

Oakland Mills Community Association
2017 Village Elections
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There are **nine (9)** candidates running for the **seven (7)** seats on Oakland Mills Community Association 2017-2018 Board of Directors. Names were randomly selected and this is the order the names as they appear on the ballot.

Paul Verchinski

I like to see results! Currently, I have spent the last 5 years as the OMVB rep (and Chair) to the CA Senior Advisory Committee. I am running for my 4th year on the OMVB. OM has had success in getting a Feasibility Study done for the Village Center and a new owner rehabbing 350 apartments at Grande Pointe. Property maintenance is looking a lot better after the hiring of a separate Covenant Advisor for Property Concerns. (The updated Architectural Guidelines include a section on expected OM Property Maintenance.) Safety and Security are continuing issues of concern to us all. OM will be 50 years old in 2018 and many more issues still need to be addressed. As someone once said: "You are either part of the problem or part of the solution". I choose to be part of the solution even if that means upsetting the status quo.

Phil Anderson

Twenty-six years ago I moved to Thunder Hill and have never thought about leaving. I raised my 3 children in TH and believe it has been a great experience for everyone.

I've been involved in our community as far back as I can remember. I was a Cub Scout Den Leader, a Cubmaster, and a coach for 10 years. Once the kids got too old for me to coach I got involved at the high school, eventually joining the OMHS Booster Club and doing all I could to make OMHS a better place.

Now that my kids have graduated I realize I want to do what I can to help my entire community be a better place for all of us to live. To pursue this goal, I have decided to run for a seat on the Oakland Mills Community Association Board of Directors and ask for your support.

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Paul Wisniewski

As a volunteer mentor to a fifth grade boy at Stevens Forest Elementary, I have gained firsthand insight into our youngest residents. As a 40-year resident, I am also aware of how our village is changing. The previous three boards have emphasized upgrading the physical appearance of the village center area to attract millennials. My goal is to expand social and cultural activities and service opportunities so we can build on the sense of community that is unique to our village. The village staff currently runs many great programs, but I hope to develop new activities that will create additional excitement and participation by residents of all ages. For my part, I promise to continue my holiday light and inflatable display that illuminates Forty Winks Way at Halloween and Christmas. Come on by next fall!

Jonathan Edelson

I seek re-election to continue advocating for Oakland Mills as a vibrant community. I will continue working with the school system and members of the Board of Education to ensure our schools' accomplishments are highlighted and issues are addressed. I will advocate and lobby for investment in Oakland Mills, such as funding for renovations at Talbott Springs Elementary and Oakland Mills Middle, appropriate development of the Exxon lot following the feasibility study, upgrades to the ice rink, and major renovation of the route 29 pedestrian bridge. I have experience working with officials at many levels, including PTAs, boosters, Columbia Association, Howard County government, and the school system as I led the Village's effort to get infrastructure improvements in the Stevens Forest Elementary and Neighborhood Center area. This is our hOMe, and I will continue to be a strong voice for all it has to offer and all it can achieve!

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Bill McCormack Jr.

Experience

Village Board – 7 years

Revitalization, Housing, Master Plan Committees, Community Plan Task Force – 10 years

Accomplishments

- Helped defeat proposed terms in Downtown Columbia Affordable Housing legislation that would have allowed placement of additional affordable housing in Oakland Mills to count for Downtown.
- Provided County consultant with technical data, stakeholder information and institutional knowledge for the Oakland Mills feasibility study for economic development and job creation in Oakland Mills.
- Reviewed and provided feedback on proposed RENEW Howard program to purchase and remodel neglected homes at market rate.
- Provided technical assistance to owner of old Exxon lot to facilitate redevelopment.

Priorities/Objectives

- Coordinate with County Departments, HUD and the Housing Commission to work toward a balanced distribution of subsidized housing throughout Howard County.
- Advocate for clearer sight lines along our pathways, particularly between Rt. 29 pedestrian bridge and Stevens Forest Road, to promote greater safety and better usage.

