

OBserver

Official newsletter of the
Owen Brown Community Association



OBCA BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

from the desk of Board Chair, Michael Golibersuch

Since the last *Board Highlights* column was written, the Owen Brown Board of Directors has added two new members: Vince Miller and Patrick Weed. This continues the influx of new voices onto the Board of Directors: over the last two years, the board has had 100% turnover and only one current member (Michael Golibersuch) has served a complete two-year term. All the new board members bring fresh energy, ideas, and perspective to the village.

The board's primary focus continues to be navigating the pandemic. Our revenue will be significantly less this year due to reduced share of annual assessment fees from Columbia Association as well as a drop in rental income. To compensate, we have decreased spending associated with community events and community center operations have not been practical given social distancing guidelines. The association has a modest reserve fund which should allow us to return to our normal level of services once health conditions make it safe, despite our decreased income.

On a positive note, we have begun slowly reopening the Community Center in accordance with state and county guidelines. If you would like to reserve space for a meeting or social event, please contact our rental coordinator (rentals@owenbrownvillage.org) and remember that we offer discounted rates for village residents. We are also considering when resuming our normal community events will be appropriate.

At the beginning of our new fiscal year (which runs May through April) the Board of Directors gave our village staff six initiatives to focus on over the next year, in addition to normal operations. Three of those initiative should be invisible to residents but will hopefully improve village operations and revenue: maximize rental income, improve knowledge management, institute an internal financial audit. The other

three initiatives will hopefully be more apparent to residents. First, we want to continue improvements that began last year to communicate with residents; this column is one of the improvements and we will continue to improve the Owen Brown Village website and our social media presence – please follow us on Facebook and Instagram! Second, we have asked staff to be more proactive in enforcing our architectural guidelines on properties that have egregious maintenance violations such as trash in the yard, rotting exteriors, and lack of seasonal yard maintenance. Finally, we will try out new types of events that encourage residents to interact without gathering in large numbers. Some of our initial ideas are photography or gardening contests; we would love to hear additional ideas from you.

Over the last two months, the board has provided input to the County Planning Board regarding two commercial developments within Owen Brown: we supported a development at the Lakeview Office Park and opposed a development at Snowden Crossing. While new business development in our community is desired, we believe protecting Columbia's unique zoning rules – specifically setback and landscaping requirements in commercial developments – are important to maintaining our community's character.

Finally, we have established the Owen Brown Green Space Working Group. This is a working group of residents interested in maintaining and improving green space within Owen Brown. The working group is new and still going through growing pains but any resident interested in participating is welcome to join.

We are always welcome to feedback and questions. Please feel free to attend our regular meetings the first Tuesday of each month and email us at obvil-lageboard@googlegroups.com.

FARMER'S MARKET IN OWEN BROWN EVERY THURSDAY!

Did you know there is a Farm Stand in the parking lot of the East Columbia Library, 6600 Cradlerock Way, every Thursday from Noon to 6:00 pm? Come out and support our local farmers. Market will run until November 4.

OB DATES TO REMEMBER

OB Board Meeting	July 7, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	July 8, 7:30pm
OB Board Work Session	July 21, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	July 22, 7:30pm
OB Board Meeting	August 4, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	August 12, 7:30pm
OB Board Work Session	August 18, 7pm
Shredding Event	August 18, 4-7pm
OB RAC Meeting	August 26, 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
Meghan Pierce	Event Planner
Kelly Kalal	Facility Coordinator
Tanjah Hairston	Asst. Covenant Advisor
Kelly Carney	<i>OBserver</i> 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
Vince Miller	Board Member
Robert Golibersuch	Board Member
Douglas Fox	Board Member
Patrick Weed	Board Member
Andrew Stack	CA Board Rep.

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

GOOD SAMARITAN RECOGNITION

Do you know of a Good Samaritan in Owen Brown, someone you would like to see recognized for their good deeds to the community? Maybe you know someone who goes around and picks up trash, or always cuts the grass of a neighbor, or makes sure others are safe and have what they need during this crazy time. If you do, please send us a brief email telling us who they are (including contact info) and why you think they deserve this recognition. Each month we will select an individual to highlight in the *OBserver* and give a thank you gift for their quiet, but important service to our community. Send your email nomination to **manager@owenbrownvillage.org**.



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CA ADOPTS REVISED BUDGET FOR FY-2021; CHANGES REFLECT PROBLEMS PRECIPITATED BY THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC

From the desk of Andy Stack, OBCA Columbia Council Representative

Department	Feb. FY-2021 Budget	Revised FY-2021 Budget	% Change
Open Space Expenses	\$16,348,000	\$13,832,000	-15.39%
Sports & Fitness Expenses	\$35,215,000	\$22,954,000	-34.82%
Community Services Expenses	\$7,349,000	\$3,101,000	-57.80%
Marketing & Comms Expenses	\$4,269,000	\$3,197,000	-25.11%
Administration Expenses	\$9,403,000	\$6,061,000	-35.54%
Office of the President Expenses	\$2,345,000	\$1,987,000	-15.27%
Board of Directors Expenses	\$301,000	\$169,000	-43.85%
Villages Support Expenses	\$5,720,000	\$4,660,000	-18.53%

At the beginning of June, the CA Board adopted a revised budget for FY-2021. The pandemic has caused fiscal problems for CA just as it has for other organizations. The original budget was approved in February 2020 and we were projecting income of \$80M. CA now projects income of \$56M, a 30% decrease. That is a large decrease and will result in significant budget cuts. The pain is spread across all of CA's departments and funding for the Villages; as you can see from the above table.

Every aspect of CA takes a hit. A major portion of loss of income is due to Sports & Fitness and Community Services. CA decided that it was not going to bill members if service could not be provided. Most of our members are billed monthly and that billing stopped when facilities closed. Sports & Fitness income is projected to

be down 58% and Community Services income is projected to be down 50%. As facilities begin to reopen, billing will restart as CA can now provide services. You will notice changes to CA services; but CA will continue to serve the Columbia community.

Our governor has lifted many restrictions and CA is in the process of reopening its facilities. One of our goals is to open in a safe manner for both our members and our employees. There are State restrictions associated with using these facilities. CA will follow state requirements. In mid-June, several of our major indoor facilities reopened including Supreme Sports Club, Athletic Club, Columbia Gym, Swim Center, Haven, and Long Reach Indoor Tennis Club. All these major facilities have fixed costs which must be paid even when they are not generating income. By opening these facilities, CA hopes to be able to meet its revised budget income targets for Sports & Fitness and Community Services.



Home & Yard Services



Hauling Service

Fence and Deck Repairs

Landscape Lawn Mulch Tree

Gutters Paint Roof Wood

Whole house clean-out to sell/rent

Call Mike 410-290-9728



Thursday, August 13th
PAPER 4pm-7pm
 Limit 8 boxes per person
SHREDDING
 For OB residents only. Truck will be located in the back parking lot of OBCC.

Owen Brown Community Association

6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045

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



OWEN BROWN

community association

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