



**oakland mills**  
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# Oakland Mills Community Association Village Board Meeting Minutes

The Other Barn ~ 5851 Robert Oliver Place ~ Columbia, MD 21045

**Board Members:** Bill McCormack, Jr., Co-Chair~ Ginny Thomas, Co-Chair  
Jonathan Edelson, Vice-Chair ~ Kay Wisniewski, AC Chair ~ Paul Verchinski  
Marcia White ~ Bill Woodcock  
Reginald Avery, Columbia Council Representative

## February 23, 2016

### Board Closed Session and Architectural Committee Closed Session:

**Mr. McCormack** called the Board and Architectural Committee Meeting to order at 6:48pm

**Present:** Bill McCormack, Board Co-Chair; Virginia Thomas, Board Co-Chair; Jonathan Edelson, Vice-Chair; Kay Wisniewski, AC Chair; Reginald Avery, CA Board, Paul Verchinski; Marcia White; Bill Woodcock; Sandy Cederbaum, Village Manager; Brigitta Warren, Event & Administrative Coordinator; Bob Bellamy, Covenant Advisor

**Mr. Edelson** motioned to go into closed session per “Consultation with staff personnel, consultants, attorneys, or other persons in connection with pending or potential litigation.” **Ms. Thomas** seconded and the motion passed (7-0-0).

The closed session ended at 7:10pm.

### OMCA Regular BoD Meeting

**Mr. McCormack** called the regular meeting of the OMCA Board of Directors to order at 7:11 pm.

**Mr. McCormack** announced that the OMCA Board met in closed session today, 2/23, pursuant to “consultation with staff personnel, consultants, attorneys, or other persons in connection with pending or potential litigation.”

**Present:** Bill McCormack, Board Co-Chair; Virginia Thomas, Board Co-Chair; Jonathan Edelson, Vice-Chair; Kay Wisniewski, AC Chair; Reginald Avery, CA Board; Paul Verchinski; Marcia White; Bill Woodcock; Sandy Cederbaum, Village Manager; Brigitta Warren, Event & Administrative Coordinator

**Also Present:** Bob Bellamy, Covenant Advisor; Chris Alleva, Eric Stein, See Resident List

### Opening of Meeting

- **Ms. Wisniewski** motioned that the agenda for February 23, 2016 (ATTACHMENT “A”) be approved. **Ms. Thomas** seconded. **Mr. Edelson** asked for the agenda to be amended to include an update from the Marketing Committee under New Business and **Mr. Verchinski** asked to include an update from the NEAC Committee also under New Business. A vote was taken and the amended agenda passed (7-0-0).
- **Ms. Wisniewski** motioned to accept the February 10, 2016 OMCA Board meeting minutes (ATTACHMENT “B”). **Ms. Thomas** seconded and the motion passed (6-0-1). (**Mr. Edelson** abstained as he was not at the February 10, 2016 Board meeting).

## Resident Remarks

- Chris Alleva was present to discuss the request by Wegmans to appeal their previous request to change current zoning laws to allow for them to have a liquor store in their Columbia location. He has come to ask for the OMCA Board's support to stop this appeal. Mr. Alleva distributed a summary attachment of his position as well as a draft letter he wrote to Mr. Milton Matthews from the OMCA Board (ATTACHMENTS "C" and "D").
- Eric Stein, owner of the Decanter Fine Wines in Hickory Ridge Village Center, discussed how this zoning change would adversely affect the liquor stores in Columbia including those in the Columbia Village Centers.
- **Mr. Avery** asked for specifics regarding the possible economic impact of the zoning change Wegmans is requesting.

## Architectural Committee

- Bob Bellamy, Covenant Advisor, requested the OMCA Board's approval to send 15 day Final Violation Notices to 5999 Jacobs Ladder, 5372 Racegate Run and 9302 Upwoods Lane. He also requested that should he not hear back in a timely response from the above mentioned properties, that he have the Board's approval to send a resolution to CA.
- **Ms. Wisniewski** motioned to send the 15 Day Final Violation Notice to the property owners at: 5999 Jacobs Ladder, 5372 Racegate Run and 9302 Upwoods Lane and should OMCA not receive a timely response from the property owners; a resolution regarding each of these properties will be sent to CA ARC to request legal action. **Mr. Woodcock** seconded and the motion passed (7-0-0).

