



Come Out to Vote at the Owen Brown Annual Meeting and Election on April 25!

Friday, March 20, 2026, was the deadline for declaring candidacy for both the Owen Brown Board of Directors and the Columbia Council (CA). While the Owen Brown Village Board seats are uncontested, **Michael Golibersuch** and **William H. Campbell** declared their candidacy for the one open seat on the Columbia Council (CA). To learn more about these candidates, please see their statements and photos on page 5 of the *OBserver*.

Owen Brown Community Association will hold its **Annual Meeting** on Saturday, **April 25**, for the purpose of electing a **Columbia Council Representative** (CA Board of Directors). In person voting for this meeting will take place between 8:30 am -12:00 pm at the Owen Brown Community Center (OBCC), 6800 Cradlerock Way. To be eligible to vote you must be either an owner or a tenant within the association. Only one vote per lot is allowed, unless the residential property has a tenant, then both owner and tenant can vote. Tenants, however, must provide proof of residency prior to voting by submitting a copy of their lease to

the Village Office, or to the Election Committee, the day of the meeting.

For the meeting on April 25 to be valid, a quorum of 341 eligible votes must be cast either in person or by absentee prior to the close of voting. If a quorum is not reached on April 25, a second meeting will be held on Tuesday, **May 12**, at 7:00 pm at the OBCC. Those present at the meeting will constitute a quorum and the results of the first meeting vote will be reported.

Absentee voting is available from April 1st - April 24. Voting instructions are found on page 7 of the *Observer*. All absentee ballots must be received before 5 pm on April 24.

We look forward to seeing you at our *Meet the Candidates* event on **April 12**, or at the *Election*, or at our new *Community Festival*, both being held on **April 25**, at the OBCC.

Bounce to the Ballot
Community Festival
 at Owen Brown Community Center
 Come for the Election,
 Stay for the FUN!
Saturday, April 25th
10am – 1:00pm

FREE **FREE**

Community Organizations Carnival Games Inflatables
 Face Painting Balloon Creations



Owen Brown Community Association

OBCA Meetings & Events

Absentee & Online Voting	April 1-24, 5 pm
OB Board Meeting	April 7, 7 pm
OB RAC Meeting	April 8, 7:30 pm
Meet the Candidates	April 12, 1pm
OB Work Session	April 21 7pm
OB RAC Meeting,	April 22, 7:30 pm
Election Day	April 25, 8:30 am- 12pm
Bounce to the Ballot	
Community Festival	April 25 10 am- 1pm
Plant and Shrub Give Away	May 2, 10 am-12 pm
Annual Meeting	May 12, 7pm
and Board Meeting	
Blooming Bingo	May 17, 2 pm
Lego STEAM Workshop	June 6, 2:30 PM

Visit <https://linktr.ee/owenbrownvillage> to learn more or register for any of our events.

Owen Brown Board Bulletin

from the desk of Board Chair, Brad Butler

Spring is finally here — the flowers are blooming, the trails are busy, and it's great to be outside again! It has been a few months since my last update, and there is a lot to share.

Elections are coming! Owen Brown will choose its CA representative for a 2-year term starting in May. Our Meet-the-Candidates Event is April 12th, and the election is April 25th. Please come and make your voice heard! The village board slate is uncontested this year, but we will have a new member and I look forward to working with them!

You may recall from prior updates that we worked with the other village associations to update the formula that determines how CA distributes its village grant funding. Owen Brown has long received less per-capita than most villages, and while we made some progress with this update (there is broad acknowledgment that the current formula over-subsidizes large facilities in other villages) the process did not produce the outcome that we hoped for.

County representatives joined us in February to provide updates on several projects underway in Owen Brown. Designs for Cradlerock Park, the Cradlerock Way complete streets improvements, and the Dobbin Road multi-use path are nearly complete, with land acquisition and final planning underway. Construction on all three is expected to begin later this year — exciting progress on projects that we've advocated for over several years.

