



**oakland mills**  
we value connections

# Oakland Mills Grist

The Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Place Barbara Boras, Editor September 2009

## What's Happening



**To Residents of Oakland Mills,** This spring, I was participating in a workshop at Oakland Mills High School on building relationships within the local commUNITY and uniting us as one. It was at this meeting that I really started to think about Oakland Mills and I had to ask myself just how broadly our vision is shared. I started to

examine my own relationship with the community and made my goal as chair of the Village Board to bring us all together and make us ONE commUNITY.

We are fortunate in Oakland Mills as we continue to be a great place to live. We have had a wide variety of activities this year. OM Community Bowling night was sponsored by the many supportive businesses Oakland Mills. We had a hopping pool party that rocked the Thunder Hill neighborhood. There were entertaining hula-hoop contests, limbo contests, and a family dance contest that demonstrated the talents of our residents. We also had crowds of OM residents turnout at many annual events including our Plant Sale, *Cultural Arts Festival*, the *Polar Express*.

The arts program is also thriving with a year of movies, concerts, art shows, and more. The Celestial Serenade was an absolutely spectacular evening in our courtyard. There was food and beverage provided by the Second Chance Saloon, music, and an informative astronomy show. OM Music and Arts committee provided Oakland Mills with superb arts that appeal to all.

This has also been a very busy year for the Oakland Mills Board. We have dealt with some very challenging issues and have been working at making sure that we have open transparent communication with the residents. Council Bill 29 (CB-29) is one that could change the way that development occurs in Columbia. We have been inviting members of the community, elected officials, and other stakeholders to participate in board meetings to make sure that our testimony is reflective of our community views.

Despite holding all these community-building activities and having had a very successful year in bringing our commUNITY together, there is still work to be done. We need all residents to **support Oakland Mills merchants**, for example. Our newest merchant, Second Chance Saloon is a wonderful establishment with daily specials to entice you, entertainment, and a relaxing outdoor area in the back to relax. We also have new owners at the barbershop/salon and Vennaris that are continuing many of the same services in the tradition of Oakland Mills. Also, please visit our local **farmers market** on Sunday mornings, the baked goods, fruits, flowers, and vegetables are delicious.

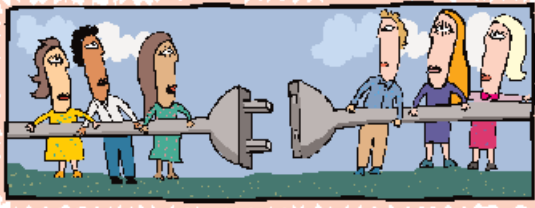
**Oakland Mills has many great people, businesses, and fun things to do. It is essential that, as members of our Oakland Mills CommUNITY, we commit to meet more neighbors, join OM sponsored activities, and visit an OM merchant as often as possible in order to make Oakland Mills the best place to call home.**

The fall begins a new season of activities and ways to get involved. We have many great activities planned. Not only do we hope you will join us, but please take some time to volunteer at one or more activities some of which are listed below or in this publication.

Contact The Other Barn to find out how you can help. Oakland Mills Board and staff look forward to seeing.

Always a Pleasure,  
**Abby Hendrix**, Oakland Mills CommUNITY Association,  
**Board Chair**

Sept 26- 27 & Oct.17-18	<b>Dumpster Day</b>
Oct. 10	<b>Cultural Arts Festival</b>
Oct. 18	<b>Jazz in the Mills</b>
Nov. 13	<b>Volunteer Reception</b>
Dec. 3 & 4	<b>Polar Express</b>
Dec. 6	<b>Holiday Jazz Extravaganza</b>
Dec. 12	<b>Breakfast with Santa</b>
Dec. 13	<b>Cookie Swap</b>



## Community Connections

### STREET CAPTAINS NEEDED!

There is a great opportunity to keep you in the loop when it comes to relevant happenings and events within the Village of OM. Despite the usual forms of communications we depend on there is a unique manner in which information or the “news you can use” can be disseminated - the Oakland Mills’ **Street Captain Program**.

Where can you get to know your neighbor up close and personal without baking cookies or a cake? When can a simple hello become a meaningful conversation? How can both the concerns and thoughts of you and your neighbors be heard? Who can make that difference on your street? The answer to those questions is simple, become a member of the Oakland Mills **Street Captains Program!**

A **street captain volunteers** to be proactive in the community. S/he recognizes that communication is vital to a community of close to 10,000 (OM’s populace). There is a need to keep oneself and their neighbors updated on the happenings whether good, bad, or indifferent. This less than an hour per month commitment can truly make the difference when it comes to feeling secure, safe, and most importantly informed in the village! We only ask that you sign-up to distribute a monthly calendar to the homes you can comfortably do on your street and/or on a neighboring street. In addition, we invite you to gather the names and email addresses of your neighbors who are interested in receiving additional weekly communication via the OM Village Manager and/or Community Organizer.

