



OAKLAND MILLS 2024 CANDIDATE STATEMENTS



*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, 2024.*

Warren Wortman

I have been a proud Oakland Mills resident for the past thirty-eight years. I cherish OM's open spaces, paths, schools, pools, and community spirit. As a bicycle advocate, I prioritize a safe, walkable, and bikeable community. Safe multi-modal transportation is for everyone, including children walking to school, bicyclists shopping at our farmer's market, drivers headed to Walgreens, or those commuting across the pedestrian bridge.

Some accomplishments of the OM Public Space Committee, which I chair:

- Proposed a crosswalk connecting the Thunder Hill neighborhood to businesses across Rte 108 (Projected completion in 2025)
- Advocated for ADA-compliant curbs at crosswalks on Thunder Hill, Log Chain, Farewell Roads (all complete), and soon Blue Coat.
- After cars struck two people at Stevens Forest and Kilimanjaro one week apart, we pushed for safety improvements to Stevens Forest Rd. *Howard County has now installed improved pedestrian signaling to make this intersection safer.*

Bill McCormack

Experience

Village Board – 14 years

Revitalization, Housing, Village Master Plan, Open Space Committees, Community Plan Task Force, Ho. Co. Housing Opportunities Master Plan Task Force, CA Play Area Reimagined Work Group – 17 years

Accomplishments

- Continued effort with elected officials to find financial solutions to HOA internal roadway issues including a pilot project in one HOA.
- Formed Oakland Mills Open Space Work Group to work with CA staff on pilot study to reimagine

play areas (tot lots) in open space in Oakland Mills.

- Recommended and got approved consultant survey of residents to determine their uses and needs in play areas.
- Made significant contributions to the process, criteria and design parameters in the Oakland Mills Play Area Pilot Program.

Priorities/Objectives

- Advocate for financial solutions to HOA internal roadway issues.
- Advocate for safety improvements to Stevens Forest-Farewell Roads roundabout.
- Advocate for creation of "Public Nuisance" law.

Andrew Mark Fried

For those who don't know, my last name is pronounced "Freed" (German origins).

I want to help make sure Columbia and Oakland Mills stay safe and welcoming. The areas that I would focus on include the following:

- Properly maintaining land/facilities
- Keeping cars/drivers travelling no faster than currently
- Hosting periodic community event(s)

As a previous longtime Laurel resident, I spent much of my free time in Columbia. I purchased a Condo here in 2022 and think it's nicer living here in Columbia/Oakland Mills.

Professionally, I've been in the insurance industry the last decade. I'm currently an insurance advisor with a high-performing agency that's been in Columbia 30 years. Previously, I've been CEO/Founder of three different startup companies.

In my 20's, I volunteered regularly at Sibley Memorial Hospital. Now, in my 40's, I want to provide meaningful service, with leadership, as a Board member.

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Paulette Pettiford-Thomas

Hello, I'm Paulette Pettiford-Thomas, an Oakland Mills resident for seven years, currently residing in Autumn Crest apartments with my husband and cherished Morkie dog. Our move from NJ connected us to this vibrant community my family now calls home.

Driven by the need for better representation for Oakland Mills and Columbia renters, I'm running for the Oakland Mills Village Board. As a tenant, I've observed a need for more advocacy in Village and CA Board roles.

Motivated by the necessity for improved representation for Oakland Mills/Columbia renters, I am running for the Oakland Mills Village Board. As a tenant, the need for increased advocacy in Village and CA Board roles is noticed.

I propose forming a Tenants Committee to address Oakland Mills concerns, including free swimming lessons. Share your vision for an inclusive community by emailing me at

paulette.oaklandmills@gmail.com. Let's collaborate for a brighter Oakland Mills.

Jonathan Edelson

I'm honored to serve as the Chairperson of the Oakland Mills Board and its Education Committee and to continue to advocate for our community. I will continue the push with leaders at all levels of our school system, county, and state to get future students The safe and modern facilities they deserve at Oakland Mills Middle and High, and I will continue to hold them accountable to address immediate issues that are causing disruptions to learning now. I will continue to support our Village Center and look forward to welcoming more new businesses to replace vacant and undeveloped spaces. We must continue to work to ensure progress continues in Oakland Mills. I have experience working with officials at many levels, including CA, Howard County government, state government, and the school system. I will continue to be a strong voice for our hOMe!

COLUMBIA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES

***One** candidate is running for **one** open Columbia Council Representative (Columbia Association Board) seat. This is a non-contested race, and the candidate for Columbia Council Representative is deemed elected to serve beginning May 1, 2024.*

Karin Emery

I'm Karin Emery, your representative on the Columbia Association (CA) Board of Directors. I'm running for re-election in 2024 and asking for your vote.

As a member of the Board I:

- Worked with resident experts to stop a destructive stream restoration project. We saved 70 acres of open space.
- Am working to change how CA approves the use of open space by private entities to ensure fair consideration for residents.
- Am one of only three board members who voted to make outdoor pools free for residents during the month of July.
- Ensure CA is serving resident interests over special interests. I use my newsletter, Board Notes, to keep residents regularly informed.
- Support seniors aging in place, making sure they're aware of available discounts to their annual charge when they qualify for county property tax credits.
- Voted to reduce the annual charge to make Columbia more affordable.

“Meet the Candidates” Night

Tuesday, April 2, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Held virtually on Zoom

Meeting ID: 874 1521 0833