Finally, CA has been busy improving Lake Elkhorn. New wayfinding signage is installed around the lake, a bridge replacement is underway where a car damaged the existing bridge, and a bioretention project is under construction with planting expected this spring. This project is going to convert a swampy area of grass to a space for people to sit and enjoy nature between the pathway and Broken Land Parkway -



Love Where You Live



Saturday

April 18th @ 10 am

Owen Brown CARES

Community Action and Resources
for Environmental Stewardship

Meet at the
Leafy Screen Adopt-A-Spot



Down the Trail from the Leafy Screen Mail box

Leafy Screen Adopt-A-Spot

Spring Cleaning and Planting

Open to All Residents

Dress appropriately, close toe shoes and bring your gloves as well as water. There is poison ivy around, so wear long sleeves and pants.

Interested in joining us or have any questions contact: Linda Ortiz-Byrd @ Linda96ort@gmail.com

Election Day

Vote on

Saturday, April 25, 2026

8:30 AM-12:00 PM



Follow Us





Lake Kittamaqundi to Receive Improvements, Including a New Lakefront Stage

From the desk of Michael Golibersuch, OBCA Columbia Council Representative

The Columbia Association (CA) Board of Directors held a regular meeting on February. 26 No decisions were made but a variety of topics were discussed.

The Board approved an easement granting Howard County rights to a small portion of CA property in front of the Owen Brown Community Center. This will enable the county to begin the “Complete Streets” initiative on Cradelrock intended to increase safety. Owen Brown Community Association and many members of the community have been advocating for this project for several years. In the future, it may be beneficial for CA to consider if its easement process is overly bureaucratic and needlessly creating more work for projects overwhelmingly supported by the community and with clear safety benefits.

The Board discussed its meeting schedule for next year. Specifically, the Board is considering having eleven meetings (including two Town Halls) next year. This would be four fewer meetings than this year. I believe this would have several benefits. The Board spends an inordinate amount of time relitigating a small number of topics repeatedly - eliminating that inefficiency will be more respectful of board member and staff’s time. The reduced time commitment will make serving on the Board more palatable to a wider range of residents. And - given that administrative support to the Board costs more than \$1M annually - reducing the number of meetings will allow CA to redirect revenue towards resident benefits.

CA’s staff presented an overview of ongoing improvements to the Lake Kitt Lakefront. These include releveling the brick pavers, cleaning and repairing light fixtures, and new railings. Most notably, this includes a new stage for the Lakefront that will enhance the experience of CA’s free events. CA’s staff also presented its new Business Capabil-

ity Model. This business model decomposes CA’s work into resident facing deliverables and enabling shared services. The model is already identifying ways to improve efficiencies across the organization and make CA more effective.

The Board also reviewed updates to its own operating procedures. The presented updates are mostly clerical in nature and part of a housekeeping exercise to declutter, de-conflict, and consolidate various policies that have been developed over CA’s 50+ year history.

CA’s staff also provided an initial update on CA’s long term capital planning. CA is almost 60 years old and many of our facilities are past or approaching the end of their lives. To maintain the quality of amenities residents deserve, CA will need to rebuild or renovate these facilities over the coming decades similar to the investment made in the early years of Columbia which provided us with the facilities we currently have. This long term capital plan will enable CA to make effective long-term decisions about how to best prioritize and invest its resources. Of note, completely rebuilding every asset in its current form is projected to cost almost \$390M (in today’s dollars). CA does not have the financial resources to spend that much and will need to weigh tradeoffs associated with raising revenue and/or consolidating facilities. The long term capital plan will continue to be developed and refined by soliciting community input, analyzing the community’s needs, and assessing CA’s practical financial options.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at michael.golibersuch@ca-board.org or stop me to say hello as I walk my brown-and-white dog (who looks like a border collie but isn’t) around Lake Elkhorn.



Your place to find friendly reminders regarding property maintenance

Are you looking for a meaningful way to get involved and give back to your community?

The Owen Brown Residential Architectural Committee (RAC) is looking for volunteer members! This committee meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday evenings each month to review and discuss architectural applications from neighbors in the community. Members also take turns conducting property inspections to confirm requested changes align with our community guidelines. It’s a great opportunity for anyone who cares about maintaining the quality and appearance of our neighborhood while getting to meet our neighbors — and it’s a manageable, low-pressure way to serve.

