



OBserver

Official newsletter of the Owen Brown Community Association



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MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY: BECOME A CANDIDATE FOR THE OBCA BOARD!

On April 22, village residents will have the opportunity to elect **three** Village Board members for a two-year term, beginning in May of 2023. These elected volunteers represent the interests and concerns of the Owen Brown community to both the Columbia Association (CA) and the County. Candidate Packets will be available at the Owen Brown Community Center or by email beginning **March 1**. Requests for an electronic Candidate Packet should be sent to manager@owenbrownvillage.org **Deadline** for submission is **March 17 at noon**.

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 officials. For more information on becoming a candidate and making a difference in your community, please contact Craig Barton, Village Manager at 410-381-0202 or manager@owenbrownvillage.org



Volunteer to keep Owen Brown Clean
Saturday March 25th
10am-Noon
meet at
Owen Brown Community Center
6800 Cradlerock Way 21045

Join fellow residents to pick up trash and debris in and around our trails, tot lots & pathways. This is a wonderful way for your family, Scout troop or civic organization to help the environment in their own back yard.

For more information or to register
<https://OBColumbiaCleansDay.eventbrite.com>

Advanced Registration Preferred
but not Required

RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO REVIEW OBCA FY-24 BUDGET

The Owen Brown Community Association FY-24 draft budget will be posted on the OBCA website by March 3, 2023. Residents are encouraged to view the budget which will be voted on at the board meeting on April 4, 2023. Feel free to contact the Board at obvillageboard@googlegroups.com with any questions or comments.

OB DATES TO REMEMBER

Candidacy Forms (available at OBCC or by email)	Starting March 1
OB Board Meeting	March 7, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	March 8, 7:30pm
OB RAC Meeting	March 22, 7:30pm
OB Columbia Cleans Day	March 25, 10am-12
OB Board Meeting	April 4, 7pm
Backyard Birds at OBCC	April 12, 1-2pm
OB RAC Meeting	April 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/ Event Planner
Nick Bechetti	Asst. Covenant Advisor
Kelly Carney	<i>OB</i> server 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

Owen Brown’s Board of Directors held our monthly meeting on February 7th at the Owen Brown Community Center.

We appointed three volunteers to our Election Committee: Kelly Carney, Michael Baum, and Rachel Petroff Kessler. If we have a contested election, this committee will oversee its execution. We appreciate that these individuals have taken the time to volunteer on behalf of the community.

Speaking of the election, three seats on our village board are up for election this year (the other two village board seats as well as our CA Representative are elected in even years). Candidate packets for anyone interested will be available at the community center beginning on March 1. If we end up with a contested election, remote voting will be available starting in April, with in person voting and the count taking place on April 22. Personally, I have found serving on the Board to be a rewarding experience - it has enabled me to meet many neighbors and contribute to the community in a small but meaningful way. The role of the Board and the community association is sometimes misunderstood and if you have questions about serving on the board and what it entails, please reach out to us.

We also approved updates to Owen Brown’s Architectural Guidelines. We have updated the guidelines every year for the past several years to keep them in line with contemporary standards. The guidelines are written by your neighbors, and anyone can provide input. This year we received limited feedback from the community and the changes we made were largely intended to clarify existing rules rather than make substantive changes.

In support of the county’s ongoing deliberation over its budget, we voted to send a letter containing recommendations for the county budget pertaining to Owen Brown. Specifically, we recommended investment in street trees, watershed management, and other green projects; continued funding for foot/bicycle/gator patrols by police in our community; funding for street renovations that should make local roads (e.g. Dobbin and Snowden River) safer for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists; and endorsed two specific projects in Owen Brown - renovations to the fields by the library and a feasibility study for a park located at the intersection of Oakland Mills and Homespun.

Our Board is unanimous in our belief that Lakey Boyd’s departure from her role as CA’s President and CEO is a loss for the community. We discussed our Board’s disappointment in CA’s Board of Directors’ inability to resolve their differences with Ms. Boyd in a mature and professional manner as well as the ongoing negative impacts the Board’s behavior is having on the community. The Owen Brown Board appreciates our CA Representative’s (Andy Stack) attempts to encourage the CA Board to change their course of action.

Finally, we discussed two properties with covenant violations and referred them to CA for action. We only take this step after several months of attempting to resolve the violations with the property owners.

Over the next couple months, we will be committing the remainder of this year’s charitable donations budget (about \$3,000) and setting the village budget for next year. If you have recommendations for either of those, please reach out to us. As always you can contact the village board at obvillageboard@googlegroups.com.



