

# OBserver

Official newsletter of the  
Owen Brown Community Association



## PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST

Carve a pumpkin for a chance to win a prize!

E-mail a picture of you with your carved pumpkin to [events@owenbrownvillage.org](mailto:events@owenbrownvillage.org) beginning October 25<sup>th</sup>.

Pictures will be posted to our Facebook page November 2<sup>nd</sup> thru November 3<sup>rd</sup> until 5pm.

The top 3 carvings with the most 'likes' will be announced Tuesday evening, November 3<sup>rd</sup> and will win a prize!

This virtual event is for Owen Brown residents only. Questions? Please call 410-381-0202. [www.facebook.com/owenbrownvillage](https://www.facebook.com/owenbrownvillage)

Join  
OB  
CA  
for  
Some  
Virtual  
Fall  
Fun!

## Owen Brown Scavenger Hunt

TAKE PICTURES  
TO WIN!

A PICTORIAL SEARCH  
THROUGH OWEN BROWN

CLUES AND  
INSTRUCTIONS CAN BE  
FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE  
AND FACEBOOK PAGE  
BEGINNING OCTOBER 2.

All completed hunts receive a pumpkin and OB shopping bag or sport pack

[www.facebook.com/owenbrownvillage](https://www.facebook.com/owenbrownvillage)  
[www.owenbrownvillage.org/events](https://www.owenbrownvillage.org/events)

### Virtual Holiday Paint Night

Wednesday, November 18th

6:00pm-8:00pm



Enjoy painting Rudolph from the comfort of your own home! \$15 per person. All supplies included. Virtually lead by Pinot's Palette.

Registration required, space limited. All items needed for event will be available for pick up at our community center beginning November 14th

Please call 410-381-0202 or email [manager@owenbrownvillage.org](mailto:manager@owenbrownvillage.org) to reserve your spot.

## OB DATES TO REMEMBER

OB Board Meeting	Oct. 6, 7pm
<b>Scavenger Hunt</b>	<b>Oct. 10, 10am-12</b>
<b>Photos Due</b>	
OB RAC Meeting	Oct. 14, 7:30pm
<b>Pumpkin Carving</b>	<b>Oct. 25</b>
<b>Contest Starts</b>	
OB Board Meeting	Nov. 4, 7pm -Wed.
<b>VIN Etching</b>	<b>Nov. 7, 9am-Noon</b>
OB RAC Meeting	Nov. 11, 7:30pm
<b>Virtual Paint Night</b>	<b>Nov. 18, 6-8pm</b>

## 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	OBserver Editor
Joann Allen	Facility Assistant
Joan Rampulla	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](https://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 1 September. We reviewed our 1<sup>st</sup> quarter financials which continue to be dominated by the effects of the pandemic. Although the association has had to make hard decisions regarding rentals, events, and staff, we are weathering the difficulties well.

The board agreed to increase the village's subsidy of cul-de-sac renovation to \$500. If your street has a shared cul-de-sac island, Owen Brown will provide up to \$500 for landscaping as long as you and your neighbors agree on a landscaping design that is approved by the county (the islands are owned by the county). You can contact our Village Manager for details. If you have other ideas of how the village association can invest in our neighborhoods, please share your ideas with us.

The Owen Brown Board also agreed on input to Columbia Association's budget discussions. Our input consisted of three recommendations: building a new CA dog park within Owen Brown, completing a planned path that will make it much easier to walk/bike between Owen Brown and downtown Columbia, and a recommendation that CA prioritize Open Space funding over additional investment in and operating costs supporting the various village associations' facilities.

The board also 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. Please ensure you maintain your yard and repair external damage to your home, fence, and deck so that your property doesn't negatively impact your neighbor's home value.

Finally, the county planning board recently approved renovations to the Starbucks off Snowden River Parkway. The initial plan for this renovation included placing a dumpster along the Deepage Drive entrance to the Hopewell neighborhood. Several board members testified against that aspect of the plan and the approved plan was revised to be less of an eyesore for the neighborhood.



