



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

In February, 2007, I commenced writing, editing and publishing the inaugural issue of our Snowden Overlook newsletter. It was titled the "Kendall I News", for residents of our first community. It totaled five pages with 'yours truly' being the only contributor. Since that date, we have seen our newsletter grow to become "The Overlook", with several dedicated contributors and expanding to 12 chock-full pages of community interest and specialized information for our residents.

This year I will have completed eight wonderful years of being your editor. Since working at the Yale University Press during my college days, to being an editorial assistant for a medical journal after graduation, and writing a column for many years for our military spouse's publications, I believe it's time to "pass the baton" to another resident with writing experience. Hopefully, our contributors will be willing to stay on and continue to provide their expertise in their fields. If YOU are that person willing to become our new editor, please give your name and information in writing addressed to the SOCA Board and bring it to the Clubhouse Office to Carol.

My farewell gift as editor to you is this special issue. After reading the messages from the presidents of SOCA and each community, you will see a section titled "**ALL ABOUT MARYLAND**". I have compiled a listing of all the varied geographical areas of our beautiful

state, indicating interesting sites to visit, to include both day and overnight trips for you and your houseguests. From the mountains in the west, to the Atlantic Ocean in the east, you'll find a grand overview of what our state offers you to explore. Enjoy it and KEEP IT FOR REFERENCE!! You will note I have given our contributors a 'pass' on this issue. Besides our community presidents writing for each issue, our columnists are:

WEBSITE: Michael Goldblatt
CLUBHOUSE NEWS: Ronnie True
SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Karen Paciarelli
SECURITY: Jeff Medwid
FITNESS CENTER: Linda Bloom
INSURANCE GUIDELINES: Fred Merther
HOUSEHOLD HINTS: Ray Hurst
TECH NEWS: Steve Reading
CAR CARE: Dave Davis
SAVE THE BAY: Pat Harrington
CRAFT CORNER: Sheila Wolf

Read on to see what's happening in your community; your presidents always have news for you.

Meanwhile....happy travels this summer. Hope this issue helps you plan grand escapes!

Jan Brady



Master Board News

Lou True, President...

Pool Season—Even when the air is a bit cool, the pool is open and the water is warm. This spring's repairs look great, and thanks to our team of volunteer CPOs, we again can offer morning pool hours for residents only. Also, please remember to close your pool umbrella when you leave to help prevent wind damage.

Carol and our Social Committee have great summer events planned, some by the pool. So check the calendar.

A reminder for persons with disabilities: Some may find the pool access ramp difficult to use. You may use the driveway off Dried Earth Blvd. instead. It is shorter than the ramp, drops less, and has about the same slope. There is a combination lock on the gate at the bottom. Ask at the office for the combination if you are interested in trying this alternative.

Pool passes: Every unit should have two red resident passes and three yellow guest passes. In addition, you may purchase additional paper visitor passes that are each good for one person for one day. It will be most convenient for you if you purchase them at the office during the week. Purchase must be by check, payable to SOCA. One pass can be purchased for \$5.00, three for \$10.00

and eight for \$25.00. They do not expire until used. Each unit may use up to five of the paper visitor passes per day. This allows each unit to bring a maximum of 10 persons to the pool on one day (using two resident passes + three guest passes + five paper visitor passes).

Clubhouse Changes—A number of changes have been made to the Clubhouse, thanks to the hard work of our committees and staff. These include the purchase of replacements for the deteriorating patio tables under the awning and two larger additional tables with chairs. Also, there is a new area carpet in the lobby. In the Gym, another exercise machine will be purchased. A spring cleaning of furniture and rugs, as well as windows, was performed.

The Board just approved a remodeling in the Clubhouse that will create new storage rooms on the main floor. This will be done by eliminating the main floor showers and moving the saunas to the lower bathrooms. This extra storage will, among other things, permit folding furniture to be stored in one of the new rooms rather than in the hallway. This work will inevitably entail some noise, debris and disruption. The staff will work with the contractor to minimize the impact of such problems as the work progresses, but some patience will doubtless be required.

