



May 2023

Volume 52, Issue 5

OBserver

Official newsletter of the Owen Brown Community Association

6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045

ANNUAL MEETING — QUORUM NOT MET

The Owen Brown Community Association's Annual Meeting was held on April 22, for the purpose of electing three members to the Board of Directors. Absentee voting began on April 1, and continued through April 21. In person voting occurred during the Annual Meeting from 9am until 12 pm. A total of 341 votes were needed in order to reach quorum, but only 311 were received. Since quorum was not met, a motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting and reconvene for another meeting on May 9 at 7 pm. Those in attendance at the second meeting will constitute a quorum, and a motion will be made to accept all of the votes from the April 22 meeting to determine the winners. A Board of Directors meeting will immediately follow the second Annual Meeting for the newly elected Board.

BLOCK PARTY GRANTS AVAILABLE!

Did you know the community association will reimburse up to \$100 of expenses if you hold a block party for your street and submit the proper paperwork? Below is a photo from our most recent block party on Leafy Screen in Owen Brown. They chose an Easter-themed party with egg decorating and hunting included.

If you would like to host a Block Party for your street, go to our website owenbrownvillage.org and click on Block Grants under Services and Amenities and download a Grant Application.



OWEN BROWN'S OUTDOOR POOLS OPEN ON MAY 27!

Both of Owen Brown's pools will open for the season on May 27-29, noon to 7:00pm, for the Memorial Weekend. The pools will only be open on the weekends until June 14, when the full schedule will begin.

See <https://columbiaassociation.org/sports-recreation/pools/> for the complete summer schedule of every pool.



OB DATES TO REMEMBER

2nd Annual Meeting	May 9, 7pm
& Board Meeting	
OB RAC Meeting	May 10, 7:30pm
OB RAC Meeting	May 24, 7:30pm
OB Board Meeting	June 6, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	June 14, 7:30pm
OB RAC Meeting	June 28, 7:30pm



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
www.facebook.com/owenbrownvillage

OBCA BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

from the desk of Board Chair, Michael Golibersuch

The Owen Brown Board of Directors held our last regular meeting of the fiscal year (which ends on April 30th) on April 4th at the Owen Brown Community Center.

During this meeting we approved the budget for next fiscal year (1 May 2023 – 30 April 2024). The budget will maintain the same level of service Owen Brown has provided recently: covenant/architectural enforcement, special events, communications, community center operations, and donations to local causes. Owen Brown is in good financial health; however, our rental revenue (which provides a sizable chunk of our overall budget) has not returned to pre-pandemic levels. Please keep the Owen Brown Community Center in mind if you need meeting or event space. We also approved a small donation to support an upcoming band field trip at Lake Elkhorn Middle School. Please reach out to us with any recommendations or requests for donation for local causes.

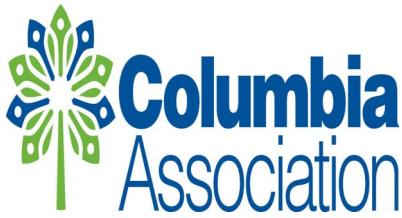
One of our board members, Linda Ortiz-Byrd, discussed her desire to reinvigorate our local environmental group, Owen Brown CARES. The Owen Brown Board prioritizes our open space and the natural beauty of our community and has organized tree-planting events and paid for the installation of several landscaping trees. By reinvigorating Owen Brown CARES, we hope to expand these efforts and provide more opportunity for community members to participate in combating invasive species and other activities that keep our community beautiful.

Earlier in the month, CA shared their plans with us regarding landscaping for “the Bowl.” Apparently, CA refers to the area between Sonoma’s and the Cradle Rock underpass leading to the lake as “the Bowl.” They will be replanting that area with native flowers and likely a new tree to replace the one that recently died. The Board also took the opportunity to ask CA to turn the waterfall in that location back on this summer.

Owen Brown Community Center Is Available for Party and Meeting Rentals



For more information about our rooms and rates go to <https://www.owenbrownvillage.org/rentals> or gives us a call at 410.381.0202.



CA ADDS TO EMERGENCY CASH RESERVES; PLANS ANNOUNCED FOR BUILDING NEW CENTRAL LIBRARY

From the desk of Andy Stack, OBCA Columbia Council Representative

Elections occurred in April, but after the deadline for this article. Elections results are available on each village's website and at columbiaassociation.org/elections/. On the CA Board, both Ginny Thomas (OM) and Dick Boulton (DS) decided not to run again. I have enjoyed working with them over the past several years and thank them for their long service to CA and the Columbia community.

Fiscally, CA is doing well this year, budget is ahead of projection. Much of this is due to grants for youth from Maryland and Howard County, the increase in Annual Charge income and a careful oversight of expenses. Because of this unexpected good fiscal situation, the CA Board, at the recommendation of CA staff, decided to add \$3,000,000 to CA's Emergency Cash Reserves (the "rainy day" fund). This brings the amount in the reserves to \$8,133,000. Our goal is to have \$18,000,000 in the Emergency Cash Reserve fund by April 2038. The pandemic taught us the need to have an emergency cash reserve.

Howard County and the Howard Hughes Corporation (HHC) announced plans to build a new central library at the Lakefront (near Whole Foods). It will be called the Lakefront Library and is

projected to cost \$144,000,000. The state will provide some funds for construction. Additional information is available at www.howardcountymd.gov/News033023. We hope to have representatives from HHC and the County come to a CA Board session in June to discuss the plans for the library.

May begins the new fiscal year (FY-2024) for CA. The FY-2024 budget will be available at columbiaassociation.org/about-us/financials/financial-reports/#fy2024.

CA is still looking for lifeguards for our outdoor pools. We will open all our outdoor pools, but may have to adjust hours/days of operation if we can't find enough lifeguards. If you know of someone interested in being a lifeguard, have them contact CA columbiaassociation.org/about-us/careers/.

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.



THE OPEN SPACE TEAM: KEEPING LAKE ELKHORN BEAUTIFUL

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

As we live in the Lake Elkhorn watershed, in which rainfall flows into the lake, it's important to remember that Elkhorn isn't a natural lake -- it and the streams flowing into it require regular maintenance. The CA Open Space team and its contractors provide that service. If Open Space employees arrive on your property or nearby Open Space, please welcome them with an open mind. Sometimes, local residents, worry that trees will be cut or

soil churned by the vehicles used in stream maintenance. While that could be true, it's important to remember that the work of Open Space aims to keep Elkhorn from filling with sediment and prevents erosion to a homeowner's property. In Maryland, trees and shrubs regrow rapidly, but Lake Elkhorn doesn't stay healthy naturally -- it needs the help the Open Space team provides.

FARMER'S STAND RETURNS ON MAY 4!

The Farmer's Stand will return to the parking lot of the East Columbia Library every Thursday from 12-6 pm beginning May 4.



Owen Brown Community Association

6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045

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



OWEN BROWN RESIDENT IS PETAL PORCH PARADE WINNER!

An Owen Brown resident was the Maryland winner of the Petal Porch Parade contest, which is in conjunction with the National Cherry Blossom Festival in D.C. The contest started during the pandemic as a way to carry the festival into neighborhoods, by encouraging residents in D.C., Maryland and Virginia to decorate their porches in the spirit of spring. This year's winner for Maryland is Owen Brown's own Theresa Billow-Supple, who titled her display, *Sakura Tea Bliss* (see photo). Congratulations, Theresa! Thanks for spreading the spirit of spring with your neighbors in Owen Brown.