CA APPOINTS DENNIS MATTEY AS INTERIM PRESIDENT/CEO AND WELCOMES TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

From the desk of Andy Stack, OBCA Columbia Council Representative

As you may be aware our CA President/CEO Lakey Boyd resigned in late January. In February, the CA Board chose Dennis Mattey as the Interim CA President/CEO. I believe that Dennis is an excellent choice. He has been with CA for many, many years and is known in the community. Dennis is head of Community Operations which includes Open Space. He brings a wealth of knowledge to his position as Interim CA President/CEO and he will work well with CA Senior Staff.

Historically, when CA is between Presidents, the CA Board has appointed a Senior Staff member to be Interim/Acting President. I see Dennis' appointment as a positive development as the Board worked with CA Senior Staff to identify an acceptable candidate. CA Senior Staff proposed Dennis and the CA Board accepted Staff's recommendation.

The CA Board is set to approve the draft FY-2024 CA budget on February 23rd, which is after the date this article needs to be submitted. It is a continuation budget as we are still recovering from the pandemic and dealing with inflation. The Capital Budget includes \$250,000 for renovations to Lake Elkhorn dock, pavilion, and fishing piers. It also includes \$1,300,000 for renovations to the Art Center in Long Reach, \$1,122,000 for pathway, bridges and boardwalks renovations/replacements; \$1,100,000 for building energy retrofits, watershed and water quality and "going

green" projects; and \$1,011,000 for other Open Space projects, equipment, and vehicles.

The Operating Budget reflects full staffing for most programs and services; provides funds to cover increases in costs related to inflation; proposes to open all 23 outdoor pools this summer; adds new and expanded activities and events at Downtown Lakefront and other community venues; enhances funding to improve communications; enhances open space activities/services; and provides funds to meet the new minimum wage requirements. No long-term debt issuance is proposed. The Annual Charge Rate and Cap will remain the same as in FY-2023. The draft FY-2024 budget is available at www.columbiaassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/CA-Fiscal-Year-2024-Draft-Budget-ALL.pdf.

In February, two new members joined the CA Board. The new representative from the Village of Kings Contrivance is Keith O'Neil, Jr. and the new representative from the Village of Long Reach is Joshua Friedman.

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.

backyard birds

Owen Brown
Community Center
Wednesday April 12th
1pm-2pm

with
Kurt Schwarz
Howard County Bird Club

Have you ever wondered who our feathered friends are that call Lake Elkhorn home? Join us for an hour of coffee, conversation and conservation.

Registration Preferred but not required.
Call 410.381.0202 or email
events@owenbrownvillage.org

OB BOARD AND EAC UPDATE VILLAGE GUIDELINES

The Village Board and the Executive Architectural Committee (EAC) voted to update the Owen Brown Architectural Guidelines in February. Since this is now an annual process for the two groups, the changes are relatively minor, but do help to either clarify or specify the Village's intent with regard to particular items. You can view the updated Guidelines in their entirety or just the items that were changed by going to our website at <https://owenbrownvillage.org/exterior-change-process> Scroll to the download section and look for the 2023 Guidelines and Changes documents.



Owen Brown Community Association

6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045

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



One World Coffeehouse presents Honest Lee Soul in concert on Saturday, March 18, 2023 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at Owen Brown Interfaith Center, 7246 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD. Honest Lee Soul describes its roots as “creativity that seeks to connect to the souls of others creating an ongoing exchange of light and love.” Performers Culen DeChant and Rahsaan Eldridge characterize their music as having roots in soul, blues, funk, hip—hop, gospel and rock. Formerly known as “Brothers Keepers,” the eclectic group has a goal of ever-expanding its sound and reach.

All tickets for this show are \$25. Streaming option available. For advance tickets go to:

<https://focusmusic.org/event/4947489/628136243/sat-3-18-honest-lee-soul-columbia>

We will set aside some tables for those who wish to wear masks inside the auditorium. We will not be selling any food, however, you may BYOB and your own snacks/food.

Be a part of your child's first school experience and come make memories with us!

NEW schedule for 2023-'24

2023-2024 Programs

Morning 3s	Morning 4s	Afternoon 4s
Tu/W/Th 9:00-12:00	M/W/F 9:00-12:00	M/Tu/W/Th 1:00-4:00
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be 3 by 12/31/23• 16 students max• 2 Teachers + Partial-day Co-Op Parent (8:30-10:30am)• Monthly tuition \$280	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be 4 by 12/31/23• 16 students max• 2 Teachers + Partial-day Co-Op Parent (8:30-10:30am)• Monthly tuition \$280	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be 4 by 12/31/23• 18 students max• Classroom volunteers welcome; not required• Monthly tuition \$370

Now offering LUNCH BUNCH option:
AM classes extend to 12:50 dismissal, PM classes extend to 12:10 start
Spaces limited, offered on first come basis

At Owen Brown Community Center/License #56054
Registration Hotline: 410-929-6730/ecpvp1@gmail.com