## New Business

### Brief Discussion on the relationship between the Oakland Mills Community Association and HOA's located in Oakland Mills as it pertains to covenant enforcement

- **Mr. Verchinski** gave background regarding the NEAC recommendations pertaining to this issue from December 7, 2015. He stated this issue should be dealt with now as it has to do with the overall cost of employing a property standards inspector per NEAC's recommendations. He asked if the sub-HOA's performed their own assessments of their properties.
- **Ms. Cederbaum** gave background information regarding each of the sub-HOA's in Oakland Mills. She stated that currently the OMCA RAC reviews all of the sub-HOA properties.
- **Mr. Verchinski** proposed that the OMCA Board should meet with the sub-HOA boards. Mr. Bellamy suggested perhaps having a draw in to hopefully ensure the HOA boards will attend and gave some suggestions as to what that draw in could be.
- **Mr. Verchinski** stated that based on what he has heard the assessment of the sub-HOA's during the proposed property standards evaluation should be included in the overall cost.
- Resident Michael Knott, who is the President of the Cinnamon Tree Thunder Hill HOA, stated that sub-HOA's in Oakland Mills most likely do not have the resources to do their own assessments. The sub-HOA dues paid by the residents mostly go towards maintenance of all the HOA open space.
- **Ms. Thomas** stated that if the OMCA Board has any questions or concerns, please send them to **Ms. Cederbaum** and she and the OMCA staff will research.

## Marketing Report

- **Mr. Edelson** gave an update about the upcoming program titled “Telling Your Story Through Television Journalism: Learn from a Professional!” which will take place on Saturday, March 19, 2016 from 1:30pm to 3:30pm (ATTACHMENT “E”).
- **Mr. Verchinski** suggested taking video for the Oakland Mills Tell Your Story initiative possibly during one of the upcoming 3 R’s Workshops.

## NEAC Report

- **Mr. Verchinski** announced that the Evite for the 3 R’s Workshop has been sent out. At the end of the workshop, a survey questionnaire will be given out to ask what other workshops residents may be interested in.
- **Mr. Verchinski** stated that the NEAC committee will be following up on the status of the Exxon site and the Police Satellite Office. **Ms. Cederbaum** will forward Exxon owners contact information to **Mr. Verchinski**.

## Board Co-Chair Remarks

- **Ms. Thomas** stated that the Howard County RFP for bids to perform the OM Village Feasibility study closes tomorrow, 2/24. An update should follow.

## Board Bulletin Board

- **Ms. Warren** announced that there are still a few spaces for the CPR Hands Only Training that will take place this Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> from 10am to noon at The Other Barn.
- **Mr. Edelson** clarified that the HC BOE vote to have universal pre-k in Oakland Mills is only the first step in ensuing it happens. If this proposal goes through, it would mean universal pre-k for TSES, THES and SFES.
- **Ms. Thomas** asked for an update regarding the issue presented to the OMCA Board about the reduction of hours or CA part time employees. **Mr. Avery** stated he is currently researching that information.
- **Mr. Woodcock** asked if the OMCA Board had received the Oakland Mills crime statistics that were requested from Officer Buchanan. **Ms. Cederbaum** stated that Phil Nichols had sent the crime information and she had forwarded it in an email, but would send it again.
- **Mr. Verchinski** announced:
  - 1) Transportation Management Plan meeting that will take place Thursday, 2/25, at 6:30pm. He suggested an OMCA Board member be present to make sure the meeting includes discussion of Bridge Columbia.
  - 2) The Community Development Block Grant of \$1 million that Howard County is slated to receive. The County is looking for community input.
  - 3) Celebrate Columbia’s 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Community Information Overview, March 8, 8am-9am

The OMCA Board meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Brigitta Warren, Event and Administrative Coordinator

## Action Items from Feb. 23, 2016 OMCA Board Meeting

FOR BOARD MEMBERS:

**All Board:** Send concerns regarding HOAs and the NEAC property standards proposal to Ms. Cederbaum

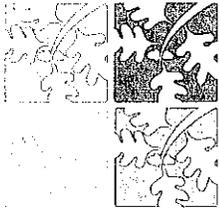
**Mr. Avery:** Inform board of issues pertaining to CA and reduced hours for Part-Time Employees

FOR STAFF:

**Ms. Cederbaum:** Forward EXXON owner contact information to Mr. Verchinski-**DONE**

**Ms. Cederbaum:** Forward Mr. Nichols email on Satellite Stations and local crime statistics again to entire board. Follow up with Officer Buchanan on crime stats going back several years. **DONE**, *awaiting stats from Officer Buchanan*

**Ms. Cederbaum:** Follow up on Community Report on Community Policing and Satellite Stations **DONE**



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**Oakland Mills Community Association  
Village Board Meeting AGENDA**

