



# OBserver

Official newsletter of the  
Owen Brown Community Association



## Drive Thru Santa Event!

Come out and see Santa from the  
comfort of your car!

Owen Brown Community Center  
Saturday, Dec., 11 from 10 to 11am

Experience Christmas cheer with  
holiday music, festive treats  
and a cheerful greeting from Santa himself!

This event ends promptly at 11am.

*Guests must remain in their cars.*

No one-on-one pics with Santa, but feel free to  
snap as much as you'd like from inside your car!

No registration required.



## Make an Impact on Your Village: Volunteer at OBCA!

Volunteers play an important role in the life of the village association. In order for us to function, we need the participation of residents just like you to serve on our Board and committees. There are two committee opportunities available for anyone looking to serve and make a difference in the community.

### Resident Architectural Committee

The Resident Architectural Committee reviews resident applications for exterior alterations and recommends whether the changes meet Architectural Guideline standards, and, as such, should be approved. The committee also advises the Village Board on changes and updates to the Architectural Guidelines. You must be either an Owen Brown resident or property owner to serve on the committee. The committee meets twice-a-month March thru October and once-a-month November thru February. If you are interested in serving, contact Susan Sloan, Covenant Advisor, at 410.381.0202 or by email at [covenants@owenbrownvillage.org](mailto:covenants@owenbrownvillage.org)

### Election Committee

Every April the association holds an election to select members to the Board of Directors. Volunteers are needed to serve on the Election Committee to oversee the process and make recommendations on rules and procedures to ensure fairness and impartiality. To serve effectively, members will need to be available for a few hours in January, February, March, and April. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please call 410-381-0202 or email [manager@owenbrownvillage.org](mailto:manager@owenbrownvillage.org) for more information.

## OB DATES TO REMEMBER

OB Board Meeting	Dec. 7, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	Dec. 8 , 7:30pm
<b>Drive-thru Santa Event</b>	<b>Dec. 11, 10-11am</b>
OB Board Meeting	Jan. 4, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	Jan. 12, 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
Kelly Kalal	Facility Coordinator
Shelia Green	Event Planner
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
Vince Miller	Board Member
Robert Golibersuch	Board Member
Mae Beale	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)

## OBCA BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

*from the desk of Board Chair, Michael Golibersuch*

Owen Brown’s Board of Directors held our monthly meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. We had one invited guest at the meeting: Jessica Bellah who works for CA on matters of public policy and zoning. She provided insight into the county process for approving individual site development plans and spoke specifically about proposed site development for two locations near Lake Elkhorn off Broken Land Parkway. Of note, she highlighted that the county planning board’s authority on site development plans is limited by zoning and regulation and that, regardless of community input (opposition or support), the planning board can only disapprove development within the bounds of their authority. The sites off Broken Land Parkway are zoned to allow for restaurants and the proposed developments can not effectively be opposed based on that usage. Ms. Bellah recommended that Owen Brown residents who want to see zoning regulations altered take part in the ongoing general plan update. Later in the meeting and keeping Ms. Bellah’s input in mind, the Owen Brown Board agreed to send a letter to the county planning board opposing the proposed Woodmere development off Broken Land Parkway and provided multiple concerns regarding trees and green setbacks, light pollution, and the placement of dumpsters.

The Owen Brown Board also discussed the three budget scenarios CA is considering using as a framework for next year’s budget. We agreed to send a letter supporting “Scenario 1” which largely maintains the status quo and avoids cuts in services likely in the other two scenarios, as well as a substantial increase in residents’ annual charge proposed in the third scenario.

Additionally, we discussed the county’s plans for placing a mixed-use pathway along Dobbin Road. When completed, this pathway will connect to the Lake Elkhorn pathway and make it much easier and safer for Owen Brown residents to walk and bike to Wegmans and other businesses along Dobbin Road. Unfortunately, the county does not anticipate completing this project for several years. Over the past few years, the Owen Brown Board has provided input to the county’s budget to advocate for funding this project.

Finally, we reviewed a property 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 property owners to address the violations. Earlier this month, on October 14, the Owen Brown Board of Directors provided testimony at the Columbia Association Board of Directors Work Session. In our testimony, we highlighted the disparity in monetary investment CA makes in the ten Columbia villages. For example, in this last fiscal year the investment CA made in Owen Brown resulted in us having an operating budget of about \$34 per person. On the other hand, investments CA made in other villages provided them as much as \$90 per person. Owen Brown’s Board of Directors does not believe this disparity is justified and we request that CA correct the disparity in their future budgets.





