



**oakland mills**  
we value connections

# Oakland Mills Community Association Village Board Meeting Minutes

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

**Board Members:** Jonathan Edelson, Chair ~ Lynn-Steven Engelke, Architectural Committee Chair

Bill McCormack Jr., Vice-chair ~ Rebecca Bryant ~ Paul Verchinski

Bageshwar Verma ~ Virginia (Ginny) Thomas, Columbia Council Representative

**January 26, 2021**

**Link to YouTube recording of the January 12, 2021 OMCA Board Meeting:**

<https://youtu.be/gXN4kfYwn8s>

## **OMCA Regular Board Meeting**

This meeting was conducted via Zoom remote virtual conferencing due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Mr. Edelson** called the regular meeting of the OMCA Board of Directors to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Jonathan Edelson, Board Chair; Bill McCormack, Board Vice-chair; Lynn Engelke, Architecture Committee Chair; Ginny Thomas, Columbia Council Representative; Rebecca Bryant; Paul Verchinski; Sandy Cederbaum, Village Manager; Amy Carpenter, Administrative Assistant

**Absent:** Bageshwar Verma

**Quorum Present:** Yes

**Also Present:** Howard County Council District 2 Aide Ashley Alston; Samuel Hahn, Executive Director of Oakland Mills United; Kiana Angela Macharia, Director of Community Engagement, Oakland Mills United; Katherine McCarter, Margaret Mauro, and Meghan McHenry, CA Climate Change Committee Subcommittee members and Master Gardeners; see resident list

## **Opening of Meeting**

- **Mr. McCormack** motioned to approve the January 12, 2021 OMCA Board meeting minutes (ATTACHMENT A). **Ms. Bryant** seconded, and the motion passed (5-0-0).
- **Mr. McCormack** motioned to approve the January 26, 2021 OMCA Board meeting agenda (ATTACHMENT B). **Ms. Bryant** seconded. **Mr. Verchinski** and **Mr. Edelson** asked to amend the agenda. The Board voted to approve the amended agenda (5-0-0).

## **Resident Remarks**

Resident Alex Hekimian spoke regarding CA outdoor pool summer openings and closures. He supported reopening the Talbott Spring pool.

## **New Business**

### ***Oakland Mills United Presentation***

Samuel Hahn, Executive Director of Oakland Mills United (OMU), and Kiana Angela Macharia, Director of Community Engagement for OMU, presented the purposes and goals of OMU (ATTACHMENT C). Mr. Hahn said that the organization was run by OM cluster students and former students with a governing board to provide stability. Its purpose was to advocate for OM schools and the community. He also said that OMU

sought to organize a community coalition and had already officially partnered with Oakland Mills Online. He expressed OMU's desire for the OMCA Board to join the coalition. A discussion ensued. **Mr. Edelson** proposed that the subject of joining the coalition be brought back as Old Business at the February 9<sup>th</sup> OMCA Board meeting.

### *Candidate Nomination Petitions*

**Mr. Edelson** explained that candidate nomination petitions with at least ten signatures were required by OMCA By-laws in order for candidates to run for the OMCA Board. There were questions regarding the purposes and need for the nomination petitions and signatures. **Ms. Cederbaum** suggested reviewing the By-laws and other OMCA legal documents to determine if changes should be made. Changes to the By-laws would require a vote by general OMCA membership. A discussion ensued. **Mr. Edelson** encouraged board members to review the By-laws. **Mr. McCormack** requested that the issue be put on the agenda as Old Business for the February 9<sup>th</sup> OMCA Board meeting.

### *Lawn Alive, CA Climate Committee Initiative*

**Ms. Bryant** introduced the CA Climate Change Committee's initiative, Lawn Alive. The initiative would encourage residents to engage in native gardening and sustainable landscaping on their properties. Master Gardener Katherine McCarter, who served on the Lawn Alive subcommittee/initiative, presented the goals of the program and how it would be implemented. A discussion ensued. Ms. McCarter said that CA had asked to conduct a pilot program in one of the villages and Ms. Thomas had suggested Oakland Mills. **Mr. Edelson** suggested the hill between Oakland Mills High School and Thunder Hill Road as a project. The schools had been studying options for the hills and were interested in partnering with an organization. Master Gardener Megan McHenry said she would look into partnering with the Watershed Stewards Academy for the project. Ms. McCarter said she would send information about the Lawn Alive initiative to Ms. Cederbaum to share with the Board.

### **Old Business**

#### *2021 OMCA Board Election Guidelines*

**Ms. Cederbaum** reviewed changes made to the Election Guidelines (ATTACHMENT D). She also shared the 2021 OMCA Board Election Calendars (ATTACHMENT E). A discussion ensued regarding the guidelines. **Mr. Edelson** motioned to approve the 2021 OMCA Board Election Guidelines and Regulations as just edited. **Mr. McCormack** seconded, and the motion passed (5-0-0).

#### *2021 OMCA Election Monitor Committee*

**Mr. Edelson** motioned to nominate Bob Berlett and Bob Bartolo as Co-chairs of the OMCA Election Monitor Committee. **Ms. Engelke** seconded, and the motion passed (5-0-0). **Mr. Edelson** motioned to appoint Bob Berlett, Bob Bartolo, Carol Brain, Judy Gottsagen, Steve Gottsagen, Barb Haezel, and Claudia Hollywood as Election Monitor Committee members. **Mr. McCormack** seconded, and the motion passed (5-0-0).

#### *Vacant Board Seat*

**Ms. Cederbaum** reported that she had received two letters of interest for the vacant OMCA Board seat. She said she would send the candidates to the Board's subcommittee if needed. If only two candidates expressed interest, she would send their names directly to the Board.

#### *Talbott Springs Pool*

**Mr. Verchinski** endorsed Mr. Hekimian's statement during Resident Remarks and said that he thought the Board should support keeping all pools open and send a letter to CA regarding the matter. A discussion ensued. **Ms. Thomas** said she would look into programming at Stevens Forest pool and whether there would be time in the pool's schedule for free swim. **Mr. Verchinski** motioned to support opening Talbott Springs pool in line with CA lien payer priorities for use of the lien. **Mr. McCormack** seconded, and the motion failed (2-3-0). **Mr.**

**Edelson** proposed drafting a letter to address concerns regarding the pools for the Board to review, and the Board agreed to discuss it as Old Business at the February 9th board meeting

### ***Deferred Maintenance of OM Schools***

**Mr. Edelson** shared a letter he had written and reviewed with the OM Education Committee addressing concerns about deferred maintenance in OM schools and HCPSS's plans to reopen schools for hybrid learning (ATTACHMENT F). **Mr. Edelson** motioned to send the letter as revised to the Board of Education and HCPSS Superintendent with copies sent to the County Executive and County Council. **Mr. McCormack** seconded, and the motion passed (5-0-0).

### **Board Chair Report**

**Mr. Edelson** gave back his time for the next agenda item.

### **Columbia Council Representative Report**

**Ms. Thomas** reported on questions from residents that were sent to CA departments. She suggested a future problem-solving virtual meeting that would involve residents. She encouraged residents and OMCA Board members to continue sending questions and concerns to the CA Board. She also encouraged partnering with outside organizations/government for funding.

### **Village Manager Report**

**Ms. Cederbaum** reported that OMCA's recent donation drive for the OMHS Food Pantry was a success. Residents were very generous.

### **Committee Reports**

#### ***Architecture Committee***

**Ms. Engelke** reported that RAC meetings continued to be productive and effective and gave a positive image of the covenant process.

#### ***Public Space Advisory Committee***

See the PSAC's Committee Meeting notes (ATTACHMENT G).

### **Board Bulletin Board**

**Mr. Edelson** congratulated OMHS Principal Dr. Jeffrey Fink and the OMHS staff on receiving the College Board's award for female diversity in AP computer science classes.

