



# Oakland Mills Community Association 2021 Village Elections Candidate Statements



## Board of Directors Candidates and Columbia Council Representative Candidates (listed below Board listing)

### BOARD CANDIDATES

*Six candidates submitted nomination petitions for the **seven** open Oakland Mills Board of Directors seats. The Board race is non-contested, and all candidates for the Board are deemed elected to serve beginning May 1, 2021.*

#### **Rebecca Bryant**

I am honored to have been on the board the past couple years. My priorities remain the same: advocating for alternative transportation, the environment, and those in our community that most need a voice.

I'm working with CA and the open space committee, to improve our bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, turning our focus this coming year to Steven Forest Rd.

I'm working on encouraging landscaping practices that benefit native plants, changing the association's requirements, and curtailing growing costs associated with our streams.

I'm working on communicating with CA about our needs and how they should be spending our resources.

Most importantly, I remain committed to listening to concerns from my neighbors and reviewing traditional practices to determine if they are worth maintaining or need to be reworked to better serve us residents.

#### **Jonathan Edelson**

I'm honored to serve as the Chairperson of the Oakland Mills Board and to continue to advocate for our community. We have accomplished a lot, and I am dedicated to seeing Oakland Mills recognized as the outstanding community we all know it is. We have accomplished a lot, and there's always more to do. For example, the new Talbott Springs Elementary is under construction, but we must ensure Oakland Mills Middle and High don't continue to fall into disrepair. Our Village's finances bent, but did not break, during the worst of the pandemic, but now we must rebuild so we can once again do all you expect of us. 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!

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## **Lynn-Steven Engelke**

It's been a challenging year, but in many ways a rewarding one for the Oakland Mills community. We can all be proud of the helpful, positive attitudes and activities we see around us every day.

As current Architecture Chair of the Oakland Mills Board, I'm dedicated to the continued vitality, attractiveness, and environmental health of our neighborhoods. Especially gratifying to me during this past year are the many renovations, additions, and new landscaping projects taking place up and down our streets. It's been my privilege to collaborate with our residents, Village Manager, covenant advisors, and Architecture Committee members to help our neighbors make their planned improvements a reality.

Let's continue joining together to keep the momentum going for positive change and pride in Oakland Mills!

## **Bill McCormack Jr.**

### **Experience**

Village Board – 11 years

Revitalization, Housing, Master Plan, Open Space Committees, Community Plan Task Force – 14 years

### **Accomplishments**

- Co-Chairing the County Executive's Housing Opportunities Master Plan Task Force of 23 housing professionals and 9 ex-officio county staff members.
  - Creates inclusive, equitable plan for a wide array of housing opportunities for residents of all income levels throughout the county.
  - Provides plans for new development, redevelopment and enhancing existing housing while maintaining the character of the neighborhood.
  - Considers impact of housing decisions on school system.
  - Includes consultant's analysis of best practices from around the country and survey results/comments from over 2,600 county residents.
  - Provides strategies, time lines and measurements to gauge progress toward achievement of goals.

### **Priorities/Objectives**

- Advocate for creation of "Public Nuisance" law.
- Advocate for consultant led design of CA open space for next 50 years.
- Co-ordinate with CA in the pilot tot lot study.

## **Rena Ross**

My name is Rena Ross and I desire to serve on the Oakland Mills Village Board of Directors because I have skills and abilities to make this village a place to call home for many years to come, a village where all of its residents matter. I'm dedicated to helping all of Oakland Mills residents achieve the same opportunities regardless of being an apartment/condo renter or home/condo owner.

With the uncertainty of our world today I still believe we can achieve the sense of community and build relationships and see better tomorrows for all.

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## **Warren Wortman**

I am a proud 35-year Oakland Mills resident. OM has great open spaces, paths, schools, pools, and community spirit. As a bicycle advocate, a safe, walkable, and bikeable community is a priority. As the OM Public Space Committee chair, I have:

- proposed a crosswalk connecting the Thunder Hill neighborhood to the businesses across Rte 108;
- requested ADA-compliant curbs at major crosswalks in OM; and
- organized bike lane cleanups in OM.

We can make Oakland Mills even better by ensuring the closed Talbott Springs pool reopens, finding a replacement for the Second Chance, and advocating for better school facilities.

## **COLUMBIA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATE**

*Two candidates are running for **one** open Columbia Council Representative (Columbia Association Board) seat. This is a contested race, and candidates are listed are on the enclosed ballot.*

## **Rashida George**

In search of an inclusive, diverse, family-oriented, safe community with neighborhood schools and parent and community engagement, I chose Oakland Mills. This community is immensely special to my family and me. I want to ensure that current and future families have optimal experiences to thrive.

I am keenly aware of the lack of focused advocacy for greater family/ community enriching venues. Considerably more can be done to make this village vibrant and abundant. Endowing and dispensing resources into our village center, creating spaces that are inclusive and beneficial to all will augment the lives of the residents and expand opportunities.

I stand for representation, renewal, and respect. If elected for the Columbia Association Board of Directors, I will promote a stronger connection with the communities that embody Columbia. I will hold the Board accountable to revitalizing Columbia by sustaining the foundational values, diversity, acceptance, opportunity.

## **Virginia (Ginny) Thomas**

As your representative to the County Council, House of Delegates, and OMVB, I always fought for the interests of Oakland Mills. I seek your vote to continue representing you on the CA Board so I can accomplish these goals:

- Continue partnering with organizations to develop strategies that promote diversity and equity for everyone.
- Regain control of 51 acres in Symphony Woods. This area is as vital to Columbia as Central Park is to New York. Residents should have the final say as to how it is developed.
- Fight for long overdue improvements to OMMS and OMHS. Deferred School Maintenance is a serious health, safety, and equity issue.
- Assure residents have a key role in the County's General Plan for Columbia, to protect our villages and neighborhoods.
- Vote against increases in your CA assessment.
- Implement practices to protect our open space and environment.
- Support outdoor pools and before- and after-school programs.