The Other Barn ~ 5851 Robert Oliver Place ~ Columbia, MD 21045  
**Board Members:** Virginia Thomas, Co-Chair; Bill McCormack, Co-Chair,  
Jonathan Edelson, Vice Chair; Kay Wisniewski, Architecture Chair  
Paul Verchinski; Marcia White; Bill Woodcock  
Reginald Avery, Columbia Council Representative

**Architectural Committee**

**6:45 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

**\*Closed Session, see below**

**\*REVISED AGENDA – see new business**

**February 23, 2016**

**Oakland Mills Board of Directors Meeting**

**7:00 p.m.**

**The Other Barn**

**7:00 p.m. Opening of meeting**

Approve the agenda for tonight's meeting

Approve the minutes from the February 10, 2016 meeting

**7:05 p.m. Resident Remarks**

**7:10 p.m. Architectural Committee, Kay Wisniewski**

Discussion of three properties for 15-Day Final Violation Notices and, if not resolved, vote to forward properties to CA for possible legal action.

**7:20 p.m. New Business**

\*Brief discussion on the relationship between Oakland Mills Community Association and HOA located in Oakland Mills as it pertains to covenant enforcement.

**7:40 p.m. Board Co-Chair Remarks,**

Virginia Thomas and Bill McCormack Jr.

**8:15 p.m. Board Bulletin Board**

**9:00 p.m. Adjourn**

**Closed Session:** The OMCA Board will meet in closed session to discuss OM properties that are current CA legal cases. The board will discuss one property and if they agree that the covenant issues have been corrected the board will request the Columbia Association, Inc. to remove the flag on the assessment files, and close the case as the violations listed on the original action have been resolved.

The closed session is pursuant to Maryland Home Owners Association Act the Oakland Mills Community Association Board of Directors voted to meet in closed session or adjourn an open session to a closed session in

order to: Consult with staff personnel, consultants, attorneys, or other persons in connection with pending or potential litigation.

**Upcoming Events:** for details on all events visit: [oaklandmills.org](http://oaklandmills.org)

**Feb. 23, 6:00 p.m. OMCA Marketing Committee**

**Feb. 23, 6:00 p.m. OMCA Neighborhood Enhancement Advisory Committee**

**Feb. 23, 7:00 p.m. OMCA Board Meeting**

**Feb. 26, 10 a.m. Lively Arts for Little Ones, Musical Fun with Mr. Hyson**

**Feb. 27, Hand On CPR, 10 a.m.**

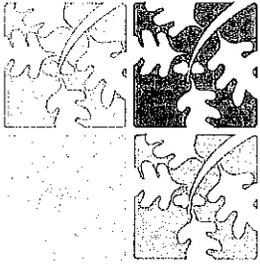
**March 5, 9:30 – 12:30 p.m. Rehab, Renew, Rebuild Workshop**

**March 8, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. OMCA Board Closed session to discuss Salary Study findings**

**March 12, 10 – 2, Baby Expo**

**March 16, 7 p.m. Master Gardener Event**

**DRAFT**



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Jonathan Edelson, Vice-Chair ~ Kay Wisniewski, AC Chair ~ Paul Verchinski  
Marcia White ~ Bill Woodcock  
Reginald Avery, Columbia Council Representative

**February 10, 2016**

## **OMCA BoD Meeting**

**Mr. McCormack** called the regular meeting of the OMCA Board of Directors to order at 7:01 pm.

**Present:** Bill McCormack, Board Co-Chair; Virginia Thomas, Board Co-Chair; Paul Verchinski; Marcia White; Bill Woodcock; Sandy Cederbaum, Village Manager Brigitta Warren, Event & Administrative Coordinator

**Absent:** Jonathan Edelson, Vice-Chair; Kay Wisniewski, AC Chair; Reginald Avery, CA Board

**Also Present:** Kim Pruijm, Special Assistant to Councilman Calvin Ball; Kate McLeod, Special Assistant to Jen Terrasa; See Resident List

## **Opening of Meeting**

- **Ms. Thomas** motioned that the agenda for January 26, 2016 (ATTACHMENT "A") be approved. **Mr. McCormack** seconded and the motion passed (4-0-0).
- **Ms. Thomas** motioned to accept the January 12, 2016 OMCA Board meeting minutes (ATTACHMENT "B"). **Mr. Woodcock** seconded and the motion passed (3-0-1). (Mr. Verchinski abstained as he was not at the January 12, 2016 Board meeting).