**Mr. Edelson** adjourned the regular OMCA Board meeting at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Amy Carpenter, Administrative Assistant



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**Board Members:** Jonathan Edelson, Chair ~ Lynn-Steven Engelke, Architectural Committee Chair  
Bill McCormack Jr., Vice-chair ~ Rebecca Bryant ~ Paul Verchinski  
Bageshwar Verma ~ Virginia (Ginny) Thomas, Columbia Council Representative

**January 12, 2021**

**Link to YouTube recording of the January 12, 2021 OMCA Board Meeting:**

<https://youtu.be/-47TY1P49kc>

## OMCA Regular Board Meeting

This meeting was conducted via Zoom remote virtual conferencing due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Mr. Edelson** called the regular meeting of the OMCA Board of Directors to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Present:** Jonathan Edelson, Board Chair; Bill McCormack, Board Vice-chair; Lynn Engelke, Architecture Committee Chair; Ginny Thomas, Columbia Council Representative; Rebecca Bryant; Paul Verchinski; Bageshwar Verma; Sandy Cederbaum, Village Manager; Amy Carpenter, Administrative Assistant

**Absent:** none

**Quorum Present:** Yes

**Also Present:** Howard County Council District 2 Aide Ashley Alston; see resident list

## Opening of Meeting

- **Mr. Verchinski** motioned to approve the December 8, 2020 OMCA Board meeting minutes (ATTACHMENT A). **Ms. Engelke** seconded, and the motion passed (5-0-1).
- **Mr. Verma** motioned to approve the January 12, 2021 OMCA Board meeting agenda (ATTACHMENT B). **Mr. McCormack** seconded, and the motion passed (6-0-0).

## Resident Remarks

Resident Alex Hekimian spoke regarding CA's announcement that eight pools were proposed to be kept closed over the summer, including the Talbott Springs pool. He thought all the pools should be open, noting that many of them were in communities with residents with low socioeconomic status. He suggested that other CA facilities that surveys had indicated had less demand instead be closed so that resources could be devoted to reopening all pools. **Mr. Verchinski** asked for Mr. Hekimian's opinion regarding CA's closure of Haven on the Lake. Mr. Hekimian noted that Haven had been rated lower on the surveys and had lost too much money. He suggested other programs that could be cut or delayed until CA's financial situation was more favorable.

Howard County Council District 2 Aide Ashley Alston shared greetings from Councilmember Opel Jones' office. She asked residents and board members to reach out to her with any questions or concerns. **Mr. Edelson** asked about a sinkhole near Kilimanjaro and Stevens Forest Road, and Ms. Alston said she would check into it.

## New Business

### ***Election Guidelines***

**Ms. Cederbaum** reviewed changes to the Election Guidelines (ATTACHMENT C). The Board discussed timing of the challenge period and response, nomination petitions, ballot chain of custody, and destination of completed mail-in ballots. The issue of a change in the by-laws regarding nomination petitions, which would require a ballot question, would be brought back at the next Board meeting during New Business.

### ***Election Monitor Chairs***

Residents Bob Berlett and Bob Bartolo expressed interest in serving as Oakland Mills Election Committee co-chairs again this year. The decision on the Election Committee co-chairs would be brought back at the next Board meeting during Old Business.

### **Old Business**

#### ***Vacant Oakland Mills Board Seat***

**Mr. Edelson** asked if the Board would like to fill the vacant Board seat. A discussion ensued. **Mr. Edelson** motioned to fill the Board seat vacancy. **Mr. McCormack** seconded, and the motion passed (6-0-0). **Mr. Edelson** explained the process of filling the vacancy, which in the past included a subcommittee made of three Board members who would review letters of interest and recommend two candidates to the Board to review and interview. **Mr. Edelson** nominated Mr. McCormack, Ms. Bryant, and Ms. Engelke to serve on the Board vacancy subcommittee. **Mr. McCormack** seconded, and the motion passed (6-0-0). Ms. Cederbaum would send a communication the following day. Candidates would have until January 27th to send in their letters of interest. The Board vacancy subcommittee would then meet to decide on its recommendations and send them to the Board prior to the February 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

#### ***Oakland Mills FY21/22 Finances***

**Ms. Cederbaum** reported that the village managers met with CA's Chief Financial Advisor/Director of Audits and said that the proposed budget for the FY2022 proposed assessment share had been released. OM's part of the assessment share would be reduced further from last year by only a small amount. **Ms. Cederbaum** expected that OM's budget would be fine until event/rental income increased possibly in July or August of 2021. She said that it was possible that OM would end the fiscal year with a cash reserve. **Ms. Cederbaum** and **Mr. Edelson** recommended asking for a waiver of excess cash return. **Mr. Edelson** also recommended supporting CA's proposal to build its own cash reserve. The Board agreed that it would support CA building its own cash reserve but recommended not specifying a timeline for the cash reserve given CA's current financial circumstances. Ms. Cederbaum and Mr. Edelson agreed to draft a letter to CA regarding both issues.

### **Board Chair Report**

**Mr. Edelson** read a statement (ATTACHMENT D) regarding the pandemic and current political events as well as local issues. He encouraged support of local leaders and teachers. He also reminded residents and board member of the need to advocate for action on deferred maintenance in Oakland Mills schools. He thanked the Board and staff.

**Mr. Edelson** updated the Board on Cedar Realty's intent to fill Vennari's restaurant space. He also discussed Cedar's plans for the space formerly occupied by 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Saloon. Ms. Cederbaum and OM Covenant Advisor Karina Caico completed a site visit of the building and sent a formal letter, but it was agreed that follow-up from Mr. Edelson would be good. **Ms. Engelke** suggested contacting Councilmember Jones' and County Executive Calvin Ball's offices regarding the former 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance building.

### **Columbia Council Representative Report**

**Ms. Thomas** recommended that residents and Board members read the transmittal letter from CA president Milton Mathews regarding the proposed CA FY22 budget. She discussed opportunities for residents to be involved in the budget process and announced that there would be a virtual town hall meeting on January 21st.

She asked board members to send the CA Board their questions and concerns before the January 21<sup>st</sup> CA Board virtual town hall meeting. A discussion ensued regarding the CA budget.

### **Village Manager Report**

**Ms. Cederbaum** updated the Board on painting done to the interior of The Other Barn. She also thanked Oakland Mills Facility and Event Coordinator Brigitta Warren for a successful Lively Arts virtual concert.

### **Committee Reports**

#### *Architecture Committee*

**Ms. Engelke** reported on recent RAC meetings and applications. She said that she would meet with Mr. Edelson and Ms. Cederbaum regarding the NRAC and the status of the former 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance building.

### **Board Bulletin Board**

**Ms. Cederbaum** said that a food drive for the Oakland Mills High School food pantry would be held outside The Other Barn on January 23<sup>rd</sup> between 9:00 a.m. and noon. She reported that Columbia Community Care was doing well at the Stevens Forest Neighborhood Center.

**Ms. Thomas** suggested that Ms. Engelke and the RAC might want to look at HB322, sponsored by Maryland delegates Terry Hill and Jessica Feldmark. The bill proposed prohibiting “unreasonable limitations” on low-impact landscaping under certain circumstances.

**Mr. Verchinski** reported on the DC Metroplex BWI Community Roundtable and said that a public hearing on the aviation noise zone would be held January 28<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**Ms. Bryant** gave an update from the OM Public Space Advisory Committee. She said the committee was concerned about ADA ramps on bike paths and that it had not received replies despite multiple letters sent to the County. She also said the committee was concerned about bikes on balconies in apartments and condos around the area and finding safe alternate locations for residents to store bicycles. The Board gave recommendations on who best to contact about the issue.

