



OBserver

Official newsletter of the Owen Brown Community Association

6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045

JOIN US
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
IN
FEBRUARY
7PM-8PM

BEND IT LIKE BOLLYWOOD DANCE CLASS

ALL SKILL LEVELS
WELCOME
LEARN YOUR
THUMKAS, LATKES, AND
JHATKAS



\$5 PER PERSON
INCLUDES ALL CLASSES
SCAN QR CODE OR CALL
FOR TICKETS BEGINNING
JANUARY 6TH



NO PARTNER NEEDED
PARENT REQUIRED
FOR CHILDREN 12 AND UP

OBCA Holiday Events Helped Spread Joy in December... see more pictures on page 4



OB DATES TO REMEMBER

OB Board Meeting	January 10, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	January 11, 7:30pm
OB Board Meeting	February 7, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	February 8, 7:30pm

Bollywood Dance Classes

Wednesdays in February



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/ Event Planner
Nick Bechetti	Asst. Covenant Advisor
Kelly Carney	<i>OBserver</i> Editor
Joann Allen	Facility Assistant
Logan Carnerie	Facility Assistant

Village Board Members

Michael Golibersuch	Board Chair
Brad Butler	Board Vice-chair
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
www.facebook.com/owenbrownvillage

OBCA BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

from the desk of Board Chair, Michael Golibersuch

The Owen Brown Board of Directors held our monthly meeting on December 7th. By our standards, it was a busy meeting with multiple issues discussed.

An Owen Brown neighbor used our “Residents Speak Out” portion to recommend that we rename our village. She made several sensible points about why “Owen Brown” may not be the best name for our community. We appreciate the input, and it would be great to hear from more residents on this issue. Please let us know your thoughts on the name “Owen Brown” for our village: Do you think we should change our name? What do you recommend? Contact the Board directly with any thoughts or questions; you may do so by emailing obvillageboard@googlegroups.com.

We reviewed the financial statement from the second quarter of this fiscal year. Our investment in Owen Brown’s 50th Anniversary Celebration was reflected in the quarterly report. We continue to be in sound financial health and will be able to continue providing the same level of service to residents.

One of our state delegates, Jen Terrasa, attended our meeting to discuss her proposed state legislation (7-23) that would require candidates in Columbia village elections to report their campaign’s finances. Owen Brown’s board supports this bill and appreciates Delegate Terrasa’s efforts to improve transparency in our local elections.

We also discussed a separate proposed state bill (10-23) that would alter the way Howard County Board of Education members are selected. Owen Brown’s board opposes this bill because it could, in several different ways, provide an unrepresentative portion of the county with an outsized influence on the Board of Education and make BoE members less responsive to constituents.

We discussed the Community Ecology Institute’s (CEI) efforts in the community. Among other efforts, CEI helps build gardens in public spaces. CEI recently helped the tenants of the Owen Brown Interfaith Center build a community garden on their property. We encourage other groups and landowners – particularly our townhome HOAs - to consider whether some of their land may be suitable to host a community garden. Owen Brown Community Association will consider funding these initiatives.

Our vice-chair, Brad Butler, provided an update on his recent engagement with six of the townhome HOAs in Owen Brown. We are looking to increase collaboration with these HOAs, particularly in regard to architectural guidelines. If you are a board member of one of the townhome HOAs and did not participate in the recent meeting with Brad, please consider participating in future engagements to resident-driven complaints as well. We believe this will help maintain property values in our

On a related note, we established a policy to conduct maintenance inspections of each property in Owen Brown. Historically, Owen Brown has relied on complaints to identify poorly-maintained properties. Over the past few years, we have run a pilot program where we proactively inspected properties for maintenance issues (mowing, peeling paint, rotting wood, etc.). We believe this has been a success and decided to institute a policy that will ensure

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CA ENDS 2022 IN SOLID FINANCIAL SHAPE; LOOKING TO FILL OPEN POSITIONS, INCLUDING LIFEGUARDS

From the desk of Andy Stack, OBCA Columbia Council Representative

Happy New Year and Welcome to 2023! Hope you had an enjoyable holiday season.

CA is finishing 2022 on a positive fiscal note. The financial picture shows CA on target regarding the budget and trends are positive for an even better financial result than budgeted. Income exceeded projections by \$2,950,000 and Expenses were \$860,000 less than projected. Of course things can change by the end of the fiscal year (30 April 2023). Inflation continues to affect CA and the possibility of a recession is worrisome. Another difficulty facing CA is recruiting for open positions. Once again CA is looking for lifeguards for our outdoor pools. We are planning to open all 23 outdoor pools if we can get enough lifeguards. If you know of anyone interested in being a lifeguard, check sites.google.com/columbiaassociation.org/caaquaticsdepartment/hiring/hiring

CA President/CEO, Lakey Boyd, reported on CA's accomplishments in 2022. Some of these accomplishments include:

- New Lakefront Live Headline Event concert series
- Completed the final phase of stabilization below Wilde Lake Dam
- Over 500 kids attended the CA Camps this summer
- Over 1,000 kids enjoyed the 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat and Costume Crawl (Oct 29th)
- Art Center hosted the 2022 Lakefest Umbrella Theme show at Lake Kittamaqundi.
- Received over \$4 million in Employee Retention Tax Credit funding
- Revitalized the much loved speaker series, Change in Columbia
- Held 15 environmentally-focused community events

involving nearly 600 participants

Opened all 23 outdoor pools

Received an unqualified "clean" independent audit of CA's FY 2022 financial statements

Repaid team members who had worked during the pandemic for less than their full rate of pay, making them whole

The entire report is located in the packet of information for the December CA Board meeting (www.columbiaassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/packet-agendas-255352-5.pdf). The report is at the end of the packet (around page 92).

CA staff will present the draft FY-2024 CA budget to the CA Board in mid-January. It is a continuation budget as we are still recovering from the pandemic and dealing with inflation. Additional information concerning the budget process is available at www.columbiaassociation.org/about-us/financials/financial-reports/.

On December 13, 2022 Howard Hughes Corporation (HHC) broke ground on a four-story, 86,000 sq. ft., \$45.8 million medical office building located next to Whole Foods. It is the first phase of several buildings planned for the Lakefront District. The building which will offer a boardwalk-style public terrace with expansive lake views is scheduled for completion in 2024.

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.

OBCA Board Highlights...continued from page 2

each property is inspected once every four years. We will continue to be responsive community, keep our neighborhoods looking nice, and help mitigate the impact of absentee landlords who don't live in Owen Brown.

In January, the board will be conducting our annual review of our architectural guidelines. If you have any recommended or desired changes in the guidelines, please let us know so that the Board of Directors and Executive Architecture Committee can consider them.

The Board also reviewed two properties with unresolved architectural guideline violations and nominated these violations for po-

tential legal action. We only take this step after several months of unsuccessfully engaging with the property owners to address the violations.

On a solemn note, Owen Brown sends its thoughts and prayers to the family of Richard Gebken who passed away recently. Richard was a decades-long resident of Owen Brown and raised his family in our community. We know it is minor compared to other accomplishments in his life but, over the past several years, Richard served on our Residential Architecture Committee and helped update our architectural guidelines to accommodate beekeepers. We appreciate his - and all our volunteers' - spirit of volunteerism, dedication, and thoughtfulness.

Owen Brown Community Association
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OBCA's Holiday Dinner and Snacks with Santa Spread Joy...continued from page 1

