



PART-TIME JOB OPENING AT OBCA

Assistant Covenant Advisor/Facility Assistant needed at the Owen Brown Community Association. Part-time position, 12-20 hours per week. Duties include preparing compliance letters, conducting site inspections and maintaining both paper and electronic files. In addition, will assist with facility related activities. Basic computer knowledge needed. Some evening and weekends will be required. Must be able to set up and break down tables and chairs. Send resume to manager@owenbrownvillage.org by **January 17**.

Thanks to all of our residents who came out to last month's Drive Thru Santa Event to enjoy free gifts for the kids, festive Christmas music, and cheerful greetings from Santa himself! Santa was amazing and absolutely loved meeting all of the friendly faces and smiling passengers! If you missed this one, don't worry. We have more events coming your way – we'll keep you posted!



OB DATES TO REMEMBER

New Year's Day	Jan. 1, 2022
OB Board Meeting	Jan. 4, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	Jan. 12, 7:30pm
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Jan. 17
OB Board Meeting	Feb. 1, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	Feb. 9, 7:30pm
Valentine's Day	Feb. 14
Presidents' Day	Feb. 21

OWEN BROWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Office Hours

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

Village Office Staff

	410-381-0202
Craig Barton	Village Manager
Susan Sloan	Covenant Advisor
Kelly Kalal	Facility Coordinator
Shelia Green	Event Planner
Kelly Carney	OBserver Editor
Joann Allen	Facility Assistant
Logan Carnerie	Facility Assistant
Tanajah Hairston	Facility Assistant

Village Board Members

Michael Golibersuch	Board Chair
Brad Butler	Board Vice-chair
Vince Miller	Board Member
Robert Golibersuch	Board Member
Mae Beale	Board Member
Andrew Stack	CA Board Rep.

Check us out on the web and Facebook at:
www.owenbrownvillage.org
www.facebook.com/owenbrownvillage

OBCA BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

from the desk of Board Chair, Michael Golibersuch

Owen Brown's Board of Directors held our monthly meeting on December 7th via Zoom.

We reviewed and approved Owen Brown's quarterly financials. The association is in good financial health. Our rental income has been slightly higher than we anticipated while our spending on special events has been lower due to the persistence of the pandemic. This combination has led to a small budget surplus, and we will discuss how to best invest that surplus in future meetings – over the past few years investment has taken the form of landscaping projects (such as the traffic circle at Home Spun and Cradlerock) and tree planting activities.

We also allocated half (\$3,000) of our annual donation budget to four different local causes: 1 – One Month's Rent, an organization that helps families in need pay for housing; 2 – Teen Time, an afterschool activity group run out of the East Columbia Library; 3 – Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, a local crisis intervention center; and Bright Minds, a local education assistance program. We will allocate the remaining half of our allotted donation budget later in the fiscal year (which runs through April); if there are any local causes you think we should donate to, please share your ideas.

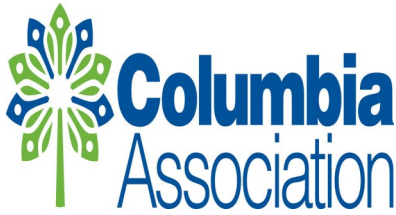
Additionally, we approved a letter to CA endorsing the stream restoration work planned for the Lake Elkhorn watershed. If implemented, the stream running into Lake Elkhorn will be restored to a more natural state over the next few years. The work will cause temporary disruption in the form of some tree removal, path closures, and construction equipment. Despite these temporary disruptions, Owen Brown supports this effort because it should ultimately result in a healthier lake, reduce erosion and silt build up, and reduce the frequency at which Lake Elkhorn needs to be dredged. The Lake Elkhorn watershed lies largely outside Owen Brown: it starts on the front lawn of Howard High school and runs down through Long Reach and the Dobbin shopping center before reaching Owen Brown near Dasher Court. The work will begin upstream in Long Reach and will likely take several years before any work takes place closer to Owen Brown.

The Board also reviewed three properties with unresolved architectural guideline violations and nominated these violations for potential legal action. We only take this step after several months of unsuccessfully engaging with the property owners to address the violations.

Over the next several weeks, the board will be conducting our annual review of village architectural guidelines. If you have any changes you'd like to see to our architectural guidelines, please reach out and share your ideas with us.



Finally, we wanted to say congratulations to the Oakland Mills High School Scorpions football team, especially the players and coaches who call Owen Brown home, on making it to the state semifinals.



