

(Candidate Statements are listed in the random order that they were selected.)

## **2015 Oakland Mills Board of Directors Candidate Statements**

### **Virginia (Ginny) M. Thomas**

We need your vote to build on the work of the current Board, which recently finalized a new plan to ensure our future as a prosperous, diverse village. This process involved many meetings with residents; state, county, and School Board officials; and exploratory discussions with the hospital, Community College and the private sector.

We will continue to fight for: Bridge Columbia; economic development of the retail center and adjacent properties; fully resourced schools, aging-in-place programs; covenant enforcement; improved path systems; an indoor pool; and a new, expanded ice rink.

Background: married to Chuck Thomas; two daughters who attended OM schools; served on the County Council and the Maryland Legislature. Currently, President of Vantage House and Maryland Gerontological Association and serve on MD Disability Forum and MD Mental Health Association Boards.

Previous County boards include: Humanim, Grassroots, Rape Crisis, Charter Review, Domestic Violence, Family and Children's Service, etc.

## **2015 Oakland Mills Board of Directors Candidate Statements**

### **William R. McCormack, Jr.**

#### **Experience**

Village Board – 5 years

Revitalization, Housing, Master Plan Committees, Community Plan Task Force – 8 years

#### **Accomplishments**

- Co-led Task Force in the creation of the Village Center Community Plan (VCCP) for economic development and job creation in Oakland Mills that is a top priority for the County Executive.
- Co-presented Reinvent Oakland Mills to state and county government officials, village center area property owners, developers and other interested parties in over 20 presentations to foster a “Partnership for Progress” to Reinvent Oakland Mills.

#### **Priorities/Objectives**

- Co-lead a “Partnership for Progress” with our existing village board members to implement the VCCP.
- Mend the broken heart of Columbia by strongly advocating for Bridge Columbia with public transit to unite Oakland Mills and Downtown.
- Promote the purchase, renovation, remodeling and market rate resale of vacant homes.
- Facilitate covenant compliance by performing periodic inspections.

## **2015 Oakland Mills Board of Directors Candidate Statements**

### **Jonathan Edelson**

I am seeking re-election to the Village Board so I can continue advocating for our schools, which are among the best in the state, and for Oakland Mills as an attractive, vibrant community. During my current term, I organized a forum here in Oakland Mills with all Board of Education candidates before last year's election, held a public committee meeting with our school system's Superintendent, wrote a new education section into our VCCP, will host a strategic planning update session with HCPSS for the community, and am organizing a "State of Our Schools" Town Hall in April where you will get to meet and hear from leadership of all schools in the Oakland Mills Cluster as well as HCPSS leadership. If re-elected, I will continue to be a strong and vocal advocate for our schools while also continuing work just underway to market Oakland Mills as a destination for families.

## **2015 Oakland Mills Board of Directors Candidate Statements**

### **Daniel Kirk-Davidoff**

My family and I have enjoyed living in Oakland Mills for ten years. Our kids have gotten an excellent education at SFES, OMMS and OMHS, and had the privilege of growing up in a diverse, safe community that in many ways lives out the American dream. Oakland Mills faces some challenges: aging housing stock, absentee ownership, and an economically vulnerable village center. To meet these challenges we need to communicate and amplify our strengths- affordability, diversity, access to downtown Columbia - to become a magnet for energetic, creative young people. We need to set ambitious goals and support residents in achieving them: for sustainability (90% of homes retrofitted for energy efficiency by 2020!), for artistic expression and achievement (a sculpture on every cul-de-sac island!) and for community involvement (90% of residents signed up for online message boards!). Columbia can be again a model for the future of our country.

## **2015 Oakland Mills Board of Directors Candidate Statements**

### **Paul Verchinski**

I encourage you to reelect the current Board, myself, Ginny Thomas, Bill McCormick, Jonathan Edelson, Jervis Dorton, Kay Wisniewski and Tawania Williams. It has been a very productive year with the Master Plan adopted by your Board for the Oakland Mills Center area. We need Full Spectrum Housing for all income levels as detailed in the Master Plan so that a Verona situation does not reoccur. We have also been very active with securing funding for Bridge Columbia, Multi-use Path from the Bridge to Blandair Park, Reports on Covenant Violations, etc. Another year will allow us to implement other programs.

