

Olde Mill Village Crier

Published monthly by the
Village of Olde Mill Community Association
P.O. Box 366, Millersville, MD 21108
Email articles to: crier@vomca.org
Articles are due by the 21st of preceding month.



VOMCA Meeting: Wednesday, April 6, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
at Old Mill High School, Room A-271

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Candy Donations Needed for Easter Egg Event

In order to fill all of the Easter eggs for our event on Saturday, April 16 (rain date Sunday, April 17), we are looking for candy donations. Candy should be the size that will fit into a standard size plastic egg. We will accept donations up until April 8. If you can donate some small-sized candy, please call 410-987-1239.

Olde Mill Community Yard Sale Set for May 14

Start gathering "stuff" now. The annual Olde Mill community yard sale will be Saturday, May 14. Your community association will advertise the date in the *Pennysaver* and the *Maryland Gazette*. Each residence can sell their unneeded goods for someone else to treasure, right from their own yard. Let's have lots of streets participate this year. Post your signs so shoppers will know where you are.

Shred-a-Rama Returns for Fifth Year on May 21

Mark your calendars: On Saturday, May 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., a paper-shredder truck will be available for use. The County Police Community Relations free opportunity for residents to bring up to four boxes of personal documents and watch them be shredded. It will be held, rain or shine, at County Police Headquarters, 8495 Generals Hwy. in Millersville. You must be in a vehicle—no walkups. All boxes must be taken away by resident.

Community Dumpsters Coming Here in June

From 8 a.m. on Monday, June 6, to Wednesday, June 8, the county will place

its large dumpsters at the Barlowe Field pool road area for residents to use in spring-cleaning their homes and property. Items that cannot be disposed of in or near the dumpsters "are junk autos, trailers, gas and propane tanks, tree trunks, oil drums or tanks, liquids, hazardous waste, boats, tires, logs, paint, refrigerators, or air conditioners."

County Trash Pick-ups May Move to Once Per Week

A date has not been formally announced, but sometime in the near future, Anne Arundel County will be going to trash pick up once a week. The county says that the move will save money and promote recycling. For information on recycling in Anne Arundel County, visit www.recyclemoreoften.com, or call the Recycling Office at 410-222-7951.

Note that you can always take excess trash to the Millersville Landfill & Resource Recovery Facility at 389 Burns

Crossing Road in Severn. Remember to call or check online for the Sunday schedule; the landfill is closed many Sundays because of budget cutbacks.

Right-of-Way for Oakwood Extension Deemed Surplus

The right-of-way that was set aside to extend Oakwood Rd. to East-West Blvd. has been declared surplus property by the County Council in a unanimous vote on March 21. The right-of-way will be appraised by the County Real Estate Office and offered for sale. Snyder, developer of the Wade properties, is very interested in this right-of-way due to his intent to develop this area.

Hazardous Waste Collection Days Scheduled

Hazardous household waste such as solvents, pesticides, chemicals, etc. can be taken to either of two upcoming collection



Cub Scouts from Pack 957 spent part of Saturday March 26 cleaning up Barlowe Field and the playground area. The Scouts collected 7 bags of garbage and earned part of the "Leave No Trace Awareness Award." After the cleanup, the Scouts played a game of flag football to further earn an athletic "belt loop" achievement.

days at nearby sites:

April 16

Glen Burnie Convenience Center
100 Dover Road, Glen Burnie

May 7

Millersville Landfill & Resource
Recovery Facility
389 Burns Crossing Road, Severn

Need Community Service Points? Call VOMCA

If you are a student in Olde Mill who is looking for Community Service points, your Village of Olde Mill Community Association may be able to help you achieve your goal. Based on what qualifies, we have some projects that might count toward earning your points. For example, we have one student who is volunteering to pick up trash from Barlowe Field and a stream nearby. We have flower boxes that need attention on the pool road, as well as other projects that might qualify.

E-mail board@vomca.org with your ideas.

Treasurer's Report

Swim Club reports 90 active members (includes 1 new member) and 43 inactive members.

Remember to return your memberships before April 15 to avoid a late payment fee of \$25. We are the most economical pool in the area—and the best summer 'staycation' getaway close to your home.

Swim Club checking account balance is \$25,914.47; savings account balance is \$19,155.27.

We have 115 families who have joined VOMCA this year. We currently have \$7,250.78 in the checking account and \$3,070.65 in savings.

Sarah Hakulin
Treasurer

Due for Membership

Please remember to send in your \$15 dues for membership in your community association, VOMCA. You can go to the website at www.vomca.org to join using PayPal and to review past monthly electronic *Criers*.