**Mr. Edelson** reiterated the importance of advocating for action on deferred maintenance of OM schools.

**Mr. Edelson** adjourned the regular OMCA Board meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Amy Carpenter, Administrative Assistant



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**Oakland Mills Community Association  
Village Board**

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

**Board Members:** Jonathan Edelson, Chair; Bill McCormack Jr., Vice-Chair

Lynn-Steven Engelke, Architecture Committee Chair;

Rebecca Bryant, Paul Verchinski, Bageshwar Verma

**Columbia Council Representative:** Virginia (Ginny) Thomas

**Oakland Mills Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday, January 26, 2021 – 7 p.m.**

**Oakland Mills Community Association is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.**

Topic: Oakland Mills Board of Directors Meeting \_ Jan. 26\_2021

Time: Jan 26, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84496789473>

Meeting ID: 844 9678 9473

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,84496789473# US (Washington D.C)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

Meeting ID: 844 9678 9473

**You may join the meeting beginning at 6:50 p.m. You will be placed in a “waiting room” and zoom host will admit. All participant’s audio will be muted upon “entry”.**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Opening of meeting**

Approve Minutes from January 12, 2020 Board Meeting

Approve Agenda for January 26, 2020 Board Meeting

**7:05 p.m.**

**Resident Remarks, 3-minute remarks (10 min)**

Please note that meeting attendee’s audio is muted. If you wish to participate in Resident Remarks please “raise your hand” which is one of the options available for participants and appears as an icon on the screen.

**7:15 p.m.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**OM United Presentation (25 min)**

**Discussion of Candidate Nomination Petition and election related requirement in By-Laws, Board Discussion (10 min)**

**Lawn Alive, CA Climate Committee Initiative, Rebecca Bryant, committee member (10 min)**

**8:00 p.m. OLD BUSINESS**

**2021 Board Elections, Election and vote (15 min)**

**Vacant Board Seat Update, Board discussion (5 min)**

**8:20 p.m. Board Chair Report, Jonathan Edelson (10min)**

**8:30 p.m. Columbia Council Rep. Report, Virginia (Ginny) Thomas (10 min)  
Vice-Chair of the Columbia Association Board of Directors**

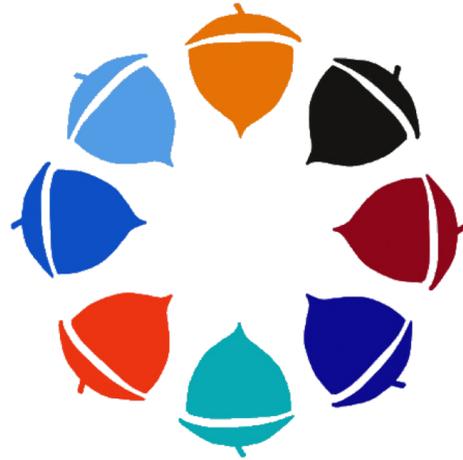
**8:40 p.m. Village Manager Report, Sandy Cederbaum (5 min)  
Financial and Operations Update**

**8:45 p.m. Committee Reports (5 min)  
Architecture, Lynn Engelke, Chair (5 min)**

**8:50 p.m. Board Bulletin Board (5 min)**

**8:55 p.m. Adjourn**

Oakland Mills Village Board



**OAKLAND MILLS UNITED**

January 26, 2021

# Introductions



**SAMUEL HAHN**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

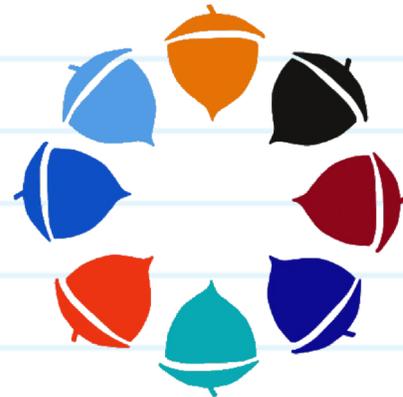


**KIANA ANGELA MACHARIA**  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

# What is Oakland Mills United?

Oakland Mills United is a community organization that advocates for the betterment of the schools within the Oakland Mills community and provides support for our schools and students through various initiatives and programs.

*Empowering our students, our schools, and our community*



**OAKLAND MILLS UNITED**



# Core Issues We Address

- **Changing the Stigma**
  - We want to ensure that members of the OM community are appreciated and respected beyond our physical borders.
- **Closing the Opportunity Gap**
  - We want to make sure that our students are given the same opportunities and academic resources needed for them to succeed.
- **Maintenance of School Buildings**
  - We advocate for our schools buildings to be physically up to the same standards as the other schools in the HCPSS and to also be repaired be in equitable and timely manner.
- **Redistricting**
  - We want to make sure that the language surrounding our school during this time is positive, truthful, and highlighting the many wonderful things about our community.
  - \* We are NOT advocating for any redistricting plan.



# Our Initiatives

- Indirect Impact
  - Advocating for OM
- Direct Impact
  - Helping our Community
- Our cOM(m)Unity: The Podcast of Oakland Mills United

# Advocating for Oakland Mills

## Educate

- News and Information
- Guest Speakers

## Empower

- Community Discussions
- Workshops
- Forums with our elected leaders

## Demand Real Change

- Testify
- Working with our elected leaders
- Demanding accountability and change from our elected leaders



# Advocate for OM Schools

Join us on **Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup> from 7-8 pm** for our first community forum of 2021: **Advocate for OM Schools.**

This community forum is focused on the Superintendent's Proposed FY2022 Operating and Capital Budget, the building conditions of OM schools, the inequities the OM cluster schools face, and what/how our community can do to get real change for our schools.

Visit [oaklandmillsunited.org](https://oaklandmillsunited.org) for more information and the Zoom link

A COMMUNITY FORUM



**OAKLAND MILLS UNITED**

## ADVOCATE FOR OM SCHOOLS

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 28 FROM 7-8 PM**

Learn about the issues impacting OM schools and what **YOU** can do. Join us and learn about **ALL** the following

- FY22 HCPSS Operating Budget
- Building Maintenance of OM schools
- How you can testify to the HCPSS Board of Education
  - Write your testimony with us
- Have any questions you have answered

**OAKLANDMILLSUNITED.ORG**



# Helping our Community

Provide opportunities and support for our schools, our students, and our communities through our programs that directly impact.

- Free Tutoring Program
- College Prep
- Test Prep
- Food and School Supply Donation Drives



Plans to expand our programs to provide more opportunities

# Our cOMmUnity: The Podcast of Oakland Mills United

## WAYS TO LISTEN



## A PODCAST FOR OM BY OM

*Elevating the voices within our schools and right here in the Oakland Mills community.*

Due to loss of equipment and technical difficulties with recording and editing podcast episodes, Our cOM(m)Unity is taking a short break until we can fix these problems. We apologize to all of our listeners and look forward to continue elevating the voices within our schools and right here in the OM community.



### Current Episodes

- A Conversation with Dr. Fink, Principal of OMHS
- Meeting Oakland Mills Online



# Partnerships with our schools

## Working with our PTSA's

- OMHS PTSA
- OMMS PTSA
- LEMS PTSA
- TSES PTSA
- SFES PTSA
- CRES PTSA
- JHES PTSA

## Working directly with our students

- OMHS SGA
- OMHS Student Clubs and Organizations
- LEMS SGA



# Our Community Partners

## The Oakland Mills Coalition

The Oakland Mills Coalition is a coalition of different organizations that have come together to advocate for the betterment of the schools within Oakland Mills.