## **Resident Remarks**

- Resident Jervis Dorton was present to share his concerns regarding the possible resignation of Michael McCall, Inner Arbor Trust, and what that will mean for the current Symphony Woods plan.
- He referred to motions the OMCA Board made on July 8, 2014. He read the resolution into the minutes:
  1. "The Oakland Mills Village Board recommends that the CA Board conduct a streamlined charrette that would include the original plan created by Cy Paumier (Plan A) and the Inner Arbor Trust plan created by Mike McCall (Plan B) to provide a public process for residents to determine the best of both plans (Plan C) for development by CA.
  2. The Oakland Mills Village Board recommends that CA maintain ownership of the land known as Symphony Woods.
  3. The Oakland Mills Village Board recommends that CA act immediately to regain control of the Inner Arbor Trust Board through a voting majority in conformance with the proposal approved by the CA Board in February, 2013.
  4. The Oakland Mills Village Board recommends that CA retains the current name of Symphony

Woods.

5. The Oakland Mills Village Board recommends that CA exercise its right to approve any material and/or substantive changes before plans are submitted to Howard County for approval.”

- He asked the current OMCA Board to revisit the previous motions to consider whether they are still appropriate.
- After some discussion, the OMCA Board decided to wait on input from OMCA’s Columbia Council Representative, Reg Avery.
- Mahir Patel was present to represent the small liquor stores in the Columbia villages. He is concerned that Wegmans is trying to change the zoning laws to allow for them to have a liquor store in the Columbia Wegmans. The Howard County Council serving as the Zoning Board will be voting on this zoning change.
- Shreenath Desia from the Howard County Beverage Association is concerned that if Wegmans is allowed to have a liquor store it will hurt business of the smaller liquor stores in the County.
- The Board asked for more information. This topic will be discussed at a future Board meeting.

## New Business

### HCPD Officer Luke Buchanan, OM Community Policing Officer Update

- Councilman Calvin Ball and Councilwoman Jenn Terrasa arrived at 7:19pm.
- Officer Buchanan stated he is glad to be back and thanked the community for their support.
- He stated that he does not have the crime statistics as requested, but will get them to the OMCA Board as soon as possible.
- He stated that robberies are spiking, but other crimes have gone down.
- The HC Pathway Patrol Unit has been out in force. Residents should keep their eyes open; be good witnesses; and if something looks suspicious, please report it.
- An Oakland Mills resident reported that her husband was robbed on Saturday, 2/6. She asked for an increase in police officers in Oakland Mills, better communication between the police and the community, and possibly installing emergency phones on the pathways.
- **Ms. Thomas** suggested adding it to a future agenda at a meeting of the Village Board Chairs.
- **Ms. Cederbaum** discussed the community policing concept and how it has changed. She stated there should be constant communication between herself and the Oakland Mills Community Resource officer.
- An OM resident asked what a resident should do if they should see something suspicious. Officer Buchanan responded that the resident should call 911 in an emergency situation and 410-313-2200 in a non-emergency.
- **Mr. McCormack** asked if the crimes were occurring where there are not good sightlines. Officer Buchanan replied yes. **Mr. McCormack** stated that if trees were trimmed on the paths sightlines would be better.
- **Mr. Woodcock** asked if anything was occurring in the village center that residents should be aware of. Officer Buchanan stated there has been a drop in loitering.
- **Mr. McCormack** asked what the status was of the temporary police building. Officer Buchanan stated that this is an issue being looked into by the County Executive’s office.
- Councilman Ball gave updates regarding what the Howard County Council has been doing in reference to some of the issues presented.
- **Mr. Verchinski** stated he would like to see the police trailer that is currently in Oakland Mills moved and asked for this item to be discussed at the February 23, 2016 OMCA Board meeting.

## Architecture Committee

- **Ms. Thomas** explained background regarding the property at 5250 Patriot Lane. **Mr. Verchinski** motioned to send the 15 day Violation Letter to the property owner of 5250 Patriot Lane, and, if no response is made then OMCA automatically forward this property to CA to be considered for legal action. **Mr. McCormack** seconded and the motion passed (5-0-0).