We need your support and participation to keep Olde Mill a place we can all enjoy. We need members to step up and fill vacant positions on the Board. A few hours of your time can benefit us all. E-mail board@vomca.org

Come to a meeting and see what you can do to help your community or bring your concerns so that we can help you find a solution.

Local Lawn Service Available

Cut & Trim Lawn Service is available for all of your landscaping needs. A former Olde Mill resident started the company three years ago and is still based in Millersville. Several Olde Mill residents are clients, so feel free to call and ask about which of your neighbors can provide references. Phone 443-562-4526 for a free estimate for all of your spring yard clean up, mulching, lawn service (no annual contracts!), and power-washing needs.

Legislative Update from Del. Pamela Beidle

This week is a busy week, as we will be having double sessions separated by Committee voting sessions. Those of us who are not on the Appropriations Committee had our first look at the House Budget bill on Monday night.

The House Appropriations proposal is a conservative spending plan that recognizes the tough fiscal times that the State faces, while investing in the State's future, by supporting the State's education and transportation system.

This is a bipartisan budget plan. House Appropriations accepted 13 individual recommendations from the Republican budget plan, totaling almost \$85 million in reductions for this year's budget, and, in several cases, cut beyond those recommendations.

Conservative Spending Plan

- Reduces \$2B structural deficit by 40%—an improvement over the Governor's proposal—by cutting ongoing spending by nearly \$800M

- Balances the budget without raising new taxes, but adopts modest fees to support the transportation system and other services

- Maintains a 5% Rainy Day Fund (\$642M)

- Leaves \$123M cash balance, a greater fund balance than proposed by the Governor. This leaves the State with a total of over \$800M in cash reserves

- Reduces General Fund spending to about the same level of spending three years ago in 2008 (FY09)

- Eliminates \$7B in long-term retiree health-care liability over the next 10 years

Restores Funding to Education

- Restores \$58.5M in K-12 education spending, to bring per pupil funding back to FY11 levels. We worked to ensure that the restoration of this funding was fair and equitable—benefitting every county in the State

- Provides funding to limit a tuition increase to 3% and funding for community colleges to lower tuition.

Supports Transportation System

- Provides an additional \$13M to counties and municipalities for road maintenance funding

- Raises modest fees on certificate of title on new vehicle purchases and vanity tags to replace \$50M to the Transportation Trust Fund. This action was taken instead of a gas tax (supported by the Chamber and business organizations), given the high price of gas right now.

- Requires any new transfer from the Transportation Trust Fund be repaid within 5 years, to protect the long-term sustainability of the State's transportation system. While almost all of the General Funds have been repaid to the Transportation Trust Fund over the past 28 years, a robust transportation system is the key to attracting businesses to Maryland

- Require increased fare-box recovery for mass transit.

Eliminating Government Regulation

- Rejects a tax on bad drivers, as proposed by Governor O'Malley

- Adopts budget language requiring State Highway Administration, Department of the Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Business and Economic Development to report on the timeliness of execution of construction and building permits.

- Cuts 650 vacant positions, saving the State \$27 million

- Maintains small business loan funding and loan guaranty programs through DBED

Maintains Commitment to State

Employees

- No furloughs for the first time in three years. State employees have absorbed over \$500M in reductions to benefits and salaries, as a result of the global recession.

- One-time \$750 bonus, which also has less of an impact to the State's General Fund than instituting the COLA or merit increases, and rewards State employees who have each lost an average of \$3,100 in pay over the last three years.

- Ensures long-term sustainability of the

(Continued on page 4)

Village of Olde Mill Residents
Are Eligible to Join

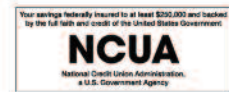
Tower Federal Credit Union

Lower loan rates • FREE checking

GET A **\$125 CASH BONUS**
WITH A QUALIFYING DIRECT DEPOSIT.

[Details. >](#)

Visit the Millersville Branch in Old Mill Plaza.
For other branch locations, go to towerfcu.org.



[Get details on the Tower Federal \\$125 Cash Bonus](#)

State's pension system, including preserving a defined benefit system and relieving some burden on retirees from the Governor's proposal

Reforming the Retirement System

Pension costs are one of the biggest cost drivers in the budget, with an estimated overall State liability of \$1.5B in General Funds for FY12. There are three factors driving underfunding of the pension system:

1. The 2006 pension enhancement, which was unanimously passed by the legislature in 2006 and was signed by Governor Ehrlich, making retroactive enhancements for state employees/teachers;

2. Steady increases in the teacher salary base at the local level, partially funded by the State's Thornton program; and

3. The declines in the retirement system assets because of the global recession. The retirement system experienced a loss of \$4 billion from October 2007 to June 2008.

