radio; it's a big 10-4 good buddy!
- 11) World traveler adapter: This is a powerful tool that can charge USB devices quickly!
- 12) Belkin Bluetooth Music Receiver: This adds Bluetooth streaming capability to anything with an audio (auxiliary) input.

Added treat for those with xxxx-large stockings (lucky #13):

- 13) FlashForge 3D Printer: The ultimate new gadget, this turns designs into real objects. It's a great gift for anyone who loves to tinker and has someone with \$1,200 to spend on a stocking stuffer!



CAR CARE

Dave Davis

I'm going to once again look at wiper blades this time of year. They want to be changed as winter salt and grime from the roadways are sprayed on your windshield, blinding your

vision while driving. This also is calling for you to fill your windshield tank with fluid. Be sure you do not use water that will freeze your nozzles and render them useless when you need them. Use windshield fluid with an antifreeze addition to be sure of your safety while driving in weather where salt, dirt, etc. is sprayed on your windshield, drying out and blinding your vision while operating your auto. Big trucks will thoroughly cover your windshield with grime, and you will be unable to see to drive.

New wiper blades and antifreeze washer fluid will keep you safe and able to drive without problems.

I would also like to note that several neighbors have experienced low tire pressure lights in autos equipped with this type of sensor. Please use your tire pressure gauge on each tire to ensure they have the proper P.S.I. (Pressure per Square Inch), then add air to 36 P.S.I.; then, drive thru the neighborhood and the light will go off. It happens when it is very hot or very cold every year. I called Tischer Nissan service to see why my low pressure light was on. They recommend checking each tire and put up to 36 P.S.I., and the light would go out, and it did. Happy Motoring!



CRAFT CORNER

Sheila Wolf

The next craft is planned for some time in March. We will be making spring wreaths. Watch for more information and the sign-up sheet that month. For more information, contact Sheila Wolf at 410.290.1006.



SAVE THE BAY

Pat Harrington

There are many simple actions we can all take this Christmas to make a difference, and living green can also save you money.

Cards, wrapping and decorating

- ❖ Buy cards and gifts and decorations from charity stores
- ❖ Recycle your Christmas cards in your recycling bin at home
- ❖ If you're hanging lights, use energy-efficient LED lighting
- ❖ When you've got a choice, be picky about packaging. Instead of buying presents fully packaged, like the bottle of wine in the big plastic box covered in Santa, go for the classic, 'what you see is what you get' bottle.
- ❖ Buy recycled. Christmas is the perfect time to buy recycled products for friends and family. Many more quality products are being made with recycled content, from PET Polar Fleece clothing to furniture and picture frames
- ❖ Wrap your presents in a page from an old newspaper/comics, a tea towel, a cloth bag that can be reused, a reusable shopping bag or any reusable container.
- ❖ Send electronic Christmas cards instead of paper ones

Festive foods

- ❖ Buy food with limited amounts of packaging
- ❖ Buy locally-sourced and seasonal free-range products and support local

farmers' markets

- ❖ Avoid disposable plates and cups or buy biodegradable ones which can be composted. Bamboo plates will last and can be put through the dishwasher

Gift ideas

- ❖ Give homemade gifts (e.g., bake organic biscuits and give them as presents in reused jars), or give a box of fresh, organic and in-season food
- ❖ Choose Fair Trade consumables such as chocolate and coffee or Fair Trade goods.
- ❖ Visit vintage fairs or antique markets to find that special second-hand sustainable gift.
- ❖ Give a 'gift of an experience' like a massage, movie tickets, restaurant or day out—these generally have less environmental impact than purchasing goods
- ❖ Consider a donation to a charitable organization as a Christmas gift
- ❖ Browse the extensive charity online catalogues for an unusual donation. You will receive a card describing what you have purchased and to which community in what country the gift has gone. Example: CARE gifts or World Vision Smiles gift catalogue



Villas I resident Neil Gordon has given a report regarding "The State of Philanthropy in Howard County". At this time of the year, the active word is 'giving'—to those in need who need our help. The following report is an eye-opener for all of us residing in Howard County:



Neil writes:

There is much to be proud of as a resident of HoCo, but philanthropy is not one of them. As the wealthiest county in the wealthiest state in America, we are one of the stingiest. For the past two years I have served as a trustee of the Community Foundation of Howard County (formerly the Columbia Foundation) which was started by Jim Rouse in 1969 to improve the lives of those who live and work in Howard County.

There are nearly one thousand nonprofits in Howard County serving a population of nearly 300,000 citizens with median income way above the national average. The financial constraints on these mostly small "Kitchen Table" organizations make their mission very difficult to achieve. Our foundation funds nearly one hundred of these nonprofits each year through an annual grant process and the generosity of those who have donor advised funds with the Foundation. We would love to meet all the requested funding, but that is not possible at current levels of contributions. Our biggest missing piece in the funding is a lack of grassroots support from the citizens of our county.

While the business community has long been aware of and supportive of the Foundation, the *individual county resident* is not always aware of or involved with what we do. So many of us along with our neighbors do volunteer work for worthy organizations, charities and churches that the Foundation supports, and by supporting it you become a partner in neighbor helping neighbor.

Here is a partial list of nonprofits we supported in 2012: The Arc of HoCo, Community Action Council of HoCo, Domestic

Violence Center, Gilchrist Hospice Care, HoCo autism Society, Meals on Wheels, Neighbor Ride, Candlelight Concert Society, Columbia Orchestra, HoCo Drug Free

The Foundation would welcome the opportunity to have the Snowden Overlook Community as a supporter of ours. Our website is www.cfhoco.org

Great Shopping Without Dropping!

Columbia Association (CA) offers fun and unique gifts for everyone on your list. Go to their Membership Service Center for a huge selection of tickets and gift cards to local attractions. Address: 10221 Wincopin Circle; phone 410.730.1801

B&O Holiday Festival of Trains

RR Station Museum's annual festival runs through January 26th; includes a multi-level Lego layout with interactive lights, motors and sounds. Open 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. at B&O RR Station Museum, 2711 Maryland Avenue, Ellicott City. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. 410.461.1945

Symphony of Lights

Sponsored by and to benefit Howard County General Hospital; 20-30 min. drive thru more than 70 larger-than-life creations. Open through Dec. 21st. Symphony Woods Rd, Columbia. For more information and pricing, call 410.740.7840.

American Flags needed for Clubhouse flagpole

Please consider donating a flag you may have in your possession that was given in memory of a fallen/deceased member of the armed forces. Since the flagpole was erected



on November 11, 2011, flags donated by Snowden Overlook Residents have flown proudly over our community. They have ranged from having been donated by a daughter, son, spouse in memory of their loved one, and considered donating their flag to our community as a message of pride and honor of their deceased relative. Your flag will be greatly appreciated.



Closing Thought:

“It is never the wrong time to do the right thing.”

(Author unknown)



LET'S
EAT
IN!

[Your Editor hopes you enjoy this fifth appearance of a ‘twist’ for eating out in December, last printed in the December 2011 newsletter]

Instead of dining at a restaurant this holiday season, 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 for 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 for a while, and get to know perhaps your new neighbor. 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.

Jan Brady, Editor
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[This newsletter is the sole responsibility of the Editor.]