Snow—I know it's early, and you will hear more about this later, but SOCA is planning to try a change in snow clearing operations next winter. Among other recommendations from a committee representing all five



condominiums is a plan to prohibit parking on the east side (on the right as you exit S.O.) of Dried Earth Blvd. when a snow emergency is declared. This is intended to permit the contractor to more efficiently clear two full travel lanes on Dried Earth with less risk to, or interference from, parked vehicles. So, for those who park vehicles on Dried Earth, please remember that this is a possibility. For example, if you are going out of town during snow season, please do not leave any vehicles parked on the east side. Indeed, as a general matter it would be prudent to use the east side only for short-term parking, at least during the colder months.

Talking Trash—*Please don't put your trash out for collection in plastic bags.* Birds often tear them open to get at the 'goodies' inside.

Our dumpster days seemed to be popular again. They were married, however, by some trash left on the ground. In the future, please ask for help if you need to get objects into the dumpster, and if it is full, please make other plans for disposing of your trash.

Children in the Clubhouse—Residents are welcome to bring grandkids and other children into the Clubhouse, but please remember that they must be supervised at all times to ensure that they DO NOT 1) disturb other Clubhouse users, 2) enter where they are not allowed, such as the Gym, 3) damage community property. Please ensure they are kept safe.

Animals that have gone to the Great Beyond—If you notice a dead animal in

Snowden Overlook (smaller than a rhinoceros!!), one of our residents has volunteered to remove it from the community. Please contact Mary Anne Dupon, one of our most conscientious volunteers, at 443-319-5670 or email her at cwd21051@verizon.net

Hearings on Document or Rule Infractions—In recent months, it has been the Board's unpleasant duty to hold several hearings concerning reported traffic infractions, which include piggy-backing through the gates (behind other vehicles), passing on Dried Earth Blvd., and running through stop signs. We all can be in a hurry or impatient at times. But please respect the traffic control signs within our community for the security and safety of all.

Ramp for Disabled Persons—A reminder: Last year, a resident donated a steel ramp that had been used to provide wheelchair access from the garage of a Ryland townhouse to the main floor. The parts of the ramp are stored in the Clubhouse and are available to any resident who may need such assistance.

Parking—Three parking spaces have been removed from Dried Earth Blvd. near the entrance to Villas II (at Vast Rose). This was done for safety reasons, given the narrowness of the roadway there and the limited view of oncoming traffic for those exiting Villas II.

In addition, the SOCA Board is considering a policy for towing, at owner expense, vehicles



improperly parked on Dried Earth and in the Clubhouse parking lot.

Bench—At the suggestion of Ken and Kathi Beerbohm, SOCA asked the Columbia Association about the possibility of installing a bench overlooking the pond from near the exit gate, just off S.O. property. CA has agreed, with installation now expected in about six weeks. After all, we do need some views of water to help explain all the "Oceans" and "Waves" in S.O. street names.

Gates—The Board and the SOCA Security Committee have long been considering possible improvements to the front gates. This was a principal topic for discussion at the May 29th Board meeting, at which resident views were requested.

MESSAGES FROM OUR COMMUNITY PRESIDENTS

Kendall I, Bob Brady...Thank goodness spring finally arrived and we are on our way into summer. We think the foliage is more abundant this year, more than we can remember, and it makes everything so much more pleasant.

Our gutters were cleaned the last week of May, so we should be good until the November timeframe.

We had our Reserve Study updated since it had been seven years since the original one was conducted. As expected, it will raise the

money we will put into our Reserve Fund, starting in January, 2015. It amounts to increased costs and inflation. The Reserve specialist was very knowledgeable about us, and listened to our concerns and timeframes when things should be done. The Board will evaluate the following: this extra cost, the fact that snow removal has eliminated our contingency fund, and finally the fact that we are now into our 10th year of existence.

We have hired a Construction Attorney and a Construction Specialist to evaluate our chimneys, front trellises and posts, as well as our deck trim. Our question is: Does Ryland have a responsibility here, or does the HOA have to fund the chimneys and the trellises? We all realize that the decks on units on the outer ring are the owner's responsibility, but we need to question every issue in this last (10th) year.

Enjoy your summer. Use the Clubhouse pool and participate in the community activities. This is a great place to live.

Kendall II, Karen Paciarelli...Now that the snow is behind us and summer is upon us, everyone should be happy! June is our *election of officers* and *annual meeting*. Please plan to attend our June 16th meeting, or send your proxy into our management company. Metropolitan Management Group has given us impeccable service during their first six months on board. We all are lucky to have them working for us. By this time of



writing, our second phase of painting should be complete.

