

# **OBserver**

Official newsletter of the Owen Brown Community Association

September

6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045

# Here's What's Happening at OBCA in September!

We have created a new link tree to help you find all Owen Brown news, events and registrations easily. It can be found at https://linktr.ee/owenbrownvillage. We look forward to seeing you at one of our events.

- ♦ Come and get the scoop! We are hosting an Ice Cream Social with the Board on Sunday, September 7, from 1:30-3:30 pm. See the ad below, right for registration information.
- ♦ Join us for a Master Gardener event on September 10 at 11 am to learn about putting your garden to rest.
- ♦ OBCA board members will hold a Casual Meet-up with the Board on Saturday, September 13 from 9:30-10:30am. Meet at the Lake Elkhorn Playground to chat with members about what's going on in OB.
- We are very excited for our Carnival on Saturday, September 27, from 12-3 pm benefitting LEMS PTA and Cradlerock PTA.
- We have two School's Out events planned for October and Candles with Candy in November, please see ads for more info and subscribe to our e-newsletter and socials to receive timely updates on all things Owen Brown and more.







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# **Upcoming Dates at OBCA**

**OB** Board Meeting Sept. 2, 7pm Ice Cream Social with the Board Sept. 7, 1:30-3:30pm **Putting Your Garden to Rest** Sept. 10, 11am **OB RAC Meeting** Sept. 10, 7:30 pm Casual Meet up with the Board Sept. 13, 9:30am **OB Work Session** Sept. 16, 7 pm **OB RAC Meeting** Sept. 24, 7:30 pm **Community Carnival** September 27 Noon-3pm **OB RAC Meeting** October 8, 7:30 pm **OB** Board Meeting October 14, 7 pm School's Out Pumpkin Painting October 17, 1pm School's Out Lego Workshops October 20, 10 am, 1pm **OB Work Session** October 21, 7 pm Candles with Candy Nov. 12, 6:30-8pm

### 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 Staff410-381-0202Ilana Sambuco-PaulVillage ManagerSusan SloanCovenant 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.



## **Owen Brown Board Bulletin**

from the desk of Board Chair, Brad Butler

### Hi Neighbors —

At the time of writing, the weather is cooling down and the first leaves are starting to turn yellow. It is hard to believe that school is about to start!

It has been a busy summer for OBCA with lots of events planned, including our upcoming Ice Cream Social with the Board on September 7th, and our annual Carnival on September 27th. We hope to see you there!

The Board itself had a light summer, approving our tax return for the prior fiscal year and discussing some operational items. Jessamine Duvall came to present an update from ColumbiaLiving.org, which is an excellent resource for residents to find out more about Columbia and its villages. I suggest you check it out!

The OBCA Board of Directors has an open seat. If you're interested in participating roughly twice a month, steering the community association's strategy and operations, and advocating on behalf of your neighbors, please attend a meeting. We would love to have you!

### Looking for a way to serve your community?



Interested residents should email their letter of interest to the village manager.

manager@owenbrownvillage.org

#### **Board Position Open**

The Owen Brown Village Board is seeking qualified and dedicated individuals to serve on the Association's Board of Directors.

If you are an Owen Brown owner or resident interested in contributing to the future of our community, we encourage you to attend two board meetings to learn more about the role and responsibilities.

410.381.0202



Love Where You Live









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# CA Receives "Clean" Independent Audit; Seeks Residents' Input for Current Budget Process

From the desk of Michael Golibersuch, OBCA Columbia Council

Since my last report, the Columbia Association (CA) Board of Directors has held two meetings. Both meetings covered the same topics.

CA will be using a slightly different budget process this year. CA will be holding a "Town Hall" on September 11th at 7pm, where residents will be able to share their input on priorities for the community. This will allow for more communication between residents, CA staff, and CA board members than during regular board meetings. If you can't make that event, you are still welcome to provide your feedback via email.

The Board of Directors has chosen four annual objectives for this fiscal year :

- Continue to improve engagement with the community using multicultural programs, improved website interface, and other IT innovations
- 2. Develop a Natural Resource Stewardship Plan
- 3. Conduct a Membership Rate Study to identify membership trends and identify areas for improvement
- 4. Initiate a Long Term Capital Plan to ensure we are prepared for long term needs

The Board has also been considering changes to its ethics policy to provide guidelines to reduce some of the ambiguity in the current policy. The major themes of this update are to increase transparency so its clear how decisions are being made and increase accountability to ensure there are meaningful conse-

quences for misconduct. No changes have been made yet. The Board also reviewed the independent audit and financial statement for the previous fiscal year. The independent auditor issued a clean audit (the best an organization can receive). And CA beat its FY25 budget projections by \$6.9M largely due to savings on IT initiatives and delays in completing capital projects. Both these successes reflect well on the professionalism and financial stewardship of the CA staff. There are, of course, economic headwinds facing the country with federal layoffs likely to have an outsized impact on the Maryland economy. CA is closely monitoring these trends for the potential impact on its operations.

Summer is almost over. CA has had a great series of lakefront events, a successful outdoor pool season, and many capital improvements across Columbia this summer. If you haven't noticed, there is a new piece of artwork near the boardwalk area of Lake Elkhorn. I hope you were able to take advantage of some of these events. My children enjoyed the face painting, balloon animals, and magic show at the most recent Family Fun Morning at the Lakefront. The next one will be on September 6th at 10 am.

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 dog around Lake Elkhorn.



Your place to find friendly reminders regarding property maintenance

Here is a summary of Vehicle and Parking Restrictions in Owen Brown Village:

#### 1. Prohibited Parking/Storage Without Approval

The following items require annual approval and cannot be stored or parked on any lot, carport, or driveway without it: boats, campers, motorhomes, trailers, recreational vehicles (RVs), commercially used trucks or vans (¾ ton or larger with signage), other similar items. When submitting an annual application, include a site plan showing where the vehicle will be stored, plans for screening (to obscure the item from view). If approved, the permit is valid for one year.

2. Visibly inoperable or unregistered vehicles are not permitted to be parked anywhere on lot or in the street. These vehicles can only be parked on a driveway or an approved parking pad. No parking on lawns, sidewalks, or other areas.

#### 3. Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Rules

Major vehicle repairs or renovations must take place inside an enclosed garage. Minor repairs done outside must be finished the same day and must be cleaned up before sundown.

# MONDAY OCTOBER 20TH

SCHOOL'S OUT

WITH



Join us for workshops full of hands-on LEGO® learning and play.

# EXPLORE HABITATS & POLLINATION 10AM-NOON



Workshops for ages 6-12

Registratio

\$5 per child Each Class Each Workshop Requires
Registration
Limited to Owen Brown
Residents
All Children Must be

Accompanied by an Adult

\$5 per child Each Class



# REDISIGN & PROTECT FROM WIND 1-3PM

Registration

Workshops for ages 6-12



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