If you are looking to be hands-on in the community, **become a Street Captain**. Please contact Sandy Cederbaum at 410-730-4610 or via email: [omca@columbiavillages.org](mailto:omca@columbiavillages.org) to sign-up. **You will be invited to OM’s Volunteers Reception, a fun filled evening in your honor**, and get a marvelous **Street Captain t-shirt** ... forward your size!

Thanks for your consideration.



## Covenant Corner

*Debbie Bach, OM Covenant Advisor*

### Separating covenant fact from fiction.

It's true that all of Columbia has covenants. Here in Oakland Mills many people make improvements to, and buy, and sell their properties each year using the process that is in place. As the covenant advisor I hear a lot of residents tell me things about the covenants that just aren't true, so I would like to take a few of the more popular myths and attempt to clarify and clear up any confusion.

**Fact or Fiction:** Each village in Columbia has architectural guidelines. This is a fact. What is fiction is that all of the villages have the same guidelines. The reality is that, as stated in the covenants, each village may develop and update their own guidelines. This is why you should be sure to have a copy of the Oakland Mills guidelines handy when doing a project. Copies are available in our office at The Other Barn, or at <http://oaklandmills.org>

**Fact or fiction:** You have to finish your approved exterior alteration no later than 6 months after you receive your approval. This is fiction. Once an exterior alteration is approved, you NEVER have to make the change if you don't want to, or, you can do it in a year! If you don't even start your project for 5 or 10 years, it's still ok, as long as you do the project exactly as it was approved, and once you DO start the project, this is when we ask that it be completed in 180 days maximum.

**Fact or fiction:** You have to have a letter of compliance to sell your property. This one is tricky, but this is fiction. While a letter of compliance is not required to sell your property, disclosure IS required. The Maryland homeowners association law states that owners must disclose any and all information that they have regarding their property when selling it to a buyer. If the house is falling down, the buyer knows this because the owner has disclosed it, and still agrees to buy it in this non-compliant condition, the house may be sold. Please note: If you do not have a compliance inspection, done by the village covenant advisor, you cannot tell a buyer that you know for sure that your property is compliant. It is also important to note that whether or not you have a compliance letter, you are not relieved of your requirement as a Columbia/Oakland Mills resident to be compliant, and maintain your property in accordance with the covenants.

If you have any questions to do with your property or living in Columbia, please call the covenant advisor at 410-730-4610, email: [omc cov@columbiavillages.org](mailto:omc cov@columbiavillages.org) , or visit our Web site at <http://www.oaklandmills.org/node/7> (*Buying and Selling your Property.*)

## Your Advocate at CA



**Alex Hekimian,**  
Columbia Council  
Representative  
for Oakland Mills

This year, we expect some major decisions by County Government regarding land development

in our village as well as throughout Columbia. Residents want these decisions to be made with care in order to enhance rather than detract from the original concept of Columbia as a well-planned community and to protect the features that attracted them to live here in the first place.

There is pending County Council legislation (Council Bill 29), which would allow much more development in Columbia's village centers. I have been an advocate for the positions taken by the CA Board of Directors and the Oakland Mills Village Board that call for ensuring that any revitalization projects will be consistent with village master plans. I support strengthening the role of the villages by requiring that each master plan be prepared by the village board, with input from the community and technical assistance from County, and adopted by the County Council so that the plan has clout. I am pleased that the County Council recently decided to take more time to improve this bill and to consider it again no earlier than in September.

Meanwhile, waiting in the wings, is the General Growth Properties (GGP) proposal to intensify the amount of development in Downtown Columbia. We expect a Planning Board recommendation and County Council legislation later this year. I support a reasonable amount of variety and activity in our Downtown, but do not want it to be overdeveloped to the point that the land is dominated by lots of high-rises, unbearable traffic congestion, and major hassles with parking. Any new development should be approved in phases, and only if the necessary roads, transit, schools, and

(CA continued)

other public infrastructure are also built at the same time.

And, here in our village, we have the controversial proposal to build a large Walgreens store at the MD175/Thunder Hill Rd. intersection. The proposal has had its share of ups and downs. The Planning Board had denied the developer's proposal to have driveway access into the site from Thunder Hill Rd., but then the developer appealed, and the Hearing Examiner decided to overturn that denial. Now, an Oakland Mills resident is appealing the Hearing Examiner's decision to the Board of Appeals. The public hearing at the Board of Appeals is scheduled for August 27. The Planning Board has yet to consider other aspects of the developer's site development plan, such as the intention to remove existing mature trees and bushes on the site, the issue of night lighting, the hours of operation of the store, and traffic impacts.