# Our Growth Strategy

## Phase 1

June, 2020

- Consists of direct advocacy but has indirect impacts on the OM community. Advocacy plans consist of the following:
  - Testifying at board meetings
  - Joining HCPSS community committees
  - Assisting in HCPSS policy revisions
  - Hosting community forums to educate the community about HCPSS
  - Attending PTSA meetings
  - Meeting with students, parents, teachers

## Phase 2

March, 2021

- Consists of direct actions that directly impacts the OM community and can be physically seen. Direct impact plans consist of the following:
  - Tutoring Program
  - School Supply and Food Pantry Donations
  - HS College Prep Seminars
  - Academic Enrichment

## Phase 3

September, 2021

- Consists of monetary funds that directly impact the OM community, consisting of the following:
  - 501c3 status
  - Funding for extracurricular events
  - Donations of educational supplies/materials
  - Academic programs

# Creating Partnerships within Oakland Mills

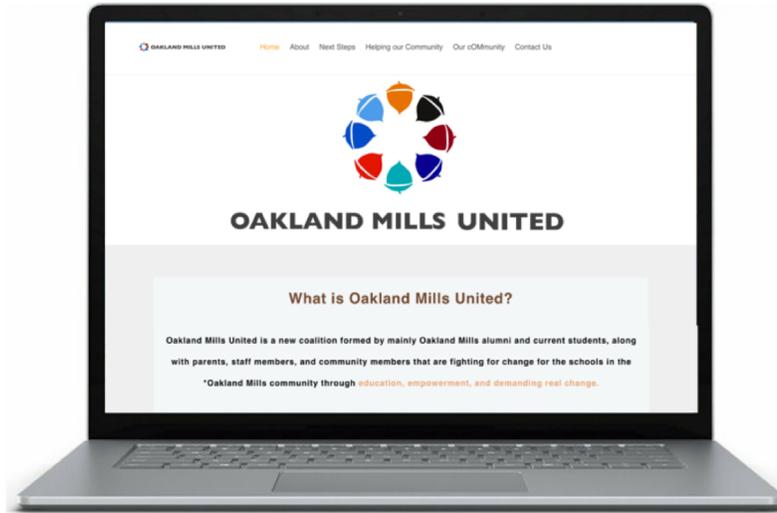
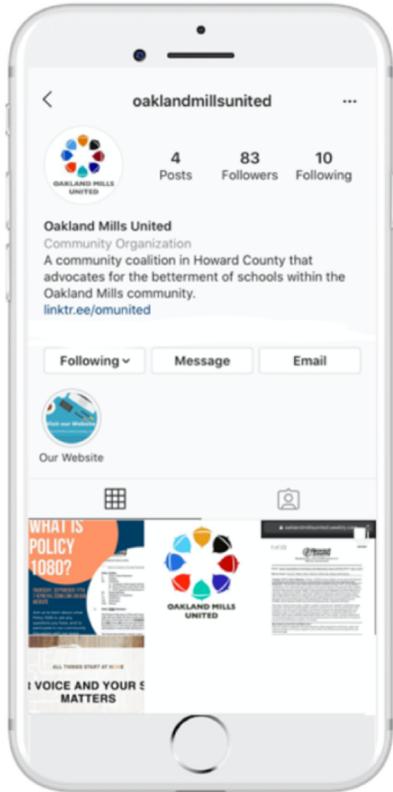
## Partnering with the Oakland Mills Village Board

- Work together on issues impacting OM schools
- Share our resources for the betterment of our community
- Work together to elevate the voices of OM residents
- Joint programs and initiatives



# Questions?

Stay **CONNECTED** with  
Oakland Mills United!



@oaklandmillsunited



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Visit our website  
[oaklandmillsunited.org](http://oaklandmillsunited.org)



Follow us @\_omunited

A COMMUNITY FORUM  
**OAKLAND MILLS UNITED**

**ADVOCATE FOR OM  
SCHOOLS**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 28 FROM 7-8 PM**

Learn about the issues impacting OM schools and what **YOU** can do. Join us and learn about ALL the following

- FY22 HCPSS Operating Budget
- Building Maintenance of OM schools
- How you can testify to the HCPSS Board of Education
- Write your testimony with us
- Have any questions you have answered

**OAKLANDMILLSUNITED.ORG**



DRAFT: January 26, 2021

Approved by the Oakland Mills Board: January 14, 2020

**OAKLAND MILLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.  
ELECTION GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS**

Village Elections are officially guided by Article VIII, Section 8 of the By-laws. In addition, tradition, experience and press deadlines contribute to the effective administration of an annual election. These rules and regulations draw from the by-laws and past elections in order to serve as guidelines for the Village Board, the staff and the Election Monitor Committee before, during and after the village elections. The procedures are described according to the timeline of the election activities.

The Board of Directors of the Oakland Mills Community Association (OMCA) affirms their great appreciation and confidence in the Oakland Mills Election Monitoring Committee (EMC). The OMCA Board confirms that Oakland Mills continues to adhere rigorously to fair election standards and established guidelines. These guidelines are finalized by the EMC and approved by the OMCA Board prior to each year's OMCA election day; after finalization the guidelines for that election day cannot be altered or amended.

At its discretion and based on village, county, state, or federal circumstances, the Oakland Mills Board of Directors may decide that village elections will be held ~~remotely~~ (partially or fully) ~~be held remotely~~. This would include the authority to provide for all mail-in ballots; cancel on-site voting and on-site ballot counting; and cancel on-site election events.

All questions regarding the elections should be directed to the Election Monitor Committee Chair(s).

**GOALS**

The following major goals have been identified in administering village elections:

1. The election should be fair and be perceived as fair by the establishment of clear procedures.
2. The election procedures should encourage potential candidates to run in the election and encourage people to vote.
3. Elections should be efficient and run at a reasonable cost.

**Non-Contested Election**

In 2016 the Members of the Association passed a by-law amendment stating that if the number of candidates for the Board of Directors was equal to or less than the number of open seats those candidates, who submitted a valid nomination petition, would be deemed elected with the term of office being May 1. The members also passed a by-law amendment stating that if the number of candidates for the Columbia Council Representative seat was equal to or less than one candidate, that candidate, who submitted a valid nomination petition, would be deemed elected with the term of office being May 1.

If both races are non-contested there will be no election held. An election will be held if both races are contested or an election will be held for either the Board or CCR if one of the two is contested.

## "ELECTION ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS"

### I. BEFORE ELECTION

#### A. Selection of Election Monitor Committee and Chair

1. Appointment by Village Board
  - a. The Village Board is responsible for appointing the Election Monitor Committee by Jan. 31. The Committee will number at least 5 people.
  - b. The Chair(s) of the Election Monitor Committee is appointed by the Village Board.
2. Duties and responsibilities of Election Chair(s) and Committee
  - a. The chair(s) must be completely familiar with the rules and regulations of the election. The chair works very closely with the Village Manager to ~~insure~~ ensure that the By-Law requirements are met and that all duties are performed. However, it is the chair's ultimate responsibility to the Oakland Mills Village Board that the election conforms to the By-Laws and that all deadlines as required by the By-Laws are met.
  - b. The chair(s) or chair's designee is responsible for explaining the rules and procedures of the election to all candidates. Candidate packets are prepared by village staff and ~~distributed~~ made available to candidates.
  - c. The committee coordinates Candidates' Night/Candidates' Forum, and the chair or chair's designee(s) traditionally serves as moderator.
  - d. The committee is responsible for training poll workers. It is particularly important that all poll workers clearly understand how to determine voting eligibility, how to read the voters lists, and how to handle special problems.
  - e. The Village Manager, chair(s) or chair's designee prepares ~~prior to Election Day, the vote-count grid for people who will be counting ballots. all material needed for counting ballots.~~ The chair(s) or chair's designee is also responsible for validating all "irregular" and ~~absentee~~ mail-in ballots.
  - f. The chair(s) or chair's designee acts as spokesperson for the Committee and, after the election, ~~is responsible for posting the official results~~ is responsible for ~~compiling final election results~~, handling challenges to the election, and submitting an election report to the Village Board.
3. Personal qualities of Election Chair(s)
  - a. With the duties and responsibilities of this position, also comes the need to handle pressure and, sometimes, confrontations with people who have personal investments in the election results. The chair's style of dealing fairly and authoritatively with candidates and volunteers is critical for a fairly perceived election.
  - b. It is preferable that the chair(s) have previously worked on the Election Monitor Committee.

