

OBserver

Official newsletter of the Owen Brown Community Association

6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045

Here's What's Happening at OBCA in November!

- The monthly Casual Board Meet and Greet is combining with the Owen Brown Cares Adopt-a-Spot this month on Nov. 8. Meet at Lake Elkhorn Path and Boat Ramp at 9 AM. See ad for more details.
- There are still spots available for our Candle Making Class with Candy. Join us on Nov. 12 at 6:30 PM.
- OBCA is building our excitement for the holidays with three new events. Join us by decorating your house for the Owen Brown Light Fight, or maybe register for our Sensory Santa Visit on Dec. 13, or join us for Holiday Ugly Sweater Bingo (ages 21 and over) on Dec. 12!
- The photo submission deadline for our first Owen Brown calendar has been extended to Nov. 15. Please submit your favorite pictures from around Owen Brown via the linktr.ee.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our events. To register visit https://linktr.ee/owenbrownvillage







Volume 54, Issue 9 Page 2



Upcoming Dates at OBCA

OB Board Meeting

OB Casual Meet-up w/Board

And Owen Brown Cares Candles with Candy **OB RAC Meeting**

OB Fall Shrub Pick-up

OB Work Session

OB Board Meeting **OB RAC Meeting**

Holiday Ugly Sweater Bingo

Visit with Sensory Santa

OB Work Session

November 4, 7pm

November 8, 9:30am November 12, 6:30-8pm November 12, 7:30pm November 15, 9am-noon

November 18, 7pm

December 2, 7pm

December 10, 7:30pm

December 12, 6:30pm

December 13, 10am-1pm

December 16

410-381-0202

Please note that our offices will be closed from December 24 to January 2, 2026.



Owen Brown Community Association, Inc.

Office Hours

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

Village Office Staff

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 Vacant Board Member Michael Golibersuch CA Board Rep.















Page 3 Volume 54, Issue 9



CA Focuses on Budget Concerns, Revisions to Its Ethics Policy, and Community Support

From the desk of Michael Golibersuch, OBCA Columbia Council Representative

Since my last report, the Columbia Association (CA) Board of Directors hosted a Town Hall on September 11 and a Regular Board meeting on September 25.

The Town Hall was a new meeting format the Board of Directors wanted to experiment with. Unlike Regular board meetings - which are focused on internal board discussions - the Town Hall was focused on creating a forum where residents could freely interact with board members and senior CA staff. I have heard positive feedback from the members of the Owen Brown community who attended, and I hope we continue to host these events in the future. However, please remember that you don't need to wait for the next Town Hall to engage. CA has multiple ways of collecting feedback from residents and responds remarkably fast to input. And, I am always willing to take time to talk with my neighbors.

There were three substantive topics of discussion at the September 25 board meeting: a revised ethics policy, quarterly financials, and next year's budget.

The Board approved a revised ethics policy. These revisions reduce ambiguity in the process for accountability, require annual ethics training, prohibit weaponizing the ethics process itself, explicitly prohibit disseminating false information, add clarity to civility rules, and require board members to adhere to each individual village's campaign rules. Overall, these changes should help maintain higher standards of behavior for board members and mitigate the risk of unprofessional behavior harming CA's ability to support the community.

The Board also reviewed CA's financials for the quarter ending on July 31. Overall CA remains financially stable. CA

finished the quarter \$2M above budget due to a mix of higher revenue and lower expenses; although many expenses projected for this quarter will likely be realized later in the year. Despite beating its budget in the first quarter, CA is still projecting a cash shortfall of approximately \$2.9M this fiscal year.

Finally, the Board had its first discussions about budget priorities for FY27 (which starts in May 2026). These were preliminary discussions with no decisions made. Residents are encouraged to provide feedback on their view of budget priorities. Please keep in mind that the budget has to balance investing in multiple competing priorities - CA has no shortage of input on areas to increase spending or decrease revenue but rarely receives feedback on which (if any) services residents think should be deprioritized. The budget discussions will continue throughout the next several months and be finalized in February.

CA continues doing great things in the community. Notable highlights include: renovations on Supreme Sports Club are almost complete; in support of sustainability goals, CA's Open Space team is transitioning to battery-powered hand equipment as older equipment reaches its end of life; and CA has been diligently working with the State Department of Education to find ways to increase capacity for CA's in-demand School Age Services programs.

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

Do You Have a Contractor You Love?

Owen Brown is putting together a list of recommended contractors and handymen based on resident experiences. While the village does not formally endorse or refer specific service providers, this list can serve as a helpful starting point for neighbors looking for trusted help. If you have worked with someone that you would recommend, please email our Covenant Advisor at covenants@owenbrownvillage.org to have them added to the list.

LOVE **WHERE** YOU LIVE



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



We're making a calendar to celebrate Owen Brown, and we need your help!



SO DO

WE!

Submit your favorite photo of what you love about living here – the people, places, and moments that make it special.



All submissions due by Nov 12th

Selected photo winners will be featured in our Owen Brown Community Calendar!



https://linktr.ee/owenbrownvillage





Owen Brown Community Association Scan Here for our E-Newsletter

2025 FALL CLASSES & EVENTS







Register today! From tots to active adults, we have events and programs that are perfect for you and your child. Choose from exciting morning, afternoon and evening activities that fit your schedule.

410-313-7275 | HowardCountyMD.gov/rap











