

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 the preceding month.
VOMCA Meeting: Wednesday, February 1, 2012
7:00 p.m. at Old Mill High School, Room A-271



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President's Message

We will have a VOMCA meeting on February 1, 2012, at the Old Mill High School. Mr. Mark Chang from the County Executive's office will try to attend this meeting. We will hopefully have an update on the progress of the speed-calming devices along Kenora Drive.

Starting in June 2012 the county will be going to once-a-week trash pickup. Please remember that the current trash/recycle day pickup will remain the same. I believe the entire Olde Mill community has their trash pickup on Mondays, so this will remain the pickup date for both recyclables and refuse. The Thursday pickup will be discontinued. The county states that there should be a fee cut for FY2013 for taxpayers. We will post more information on the VOMCA web site.

Please be reminded that starting April 2012 the pool meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. prior to the VOMCA meeting. All swim club members are encouraged to attend.

There has been some confusion about the VOMCA bylaws and other documents pertaining to new homebuyers in the Olde Mill area. VOMCA—the Village of Olde Mill Community Association—is a voluntary organization for maintaining the good and welfare of the greater Olde Mill area. Our organization is not a homeowners association and does not have mandatory dues. Please note that VOMCA does not have any enforceable covenants. Some subdivisions in Olde Mill have mandatory homeowners associations and may have rules and bylaws that are enforceable by those associations.

—Tom Stag, President

Minutes of January 4, 2012, VOMCA Meeting

President Tom Stag called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with 13 people present, 12 of whom were members. The treasurer's report was read. As of December VOMCA had \$3071.04 in savings and \$4,151.71 in checking, and the Swim Club had \$26,167.32 in savings and \$16,597.44 in checking.

VOMCA is working with the County to get speed bumps for Kenora Drive. There has been a problem since the summer. The County has done a study and now Traffic Engineering is looking at the data. More to come.

Both the VOMCA budget and the Pool budget were approved at the December meeting. Pool membership will cost \$345.00 with a \$25.00 late fee after April 15, new \$80.00 inactive member fee, and \$65.00 for pool rental. Community Pools will handle all complaints. A phone number will be posted and available. If a problem arises

and can't be solved with the manager on duty or with the lifeguard, then the person with the problem should call the posted number. There is no smoking in the fenced area of the pool. Designated areas are available outside of the fence. Price reductions for new members who join the Swim Club later in the season will be posted.

There was a correction to the December meeting minutes. It should have read that VOMCA is going to check with the Health Department on the issue of the concession stand. The issue that we discussed had to do with food being sold at the concession stand and not with bringing food to events.

There was some discussion about food permits for the Swim Team and other events at the pool that serve food. There are different kinds of permits. The Swim Team could get a 6-month permit from the Health Department for \$195.00, however, VOMCA couldn't do this last year because the Snack Shack wasn't up to code. In the approved budget VOMCA allowed \$195.00 for 4 permits. It was suggested that a flyer be sent out to pool members explaining about not being able to use the Snack Shack due to Health Department Regulations and that if you want to bring food to the pool you should bring your own cooler.

The question was brought up, are all swim team decisions made at VOMCA meetings? And what does the Pool Committee do? The Pool Committee deals with fundraising, maintenance, etc. Community Pools makes decisions on lifeguards. It was suggested that the Pool Committee meetings be held at 6:00 p.m. before the VOMCA meetings, beginning in March or April. Anyone can be on the pool committee with a majority being members of VOMCA per the bylaws. It was suggested that a notice about the Pool Committee and meetings be included in the packet and also be posted on the board at the pool.

Once again we were reminded that as of January 1, expense reimbursement requests must be submitted within 30 days of incurring the debt, per Gary Mott, accountant for VOMCA.

There was also some discussion about our Swim Instructors and their status as employees or contractors per direction of Gary Mott. We are going to ask Community Pools to give us assistance on this subject.

Tom wanted to thank everyone who helped Santa this year. Tom Dixon, past President of VOMCA for many years, started the Santa visits and donations to NCEON 30 years ago and deserves much credit for his hard work.

At 8:15 p.m. Tom Stag proposed that the meeting be adjourned; Sarah Hakulin seconded it. It passed 12 votes for and none against.

—*Respectfully submitted by Chris Szverra, Secretary*

Observations from Walking the Neighborhood

During my walks around Olde Mill I observed that most homeowners take pride in their homes. The majority of homes and yards are well-kept. The grass is cut, the driveways are clean, the outside lights work, and holiday decorations are displayed during appropriate seasons.

I also noticed various pieces of trash in the streets and in the street gutters of these same homes. I wondered where the trash came from and why neighbors who took such good care of their homes were not picking up this trash. Where does this trash come from? I suspect the following: During a windy day, garbage/recycling cans are blown over or the trash from the very top is blown out; when the garbage and recycling trucks come through, there are usually a few pieces of trash dropped on the ground; and lastly, when Olde Mill students walk home, some will throw their trash on the ground.

I pick up the trash in my gutter because I know that the next rain will take that trash into the storm drain, and then into the creek behind my house, out to the main Marley Creek channel, into the Patapsco, onward to the Chesapeake Bay, and then into the Atlantic Ocean. That's right. Some Olde Mill trash will eventually reach the Atlantic Ocean to combine with trash from Glen Burnie, Annapolis, and all the other people-occupied areas to form large floating trash fields miles long. Knowing this may or may not convince you to do your part.

How about this reason? Your home will look so much nicer without the paper trash on your sidewalk, without the old paper in the gutter, and without the squashed bottles in the street.

