



OBserver

6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045

February 2026

Volume 55, Issue 1

Official newsletter of the Owen
Brown Community Association

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

For more information, to register for any of our events or sign up for our newsletter, please visit <https://linktr.ee/owenbrownvillage>.

The 2026 Owen Brown Calendar featuring 15 resident photos is now available! Stop by the center to purchase the calendar for \$10.

The village election will be held on April 25, 2026. This year we have two OBCA board positions and one Columbia Association Board of Directors position open. Candidate packages will be available starting March 1. Also please save the date for our new Election Day Event. More details to come.

We have three workshops planned for February, and one in March so far. We hope to see you at one of our events. If you have any event suggestions for this year, please email manager@owenbrownvillage.org. We are always looking for new event ideas from our residents.

OWEN BROWN IN BLOOM

MARCH 20-APRIL 12

WORKSHOP
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 25TH
@ 6:30PM

Scan the QR code to Register for the Workshop

✿ **OWEN BROWN IN BLOOM** ✿

CELEBRATE CHERRY BLOSSOM SEASON BY DECORATING YOUR YARD FROM MARCH 20-APRIL 12! GO PINK AND WHITE AND COMPETE FOR BEST DECKED OUT YARD.

GET INSPIRED AT OUR FREE WORKSHOP ON FEBRUARY 25.

REGISTRATION INCLUDES STARTER DECORATING KIT!



Owen Brown
Community Association

Preventing Covenant Violations:

What Homeowners Can Safely Do- And When to Call a Professional



THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 12
@ 6:30pm



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

Join this workshop for a discussion on safe, Do It Yourself (DIY) tasks to help keep your house beautiful and in covenant compliance.

Information covered will include what is the best way to handle general landscaping, general exterior house maintenance, how to maintain your driveway and more!



Owen Brown
Community Association

OBCA Meetings & Events

OB Board Meeting	February 3, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	February 11, 7:30pm
Preventing Covenant Violations Workshop	February 12, 6:30pm
OB Work Session	February 17, 7pm
Lego Robotics Workshop	February 21, 2:30pm
OB in Bloom Workshop	February 25, 6:30pm
OB Board Meeting	March 3, 7pm
Winter Sow with Milk Jugs	March 4, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	March 11, 7:30pm



Love Where You Live—All Year Long!



The Owen Brown Community Calendar

Now Available
\$10



LEGO ROBOTICS WORKSHOP

Saturday February 21st
@ 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



Scan the QR
Code to Register



Owen Brown
Community Association

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



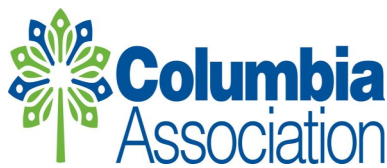
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

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Follow Us





CA Considers Construction of Splash Pads in the Community; Areas Would Include Play & Picnic Areas

From the desk of Michael Golibersuch, OBCA Columbia Council Representative

On December 11, The Columbia Association (CA) Board of Directors held a regular meeting which covered a variety of topics. The Board continued discussions related to next fiscal year's budget.

- The Annual Charge Rate and Cap will remain unchanged.
- The operating budget will increase by around 8%. This is driven by several factors including inflation, increasing healthcare costs, and filling open positions
- There will be modest (~3%) increases to membership rates to keep up with increasing costs
- CA is changing how it budgets for Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). If actual CIP spending comes in under budget, the unspent funds will be transferred into a new short-term capital reserve, which will be used in later years to fund projects that were deferred or not completed.

The Board also reviewed the second quarter financials for the current fiscal year. CA is in sound financial health. Through the first half of the fiscal year CA is \$4M ahead of budget and anticipates an annual increase in \$5.9M net assets. It's important to note that those are total assets and not excess cash that can be freely spent - CA's cash is anticipated to decrease by almost \$3M this fiscal year. The potential government shut down in January, perplexing tariff policies, and high inflation all pose potential challenges for CA's financials going forward.

The Board reviewed three easement requests which are scheduled for a vote in February. Of particular interest in Owen Brown is the construction of the South Entrance Trail - a planned multi-use pathway that will run along the Little Patuxent River from Downtown Columbia (near Toby's) to near the Steven's Forest Exxon. A future segment envisions connecting the path all the way to Lake Elkhorn. Parts of the

planned pathway cross CA land necessitating the county's easement request.

CA's Staff also provided a presentation about the possible construction of splash pads in the community. The concepts for these splash pads look amazing and are far beyond what I normally think of as a "splash pad." They include multiple water features, play areas, picnic tables, bbq areas and would provide an excellent, publicly-accessible gathering place for the community. The proposed splash pads would take the place of one (or potentially more) of CA's outdoor pools but no specific location has been chosen. The Board will be voting on whether to move forward with more in-depth designs for this splash pad at our next meeting. If approved, CA will complete more detailed designs and engage with the villages and communities to determine where the optimal location is. I believe a splash pad would be a great value to the community that families would enjoy while still maintaining an abundance of outdoor pools.

If you've walked around Lake Elkhorn recently, you've probably noticed new sign posts. I think the new signs look very nice and provide a modest sense of community pride and ownership. This is part of a pilot program that is envisioned to eventually spread to the rest of Columbia. CA is interested in feedback on these new signs so please provide your thoughts to the open space team. Alternatively, you can send them to me or the Owen Brown Community Association who will pass them on to CA.

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

Holiday Decorations

Per the OB Architectural Guidelines- Holiday decorations displayed within the boundaries of the resident's yard must be removed no later than four (4) weeks after the holiday. Specifically for Christmas decorations, this means that decorations should be removed by January 25, 2026

Letters of Compliance Request is now ONLINE

Letters of Compliance (LOCs) should now be requested online in connection with the sale of your home. A Letter of Compliance is an inspection the Association conducts to verify that your property has no maintenance violations or unapproved exterior alterations. This is a **free service** provided by the Association and is often requested by buyers during a home sale.

To see submit your Letter of Compliance request, see a sample completed Letter of Compliance, or download a Resale Packet, please visit: owenbrownvillage.org/selling-your-home.

REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMPS



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.

Registration opens February 4.

410-313-7275 | HowardCountyMD.gov/rap

Howard County
Recreation & Parks



flickr



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



Owen Brown Community Association
Scan Here for our E-Newsletter

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
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Rental Rates		
Dasher Green 70 (64 seated guests)	5 hrs, \$600. Add't hrs \$105.	
Sat-Sun	5 hrs, \$650. Add't hrs \$115.	
Hopewell 100 (96 seated guests)	5 hrs, \$650. Add't hrs \$115.	
Mon-Fri	5 hrs, \$700. Add't hrs \$125.	
Sat-Sun	5 hrs, \$700. Add't hrs \$125.	
Business Meetings 25 (seated guests)	Mon-Fri	\$50 per hour



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 environ-



ment, 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.