CA CONTINUES EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF COLUMBIA'S WATERWAYS

From the desk of Andy Stack, OBCA Columbia Council Representative

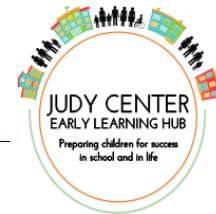
Streams, ponds, and lakes are an important part of Columbia's Open Space. CA cares deeply about its open space including its waterways. CA spends considerable time and effort to protect and sustain these waterways. Over the years, damage has occurred to some of these waterways. Sediment in Lake Elkhorn is a recurring problem and it costs to dredge portions of the lake. Stream restoration is one method CA uses to improve the health of streams flowing into Lake Elkhorn and reducing sediment flow into the lake. Please see www.columbiaassociation.org/blog/whats-next-for-stream-restoration-in-columbia/ for the latest information regarding stream restoration in the Lake Elkhorn watershed.

The proposed budget for FY-2023 will be released at the end of January (around January 21st). Please see the CA home page (www.columbiaassociation.org/) for information and access once the proposed budget is posted.

CA is finishing calendar year 2021 on a positive note. The financial picture shows CA on target regarding the budget and trends are positive for an even better financial result than budgeted. Of course things can change between now and April 30th (the end of CA's fiscal year). Regarding CA's accomplishments in 2021, CA President, Lakey Boyd, has prepared a report (which was submitted to the CA Board in December) which highlights accomplishments. The report is available at www.columbiaassociation.org/about-us/leadership/ca-president/presidents-report/.

I encourage you to view CA's Blog articles (www.columbiaassociation.org/blog/). They are short articles presenting information of interest to the community. For questions or comments, please contact me at andrew.stack@ca-board.org or obvbcarep@gmail.com.

MERRY MULCH YOUR HOLIDAY TREES DECEMBER 26-JANUARY 15



Howard County's Department of Public Works' Bureau of Environmental Services is once again offering residents a variety of FREE holiday tree recycling options through its *Merry Mulch* program. All collected live trees will be delivered to the Composting Facility at Alpha Ridge Landfill and recycled into compost and mulch.

Beginning Sunday, December 26th and continuing through Saturday, January 15th, holiday trees may be recycled seven days a week, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the drop-off sites listed below. One exception to the above days and times is the Alpha Ridge Landfill, which is open Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Look for *Merry Mulch* signs at the following drop-off sites:

- Clarksville: Kendall Hardware, 12260 Clarksville Pike
- Columbia: Cedar Lane Park, 5081 Cedar Lane
- Elkridge: Rockburn Branch Park (East), 5400 Landing Road
- Ellicott City: Old Circuit Court parking lot
- Highland: Schooley Mill Park, 12975 Hall Shop Road
- Marriottsville: Alpha Ridge Landfill Wood Waste Area
- Savage: Savage Park, 8400 Fair Street
- Woodbine: Western Regional Park, 14800 Carrs Mill Road

Howard County residents with curbside yard trim collection may set their holiday trees out on their **yard trim day** for collection through Friday, January 14th. Trees will not be picked up on trash collection days during this time for residents with yard trim collection.

Visit our website judycenterhcpss.org
Follow us on Twitter @hcpssjudycenter

If you have a child (birth through Kindergarten) who lives in the **Cradlerock Elementary attendance area**, please contact the Judy Center about our programs and services. **We want to meet you!**

The Judy Center is a satellite location for Cribs for Kids. Are you expecting a baby? Have an infant? Contact us to find out more about this Safe Sleep education program. Our playgroups for 2-4yr olds are still virtual and meet on Thursdays from 10:00-10:30am. January 6, 13, 20 and 27. Our partner, University of Maryland Extension, offers a monthly Read for Health Nutrition class for 2-5yr olds with a food tasting and a free book. Hope you can join us on January 12, 2022!

BABY & ME classes will be held virtually on January 7 and 14 from 11:00-11:45. These classes are open to children age Birth-18 months.

For any questions or to register for activities please contact us at: **410-313-8224 (office) or E-mail: katherine_rolfe@hcpss.org or nancy_smith@hcpss.org**.

Owen Brown Community Association

6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045

Office: 410-381-0202 Fax: 410-381-0235



Ground has officially been broken as the first step toward building a new and improved East Columbia 50+ Center. Nearly ten times the size of the current center, the new facility will be named in honor of former Howard County Executive Dr. Edward L. Cochran. Expected to be completed by July 2023, the expanded center will be nearly 30,000 square feet and will feature: community meeting space; a commercial kitchen and dining space; programs in art, lifelong learning and languages; an exercise studio and fitness equipment room; and a social day program for at risk seniors.

