



# OBserver

Official newsletter of the Owen Brown Community Association

6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045



## Owen Brown CARES\*

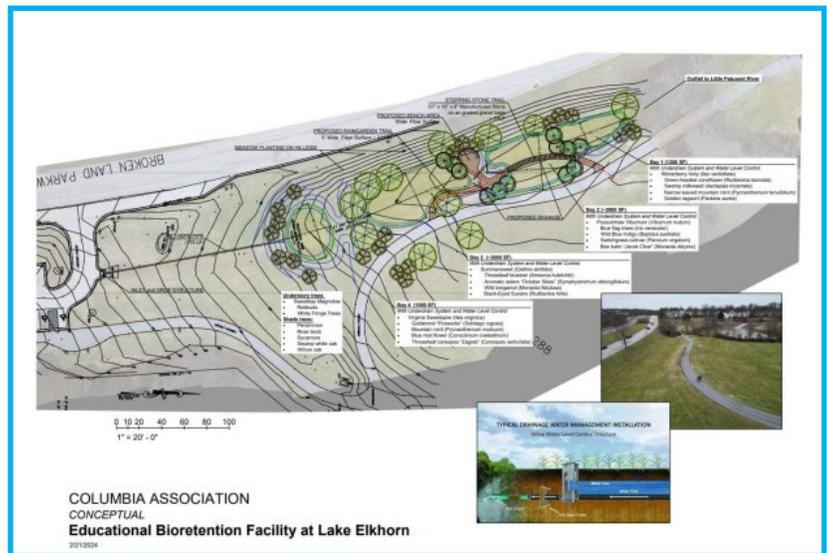
**\*Community Action and Resources for Environmental Stewardship**

A small group of Columbia Association (CA) staff and leadership from KC CARES, Wilde Lake CARES, and Owen Brown CARES came together last spring to write a grant application to the *Chesapeake Bay Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3) Grant Program*.

Our group is excited to announce that we were awarded the full amount of \$35,000 from this extremely competitive grant program. The funds will go toward creating the engineered designs for a walkable pollinator and rain garden at the east edge of Lake Elkhorn, next to Broken Land Parkway. The garden will allow visitors to meander and appreciate native gardens while managing stormwater runoff from the nearby parking lot. The garden will also have educational signage about the garden's benefits and how to replicate these techniques at home.

If residents have any questions, please contact CA at [openspace.resourcesrequests@columbiaassociation.org](mailto:openspace.resourcesrequests@columbiaassociation.org).

### *Coming to Lake Elkhorn: Walkable Pollinator Garden and Bioretention Facility*



## OB DATES TO REMEMBER

OB Board Meeting	August 6, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	August 14, 7:30pm
<b>OB Shredding Event</b>	<b>Aug. 14, 5-7pm</b>
OB Board Work Session	August 20, 7pm
OB Board Meeting	Sept. 3, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	Sept. 11, 7:30pm
OB Board Work Session	Sept. 17, 7pm
<b>OB Community Carnival</b>	<b>Sept. 21, 12-3pm</b>
OB RAC Meeting	Sept. 25, 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	<i>OBserver</i> Editor
Joann Allen	Facility Assistant
Logan Carnerie	Facility Assistant

### Village Board Members

Brad Butler	Board Chair
Linda Ortiz-Byrd	Board Vice-chair
Robert Golibersuch	Board Member
Mae Beale	Board Member
Michael Golibersuch	CA Board Rep.

Check us out on the web and Facebook at:  
[www.owenbrownvillage.org](http://www.owenbrownvillage.org)  
[www.facebook.com/owenbrownvillage](http://www.facebook.com/owenbrownvillage)

## OBCA BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

*from the desk of Board Chair, Brad Butler*

The Owen Brown Board met once in July, with several residents in attendance. A resident brought up concerns about drivers speeding along Rustling Leaf and Deepage Drive in the Hopewell neighborhood. Howard County Police traffic enforcement is data-driven -- if several residents report speeding in an area, the police are more likely to add that area to their patrols. Please report any non-emergency traffic concerns to them here: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/police/report-traffic-concerns>.

The Board established a Welcome Group, tasked with welcoming new residents to Owen Brown. If you are interested in volunteering to help with this, please reach out to [manager@owenbrownvillage.org](mailto:manager@owenbrownvillage.org). We also began a conversation with Columbia Association about tree planting opportunities in our village - stay tuned for more info on this next month. We referred one property owner to CA for potential legal action to resolve maintenance issues on their property - a step that we only take after several failed attempts to work with the property owner.

Owen Brown, along with Columbia's nine other villages, are currently renegotiating our contracts with Columbia Association. This happens about every five years, and things are going well. As I've written before, Owen Brown was financially disadvantaged by the prior contract. We're seeking a more balanced financial arrangement in the new contract.