Landscaping is out for the summer, bringing our grounds to life. The rejuvenation of some common areas has been touched up to continue the process. I thank those residents abiding by our documents: not parking in the visitor lots, controlling your pets to not relieve themselves on residents' lawns but rather in the common areas away from homes.

We have had some real estate activity in Kendall II with four units currently up for sale. Snowden Overlook is a wonderful place to live.

Villas I, Lou True...

Vinyl Siding Distortion—As you may know, we believe that focused reflections from windows can, under some circumstances, create enough heat to distort siding. We have noted, however, that much less heat is created if the window in question has a screen over it. Jean McCartney of 8825 Warm Granite has kindly permitted us to place screens over the top half of two second-floor windows on the side of her house. This experiment is intended to teach us whether the screens: 1) can be attached in such a way to withstand wind (these have been attached using Velcro strips glued to the window frame and the screen); 2) can be removed and replaced effectively for exterior window cleaning (our contractor recommends that the window cleaners separate the strips

of Velcro from each other using a putty knife), and 3) reduce reflected heat enough to eliminate distortion of the vinyl siding. We'll keep you posted.

Bird Roosting—Last summer we had our painting contractor attempt to seal openings that birds could use or were using for roosting and, in some cases, entering attics. It is now roosting season again, and it appears that the attempt was largely, but not completely, effective. We have noticed a few units with roosting activity. If you observe birds roosting in a Villas I unit, please let us know by email at Villas1atSnowden@aol.com. Please be as specific as you can about the location, e.g. "8XXX Warm XXXX, lower left corner of front gable (triangular structure) over the front door when viewed from the street in front." Often the presence of bird droppings at the site of entry is good evidence of roosting. If you see birds entering air vents, however, that is a different matter. This problem usually occurs in end units, and is a homeowner responsibility. Many have successfully addressed this problem through installation of vent covers that can be purchased at local hardware stores.

Trees—It's spring and trees are adding new growth. Some units have trees that have grown enough that they either already brush the sides of units, or soon will. Please remember that unit owners are responsible for trimming trees to avoid damage to the unit, and for any damage to the unit that does occur due to their trees.



Landscaping—We are pleased to see all the pots of flowers and plantings this spring. Our community looks great! There are, however, some homes with dead or dying shrubs. Please remove or replace these plants. The deer did a lot of damage to the yews by the visitor parking area. We expect to replace others that did not survive the harsh winter. MainScapes still needs to complete repairs to damage done during snow clearing operations.

Trip Hazards—For safety reasons, the Board is considering having one or more areas of concrete, which the Association maintains--ground down to eliminate unevenness. A contractor has identified several points in driveways or lead walks that could cause tripping. Repairs in these areas are unit owner responsibilities.

Meetings—A large thank you is due to Mary Anne Dupon for providing delicious snacks at our monthly board meetings. Come see, hear, and taste what you are missing!

Ovation/Kendall III, Carole

Liberman... Seems like it just snowed (well, it did a few weeks ago) and now we are enjoying summer activities again. It was a long, hard winter.

Ovation had its Annual Pool Brunch on May 26th. As usual, it was well attended and the food was delicious. On June 7th we had a gathering to watch the final leg of the Triple Crown at Belmont, and shared a potluck dinner at the Clubhouse. I love when there's a chance of a Triple Crown winner; it's way

more exciting that way. Good luck, California Chrome! [Ed. Note: Sad news: no Triple Crown winner this year.]

Ovation just had its annual Spring Cleaning which includes power washing and staining the decks, cleaning windows, staining the benches and cleaning the garage.

Helen Nuttall, Chair of the Ovation Outreach Committee, reports that we had a very successful donation drive to Habitat for Humanity—Restore. We thank all of our residents for their usual generosity.

I want to congratulate Lee Spiegel and Kit Jones, our new Board members. We definitely look forward to working with you both.

Villas II, Mark Bloom... Our Annual Meeting will be on June 24th. We will be electing Board members and have plenty of time for an open forum to answer any of your questions about activities going on in Villas II and SOCA.

