



OBserver

6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045 410-381-0202

August 2026

Volume 55, Issue 7

Official newsletter of the Owen
Brown Community Association

OBCA Happenings in August

Summer is always a busy time of planning at OBCA. **Please note that we will not have a September print edition of the OBserver.** To stay in the know for all things Owen Brown, please follow our socials or subscribe to our e-newsletter by visiting linktr.ee/owenbrownvillage or using the QR code in the adjacent ad.

A few OBCA Board Members will be at the Cradlerock ES/ Lake Elkhorn MS Block Party on Saturday, August 22, 11:30 AM- 2 PM. Feel free to stop by their table and pick up some OBCA swag or ask them any questions about the community.

August 30 is the last event of summer- the Grill n Chill at Lake Elkhorn Pavilion. We'd love for you to join us! Call the OBCA office to register.

Upcoming events that you don't want to miss include our Annual Shred Day scheduled for the evening of Tuesday September 15 and our third Lego Workshop with Maslow's loom on October 3. Also registration for our fall shrub giveaway opens on August 1. We hope to see you soon!

Join the OBCA Team!

The Owen Brown Community Association (OBCA) is seeking a friendly, organized individual to join our office staff in a mid-day, part-time position to assist with duties including answering phones, fielding community and facility questions, event reservations, filing, organizing, and special projects. Experience with Google Workspace and/or Microsoft Office is preferred. Strong customer service and organizational skills are a plus. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older and authorized to work in the United States. This 10-12 hour/week position pays \$16-\$19 per hour, depending on experience, and includes a Columbia Association (CA) membership. To apply please send your resume and cover letter to manager@owenbrownvillage.org.



Owen Brown Community Association
Scan Here for our E-Newsletter

owenbrownvillage.org



Owen Brown
Community Association



PICK UP
SATURDAY
OCTOBER 10TH
9AM-NOON
@ OBCA

RED CHOKEBERRY

FALL SHRUB GIVEAWAY

CLOSE OUT THE GARDENING SEASON WITH A TREE OR SHRUB! TREES SHOULD BE PICKED UP SATURDAY OCTOBER 10TH. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.

Registration Opens



August 1st



OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA



BOTTLEBRUSH
BUCKEYE



SPICE BUSH

TO QUALIFY FOR A TREE/SHRUB, YOU MUST BE THE OWNER OF A PROPERTY WITHIN THE OWEN BROWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AND AGREE TO PLANTING AT THE REGISTERED ADDRESS.
EACH ADDRESS IS ELIGIBLE FOR 1 GIVEAWAY PER YEAR.

Questions? events@owenbrownvillage.org or 410.381.0202



Owen Brown
Community Association

Tickets can be purchased
in person at the
Community Center
or
you may call the office
@

410.381.0202

Adults: \$10/pp
Children: \$8/pp
(Ages 3-12)

Limited to Residents of
Owen Brown

GRILL & Chill

Lake Elkhorn Pavilion
Sunday August 30th 1pm-4pm

Celebrate the last days of summer with hot dogs, hamburgers, music, and fun at the Lake Elkhorn Pavilion. Meet your neighbors, enjoy the beautiful lakeside setting, and discover why in Owen Brown, We Love Where We Live!



Owen Brown
Community Association

OBCA Meetings & Events

OB Work Session	Aug. 4, 7 pm
OB Board Meeting	Aug. 18, 7 pm
RAC Meeting	Aug. 26, 7:30 pm
OB Event Grill N Chill	Aug. 30, 1 pm
OB Board Meeting	Sept. 1, 7 pm
RAC Meeting	Sept. 9, 7:30 pm
OB Work Session	Sept. 15, 7 pm
OB Annual Shred Event	Sept. 15, 4:30 pm
RAC Meeting	Sept. 23, 7:30 pm
Lego Workshop	Oct. 3, 10 am
OB Cares Fall Shrub	
Give-away Pick Up,	Oct. 10, 9 am-12
OB Board Meeting	Oct. 6, 7 pm

Owen Brown Board Bulletin

From the desk of Board Chair, Brad Butler

My family enjoyed our annual beach trip, and we're happy to be home, biking over to Dasher Green Pool with the kids on lazy summer afternoons. There was no OBCA board meeting in July, but there is plenty happening in Owen Brown.

We have exciting news from the county! Construction on the first phase of the Cradlerock Way Complete Streets project is scheduled to begin July 27th — meaning it may already be underway by the time this newsletter reaches your mailbox. This phase includes pedestrian islands and raised crosswalks at six locations along Cradlerock Way. This project is the result of years of planning and constructive engagement between county officials, local leaders, and community members — and it shows what sustained advocacy can accomplish. Future phases will require the same commitment, and we'll be counting on continued community support to see them through.

On the Cradlerock Park construction impacts we flagged last month — we've established contact with county officials and are working with Cradlerock Mews, Woodlake, and Waning Moon to arrange a meeting to address concerns about pathway access and tree removal. I'll share an update when we have one.

