



**Owen Brown Community Association**

**6800 Cradlerock Way**

**Columbia, MD 21045**

**410.381.0202**

**[owenbrownvillage.org](http://owenbrownvillage.org)**

## **ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERS FOR FY 2025**

Dear Owen Brown Resident,

We are pleased to present to you this Annual Report which 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.

As an owner or renter of property in Owen Brown, you are a member of the OBCA. OBCA is distinct from the Columbia Association but is funded by a small portion of the annual assessment fee you pay to CA. OBCA uses its resources to maintain and enforce Owen Brown's architectural guidelines, run the Owen Brown Community Center, located on Cradlerock Way, advocate on behalf of village residents, and organize community engagement events for village residents.

Every April, OBCA holds an election to determine the Board of Directors for the coming year, which are volunteer positions. The Village Board oversees OBCA and hires a Village Manager to run OBCA operations on a day-to-day basis.

The Village Board wants to hear from residents. Residents may contact the entire Board via email at [\*\*obvillageboard@googlegroups.com\*\*](mailto:obvillageboard@googlegroups.com). Board meetings are open to the public and are usually held the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Owen Brown Community Center. To confirm a meeting date or for more information in general, please visit our website at [\*\*www.owenbrownvillage.org\*\*](http://www.owenbrownvillage.org), or call our office at 410-381-0202.

The office of the OBCA is located in the Owen Brown Community Center, 6800 Cradlerock Way. Office hours are M-F 9-5, Sat 9-12. Limited services are available evenings and weekends, when open for rentals.

Sincerely,

*The Owen Brown Village Board*

## Covenant Activities for FY 25

The Owen Brown Resident Architectural Committee (RAC) members included: Peter Monahan, Marilyn Lepore, Dan McArthur, Betty Byrd and Jessie Stever.

The Executive Architectural Committee (EAC) members included: Sean Hammer, Jane Parrish, Andy Stack, Marilyn Lepore and Brad Butler.

The RAC members review applications for exterior alterations and in-home businesses, and the EAC approves all applications and handles any appeals.

RAC	FY 25	FY 24
Total RAC Applications	398	359
Total Approved as submitted	334	300
Approved w Amendments	37	35
Total Denied	21	17
Total Tabled	3	2
Total Withdrawn	3	5
Total appeals to EAC	6	8
Appeals Approved	4	6

### Violations

Total Violation Letters	91	94
Cases Settled at Village Level	67	72
Cases Pending @ Village Level	40	36
ARC cases closed this year	8	5
Cases Referred this Year	2	4

### Letters of Compliance

Number of LOCs	94	83
Number Non Compliant	82	70

*Thank you to all of our volunteers for their service to the Owen Brown community.*

## FY 25 Financial Result

### Income

Total 01 CA Annual Share	337,456
Total 02 Lease and Rental	71,614
04 Interest	4193
05 Special Events	3,191
Total 06 Fees	479
Total 07 Miscellaneous	1162
08 Gain/loss on Disposal of Asset	0

Total Income 418,094

### Expense

09 Staff Salaries	224,540
11 Contract Labor	4,009
12 Payroll Benefits	13,597
13 Payroll Taxes	18,373
Total 14 Janitorial Expenses	29,379
Total 15 Fees	16,122
Total 16 Operating Expenses	11,126
Total 17 Business Expenses	1141
18 Insurance	6,682
19 Advertising	70
20 Newsletter	30,014
21 Other Printing	2,126
22 Donations/Contributions	5,550
23 Special Events	28,531
24 Taxes	877
Total 25 Utilities	25,736
Total 26 Repairs & Maintenance	8,631
27 Furniture, Fixtures, Equip	973

Total Expenses Before Depreciation 427,476

28 Depreciation 7,953

Total Expense 435,430

Decrease in Unrestricted Net Assets 17,335

## Board Activities and Accomplishments for FY 2025

The Board of Directors of the Owen Brown Community Association had a very busy and productive year. Here are some of their key activities and accomplishments:

### Appointments

- Recruited and hired a new village manager for the first time in twelve years – she is off to a great start!
- Appointed and nominated members to our Resident Architectural Committee and our Executive Architectural Committee to oversee the architectural covenant process
- Appointed an election committee to oversee a fair, independent election

### Architectural Covenant Process

- Referred two cases to the CA Architectural Resource Committee for possible legal action
- We closed eight cases which had previously been referred to CA.
- Jointly with the EAC, we updated our architectural guidelines to ensure the guidelines remain consistent with modern standards and are enforceable
- Continued proactive maintenance inspections of every Owen Brown property on a four-year cycle

### Budget & Governance

- Signed a new three-year agreement with CA. The new agreement is similar to the prior agreement, but creates additional transparency and reporting requirements, and additional insurance requirements. The funding model has not changed – it is on track to be updated during FY 26.
- Welcomed two new Board members – Adil Ahmed joined us mid-year in FY 25, and Surya Wright joined us for FY 26
- Oversaw the association's budget and conducted quarterly reviews
- Approved funding for several operational improvements, including IT modernization and a new event management system
- Donated a total of \$5550 to local causes, including:

Atholton HS Athletic Boosters

Oakland Mills HS PTSA

Atholton HS PTSA (After Prom)

Owen Brown Barracudas

Cradlerock ES PTSA

Talbot Springs ES PTSA

East Columbia Preschool

Teen Time at East Columbia Library

Lake Elkhorn MS PTSA

*(continued on page 4)*

## Board Activities and Accomplishments for FY2025, *continued from page 3*

### Advocacy

- Sent a letter to CA articulating Owen Brown's priorities for their FY26 budget, including:
  - Reforestation, meadow planting, and watershed management efforts
  - Duckweed harvesting and Lake Elkhorn maintenance
  - Path, bridge, and tot lot maintenance
  - Supreme Sports Club renovation
  - Funding for Owen Brown Community Association
- Sent a letter to Howard County articulating Owen Brown's priorities for their FY26 budget, including:
  - Cradlerock Way Complete Streets project
  - Patuxent Branch Trail extension to Lake Elkhorn (Phase II)
  - East Columbia Library Park
  - Various other sidewalk and multi-use path improvements including Dobbin Rd, Robert Fulton Drive, and Broken Land Parkway
  - School maintenance, particularly Oakland Mills HS
  - Watershed & stormwater management efforts, and tree planting
  - Continued traffic safety improvements and policing
- Engaged with CA Open Space to plant nearly 50 trees around Lake Elkhorn
- Engaged with the CA Capital Projects team to provide input on Tot Lot projects around Owen Brown
- Owen Brown CARES Group has organized several plantings and clean-up events around the village
- Hosted BGE to present a future plan to site additional power lines in the existing power line easement roughly parallel to Lake Elkhorn