It has been a busy several months: successful Pot Luck dinner, publication of our updated directory, publication of our revised Landscaping/Architectural guidelines, changing our Landscaping contract by removing the toxic chemical treatment part with a separate contract using pet and human-friendlier ingredients, balancing our snow-removal costs by a budget amendment.

Also, we are in the process of getting estimates of fixing the 'rust' problem on Vast



Rose and getting an engineering assessment of the concrete problem.

You have received information about replacing trees in your front yards. Note that tree replacement requires submission of change application forms and approval IAW with the Landscaping/Architectural guidelines.

The Villas II insurance company recently was changed from State Farm to Nationwide. Each homeowner may want to inform their mortgage holder of the change.

By the time you read this, our gutters should have had their spring cleaning, and you have received estimates if you want to have your homes power washed—on an individual basis, not an Association project.

Regarding your individual insurance policies, check to see that you have sewer/pump backup coverage. It is a good idea.



SOCIAL COMMITTEE

....Karen Paciarelli

The SOCA Social Committee has been hard at work planning a fun summer of events for everyone. As many residents know from reading the monthly calendars and checking the website (www.snowdenoverlook.com) for events, we do schedule Game Night the 1st Friday night of each month, Happy Hour the 2nd Friday night of each month. The 3rd Saturday night is usually live entertainment

dance or concert, food, etc., and the 4th Sunday is the "Dinner Out" which is always looking for residents to host that event. During the summer we have a Strawberry Social, Float Your Boat Ice Cream Party, Game Day at the Pool once a month. We have added a new column to our sign-up sheet for the Happy Hours. We are looking for volunteers to grill the Burgers and Hot Dogs at Happy Hours. Please consider to help us out.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FOLLOWING: social events at Clubhouse, Certified Pool Operators for the Pool, and all other committees. Sign up at the Clubhouse to Volunteer!!

Upcoming Events:

JUNE:

- Sat. 21st: 1st Day of Summer party with Retro Rockets
- Sat. 28th, Strawberry Social, 7 pm Free
- Sun. 29th, Pool Game day, 2-4 pm, Free, hot dogs and fixings

JULY:

- Fri. 11th, Grillin' & Chillin" Happy Hour Free, 6 pm; residents provide sides; movie night
- Sun. 13th, Float Your Boat Party, Root Beer Floats, Free
- Fri. 18th, Game Night, 7 pm, Free
- Sat. 19th, Potluck Dinner with 1960's food; Free, Tribute to Beatles 50th anniversary; Jed Duvall as Paul McCartney, \$\$



- Sun., 27th, Grandkid's Day at Pool, 2-4 pm, free, hot dogs w. trimmings
- 27th, Dinner Out, 5 pm

AUGUST:

- Fri. 1st, Game Night, free
- Sun. 3rd, Pool Game Day and Watermelon Day Party, 2-4 pm, free
- Fri. 8th, Grillin' & Chillin' Happy Hour, 6 pm., free
- Sat. 16th, **Crab Feast**, 6 pm, catered by Sonny, \$\$
- Sun. 24th, Dinner Out, 5 pm.

SEPTEMBER:

- Fri. 5th, Game Night, Free
- Fri. 12th, Happy Hour and SOCA Anniversary Celebration, 6 pm, Free, residents bring sides, dessert provided by SOCA
- Wed. 17th, Coffee with Carol, Speaker: Dr. Sonny Goel, "Aging Eyes", 10 a.m. free
- Sun. 20th, Dance Party with DJ, 7:30-9:30
- Sun. 28th, Dinner Out, 5 pm.

Closing Thought: *"Every job is a self-portrait of the person who did it. Autograph your work with quality."* (anon.)

Jan Brady, Editor

jrbobbrady@comcast.net

This next section is primarily for residents who are new to Maryland. You will find our beautiful state offers outdoor fun, cultural and historical venues, day trips, overnight adventures, etc. Also, many residents may not have explored some of the areas listed in our 'brochure'—one Maryland resident of 35 years told me she has never visited Deep Creek Lake. Check out our listings...hopefully it will be an entre to some wonderful memory-making times. Keep this issue for future reference, especially when guests come to visit!

Read On:

IT'S ALL ABOUT

MARYLAND

THE MOUNTAINS

THE SHORE

THE CITIES

THE MUSEUMS

DAY TRIPS

CASINOS, etc., etc.