#### B. Schedule for Election

1. Setting Election Day

The Village Manager is responsible for setting the date of the election with other Village Managers so that elections are held simultaneously throughout Columbia. ~~Election Day will be April 24, 2021.~~
2. Setting election schedule
  - a. The Village Manager prepares an election timetable based on the By-Law requirements after the Election Day is established. ~~This should be distributed and publicized to the Village Board, residents and Election Monitor Committee in January.~~ Important dates are outlined below:
    - April: required month for village elections

- By Jan 31: appointment of Election Monitor Committee and the election chair
- 45 or more days prior to election: begin accepting nomination petitions
- 45 or more days prior to election: eligibility date for members in good standing
- 30 or more days prior to election: finish accepting nomination petitions
- date established by EMC: deadline for candidates' statements
- 5 or more days prior to election: publish candidates' statements

~~4:00 p.m. of day prior to election: deadline absentee~~ Mail-in ballots  
All absentee Mail-in mail-in ballots must be postmarked on or before April 24, 2021, and received by April 30, 2021.

- 5 days after posting of election results: deadline for written challenges to elections
- ~~W~~Within ~~7-5~~ 7-5 days of receiving a challenge: Election Monitor Committee will meet
- 5 days after election or until disposition of any challenge: chair will hold ballots
- by May ~~12, 2020~~ 11, 2021 results: certify election

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- b. The Village Manager will consider the need for transition time between the election of Village Boards and their taking office on May 1 in order to allow time for challenges to take place and for the election results to be accepted by the Board.

**C. Nomination Petitions** – Please refer to the information below pertaining to members of the Association and residency requirements. According to OMCA's legal documents, candidates may only submit one nomination petition and run for only one office, either for the Board or as the Columbia Council Representative.

**Members of the Association – OMCA Articles of Incorporation, Article EIGHTH (approved by the members of the Association on July 28, 2017):**

The Affairs of the corporation shall be managed by at least (5) directors, all of whom shall be members of the Association as of the date of their election and through their entire term. If a director ceases to be a member before that director's term expires, that director's seat shall be considered vacant and the remaining members of the Board of Directors shall fill that position pursuant to the procedures provided herein and in the By-Laws.

**OMCA By-Law Change, Section 2.03 (approved by members of the Association on April 29, 2017):**

**Section 2.03 – Change the title to: Election and Removal of Directors**

**Section 2.03 – Add the following sentence to the end of the paragraph:**

If a director is no longer a member of the Association before the expiration of that director's term, the Board of Directors may remove that director from office and appoint a successor.

1. Preparation

- a. Each nomination petition shall show the full name and address of the candidate, his/her signature, and the office she/he is seeking. A candidate whose name is on a lease must submit a copy of the lease along with their nomination petition. This will be kept in confidence and only used to validate the candidate's address.

- b. Room will be provided for twelve signatures of association members, plus space for printed name, address, and telephone numbers or email address. Two members from a household may sign a petition. (Members are Oakland Mills property owners and those who are tenants on Oakland Mills property with their name on a lease.)
  - c. If for any reason the Board deems it not feasible for candidates to obtain nomination petition signatures in person, the candidates can obtain email nomination petition acknowledgements from at least 10 members of the association and submit the email nomination petition signatures to the village manager following the guidelines for submitting petitions. A sample email nomination form is included in the election packet.
2. Validation
- a. A member of the Election Monitor Committee will declare the petition valid when ten signatures have been verified as those of association ~~members~~members.
  - b. Association members may sign more than one petition.

**The following resolution was passed by the Oakland Mills Board on February 28, 2017 and effective immediately:**

To ensure that Oakland Mills residency can be established for candidates for the Oakland Mills Board of Directors and the Oakland Mills Representative to the Columbia Council, the Oakland Mills Election Monitoring Committee will adopt the following criteria to establish the residency of candidates, effective as of the 2017 election cycle:

- The election committee will perform a State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) online search to confirm candidates claiming property ownership in Oakland Mills.
- If the election committee is unable to confirm ownership, or if the candidate leases property in Oakland Mills:
  - Candidates will present to a member of the committee a valid and current government-issued identification including a driver's license, state identification card, passport, or other state or federal government issued identification displaying the candidate's name, photograph, and home address.
  - Candidates will present to a member of the committee a signed original, current lease or deed with candidate's address, valid dates, and signature(s).
  - Candidates will present to a member of the committee a current (issued within one month of the election filing date) utility bill for services at a fixed address that includes candidate's name and address (e.g., landline telephone, gas, electric, water, cable bill)
  - Address on each of the three documents presented should match to establish residency at that address.

The election committee will develop a process and check sheet to ensure each candidate meets these criteria and will return rather than retain the documentation to the candidate for protection of privacy after two election committee members review the documentation. The election committee will determine whether the candidate for the Columbia Council has Oakland Mills residency and whether the correct minimum number of candidates for the Oakland Mills Community Association Board of Directors have Oakland Mills residency, per the OMCA by-laws, and report to the Village Manager and sitting Board of Directors prior to finalization and printing of election ballots.

**D. Election Information Packets**

~~Election Packets will be available at The Other Barn during business hours and available on the Oakland Mills Website for download. If the facility is closed for any reason, the village manager shall will publish information on the dates, times, and location that packets will be available for those who would like a "hard copy" in lieu of a download from the web. There is no requirement to "sign-out" a packet and the OMCA office will not keep a list of who has taken out an election packet.~~

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1. Preparation and distribution of packets
  - a. The Village Manager, and Village Staff, ~~is are~~ responsible for the preparation of packets for each candidate.  
~~b. These packets are distributed to potential candidates when they pick up their nomination petitions.~~
2. Contents of information packets
  - a. The information packets shall include, for Columbia Council Representative:
    - 1) CA Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws
    - 2) Calendar of Important Columbia Association Board of Director meetings/events
    - 3) All of the following:

For Village Board:

- 1) Village Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws
- 2) Election Guidelines and Regulations
- 3) Calendar for election
- 4) Recent copies of the latest newsletter.
- 5) Other information about the village as prepared by the Village Manager.
- 6) Association Approved Budget
- 7) Nomination petition and sample email nomination petition form

- b. The Village Board appoints the members of the Architectural Committee. It has been the practice in Oakland Mills that the Village Board appoints itself as the Architectural Committee. Information regarding Board Member architectural covenant compliance shall will beis included in the election packet.

- c. Oakland Mills has a joint business reply postage account with other Columbia villages. All mail-in ballots are sent to the Wilde Lake Community Association and held securely by the Wilde Lake Village Manager. The Oakland Mills Election Monitor Committee Chair(s) are authorized to obtain Oakland Mills sealed ballots from Wilde Lake and keep the ballots in their possession for validation and counting.