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Judy Gottsagen

I have lived in Oakland Mills for 45 years, and have been involved in this community as a teacher and team leader for 30 years, PTA President and fundraiser, street captain, participant distributing food to the community, and a volunteer at Stevens Forest Elementary School.

After having personal experience with safety and security issues in our neighborhood, I felt we needed to find a solution. This past year as the co-chair of the Safety and Security Committee, I wanted to establish a safer environment by increasing community involvement and awareness. I wanted to develop a positive relationship between the community and the police department. To reach these goals, a spreadsheet to track the pattern of crime in Oakland Mills was developed. Neighborhood meetings were implemented with our Outreach Officer facilitating how to increase safety and security.

If reelected, I will continue this program for the benefit of Oakland Mills.

Kathryn (Kay) Wisniewski

I'm seeking to continue our progress in reviving Oakland Mills. As Architecture Committee Chairperson, I've worked with the new owners of Grand Pointe (formerly Tor) to facilitate approvals as they transform what had become substandard housing. They are investing \$11 million to replace all roofs, windows, and doors; add a dog park; and install sprinkler systems, parking lot lights and security cameras to make this a safe and attractive place to live. Thanks in part to our Covenant Advisor, vacant foreclosed homes are being rehabbed and sold.

My goal in 2017-18—with your support—is to persuade Weis Markets to stay; work for appropriate development of the Exxon lot; ensure that CA upgrades and refurbishes the ice rink; and lobby the county to implement the geodesic spiral design on Bridge Columbia. Judging by the pace of home sales this year, many folks now realize that there's no place like OM!

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Lynn-Steven Engelke

Columbia's 50th Birthday and the development of downtown bring both opportunities and challenges to Oakland Mills. How can we take advantage of the new energy and investment in our city while sustaining and building on all aspects of the quality of life we now enjoy in our Village?

As an Oakland Mills resident for the past 44 years and your Board member for the past year, I will continue my commitment to finding creative answers to both questions.

During the past year, I have:

- Served as Chair of the Neighborhood Enhancement Advisory Committee
- Helped revise our Covenant Enforcement Process and Architectural Guidelines for greater effectiveness
- Initiated and developed the *Renew.Rehab.Replace* workshop series on strategies for reinvigorating our housing
- Co-created a task force approach to public space issues

In the coming year, I look forward to working with all residents for positive change and pride in our Village.

Jill Edelson

I believe that our future is in our strong schools and a diverse community. I will use my experience as a 5-year U. S. government policy analyst and Stevens Forest Elementary PTA President to serve and to make our amazing community the absolute best. As the PTA president, I advocated to widen the school's sidewalks, put in higher curbs, add a butterfly garden, install a canopy over the entrance, clean up the grounds, provide books for all students, and become Maryland's only National PTA School of Excellence. I will continue to make our schools the best by working cooperatively with our school system, PTAs/PTSAs, and the Howard County Board of Education. Lastly, I would work cohesively with the other OM Board members and staff, County Council, the police, potential investors, and most importantly the community to make OM safer, stronger, and more viable.

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**There is one (1) candidate for the one seat as Oakland Mills
Representative on Columbia Council.**

Virginia (Ginny) Thomas

I have fought for your concerns as your representative on the Howard County Council, Maryland General Assembly, and OM Village Board. I am asking for your support to serve as your CA Representative.

My goals are to:

Continue to be responsive to your concerns and those of your neighbors.
Advocate for more consumer feedback on CA facilities and programs

Secure funding for OM's projects and work to decrease CA debt.

Support our schools and educational programs and activities for all ages

Work with our police towards safe open spaces, village center, and neighborhoods

Work on a lake, pond, and open space management plan and support improving our older facilities

Promote/support County/State/Federal programs to facilitate re-hab of deteriorating homes

Ensure that County zoning changes for Columbia are positive

Work on covenant enforcement for commercial areas-Oakland Ridge industrial park

If I can help you, please contact me

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