Please pick up the trash in your gutter, on your sidewalk, in your street. If not for our waters, then for the appearance of your home. It just looks nicer. Thank you.

—*Submitted by Stacy Epperson*

Village of Olde Mill Community Association Members
Are Eligible to Join
Tower Federal Credit Union

FREE CHECKING

No minimum balance.

FREE DEBIT CARD

No fees.

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



Apply online at towerfcu.org

Officers for 2012

President: Tom Stag
Vice-President: Rick Behringer
Membership: Theresa Szverra
Secretary: Chris Szverra
Treasurer: Colleen Flack

Board Members

Term expires 2012: Sarah Hakulin
Term expires 2013: Paul Shaffer
Term expires 2014: Al Miller
Sara Lattanzia

Easter Egg Event Chairperson Needed

This year Easter falls on Sunday, April 8. Therefore our annual Easter Egg Event at Barlowe Field will be the weekend before, on Saturday, March 31 at 1:00 p.m.

We are in need of a Chairperson for this event for the children of Olde Mill. If you are able to donate some time to this annual event, please call 410-987-1239 or email the board at board@vomca.org. This is a rewarding and an anticipated tradition here in Olde Mill and we would hate to see it end due to lack of help in organizing it.

Election Judge Recruitment

The Anne Arundel County Board of Elections has asked that the following Recruitment Notice be included in our newsletter and/or website.

“The AACO Board of Elections is planning to hire 3,500 Election Judges for the upcoming Presidential Primary Election to be held on April 3, 2012, and the Presidential General Election to be held on November 6, 2012, in one hundred and eighty-nine (189) precincts throughout Anne Arundel County. Given our need for highly motivated and dependable workers, we are reaching out to the community for assistance. The Election Judges who staff the polling places are a very important part of the electoral process. The Election Judges are responsible for administering the actual voting procedures in each precinct. Without these individuals, it would be impossible to conduct an election. Anne Arundel County is in need of Republican Election Judges, but all party affiliations are welcome to apply.

“To become an Election Judge or if you have additional questions concerning Election Judges, please contact the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections at 410-222-6600 Ext. 3139 and ask for the Election Judge Department, or visit our website at www.aacounty.org/elections “Be An Election Judge!,” and email it to electionjudges@aacounty.org. If you do not have Microsoft Word or email access, you can print and complete the PDF Election Judge Application and fax it to 410-222-6833.”

This request came from Joshua J. Ramos, Election Judge Recruitment Department

Snow Shoveling Help Sought

As senior residents with physical limitations, my wife and I have given up snow shoveling for exercise and fun. But, out of necessity—and a grandson no longer available—we need to find someone to take care of it for us. Are there any residents interested in contracting to shovel snow for us? Contact Bill Puhak, 316 Chalet Dr.

VOMCA Membership Drive Underway

Please remember to send in your 2012 membership dues (\$15) on the attached form. 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. 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 possible solution.

2012 VOMCA Membership Application

Please complete this form, printing the names of all members of your household who are 18 or more years old, and mail it together with your check, payable to **VOMCA**, to: VOMCA Membership, P.O. Box 366, Millersville, MD 21108. The membership fee for your household's annual dues is \$15.00.

Names of Adults in Household: _____

Street Address: _____

Phone: _____ (Unlisted? Yes No)

Email Address: _____

Would you like to volunteer in the community?: _____

Suggestions for improvements in Olde Mill: _____

There will be a \$10 processing fee for any returned check. Your membership card(s) will be mailed to you. Thank you for your support!

County Seeks Public Input to Pedestrian/Bicycle Master Plan Update

Annapolis, Maryland (January 17, 2012) – County Executive John R. Leopold announced today the scheduling of three listening sessions in order to hear the public's input regarding pedestrian and bicycle facilities in the County's suburban and urbanized areas. The last update to the master plan was done in 2003.

“Walking and bicycling are alternate modes of travel that should be encouraged and supported within our infrastructure,” said Mr. Leopold. “This study focuses primarily on accommodating day-to-day transportation activities, such as walking and biking to work, school, libraries, and retail shops.”

The listening sessions will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Tuesday, January 31, 2012
Annapolis High School Cafeteria
2700 Riva Road, Annapolis

Tuesday, February 7, 2012
Arundel Mills Mall Community Room
7000 Arundel Mills Circle, Hanover

Wednesday, February 22, 2012
Severna Park Middle School Cafeteria
450 Jumpers Hole Road, Severna Park

The Office of Planning and Zoning is working with a consultant on the study, which aims to identify deficiencies in the current network of sidewalks, trails, on-road travel lanes, crosswalks, etc., and develop a systematic way to prioritize improvements as funds become available or as development occurs. The study is largely (80%) funded through a Federal transportation planning grant and it is expected to take about 18 months to complete.

“The PBMP will help identify low-cost improvements that may be executed in the short term as well as helping to establish a realistic approach to long-term planning,” said Larry Tom, Director of the Office of Planning and Zoning.

The County Executive will also appoint a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to work with the Office of Planning and Zoning (OPZ) and project consultant to provide ongoing citizen and community perspective. Members of the public who wish to apply for an appointment to the Citizens Advisory Committee should contact the Office of Planning and Zoning, Transportation Division, at 410-222-7440. CAC application forms will also be available at the listening sessions. For special accommodations please call 410-222-7440.

—*Jody L. Leddy, Community & Constituent Services*

Office of County Executive John R. Leopold, 410-222-1527