## Discussion of Council Bill 12-2016 – Proposed Changes in the Howard County Government relationship with the Howard County Housing Commission

- **Mr. McCormack** gave an explanation of what this bill would do and how it could affect Oakland Mills. The Howard County Housing Commission would ultimately become its own entity and hire its own director. **Mr. McCormack** stated he does not agree this action should be considered by HC before a comprehensive housing plan is developed. He recommended tabling this part of the bill and working on the comprehensive plan.
- **Ms. Cederbaum** asked if by first changing the organizational structure that would help to create the countywide housing plan.
- Phil Nichols, Chief Administrative Officer to County Executive Kittleman, stated that having the Housing Department separate from the Housing Commission would allow for more accountability.
- A discussion regarding how the Howard County Housing Department would relate to the Howard County Housing Commission is this bill passes took place.
- A discussion of the proposed letter to the County Executive **Mr. McCormack** had drafted took place.
- **Ms. Thomas** motioned to accept and send the proposed letter to the County Executive regarding CB-12-2016 being sure to include in the letter the request to amend out pages 23-38 of the Bill until Howard County and the community can work together to come up with the comprehensive housing plan. **Mr. Woodcock** seconded and the motion passed (5-0-0).

## Columbia Board of Directors Report

- See distributed report (ATTACHMENT “C”).

## Manager’s Report

- See distributed report (ATTACHMENT “D”).
- **Ms. Cederbaum** gave an update regarding the change to the Oakland Mills election process. **Ms. Cederbaum** will send the Board the information as to where the by-law will be amended.

## Committee Reports

### Arts Advisory Committee

- **Ms. White** stated she is in the process of applying to the Howard County Arts Council for the Oakland Mills Community Association to have an art sculpture on display for free on Robert Oliver Place. The application is due March 4<sup>th</sup>. The Board gave **Ms. White** their approval.

### Education Committee

- See distributed report (ATTACHMENT “E”).

### **Housing Committee**

- See distributed report (ATTACHMENT “F”).

### **Marketing Committee**

- See distributed email copy (ATTACHMENT “E”).

### **Neighborhood Enhancement Advisory Committee (NEAC)**

- See distributed report (ATTACHMENT “G”).
- **Mr. Verchinski** asked the OMCA Board to revisit the recommendations made by the NEAC back in July 2015 regarding a proposed curbside review of all properties in Oakland Mills. He requested it be an item on the February 23, 2016 or March 8, 2016 agenda. **Ms. Cederbaum** asked **Mr. Verchinski** to please provide a further breakdown of the cost of this proposed review.

### **Safety Committee**

- **Mr. Woodcock** stated that the Howard County Drug Free is putting the finishing touches on having a drug depository available in Columbia, possibly by Howard Community College.

The OMCA Board meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Brigitta Warren, Event and Administrative Coordinator

DRAFT

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing today to discuss a possible rezoning in Columbia. I am raising this issue in concert with the owners of Perfect Pour Liquors in the Columbia Overlook shopping center and Decanter Fine Wines in the Hickory Ridge Village Center. They and many other merchants are concerned about the rezoning of the Wegman's to allow liquor sales. Because of the unique character of Columbia, most liquor stores are in Village Centers. While they are very grateful for the loyal support they receive from our community, these stores were designed and intended to serve the neighborhood limiting their draw. In the NT zone, retail zoning is limited for among other things to avoid replication and to ensure that the businesses are stronger and the market is not over-served.

The indispensable utility of the Village Centers was on full display during this year's blizzard. If this rezoning is permitted it will adversely impact the viability of Village merchants and weaken real estate in Columbia.

Wegman's has been attempting to secure a liquor license for 9000+ SF in their premises since they planned the store. In 2012, their license was denied because the market was plentifully served. In 2015, they signed a lease with an independent operator and divorced the grocery store from the liquor store. One problem, the zoning does not permit off premises retail liquor sales. The Department of Planning and Zoning took three different positions on the zoning here, finally ruling that a separate liquor store is not a permitted use under the Final Development Plan 117 (attached).

FDP 117 A (attached) allows a "Full service grocery store and related uses of 100,000 SF or more." Liquor stores are a specific defined use under the zoning regulations and permitted in commercial retail districts like B-1, B-2, and SC. A few weeks ago there was a meeting with Howard Hughes to discuss their position on amending the FDP to allow a liquor store. At the meeting, Howard Hughes representatives indicated that they will sign anything that anyone puts in front of them.

Also, be advised that Wegman's has appealed the letter from DPZ ruling that a liquor store is not a permitted use. This is yet another example of the problems that are accruing because of the Zoning Regulations have not been amended to allow for redevelopment in the commercial areas outside the Town Center and Village Centers. Ironically, Wegman's probably does not have standing to appeal this letter. They were not a party to the letter, nor does the letter constitute a final decision.