Change may be inevitable, but we must be vigilant to ensure that it will be change for the better. I am hoping that, when all is said and done, developers and County Government will respect the fact that Columbia was not meant to be just like any other city. Many residents want Jim Rouse's vision for our community to stay alive so that Columbia does not devolve into just Anytown, USA. And, in that spirit, I'll continue to do my part to further Columbia's original values and make our community the best that it can be.

I appreciate your views. Contact me at alexhekimian@hotmail.com or at 410-730-2583.

**Blandair** Cathy Latham,  
Blandair Regional Park Committee  
Liason

Whitman Requardt and Associates (WR&A) are preparing the construction plans for Phase I of Blandair Park. This phase includes the three synthetic turf fields, comfort station, picnic shelter, playground and parking lot.

\* The Site Development Plan (SDP) will be submitted for approval as soon as stormwater management engineering is complete.

\* The ADA Committee will meet this month to review accessibility to the comfort station and picnic shelter.

\* Howard County Recreation and Parks anticipates all plan approvals by late fall. Construction would then begin in the spring.

\* WR&A has prepared preliminary bridge designs for the new Oakland Mills Road alignment and the bridge over Route 175. WR&A is meeting with State Highway Administration to discuss road issues.

\* The new front portico on the Blandair Mansion is getting its finishing touches and the scaffolding has been removed.

All in all, plans are moving forward and I know I am looking forward to groundbreaking in the spring and hope you are too!

You may go to the county's Web site to view the current master plan of the park:

<http://www.co.ho.md.us/rap/rap/BlandairRegPark.htm>

### Oakland Mills Board

Jim Alvey  
Brian Donoughe, AC Chair  
Fred Eiland  
Phil Engelke  
Abby Hendrix, Chair  
Chris Huza  
Michael McKenna, Vice Chair  
Marcia White

**Columbia Council Representative**  
Alex Hekimian 410-730-2583  
Community Organizer 410-730-1129

### Village Office at The Other Barn

Sandy Cederbaum, Village Manager  
The Other Barn  
5851 Robert Oliver Place

Phone: 410-730-4610 Fax: 410-730-4620

E-Mail: [omca@columbiavillages.org](mailto:omca@columbiavillages.org)

Office hours: M-Th 9am-8:30pm, Fri. 9am-4:30pm,  
Sat. 9am-12:30pm

**OMCA Board of Directors Mtgs:**

2nd & 4th Tues. at 7:30 pm

Web site:

[oaklandmills.org](http://oaklandmills.org)

Services available: Copy, fax, laminating & notary



**Oakland Mills Community Association**  
 The Other Barn  
 5851 Robert Oliver Place  
 Columbia, MD 21045

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Breakfast with



Santa

**December 12**, The Other Barn

Seatings: 9:00 & 9:45 am  
 Advanced Ticket required  
 \$4.75 per person CA residents  
 \$5.00 per person for Non-CA

Tickets on sale **Nov. 9**  
 for **OM residents** only and  
**Nov. 23** for all other residents.

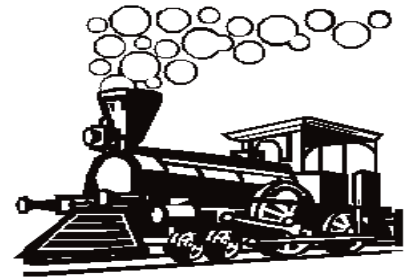
**Make  
 our Newly Renovated  
 LOFT  
 YOUR Space!**

Reception, Party & Meeting  
 Rooms available for rent at  
**The Other Barn!**

Call 410-730-4610 or  
 Visit us on the Web:  
[oaklandmills.columbiavillages.org](http://oaklandmills.columbiavillages.org)



**"The Polar Express"**



**at The Other Barn in Oakland Mills**

Thurs., Dec. 3, 5:30 PM  
 Fri., Dec. 4, 5:30 PM & 7:30 PM

Wear your PJs and board the train for a magical journey! The North Pole, The Story, Santa, Refreshments, Christmas carols and the 1st gift of Christmas.

Tickets go on sale November 2nd  
**OM Residents Ticket Price:** \$4.00/person and  
**Non Residents Ticket prices:** \$4.25/person for anyone age 1 and up.

(Infants below age of 1 must sit on adult's lap )  
 Tickets must be purchased in advance  
 at The Other Barn

# The Oakland Mills Cultural Arts Festival

## Join Us For A Fun Day !!



Saturday, October 10  
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Oakland Mills Village Center

Continuous  
Entertainment  
\*\*\*\*\*

Chinese Dragon  
Dance

FunDrum Rhythm  
Circle

Crafts Galore

Great Food

Children's Activities

Health Screenings

...and then some!

Festival will be held  
Rain or Shine!

Fun For All Ages!