IT'S ALL ABOUT MARYLAND...

In 1980 I changed my residency from Connecticut to Maryland, and since that time I am proud to call Maryland my home state. In some of the following listings you will see my personal comments if I have visited those sites. Many life=long residents may not see their special venue listed. However, I do hope those places listed will bring enjoyment and pleasure if you do indeed plan to experience them. Happy travels

Publications in the Howard County Office of Tourism (on Main Street, Ellicott City) list the following regions of Maryland:

WESTERN REGION: Includes Antietam National Battlefield, Deep Creek Lake, Rocky Gap State Park.

CAPITOL REGION: Catoclin Mountains, Frederick, Wine Country

CENTRAL REGION: Baltimore, Ellicott City, Havre de Grace, Annapolis

SOUTHERN REGION: (west coast of Chesapeake Bay) Solomons, Waldorf, St. Mary's City

EASTERN SHORE: (between Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay) Crisfield, St. Michael's, Cambridge, Chestertown, Chesapeake City, Ocean City



THE WESTERN REGION:

One of the most popular vacation spots in Maryland resides in this region: 50- mile-long **Deep Creek Lake** in Garrett County. A 3 ½ hr drive from Columbia, it has a double offering: the lake with massive shoreline and mountain top vacation rental homes plus every water sport imaginable, plus the Wisp ski resort for winter enthusiasts. Our family has enjoyed both seasons at Deep Creek Lake since the early '80s. Winter sports include downhill skiing, inner tube slides, snowmobiling; ice skating, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing,

Summer fun activities are endless: golfing, horseback riding, boating, kayaking, fishing galore, swimming, hiking, white-water rafting, especially at the new Adventure Sports Center International—the world's only mountaintop whitewater course (www.adventuresportscenter.com).

Accommodations: for winter skiing we use the Wisp Resort in Deep Creek. (www.wispresort.com). They give military discounts. The resort includes a restaurant, ski rentals, indoor heated pool and whirlpool, and is ski-in, ski-out location. In the summer we used Railey Mountain Lake Vacations for a home, chalet, cabin or condo rental (www.deepcreek.com). We rented an 8 bed, 7 bath home for a family reunion—fabulous.

Fall foliage along route #68 is spectacular.

For more information on all Garrett County visitors' guides and the towns of McHenry and Oakland, go to (www.visitdeepcreek.com).

Don't forget to check on the numerous B&Bs in that area.

HINT: On your way up/back in that area, you must stop for breakfast, lunch or dinner in Hanover, a small town that is almost at the junction of Rt. 70 and Rt. 68 which takes you west. The diner is called **Weaver's Restaurant and Bakery**, on 72 W. Main Street. Take the Hancock exit off Rt. 70 when going north. You won't regret the detour! (www.weaversrestaurant.com)

Antietam National Battlefield is a hallowed site in Sharpsburg, where in a single day, 23,000 casualties occurred. Guided tours and audio cassettes for your car are available. Plan on at least two somber hours for this trip.

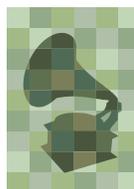
The **Western Maryland Scenic Railroad** offers a 32-mile ride aboard a 1916 restored steam locomotive thru Allegany County. (www.wmsr.com).

Rocky Gap State Park: It includes 3,000 acres, and is on Lake Habeeb, and is open year-round for fishing, swimming, boating and hiking. The trails wind through a mile-long gorge with cliffs and forest. Camping sites available (301-722-1480. It is directly off Rt. #68 west from Rt. #70 west, Exit 50.

Rocky Gap Casino Resort—same site, just opened within the past year. There is a hotel plus golf course. (www.rockygapresort.com).

Boonsboro—off Rt. 70 west north of Frederick. Another prominent Civil War town, it's main popularity today, however, is that it is the home of romance novelist Nora Roberts, who restored one of the buildings into a beautiful B&B, The Inn Boonsboro. It is richly appointed, up-scale in price, but worth it. She

also owns and operates (with her husband and son) Turn the Page book store, and Vesta's pizzeria and Dan's Tap House. The Inn and all three other buildings are featured in Robert's Boonsboro Trilogy novels. (1 ¼ hr. drive from Columbia).



