



# OBserver

Official newsletter of the Owen Brown Community Association

6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045

OWEN BROWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## SNACKS WITH SANTA

Tickets on Sale November 20th

**SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 9TH  
10AM-11:30AM**

[OBSNACKSWITHSANTA.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/obsnackswithsanta)

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN!  
PARENTS DON'T FORGET TO BRING  
YOUR CAMERA!!  
ONLY CHILDREN VISITING WITH SANTA  
REQUIRE A TICKET.  
THIS EVENT IS FREE FOR OWEN BROWN  
RESIDENTS.  
LIMIT 4 TICKETS PER HOUSEHOLD

Owen Brown Community Association

## HOLIDAY DINNER

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13

Doors Open @ 6:30pm

For Tickets  
Call the office at 410.381.0202  
email [events@owenbrownvillage.org](mailto:events@owenbrownvillage.org)  
In person at the Owen Brown Community Center

---

TICKETS ON SALE  
NOVEMBER 13TH

Limited to Owen Brown Residents

Special Performance by String Poets	<b>\$15</b> per person limit 4 per person
--	---

Are you looking for a space to host a Party or reception? Come check out the Owen Brown Community Center! Owen Brown residents receive a 20% discount on social rentals!

To learn more, go to our website at <https://owenbrownvillage.org/rentals> or contact [rentals@owenbrownvillage.org](mailto:rentals@owenbrownvillage.org)

## OB DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>Board &amp; Brush</b>	<b>Nov. 1, 6:30pm</b>
OB Board Meeting	Nov. 7, 7pm
<b>Candle Making Class</b>	<b>Nov. 8, 6:30pm</b>
OB RAC Meeting	Nov. 8, 7:30pm
<b>Holiday Paint Night</b>	<b>Nov. 15, 6:30pm</b>
OB Board Work Session	Nov. 21, 7pm
OB Board Meeting	Dec. 5, 7pm
<b>Snacks with Santa</b>	<b>Dec 9, 10-11:30am</b>
<b>Holiday Dinner</b>	<b>Dec. 13, 6:30pm</b>
OB RAC Meeting	Dec. 13, 7:30pm

## 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](http://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 October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Owen Brown Community Center. We made three decisions.

First, we approved donations for Cradlerock Elementary School PTA, Atholton Booster Club, and The Village in Howard. We still have a few thousand dollars left in our donation budget this fiscal year (which runs through April) and will consider additional donations in the spring. Please let us know if you would like us to support any local groups or causes.

Next, we approved a letter to the CA Board regarding outdoor pools. As you may know, it has been four years since both Dasher Green and Hopewell pools have been open for a full summer. Our letter highlighted that Dasher Green and Hopewell have higher attendance than many other CA pools that have remained open and recommended possible alternatives to CA's strategy for outdoor pools.

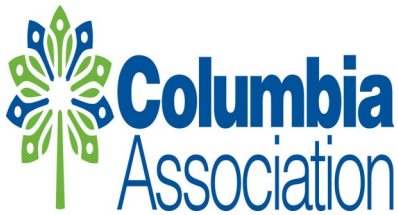
Finally, we approved a letter endorsing the proposed Hopewell Meadow. The project will replace a portion of the turf field near Hopewell pool with a meadow with native plants, flowers, and trees. It will leave significant amounts of turf grass to allow for pick-up sports and other activities the field is currently used for. Many members of the community provided feedback on the proposed meadow with a majority supporting it. We believe the meadow will create a simple but attractive amenity that also benefits the environment.

On a separate note, Howard County recently received a \$4 million grant from the state to fund pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure along Dobbin Road. According to the county, the construction should begin in FY 2025 and when complete will enable Owen Brown residents to be able to safely bike and walk to Wegman's and other businesses along Dobbin. The Board has consistently requested the county complete this project and we are excited to see it moving forward.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, you can email the Board at [obvillageboard@googlegroups.com](mailto:obvillageboard@googlegroups.com).







## CA FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT IS BETTER THAN PROJECTED

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

CA reported on its First Quarter financial results. The FY-2024 First Quarter Financial Report is available at [columbiaassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/Columbia-Association-FY24-Q1-Financial-Report-book.pdf](http://columbiaassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/Columbia-Association-FY24-Q1-Financial-Report-book.pdf). In order to improve the readability of the report, CA has added new graphs and other information.

Overall, CA had a successful first quarter and finished the quarter better than projected. Income was about \$1M better than budgeted and expenses were \$1M less than budgeted. Annual Charge income was on budget while there was an increase in Membership income. Total membership was 17,971 which is about 900 more memberships than in the FY-2023. First Quarter. Expenses were less than budgeted mostly due to timing. Based upon these results, CA expects that it will finish FY-2024 about \$1.5M better than budgeted. Better yet, CA believes that it will be able to avoid having to use the Line of Credit (borrow money) for this fiscal year. With the existing high interest rates, avoiding borrowing money in FY-2024 is a good thing.

CA has begun planning for the FY-2025 budget. The approval of this budget will occur in February 2024. There are several dates for community input. There will be listening sessions on November 2nd and January 25<sup>th</sup>. Online surveys will occur from October 23<sup>rd</sup>

through November 3<sup>rd</sup> and January 22<sup>nd</sup> through Jan 26<sup>th</sup>. I encourage you to participate. Additional information is available at [columbiaassociation.org/about-us/financials/financial-reports/#fy2024](http://columbiaassociation.org/about-us/financials/financial-reports/#fy2024). Regarding CA Board priorities for the FY-2025 budget, a quick summary:

- Board desires to preserve existing infrastructure;
- Board desires to increase accessibility;
- Board desires to improve affordability;
- Board desires to focus on environmental priorities; and
- Board desires to invest in staff development and retention.

Of course, we have limited funds which is why the priorities are stated as desires and staff will do its best to meet the priorities while creating a balanced budget.

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

*The combination of fun activities, beautiful weather, and enthusiastic Owen Brown staff and residents made September's Owen Brown Community Carnival a rousing success!*



## Owen Brown Community Association

6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045

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



American Red Cross



Visit our website at  
<https://judycenter.hcpss.org>

Staff here at the Judy Center have been busy working with families and the school. One of our commitments this school year is to work closely with the school and school aged children to encourage attendance for school. We partnered with Title 1 this past month for an SEL evening event. We worked with our Judy Center families and explained the importance of a bedtime routine. Families went home with lots of goodies in their Bedtime in a Box gift.

At the Judy Center we strive to bring meaningful programs and resources to our community. We offer our families weekly playgroups that are developmentally appropriate. This year we are working with the Office of Children and Families and offering virtual parent workshops once a month in the evening. Each month is a new topic.

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

The Judy Center welcomes all new families. Our goal is to support families and young children's learning through play and exploration while preparing them for school. Check out our website [calendar](#) for a current listing of programming dates and times.

For any questions about the Judy Center or to register for activities please contact us at:  
410-313-8224 (office) or email: [judycenter@hcpss.org](mailto:judycenter@hcpss.org)

Columbia Association is sponsoring a Blood Drive on November 8 from 9am to 3pm at Supreme Sports Club. Supreme Sports Club is located at 7080 Deep-age Drive, Columbia, MD 21045. You can sign up for a time slot to give blood on the American Red Cross website at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>. Note: Give Oct. 21 thru Nov. 9 for a \$10 e-gift card + chance to win a \$5,000 prize. See [rcblood.org/lunch](http://rcblood.org/lunch).

