



OBserver

Official newsletter of the Owen
Brown Community Association

6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045



HOOKED ON FISHING

TUESDAY

JULY 22 8:30-10:30AM
LAKE ELKHORN PAVILLION

GET READY TO CAST YOUR LINE
AND REEL IN THE BIG ONE AT
HOOKED ON FISHING!
JOIN US AT LAKE ELKHORN FOR A
MORNING OF FUN AND FISHING! THE
MARYLAND DNR BRINGS
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO LEARN
FISH IDENTIFICATION, CASTING AND
ETHICAL FISHING PRACTICES.
THIS IS A RAIN OR SHINE EVENT,
BEST SUITED FOR AGES 8-15.

LAKE ELKHORN PAVILLION
9862 BROKENLAND PKWY
COLUMBIA, MD 21045



Registration opens
July 1st

Registration required. Scan the QR
Code to register. Space is limited.

410.381.0202

Here's What's Happening at OBCA in July and August!

We have created a new link tree to help you find all Owen Brown news, events and registrations easily. It can be found at <https://linktr.ee/owenbrownvillage>.

Join OBCA board members on July 19 from 9:30-10:30am. for a **Casual Meet-up with the Board**. Meet at the Lake Elkhorn Playground to chat with members about what's going on in Owen Brown.

On July 22nd, we are hosting **Hooked on Fishing** at 8:30am at Lake Elkhorn. Registration opens July 1.

Join us for **Bingo & Bites** on July 25th. Registration opens July 1. Use the QR code, type in the link, or find a link to registration on our link tree.

August 12, from 4-6 PM is our **Annual Shredding Event**. We hope you can stop by.

Join us for an hour session to learn more about **Estate Planning Basics** on August 13 at 6:30 PM

Coming in September- please save the date for our **Ice Cream Social** with the Board on September 7 and our **Annual Carnival** on September 27.

Please note that there will not be a printed *OBserver* in August. Please subscribe to our e-newsletter to receive updates over the next two months! Use the QR code in the ad below, or visit <https://linktr.ee/owenbrownvillage>. We look forward to seeing you at one of our events!



Owen Brown Community Association

BINGO & Bites

\$10
per person

FRIDAY JULY 25TH
DOORS OPEN @ 11:45 AM

Come hungry and grab your dabbers for
Bingo & Bites! Dig into a tasty lunch and
then dive into ten fun rounds of Bingo.
Prizes Awarded.

Limited to
Owen Brown
Residents

Registration Opens
July 1st

[OBBingoandBites2025.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/OBBingoandBites2025)



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Owen Brown Cares!

Are you eager to spruce up your neighborhood or open spaces? Join Owen Brown CARES, our community's environmental group! Collaborate with local OB master gardeners and naturalists, watershed stewards, and your neighbors. Interested in joining us or have any questions, contact Linda Ortiz-Byrd at Linda96ort@gmail.com.

Owen Brown Community Association

SCAN HERE

For Our E-Newsletter



Stay in the Know

www.owenbrownvillage.org



Upcoming Dates at OBCA

OB RAC Meeting	July 9, 7:30pm
Casual Meet up with the Board	July 19, 9:30am
Hooked on Fishing	July 22, 8:30 am
OB Board Meeting	July 22, 7 pm
OB RAC Meeting	July 23, 7:30 pm
Bingo & Bites	July 25, 11:45 am
Annual Shred Event	August 12, 4-6 pm
OB Board Meeting	August 12, 7 pm
OB RAC Meeting	August 13, 7:30 pm
Estate Planning Basics	August 13, 6:30 pm
OB Work Session	August 19, 7 pm
OB RAC Meeting	August 27, 7:30 pm
Ice Cream Social with the Board	Sept. 7, 1:30-3:30pm
Community Carnival	September 27

Owen Brown Community Association, Inc.

Office Hours

Monday-Friday	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Village Office Staff

	410-381-0202
Ilana Sambuco-Paul	Village Manager
Susan Sloan	Covenant Advisor
Kelly Kalal	Facility Cr./Event Planner
Nick Bechetti	Asst. Covenant Advisor
Lauren Buerger	Office Assistant
Kelly Carney	OBserver Editor

Village Board Members

Brad Butler	Board Chair
Linda Ortiz-Byrd	Board Vice-chair
Mae Beale	Board Member
Adil Ahmed	Board Member
Surya Wright	Board Member
Michael Golibersuch	CA Board Rep.

Owen Brown Board Bulletin

from the desk of Board Chair, Brad Butler

Happy summer! My family has certainly enjoyed the sunshine and warm weather. This month, the Owen Brown board tried something new! Mike (our CA representative), Adil (OBCA board member), and myself hosted a casual open forum at the Lake Elkhorn Playground. Several residents came by to chat about issues ranging from environmental stewardship, to traffic calming, to common area maintenance. We plan to do this again, 9:30am on Saturday July 19th. Keep an eye on our social media for updates, and please join us if you can.

The Board focused on setting and refining goals for the year. We also approved our financial statements for the fiscal year that ended April 30th, and closed two architectural violation cases. Those financial statements will be published as part of our annual update, which you will find posted on our website. I'd encourage you to read it to see how we're spending your money and advocating on your behalf, and certainly send us feedback.

Our county council representative's office provided an update on several projects coming to Owen Brown, including safety upgrades to Cradlerock Way and Dobbin Rd, and the new East Columbia Library Park. These are all in various phases of final design, and are funded to start construction sometime in the next year. Howard County DPW also stopped by to tell us about sewer repair projects on the other side of Broken Land Parkway, behind Allview, to try to prevent leaks from exposed pipes like the one that occurred upstream of Lake Elkhorn this Spring.

