

Olde Mill Village Crier

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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, March 7, 2012
7:00 p.m. at Old Mill High School, Room A-271



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President's Message

I would like to thank Mr. Mark Chang, from the County Executive's Community Constituent Office, for attending our February meeting.

There has been a problem with graffiti being spray-painted on places in the community. We continue to have a problem with the county water pumping facility located at the corner of Old Mill Rd and Old Mill Blvd. At the February meeting the general membership voted in favor of having the county do what it feels is necessary to secure the premises.

Mr. Chang was informed that if the county would like to erect a fence around the building that would be acceptable. VOMCA can no longer provide for the painting of the building each time it gets tagged with graffiti. I would like to thank the volunteers in the past who purchased supplies and stayed on top of keeping the building painted. I will be submitting a letter to Mr. Chang within the next week.

VOMCA has a request from the Olde Mill Adult Softball League to erect an approximately 30-foot-high net extending above the current outfield fence closest to the basketball court. This was brought up at the last meeting and the membership wanted more information on this. The following picture shows what their plan is:



STATEMENT FROM OLDE MILL ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Left Field Net: In the picture you can see the left field fence in the distance. The proposed net will go from approximately point A to point B. (The length of the short fence in left field from far left start of fence to approximately the break in the fence before the center field backstop.) As far as children climbing— [We] would have to say they have just as much a possibility of climbing the existing fencing around the pool or Barlowe Field fences and backstops as they would the net. We plan to do our best to order a tight knit net so getting a foot in the net will most likely be a bit difficult. We would not hold VOMCA responsible for any damage that may occur to the net/poles.

This will be discussed at the March meeting. If anyone has any concerns or questions, please attend this meeting. This is up for a vote!

—Tom Stag, VOMCA President

Candy Donations and Volunteers Needed for Easter Egg Event

Your community association is looking for volunteers to help with the Easter Egg Hunt that is held every year at Barlowe Field the week before Easter. This year the date is Saturday, March 31, at 1:00 p.m. The rain date will be April 1 at 2:00 p.m. (Note the change in time if the rain date is needed.) Please call 443-996-8024 if you would like to assist with this rewarding activity for our children.

Also, in order to fill all of the Easter eggs for our event, we are looking for candy donations. Candy should be the size that will fit into a standard size plastic egg and must be individually wrapped. We will accept donations up to March 24. If you can donate some small-sized candy, please call 443-996-8024. Thank you for supporting our community.

County Community Clean-Up Days Sept. 5-7, 2012

In September, the county will deliver large dumpsters to the Barlowe Field pool road area for residents to use in cleaning up their homes and property. Items that cannot be disposed of in the dumpsters include “junk autos, trailers, gas and propane tanks, tree trunks, oil drums or tanks, liquids, hazardous waste, boats, tires, logs, paint, and refrigerators or air conditioners.” Even though it's six months away, mark the dates now on your calendar.

Kenora Drive Safety Issues

After numerous phone calls and email complaints from residents on Kenora Drive, county officials would like to start meetings to evaluate the problems on Kenora and what “traffic calming devices”—such as speed humps—would work best to create a safer road.

If you have issues regarding the traffic situation on Kenora Drive and would like to be a member of the committee, please email board@vomca.org. Please include a contact phone number so that you can be notified of the time and place for the meeting. The first available date for the county to meet with us is Monday, April 16, in the evening. County officials would like to have at least 10 residents to represent Kenora Drive at the meetings. This is the same process that the county used to evaluate speed humps for Chalet Drive several years ago.

—Sarah Hakulin, 410-987-1239

Treasurer's Report

VOMCA Checking \$7,043.88; Savings \$3,186.61

Dues for Membership

Please remember to send in your \$15 dues for membership in VOMCA, your community association. 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. Email board@vomca.org.

Come to a meeting—the first Wednesday of every month at Old Mill High, or at the pool during the summer—and see what you can do to help your community or bring your concerns so that we can help you find a solution.

Village of Olde Mill Community Association Members
Are Eligible to Join

Tower Federal Credit Union

Parts and repairs getting too costly?

Tower has the **auto loan** you need at a **great low rate.**

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



Visit towerfcu.org
to view Tower's auto rates and to apply online.

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!

Minutes of February 1, 2012, VOMCA Meeting

President Tom Stag called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. with 11 members present. The treasurer's report was read. As of January, VOMCA had \$2,983.55 in checking and \$3,074.48 in savings. The Swim Club report was not available.

Mark Chang from the County Executive's office attended our meeting. He informed us that Anne Arundel County is going to once-a-week trash pick-up. Beginning June 2012, trash will be collected on our Recycling Day only, which is Monday in Olde Mill. The county feels that this promotes more recycling, reduces the current residential solid waste fee, saves valuable landfill space, helps achieve the county's goal of recycling at least 50% of all curbside waste, and makes it easier for households placing waste and recycling at the curb only one day a week. It also means and fewer collection vehicles on the road each week, leading to less traffic, reduced vehicle emissions, and less wear on county roads. For curbside collection questions or concerns you can call 410-222-6100 and for information on recycling you can call 410-222-7951. In our county, 20% of all households have recycling bins and use them.