#### E. Candidates' Statements

1. Length

Candidates' official statements must be 150 words or less. All words in excess of 150 will be deleted from the statement. Candidates will also be asked to supply a shorter 100 word statement (all words in excess of 100 will be deleted from the short statement) for use when space will not allow printing the official statements. Statements will be published exactly as submitted by the candidate.
2. Publication
  - a. Complete statements are published no later than 5 days prior to the election to fulfill By-law requirements.
  - c. The statements shall be ~~available in posted the lobby of The Other Barn, posted on the Oakland Mills website, in the lobby of The Other Barn, and on the front door of The Other Barn.~~

## F. Volunteers for Election Day

1. Recruiting
  - a. The Village Manager is responsible for recruiting workers to staff the polls on election day.
  - b. The Election Monitor Committee chair or a member from the committee is responsible for the supervision of poll workers on election days and for answering their questions during election hours.
2. Training
  - a. Each poll worker must be specifically trained.
  - b. Poll workers should be asked to arrive at least 10 minutes before their shifts begin in order to review and observe procedures.

## G. List of Eligible Voters

1. Acquiring voters list
  - a. The Village Manager is responsible for securing a list of eligible voters according to the Village By-Laws.
  - b. The list of property owners shall be obtained from the CA assessment office.
  - c. The list of apartment tenants shall be a list of apartment dwelling units, not residents of the units, for each apartment complex.
2. Format of list
  - a. Two lists of property owners should be available at the polls, one printed out in alphabetical order by owner, one by address. Both are important to validate all possible ballots.
  - b. A current list of apartment dwelling units must be available.

## H. Regular and AbsenteeMail-in Ballots

1. Preparation
  - a. The Village manager and village staff are responsible for the preparation of all ballots.
  - b. The order of names on the ballot is determined by lottery at the time that the ballots are verified. Names are "drawn" by an election committee member with either another member or OMCA staff member present to verify order drawn. Names will be listed on the ballot according to the order that they were drawn.
2. AbsenteeMail-in ballots
  - a. AbsenteeMail-in ballots will be available as provided by the By-Laws.
  - b. ~~Only a~~AbsenteeMail-in ballots ~~may should~~ be submitted by mail ~~or delivered, in the sealed ballot in the return~~ envelope provided by the village. Hand delivered ballots must be turned in to The Other Barn by 4:00 p.m. the day before the election. The Election Committee will shall accept absenteeMail-in ballots postmarked on or before April 24, 2021, and received by April 30, 2021.
  - c. The return envelope flap of the absenteeMmail-in ballot will shall have space for the sender's Oakland Mills address and a check box indicating that the sender is an owner or leasee/lessee. By checking the box the sender shall attests to the fact that they are a valid property owner or valid lease holder at the address listed on the return envelope flap.
3. Procedures for validating ballots
  - a. ~~Regular ballots~~Ballots will be validated by the Election Monitor Committee.
  - b. Under the authority of the Election Monitor Committee Chair(s), AbsenteeMail-in ballots are validated and remain sealed until election day. AbsenteeMail-in mail-in mail-in ballots may be validated and counted prior to election day.

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**I. Campaigning** - Candidate's' volunteers who serve in any capacity for Oakland Mills Community Association as elected members or as volunteers (with the exception of the members of the Election Monitor Committee) can actively campaign for or against candidates. **This must be done separately from their volunteer roles for the Association.**

**Campaign Signs and Campaigning:** The Oakland Mills Election Monitor Committee will follow the

Howard County Sign Code as it pertains to sign codes and the Oakland Mills Architectural Guidelines. Here is a link to the Howard County Sign Code: <http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientID=14680&stateID=20&statename=Maryland>  
Here is link to the Oakland Mills Architectural Guidelines: <http://oaklandmills.org/node/43>  
Additionally no campaign signs are permitted on Columbia Association property. ~~For your reference~~ CA properties in the Oakland Mills village center area are the Ice Rink, The Teen Center, The Other Barn, ~~and~~ sidewalk/courtyard in front of, and around all facilities, and the parking lot behind ~~Dunkin' the Columbia Bank~~ where the police office is located. Additionally, ~~we~~ ~~is~~ ~~recomm~~ ~~ed~~ that ~~candidates~~ ~~you~~ contact ~~Cedar Realty Trust Cedar Shopping Centers~~ (owners of the Oakland Mills Village Center) for permission to campaign in the village center. ~~You~~ ~~Candidates~~ can contact Cedar's property manager ~~Olen Clark, OClark@cedrt.com or by calling 484-560-4217.~~ ~~(contact the village manager for Cedar's property manager contact information.)~~

Individual storeowners should be contacted for any type of campaigning within the stores.

~~The Oakland Mills Board of Directors has no role in the manner in which candidates' choose to campaign.~~

## II. DURING THE ELECTION

~~\*Please note that if a decision is made to cancel on-site voting, some of the provisions below will not be applicable and all ballots will be received by mail.~~

### ~~A. Voting Time and Place~~

1. Location  
Voting takes place at The Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, and possible other locations at the discretion of the EMC.
2. Hours for polls to be open:  
In order to encourage voter turnout, polls *may* be open Friday hours as well as Saturday hours. **Voting in ~~2020-2021~~ will take place at The Other Barn on Saturday, April ~~25-24~~ only from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**
3. Visibility and location of polling sites
  - a. Voting tables should be in a clear, obvious place, not obstructed by other special events or displays.
  - b. People setting up poll sites should be aware of the electioneering boundaries.

### ~~B. Who Can Vote~~

1. Owners of property in Oakland Mills and tenants with a lease on property in Oakland Mills
  - a. If a property is jointly owned, the voting right is jointly held, so only one vote may be cast.
  - b. If a "fee simple" lot, condominium or cooperative unit is leased to a tenant, the tenant is also entitled to ~~cast a one~~ cast a one ~~vote per unit.~~ vote per unit.
2. Eligibility and identification
  - a. A member who has resided in Oakland Mills at least 45 days prior to the election is eligible to vote. The actual date is set by the Election Monitor Committee.
  - b. For on-site voting only: A member will be considered eligible to vote if she/he can present identification showing that they rent and/or own at an address to be in Oakland Mills Village. On-site voters who do not have identification with them will be asked to sign a form providing their name and address and attest to the fact that they are an Oakland Mills property owner or valid leaseholder.

~~For absentee/mail-in voting only: The absentee/mail-in ballot envelope flap shall will have space to attest to voter eligibility.~~

- c. The ~~Election Monitor Committee should publicize election mailer shall will include, along with the names and statements of candidates, information about who can vote and I.D. requirement in order to encourage voter turnout. voter eligibility and identification requirements.~~

### **C. Voters Lists and Procedures for Validating Ballots at the Polls**

1. Voters lists
  - a. There should be at least two poll workers and, poll workers will determine the best method to efficiently verify voter information utilizing voter lists and apartment dwelling lists.
2. Validation of property owners
  - a. After showing suitable I.D., property owners whose names are on the voters list will be checked off by the poll worker. A ballot will then be issued to them. (see 2-b above for those who do not have ID)
  - b. After showing suitable ~~I.D. identification~~, property owners **whose names are not on the voters lists** will place their ballots in a cover envelope with their name and address on the outside, and the ballot, in the envelope, will be placed in the ballot box.
  - c. After showing suitable I.D., an apartment tenant will be checked off the apartment unit at the appropriate address. Apartment tenants will also be asked if they have lived at the address for at least 45 days. (see 2-b above for those who do not have ID) and if so, sign a sheet identifying their address and verifying that they are a current lease holder.

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### **D. Electioneering**

1. Electioneering boundaries
  - a. There shall be no electioneering within the area established annually by the Election Monitor Committee. Boundaries established for 2020-2021 are:

**No electioneering may take place** inside The Other Barn or inside the courtyard, or on the sidewalk area directly in front of, on the side or behind the Other Barn (except as outlined below) or the parking lot on the side of The Other Barn or the parking lot in the rear of The Other Barn.

**Electioneering may take place** in front of and behind the CA Youth & Teen Center and on the sidewalk in front of the Courtyard up to the end of the Courtyard fence where the sidewalk leads to the handicap door of The Other Barn and the same area behind the Courtyard. **Electioneering may also take place** to the left of The Other Barn (when looking at the building from the street) on the section of the sidewalk abutting Robert Oliver Place and in front of the grass area.

