



OBserver

Official newsletter of the Owen
Brown Community Association

6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045

**OWEN BROWN
COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION**

COME & JOIN US FOR OUR

COMMUNITY CARNIVAL

**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER
21ST** **OWEN
BROWN
COMMUNITY
CENTER**

12-3PM

Bounce Houses, Slides, Face Painting,
Carnival Games and More!

Activities appropriate for ages 4-12

PUMPKIN PAINTING

**OCTOBER 18TH
1PM**

Check your October Observer for
Registration Information

JUDY CENTER EARLY LEARNING HUB

Assisting families with resources and parents with
being their child's first teacher.

- Resource Support
 - Clothing
 - Housing
 - Food
 - Mental Health
 - Medical Needs
 - Childcare
 - Employment
- Educational Support
 - School Enrollment
 - Early Intervention
 - Playgroups
 - Adult Education

Visit our website for more information
<https://judycenter.hcpss.org/>

Howard County
Public Schools

Are you looking for a space to host a Party or
reception? Come check out the Owen Brown
Community Center! Owen Brown residents
receive a 20% discount on social rentals!

To learn more, go to our website at
<https://owenbrownvillage.org/rentals> or
contact rentals@owenbrownvillage.org

OB DATES TO REMEMBER

OB Board Meeting	Sept. 3, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	Sept. 11, 7:30pm
OB Board Work Session	Sept. 17, 7pm
OB Community	
Carnival	Sept. 21, 12-3pm
OB RAC Meeting	Sept. 25, 7:30pm
OB Board Meeting	Oct. 1, 7pm
OB RAC Meeting	Oct. 9, 7:30pm
OB Board Work Session	Oct. 15, 7pm
Pumpkin Painting	Oct. 18, 1pm

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

Village Board Members

Brad Butler	Board Chair
Linda Ortiz-Byrd	Board Vice-chair
Robert Golibersuch	Board Member
Mae Beale	Board Member
Adil Ahmed	Board Member
Michael Golibersuch	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, Brad Butler

Summer is coming to a close! A few cooler days here and there are certainly welcome. OBCA had a busy month in August.

We appointed Adil Ahmed to our vacant board seat. Adil and his young family live in the Hopewell neighborhood. Having worked with him for a bit more than a month now, I'm confident that Adil is a valuable addition to our Board and the broader OBCA community of volunteers. If you or a neighbor are interested in volunteering in the community, please reach out. There are multiple great opportunities!

We discussed and approved several routine actions, including items where the village collaborates with the Columbia Association. We closed a case with CA's Architectural Resource Committee. We do this when a homeowner who had previously been referred to CA has addressed their maintenance or other architectural issues.

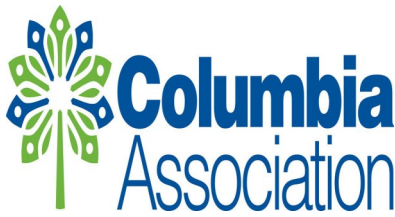
CA notified us that they plan to replace the checkers/chess tables at the Lake Elkhorn dock with metal tables that are slightly larger, but still provide a chess board in the center. The current tables are reaching end-of-life. The number of tables and number of seats will remain the same. We endorsed CA's plan. We also sent a thank you note to CA for installing a shade structure above the Tot Lot behind our community center.

You may have noticed a lower water level in Lake Elkhorn. CA temporarily lowered the lake level to facilitate scheduled maintenance on the dam. With the lower water level, you can see the impact of sediment build-up in several places around the lake. CA periodically hires a dredging company to remove this sediment, but the next dredging operation is not yet scheduled. Preventing sediment by building rain gardens and other stormwater best practices upstream of the lake is far less costly over the long run than regular dredging, however much of the upstream land is owned by homeowners and HOAs, not CA. If you're interested in doing your part to manage runoff on your property, CA and Howard County both have resources that can help.

