



# OBserver

Official newsletter of the  
Owen Brown Community Association



## OBCA BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

*from the desk of Board Chair, Michael Golibersuch*

The Owen Brown Board of Directors have held two regular meetings since the last issue of the *Observer*, the meetings were held on December 1 and January 5.

At the December meeting, we were joined by representatives from CA Open Space. They provided an update on the dredging project at Lake Elkhorn and other more routine maintenance services. They informed us that the dredging project is on schedule to be complete by the end of February. We recommended installation of gates in the fencing around the dredging project that can be opened on the weekends which CA declined because of liability concerns. Due to storms and emerald ash borers many of the trees in Owen Brown have been lost over the last few years and, in response, Owen Brown Community Association (OBCA) is also seeking CA's permission to plant trees on CA-owned property throughout Owen Brown. At the December meeting we also reviewed OBCA's quarterly finances: we remain in sound financial health, have lower income from both rentals and CA's charge share, and continue to operate at reduced costs because the pandemic makes many of our normal sponsored events impractical. Finally, we reviewed several 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.

At the January meeting, we covered several different topics. We approved changes to Owen Brown's Architectural Guidelines which we have been working on and soliciting community input on for several weeks. The Board believes it is important to regularly update these guidelines to ensure our community remains appealing while limiting the burden of compliance on residents. The most significant change was the inclusion of rules for chicken coops and the updated guidelines can be found on our website. The Board also approved input to the county's ongoing budget deliberations. Our letter to the county has seven points including requesting funding for the East Columbia 50+ Center and funding for bike/pedestrian improvements in our area. Finally, the Board approved charitable donations to three different organizations: The 3<sup>rd</sup>, a locally organized non-profit designed to help women of color start their own business; Grassroots, a crisis intervention charity; and One Month's Rent, a charity designed to help low-income families with housing. OBCA still has a small portion of our annual donation budget available and we welcome community input on deserving local causes.

**Happy New Year from the Owen Brown Board of Directors!**

## VILLAGE ELECTIONS COMING SOON: BECOME A CANDIDATE!



On April 24<sup>th</sup>, village residents will have the opportunity to elect **three** Village Board members for a two-year term, beginning May 1, 2021. These elected volunteers represent the interests and concerns of the Owen Brown Village to both the Columbia Association (CA) and the County. Please consider serving your community. Declaration of Candidacy Forms will be available at the Owen Brown Community Center beginning March 1.

**OB DATES TO REMEMBER**

OB Board Meeting	Feb. 2, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	Feb. 10, 7:30pm
<b>Candidacy Forms (available)</b>	<b>March 1</b>
OB Board Meeting	March 2, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	March 10, 7:30pm
OB RAC Meeting	March 24, 7:30pm

**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
Meghan Pierce	Event Planner
Kelly Kalal	Facility Coordinator
Tanajah Hairston	Asst. Covenant Advisor
Kelly Carney	<i>Observer</i> Editor
Joann Allen	Facility Assistant
Elliot Hefty	Facility Assistant

**Village Board Members**

Michael Golibersuch	Board Chair
Brad Butler	Board Vice-chair
Vince Miller	Board Member
Robert Golibersuch	Board Member
Douglas Fox	Board Member
Patrick Weed	Board Member
Andrew Stack	CA Board Rep.

Check us out on the web and Facebook at:  
[www.owenbrownvillage.org](http://www.owenbrownvillage.org)  
[www.facebook.com/owenbrownvillage](http://www.facebook.com/owenbrownvillage)



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## CA'S FY-2022 BUDGET FOCUSES ON COMMUNITY AND THE FUTURE

*From the desk of Andy Stack, OBCA Columbia Council Representative*

CA has released the proposed FY-2022 budget. It is focused on community and the future. You can access the proposed budget ([Comprehensive FY 2022 Draft Budget overview](#)). The proposed budget meets the FY-2022 financial parameters approved by the CA Board. The pandemic still has a significant impact on CA and its ability to provide services. Overall, CA's income will be about \$63.6M which is 16% better than FY-2021 income, but less than FY-2019 income. Difficult choices were made; however, the budget development was guided by CA's mission to engage our diverse community, cultivate a unique sense of place, and enhance quality of life. The proposed budget positions CA for success in FY-2022 and, hopefully, for years to come. The CA Board will review, discuss, and approve the final budget in February 2021. Public input is welcome!

Proposed FY-2022 Budget Highlights include:

- ◆ Annual Charge rate will remain the same (\$42.4M income from Annual Charge)
- ◆ Creation of a "Rainy Day" (cash reserve) fund in the initial amount of \$2M
- ◆ \$6.1M financial support to the 10 village community associations (3.2% increase from FY-2021)
- ◆ Ceasing operations at Haven On The Lake
- ◆ Reopening 20 locations for the Before & After School program
- ◆ Offer three summer camps
- ◆ Reinstating a fulltime International and Multicultural Programming manager to handle our Sister Cities program and other activities
- ◆ Resumption of the Columbia Neighborhood Swim League
- ◆ Re-opening 15 (out of 23) outdoor pools (see [What the Draft Budget Could Mean for Your Neighborhood Pool](#)); for Owen Brown the budget assumes the Hopewell Pool will open, but not the Dasher Green Pool
- ◆ Restore routine Open Space work to pre-pandemic levels
- ◆ Funding for the summer Lakefront entertainment program
- ◆ Continued operation of the Columbia Art Center in Long Reach
- ◆ About \$450,000 in capital budget for energy retrofits, watershed improvements, and "going green" items
- ◆ Nearly \$1M for pathway renovations and bridge/boardwalk replacements
- ◆ Replacement of the Owen Brown Community Center roof and the roof at the Maintenance Facility
- ◆ Funding for repairs to the Lake Elkhorn Dam and the Wilde Lake dam
- ◆ No long-term debt issuance projected for FY-2022 and by April 30, 2022, the line-of-credit will be \$0

The proposed budget assumes no new pandemic restrictions are imposed during FY-2022. Many services will operate with reduced staff. As an example of the pandemic impact on CA: in March 2020 CA had 1,046 team members while at the end of December 2020, CA had 655 team members. CA will no longer operate the County Volunteer Center, the Columbia Community Exchange, and the senior transportation program.



### Home & Yard Services



#### Landscape

Fence and Deck Repairs

Lawn Mulch Tree

Gutters Paint Roof Wood

Whole house clean-out to sell/rent

Call Mike 410-290-9728



### RECENT UPDATES TO ARCHITECTURAL GUIDELINES

The Village Board and the Executive Architectural Committee recently approved updates to the village's Architectural Guidelines. To view just the changes, go to: [owenbrownvillage.org/covenants](http://owenbrownvillage.org/covenants) and look for "Recent Updates to Guidelines 2021."

## Owen Brown Community Association

6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045

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



# OWEN BROWN

community association

## Consider Renting Instead of Selling

Has your home been on the market for a while now? Would you like to start generating a monthly income on your property? PCF Property Management, Inc. manages over 800 residential properties in Howard and Anne Arundel counties. We have been in business since 1990 and have over 25 highly experienced associates to manage all of your leasing needs.

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