Candidates may not stand under the canopy in front of the Other Barn entrance doors.

Candidates and their supporters must adhere to all electioneering boundaries.

No electioneering means that no canvassing, electioneering, campaigning, or posting of any campaign material is permitted within the zone. "Posting of any campaign material" includes wearing any article of clothing, hat, sticker, or button that indicates support of or opposition to any candidate, question, or political party.

**However**, electioneering does not apply to a voter going to vote in his or her polling place. A person on his or her way to vote may wear campaign paraphernalia or carry, but not distribute, campaign literature. He/she must leave the voting zone promptly after voting.

- b. Poll workers should take care to remove any electioneering hand-outs from the voting tables and from anywhere else in The Other Barn

2. Violations

- a. The Election Monitor Committee chair(s) or ~~a delegate~~ their designee is responsible for warning candidates and their representatives if they electioneer within the electioneering boundary.
- b. If a serious problem results, the Election Monitor Committee should document the violations in writing and may recommend that the Village Board invalidate the election.

III. AFTER THE ELECTION

If the election is held remotely and on-site voting and on-site ballot counting is canceled, ballots shall ~~will~~ be counted and verified off-site as authorized by the Election Monitor Committee Chair(s). See Section H-2(b). Election results ~~will~~ shall be provided to the community on or after April 30, 2021 which is the deadline for receiving ~~absentee~~ Mmail-in ballots.

If the election is held remotely there will be no option to observe vote counting.

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A. Vote Count

1. Setting up for the vote count
  - a. Members of the Election Monitor Committee and assigned helpers shall count the ballots. The chair is responsible for the smooth processing and counting of the ballots.
  - b. The vote count shall be held in a room separate from post-election socializing.
  - c. Candidates (and/or their representatives) are permitted to be present in the counting room but they may not verbally question the counting or any other election procedures. If they have any objections to the procedures, they must submit a written challenge.
2. Preparation and validation of ballots
  - a. All ballots will first be scanned to be sure none has more than 7 votes cast for Village Board slots and no more than 1 vote cast for Columbia Council Representative. If part of the ballot is invalid, only the invalid section will not be used in the count.
  - b. The Election Monitor committee chair and designee(s) will open all ~~absentee~~ Mmail-in validated ballots. These ballots will be added to the other ballots. The Election Monitor Chair will then determine the validity of the ballots that were cast by voters who were not on the voter list (ballots were placed in sealed envelopes.)
3. Counting the ballots
  - a. The ballots are divided into piles of up to 40 ballots and each pile of ballots is assigned to two counters.
  - b. Each counter records ballots on a counting grid. The grid shall be numbered vertically from 1 to 40 and have candidates' names across the top. Each ballot shall be assigned a separate line.
  - c. Each counter counts one pile of 40 ballots on a separate grid. The two grids are totaled and compared for accuracy. If a discrepancy exists, the pile of 40 ballots shall be recounted until the discrepancy is resolved.
4. Official election results
  - ~~a. After the ballots are counted, the official election results are announced to those present and posted by the Election Monitor Committee Chair or designee on the front door of The Other Barn.~~
  - ~~b. Only the Election Monitor Committee chair or designee is authorized to post, publish, announce or otherwise release the election results. The chair or designee also acts as the only spokesperson for the committee. Official election results ~~will~~ shall be released by the Election Monitor Committee Chair(s) after all ~~absentee~~ Mmail-in ballots received by the deadline are counted.~~
5. Challenge procedure
  - a. Challenges must be in writing or sent by email and submitted to the Election Monitor Committee chair within 5 calendar days after the ~~posting of releasing~~ of the election results. After receiving a ~~challenge~~ challenge, the committee shall meet ~~in a public session~~ within ~~7~~ 5 days for discussion on the challenge and, if necessary, make any recommendations to the Village Board.

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b. The committee is not required to consider any challenges, unless they could affect the results of the election, until after the election is certified. The committee should then evaluate the election procedures and the complaint and make recommendations in the final report of the election.

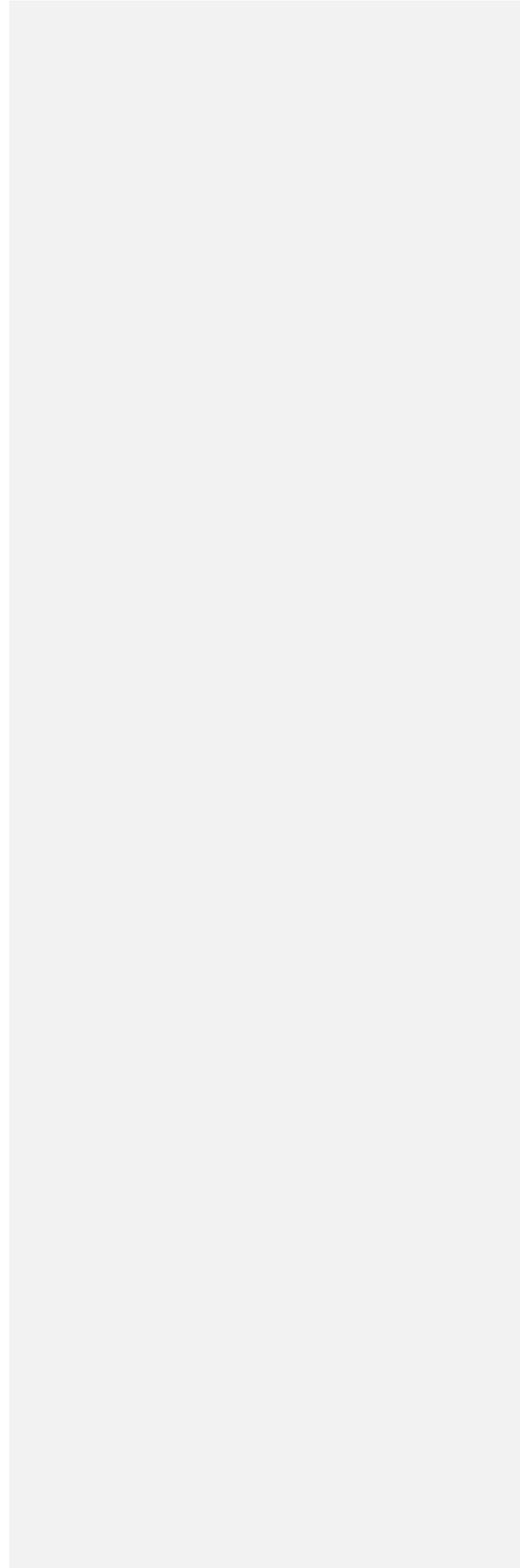
6. Certification of results

a. The Village Board shall certify, or invalidate, the election after reviewing the election report submitted by the Election Monitor Committee.

b. The committee must submit its report **by Tuesday, May ~~4211, 2021-2020~~2021**.

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# 2021 Oakland Mills ELECTION CALENDAR

This calendar is based a **non-contested** Election for BOTH OM Board and CCR.

