



# Oakland Mills Community Association 2022 Village Elections Candidate Statements



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

### BOARD CANDIDATES

*Five candidates submitted applications 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, 2022.*

#### **Rebecca Bryant**

I'm thrilled to serve on the OMVB. My passion is for environmental and community building matters.

This past year, I helped launch Yards Alive, committed to helping people recognize the value and how to for replacing lawns with native vegetation.

I'm also committed to bringing a Complete Streets philosophy to OM with a focus on bicycle advocacy and pedestrian safety; Helping to organize an ongoing bike corral at major events to minimize the number of cars on the road as an example. This coming year, I'll continue that work and aim for much needed safety improvements to Stevens Forest Rd.

#### **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 seen a lot of success in Oakland Mills recently, including concrete plans to develop the long-vacant lot at our Village Center and the new Talbott Springs Elementary scheduled to open later this year. We should enjoy these accomplishments while keeping our eyes to the future. Our middle and high schools are finally in the capital plan for renovation; now we must ensure the funding is there to make it happen. The former Second Chance building will likely be demolished; we must ensure its owner replaces it with something useful to our community. I have experience working with officials at many levels, including CA, Howard County government, state government, and the

(Edelson continued) school system. I will continue to be a strong voice for our hOMe!

#### **Bill McCormack Jr.**

##### **Experience**

Village Board – 12 years

Revitalization, Housing, Village Master Plan, Open Space Committees, Community Plan

Task Force – 15 years

##### **Accomplishments**

Co-Chaired 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.
- Provides strategies, time lines and measurements to gauge progress toward achievement of goals.
- Co-presented Master Plan to County Executive and County Council.

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

- Advocate for financial solutions to HOA internal roadway issues.
- Advocate for creation of "Public Nuisance" law.

(McCormack continued)

- Advocate for consultant led design of CA open space for next 50 years.

### **Jerome Rollerson**

Dear Members/Residents,

As a resident of Oakland Mills since 2019, I have enjoyed the community and seen it grow and would like the opportunity to do my part in assisting in improving the community that we live in.

I am a 24-year retired Army Veteran and I have been a member of the Residential Architecture committee for the last two years and a member of the Howard County Consumer Protection Committee for the last year. It is my intent to use the various experience that I have accumulated through the years to help Oakland Mills flourish and grow. Please exercise your right of choice and vote for me to be part of the Oakland Mills Board of Directors

Thank you for your Support

### **Warren Wortman**

I am a proud 35-year Oakland Mills resident. OM has great open spaces, paths, schools,

(Wortman continued) pools, and community spirit. As a bicycle advocate; a safe, walkable, and bikeable community is a priority. Whether you are a child walking to school, a bicyclist shopping at our farmer's market, or commuting across the pedestrian bridge, transportation is for everyone.

As the OM Public Space Committee chair, I have:

- proposed a crosswalk connecting the Thunder Hill neighborhood to businesses across Rte 108;
- Requested the successful installation of ADA-compliant curbs at crosswalks on Thunder Hill, Log Chain, and Farewell Roads;
- Advocated for safety improvements to Stevens Forest Rd (cars struck 2 people at Stevens Forest and Kilimanjaro one week apart, last year)
- organized bike lane cleanups in OM.

We can make Oakland Mills even better by ensuring the closed Talbott Springs pool reopens, and continue advocating for better school facilities.

## **COLUMBIA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATE**

*One candidate submitted an application for **one** open Columbia Council Representative (Columbia Association Board) seat. This race is non-contested, and the candidate listed is deemed elected to serve beginning May 1, 2022.*

### **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:

- Protect and preserve YOUR CA Open Space (e.g., Symphony Woods and the Lakefront areas) and to address stream erosion in your neighborhoods.
- 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.
- Continue to vote against increasing your CA assessment.
- Advocate for best environmental practices for CA.
- Support outdoor pools and before/after school programs.
- Continue partnering with organizations to develop strategies that promote inclusion for everyone.
- Continue to advocate for openness and transparency of CA with the residents.