

OBserver

Official newsletter of the
Owen Brown Community Association



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RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO REVIEW OBCA FY-21 BUDGET

The Owen Brown Community Association FY-21 Budget will be posted on the OBCA website by March 6, 2020. Residents are encouraged to view the budget which will be voted on at the Board meeting on April 7, 2020. Please contact the Village Manager, Craig Barton, at 410-381-0202 with any questions or comments.

Clean up

the world

COLUMBIA CLEAN-UP
Saturday, March 21st
9:00am-12:00pm

Help keep Owen Brown beautiful! We need volunteers to help clean up around Lake Elkhorn. Registration is at 9:00am at the Dockside parking lot. Safety vests, bags, and rubber gloves will be provided. Please bring water for yourself and your group in reusable containers.



Wear appropriate clothing, as we will be picking up in wooded areas. Weather Permitting. All volunteers will receive a free gift!

VILLAGE ELECTIONS COMING SOON: BECOME A CANDIDATE!

On April 25th, village residents will have the opportunity to elect two Village Board members and one Columbia Council Rep for a two-year term, beginning on May 1, 2020. These elected volunteers represent the interests and concerns of the Owen Brown community to both the Columbia Association (CA) and the County. Declaration of Candidacy Forms will be available at the Owen Brown Community Center beginning March 2. Each candidate must complete the form, which requires the signatures of ten members of the Owen Brown Community Association, and submit an optional 150-word statement. The form must be returned to the village office no later than 12 p.m. (Noon), Friday, **March 20**, 2020. Candidate statements will be published in the April *OBserver* and the *Columbia Flier*.

Some of the Village Board duties and responsibilities include attending bi-monthly board meetings, overseeing village finances, ensuring enforcement of village covenants, and liaising with CA, other villages, county and state agencies.

A "Meet the Candidates Night" will be held on Tuesday, April 21 at 7 p.m. Please come out to learn more about your Village Board candidates and share your concerns or ask a question. For more information on becoming a candidate, please contact Craig Barton, Village Manager at 410-381-0202.

OB DATES TO REMEMBER

OB Village Board Meeting	March 3, 7pm
Yoga Nights	Tuesdays in March
OB RAC Meeting	March 11, 7:30pm
Science Show	March 21, 10:30am
Columbia Cleanup	March 21, 9am-12
OB RAC Meeting	March 25, 7:30pm
Searching for Spring	March 28, 10am
OB Village Board Meeting	April 7, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	April 8, 7:30pm
OB Village Elections	April 25, 9am-12

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
Pearl Atkinson-Stewart	Board Member
Robert Golibersuch	Board Member
Douglas Fox	Board Member
Andrew Stack	CA Board Rep.

OBCA now takes credit cards for rental payments-VISA, MC, Discover and AM EX!

OBCA BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

from the desk of Board Chair, Michael Golibersuch

The Owen Brown Village Board held our February meeting on Tuesday the 4th. We welcomed an assistant principal from Lake Elkhorn Middle School (LEMS) who expressed a desire for continued partnership with Owen Brown Village Association. She also let us know that there has been large turnover in the LEMS administration, and that the PTA has recently been reestablished after a hiatus.

Next, we appointed three members of our community to serve on our Election Committee this year – if needed these individuals will oversee the election for Owen Brown Board of representatives later this spring. The board also developed a plan for end of fiscal year spending (our fiscal year ends on April 30). Our plan included multiple items that will be advertised as they are developed, as well as designating most of our remaining charitable donation budget to Lake Elkhorn Middle School and Teen Time (an after school program associated with the East Columbia Library). We still have a small portion of our charitable budget remaining, and we encourage residents to contact us with recommendations for supporting local causes. In preparation for the upcoming Lake Elkhorn Cleanup Day (March 21st). we decided to task our staff with assisting CA in organizing the event. All Owen Brown residents are encouraged to participate in Lake Elkhorn Cleanup Day and we will be giving prizes, including a few generous prizes, to volunteers who show up to help. Finally, we decided to invite the three candidates running to represent our district (District 3) on the Howard County Board of Education to a Candidates Night at the Owen Brown Community Center. We hope they accept this invitation, and we will advertise the specific date and time as it is solidified. Please reach out to us with feedback or questions on any of these topics or other issues you would like the Owen Brown board to address.

Owen Brown residents were leaving it all on the dance floor in February while learning their moves at the first of four weeks of Salsa Dancing lessons!