Any Village of Owen Brown resident age 18 or older is welcome to apply. If you (or someone you know) are interested, please email covenants@owenbrownvillage.org for more information.



BOOK YOUR SPRING EVENTS NOW!

Whether you're hosting a spring celebration, shower, or birthday, we have the perfect room for you.

Rental Rates

Dasher Green 70 (64 seated guests)
 Mon-Fri 5 hrs, \$600. Add'l hrs \$105.
 Sat-Sun 5 hrs, \$650. Add'l hrs \$115.

Hopewell 100 (96 seated guests)
 Mon-Fri 5 hrs, \$650. Add'l hrs \$115.
 Sat-Sun 5 hrs, \$700. Add'l hrs \$125.

Business Meetings 25 (seated guests)
 Mon-Fri \$50 per hour

Rental Information

rentals@owenbrownvillage.org

6800 Cradlerock Way
 Columbia, MD 21045
 410.381.0202



LEGO ROBOTICS WORKSHOP



Scan the QR Code to Register

June 6th @ 2:30pm

Free, hands-on STEM fun!

Kids will explore creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving through interactive activities, including LEGO® Education kits and other exciting STEM projects.

Funded by the Howard County YEP! Grant and in Partnership with OBCA.




6800 Cradlerock Way
 Columbia, MD 21045
 410.381.0202



Blooming BINGO

MAY 17TH @ 2PM

WHERE EVERY WIN HELPS YOUR GARDEN GROW

\$5 PER PERSON



On Sale April 4th

All Ages Welcome. Lights Refreshments Served.



Spring Plant Giveaway

May 2

Arrowwood viburnum

Buttonbush

American Beautyberry

Red Osier Dogwood

Registration Opens April 5th



All items should be picked up Saturday May 2nd. Limited quantities, registration required.

To qualify for a tree/shrub, you must be the owner of a property within the Owen Brown Community Association and agree to planting at the registered address. Each address is eligible for one giveaway per year.

Meet Your OB Columbia Council Representative Candidates!



Michael Golibersuch
Candidate
Owen Brown Village Board
Columbia Council Representative



William H. Campbell
Candidate
Owen Brown Village Board
Columbia Council Representative

Giving back to my community is a core value of mine. I was raised in Owen Brown, served in the Army, and chose to return here to raise my own family. I have several years of experience in the military, business, and community. My six years on the OBCA board and two on the CA board have focused on several things: responsible stewardship of our annual charge dollars; supporting vital environmental investments - including community reforestation and the Natural Resources Stewardship Plan; and local capital projects like the Lake Elkhorn fishing pier refurbishments and our new pollinator garden. I make it a point to personally respond to every resident who reaches out with questions or concerns. With your support I will continue to prioritize transparency, the preservation of open spaces, and ensuring that our annual charges deliver maximum value through a diverse range of quality amenities.

As a longtime resident of Owen Brown Village, I remain committed to James Rouse's vision of Columbia as a community where all residents can live and thrive. After 50 successful years Columbia is at a point where future development may adversely impact Rouse's vision. I would utilize my successful executive experience to ensure that the Columbia Association (CA) makes prudent, and appropriate decisions that support Columbia's future success.

I have 15 years' experience as a Chief Financial Officer in both the public and private sectors. I have 8 years' experience as an Audit Committee member for both NASA, and the National Academy of Public Administration. I believe that I can provide constructive oversight for CA's \$75M annual budget, and 1,500 employees.



Meet the Candidates

Sunday, April 12th

1pm - 2pm

Owen Brown Community Center

Join Us and Make Your Voice Heard!