There is a lot going on in the community, please see the list of OBCA-sponsored events on the opposite page! Soon, we will begin planning OBCA's input to the county & CA budget cycles, and we will engage the other nine villages to renegotiate how we divide up the portion of your annual charge payment to CA that is allocated to village associations. As I've written before, Owen Brown receives a significantly smaller per-capita grant than most other villages due to a parameter in the funding formula that we're seeking to change. This would enable us to host more resident-facing events, support more Owen Brown-facing organizations, or expand our open hours at the community center.

East Columbia Preschool, located in the Owen Brown Community Center, is looking for 3 & 4 year-old students to join this fall! Look at <https://eastcolumbiapreschool.org> for registration information.

Please note, there will not be an August issue of the *OBserver* — I look forward to giving you another update in September. Please reach out anytime at OBvillageBoard@googlegroups.com - even just to say hello!



Follow Us





CA Works to Streamline Policies and Related Documents; Lakefront Live Is in Full Swing!

From the desk of Michael Golibersuch, OBCA Columbia Council

Since my last report, the Columbia Association (CA) Board of Directors has held one meeting on May 29. The new Chair, Collin Sullivan, highlighted that he will place higher emphasis on professionalism, efficiency, and civility at board meetings. I support his efforts and believe they will make board meetings more productive and welcoming for staff, board members, and residents interested in observing the Board.

Representatives from the county provided an update on several sewer maintenance projects. One project is continued work on the sewer line that runs adjacent to Broken Land between Cradlerock and Steven's Forest. You've probably noticed construction efforts there for some time as the county continues to identify exposed portions of the sewer line and works to mitigate the risk of a break. The other is a similar project located in Town Center that will require the closure of the path running from Lake Kittamaqundi to Toby's. These are both responsible and targeted efforts to protect sewer infrastructure as stormwater erosion has exposed these pipes.

The Board continued its efforts to organize CA's policies into a more searchable and up-to-date system. In support of this we approved the consolidation of several different documents into a single document, formally retired some obsolete policy documents, and formalized a system for organizing and updating policies going forward. This is all a paperwork drill to better organize our documentation and, despite some confusion, did not actually alter any of CA's operations.

Over the next few meetings, the Board has asked the staff to present potential changes to our ethics policy, code of conduct, and related governance documents for our consideration. Additionally, the Board will be thinking about the number and nature of the meetings the Board has and whether there are opportunities to conduct our business more effectively while providing better opportunities for resident engagement.

CA's Lakefront Live is in full swing. The kickoff event was a great time. I encourage everyone to check out the calendar of events: <https://columbiaassociation.org/lakefront-live/>. I hope to see you and some of these events. Additionally, CA hosted our local recognition of Gun Violence Awareness at the Lakefront on June 6th. It included several acknowledgements from CA and local politicians and was a somber time to recognize those who have lost their own lives or loved ones to senseless violence, thank those that draw attention to these issues, and reflect on how we can implement practical solutions that reduce the culture of crime and accessibility of weapons that make criminals and suicide attempts so dangerous while respecting the individual rights that define our society.

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

OBCA is starting routine maintenance inspections, focusing on Elkhorn first. A routine maintenance inspection looks for exterior house damage and problems that homeowners may not be aware of. This inspection includes issues with siding and roofs, as well as yard maintenance. If there is something that needs to be addressed, there will be a letter sent to the homeowner. Please be nice to our covenant inspector who is helping to maintain property values.

Reminder: Trash cans and recycling bins are allowed to be placed out on the day before your scheduled pick up. The cans must be securely closed. Any overflow trash should be placed in a 2nd trash can. Thank you for being mindful to these details and helping our community stay clean.

OBCA Annual Report Is Available on Our Website

Our Annual Report is now published on our website. It highlights the activities and services provided by the Owen Brown Community Association (OBCA) during the Fiscal Year 2025, which began on May 1, 2024 and ended on April 30, 2025.



To find this report please visit, <https://linktr.ee/owenbrownvillage> or scan the QR code.

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Love Where You Live

Estate Planning Basics

Wednesday August 13th
6:30pm

Retirement

Join us for a free workshop on Estate Planning Basics. A question and answer session will follow the presentation.

PRESENTED BY
ANDREW SWANEKAMP
SWANEKAMP LEGAL, LLC.

Topics will include;

- ✓ Wills
- ✓ Trusts
- ✓ Power of Attorney

Trust & Estate Planning

REGISTRATION REQUIRED



Scan the QR Code or
<https://linktr.ee/owenbrownvillage>

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Events and Classes Are Better at the OBCC!

Whether you are hosting a shower, nonprofit meeting, class or children's celebration, we have a rental room for you at Owen Brown Community Center! To learn more, use the adjacent QR code, visit our website or contact rentals@owenbrownvillage.org.



Paper Shredding
August 12th
4pm-6pm
Parking lot of OBCC
Limited to Owen Brown Residents
Limited to 8 boxes/paper bags

OB Could Help with Your Block Party!

Are you interested in having a **Summer Block Party**? Register your party with the form on our website (<https://linktr.ee/owenbrownvillage>) and submit photos and receipts for reimbursement (up to \$100) for the party.

GET THE SCOOP WHILE YOU GRAB A SCOOP!!!

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

Meet the Board
SEPT 7TH
ICE CREAM SOCIAL
OWEN BROWN COMMUNITY CENTER
1:30-3:30
Rain or Shine

RSVP
EVENTS@OWENBROWNVILLAGE.ORG
OR CALL
410.381.0202