

# 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](mailto:crier@vomca.org)  
Articles are due by the 21st of the preceding month.  
VOMCA Meeting: Wednesday, September 5, 2012  
7:00 p.m. at Olde Mill Pool (preceded by  
6:00 p.m. pool meeting)



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## President's Message

There will be a VOMCA Meeting at the Olde Mill Swim Club on September 5 at 7:00 p.m..

The county has installed a fence around the water substation on Old Mill Rd. We requested the county to do this after the constant graffiti that has been placed on the buildings. Individuals in the community have stepped up in the past to paint over the graffiti and this kept the fence from being up at the community's request. Over the years this has been time-consuming so the county agreed to put the fence up.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped out at the Olde Mill Swim Club this summer. Without the volunteers the pool would not open. With some of our volunteers they are the reason why the membership fee each year has such a low increase. As these volunteers leave we need new volunteers to step up to the plate and assist. Members need to know that some of the work performed by our volunteers keeps the yearly management fee low. The Olde Mill Swim Club continues to be one of the most affordable swim clubs in the area.

I have been getting some calls and seeing individuals in the community inquiring about a school that purportedly is going to be built down at Barlowe Field next to the swim club. This is a rumor that has gone around the Olde Mill area. VOMCA owns the 8+ acres and has no reason or intent to sell this open space land. I believe that this land has to remain an open space area as stated in the deed from the early 1970's. I assure all community members that the property is owned by and will remain in the hands of *your* community!

I will be getting in touch with the county regarding the traffic meetings we have been having for Kenora Drive.

—Tom Stag, President

## Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy Looking for Applicants

Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy is looking for Old Mill residents to enroll this year. Old Mill will be on the receiving end of a grant that will fund a 'New Neighborhood Norm Project.' This will require more than the current two stewards to help facilitate the goals of this grant. Please read the announcement below:

The Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy is currently accepting applications for the next Master Watershed Steward Certification Course.

Watershed Stewards Academy, a program of Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, trains and supports community leaders called Master Watershed Stewards. Master Watershed Stewards engage their communities to reduce pollution and restore waterways. Prospective Stewards need not have prior knowledge, we will teach you how to identify and solve environmental problems in your community and connect you with a local network of energized leaders.

All prospective applicants must attend one of the WSA Informational Sessions below:

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 6:30-7:30 pm; Monday, Aug. 27, 6:30-7:30 pm; **Wednesday, Sept. 5, 6:30-7:30 pm**

Applications are due no later than September 12. The Certification Course will begin in mid-October.

For more information, course schedule and application, please visit our website: [www.aawsa.org](http://www.aawsa.org)

To register for an information session please click the blue button on the right side of our website labeled "Certification Course Information Sessions". For more information, contact:

Suzanne Etgen, WSA Coordinator

975 Indian Landing Rd., Millersville, MD 21108

Phone (410) 222-3822 or email [setgen@aacps.org](mailto:setgen@aacps.org)

—Stacy Epperson

### **Armored Truck Robbery at 7-Eleven**

On August 8, 2012, at approximately 11:45 a.m., officers from the Eastern District responded to a report of a robbery of an armored car employee at the 7-Eleven store located in the 400 block of Old Mill Road in Millersville.

Preliminary investigation reveals that an employee of Loomis was servicing the ATM machine located inside the aforementioned 7-Eleven store when he was approached from behind by the suspect. The suspect implied that he had a weapon and took the employee's satchel containing an undetermined amount of U.S. currency. The suspect then fled the store on foot and was last seen fleeing the area in a gray-colored vehicle. A thorough search of the area was conducted by responding officers and detectives, but the suspect was not located. Anyone with information on this incident is urged to contact Detective Eric Wills of the Robbery Unit at 410-222-3432(3566).

Suspect: Black male in his late 20's to early 30's, approximately 5'9"-6'0", 220-240 pounds with a light complexion and a full beard. The suspect was wearing a blue t-shirt, blue/black baseball hat, white tennis shoes and blue jeans.