Our next board meeting is August 18th, and I'd love to see you there. On the agenda: a presentation from BGE representatives on their planned power line project through the existing easement in Owen Brown, approval of our annual financial review required by CA, and a discussion of lessons learned from this year's election. I'll share what we hear from BGE in September.

As always, reach out anytime
at obvillageboard@googlegroups.com.

Save the Date!

JOIN US IN HONORING
ANDY STACK
AT THE DEDICATION OF THE
**LAKE ELKHORN
BIORETENTION AND
POLLINATOR GARDEN**

**THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 17TH**

10:00 AM

**LAKE ELKHORN
BIORETENTION AND
POLLINATOR GARDEN**

A PLACE TO GROW. A LEGACY THAT BLOOMS.

Paper Shredding

September 15th

4:30pm-6:30pm

Parking lot of OBCA
Limited to Owen Brown Residents
Limited to 8 boxes/paper bags



Follow Us





From the desk of Michael Golibersuch, OBCA Columbia Council Representative

The Columbia Association (CA) Board of Directors held two meetings in July.

Headquarters Purchase. The most exciting news is that CA has signed a Purchase and Sale Agreement to buy its current headquarters building as well as an adjacent office building - subject to inspections, other closing activities, and a final vote by the board of directors. CA plans to maintain its headquarters in its current location and use the adjacent building to open a new Preschool Learning center serving infants to five years old. It is notable that, although CA is over 60 years old, CA has never owned its own headquarters facility - it has been paying rent for several decades. And, as many parents in the area know, there is an undersupply of early child care options in the community. CA's staff spent several months analyzing both the finances and the business model for the preschool learning center before recommending the purchase. This analysis indicates the purchase of these two buildings will be a win-win for our community: the community will save money in the long-term by eliminating substantial rent payments and CA will fill a vital community need with expanded preschool learning services. The board is scheduled to vote on final approval of the purchase in October; if approved the deal will be finalized shortly afterwards. Detailed planning for the preschool learning center will take place after the purchase is finalized and renovations are completed.

Natural Resources. CA is developing its Natural Resource Stewardship Plan, which consolidates several existing plans into com-

prehensive guidance on how CA cares for the natural resources under its control. The plan highlighted six "cluster areas" to focus on: Forest Health, Invasive Species Management & Wildlife Management; Meadow Systems, Pollinators, and Low-Disturbance Land Care; Watershed Function, Forest Cover, and Stormwater Resilience; Waste Reduction, Composting, and Community Behavior Change; and Communications, Partnerships, and Governance. This plan was developed over the past year with substantial community input and will be continued to be refined based on board input.

CA in the Community. Pool season is in full swing with all 23 outdoor pools operating as planned. The Capital Projects team is hard at work replacing bridges and tot-lots throughout the community - of note Owen Brown has an excellent renovated tot-lot off Smooth Path. CA has officially opened the new walkable pollinator garden at Lake Elkhorn with a volunteer planting event - and a follow-up planting scheduled for this fall. Bathroom hours at the Lake Elkhorn pavilion have been expanded. And Lakefront Live, CA's summer full of free events, is well underway at the Lake Kittamaquidi Lakefront. Lastly, CA added a first this summer: broadcasting the FIFA World Cup soccer games at the new CA Lakefront Stage.

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

Friendly Reminder

Please be considerate of your neighbors and keep your pets off other people's property, even if you remove your pet's waste.

Allowing your pet onto someone else's lawn is considered trespassing. In addition, Howard County regulations prohibit pets from using another person's property as a designated area for relieving themselves without the property owner's permission. Howard County could fine an owner \$50-200 per occurrence. Report violations to the Howard County Animal Control, 410-313-2780.

Thank you for being a respectful neighbor and helping keep our community enjoyable for everyone.

Protect Our Waters from Harmful Algal Blooms

Many Columbia homes are located near streams, ponds, and lakes. Simple actions at home can help protect these waterways from harmful algal blooms. Reduce runoff by directing downspouts into gardens, leave

grass clippings on your lawn, use fallen leaves as natural mulch, always pick up pet waste, and maintain a 10-20-foot buffer of native plants along waterways. If you see water that is blue-green, pea-soup green, or looks like spilled paint, keep people and pets away and report it to the CA Watershed Manager at Sustainability@ColumbiaAssociation.org.



Before & After School Classes at Your HCPSS Elementary School



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LEGO® | Music | Science & Tech
Sports | And More!

410-313-7275 | HowardCountyMD.gov/rap



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



LEGO ROBOTICS WORKSHOP

October 3rd 10am
Free, hands-on STEM fun
for ages 6-12!

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
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410.381.0202



Scan the QR
Code to Register



Owen Brown
Community
Association

BOOK YOUR EVENTS NOW!

Whether you're hosting a family
reunion, 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