



OBserver

Official newsletter of the Owen
Brown Community Association

6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045

Here's What's Happening at OBCA This Month

Please join us on Tuesday, May 6 at 7 PM for our **Annual Meeting** and First Board Meeting of the new Fiscal year.

Our first **HOA 101** presentation will be on **Tuesday, May 13**. Please join us at 7 pm to learn the inside details about working with HOA's to accomplish and exterior changes to your property.

On **May 15**, we are holding our first **Tea and Puzzle Contest**. Make your team and join us to compete to finish the puzzle first. See ad below for registration details.

Did you know that the Owen Brown Community Center houses a preschool? **East Columbia Preschool** is now registering for the 2025-2026 School Year! Our Afternoon Pre-K, 4/5s class still has spots available! This class features teachers and aides with advanced degrees and over 40 years of experience. For more information on enrollment, visit <http://eastcolumbiapreschool.org/registration/>.

Owen Brown Board Bulletin

from the desk of Board Chair, Brad Butler

Flowers (and pollen) are blooming, baseball season has started, and sunset is happening after dinner again!

At our April 15th board meeting, we approved a budget for the fiscal year beginning May 1 - there is a write-up on Facebook explaining some of the changes that we made in the budget. We also discussed and approved a path forward for our ongoing contract negotiation with CA, and we went over an orientation that covers how OBCA operates. We also welcomed Surya Wright, who will join the Board at our next meeting on May 6th. I'm excited to work with Surya!

Bob Golibersuch decided not to seek reelection this year, after six years of service on the OBCA Board. Bob has been a thoughtful and detail-oriented volunteer over the years, and we will miss relying on his perspective and experience. If you see Bob around the neighborhood, please thank him for his service to the community.

At the time of writing, we're still finalizing contract details with CA. OBCA receives less grant funding per-capita than most other villages according to a formula developed in 2018. CA has previously told us that they would review how funding is allocated during this contract negotiation, jointly with the villages. For a variety of reasons this review did not happen, and the current draft contract extends the current funding formula until 2030 (unless all ten villages and CA agree to amend the contract to change it). We're asking CA to change the contract language to commit to re-evaluating the formula later this year, to take effect in May 2026.

There is an April 30th deadline for us to reach a new agreement, or to extend our current agreement. So this issue may be resolved by the time this newsletter hits your mailbox. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more timely updates.

Our Annual Meeting will be on May 6th, followed by the first Board of Directors meeting of the new fiscal year. The primary agenda items will be organizational, re-appointing officers and committee members for the new year. Please reach out to the board at obvillageboard@googlegroups.com if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Owen Brown has an E-Newsletter!

OBCA sends an e-newsletter around the middle of each month that shares timely information from organizations in Howard County. Please join our email list by visiting our website or scanning the QR code. To be entered in a raffle for a gift card, email manager@owenbrownvillage.org with the Subject "Spring Time" by May 17.

Owen Brown Community Association

Tea & Puzzles

Thursday May 15th

6:30pm

\$20 per Team

We invite teams of 2-4 (16+) to test their Puzzle Skills

Scan to Register

Prizes Awarded
2 Hour Time Limit

Tea & Treats will be served.

<https://OBTeaandPuzzles2025.eventbrite.com>

6800 Cradlerock Way
Columbia, MD 21045
410.381.0202

Limited to residents that live on Columbia Association Assessed Property

Owen Brown Community Association

SCAN HERE

For Our E-Newsletter

Stay in the Know

www.owenbrownvillage.org



Upcoming Dates at OBCA

OB Annual Meeting and

Board Meeting	May 6, 7pm
HOA 101	May 13, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	May 14, 7:30pm
Tea & Puzzles	May 15, 6:30pm
OB Board Work Session	May 20, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	May 28, 7:30pm
CA Pools Opening Day	May 24
Master Gardeners' Class	
Deterring Deer	June 4, 11am
OBCA Pool Party	June 30

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

Ilana Sambuco Paul	Village Manager
Susan Sloan	Covenant Advisor
Kelly Kalal	Facility Coordinator/ Event Planner
Nick Bechetti	Asst. Covenant Advisor
Kelly Carney	OBserver Editor

Village Board Members

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

Owen Brown Cares Invites You...

to learn more about the Howard County Native Landscaping Tours and Plant Giveaways. Come see your neighbors' beautiful yards and pick up a FREE native plant at every home! Tours run from April to September. Scan this QR code for more information.



Your place to find friendly reminders regarding property maintenance

New from Howard County concerning EV chargers...