Suspect vehicle: Gray in color, compact or midsized vehicle with plain, black steel wheels, no hubcaps.

*Metro Crime Stoppers:*

If you have information on the above incident, please call, email, or text your tip to Metro Crime Stoppers Hotline Available 24-Hours A Day Toll Free at 1-866-7LOCKUP or Text "MCS plus your message" to CRIMES (274637).

### **Annual Community Clean-Up Runs September 5-7**

Anne Arundel County will deliver large dumpsters to the pool parking lot on Wednesday, September 5, 2012 by noontime. They will be picked up by 8:00 a.m. on Friday, September 7, at 8:00 a.m.

Items that cannot be disposed of in or near the dumpsters include: junk autos, trailers, gas and propane tanks tree trunks, oil drums or tanks, liquids, hazardous waste, boats, tires, logs, paint, refrigerators or air conditioners.

### **Clean Your Stream One Yard and Street at a Time**

What does that mean? How did you obtain your bachelors degree? How did you have the income to purchase your home? What did you do to become proficient at the piano? All these end goals came from small steps taken, small decisions made each day; day after day; year after year. Was it easy? No. Was it cheap? No. Did you wait for 'everyone else' to get their degree, buy their house, or obtain proficiency on an instrument? No! You walked your own path steady and sure. *(Continued on page 4)*

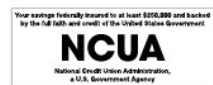
Village of Olde Mill Community Association Members  
Are Eligible to Join

## Tower Federal Credit Union



Looking for a  
**Lower Rate Mortgage Loan?**  
*Refinance at Tower*

Visit the Millersville Branch in Old Mill Plaza.  
For other branch locations, go to [towerfcu.org](http://towerfcu.org).



Visit [towerfcu.org](http://towerfcu.org)  
to view current mortgage rates  
and to apply online.

*(Continued from page 2)* That is what ‘clean your stream one yard and one street at a time’ means.

Before you add your fall fertilizer (or spring), are you sure it needs it? How green does your yard need to be and why? Have you ever spent the \$20 to have your soil tested? It is better to know how much if any your soil needs before you place unneeded fertilizer on the yard that will flush out with the first rain into the nearest storm drain. The decision to have your soil tested is a small one. The decision to not fertilize this year is a small one. The decision to sweep your street curb is a small one. The decision to scoop your pet waste more frequently is a small one. The decision to plant native plants (acclimated to our climate and therefore may not need soil amendments) instead of the non-native generic plants is a small decision. Are your neighbors doing these things? No? Set the example. Talk about what you do. Another small decision. Watch it spread. Clean your stream, one yard and one street at a time.

—Stacy Epperson

## **County Executive Leopold Urges Residents to Apply for Homestead Tax Credit**

Annapolis (August 8, 2012) - County Executive John R. Leopold today urged residents to make sure they are signed up for an important property tax credit before a critical deadline passes.

The Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation has set a deadline to apply for the Homestead Tax Credit by the end of this calendar year, County Executive Leopold said. People who do not sign up could have to pay hundreds or even thousands of dollars more in property taxes next year. Many people are unfamiliar with this program because their taxes are paid by a mortgage company, but it is very important to pay attention to this.

It is very simple to determine if you are approved for the Maryland Homestead Tax Credit. Go to the State database at [http://sdatcert3.resiusa.org/rp\\_rewrite/](http://sdatcert3.resiusa.org/rp_rewrite/) and type in your address. At the bottom of the page, check the field that says Homestead Application Status to see if you are approved.

If you are approved, there is nothing you need to do. If you are not approved, you can apply online by going to <https://sdathtc.resiusa.org/homestead/>. Be sure to have a copy of your most recent assessment notice handy to fill out your information.

The Homestead Tax Credit protects homeowners from sudden and sometimes dramatic increases in property tax bills from reassessments. Once a homeowner is eligible for the credit, his or her property tax can increase by no more than 2 percent in a given tax year.

