



# VOU News for You

VOUCA Management Newsletter/ December 12, 2011

## News You Can Use

### Comment Period for Design Guidelines Modification

As a reminder, the comment period for the Design Guidelines modification for yard ornaments (detailed in the Nov. 28 newsletter) remains open until January 5, 2012. If you'd like to submit a comment about the change, please contact the Management office.

### Fitness Center Key Fobs

**In response to popular demand, a second key fob will be made available per household. The charge will be \$20 per key fob, payable by check. Checks should be made out to Villages of Urbana.**

If you have not picked up your Fitness Center key fob, fobs may be picked up at the Shafer's Mill Recreation Center from 1-4 PM weekdays.

*The Shafer's Mill office will be open on Saturday, December 17 from 8 AM to 12 noon.*

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### Questions? Concerns? Contact Us

On-site Office: 9023 Harris St.  
Frederick, MD 21704  
Phone: 301-831-4810  
Fax: 301-831-4811  
Email: vouadmin@casinc.biz  
Office Hours: 10 AM- 4 PM  
General Manager: Aimee Winegar  
Asst. Manager: Elizabeth Jenkins

## Snow is Just Around the Corner

**D**ecember is well underway, and snowy weather is just around the corner.

The VOU Snow Plan will be available on-line later this week. If your street sign is green, Frederick County is responsible for snow removal. If your street sign is white, VOU is responsible for snow removal.

Due to budget concerns Frederick County is changing the way they plow roads. They will plow 2 lanes on all roads so that cars may pass. They will not be clearing curb-to-curb as they have done in the past seasons.

Here are some tips to follow during a snow event:

- Only Sugarloaf Parkway and Worthington Boulevard (Rt. 355) are considered Priority County Roads. During heavy snow events, Frederick County will plow only the roads listed on the Priority Roads list. Once the storm has passed, they will go and clear the secondary roads and subdivision roads. Once all streets have been cleared and material has been applied, they will widen back all roads.
- Please park vehicles in driveways and not on the roadway or in cul-de-sacs. Vehicles in the roadways or cul-de-sacs will be towed at the owner's expense.
- If you don't have access to an off-street parking area, neighborhoods can help by parking all vehicles on the same side of the street. This gives the plow more room to work.
- During snow events, please park in designated parking spaces only. Vehicles should never be parked in alleys. If you have a garage, please use it for parking.
- If you shovel your driveway apron before the snow plow comes through, always place the snow on the right, facing the street.
- Stay at least two car lengths behind a snow plow for every 20 mph you are traveling; never cut between a caravan of plows that is clearing the highway.
- Listen to the radio before and during a storm to see if the Snow Emergency Plan has been declared in Frederick County.
- Do not drive during a severe winter storm.
- Report all unsafe road conditions immediately to Highway Operations at 301-600-1564. After hours, call Central Communications' non-emergency number at 301-600-1603.



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### Holiday Trash Pick-Up

Please note that trash pick-up will be collected on your usual day during the week of Christmas and New Years. There will be no changes to the trash removal schedule due to the holidays.

### Management Office Closings

The on-site management office at the Natelli Community Center will be closed at 1 PM on Friday, December 16. The management office at the Shafer's Mill Recreation Center will be closed for fob distribution on Friday, December 16. The office will be open for fob distribution on Saturday, December 17 from 8 AM to 12 Noon.

### Meeting Schedule

Week of December 12:

Board of Directors Conference Call, December 14, 11:00 AM.

Week of December 19:

VOU Finance Committee, Monday, December 19 at 7 PM

### Whom Do You Call?

Frederick County Sheriff's Office Non-Emergency Number: 301-600-2071  
Washington Gas: 800-752-7520  
Allegheny Power: 800-255-3443  
Frederick County Water and Sewer: 301-600-2187 M-F; 301-600-2194 after hours and holidays  
VOU After Hours Emergency: 888-788-2678

## Board of Directors requests Design Review Committee to consider guidelines related to groundcover and edgers

At its regular meeting, November 29, 2011, the VOU Board of Directors received several resident petitions related to groundcover and mulch color, as well as an appeal related to the use of decorative stone for groundcover. In response, the Board requested that the DRC consider the current guidelines related to groundcover and edgers, potentially to include scalloped edgers and groundcovers other than brown or black mulch. Specifically, the following questions are to be considered:

- Should red mulch be approved as a mulch color?
- Should scalloped or other decoratively shaped edgers be permitted?
- Should river rock or gravel be considered in yards as an alternative to mulch?

The Design Review Committee kicked off the discussion at its December 6 meeting. Several residents were in attendance to give comments about the current guidelines. Residents who would like to submit comments are invited to do so throughout December and January. The DRC will also be reviewing the design guidelines in place in comparable communities which may be considered as examples, as well. At present, the design philosophy in VOU is aimed at highlighting the homes and plantings—red mulch and decorative edgers are prohibited because they can be seen as competing with the architecture and landscaping plants. Brown and black mulch and low edgers which tend to visually blend with the landscaping are permitted. The widespread use of stones in planter beds is also prohibited.

Your input is important! Please contact the community management office by email ([vouadmin@casinc.biz](mailto:vouadmin@casinc.biz)) or in a short note to convey your opinion to the Design Review Committee.

## Yard Waste Recycling to be Continued

**Good news!** We have negotiated with Key Sanitation to extend the yard waste collection through the month of January, 2012. Yard waste/leaf collection will also be collected with Christmas tree pick-up during the month of January.

Natural Christmas trees will be collected from the curb in front of your house beginning the week after Christmas and continuing throughout January. Please remove all decorations, lights and stands. There is no additional charge for this service.

*Santa's visits were a tremendous success. Thanks to Santa for spending time with the VOU. The community room at the Natelli Community Center will be open daily from 10 AM to 4 PM if you would like to stop by for a family photo in front of the tree. Remember the office will be closing at 1 PM on Friday, December 16.*