I continue to be the Oakland Mills representative to the Columbia Association Senior Advisory Committee. This past year saw the Columbia Association Board adopt the Older Adult Plan. There are many areas that the Columbia Association is looking at changing so that residents can enjoy the Longevity Bonus years.

## **2015 Oakland Mills Board of Directors Candidate Statements**

### **Marcia White**

I've lived in Oakland Mills 18 years and served on the OM Village Board five years (2007-2012). When my family outgrew our home in Oakland Mills we moved into a larger one, still in Oakland Mills. We stayed because we love this community, its exceptional schools, and its diversity. We love what the community offers, and I want all members of our community to benefit from its outstanding resources – pools and recreation, village center programs, Blandair Park, and others. We now have opportunities to make our village even better: Bridge Columbia will strengthen our connection with Town Center and enable us to benefit more directly from its ongoing redevelopment; the next development phases of Blandair are very promising; and furthering our relationship with the County can yield many advantages. I am invested in this community and ask for the opportunity to again represent you on the Village Board.

## **2015 Oakland Mills Board of Directors Candidate Statements**

### **Frederick B. Eiland**

I, Frederick B. Eiland, would like to be a member of the 2015-2016 Oakland Mills Board of Directors. My family has lived in the Columbia for the past 44 years. I have lived in the Village of Oakland Mills for 18 years. During this time I have serviced as PTA President for Stevens Forest Elementary School, one term as an Oakland Mills Board member, 4 years as your Community Organizer, and I also ran for the House of Delegates this past year. I live to service our community. Let me be your voice of reason. Thank you for your support.

## **2015 Oakland Mills Board of Directors Candidate Statements**

### **Kathryn Wisniewski**

I'm eager to implement the new plan for Oakland Mills. To capitalize on our proximity to Downtown, it advocates a cable-stayed pedestrian/bike bridge over Route 29 plus a separate lane for a circulator bus to Downtown, the college and the hospital. Equally important is a new focus for the Village Center, like a first-rate ice rink, so we can retain Food Lion, support coffee shops, cafes, and mixed-use development, and become a destination. Finally, upgrading the obsolescent housing near the center, in the context of a Countywide Comprehensive Housing Policy, is critical to attract a new generation to settle here.

To support local schools, your Board advocated successfully for a crossing guard at Stevens Forest. We've brought all the School Board candidates and most county officials and representatives to The Other Barn to hear your concerns firsthand.

Please vote for the current Board to continue: we're just getting started!

## **2015 Oakland Mills Board of Directors Candidate Statements**

### **Bill Woodcock**

Since moving to Oakland Mills in 2000, I've seen many changes. Businesses have come and gone to our village center, our schools have grown larger, Blandair is being built, and the redevelopment of downtown Columbia brings great opportunity to our village.

We must use this opportunity to work within our community and with partners on every level to bring private and public investment to Oakland Mills. You deserve advocates on your board who believe in investment in our schools, businesses, housing, and infrastructure. Together we can make Oakland Mills Columbia's finest village; a village that embodies the vision of Columbia, which is inclusive and welcoming of all.

I've had the honor of serving on your village board for six years, including three and a half years as chair. I ask again for the privilege of your vote so I can return to serve you on the village board.

## **2015 Oakland Mills Columbia Council Representative Candidate Statement**

### **Reginald T. Avery**

This year, it has been an honor to serve and represent you, the residents of Oakland Mills, as your Columbia Association Representative. And now, I respectfully ask for the opportunity to continue to serve as your Columbia Council Representative. I have demonstrated a passion for service to my community and for identifying and solving challenges that we face. I have fought for keeping our neighborhood open and improved upon. I have reached out to residents for their opinions and sought ways to bring new business opportunities to our community. I am a dedicated advocate for the community, its amenities, and schools while remaining focused on making our village and Columbia an even better place to live. It is my goal to ensure that being in this community remains a positive and an exceptional experience for residents and visitors alike. Thank you for your vote.