



OBserver

Official newsletter of the Owen
Brown Community Association

6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045

**OWEN BROWN
COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION**

COME & JOIN US FOR OUR
**COMMUNITY
CARNIVAL**

**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER
30TH** **OWEN
BROWN
COMMUNITY
CENTER**

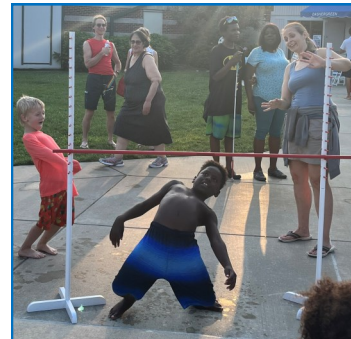
12-3PM

All Proceeds benefit the
CRES & LEMS PTAs

Bounce Houses, Slides, Face Painting,
Carnival Games and More!

Activities appropriate for ages 4-12

Over 200 Owen Brown
Residents Attended OBCA's
Annual Pool Party in August!



Putting the Garden to Bed

presented by the Howard County Master Gardeners

Wednesday September 20th, 11am
Owen Brown Community Center

When the gardening season is winding down, there are still things to be done to prepare for that most glorious season: Spring! This talk addresses the clean-up of annual beds, dividing perennials, planting of bulbs, establishment of new beds to be planted in the spring, prepping tools for their hiatus, winter deer-proofing, and other tips.

Light refreshments provided. Registration requested but not required
410.381.0202 or events@owenbrownvillage.org

OB DATES TO REMEMBER

OB Board Meeting*	September 13, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	September 13, 7:30pm
Putting the Garden To Bed at OBCC	September 20, 11am
OB Board Work Session*	September 20, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	September 27, 7:30pm
OB Community Carnival	Sept. 30, 12-3pm
OB Board Meeting*	October 4, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	October 11, 7:30pm
OB Board Work Session	October 17, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	October 25, 7:30pm
*changed to Wednesdays due to scheduling conflicts	

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 Staff

	410-381-0202
Craig Barton	Village Manager
Susan Sloan	Covenant Advisor
Kelly Kalal	Facility Coordinator/ Event Planner
Nick Bechetti	Asst. Covenant Advisor
Kelly Carney	OBserver Editor
Joann Allen	Facility Assistant
Logan Carnerie	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
Linda Ortiz-Byrd	Board Member
Andrew Stack	CA Board Rep.

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

OBCA BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

from the desk of Board Chair, Michael Golibersuch

The Owen Brown Board of Directors held our monthly meeting on August 1st via zoom. We covered multiple topics.

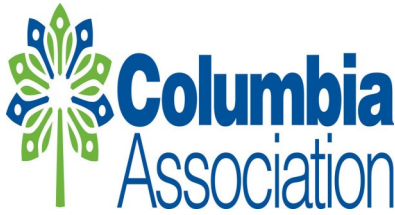
Columbia Association's lead landscaper, Ms. Jan Clark, presented a draft concept plan for improvements to the field in Hopewell Park. The plan envisions transforming a large portion of the current turf lawn into a meadow while keeping two large contiguous sections of turf available as play fields. The meadow would be planted with flowers, native plants, and sporadic trees and have an unpaved path and benches for access. The meadow should provide an increased sense of space, provide a habitat for pollinators and other wildlife, and have other environmental benefits. The play fields were purposefully sized and shaped based on the dimensions of a baseball diamond and junior soccer field. The Owen Brown Board had minor suggestions for the plan but, overall, believes it would be a nice improvement for our community. Importantly, CA wants to hear feedback from residents living near the park. Please be on the lookout for more detailed information about the plan in our newsletter, our Facebook page, and signs placed in the area. A portion of our September 13th meeting will be dedicated to hearing resident feedback on the plan, and you can always email feedback as well.

Later at the meeting, the Board agreed to officially partner with Oakland Mills United (OMU), a local non-profit helping students in our community. Owen Brown will provide rooms for OMU activities at our community center. You can learn more about OMU at their website: <https://www.oaklandmillsunited.org/>.

The Board also endorsed CA's proposed renovations to OB Tot-Lot #5 which is near Rainbow Span. The renovations will remove the current features of the tot lot and replace them with a new play structure, new swings, a play panel, and spring animal. It will also remove the tree closest to the tot lot (which has cracks in it) and replace it with two new trees.

