# Oakland Mills 2026
# 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, 2026.*

**Bill McCormack Jr.**

Experience

- Village Board – 16 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 – 19 years

Accomplishments

- Contacted each member of the County Council to solicit support for a county bill to implement the State HOA Infrastructure Enabling Bill which helps HOAs with infrastructure costs. Met with two members who were very supportive. Two members declined. One member did not respond.
- Initiated a series of meetings with Housing Committee to perform SWOT analysis of housing.
- Initiated a series of meetings with Open Space Committee to perform SWOT analysis of open space.

Priorities/Objectives

- Contact new County Council members in early 2027 to solicit support for HOA Infrastructure legislation.
- Coordinate Housing and Open Space Committees to update goals and plans for housing and open space.
- Advocate for creation of a "Public Nuisance" law.

**Andrew Mark Fried**

For the last two years, I've been a Director of Oakland Mills, and I was unanimously elected to be its Architectural Committee Chairperson both years. That committee makes final decisions regarding potential alterations that affect the exterior appearance of any building or property here.

My goals for this upcoming year are to fight any higher organization that tries to impose a bad outcome on Oakland Mills. For instance, Columbia Association is currently considering converting three pools, including Talbott Springs pool, into a "splash pad". I've talked to a number of residents, all of whom strongly oppose this idea, and I agree with these residents opposition.

Additionally, Howard County recently removed renovations funding for Oakland Mills High School, which is arguably in the most need of any school in the county. The removal was based on a flawed formula. I'd like to continue the fight to restore their funding.

**Dr. Daniel Pierce**

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. My first year on the board has taught me alot, and i hope to use that experience for the betterment of OM.

**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 succeeded in getting Oakland Mills Middle renovated, but I am very disappointed not only with the Board of Education's decision not to renovate Oakland Mills High, but also the statements some members made that were dismissive of the experiences of the students and teachers at OMHS. I will continue to push to ensure Oakland Mills High gets the investment it needs. 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!E

*continued next page*

**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.

I am running for re-election to continue strengthening tenant representation in Oakland Mills and across Columbia. During my time on the board, I founded the first Tenants Association within a Columbia village and helped tenants who wanted to form their own committees, increasing tenant engagement and participation in local meetings and elections. I've worked directly with residents to address rental maintenance concerns and ensure tenants understand their rights and their voice in community decisions.

My advocacy began with the Howard County Rent Stabilization Coalition and continues through my commitment to fair housing, transparency, and inclusive leadership.

Oakland Mills is strongest when renters and homeowners work together. I'm ready to continue organizing, listening, and delivering real representation.

Thank You!
Paulette Pettiford Thomas

# 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, 2026.*

**Karin Emery**
I'm Karin Emery, your representative on the Columbia Association (CA) Board of Directors. I'm running for re-election in 2026 and asking for your vote.

As a Board member I:

- Fight for affordability by consistently voting to reduce the annual charge
- Fight to protect our outdoor pools and other amenities residents are paying for including play ares and pathways.
- Am one of only three board members who continue fighting to allow residents free access to pools as a benefit of paying the annual charge.
- 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 CA discounts to their annual charge when they qualify for county property tax credits.
- Work closely with the OMCA Village Board and staff to ensure the Columbia Association delivers on its promises to residents

## There's no election this year, but save the date for these favorite annual election-time OM events:

### Yards Alive! Native Plant Giveaway with fun crafts for all ages
Saturday, April 25
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
In front of The Other Barn/Courtyard

### OM Plant Sale
Saturday, May 2
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Line starts forming at 8:30 a.m.
The Other Barn