



OBserver

6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045

March 2026

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Official newsletter of the Owen Brown Community Association

Village Elections Coming Soon! Become a Candidate!

On April 25th, village residents will have the opportunity to elect **two** Village Board members and **one** Columbia Council Rep for a two-year term, beginning on May 1, 2026. These elected volunteers represent the interests and concerns of the Owen Brown community to both the Columbia Association (CA) and the County. Candidate Packets will be available at the Owen Brown Community Center or electronically beginning March 1, 2025. To request an electronic packet, please email manager@owenbrownvillage.org.

The deadline for candidate submission application is Friday, March 20, 2026 at noon.

Also please save the date for our new Election Day Event, Bounce to the Ballot on Saturday, April 25. More details to come.



WINTER SOW WITH MILK JUGS

WEDNESDAY MARCH 4TH @ 7PM

TRANSFORM YOUR MILK JUGS INTO MINI GREENHOUSES

The Howard County Master Gardeners will show a creative upcycle for your Milk Jugs. Get a jump on Spring by sowing seeds.

Save Your Milk Jugs!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER



REGISTRATION REQUIRED

6800 Cradlerock Way
Columbia, Md 21045
410.381.0202



OWEN BROWN
IN
BLOOM

CHERRY BLOSSOM BLOCK CHALLENGE MARCH 20 - APRIL 12



Scan the QR code to Register your House

BLOOM YOUR YARD WITH A BONANZA OF PETALS, PASTELS AND CHARM!

REGISTER BY MARCH 20 TO BE JUDGED.
ALL ENTRIES WILL BE FEATURED ON A COMMUNITY GOOGLE MAP
FOR EVERYONE TO TOUR AND ENJOY.

PRIZES AWARDED.

MISSED THE DECORATING WORKSHOP?
EMAIL MANAGER@OWENBROWNVILLAGE.ORG
FOR IDEAS.

LET THE BLOSSOMS BEGIN!



Owen Brown
Community Association

OBCA Meetings & Events

Candidate Packages

Available Starting	March 1
OB Board Meeting	March 3, 7pm
Winter Sow with	
Milk Jugs Workshop	March 4, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	March 11, 7:30pm
OB Work Session	March 17, 7pm
Candidate Applications due	March 20 at noon
OB RAC Meeting	March 25, 7:30pm
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, 9 am -12 noon
Bounce to the Ballot	
Community Festival	April 25

Election Day

Vote on

Saturday, April 25, 2026



Do you have event ideas that you would like to see at Owen Brown Community Center? Email manager@owenbrownvillage.org. We are always open to ideas!



Owen Brown
Community Association

Sat. April 25th
bounce
to the
BALLOT



CAST YOUR VOTE FOR THE OBCA BOARD & CA COUNCIL REP AND STAY FOR THE FUN! BOUNCE TO THE BALLOT BRINGS OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER FOR VOTING, CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES, AND NEIGHBORLY CONNECTION.

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.



Follow Us





CA Approves Capital/Operating Budgets; Will Open All 23 Pools and Continue Lakefront Live Events

From the desk of Michael Golibersuch, OBCA Columbia Council Representative

The Columbia Association (CA) Board of Directors held a regular meeting on February 12. The primary outcome of the meeting was the approval of the Capital and Operating Budgets for FY27, which runs from May 1, 2026 – April, 30 2027. The approval of these budgets is the culmination of several months of work by CA's staff which included thorough feedback from the board and community members. I am grateful for the diligence involved.

Highlights of the budget include:

- Maintains the current Annual Charge Rate and Cap
- A modest increase in most membership rates, driven largely by inflation and wage increases
- Opens all 23 Outdoor Pools
- Expanded small group training at fitness clubs
- An additional full time director and part time manager for School Age Services to support anticipated growth
- \$1.5M in program and membership studies to assist in accessibility for all
- Funds ADA assessments to inform long-term capital investments
- Underwrites funding for a long-term capital planning study
- Continues Lakefront Live, July 4th celebrations and other community event support
- Includes funding for expanded levels of tree planting, reforestation, non-native invasive plant control, and wildlife management projects
- Reflects marketplace-wide increases in credit card processing fees associated with growing memberships
- Funds economic, membership structure, and ADA studies
- Provides \$150,000 in community grants
- Includes financial support for the 10 village community associations of approximately \$7.5M

- Funds pathway, bridge, tot-lot repairs and replacements as well as ongoing replacement of operating equipment

The budget also includes design funding to explore converting one of the outdoor pools into a distinct splashpad park. There has been some controversy and confusion about this project but believe it would benefit the community. It would diversify the types of amenities CA offers thus increasing value to residents, it would maintain an abundance of outdoor pools that are easily reachable throughout the community, it wouldn't require a fence and would be available without a paid membership, it would be open for longer periods of each day, and it would be open for longer periods of the year. Cost and attendance also plays a factor. Pools are expensive to operate and maintain; meanwhile some CA pools have had consistently low attendance dating back several years. It is hard to justify continuing to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars each year on a pool that receives minimal use when there is such a positive alternative to consider. As it relates to Owen Brown, because Owen Brown only had pools built in two of its three neighborhoods and because neither Dasher Green nor Hopewell pools are among the lowest attended pools, it is unlikely this splashpad park will be located in Owen Brown.

Overall the budget reflects strong financial health. It projects a \$4M increase in net assets despite a \$3.3M cash deficit. The cash deficit is manageable for the foreseeable future, It continues paying down CA's long-term debt and assumes no new debt. Capital spending outpaces depreciation. These are all good indicators as the country continues to face uncertain economic headwinds.

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

Exterior Alteration Applications

Exterior Alteration Applications are required for any change to your property that will alter the look of or add a structure. Please make sure to use the most recent application, which can be downloaded from our website. Please note that older versions of this form will not be accepted.

To prevent delay in processing the application, it is best practice to download the form, fill it out and email to us with any photos to review. If you have any questions about the application process, please reach out to us at [410-381-0202](tel:410-381-0202) or email our Covenant Advisor at covenants@owenbrownvillage.org.



Owen Brown
Community
Association

BOOK YOUR SPRING EVENTS NOW!

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

Rental Information

rentals@owenbrownvillage.org

6800 Cradlerock Way
Columbia, MD 21045
410.381.0202

Rental Rates

Dasher Green 70 (64 seated guests)
 Mon-Fri 5 hrs, \$600. Add't hrs \$105.
 Sat-Sun 5 hrs, \$650. Add't hrs \$115.

Hopewell 100 (96 seated guests)
 Mon-Fri 5 hrs, \$650. Add't hrs \$115.
 Sat-Sun 5 hrs, \$700. Add't hrs \$125.

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

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Owen Brown Community Association
Scan Here for our E-Newsletter

owenbrownvillage.org

SUMMER CAMPS

Register Now!



From tots to teens, there's a camp that's just right for your child. Choose from exciting morning, afternoon and full-day camps that fit your family's summer schedule.

410-313-7275 | HowardCountyMD.gov/rap

flickr

"Make a Difference Where You Live - Join the OBCA Board!"

This year, the OBCA Village Board has two Board of Directors seats and the Columbia Association Council Representative seat open.

Make your voice heard and help shape our community!

Candidate Packages Available March 1st