The House made the decision not to uniformly shift the teacher pension liability to local school systems, but instead, took steps to reform the pension system. The House plan does require local jurisdictions to assume some of the costs associated with administering the teacher's pension plan, totaling \$17M divided across 24 jurisdictions.

The House made a commitment to (1) maintain a defined benefit pension system and (2) identify a way to relieve some of the burden on retirees for prescription costs from the Governor's proposal, both while increasing the viability and sustainability of the pension system long-term. The House proposal:

- Makes changes to vesting requirements

- New employees will vest at 10 years instead of the current 5 years. The early retirement age for new employees is moved from 55 to 60 years of age. Currently, 17 states have greater than 5 years vesting requirement.

- New employees will have to be 65 years old with 10 years of employment, or have 30 years of service regardless of age, to collect a benefit.

Aligns Prescription Drug Benefits for Active & Retired Employees

Retiree co-pays will be increased slightly to align with the cost to current employees, the out-of-pocket cap will be increased from \$700 to \$1000, instead of

\$4550, under the budget as introduced,

Monthly premiums for retirees will increase slightly, on average \$10/month.

This plan still requires retirees to enroll in the Medicare Part D benefit by 2020, and will reduce almost half of the pension system's unfunded liability.

Beginning in FY13, the State will reinvest savings from these reforms back into the retirement system to reduce the unfunded liability by more than \$1 billion over the next 6 years and achieve 80% funding of the system by FY23.

Employee Contributions

Increase all employee pension contributions from 5% to 7%. Current employees will retain the 1.8% multiplier. New employees will have a 1.5% multiplier.

17 states have a higher employee contribution rate than Maryland.

Balancing Retirement Benefits Across All Systems

Law Enforcement Officers Pension System will pay the same as State employees and teachers.

Judges will also contribute an additional 2%, bringing their total to 8% contribution rate.

The General Assembly Compensation Commission will review legislative pension proposals.

Increasing vesting requirements to 10 years for all systems (except judges, due to statutory requirements).

The House will vote on the budget this week and it will cross over to the Senate for their consideration, approval and then reconciliation with the House, if necessary.

While these last weeks will be hectic, please do not hesitate to call or email my office about any issue or bill that concerns you. I can be reached at Pamela.beidle@house.state.md.us or at 410-841-3370 if I can be of any assistance.

During the session, I get thousands of letters and emails; be sure to include your name and address when you write to me. My staff—Vincent Lamartina and Nancy Lipin Crawford—and I read each and every piece of correspondence and will get back to you as soon as possible.

For more frequent updates about my activities in Legislative Session 2011, please visit my Facebook page, Delegate Pam Beidle.

I am looking forward to visiting your community meetings again soon.

Best regards,

State Delegate Pamela G. Beidle

Message from State Sen. Ed DeGrange

Dear Friends,

The budget is the clearest expression of our priorities as a State. This week, I voted for a balanced budget that protects our tremendous investment in public education and critical government services for some of Maryland's most vulnerable individuals.

We cut over \$5 billion in government spending to keep our fiscal house in order during the great recession. We continued to enforce fiscal discipline this year by working with the Governor to cut three-quarters of a billion dollars from the baseline budget. These steps will make our budget sustainable as the nation continues to emerge from the recession.

Our schools have been ranked #1 in the nation for 3 years running, which is why it is critical that we protect the State's investment in our classrooms. We restored funds to education that the Governor proposed cutting, so that our students and teachers can continue their progress. As a result, public education will continue to represent 40% of the State's general fund budget.

While I agreed with many of the actions the Senate took, I stood in strong opposition to a proposed alcohol tax increase. I firmly believe that our restaurant and hospitality industries and other small businesses are hurting enough and cannot afford an additional tax.

Finally, we took steps to shore up our pension system so that we can keep our promise to our retirees. Pension costs doubled over the past five years, and experts estimate they will nearly quadruple in the next decade. Many states are making draconian cuts to their pension systems. We chose a different path by asking employees to contribute more to preserve the system and increasing the State's contributions to the pension fund. We set our pension system on a path to sustainability in a manner that is fair to employees, retirees, and taxpayers.

By taking these and other steps, we reduced our structural deficit by 45%. While this is a great start, we must do more to continue to move our State to a strong fiscal state without adding additional burdens to our businesses and taxpayers.

If you want to learn more about the budget, or if you have any thoughts, ideas, questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my Annapolis office at 410.841.3593 or email me at james.degrange@senate.state.md.us.

*Sincerely, James "Ed" DeGrange
State Senator, District 32*