Sponsored By The Oakland Mills  
Community Association



Questions? Call 410-730-4610

# Lively Arts For Little Ones

## 2009—2010 Season

October 2, 2009



### Rocknoceros

They are back for the best kid's rock concert of the season. These 3 dads will have you bopping to the clever lyrics of their rocking tunes from their latest CD, *The Dark Side of the Moonbounce*. Rock out with us!

November 13, 2009



### Pam the Kindersinger

Pam and Rascal will have you up and dancing as you sing along with their fun songs. The laughter never stops as you share in the zany antics of Rascal and the whacky stories from Pam the Kindersinger's unique world.

January 8, 2010



### FunDrum Rhythm Circles

Put on your *fun time* hats and join Jonathan Murray as he gathers everyone's rhythm and starts the music. Let percussion instruments and drums be your ticket to the exciting world of making music from countries all around the globe.



February 5, 2010

### Bob Brown Puppets in Old McDonald's Farm

Come to The Other Barn and meet all of Old McDonald's pals. Join Bingo the Dog in song, learn colors and numbers with Derwood Duck, sing opera with Clara Cluck and enjoy the down-home fun with Jerimiah Bull Frog, Benny Bunny, Mortamore Mouse and all the others.



March 12, 2010

### DinoRock

Join Mama Maiasaura and her dinosaur babies, Crash-Boom-Bam Sam the Triceratops, Baby Rex, Doris Stegosaurus as they sing and dance their way through the magical world of dinosaurs.



10:00 a.m. performance  
at The Other Barn

Join the fun and laughter !

\$4.75 per person (ages 2 & up)  
410-730-4610

**Jazz in the Mills Series**  
presents

# **Janine Gilbert-Carter Quintet**



**Sun., October 18,  
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
The Other Barn**

**From Blues Alley to the  
White House**

**Janine's gospel, jazz and blues exude the feeling of warmth and love  
through her incredible vocal talents.**

**Tickets:** \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door  
**online tickets:** [brownpapertickets.com/event/52647](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/52647)

**Sponsored by:** OMCA Music and Arts & Lavenia Nesmith, Jazz Coordinator.

## **Holiday Jazz Extravaganza**

**December 6, 5-7 p.m.**

**at The Other Barn**

**Featuring vocalists: Lavenia Nesmith & Julian  
Hipkins accompanied by The Paul Carr Quintet**

**Tickets are \$15 in advance & \$20 at the door**

**online tickets:** [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/52647](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/52647)

# 2010 Entertainment Book

on sale at The Other Barn.

**SAVE MONEY** Only: \$25.00



&

Support Oakland Mills Community Assn.

## Dumpster Weekends at Talbott Springs

Neighborhood Ctr. Parking Lot

for all dates:

September 12/13

September 26/27

October 17/18

OM  
Residents  
only

Oakland Mills



**Sat., September 26**

Residents will sell in their own yard!



## Stamping with Gina

Oct. 20, Nov. 17 & Dec. 15 at 7 pm

Create Handmade Greeting Cards

"Store bought look for half the price!"

Cost: \$15

Pre-registration required 410-730-4610.

## Art Night

Fourth Thursday of each month. 6:45-8:45pm Free

Come, do your art and be creative in the company of others being creative.

## Volunteer Appreciation Reception & New Resident Welcome Reception

November 13, 7:30 p.m.

All volunteers mark your calendars for a fun filled evening  
in your honor!



## OM Green Events

A series of informative and educational programs scheduled for 2010.  
All programs focus on watershed issues and protecting the Chesapeake Bay.

**March 10, 2010, 7 pm: Fescue Lawns (growing, maintaining and the Bay)**

Sylvia Huestis, MG. Tips on when to fertilize, how much to fertilize, tips on watering and weed control.

**April 7, 2010, 7 pm: Maryland's Native Plants in Your Landscape,**  
Pat Griswold, MG - learn what native plants will thrive in Oakland Mills!  
We hope to have a "native plant" selection at OM's annual Plant Sale.

**May 12, 2010, 7 pm: Integrated Pest Management (IPM)**  
Learn all about "good bugs" and "bad bugs"!

**Sat. April 24, 2010, 10 am: Rain Barrel Workshop**

**Spring, 2010: Stream Walk and Community Project**  
Walk along the OM Streams and plant "no mowing" signs.

Participants in all 5 programs will receive a "green sign" to plant in their garden!

## ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE:

December 1 - 17



Please donate your  
non-perishable  
foods items (w/ valid  
expiration  
dates and in  
unopened bags,  
boxes or cans).

Drop off at  
The Other Barn

Thank you for your generosity!

## OM Cookie Swap!

Sun., December 13, 3 - 5 PM

at The Other Barn

Bake 5 dz. of the same cookie,  
1 to share and 4 to swap.



Please RSVP or for more info.  
contact 410-964-1660