



OBserver

6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045



Official newsletter of the Owen
Brown Community Association

VILLAGE ELECTIONS ARE COMING SOON: BECOME A CANDIDATE!

On April 20th, village residents will have the opportunity to elect **two** members to the Village Board and **one** member to the Columbia Council (CA Board of Directors) for a two-year term, beginning in May of 2024. These elected volunteers represent the interests and concerns of the Owen Brown Village to both the Columbia Association (CA) and the County, though their responsibilities are very different in terms of scope.

The Village Board provides oversight to a \$400,000 budget, a seven member staff, a covenant enforcement process, the management of a community center and the sponsoring of special events. In addition, they serve as advocates to both the County and the Columbia Association regarding various issues that might arise. The CA Board of Directors, on the other hand, oversees a \$60 million budget with hundreds of em-

ployees that provide all of the unique amenities from pools to pathways that makes Columbia so special.

If you would like to find out more about what is involved in running for and serving on one of these boards, the Columbia Association is hosting an information session for anyone looking to learn more about CA's Board of Directors, the village boards and upcoming elections. You're invited to take part in this free virtual event, taking place at **5pm** on Thursday, **February 15** via Zoom webinar. You can register for this Webinar by going to: <http://tinyurl.com/29v5fvax>

Declaration of Candidacy Forms for either the Village Board or the CA Board will be available beginning **March 1** at the Owen Brown Community Center or by emailing manager@owenbrownvillage.org

JUDY CENTER
EARLY LEARNING HUB

Assisting families with resources and parents with being their child's first teacher.

- Resource Support
 - Clothing
 - Housing
 - Food
 - Mental Health
 - Medical Needs
 - Childcare
 - Employment
- Educational Support
 - School Enrollment
 - Early Intervention
 - Playgroups
 - Adult Education

Visit our website for more information
<https://judycenter.hcpss.org/>

Howard County
Public School System

Supreme Sports Club Arena
Wednesday, February 14, 9am-3pm



SHARE YOUR HEART!

Participate in CA's blood drive and win an Amazon gift card!

Scan the QR code to claim your spot today



www.redcrossblood.org
sponsor code:
carefirstcolumbia



OB DATES TO REMEMBER

OB Board Meeting	Feb. 6, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	Feb. 13 7:30pm
OB Board Work Session	Feb. 20, 7pm
OB Board Meeting	March 5, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	March 13, 7:30pm
OB Board Work Session	March 19, 7pm



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
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

OBCA BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

from the desk of Board Chair, Michael Golibersuch

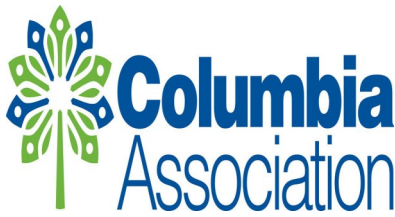
The Owen Brown Board of Directors held our monthly meeting on January 9th. We met via zoom due to the inclement weather. At our meeting, the Board approved a letter to Howard County Recreation and Parks asking for modifications to the proposed East Columbia Library Park. We emphasized that we appreciate the county's investment in our community and would like to see improvements to the area; however, we had two major concerns: we do not support the installation of amenities that already exist nearby (basketball, pickleball, baseball fields) and we oppose the installation of stadium lights so close to residences. We suggested the county keep some portions of the plan including a new playground, tree planting, and solar canopy for the parking lot. We also recommended that the park keep its multi-uses



fields and consider adding a modest dog park instead of the pickleball courts, basketball courts, and baseball fields. We believe these amenities match and would enhance the way our community wants to use that space.

The Board also approved a modest amount of annual funding for our local Owen Brown CARES group. OB CARES organizes a variety of volunteer environmental activities in our community including trash pickups, weed pulls, and adopt-a-spots. The modest funding will help provide supplies, refreshments, and advertising for those events. If you are interested in getting involved in OB CARES, please send an email to both edwarner@hotmail.com and linda96ort@gmail.com.

