



# The Spring Mills Bulletin

**"A planned community...A great place to live!"**

Volume 15 – Issue 33

November 2020

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## President's Message

Dear Neighbors,

I hope you and your family and friends have been safe and are doing well. This has been a taxing year, but I hope you've also had joy and good times. We've continued many of our yearly activities, such as the pool, the Ice Cream Man, and Music in the Park. Everyone has such a good time at these events that I'm happy we're able to continue and expand upon them. The weather was cool and clear for Halloween which made for a great evening for all the Trick or Treaters. It was wonderful seeing all the costumes and smiles.

We still have a lot going on with the upcoming Holiday season, Santa's visit and the Annual Holiday Decorating contest. [Please see page 3](#) for more information on these events.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Holiday Season with family and friends. Please stay safe and have a wonderful New Year.

*Stephen Casimir*

## Upcoming Events

- **Santa's Visit – Dec 12, 2 PM -4 PM**  
[See Page 3 for details](#)
- **Christmas Decorating Contest – Dec 16, 7 PM**  
[See Page 3 for details](#)

## Manager's Message

The Holidays will be here before you know it! Although 2020 has brought uncertainties, it has taught us to come together (safely) and make the most out of what life bring us. The holidays often bring us cheer and give us something to look forward to – from decorating and baking to

creating memories with family and loved ones, there is something for everyone. Who doesn't love eating all of the yummy food that comes with the holidays? One of my favorite things to bake this time of year is cookies! Below is one of my favorite cookie recipes:

### "Oatmeal Scotchies"

#### Ingredients:

- 1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter or margarine, softened
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- ¾ cup packed brown sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract or grated peel of 1 orange
- 3 cups quick or old-fashioned oats
- 11-ounce package of NESTLÉ® TOLL HOUSE® Butterscotch Flavored Morsels



#### Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 375° F
2. Combine flour, baking soda, salt and cinnamon in small bowl. Beat butter, granulated sugar, brown sugar, eggs and vanilla extract in large mixer bowl. Gradually beat in flour mixture. Stir in oats and morsels. Drop by rounded tablespoon onto ungreased baking sheets.
3. Bake for 7 to 8 minutes for chewy cookies or 9 to 10 minutes for crisp cookies. Cool on baking sheets for 2 minutes; remove to wire racks to cool completely.

*\* This recipe is courtesy of NESTLÉ® TOLL HOUSE® and can be found on the back of a package of their Butterscotch Morsels*

~ Michelle Showers, Community Manager

## New Construction Update

Welcome to all of our newest members! Panhandle Builders continues their building of Villa homes off of Saffron Terrace. At this time Spring Mills has a total of 647 residential and commercial units.

welcome!

## x Here comes Santa Claus....

It will not be long until the excitement of the holiday season will be in full swing and children will be visiting Santa with their lists.

Santa Claus will be available for children on Saturday, December 12 from 2-4pm at the North Berkeley Library, located at the entrance to Spring Mills. Refreshments will be served.

Social distancing and safe practices will be maintained for all. If there are any changes to this plan, please watch the Face book page or check your email. Have a safe and healthy holiday season!!!

## Holiday Decorating Contest

The Holidays will be here before you know it! The Spring Mills Subdivision hosts an annual Holiday Decorating Contest. Christmas light judging will be held on December 16th @ 7pm. Have your Christmas lights on if you wish to participate. Results will be posted on the Community Face book page the next day.

1st place \$50  
2nd place \$25  
3rd place \$25

This is a great opportunity to show off your creativity! Good Luck!!

## x Winter Maintenance x

### Here's a simple checklist to help you prepare for Winter:

#### Indoor Winterizing

- Examine doors and replace weather-stripping as needed.
- Examine window caulking and reseal where needed.
- Examine and repair vents where needed.
- Clean chimneys and flues.
- Remove items near heat vents.
- Place nonskid runners or door mats outside to help keep water and salt out of the house.

#### Outdoor Winterizing

- Cut back tree branches and shrubs that hide signs or block light.
- Examine outdoor handrails and tighten if needed.
- Turn off electrical breakers for outdoor equipment.
- Turn off outside water faucets to keep the water lines from freezing during prolonged cold spells. To properly winterize a hose bib, turn the inside pipe to the "closed" position, and turn the outside water spigot to the "open" position.
- Clean out gutters and downspouts.
- Spray outdoor locks and hinges with lubricant.