Businesses need to be able to rely on the zoning. The recent redevelopments undertaken in other Columbia commercial areas have been processed on an ad hoc basis as there are no provisions that allow for the redevelopment in Columbia. This often referred to as "spot zoning" which is expressly prohibited. The Columbia Association has an important role in these matters consistent with their charter and mission. In 2015, the Board concluded that the Royal Farms proposed on Snowden River Parkway would have a detrimental effect on neighboring villages and traffic circulation in Columbia and retained legal counsel and directed staff to oppose the redevelopment of this industrial zoned lot.

As a matter of policy, Columbia Association should not be put in the position of opposing a development being considered before the Department of Planning and Zoning and the Planning. Columbia Association should have an upfront formal role in the rezoning process so they can properly

administrate the interests of all their members as they do in the Village center redevelopments.

In consideration of these conditions, I am urging the Board to dispatch a letter to the County Council and Executive urging them to resolve to accelerate the amendment of the Zoning Regulations as required by the General Plan to address this problem. Furthermore, DPZ is required by General Plan to discourage redevelopment until these amendments are adopted.

Allow me to thank you in advance for your time. We will be attending Thursday's meeting and present this issue at resident's speak out.

Sincerely,

Chris Alleva

443-310-1974

[Village Letterhead]

December , 2015

Mr. Milton Matthews  
President  
The Columbia Association  
6310 Hillside Court Suite 100  
Columbia, MD 21045

Subject: Appeal DPZ Letter/Wegmans

Dear Mr. Matthews:

The Oakland Mills Community Association Board resolved to write you this letter to you regarding a pending appeal of a letter from the Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning and possible amendment of FDP 117 A that would allow a liquor store on industrial zoned land in Columbia.

The Community Association is concerned that a liquor store is not a permitted use on the Final Development Plan where Wegman's is situated. In the careful planning of Columbia, commercial retail zoning was limited to the Town Center and the Villages hence, most liquors stores are in Village Centers. It important to our Village that we maintain the vitality of our Village Center and protect the integrity of the zoning in the planned community.

Village centers were designed and intended to serve the neighborhood limiting their draw. Retail zoning is limited to avoid replication and assure that the market not become over served. If this rezoning is permitted it will adversely impact the viability our Village merchants and weaken real estate in the entire Village.

All residents of Oakland Mills and Columbia have property interests that depend on the proper enforcement of the law. Accordingly, we are requesting the full Columbia Association Board consider becoming a party to this appeal. This case deals with the very same issues as the Royal Farms proposal that the Board decided to oppose.

Sincerely,

Oakland Mills Community Association, Inc.

## Telling Your Story Through Television Journalism: Learn from a Professional!

**Guest Speaker:** Robert Long, Journalist, Filmmaker, and Television Broadcast Executive. Also former Vice-President News, KNBC, Los Angeles, and former VP for News & Operations at WRC-NBC in Washington, DC.

**Also Speaking:** Bag Verma an international media professional, formerly of the BBC World Service, London, and the U.S. Government multimedia network the Voice of America, now a broadcast programming executive.

**Place:** The Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, MD 21045

**Date:** March 19, 2016

**Time:** 1:30 – 3:30

**Admission:** Free with advance registration

**Sponsor:** Oakland Mills Community Association Board of Directors, Oakland Mills Marketing Committee, Oakland Mills Education Committee

In Oakland Mills, a theme of our Marketing Committee has been, "Tell Your Story." Oakland Mills resident Bag Verma and his friend and colleague, Robert Long, have very interesting stories to tell about their years of experience in television journalism. Additionally, they want to share with others how to tell stories effectively in the broadcast journalism industry.

How does an aspiring young person become a professional journalist and embark on a career in an industry that is changing almost daily?

The revolution in platforms and delivery systems has changed many things about what we used to call "broadcast news." What has not changed is the impact and popularity of good storytelling, irrespective of the media platform. We will discuss the basic elements of good, visual storytelling and how masters of the craft have adjusted to new tools, consumption habits, and the economic realities of the moment.

We will have examples to show of excellent storytelling across visual platforms, and we invite attendees to bring some of their own work to be reviewed by Mr. Long and a *possibly a* colleague from WRC, NBC 4 Washington. They should bring their work on flash drives.

Our discussion will include some references to how today's job market was formed and what young journalists can expect to see in the future.

To register for the event, please visit our [registration page](#).

For additional information, please contact Sandy Cederbaum, Oakland Mills Village Manager, at [manager@oaklandmills.org](mailto:manager@oaklandmills.org) or 410-730-4610.