- Tues., Jan. 26** Election Committee members and Chairs appointed  
2021 Election Guidelines approved by the Oakland Mills Board
- Tues., Feb. 16** 9:00 a.m. “Candidate Packets,” including “Nomination Petitions” are available online and if requested a hard copy may be obtained
- Mon., March 1** 6:30 p.m. – **Virtual Information Session on Serving on OM Board/CCR** - learn more about serving on the Oakland Mills Board or as a Columbia Council Representative.  
**Session will be held virtually on Zoom with link published.**
- Fri., March 12** 4:00 p.m. Candidate “Nomination Petitions” due.  
Nomination petitions can be submitted by email or in person on 3/12. (staff available at The Other Barn on March 12 at 4:00 p.m. to receive nomination petition or will accept until that date/time by email.)  
**If both races are non-contested (7 or less nomination petitions for OM Board and 1 or less nomination petition for CCR the Election Monitor Committee Co-Chairs will deem the candidates elected for the term beginning May 1, 2021 – April 30, 2022)**
- Mon., March 16** Candidate Statements (both 150 and 100 word count) due – statements must be sent by email to both [manager@oaklandmills.org](mailto:manager@oaklandmills.org) and [office@oaklandmills.org](mailto:office@oaklandmills.org)
- April 1 – April 20** Oakland Mills Covenant Advisor will inspect each Board candidate’s property and issue either a Letter of Covenant Compliance or a Letter of Non-Compliance. (Refer to By-Laws and Covenant Compliance Policy in the Board Candidate Packet.)
- Tuesday, April 28** **OMCA Board confirms appointment of candidates as Board members and CCR for the 2020-2022 Board Term.**

For a non-contested election for both OM Board and CCR the candidate statements will be emailed to distribution list, posted on the OM website, posted on the front door of The Other Barn, on Facebook, and included in the villages Election Supplement in the Columbia Flier.

**May 1, 2020** **2021-2022 Board and CCR Term Begins**



# 2021 Oakland Mills ELECTION CALENDAR

This calendar is based on a **contested race** for either OM Board or Columbia Council Rep.

- Tues., Jan. 26** Election Committee members and Chair appointed  
2020 Election Guidelines approved by the Oakland Mills Board
- Tues., Feb. 16** 9:00 a.m. “Candidate Packets” including “Nomination Petitions” are available on the Oakland Mills Website and arrangements can be made with the village manager to pick up a “hard” copy of the packet in lieu of download from the website.
- Mon., March 1** 6:30 p.m. -**Virtual Information Session on Serving on OM Board/CCR**  
- learn more about serving on the Oakland Mills Board or as a Columbia Council Representative. Session will be held **virtually on zoom with a link published in advance.**
- Fri., March 12** 4:00 p.m. **Candidate “Nomination Petitions” due.**  
Nomination petitions can be submitted by email or in person on 3/12. (staff available at The Other Barn on March 12 at 4:00 p.m. to receive nomination petition or will accept until that date/time by email.)
- Drawing of names to determine placement order on the election ballot**
- Mon., March 15** **Candidate Statements (both 150 and 100 word count) due - statements must be sent by email to both [manager@oaklandmills.org](mailto:manager@oaklandmills.org) and [office@oaklandmills.org](mailto:office@oaklandmills.org)**  
Statements are expected from all candidates regardless of whether the election is contested or non-contested.
- April 1 – April 20** Oakland Mills Covenant Advisor will inspect each Board candidate’s property and issue either a Letter of Covenant Compliance or a Letter of Non-Compliance. (Refer to By-Laws and Covenant Compliance Policy in the Board Candidate Packet.)
- Late March/Early April**  
**Election Newsletter w/Ballot to be mailed to every OM property, single family, townhome, condo, apartments.**
- Tues., April 8** 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. **Election Forum**  
(Election Monitor Committee will discuss a virtual format if an in person forum is not feasible.)

**Sat., April 24**

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Voting at The Other Barn

5:00 p.m. Vote counting at The Other Barn begins

**If it is not feasible to have in-person voting on Election Day  
an all mail-in ballot election will be held. This will be  
determined prior to mailing the election mailing to all residents.**

**All ballots postmarked on or before April 24, 2021 and received by April 30, 2021 will  
be counted.**

**May 1, 2020**

**2021-2022 Board and CCR Term Begins**

## ATTACHMENT F

Dear Members of the Howard County Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Martirano:

The Oakland Mills Community Association is aware of the building reopening expectations set by Governor Hogan and State Superintendent Salmon last week and the resulting reconsideration of plans for the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). As you know, the Oakland Mills community has had some concerns over the years about the age and condition of some of our facilities. As specific examples, our understanding is that Talbott Springs Elementary, Oakland Mills Middle, and Oakland Mills High still have their original ventilation systems, dating back to the early 1970s. Additionally, Talbott Springs has open classrooms with walls that do not reach ceilings, and Oakland Mills Middle has small interior classrooms that were created over the years by enclosing formerly open space in lieu of completing a complete building renovation.

It is our hope and expectation that the condition of each individual school building in Howard County will be carefully considered and addressed to the extent feasible to minimize the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission between students, teachers and staff. The information we have seen from the school system so far indicates that each building has been retrofitted with new filters. This information does not address specific buildings, and information about adjusting systems for more outside air exchange and other preventive measures is vague.

The Oakland Mills Community Association requests that you conduct and release risk mitigation actions on each HCPSS facility before making decisions about reopening buildings and before asking any students or teachers to commit to returning to buildings. Moreover, we request that HCPSS release virtual tour images of each building so families can see what the in-person setup up will be in their school buildings before having to make decisions about returning. Specifically, we request to be on any distribution of information pertaining to the safety of buildings in Oakland Mills Village: Oakland Mills High, Oakland Mills Middle, Stevens Forest Elementary, Talbott Springs Elementary, and Thunder Hill Elementary.

Students and teachers must feel safe returning to any HCPSS building, and in Oakland Mills we are concerned that those who need in-person instruction the most may be hesitant to return to our older facilities without additional assurance of their safety. Should the school system determine that these older facilities cannot provide an environment as safe as newer or renovated facilities, the school system must develop plans to ensure equitable availability of safe and appropriate facilities to everyone in the system.

We look forward to a response to questions about the safety of HCPSS facilities within Oakland Mills Village.



**oakland mills**  
we value connections

## Oakland Mills Community Association Public Space Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

### Attendees:

- Warren Wortman, chair
- Amy Wortman
- Rebecca Bryant
- Casey Bryant
- Jim Caffey
- Mike Westendorf

### Discussion(s):

- Non-compliant ADA curb cuts. Rebecca Bryant is in discussion with Ashley, Opel Jones' representative about this.
- Secure bike holding space for OM residents (many bikes are kept on apartment balconies). The committee is supportive of the concept but wonders if the apartment tenants actually want or will use bike parking. Also, how would this be implemented?
- Bike lockers at the OM Village center. We feel people would be more likely to shop at OM if there was secure bike parking. Perhaps a Village/business partnership?
- Howard Express is nearing completion. New county cycling goals should be established. The committee suggested the following:
  - Improve non-compliant ADA curb cuts
  - Secure Village bike lockers
  - MD 108 traffic concerns: the new courthouse, housing near Columbia Rd and at the old Grandfather's location, new storage units plus adding lanes on MD 108 between US 29 and Columbia Rd makes
    - pedestrian crossings dangerous
    - auto traffic turning onto 108 difficult from Red Branch, Thunder Hill & Summer Hollow and even Mellenbrook.
  - Improve bicycle commuting routes to Fort Meade. Although Howard County has made great improvements, Guilford Rd. past Dorsey Run Rd is particularly dangerous. This portion of the route to the National Business Park is shared by both Howard County and Anne Arundel County.

### Future Events

- E-Scooters: mid March 2021. Howard County has selected a vender (Public outreach in Feb & March)
- Active Transportation Open House Mid-February, Renamed Complete Streets
- [Complete Streets Implementation Team](#) February 3, 2021, 3:00-5:00 PM virtual, open to public.
- Complete Streets Update/Town Hall *sometime in March*, hosted by Streets For All Coalition
- MD 103/104 Strategic Multimodal Study Online Public Meeting, 1/28 6 PM.

### Action Items:

- Contact Wilde Lake about bike lockers (Warren)
- Provide link of the Howard County design manual (Jim)

**Next Meeting:** February 16th - 7:00 PM

