



# Oakland Mills Community Association

## 2019 Village Elections

### Candidate Statements



#### BOARD CANDIDATES

There are **eight (8)** candidates running for the **seven (7)** seats on Oakland Mills Community Association 2019-2020 Board of Directors. Names were randomly selected and this is the order the names as they appear on the ballot.

#### Frank Hopper

When we moved at the beginning of 2017, we looked all over Columbia. We ended up purchasing a home in Thunder Hill without knowing anything about the community, and boy did we luck out. Oakland Mills is a fantastic community, and one which I'm proud to be a part of. That's why I'd like to serve on the village Board. I'm a stay at home dad with b/g twin preschoolers at home, and in the past I've been a realtor and I've owned my own home inspection business. Though I haven't yet served on the Board, I've attended nearly all of the meetings for the past five months, and I've seen residents of this community bring up concerns about what's important to them. I look forward to helping address those concerns as a member of the Board.

#### Jonathan Edelson

It is my honor to serve as the Chairperson of the Oakland Mills Board and to advocate for our community. We continue to accomplish a lot. The new Talbott Springs Elementary school will be a reality, three new businesses have opened at the Village Center with more to come, and the Oakland Mills board continues to be recognized as one of the most active boards in Columbia for community advocacy across a range of issues. I will continue to work for Oakland Mills to make this the best community it can be and to show others what a gem of a Village we have in OM. I have experience working with officials at many levels, including CA, Howard County government, state 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!

#### Larry T. Pretlow II

This year, I was appointed Chairperson of the Community Together (outreach) Committee - it has been a priority to learn more about the concerns and needs of our community so that we develop a committee that doesn't duplicate but builds on new ideas to further engage new community members, while continuing the great things we already do. As a proud father, I am committed to the vibrancy of Oakland Mills and working to ensure that our community remains bright and recognized for what makes us great: our schools, beautiful homes and collective values that celebrate our diversity. I believe community service builds character.

**(Pretlow, continued)** Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve our community. It will be an honor to serve a second term and to help continue the great impact of the ongoing civic work in our community. Like you, I will always be "Oakland Mills Proud."

#### Bill McCormack Jr.

##### **Experience**

Village Board – 9 years  
Revitalization, Housing, Master Plan, Open Space Committees, Community Plan Task Force – 12 years

##### **Accomplishments**

- Conducting monthly meetings with county housing authorities exploring Oakland Mills Housing Goals and Plans to address housing issues in village and county.
- Advocated with Housing Affordability Coalition for creation of county wide master plan for affordable housing to balance it throughout the county.
- Conducted joint open space/public space residents' issues meeting and created testimony to include solutions in CA budget.
- Secured CA commitment to use Oakland Mills as test village for pilot program to assess tot lots/playgrounds.
- Secured CA commitment to work with each village to address pathway sight line safety.

##### **Priorities/Objectives**

- Advocate for creation of "Public Nuisance" law to deal with bad landlords.
- Advocate for CA for expert outside consultant to design open space for next 50 years.
- Advocate for changing legal structure of CA, including city incorporation.

#### Bageshwar Verma

I'm your neighbor and a member of the Oakland Mills Community Association Board of Directors. I'm seeking your support for re-election to the Board.

##### My Background:

- Worked for over 40 years in global and national media as journalist, broadcaster, writer, and analyst, including the BBC World Service in London, UK, and the US Government Agency for Global Media in Washington DC. (continued on next page)

**(Verma, continued) How I Could Serve the Community:  
Community Outreach/Engagement:**

- With help from highly experienced professionals, will offer our youth in Oakland Mills (12-18 ages) much-needed career guidance.
- Will organize workshops/seminars for community-based topics such as security, crime prevention, health and elder care, and dangers of global warming among others.
- Will highlight the best of the Oakland Mills community and schools.
- I'll work for you and will be your voice!

**Lynn-Steven Engelke**

When I look around Oakland Mills today, I'm excited to see so many inspiring home improvement projects, upgrades to our streets and pathways, and new business activities in our village center. As a three-term Board Member and two-term Architecture Chair, I am supporting these changes by:

- Collaborating closely with our covenant advisors and Resident Architecture Committee to assist residents, resolve issues with bank-owned foreclosed properties, and advance the continued vitality of our community
- Working with our Non-Residential Architecture Advisory Committee to welcome commercial properties and facilitate their covenant compliance
- Reviewing our Architectural Guidelines to update the materials, technologies, and design standards included and to streamline the covenant process

Let's keep the momentum going! I look forward to continuing to join 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 representative to the CA Senior Advisory Committee. I am running for my 6th year on the OMVB. For the past 2 years, have represented District 13 on the DC Metroplex BWI Roundtable. As many of you know, airplane noise has been a constant issue for OM since 2016 due to reorientation of flight paths. A new FAA Procedure should provide some relief. I was appointed to represent the public by Governor Hogan to the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council. Our goal is to get 300,000 electric vehicles (EV) in Maryland. In 2018, I was instrumental in getting Howard County legislation (CB76) to require EV chargers in all new residential construction. Have written draft changes to add EV Chargers to the OMCA Residential Architectural Guidelines to help residents in EV charger placement for our next update.

**Rebecca Bryant**

My family lives on a great street in Thunder Hill. Amongst block parties, friendships with neighbors and impromptu playdates, my family is thriving. I want this for all residents. I will work on the board to create open spaces that invite us, a village center that gathers us, and neighbors that we know. With experience as vp of a condo association and leader of a mom support group, I am not afraid of the hard work and tough decisions that must be done for long term benefits. You might recognize me riding around town on my longbike, usually with two kids on the back. If you see me, please say hello. With your support and a focus on community building, and protecting our natural spaces, I will be a new voice on the OM board.

**COLUMBIA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATE**

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

**Virginia (Ginny) Thomas**

Thank you for your support as your CA Representative. I kept my promise not to raise your assessment rate and I helped many of you with your concerns. I look forward to continuing to serve you. 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 police towards safe open spaces, village center, and neighborhoods

Work to improve CA's response to climate change, especially stream erosion and flooding.

Ensure that County zoning changes for Columbia are positive

Work on covenant enforcement for commercial areas.

If I can help you, please contact me

Virginia (Ginny) Thomas

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