The Owen Brown CARES group supports several environmental and open space goals in the village through a combination of advocacy and volunteer work in the village. Linda provided the Board an update on CARES activities, including adopt-a-spot weeding, an update on grant funding for a rain garden, and a walkthrough of potential tree planting locations with CA. CARES is doing good work, and is looking for additional volunteers!

We continue to work with CA and the other villages to reach a new contract agreement with CA. This process is on track, with plans to reach an agreement around the end of this year with an effective date of May 1, 2025.

Have a great last few weeks of summer! I look forward to providing another update next month.



CA SEEKS COMMUNITY INPUT TO INFORM ITS BUDGET DECISIONS

From the desk of Michael Golibersuch, OBCA Columbia Council Representative

The Columbia Association Board of Directors held a regular meeting on July 25 at CA headquarters. Like all open board meetings, this meeting was streamed and is available for viewing on YouTube. The Board took several actions and discussed multiple topics.

The Board approved three separate easements in downtown Columbia. Granting these easements was simply a formality that codified agreements CA made as part of the downtown Columbia Master Plan ten years ago. The easements are limited to allowing a property owner and the Maryland Department of the Environment the ability to conduct routine maintenance and won't result in any noticeable change. The Board also approved timelines to complete both CA's new strategic plan as well as next fiscal year's budget. As always, CA will be soliciting input from the community to inform its budget decisions. I will share those solicitations here but please be on the lookout on CA and Owen Brown's social media accounts for announcements later this summer and fall. Please keep in mind that there is no lack of ideas for new services or other ways for CA to spend money and that input on what services CA should deprioritize or cut is just as valuable.

The Board reviewed and discussed draft annual objectives for CA's new president and CEO. These objectives can be found in the "packet" for the meeting (<https://columbiaassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/07252024-Packet-for-Posting-1.pdf>) and will be formalized at the next

Board meeting. In addition to the objectives listed in the packet, the Board largely agreed that maintaining high levels of service to residents should be explicitly included as an objective.

Finally, the Board reviewed the 4th quarter financials from last fiscal year. Though not immune from pressures from inflation and the tight labor market, CA is in solid financial health. The "post-pandemic normal" as it relates to paying CA memberships is still unclear but notably, revenue from memberships now exceeds revenue from the annual charge for the first time since the pandemic.

At the end of the meeting, CA's President shared some recent highlights. A few of those were:

- The *Hooked on Fishing* events at Columbia's lakes
- A recent grant to fund the design of a walkable pollinator and rain garden at Lake Elkhorn
- Efforts to remove invasive species
- The successful July 4th celebration
- The Capital Improvements team working extended hours during a heat wave to quickly install new bridges and ensure paths remain accessible
- A recent blood drive at Supreme Sports Club

There are still many activities planned for the Lakefront as the summer draws to a close. I hope to see you at some of them. As always, you can contact me at michael.golibersuch@ca-board.org.

What matters most to YOU?



Get involved.
Share your priorities.
Make an impact.




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Owen Brown Community Association

6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045

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



OWEN BROWN

community association

EAST COLUMBIA PRESCHOOL

A cooperative preschool for 3-5 year olds, serving Howard County since 1974

We are accepting registrations in our afternoon 4s/5s class for the 2024-2025 school year!



Celebrating 50 years of serving Maryland families!

OWEN BROWN COMMUNITY CENTER
6800 Cradlerock Way

REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!

WAITLIST OPEN FOR THE MORNING CLASSES

PROGRAM OFFERINGS






3-day 3s
Classes meet Tues./Wed./Thurs.
9:00-11:45am
Students must turn 3 by 12/31/24

3-day 4s
Classes meet Mon./Wed./Fri.
9:00-11:45am
Students must turn 4 by 12/31/24

4-day 4s
Classes meet Mon./Tues./Wed./Thurs.
12:30-3:15pm
Students must turn 4 by 12/31/24

Optional Lunch Bunch
11:45am - 12:30pm
Extends morning classes to 12:30pm
Extends afternoon class to 11:45am Start





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