### Home & Yard Services



#### Leaf Removal

#### Fence and Deck Repairs

#### Landscape Lawn Mulch Tree

#### Gutters Paint Roof Wood

#### Whole house clean-out to sell/rent

Call Mike 410-290-9728







## IMPROVEMENTS BEAUTIFY OWEN BROWN OPEN SPACE AREAS AND COMMUNITY CENTER

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

The new bridge at Lake Elkhorn, linking the paths from Farbell and Rustling Leaf to the lake, has been completed. CA work crews from Open Space built/installed the bridge. As part of the project, CA did some stream stabilization. CA is also in the planning stages for the dredging of the forebay at the lake; the project should start in October/November. In the Owen Brown Community Center, CA has installed a new floor in one room and new carpet in another room (used by the East Columbia Preschool). Thanks to CA for the work they have done in our village.

Note that the Owen Brown Community Center is open and available for rentals/meetings.

CA's First Quarter (May through July) FY-2021 Financial Report was completed and discussed by the Audit Committee and the CA Board. Overall, first quarter results were stronger and better than budgeted in most areas. Income was about \$2,000,000 more than estimated while expenses were about \$1,000,000 less than estimated. However, this may be CA's best quarter this year as CA was able to open some facilities before the original budget estimate of September – more income was generated than was estimated – and reductions in Annual Charge from commercial properties are yet to occur (CA expects to see this decrease happen in the second, third, and fourth quarters). CA continues to carefully monitor its fiscal situation and will make changes as needed.

The CA Board is beginning to work on the FY-2022 budget. It will be another difficult year and decreases in income will result in service reductions. Based upon current economic conditions, the capital budget will be just \$8,000,000 (same as in FY-2021; but a significant decrease from the original projection of \$15,000,000). CA staff is recommending that the Annual Charge remain the same as in FY-2021 (no increase). The biggest change is that CA staff is recommending that CA create a Reserve Fund (Rainy Day Fund) for unanticipated events. At this point, CA staff is recommending that \$1,000,000 be placed in the Reserve Fund and future contributions be made until the fund reaches the necessary level (perhaps \$4,000,000).

Development continues. Work to construct the Royal Farms gas station and car wash on Snowden River Parkway is underway. Work to redo the McDonalds at the Village Center is also underway. The Howard County Planning Board approved plans to expand the existing building at 7090 Deepage Drive (a Starbucks is located there) and add a drive-through and a small outdoor seating area. Plans have been submitted to replace the Taco Bell off Minstrel Way. A new storage facility on Berger Road behind the existing storage facility is being proposed. In Symphony Woods, a new pathway from Little Patuxent Parkway to the Chrysalis is under construction.

## CUL-DE-SAC BEAUTIFICATION AND PARKING

According to Howard County code, every home adjacent to a cul-de-sac is responsible for the maintenance of the cul-de-sac island. Did you know that the Owen Brown Community Association sponsors a cul-de-sac beautification program where the residents can “now” be reimbursed up to **\$500** for improvements? All improvements must be approved by both Howard County and the OBCA.

The process is easy -- just call (410-381-0202) or email [manager@owenbrownvillage.org](mailto:manager@owenbrownvillage.org) for more details. Also, help keep your cul-de-sac island from being damaged by trash and recycling trucks by not parking around them on collection days. When cars are parked on the street, trash trucks are unable to maneuver around the cul-de-sac without driving up onto the island in the center, which can cause damage to the grass and curb. Trucks begin their collections at 6:00 AM, so it may be necessary to refrain from parking around the cul-de-sac the night before. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.



## Owen Brown Community Association

6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045

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



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**410.781.4357**  
HELP

**DavidWilliamsElectric.com**

## Feeling Alone During This Pandemic?

Join us for  
on-line Services on  
Sundays at 10:30 am  
and Prayer Line on  
Wednesdays at 7 pm.

Call 410.381.6329  
to sign up.

We're here for you now  
and when in-person  
services resume.



## All Are Welcome

**CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Rev. Zelda Childs

**Owen Brown Interfaith Center**

7246 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045

410.381.6329 • [www.cumcobic.org](http://www.cumcobic.org)