Lastly, we provided design input to Howard County on their plans to improve Cradlerock Way. We passed along general support for the plan, suggested including the Giant/Winter Rose intersection in the group of intersections slated to receive elevated crossings, expressed the importance of maintaining and improving Cradlerock's signature street tree canopy, and passed along resident concerns about maintaining adequate parking near the schools and the Lake Elkhorn dock. Keep in mind this plan is phased, with only the intersection improvements in Phase 1 currently funded. The county plans are available here: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/public-works/traffic-engineering-division>

Have a wonderful rest of your summer, I look forward to sharing another update at the end of August. In the meantime, please share any feedback with us at [obvillageboard@googlegroups.com](mailto:obvillageboard@googlegroups.com).



## CA BOARD APPOINTS NEW PRESIDENT, SHAWN MACINNES, AND WORKS TO FINALIZE NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

*From the desk of Michael Golibersuch, OBCA Columbia Council Representative*

The CA Board of Directors held a regular meeting on June 27 at CA headquarters. The meeting was also livestreamed and can be viewed on YouTube. The packet for the meeting can be viewed here: <https://columbiaassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/Packet-for-Posting-06.27.24-Board-Meeting-1.pdf>.

At this meeting, the Board formally appointed Shawn MacInnes as CA President (he assumed his operational role as CEO earlier in the month). Shawn brings a wealth of experience and ideas to CA and I look forward to his leadership. To start the meeting, Shawn shared several videos highlighting recent CA sponsored and/or supported events including Juneteenth, Books in Blook, and the AAPI festival.

In support of the ongoing development of CA's new strategic plan, CA will be putting together a roadmap that outlines the steps to complete a final draft of the plan within six months. This will ensure that new board members and CA's new president will have opportunity to contribute to the development of the strategic plan.

Similarly, CA laid out a timeline for developing CA's FY 2026 budget over the next several months. As always, the timeline includes opportunities for residents to provide input on their priorities for the budget. The first formal opportunity for input will be later this summer in August. I encourage everyone to participate and provide feedback. Please keep in mind that the budget is a balancing act of priorities so thoughtful input on areas CA should reduce

spending is as important as ideas about where money should be spent.

The Board also received a presentation from Howard Hughes Corporation about three proposed easements. All three are in the Merriweather District, simply codify existing agreements that were made during the development of the Downtown Columbia plan, and are limited to enable Howard Hughes and Maryland Department of the Environment to perform maintenance on infrastructure and/or environmental areas already in place – the public will not notice any changes as a result of these easements.

Finally, in relation to discussions around the management contracts between CA and the villages, the Board received a briefing and had a discussion on the strategic relationship between villages and CA. I suspect that shifting the responsibility to management of Columbia's community and neighborhood centers from the villages to CA would have multiple benefits including reducing inequality between villages, enabling villages to focus more on serving their community, and creating efficiencies that will free resources for reinvestment in enhanced amenities and services. I would like the Board to direct staff to evaluate the feasibility of this idea and a draft implementation plan for the Board's consideration. As always, I can be reached at [michael.golibersuch@ca-board.org](mailto:michael.golibersuch@ca-board.org).

## Owen Brown residents enjoyed the scenery and wildlife of Lake Elkhorn while learning to fish at July's Hooked on Fishing Event



# Owen Brown Community Association

6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1	2	3
August!					7:00pm Lakefront Live: Dancin' Under the People Tree 8:00pm Lakefront Live Movie Night - Nightmare Before Christmas (1993) 9:45pm Lakefront Live Movie Night - Ghostbusters (1984)	7:30pm Lakefront Live Concert: Magical Mystery Girls	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
6:30pm Lakefront Live Concert: Foreplay	8:30pm Lakefront Live Movie Night - Raya and The Last Dragon			7:00pm Lakefront Live Concert: Zach Person	7:00pm Lakefront Live: Dancin' Under the People Tree 8:30pm Lakefront Live Movie Night - Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire	7:30pm Lakefront Live Concert: Fast Eddie and The Slow Pokes	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
6:30pm Lakefront Live Concert: Proverbs Reggae	8:30pm Lakefront Live Movie Night - Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem		8:30pm Lakefront Live Movie Night - Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	8:30pm Lakefront Live Movie Night - Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets	7:00pm Lakefront Live: Dancin' Under the People Tree 8:00pm Lakefront Live Movie: Harry Potter & The Prisoner of Azkaban	7:30pm Lakefront Live Concert: Joe Falero Band	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
6:30pm Lakefront Live Concert: Columbia Concert Band	8:30pm Lakefront Live Movie Night - Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire	8:30pm Lakefront Live Movie Night - Harry Potter and the Order of Phoenix	8:30pm Lakefront Live Movie Night - Harry Potter and the Half-blood Prince	8:30pm Lakefront Live Movie Night - Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1	7:00pm Lakefront Live: Dancin' Under the People Tree 8:30pm Lakefront Live Movie Night - Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2	7:00pm Lakefront Live Concert: Teacher appreciation with Deborah Bond	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
					7:00pm Lakefront Live: Dancin' Under the People Tree 8:15pm Lakefront Live Movie Night - Guardians of the Galaxy: Vol 3	7:30pm Lakefront Live Concert: Jill Fulton	