Stake driveway edges that may be difficult to find under deep snow.



## International Space Station - Can you see it?



“Quick!” my husband tells me. “You don’t want to miss seeing it!” And, honestly, I hope I don’t miss it because it will only be visible this time for three minutes! We rush outside to our front yard, feeling the crisp October air on our faces at 7 pm, in hopes of seeing it pass overhead at 7:04 pm. For this sighting, the text that he has received states that it will be visible at a height of 82 degrees and will appear in the WNW sky, disappearing to the SE. We love the challenge of getting to see it every few weeks. However, what it represents is much more important – scientific collaboration amongst many nations!

But wait...hold on a minute. Perhaps I should back up and start at the beginning.

Between the years of 1998 to 2011, fifteen countries worked together to build the largest single structure that humans have ever put into space. It is called the International Space Station. The station does continue to evolve to include new missions and experiments. It is celebrating twenty years in 2020 because it has been continuously occupied since November 2, 2000. Check out this short video *Bridge Above: Twenty Years of the International Space Station*  
<https://www.nasa.gov/station20>

As of January 2018, there have been 230 individuals from 18 countries who have visited the ISS. Crew size is usually 3 to 6 people and they complete a wide variety of research and experiments. The space station flies about 250 miles above the Earth at a speed of about 17,500 mph. This means that it circles the globe every 90 minutes or so.

So, what does this have to do with our evening sighting? You guessed it! We were watching for the International Space Station! You see, the International Space Station “can rival the brilliant planet Venus in brightness and appears as a bright moving light across the night sky. It can be seen from Earth without the use of a telescope by night sky observers who know when and where to look” ([www.space.com](http://www.space.com))

You can sign up to “Spot the Station” every few weeks too! It’s fun and easy. Just go to: <https://spotthestation.nasa.gov/signup.cfm>

Once on the website, enter Falling Waters, WV Next, you will need to select whether you want an email or mobile text alert. You will then receive an 8-digit code to enter on the website which will complete your Spot the Station registration.

Happy Sighting!

*Submitted by Louise Black, AKA the Science Lady*



## Signs Are Important



There has been an increasing number of concerns received in regards to residents and guests who do not obey the traffic signs posted along the streets throughout the community. Drivers please be aware of your surroundings and obey the speed limit and stop signs. These signs are installed to help keep residents safe.



## Snow Removal Policy

Winter is coming, which means snow will be here before you know it! As a reminder, here is the Spring Mills snow removal policy.

Snow will be removed from the streets once accumulation reaches 4 inches or more.

- When there's a major storm, snow removal will begin when the storm is over.
- In case of large accumulations, the plows will clear one lane on each street first and then return to clear the streets completely. This allows emergency vehicles to access all homes as soon as possible.
- Streets on hills will be salted if icy.
- Gravel from the sides of the streets might get pushed into yards. This is unavoidable, and it is the responsibility of the resident to remove it back to the gravel strip.
- If the edge of your driveway is not completely flush with the street surface, the plows may cause damage. If you have your

driveway resurfaced, it is your responsibility to make sure it is flush with the street.

- Please do not remove or damage the reflective marker poles on fire hydrants and at the sides of speed bumps. If you see one removed or damaged, please report it to the Association.
- If you are able, it would be very helpful if you clear out around the fire hydrant nearest your home.
- Harassment or threats to the snow plow operators will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted as criminal acts.

Please be aware that the process of completely clearing the streets might take two or more days, depending on the severity of the snow. If you have any questions or concerns about snow removal, please email [info@springmills.org](mailto:info@springmills.org).

## A Proud Resident of Spring Mills

When I retired from the Spring Mills unit owners' HOA Board of Directors a couple of years ago I was sure that the community would go to rack and ruin without me. After twelve years of working through the transition from the developer, Bruce Van Wyk, absorbing the pool and tennis courts, setting up our capital fund, etc., I was sure that they could not get along without me.