The Community is invited to attend County Executive John R. Leopold's 5th Annual Community C-O-N-N-E-C-T-I-O-N-S Day. The date is Thursday, March 8, 2012, from 5:30-8:00 p.m. at Severna Park Middle School, 450 Jumpers Hole Road, Severna Park. County representatives will show how to gather information effectively and efficiently within our county's departments, learning about county resources and services directly from the experts in an exhibition-style setting, and an opportunity to share ideas with the county to improve how residents are served. John Leopold and his Cabinet will be available to meet individually with Anne Arundel County residents to discuss important county issues. Contact them at 410-222-1785 or CCServices@aacounty.org for more information.

Mr. Chang also distributed flyers from the Department of Inspections and Permits on Zoning Enforcement Guidelines explaining subjects like "What is a Zoning Violation?" and "What Happens When I File a Complaint?" For more information call 410-222-7446.

He discussed our county's animal control code. There is a leash law in Anne Arundel County, and a \$500 fine for violators. You must also pick up your dog's waste, including from your own yard—it is a food source for rats. The waste can also get into the storm drains. He had a sign which can be placed that reads "Poop Happens...Deal With It!"

Mr. Chang brought mats that make a compost bin. They are available at Millersville and Glen Burnie landfills. They are also available at Riva Rd, as are recycling bins.

The question was asked if there was any data on the Kenora Drive traffic study. Mark said that there was no data yet but he would check with Traffic Engineering to see if they had any answers.

Next the subject of the county water pumping station graffiti problem was brought up. We've painted it many

times in the last 15-20 years and it just keeps getting vandalized. A long time ago the Community Association said they didn't want to put a fence up. But now the Community would like to have a fence. Mark said that we would have to submit something in writing to the county. A motion was made by Sarah Hakulin to have the county put up a fence. It was seconded by Tom Malloy. The vote was 10 for and 1 against. The motion passed.

In other business, Theresa Szverra will be chairing the Easter Event scheduled for March 31, 2012, at Barlowe Field from 1:00 pm.

A motion was made by Colleen Flack to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Theresa Szverra. The motion passed 11 for and 0 against.

—*Respectfully submitted by Chris Szverra, Secretary*

Minutes of February 1, 2012, Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Stag. There were several items on the agenda for discussion.

The first item was the men's softball league would like to pay for a second season, one in the spring and one in the fall. Tom Stag will check to make sure this doesn't interfere with the GB Sports Groups schedule. Several suggestions were made as to what we could do with the additional income, including earmarking it for playground improvements.

There was also some discussion about what the fees they pay included. They were under the impression that it included trash removal. We provide drums for trash. We also maintain the field, cutting the grass to a certain height.

There was also a request from OMASL to put up a net fence to keep softballs from going into the woods. The net would be approximately 20-30 feet high. The poles would be permanent but the net would be removable. It would be used only during the season. They would pay for everything. Mark Chang said he would check to see if there's a height restriction. We also need to check with our insurance company to see what we would be liable for if kids climb the fence and fall.

Phil Carter hired a manager for the Swim Club. Her name is Danielle Campbell. Everyone on the board received an email from Kevin Kendall about the updates for the increase in membership prices and pool rules.

There was discussion about the swim instructor's status. Colleen Flack is going to make some inquiries on behalf of the community. There was also some discussion about our insurance coverage and swim lessons.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. It passed with 11 for and 0 opposed.

—*Theresa Szverra*

Legislative Update from Sen. James "Ed" DeGrange

Dear Friends:

With this year's legislative session at the half-way point, I wanted to take a moment to update you on the work the committee that I sit on is doing. As I mentioned in an earlier email, much of the General Assembly's work takes place in committees. There are 13 members, including myself, who sit on the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee ("B&T").

While B&T does hold hearings on bills involving the budget or taxes, B&T members are primarily occupied with reviewing the Governor's proposed budget. My colleagues and I assess the budget, line-by-line, and we alter programs that are in need of change. To facilitate this process, each B&T member sits on two subcommittees. These subcommittees are tasked with the responsibility of further examining intricate nuances of each budget item.

I am honored to chair both of the subcommittees I sit on; the Capital Budget subcommittee and the Public Safety, Transportation, & Environment ("PSTE") subcommittee. The Capital Budget subcommittee oversees funding for community projects, including plans to improve infrastructure and renovation of schools. As its name suggests, the PSTE subcommittee oversees the budgets of entities in charge of Maryland's public safety, transportation, and the environment. Several of the entities PSTE oversees include: the Department of Corrections and Maryland Courts; the Maryland Department of Transportation; and the Maryland Department of the Environment.

As chair of both the Capital Budget subcommittee and PSTE subcommittee, I am committed to protecting

core priorities that affect families and communities. I recognize the importance of public safety, infrastructure improvements, and providing classrooms that foster learning in a safe and modern environment. However, I know that we must be conscientious about only spending what we can afford and I am working to ensure we do not spend funds the state does not have.

This legislative session, many bills have been assigned to B&T. The committee, as a whole, has already taken action on a portion of these bills after hearing testimony from department chairs, advocacy groups, and citizens. If you have any thoughts, ideas, questions or concerns about any of the issues that are scheduled to come before the committee, 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*

VOMCA Officers for 2012

Board Members

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

Treasurer: Colleen Flack

Term expires 2012: Sarah Hakulin

Term expires 2013: Paul Shaffer
Term expires 2014: Al Miller
Sara Lattanzia