Finally, we approved Owen Brown's tax documentation for the year. As a non-profit, we do not pay taxes but still need to file a 990.

Our Annual Carnival will be September 30th from 12-3PM. We hope you are able to take advantage of this special event for children. As always, we welcome input from our neighbors, and you can email the entire Board at obvillageboard@googlegroups.com.



CA RECEIVES POSITIVE INDEPENDENT AUDIT RESULTS FOR FY-2023

From the desk of Andy Stack, OBCA Columbia Council Representative

The Independent Auditors have reviewed CA's FY-2023 financial results and were pleased with CA's results. CA received a clean opinion which is the best you can receive. To quote the Independent Auditors *"In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as of April 30, 2023, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."* This is very good news. Below is the Statement of Activities from the audited financial report.

In FY-2023 CA spent **\$8,017,000** for **Capital Projects** compared to **\$7,128,000** in FY-2022. Considering that CA is still recovering from the pandemic in regards to membership and services, the overall results are very good. CA Staff did an excellent job in keeping expenses within revenue.

Regarding FY-2023 term debt, CA had total term debt of **\$27,476,000** compared to FY-2022 total term debt of

\$32,372,000. This year a new accounting standard was adopted to bring greater transparency to operating leases (such as rent). For FY-2023, CA had operating lease liability of **\$6,003,000**. This represents future rent.

Unfortunately, our contractor for the Elkhorn Stream Restoration project has withdrawn. Check columbiaassociation.org/open-space/sustainability-initiatives/watershed-management/ for latest updates.

Don't forget to check out CA Blog articles at www.columbiaassociation.org/blog/. Interested in a career with CA? Please visit www.columbiaassociation.org/about-us/careers/. For questions or comments, please contact me at andrew.stack@ca-board.org or obvbcarep@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Statement of Activities from Audited Financial Report

Fiscal Year	2023	2022	Fiscal Year	2023	2022
Revenue:			Expenses:		
Annual Charge	\$46,210	\$44,818	Program Services:		
Community Programs & Services	\$29,087	\$23,538	Community Programs & Services	\$33,605	\$29,786
Communications & Marketing	\$89	\$176	Communications & Marketing	\$1,923	\$2,175
Community Operations	-\$1,139	\$341	Community Operations	\$16,928	\$15,399
Village Community Associations	-\$95	-\$52	Village Community Associations	\$4,7588	\$5,235
Interest Income & Other Income	\$1,244	\$4,419			
Unrealized loss of marketable securities	\$185	-\$68	Total Program services	\$57,214	\$52,595
			Supporting Services:		
			Administrative	\$10,873	\$10,141
Total Revenue	\$75,581	\$73,172	Total Expenses (Program + Support)	\$68,087	\$62,736
			Increase in Net Assets (Revenue - Expenses)	\$7,494	\$10,436
NOTE: All figures in Thousands					

Owen Brown Community Association

6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045

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



Owen Brown CARES*

***Community Action and Resources
for Environmental Stewardship**

Owen Brown CARES held their first meeting on August 10, 2023 with a good turnout and people were excited about getting started. Many ideas for future events were discussed. Keep an eye out for information on upcoming events. A trash clean-up day was scheduled for August 26 for the area behind Lake Elkhorn Middle School and Library. There will be an information table at the Owen Brown Village Community Carnival on September 30. Everyone who visits the table and joins our email list, will receive a free native plant. Remember to "Like" us on Facebook to stay up-to-date on all things CARES.



If you would like additional information, or have questions, please, contact Linda Byrd at: linda96ort@gmail.com.

CA Proposes Meadow Concept for Hopewell Park

Columbia Association (CA) strives to be a leader in managing our open space in ways that enhance and protect our natural environment. The proposed project will convert a portion of Hopewell Park into a native plant and pollinator meadow. The new meadow will create an enjoyable walk-through experience for residents, provide habitat to support native plants and pollinators and reduce stormwater runoff while retaining ample lawn for play. The Owen Brown Village Board is holding a meeting to discuss the project on September 13, 2023. The project is expected to begin in late 2023 and will require a multi-year conversion process to develop the meadow habitat. To see a concept drawing of the project go to owenbrownvillage.org and scroll down to **Hopewell Park Meadow Plan**. To comment on the project or for more information contact CA Open Space at 410-312-6330 or open.space@columbiaassociation.org