



Oakland Mills Community Association

2018 Village Elections

Candidate Statements



This is a non-contested race, which means elections will not be held this year. **Six** candidates have been deemed elected for **six** of the **seven** seats on Oakland Mills Community Association 2018-2019 Board of Directors. The seventh Board member will be appointed by the new Board after May 1, 2018. (Order of names were randomly selected)

BOARD CANDIDATES

JONATHAN EDELSON

It has been my honor to serve as the Chairperson of the Oakland Mills Board for the past year and to advocate for our community. We accomplished a lot this year – including the completion of Bridge Columbia, successfully pushing back against harmful school redistricting proposals, and organizing the community to successfully lobby for funding to construct the new Talbott Springs Elementary School. Working with our Columbia Association representative, I also recovered some of the funds Oakland Mills would have lost under the original assessment share plan. I will continue to work hard as we face challenges to important programs in our schools as well as challenges with our Village Center. I have experience working with officials at many levels, including CA, Howard County government, and the school system. This is our hOMe; I will continue to be a strong voice for all it has to offer and can achieve!

CHRIS ESOLDO

Effectively and efficiently managing high-visibility and fast-paced operations is what I do best. With an unwavering drive for strong, ethical leadership and superior performance, I have successfully supported mission critical operations of the Department of Defense in increasingly responsible circumstances around the globe. I have done so through innovation and the proven ability to develop and guide best-in-class support organizations. A seasoned veteran of the United States Air Force in both military and civil service positions, I've received 16 awards for superior operational leadership in the last 24 years and been officially commended by senior officers as "a true leader." As a recent newcomer to the OMCA Board, I've supported efforts to improve OM schools and volunteered to chair a committee of residents and board members to interface with county leadership to improve our public spaces.

LYNN-STEVEN ENGELKE

Each week brings noticeable new improvements to the appearance of Oakland Mills!

As your Architecture Chair, two-term Board member, and 45-year Stevens Forest homeowner, I'm proud to be working with a team dedicated to this revitalization of our Village by:

- Collaborating closely with our covenant advisors and the RAC to assist residents and strengthen the effectiveness of our revised Covenant Process and Architectural Guidelines
- Promoting covenant compliance by commercial properties and bank-owned foreclosed residences
- Leading a series of Renew.Rehab.Replace workshops focused on preserving and reinvigorating our housing and community
- Furthering efforts that made our new pedestrian bridge and enhanced pathways become realities Let's keep the momentum going! I look forward to continuing to work with all residents for positive change and pride in our Village.

PAUL VERCHINSKI

I like to see results! Currently, I have spent the last 6 years as the OMVB rep (and Chair) to the CA Senior Advisory Committee. I am running for my 5th year on the OMVB. OM should revise its Village Center Plan in order to facilitate redevelopment. In addition, OM properties are long overdue for a Property Standards Evaluation which was last done in 2005. Property maintenance is looking a lot better after the hiring of a separate Covenant Advisor for Property Concerns. 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.

LIZ CRAMMOND

I am seeking election to the Oakland Mill Village Board to help enhance our community's vibrancy and vitality. I bring to the table more than ten-years of experience in program management and fundraising work in the nonprofit sector. As an established nonprofit professional I understand what it means to get results on a shoestring budget, and am willing to invest the necessary time and energy needed to help our community develop its own distinct culture and activates in celebration of Oakland Mill's 50th anniversary. Additionally I will advocate for greater pedestrian and cyclist safety methods along our communities busiest streets. I look forward to working with residents to make Oakland Mills the best community in Columbia to live, work and play.

BILL MCCORMACK JR.

Experience

Village Board – 8 years

Revitalization, Housing, Master Plan, Open Space Committees, Community Plan Task Force – 11 years

Accomplishments

- Presented the Oakland Mills Housing Goals and Plans to Enterprise Community Partners and

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

COLUMBIA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATE

VIRGINIA (GINNY) THOMAS

I want to thank you for your support in my first term as your CA Representative. As I promised, we did not raise your assessment rate. I enjoyed helping many of you with your concerns. I look forward to continuing to serve you.

I will:

- Continue to be responsive to your concerns and those of your neighbors. Advocate for more consumer feedback on CA facilities and programs
- Evaluate the new membership categories and make appropriate changes that will better meet your needs
- Secure funding for OM's projects
- Support our schools, 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 stream erosion management plan

(Bill McCormack Jr. statement continued)

- County officials as means to deconcentrate subsidized housing as outlined in Enterprise's "Undesign the Red Line."
- Initiated discussion with County Council to create a "Public Nuisance" law to deal with bad landlords.
- Credited by CA as a key driving force in the creation of the CA Open Space Assessment Report.
- Coordinated with County Traffic Engineers and residents to resolve safety and access concerns in the final design of the Stevens Forest/Farewell Roads round about.

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 and restoral of mowed recreation areas to promote greater safety and better usage.

- Ensure that County zoning changes for Columbia are positive
 - Work on covenant enforcement for commercial areas-Oakland Ridge industrial park
- Please contact me if I can help you.
Virginia (Ginny) Thomas
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