THE CAPITAL REGION: This area is referred to as "Washington D.C.'s neighbor" and includes the Catoctin Mountains and Frederick. Also included in this area are Bethesda and College Park but are too proximate to Columbia to be included in a 'day trip' listing.

THE CITY OF FREDERICK—One could visit Frederick each day for a week or two and find something new in this marvelous town, established in 1745. Downtown Frederick is extremely popular, for visitors to stroll and shop. Frederick is steeped in Civil War History. Antique shops abound; there are several local wineries; follow the Historic National Road. They have preserved 18th- and 19th-century architecture in the historic districts. You should plan on staying overnight at one of their several B&Bs

Proximate to Frederick are: Maryland Civil War Trails, C&O Canal Route, Old Main Streets, Historic National Road, covered bridges, numerous museums. In order to not miss one of these marvelous explorations, go to (www.fredericktourism.org) for a complete listing of where to go/stay/tour. And....it's only 45 minutes from Columbia! Also, the National TV Food Show star, executive chef

and owner, Brian Voltaggio, has his famous restaurant “Volt” in Frederick—which took us 3 months to get a reservation, but worth the wait.

Catoctin Mountains—in the fall, this area is vibrant with stunning color. This October is the 50th annual Catoctin Colorfest and will be held October 11-12 at Thurmont Community Park. The event includes nationally recognized juried arts and crafts festival in a mountain setting. While in that area, as you travel up Route 15 from Route 70 West, stop along the highway at the numerous farmers’ markets for their marvelous produce.

The Catoctin Mountain Park is open year-round. View marvelous scenery, wildlife, historic buildings, hiking trails, scenic drives, camping and fly-fishing.

(www.nps.gov/cato/index.htm)

Cunningham Falls State Park, also in Thurmont (about 1 ¼ hr from Columbia), is open April-October. Known by its 78-ft. cascading waterfall, and for its history and scenic beauty. [Ed. this is worth the short trip—pack a picnic lunch]

(www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/cunningham.asp)

New Market—This tiny town right off Rt. 70 West, about 35 min. from Columbia is a special place for antique buffs, with numerous antique stores along their one main street. It’s a nice, short drive from home.

Other cities in this region, as mentioned previously, are probably familiar with all our residents. However, mention must be made of the explosion of activities, buildings and venues at National Harbor, in Prince George’s County. National Harbor started out with the

Gaylord Resort, and now it has numerous upscale chain stores, restaurants, condos and most recently the mammoth Ferris wheel which rivals the ‘Eye’ in London. National Harbor is a 35-40 minute drive on the beltway (495) and is situated right on the Potomac River. It’s a day-trip, for sure, for houseguests to enjoy.



THE CENTRAL REGION:

Includes Carroll County, Baltimore City, Howard County, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County and Harford County. We will discuss Howard County at the end of this booklet.

The Chesapeake Bay shoreline, horse country, huge cities and small towns make up this diverse region. Here we find **Baltimore**, Ellicott City, Havre de Grace and **Annapolis**. Regarding Baltimore and Annapolis—there is much too much to include when listing all the marvelous and unique venues found in both these cities, and too numerous to list here. I would suggest you visit www.visitmaryland.org or call 1-877-209-5883 for specific destinations you are interested in visiting.

Meanwhile, please remember that this year is a very special historical one for Maryland, for throughout the year, as Governor Martin O’Malley states, “we will be celebrating the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and 200th birthday of our National Anthem.” With that in mind, a **MUST** stop this year is to tour Fort McHenry in Baltimore Harbor. And from

September 6-16, a patriotic concert and fireworks display will be conducted at Ft. McHenry. Tall ships also will visit Maryland this summer.

Ft. Meade Concerts:--Thursday nights from June through August, drive up the road on Rt. 32, or Rt. 175, to Ft. George G. Meade, and attend a spectacular and moving concert—**FREE**—on post, to include patriotic, jazz and popular music. Performers are the Army Blue, Naval Academy Band, U.S. Army Band “Pershing’s Own Downrange”, Jazz Ambassadors, Soldiers’ Chorus. Next concert is June 12th. Performance starts at 7 pm in Constitution Park. For detailed information visit online at www.ArmyFieldBand.com or call 301-677-6586.

Arundel Mills—mega shopping venue right off Rt. 100. **Maryland Live! Casino** with hundreds of blackjack tables and over 7,000 slot machines also are located there.