The deadline to apply is December 31, 2012. There is no way to appeal your bill once the deadline has passed. You can contact the Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation directly at 410-974-5709.

## **Family Bird Walks Planned**

This is a great way to enjoy nature in a leisurely but guided event. All ages welcome. No cost to participate but there is an entrance fee for all locations listed. Meeting time is 9am. Cancelled if rain. Walks are approximately 2 hours but you are free to leave early or stay later. Leader Stacy Epperson will have some kids size binoculars and extra guide books. Call Stacy (Olde Mill resident) at 410-987-7533 or email [tryswim@comcast.net](mailto:tryswim@comcast.net) for questions or if weather iffy.

September 22: Patapsco State Park, Glen Artney Area at Lost Lake. Meet at the parking area in front of Lost Lake.

October 20: Kinder Farm Park. Meet at the first parking lot on the left, across from the community gardens.

November 17: Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary. Meet in the parking area in front of the visitor center.

—Stacy Epperson

## **Barlowe Field and Playground Are Community Assets, Need Community Help**

The playground at Barlowe Field is owned by the community of Olde Mill. It is for the enjoyment of all and therefore the maintenance of the structures, the sandbox, and the basketball courts are the responsibility of all the residents of Olde Mill.

Since we are *not* a homeowners association with very high membership fees for living in these developments, we depend on the volunteer payments of our \$15 per year community dues and pool income to pay the taxes and maintain the field areas. The softball field is maintained by the Olde Mill softball league while the field itself is mowed by the community and paid for by the proceeds from the swim club and the community association. (Association & Pool budgets are on the VOMCA website, [www.vomca.org](http://www.vomca.org))

The playground mulching of the areas under the swings and the play structure were paid for by donations and fundraisers in the past held by FOOM (Friends Of Olde Mill). This was a special group organized as a Non-Profit 503(c)1 to give a tax break to those donating money and for purchasing equipment and mulch without paying tax. With donations dwindling and a seeming lack of interest in volunteer help, FOOM is no longer in existence.

The current structure and baby swings are about 10 years old. The mulch and ground cover currently on the ground under these structures is about 5 years old. Replacement of structures runs over \$10,000 today, while a recent estimate for just mulch amounted to \$1,500, with weeding and mulch \$2,500 and sand for the sandbox at \$100 if we purchase from the same vendor. The current play structures cost about \$8,000 10 years ago.

Vandals have tried to vandalize the play structure, older children have swung on the baby swings and one of the leather seats of the baby swing was cut with a knife. The original swing set has been repaired but with constant swinging the sand has worn away and left deep holes under the swings.

Money, volunteers and donations would be appreciated in helping to get our playground back to a condition that everyone could enjoy. Unfortunately, out of 1,300 families, we have less than 100 members who have joined the association. With an income of \$1,500 from the community, we are not able to do any major renovations or replacements. We need support from the community, which has seemed to dwindle as the years have passed, to keep our community a place to be proud of.

The volunteers who are part of the community association and who put countless hours into the upkeep of the pool and just maintaining the playground have done this job for 10 years or more. Time moves on and without new faces and new energy, these tasks may not continue to be done. With 1,300 families in this development, it is unfair to expect that a few people year after year take on the responsibility of an entire neighborhood with many hours of work without pay or support from others.

Elections are in October. Please step up and volunteer to run for an office, help with weeding the playground, or assist with the many jobs necessary to the operation of the pool. Contact [board@vomca.org](mailto:board@vomca.org) if you are interested or have any suggestions.

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## **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!

## **Helpful County Numbers**

Northern District Roads : 410-222-6120, street issues

Public Works: 410-222-7500, water issues (emergency number is 410-222-8400)

Community Constituents Office, Mark Chang: 410-222-1242

Zoning Enforcement: 410-222-7446

## **VOMCA 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