In December, several members of the Owen Brown community joined me in testifying at the county executive's budget hearing about the need to fund pedestrian safety improvements along Cradlerock Way. We appreciate everyone who took the time to provide written or oral testimony. We also appreciate the first steps the county has already taken by installing in-road crosswalk signs at each crosswalk along Cradlerock; however, the Board of Directors is still asking the county to fund a capital project to install additional safety features. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, you can email the board at obvil-lageboard@googlegroups.com



CA BEGINS SEARCH FOR NEW PRESIDENT AND IS HIRING FOR MANY OTHER POSITIONS

From the desk of Andy Stack, OBCA Columbia Council Representative

The search for the next CA President/CEO is underway. Goal is to select an individual before the end of CA's fiscal year, April 2024. See columbiaassociation.org/news/ca-begins-search-for-next-president-ceo/ for further information.

Work on CA's next Five-Year Strategic Plan has begun. A survey and a series of sessions kicked off the activity. The Strategic Plan helps guide CA to ensure that CA's actions and investments align with CA's vision, mission and values. A draft of the new plan will be available in March 2024. The CA Board expects to adopt a new plan in April 2024. Updates on the process will be given at CA Board meetings in February and March.

CA has a new, colorful mural at the Fountain at the Lakefront. Check it out when you are down there.

There will be a Virtual candidate information session on Thursday February 15th at 5 PM for anyone looking to learn more about CA's Board of Directors, the village boards and upcoming elections.

The CA Board will vote on the FY-2025 budget at its February 22nd meeting. The proposed budget is available at columbiaassociation.org/wp-uploads/FY-2025-Draft-Operating-and-Capital-Budgets.pdf.

CA is hiring for all sorts of amazing full-time and part-time positions (including summer lifeguards). Some benefits that CA offers include:

- **Free membership:** Both full-time and part-time team members receive a free CA Fit&Play membership
- **Great benefits:** CA covers 85% of the cost of benefits for eligible team members
- **Work with purpose:** Join a team of awesome people who are passionate about serving the community

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.



With winter upon us, it is important to remember a few things regarding snow and snow removal. First, neither the Village association nor the Columbia Association have any charge over removing snow from the roads or public sidewalks. Howard County is responsible for plowing all public roads and highways.

You can learn more about the County's rules or how to track the snow removal efforts by going to: [https://](https://www.howardcountymd.gov/public-works/snow-removal)

www.howardcountymd.gov/public-works/snow-removal. Second, snow removal from the sidewalk is the responsibility of each property owner that borders the sidewalk. The sidewalk is to be cleared within 48 hours after the snow has fallen. If a property owner has not removed the snow within 48 hours, you may want to contact the property owner and advise them of the County code and see if they need assistance. Your thoughtfulness can make a big difference to someone who is physically unable to shovel snow.

Owen Brown Community Association
6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045
Office: 410-381-0202 Fax: 410-381-0235



EAST COLUMBIA PRESCHOOL

A cooperative preschool for 3-5 year olds, serving Howard County since 1974

Visit eastcolumbiapreschool.org
for registration info and forms

OWEN BROWN COMMUNITY CENTER
6800 Cradlerock Way



Enrolling Now for
2024-2025 School Year!

REGISTRATION OPENS
JANUARY 11TH, 2024

PROGRAM OFFERINGS

3-day 3s

Classes meet Tues./Wed./Thurs.
9:00-11:45am
Students must turn 3 by 12/31/24

3-day 4s

Classes meet Mon./Wed./Fri.
9:00-11:15am
Students must turn 4 by 12/31/24

4-day 4s

Classes meet Mon./Tues./Wed./Thurs.
12:30-3:15pm
Students must turn 4 by 12/31/24

Optional Lunch Bunch

11:45am - 12:30pm
Extends morning classes to 12:30pm
Extends afternoon class to 11:45am



License #56054