Boy was I wrong. After back surgery and rehab, I was recovered enough to get back on my bicycle and tour the neighborhood. I was

amazed at how well our neighborhood is maintained and how our residents take such pride in their properties. With few exceptions landscaping and lawns are well maintained and homes are well kept.

"Thank you" to our association Board and our management company for keeping our community the place I had always hoped to live in for my retirement. The community is in good hands.

*Bob Ayrer*

## Another Memorable Swim Season... But Time for a Facelift??

You may have seen some construction going on at the pool during the past month. Our pool was in need of a major renovation in order to keep it functional for the years to come. The Board approved a renovation for this maintenance and it has proved to be quite successful.

Wilcoxon Pearl Company out of Rockville, MD was the contractor. This company has been in business for nearly 30 years and specializes in concrete pools. Over time, concrete pools wear due to water, weather, chemicals, etc. Our pool of 25 years had crumbling tiles and coping stones, and was in need of a white coat to preserve the integrity of the concrete. It has a bit different look but will glisten with the summer's sunshine.

The pool is a focal point of our community and a major socializing and fitness option for many people. This past summer was rather different due to Covid 19, guidelines, etc., but we got through it and are looking forward to hopefully a more normal season next year. And our pool will be ready!

The pool staff looks forward to seeing you next year!!

## Dog Station Monitors Needed!

If you have a dog waste bag station near your house that you would like to help monitor and fill with bags, please let us know. We will give you a key and some bags. Send email to [info@springmills.org](mailto:info@springmills.org)

## Join the SMHOA Email List.

Clagett Management and the Board are attempting to increase their email addresses to provide ongoing communication with the Spring Mills Homeowners. If you would like to receive emails regarding information in the community, please send your email address, name, and home address to [mshowers@clagett.com](mailto:mshowers@clagett.com).

The content of the emails is mostly regarding events, updates, or schedule changes. You will not be overwhelmed with emails from Clagett and your email address will not be shared with others.

You are also encouraged to "Like" the Spring Mills Unit Owners' Association Face book page and visit the community website [www.springmills.org](http://www.springmills.org). On the website you can view the governing documents, download community forms, view the monthly board meeting minutes, view community news & updates, and more!

## Thank You Halloween Volunteers

...to the Halloween Volunteers who were stationed on TJ Jackson for reminding people to drive slowly through the neighborhood during trick or treating. We really appreciate our neighbors stepping up and helping out! Special Thanks to Dean Kline, Wes Yates and Ron Little.



## Election for 2021/2022 Board of Directors

Your association Board of Directors is conducting an election for the continuity of the leadership of our community. We are asking for community volunteers to guide and manage the Spring Mills Subdivision, both residential and commercial.

In 2016 the Board of Directors, under the authority granted in its bylaws under Article III, section 18 – Management Agent, elected to engage a professional management company, Clagett Management, for the business management of our community. Although this greatly reduced the day-to-day administrative duties previously required of the board members, the community must still have a Board of Directors to advise the management company!

Included below is a Nomination Form, which is your opportunity to run for the upcoming 2021/2022 Board of Directors for the Spring Mills Subdivision. Please include any and all experience in management, budgeting, or life experiences, which would assist you in serving on the Board. Please note that no specific experience is necessary in order to be considered – just a willingness to serve the community!

The Board’s objectives remain the same – to protect the quality of life in our community and enhance the value of our properties. This can only be done with good management.

**Interested parties should return the nomination form no later than January 11, 2021 in order to have your name printed on the ballot in time for the annual meeting in February 2021.**

### SPRING MILLS

#### Nomination Form – 2021/2022 Board of Directors

This is your opportunity to participate in the important work of keeping our community the quality neighborhood we all want. Please submit this nomination form no later than January 11, 2021.

By Mail: Spring Mills Unit Owners’ Association  
c/o Clagett Management  
115 N. Queen Street  
Martinsburg, WV 25401

By email to: [mshowers@clagett.com](mailto:mshowers@clagett.com)

Yes, I would like to submit myself as a candidate;

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief background of qualifications:

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Heather Field – Editor

Ron Little – Layout and Design

Email letters to the editor, article ideas, and suggestions for  
community events to [info@springmills.org](mailto:info@springmills.org).

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