Anyone who wants to install an EV charger is required to obtain a permit from the Howard County Dept of Inspections, Licenses and Permits. Not having a permit is a violation of the Howard County Building and Electrical Code. If you live in a single-family home all you need from the county is the permit. If you live in a townhouse, condo or duplex where you do not have your own driveway, you need a permit but there are also 7 steps that need to be followed before you can receive a permit from the County. Those steps are outlined on the following county website: <https://bit.ly/3YINKrL>.

An exterior alteration application is still required to be submitted and approved before any work is to begin. The application will not be considered unless the permit is attached. The Village of Owen Brown's Covenants cannot supersede Howard County Law.

Owen Brown Community Association



HOA 101

The OBCA Covenant Advisor will provide information on everything from architectural guidelines to applications and more! Great for residents who are just starting out in the HOA community or those in need of a refresher.



MAY 13TH 7PM



WHO DO I CALL?

Learn the differences between Howard County Government, Columbia Association and Individual HOA's



CAN I...?

Get a better understanding of our Architectural Guidelines and how to apply for those changes.



PLEASE REGISTER

Scan the QR Code to register or email covenants@owenbrownvillage.org



410.381.0202



www.owenbrownvillage.org



Follow Us





Highlights from CA Board of Directors Meeting

From the desk of Michael Golibersuch, OBCA Columbia Council Representative

Since my last report, the Columbia Association (CA) Board of Directors has held two meetings on March 27th and April 10th. By the time this article is published, there will have been an additional board meeting that took place on April 24th. Highlights of those meetings include:

- CA developed a new GIS tool to help residents explore Columbia. It conveniently maps CA facilities, events, and other information (such as pool status) onto an interactive map. Some features are still being refined but it can be found on CA's website: <https://columbiaassociation.org/open-space/development/mapping-gis-resources/>
- The Board reviewed CA's quarterly financials. CA completed the third quarter \$6M above budget mainly due to savings on IT projects and delays in capital projects. Looking forward, cuts to the federal workforce, federally funded research and associated contractors could have a large impact on the local economy and CA.
- The Board increased the amount of money CA is investing in its Emergency Cash Reserve to a total of \$5M. The reserve was established in the wake of the COVID pandemic to help shelter CA from future economic shocks. Increasing the

amount invested in it this year will bring the reserve closer to its target size sooner and provide extra reserves that could be used if the local economy has a downturn.

- CA Open Space provided a presentation on new signage that will be used in open space. The samples look very nice and the pilot for the new program will be around Lake Elkhorn starting this year. CA Open Space will be providing a follow up presentation at an Owen Brown Board meeting later this year if you are interested in getting a sneak peak.
- CA staff also provided an update on its invasive species management program. Invasive species outcompete native species and cause harm to the local environment. CA's open space has multiple infestations and staff that work full time to mitigate or eliminate these infestations. Please be aware of invasive species in your yard and help eradicate them.
- Training is now underway to ensure outdoor pool staff are ready for the summer.

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.

Rent Space at Owen Brown Community Center for Your Next Event!

Whether you are hosting a shower, nonprofit event or any celebration, we have a room for you! Come check out Owen Brown Community Center!

Now booking through the end of 2025. To learn more, visit our website or contact rentals@owenbrownvillage.org.



Owen Brown Community Association

Deterring Deer and Other Critters

Wednesday June 4th
11am



Registration Required
<https://DeterringDeerandCritters.eventbrite.com>

Learn how to keep pesky deer and other critters out of your garden with the help of the Howard County Master Gardeners.



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Limited to Residents that live on Columbia Association Assessed Property





Looking for Summer Fun?

Join the

**OWEN BROWN BARRACUDAS
SUMMER SWIM TEAM**

Ages K-18

IMPROVE YOUR SWIMMING
MAKE FRIENDSHIPS AND LIFELONG MEMORIES
COMPETE AT MEETS PARTY AT PEP RALLIES
GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS
LEARN SPORTSMANSHIP HAVE FUN!!!!

Registration Opens April 16

Practices Begin May 27. Season runs through July 26

Learn More at:

www.OwenBrownSwimTeam.com

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

SUMMER CAMPS



Register today! From tots to teens, we have camps and programs that are perfect for your child. Choose from exciting morning, afternoon, or full-day activities that fit your schedule.

410-313-7275 | HowardCountyMD.gov/rap

Wine in the Woods



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

www.WineInTheWoods.com

**Howard County**
Recreation & Parks



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@hocorec