6800 Cradlerock Way, 21045



ETHOS PRIME

GAME DESIGN **CAMP 2026**

CAMPS BEGIN JUNE 22, 2026



CREATIVE GAME DESIGN



TEAMWORK AND COLLABORATION



CONFIDENCE THROUGH PRACTICE

DESIGNED FOR **AGES 6-12**

\$395/WK

OWEN BROWN COMMUNITY CENTER

WWW.MASLOWSLOOM.COM | 800-274-0965



HEAD OF STEAM

\$345/WK

owen brown community center **SUMMER CAMP 2026**

Designed for ages 6-12

Camps Begin June 22

- **LEGO ROBOTICS**
- **ARTS**
- **DISCOVERY LEARNING**



info@maslowsloom.com
www.maslowsloom.com

REGISTER NOW 800-274-0965

How to Vote in the Village Annual Meeting Election

There are three ways to vote in the upcoming election:

1. **Online** – Beginning April 1 thru April 24 by 5:00 pm
2. **Paper** – Fill out the ballot on page 8 and return by 5:00 pm on April 24
3. **In Person** – Come to the Owen Brown Community Center on April 25, between 8:30 am and 12:00 pm (noon)



Early Voting Bonus!

Those who vote between 8:30 and 9am will receive their choice breakfast nosh, while supplies last. (Must arrive to vote by 9 am on Election Day.)

Instructions for Online voting:

Beginning April 1st thru the 24th (till 5 pm), you can vote online by going to the following website address: <https://bit.ly/OBCA2026> or scanning the **QR code above**. Once there, insert your unique **PIN number**, which can be found on the back page of this *OB*server next to your address highlighted in yellow. Follow the directions on the screen and you are done. (*The PIN number can only be used once for voting.*)

Instructions for using Absentee Ballot on page 8

Detach the ballot on page 8 and fill in. You must sign the ballot and include all identifying information for your vote to be valid. Mail or drop off your ballot to the Owen Brown Community Center, 6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045. *All absentee ballots must be received by 5:00 pm on April 24th.*

Columbia Association

Friends of Hopewell Meadow

CA's Sustainability team is seeking volunteers to join our community-driven conservation group dedicated to maintaining and monitoring 1.6 acres of pollinator habitat in Hopewell Park, Columbia, MD.

**Wednesday afternoons
1-4pm • Hopewell Meadow**

Open to the public
Tasks include invasive plant mapping and control, biological inventorying and monitoring, native plant revegetation, pollinator counts and much more.
For more information, scan codes or email sustainability@columbiaassociation.org.

CA's Bee Sustainable 

Friends of Hopewell Meadow Project 

CA Is Hiring New Lifeguards; Apply Now!

Columbia Association (CA) is looking for new lifeguards and pool managers in your community. CA team members enjoy flexible hours, a fun work environment, competitive pay



(starting at \$16.25 an hour), and a free CA Fit&Play membership — including pools, gyms, and much more! The first step in the process is to visit Columbia Aquatics at <https://columbiaassociation.org/about-us/careers/aquatics> for more information.

Wine ⁱⁿ the Woods

Owen Brown Community Association
6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045

May 16 & 17



- Maryland Wineries
- Maryland Breweries
- Live Bands
- Gourmet Food
- Juried Artisans
- Wine Education Seminars

www.WineInTheWoods.com



Owen Brown Community Association
Scan Here for our E-Newsletter

owenbrownvillage.org

Owen Brown Village Election Absentee Ballot

OWEN BROWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
2026 Village Election Absentee Ballot

OB Columbia Council Representative (CA)
Only vote for one

_____ Michael Golibersuch _____ William H. Campbell

If quorum is not reached at the April 25th Annual Meeting, a second meeting will be held on May 12th, solely for the purpose of validating the April 25th Election results. At the May 12th meeting, the Election Committee will recast this ballot on your behalf and no other business will be conducted.

Absentee ballots (print or online) must be received in the mail or dropped off on or before April 24th, 2026 by 5pm at the:

Owen Brown Community Center
6800 Cradlerock Way
Columbia, MD 21045

**ELECTION COMMITTEE WILL
DETACH PRIOR TO COUNTING**

I, _____
(print name clearly) do hereby declare that I am an Owner/Tenant (please circle one) in the association and will not be able to cast my ballot on the regular election day. (Tenants must provide a copy of their lease to the Village office on or before April 25th.)

Address: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____