Havre de Grace—for golfers, located here is a nationally recognized Pete Dye design #1-rated public course in Maryland called Bulle Rock. Call 410-939-9040. This is a lovely waterfront town on the Susquehanna River off Rt. 95 North of Baltimore where you will find the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum, Susquehanna Museum of Havre de Grace. A lovely, short day trip to take.



SOUTHERN REGION—In this region, long-time Maryland residents can be found vacationing. Lighthouses, fishing, seafood dining is all here. This is home to Solomons Island, and Historic St. Mary’s City. Counties in the Southern Region are Charles (with miles of Potomac River shoreline), St. Mary’s (Maryland’s oldest county) and Calvert (Maryland’s sport fishing capital), all surrounded by the Chesapeake Bay and/or the Potomac River.

Historic St. Mary’s City—This was Maryland’s Colonial Capital, 380 years ago. You can take your bike along scenic bike route, or paddle trails with your canoe or kayak. Explore a colonial plantation, archaeology revelation of our first capital. (www.stmaryscity.org)

Solomons Island—Calvert Marine Museum includes the prehistoric past. This is a quiet waterfront fishing village in Calvert County. Art Galleries include Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center (in association with the Smithsonian) (www.annmariegarden.org). There are four B&Bs available. Go to (www.ChooseCalvert.com) for information.

My suggestion is to just get in your car and drive to Calvert County without any destination in mind. It is a charming, lovely and relaxing drive with lighthouses, trails, museums, shops and galleries along the way. Go to the above website for guidance.



EASTERN SHORE—

Our Maryland Shore is situated between the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay. You'll find family Ocean resorts, quaint coastal towns, seafood, seafood and more seafood. Here is where the following cities and towns are located: Crisfield, St. Michaels, Easton, Smith Island, Salisbury, Berlin Cambridge, Chestertown, Chesapeake City and finally, Ocean City. Counties include Cecil, Kent, Talbot, Dorchester, Somerset, Queen Anne's, Caroline, Wicomico and Worcester. All the above cities and towns are too numerous to enumerate their wonderful amenities, so I will highlight some favorites.

St. Michael's—the highlight here is the CHESAPEAKE BAY MARITIME MUSEUM. Explore an original Hooper Strait Lighthouse, working boat yard, and discover exhibits detailing the Bay's role throughout history. [Ed. Note—I spend a two-day tour there recently and needed more time! A marvelous place to simultaneously enjoy your time while learning] (www.cbmm.org). B&Bs abound in this most charming town. The Inn at Perry Cabin, a world-renowned resort/hotel, is located there with a starting overnight price around \$450.00/night. About 1 ½ hr drive from Columbia, across the Bay Bridge staying on Rt. 50 until you see the sign for St. Michael's. It is considered the "Hamptons" of the Chesapeake with its upscale shops and antique stores.

Chestertown—This small, well-preserved town, north of Rt. 50 once you cross the Bay Bridge, was the center of commerce in the 1700s. George Washington lent his name

when the town founded Washington University in 1782—which makes it the 10th oldest college in the United States. And...it became co-educational in 1891! This is a great town to spend the night in one of their B&Bs on the banks of the Chester River. There is ample antique shopping, with more than a dozen art galleries. Beautiful 18th and 19th century homes have been restored and well preserved.

Crisfield—this small fishing town must be mentioned, as it has been long-considered the "Crab Capital of the World"—yes, of the world. It is, of course, famous for its seafood, especially the Maryland Blue Crab, and is among the best in claiming excellent fishing grounds. Situated at the head of the Chesapeake Bay, its residents have been fishermen's occupation has been handed down decade upon decade, as they continue to earn their living on their skipjacks which daily motor on the Bay.

Smith Island—if you are a newcomer to Maryland, it won't be long before you learn about, and hopefully taste, a Smith Island Cake. In 2008 Smith Island Cake was designated as the official dessert of the state of Maryland. It features 8 to 15 thin layers of cake filled with crème, frosting and/or crushed candy bars. It is iced with a cooked chocolate icing. In the 1800s Smith Islanders would send the cakes with watermen to the mainland. The most common flavor is yellow cake. The Islanders speak a local dialect. The community is located in the central part of the island, but sadly the Island has lost 3,300 acres of wetlands due to erosion into the Chesapeake Bay. It is only accessible by boat, with passenger-only ferries connecting it

at Ewell to Solomons to the west and Crisfield to the east.

