

OBserver

Official newsletter of the Owen Brown Community Association

6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045





There are a few tickets still available for OB's Holiday Dinner. Get yours before they're sold out!

LIMITED TO OWEN BROWN RESIDENTS

Owen Brown Residents Showed Off Their Crafty Sides at Village Events in October and November!







See
page 4
for
more
photos
of our
crafty
residents!

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OB DATES TO REMEMBER



Dec, 6, 7pm

Dec. 7, 6:30pm

Dec. 14, 7:30pm

January 3, 7pm

Dec. 10, 11:30am

January 11, 7:30pm

OB Board Meeting

Holiday Dinner

Snacks with Santa

OB RAC Meeting OB Board Meeting

OB RAC Meeting

Bollywood Dance Classes

Wednesdays in February

OWEN BROWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Office Hours

Kelly Kalal

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

Event Planner

Facility Coordinator/

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 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 had our monthly meeting on November 1 at the Owen Brown Community Center.

Each year, OBCA makes a few modest donations (totaling in the low thousands). At the November meeting, we discussed, but didn't commit, potential donations that Owen Brown could make to other community organizations including school related groups, after school activities at the library ("Teen Time"), and Columbia Community Cares. One donation issue we discussed is the fact that Owen Brown now sends large numbers of students to two different high schools (Oakland Mills and Atholton). We want to ensure we provide donations equitably to both schools, but we lack the relationships and familiarity with the Atholton administration, groups, and booster clubs that we have with Oakland Mills. If you are a parent of a student at Atholton and are involved in the PTSA, booster clubs, or other activities, we would love to hear from you. And if there are any other locally-based-and-focused organizations you think we should consider making donations to, please let us know. Also at the meeting, the Owen Brown Board approved a letter to the Columbia Association Board of Directors voicing our support for the current CA President (see p. 3) Some CA Board members have been frustrated with their relationship with the CA President and we want to remind them of the value she brings to the community. Finally, we referred one property with covenant violations to CA for potential legal action. We only take this step after attempting several months of trying to resolve the matter

DON'T LEAF YOUR STORM DRAIN IN TROUBLE!

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

Throughout the fall, we've been entertained as our local trees poured down their bounty of colorful leaves. Then, in November, we raked those leaves into 30-gallon yard-waste bags, the only type picked up by the county's Waste Recycling organization. But, what if you didn't rake the gutter along your street, or worse you raked your leaves into the gutter, hoping the county would come remove them? If that's the case, you might have left your storm drains ready to be plugged by a surge in all the leaves, as December rains carry them to the drain. If the drain gets plugged, as is likely in a big storm, the water will pool in the street and may freeze – making your street a danger for passing cars or those out for a walk. So, the lesson is clear: Don't just rake your yards, rake your street's gutters. And, if the storm drain appears clogged by a pile of leaves, please rake them.

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OBCA UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORTS CA PRESIDENT, LAKEY BOYD

From the desk of Andy Stack, OBCA Columbia Council Representative

You may be aware of the controversy concerning CA President/CEO Lakey Boyd. The Owen Brown Village Board wrote a letter in support of Ms. Boyd (see adjacent). I support the letter. In my opinion, Ms. Boyd has done a very good job.

In January, CA staff will present the draft FY-2024 CA budget. 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/.

Hope you were able to attend the excellent Veteran's Parade & Celebration in Downtown Columbia on Nov 13th.

Happy Holidays!

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 ob-vbcarep@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from



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November 2, 2022

Columbia Association Board of Directors Via-email

RE: Support for President Boyd

Dear Board Member,

Owen Brown Community Association wishes to communicate our unanimous and unequivocal support of Ms. Lakey Boyd and her position as CA President and CEO.

Ms. Boyd has brought renewed energy, professionalism, intelligence, and engagement to CA.

- For too long, CA has simply talked about the values Columbia was founded on Ms.
 Boyd has made public and tangible efforts to put those values into practice.
- Ms. Boyd has emphasized data-driven decision-making that will lead to more efficient use of CA resources and deliver more value to everyone paying the annual charge and/or membership fees.
- Ms. Boyd, despite being new to the area, has become a valued member of the community. She visibly supports other organizations throughout the community attempting to implement positive change.
- During her tenure, CA staff has been motivated and more responsive to engagement from the community. In Owen Brown, this has manifested itself in better engagement with Open Space crews as we improve the landscaping around Lake Elkhorn and other open space areas and help make Columbia a greener community.
- Unlike her predecessor, Ms. Boyd has proactively engaged the villages. She has attended
 Owen Brown meetings, listened to our concerns, and provided candid feedback on how
 CA can support us. Recently, we appreciated her taking the time out of her Saturday to
 participate in Owen Brown's 50th Anniversary celebrations.

In summary, Ms. Boyd both *embodies the values of Columbia* through her visible leadership and engagement and *delivers value to Columbia* through her professionalism and efficient use of CA's resources.

It came to our attention that Ms. Boyd's position was discussed at the October 27 meeting. We are further concerned about the secondary effects of removing Ms. Boyd prior to the completion of her contract.

- This could lead to legal disputes that would damage CA's image and needlessly waste money that would be better spent delivering value to residents.
- This would cause long-term harm to CA's ability to recruit effective senior leadership for our organization.
- · It would cause morale issues amongst CA staff.
- The CA Board would place any replacement of Ms. Boyd at a disadvantage. At no fault of their own, anyone replacing Ms. Boyd would have their credentials questioned and constantly judged against the high bar Ms. Boyd has set.

Owen Brown hopes that Ms. Boyd continues in her role as CA President and CEO.

Sincerely, Owen Brown Village Board

Owen Brown Community Association

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Owen Brown Residents Showed Off Their Crafty Sides ... continued from page 1