Check us out on the web and Facebook at:
www.owenbrownvillage.org
www.facebook.com/owenbrownvillage

SEARCHING FOR SPRING EGG HUNT

at the Columbia Sports Park

Harper's Choice Village Center
5453 Harper's Farm Road

Saturday, March 28, 2020

10:00 - 11:30 am

(No admittance permitted after 10:45 am)

10:00 am Crafts

10:45 am Egg Hunt (while supplies last/bring your own basket)

11:00 am Entertainment with Daisy the Clown

For Children Ages 2 - 8.

Advance Ticket required for this FREE event.

Tickets are for Columbia Lien-paying residents only.

**Tickets will be available at your village office starting
Friday, February 28, 2020**

Find more information about your village at

columbiaassociation.org/columbia-villages

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HOWARD COUNTY PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECTS BUDGET INCLUDES SEVERAL SITES/AREAS IN OWEN BROWN

From the desk of Andy Stack, OBCA Columbia Council Representative

In early January, CA conducted a survey regarding Neighborhood Centers. These centers are not Community Centers, they are much smaller and located in neighborhoods. Every Village has a Community Center. However, Owen Brown, Hickory Ridge, and Town Center have no Neighborhood Centers. The survey was available via email and the web. Over 3,000 people completed the survey. This was a very good response and indicates the interest people have in the issue of Neighborhood Centers. 212 people (out of the 3,000) identified themselves as residents of Owen Brown. I want to thank everyone who completed the survey, especially those who live in Owen Brown. The CA Board will review the data from the survey as we craft a policy regarding Neighborhood Centers.

In this issue of the *OBserver*, you will find an article regarding two projects at Lake Elkhorn (dredging and pathway repair). I encourage you to read the article where CA explains the status of each project.

The Howard County Executive has proposed his Capital Projects budget which has been reviewed by the Howard County Planning Board. Some projects of interest to Owen Brown include the following.

1. East Columbia Senior Center: construct a new Senior Center next to the existing East Columbia Library; cost is projected to be \$26.505M; FY21 for design/construction with completion in FY22.
2. New Cultural Center: construct a Cultural Center on the site of Toby's Dinner Theater; cost

is projected to be \$63.152M with \$28M coming from the County; complete design and start construction in FY21; complete in FY24

3. Talbott Springs Elementary School: construct a new Talbott Springs Elementary School; cost is projected to be \$43.467M; design and construction in FY20, completion in FY22.

4. New Central Library: construct a new Central Library and Business Arts Education Center in the Merriweather District of Downtown Columbia; cost is projected to be \$3.9M for planning & engineering; design FY21, construction FY22, completion FY23.

5. Improvements to intersection of Snowden River Parkway and Broken Land Parkway; J4167; improve the Broken Land Parkway & Snowden River Parkway intersection; cost is projected to be \$3.895M; design & land acquisition in FY21; construction in FY22; completion in FY23.

6. Snowden River Parkway Widening; J4222; design and construct a third lane in each direction along with other improvements; project is being phased; for FY22 land acquisition for Oakland Mills intersection improvements with construction in FY23.

7. East Columbia Library Fields: reconstruction of existing athletic fields behind the East Columbia Library; cost is projected to be \$4.2M; project delayed until FY23.

Patuxent Branch Trail: construction of trail from Downtown Columbia to Stevens Forest Road; cost is projected to be \$5.375M with a potential \$3.6M grant from the State for construction in FY21.

OWEN BROWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION HOLDING ANNUAL MEETING IN MAY

Owen Brown Community Association will hold its Annual Meeting on May 5, 2020 at 7 p.m. at the Community Center. Owen Brown residents are welcome to attend.

IMPROVEMENTS HAPPENING AT LAKE ELKHORN

Columbia Association is hoping to begin two projects later this year at Lake Elkhorn — 1) removing sediment from the forebay; and 2) repairing a section of pathway near the lake.

Sediment Removal

The sediment removal is scheduled to begin in fall of 2020. CA will install a haul road across the wetland and will remove approximately 11,500 cubic yards of sediment from the forebay and another 1,200 cubic yards of sediment from the area above the bridge with the benches. The project should take approximately three months, weather permitting. The location of the haul road was the best available option for completing this project while also protecting the pathways and natural areas.

Pathway Repairs Near Rustling Leaf/Farbell Row

This section of pathway is currently closed due to erosion. CA has been waiting to receive the required approvals from the state before beginning repairs. CA is hoping to receive a grading permit and stream closure waiver soon. If the waiver isn't granted by the end of March, then the project will have to be postponed until later this year. CA has said that it will install a temporary bridge in order to reopen the pathway, and then CA hopes to begin full repairs in late fall of 2020.