Salisbury and Cambridge—Years ago, these two small cities were basically passed by cars driving on Route 50 east on their way to Ocean City and vacation destinations. Today, each city has had a revitalization, with charming shopping districts and pleasant dining venues. Salisbury State has been renamed Salisbury University, a well-respected choice for higher learning.

Berlin—A few miles west of Ocean City nestles the tiny town of Berlin, which suddenly had a claim to fame when Julia Roberts and Richard Gere filmed “The Runaway Bride” in town. Now back to ‘normal, it is a wonderful destination for a quiet walk through its three-block center where you will find several antique shops, many which concentrate on artifacts from the ‘30s, ‘40s and ‘50s. It’s a great place to bring back memories of your childhood. The Atlantic Hotel in the center of town has a marvelous lunch and dinner menu and its rooms upstairs retain the building’s 1895-era charm. (www.atlantichotel.com).

Ocean City—Ten miles of clean, sandy, sharp-shell-free beach, lifeguards every 100 yards or so to protect the thousands of swimmers, trams gliding along the 2+ mile newly renovated Boardwalk, Salt Water Taffy, Thrasher’s Fries, Candy Kitchen shops, Old Pro golf, amusement rides, concerts on the beach....this is Ocean City! Accommodations run from one-room motels to uber-expensive suites in high-rise condominiums. From the Inlet up to 145th Street, Ocean City offers everyone everything he/she could possibly want or need while at the beach. Restaurants? Hundreds. Shops? Even more! Yes, it can be considered a day trip,

about a three-hour drive—WHEN TRAFFIC IS GENTLE—from Columbia. But it’s best to plan on staying at least one night somewhere off Coastal Highway. And don’t forget the track at **Ocean Downs** or the **Casino** located on the same site. Ocean City now boasts a 52-week season, with conventions, and craft shows contracted every week of the year. (www.oceancity.com) So grab a ‘beach book’, your sunblock, beach chair, and head for Ocean City!

FOR WINE LOVERS:

Many in our community belong to our S.O. Wine Club. Here is a list of six wineries in Maryland that might interest you. Visit (www.MarylandWine.com/Wine-Trails) for more information. Antietam Highlands Wine Trail; Carroll Wine Trail; Chesapeake Wine Trail; Frederick Wine Trail, Patuxent Wine Trail, Piedmont Wine Trail.

COLUMBIA AND HOWARD COUNTY:

Savage Mill: This is a very popular destination when guests come to visit. Located in Savage, about 15 minutes from S.O., it is the site of a textile weaving factory on the banks of the Little Patuxent River, built in 1820. Today nine buildings remain which date back to 1820 and are mostly interconnected. Over 200 renowned dealers of antiques and collectibles have their shops in Savage Mill. The Ram’s Head Tavern is located in an upper level Besides antiques, shops include clocks, clothing, children’s games, art work, gifts, contemporary American crafts, etc. R. 32 East, exit to Rt. 1

South to Savage on your right.
(www.savagemill.com)

Ellicott City: Two years ago, Ellicott City was designated as one of the top 10 places—IN THE UNITED STATES!—for antique shopping. Only 10 minutes from S.O., this is a grand place for your company to visit. Breakfast, lunch and dinner restaurants are right on Main Street. Parking is free in their large lot. And please visit the relocated Howard County Tourism office, now in the old Post Office Building on upper Main Street.

Things to do in Columbia in the summer— Did you know that Centennial Lake, off Rt. 108 gives Kayak Lessons? They are one hour each, and kayaks are provided.

SUNSET CONCERTS ON CENTENNIAL LAKE: read the Columbia Flyer or go to www.columbiaassociation.com for days and time. Bring chairs or a blanket, and snacks, and enjoy wonderful concerts, FOR FREE

Tickets, Certificates, Restaurant Gift Cards, etc.—At C.A. Headquarters on 10221 Wincopin Circle (across from the Mall), you can purchase all of these. They have a list of all the theatres, movies and restaurants that are included. For more information, call the Membership Service Center: 410-730-1802

Now go and enjoy your summer!!

Sincerely,

Jan Brady