



Oakland Mills Community Association
The Other Barn • 5851 Robert Oliver Place
Columbia, MD 21045
410-730-4610 • oaklandmills.org



December 12, 2025

Howard County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Ball:

Thank you for this opportunity to share priorities for FY27 that the Oakland Mills Community Association (OMCA) hopes to accomplish in partnership with the County. The OMCA Board of Directors has discussed and agreed to the priorities listed below. We welcome the opportunity to discuss the priorities with you, in person, and invite County Executive Ball and/or County staff to attend an Oakland Mills Board of Directors meeting.

PRIORITY LIST - priorities all are short-term and of equal importance, not listed in priority order.

SCHOOLS and EDUCATION

Oakland Mills Middle School and Oakland Mills High School Renovations

Each year we continue to testify in support of timely funding of deferred renovation projects for Oakland Mills Middle and Oakland Mills High School. **We are asking you to continue to include funding of long overdue deferred renovations of OMMS as funding for OMMS must continue through occupancy for the project to be completed on time. As a change in our previous request, we ask that you look carefully at the incomplete methodology for ranking capital needs and the rushed plan B adopted by the Board of Education on November 6, 2025 that removed OMHS from renovations before signing off on the current budget request.** Over \$160 million in deferrals equates to health and safety repairs-including replacing an HVAC system that the school system concluded could no longer support an environment conducive to learning. Furthermore, OMHS is overcrowded and could benefit from the planned addition as classes have been moved to portables effective last school year. We ask that you use your influence to put OMHS back on the HCPSS FY27 renovations list.

This is a serious issue that needs serious attention and commitment of future collaboration between the county and the school system to ensure these long-neglected schools, which serve much higher-than-average populations of students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds, can provide safe and healthy environments for students and teachers before another decade passes. The request to provide timely funding for deferred renovation projects ensures

that ALL schools meet the same health and safety standards and provide modern amenities to students regardless of their backgrounds.

SAFE and COMPREHENSIVE COMPLETE STREET PROJECT FOR ENTIRE LENGTH OF STEVENS FOREST ROAD

Several years ago, HC DPW approached the community to discuss two streetscape projects. While we are appreciative of the aesthetically enhanced Whiteacre Road, we are concerned that the project did not address the many safety issues that exist on Stevens Forest Road.

Members of the Oakland Mills Board and Public Space committee sent numerous letters, including videos, documenting the unsafe conditions along the entire stretch of Stevens Forest Road. Stevens Forest Road is the main road into Oakland Mills and the only main roadway in the ten villages of Columbia that have residential driveways directly on the road. Most importantly, Stevens Forest Road has four nearby schools that students walk to and from.

We have had several productive meetings with County officials who understand the issues of concern. We appreciate the upgrade of a crosswalk and pedestrian refuge to connect the west side of Stevens Forest Road to the new 7-Eleven in the Village Center. We are also thankful for the other enhancements made along the road to improve traffic and pedestrian safety. **On behalf of the community, we would like to ask for a comprehensive study of Stevens Forest Road, including and from the roundabout at Stevens Forest Rd. and Farewell Road to the intersection of Stevens Forest and Whiteacre Road to determine what other improvements are necessary.**

We would also ask for an intersection upgrade to enhance public safety at Stevens Forest Road and Broken Land Parkway, specifically as had been previously discussed, adding "yield to pedestrian" signage similar to the signs at the South Entrance Rd and Little Patuxent Pkwy. Residents often cross at this location to access the church, the pharmacy, the medical facility, and the other businesses that are located across Broken Land Parkway. An additional safety upgrade request is a crosswalk on the north side of the intersection. There is a section of the median cut out but there is no crosswalk. Pedestrians heading west on the sidewalk along Broken Land Pkwy and headed to the bus stop need to cross there.

BLANDAIR PARK

The popularity of Blandair Park is evidenced by the number of large events held throughout the year along with the great playgrounds and ball fields. However, the Oakland Mills community often feels the burden of the popularity of the park and does not receive all the benefits it could from having this great amenity in our cOMmunity.

As the park continues to grow, parking has become a significant issue, and the Oakland Mills community often feels the brunt of this burden. **We propose capital project funding for an environmentally friendly parking project in the existing Blandair Park. This would include parking that goes up instead of out and utilizes space already paved for parking rather**

than paving over more land. A garage like the parking garage at Roger Carter Community Center could meet such a requirement. We also propose that in the interim, other parking lots in the area that are not being used on weekends, such as the Howard County Courthouse parking garage and the area Park and Ride lots, be utilized for parking to include a shuttle bus to Blandair. This shuttle could be free to those who use it, but the cost could be included in the fee for use of the fields so there would be no additional charge to the County. This would spread the cost and burden of large events to those who participate in and patronize them rather than onto the residents of Oakland Mills who live near the park or are affected by increased runoff caused by impervious surfaces.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to present our priorities and thank you and your team for making our County such a great and “happy” place to live, work, and play.

Sincerely,

Oakland Mills Board of Directors