## SYMPHONY OF LIGHTS RETURNS TO COLUMBIA THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

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

There will be a Symphony of Lights this year. CA and the Downtown Columbia Arts & Cultural Commission were able to come to an agreement. The agreement will benefit both parties, help protect Symphony Woods and allow the Symphony of Lights to occur. See [www.columbiaassociation.org/blog/a-statement-from-ca-on-symphony-woods/](http://www.columbiaassociation.org/blog/a-statement-from-ca-on-symphony-woods/) for the announcement.

With the departure of Michelle Miller (former head of Community Services), CA has reorganized. The new departments are Community Programs & Services headed by Dan Burns [*which includes Wellness and Fitness (the gyms); Sports (Golf, Tennis, Ice Rink, Sports Park, Swim Center, Skate Park); Outdoor Pools; Arts and Culture (Art Center, International & Multicultural Programs); Archives; Youth and Teens (School Age Services, Youth and Teen Center, Camps)*] and Community Operations headed by Dennis Matthey [*which includes Open Space Facilities and Building Grounds; Parks, Pathways, and Play Areas; Sustainability; Facility Services; Event Services; Real*

*Estate Services*]. Administrative Services headed by Susan Krabbe will include *Accounting; Payroll and Annual Charge (Finances); HR; IT; Purchasing; Risk Management and Financial Analysis. Communications & Marketing, Office of the President, and Board of Directors* continue as before.

The Budget build for FY-2023 is underway. Please see [www.columbiaassociation.org/about-us/financials/financial-reports/](http://www.columbiaassociation.org/about-us/financials/financial-reports/) for information and ways the community can participate. I encourage you to view CA's Blog articles ([www.columbiaassociation.org/blog/](http://www.columbiaassociation.org/blog/)). They are short articles presenting information of interest to the community. Be part of the Columbia Conversation (see [www.columbiaconversation.org/](http://www.columbiaconversation.org/)). This is a project of CA to engage with the Columbia Community.

Happy Holidays! 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.

## HAVE AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY HOLIDAY!



FROM ED WARNER, OB'S REP TO THE CA WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WAC)

If you're looking to go green with your holiday gift list, how about choosing a gift that replaces a "dirty" way of doing work with a clean and quieter solution? Why not consider buying that special someone who mows or rakes your leaves a cordless leaf blower? Or even a cordless lawn mower? Those gifts may sound a bit boring but consider how they'll make life better for you and your neighbors in terms of less noise and far less pollution. On the former score, cordless leaf blowers are quieter by far than their gas-operated counterparts; some are as quiet as home vacuum cleaners. Cordless devices, of course, are also lighter than gas powered ones and far easier to start.

But the big deal with cordless lawn care devices is how much less air pollution they produce. A half-hour of using a gas-powered leaf blower puts out as much pollution as a Ford F150 pickup truck – on a 3900-mile trip! That problem is noted on the Owen Brown CARES Facebook page, where I encourage you to also post environmentally friendly info for our village. And if you want to get involved more, please join the Owen Brown CARES Google Group, an email list we'll use to promote go-green activities in our community. To join, just email me at [edwarner@hotmail.com](mailto:edwarner@hotmail.com).

## JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST!

Are you interested in receiving email updates between *OBservers*? Sign up for our email list and get the most up to date notices. Go to our website at [www.owenbrownvillage.org](http://www.owenbrownvillage.org) and scroll down to the Newsletter section and look for *Newsletter Updates and Alerts*. Click the button and add your email address. That's it!

## REDUCE FOOD WASTE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



**When you prepare your holiday dinner this year, take the simple steps below to reduce the amount of wasted food.**

Wasted food in the landfill is a major cause of climate-warming greenhouse gas production. Here are a few simple things you can do over the holidays to cut food waste:

- ◆ Plan your holiday meals, and don't purchase more food than you will need. If you want to make a lot of different side dishes, consider halving the recipes.
- ◆ If you have leftovers, be sure to refrigerate or freeze them promptly so that you can enjoy them in future meals.
- ◆ Freeze vegetable and meat scraps to make soup or broth.
- ◆ If food is left on people's plates, consider saving extra bits of meat for the dog, then compost the rest, put it in your Green Bin or grind it in the garbage disposal.

## Owen Brown Community Association

6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045

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



*May the Holidays Bring you Light and Warmth*



**DAVID WILLIAMS**  
ELECTRIC CO., INC.

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