



OAKLAND MILLS 2025 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, 2025.

Bill McCormack Jr.

Experience

Village Board – 15 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 – 18 years

Accomplishments

- Engaged county government to initiate process of enacting HOA Infrastructure Enabling legislation signed by Governor, April, 2024 to help HOAs with infrastructure costs.
- Submitted redesign of county’s proposed new lane markings on Thunder Hill Road from Sohap Lane to Rt. 175 to county to provide on-street parking on both sides of road. Redesign incorporated by county.

Priorities/Objectives

- Monitor county progress on enacting HOA infrastructure solution; provide assistance to aid county in creating solution. Six of seven Oakland Mills HOAs could be helped by solution.
- Initiate Open Space Committee project to re-imagine Open Space to increase lien payers’ return on investment through greater use of an enhanced Open Space.
- Advocate for creation of a “Public Nuisance” law.

Paulette Pettiford-Thomas

Hello, I’m Paulette Pettiford-Thomas, a proud Oakland Mills resident for over eight years, living in Autumn Crest apartments with my husband and our beloved Morkie dog. My journey in Columbia began in Wilde Lake, where my daughters and grandchildren now reside.

I’m running for re-election to ensure renters have a stronger voice in our community. Since joining the board, I made history by founding the first-

ever Tenants Association in a Columbia village, helping renters navigate maintenance issues and advocate for better living conditions. I also assisted in creating Tenants Committees to further empower renters.

My advocacy began with the Howard County Rent Stabilization Coalition, and I remain committed to tenant rights. I will continue pushing for fair housing policies, tenant engagement, and initiatives like free swimming lessons.

Let’s build a more inclusive Oakland Mills together!

Contact me at: paulette.oaklandmills@gmail.com.

Dan Pierce

To All Oakland Mills Residents, It is my esteemed pleasure to be running for the seat of oakland mills board member. Having been a lifelong resident of the community, a graduate of Stevens forest, and both OMMS and OMHS, I hope that I am able to bring perspective to the position relative to my experience with the community. This will be my first time serving in such a capacity at any level, but I have always felt a strong sense of public responsibility, particularly when it comes to local government, and am excited to get to work on what I can do to make OM better than how I found it.

Andrew Mark Fried

In my first year on the Oakland Mills (OMCA) Board of Directors (FY 2025), I served as the Chairperson of the historically most influential committee: The Architectural Committee. Therein, I presided over an appeal trial and rendered a verdict that was agreed to unanimously by the other four members of the Architectural Committee.

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One issue that surfaced recently is that Columbia Association (CA) might be looking to take over some aspects of operations of OMCA and the other Columbia villages. One potential reason they might do this is they think OMCA is not maximizing its revenue. If elected to serve for FY 2026, I would discuss with the other Directors how much we should run OMCA like a charity, and how much we should attempt to expand its revenue. We will be examining the best approach to achieve long-term success for both OMCA and CA.

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.

We have succeeded in getting both Oakland Mills Middle and Oakland Mills High prioritized for renovations, with the middle school starting this year. I will continue to push to ensure Oakland Mills High gets the investment it needs on schedule. Our Village Center is doing very well, with new businesses enjoying success and reinvigorating the community. We must continue to work to ensure progress continues in Oakland Mills, and we must ensure Oakland Mills Village continues to be the unique and welcoming place it has always been. 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 CANDIDATE

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, 2025.

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 1, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Hybrid meeting at The Other Barn and on Zoom

Meeting ID: 845 0832 4540