A broken pipe and erosion caused the closure of a pathway near Rustling Leaf and Farbell Row. CA will install a temporary bridge if waiver isn't granted soon.



The Judy Center Partnership
AT CRADLEROCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Visit our website judycenterhcpss.org
Follow us on Twitter @hcpssjudycenter

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!**

Did you know The Judy Center is a satellite location for Cribs for Kids? Are you expecting a baby? Have an infant? Contact us to find out more about this Safe Sleep education program. Our next class will be March 18, 2020. Call us for details and to register.

Our playgroups for birth-4 yr olds are in full swing. Contact us to schedule a time to come join the fun! Our partner, University of Maryland Extension offers a monthly Read for Health Nutrition class for 2-5 yr olds with a food tasting and a free book. The next class is March 25, 2020.. Hope you can join us!

Mark your calendars now...Our next "Family Together Night" is April 23, 2020!

Our goal is school readiness! We welcome new families! Check our website calendar for Spring programming and contact us to register.

For any questions about the Judy Center or to register for activities please contact us at:
410-313-8224 or E-mail: nancy_smith@hcpss.org



PAID ADVERTISEMENT

WANT TO KNOW HOW MUCH YOUR HOME IS WORTH?



March, 2020—Howard County and Columbia are in the midst of the SPRING real estate market. Inventory of available properties is lower than it has ever been. Typical days on market from listing date to under contract is between 5 and 30 days! Should you be considering moving in the first half of 2020, now is the time to act. Call me to discuss. KAROL HESS, CUMMINGS & CO., REALTORS®, Columbia office. 410-294-5587 cell, KAROL@KAROLHESS.COM, 410-832-0033 main office.





Free Trees for OB Residents!

In celebration of Owen Brown's 48th Anniversary, we are giving away **48 trees** to our residents. To qualify, you must be a homeowner in the Village of Owen Brown and able to pick up and plant the tree in Owen Brown the last week in April (*actual pick up date to be determined*).

Interested residents must submit an application, which can be found at www.owenbrownvillage.org or picked up in person at the community center. Application deadline is April 6, 2020.

Trees available on a first come, first serve basis. For more information, please call 410-381-0202.

Help Green Up Owen Brown!



A-OK Mentoring-Tutoring, Inc
is actively seeking volunteers! We welcome people from all backgrounds and experiences to participate in the organization!

A-OK Volunteers serve as mentors and tutors for preschool and elementary school children and middle school youth

in Howard County schools and in community programs.

Information Sessions are held regularly to learn more about A-OK Mentoring-Tutoring and available volunteer opportunities.

Last Information Session for the 2019-20 School Year:

**Wednesday, March 4th at 1pm
Hawthorn Center
6175 Sunny Spring, Columbia**

***Volunteer work with A-OK requires weekday, daytime hours. Volunteers must be at least 21 years of age. Let us know if and when we can expect you: email: susan@aokmentor.org, phone: 443-895-2457**

**NEW HOPE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**



Worship with Us this Easter Season!

Our Theme for Lent – Camino of New Hope

MIDWEEK MEDITATIONS WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 4, 11, 18, 25 & APRIL 1 • 7:30 PM	MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 9 • 7:30 PM
PALM SUNDAY • APRIL 5 8:30, & 10:00 AM	GOOD FRIDAY • APRIL 10 NOON & 7:30 PM (LUNCH FOLLOWING NOON WORSHIP)

EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 12 • 8:30, 10:00 & 11:30 AM
(NURSERY AVAILABLE AT ALL SERVICES)

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SCHOLARSHIPS FROM COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION REWARD TEENS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EFFORTS

Applications are now being accepted for the 2020 Maggie J. Brown Spirit of Columbia Scholarship Award.

Columbia Association's scholarship program offers up to six \$2,500 education awards to graduating high school seniors who exhibit exceptional efforts in providing community service to benefit Columbia residents and those in the Columbia area.

The students must live on CA-assessed property or have a parent/guardian who works full-time on or owns CA-assessed property. Applicants must be graduating in May/June 2020 from an accredited public, private or parochial high school, or be home-schooled in accordance with COMAR 13A.10.01. The students must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better.

Applications are available online at ColumbiaAssociation.org/scholarship. Completed applications must be submitted by March 15, 2020. For more information, call 410-715-3161 or email SpiritofColumbia@ColumbiaAssociation.org.

The scholarship is not available to full-time CA employees or their family members, members of CA's Board of Directors or their family members, or members of CA's senior management team or their family members.

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



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