

Be sure to see the 2014 VOMCA Membership Application on the last page. VOMCA needs more community support to work to improve Olde Mill.

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, December 4, 2013
7:00 p.m. at Old Mill High School, Room A-258
Important voting on 2014 budgets*



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President's Message

Happy Holidays! It's an exciting time in VOMCA with new Officers and Board Members preparing to take the reins next month. I am stepping down as President, but leave VOMCA in capable hands. Sarah Hakulin will take over as the newly elected President and Zachary Campbell will fill the role of Vice President. It is so refreshing to have someone from a younger generation like Zach stand up and take an active role in our community.

I would like to take this time to thank the entire Board for all their help this year. I would also like to personally thank Sarah Hakulin, Rick Behringer, Bernie Quarrick, and John Tilden for going above and beyond as usual. My sincerest gratitude goes out to both the returning and newly elected officers and board members for stepping up to help out again next year. Please come out to support them all as they work hard to improve our community.

December is a busy month for all. Coming up will be our Annual Holiday Lights and Decorations Contest, as well as the Annual Visit from Santa. Look for the details for both events elsewhere in this edition of the *Crier*.

I wish everyone a safe, peaceful and joyous holiday season and a bright and happy New Year.

—Sara Lattanzia, VOMCA President

Crier Minutes for November 4 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Sara Lattanzia at 7:00 p.m. in Room A-258 at Old Mill Senior High School. 15 members were present so we could proceed with a business meeting, which included elections for Officers and the Board.

Colleen Flack, Treasurer for VOMCA and interim Treasurer for the Swim Club, reported the following:

Swim Club:	Checking	\$18,104.01
	Savings	\$20,025.22
VOMCA:	Checking	\$1,500.80
	Savings	\$2,599.00

(Continued on page 2)

SWIM CLUB WRAP-UPS: The first installment for payment to Community Pools is \$5,400 due in March 2014.

Guest speaker, Phil Carter from Community Pools, addressed some issues encountered this past summer at the pool. In general, it was a good season with minimal complaints; however, repair and pump problems caused concern throughout the season. Patching and can occur after draining pool in spring. New filter is working well.

Pool Maintenance: Back wall needs repair. Caulk line is sinking due to freeze and thaw issues of nature. Repair could cost as much as \$40,000.

Shane, Katlin, and Matt staffed the pool. Improvement in uniforms and lifeguards noted. No added personnel was requested. Changes in managers and account representatives at Community Pools noted.

Advised to consider electronic passes next season. Means for payment of pool memberships to consider were discussed, including PayPal and Eventbrite.

Season started with Rick Behringer installing pool motor, unexpectedly. Life of motor should be 7 years; cost over \$2,000. Back wall was patched again due to lack of funds for full repair.

A suggestion was made to extend the swim season into September using leftover days during season. Suggestion was made to contact adult camps to invite pool participation.

Need more members and support to keep pool and swim team viable.

Discussion ensued about how to make it easier for families to pay for the bond and the pool fee. It was unanimously voted to implement a four-payment plan of \$100 per month. Paul Shaffer, Treasurer, agreed to come up with a plan. See article in *Crier*.

The pool website was also discussed at this meeting and is in need of updating. Zach Campbell was asked to look into this matter.

FOOM REPORT: Andi Campbell reported that the Quarter Auction to raise funds for the playground renovation was being held on Nov. 2 at 6 p.m. in Jessup Community Hall. Restaurant Night at Ledo's netted \$87.00. Thanks to all who helped participate in the fundraiser at Ledo's for the playground.

Delivery of a printed December *Crier* would also be made by the Cub Scouts, whose pack VOMCA sponsors. November 21 was set as the date to get items for the *Crier* to Bernie Quarrick.

Mike Hakulin, Sr., proposed that the Scouts be gifted \$100 for their service and support to the community. The motion was seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Bernie Quarrick made a motion to allocate up to \$200 for replacement of the VOMCA Meeting signs that were vandalized and have aged over the years. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Means for raising money to pay taxes were discussed. VOMCA property taxes were substantially increased by the state "Rain Tax" to the tune of \$800, plus the normal assessments, bringing our taxes to over \$1,300 for Barlowe Field, as well as insurance for the pool and Barlowe Field. A special tax district was suggested, whereby all residents of the community would pay a special fee to be used for the betterment of the community. A representative from Anne Arundel County will be invited to discuss the pros and cons of this suggestion. Watch the *Crier* for further information and a date for this important discussion.

We are a community of 1,300 families and of that number only 126 families typically join every year with a voluntary fee of \$15. These families bear the burden of paying the bills and maintaining the community and activities for everyone. We have become a community whose resources have become insufficient to maintain the services and activities we all take for granted.

—Respectfully submitted by Sarah Hakulin, Acting Secretary

<p>DUE TO THE FIRST WEDNESDAY IN JANUARY FALLING ON NEW YEAR'S DAY, VOMCA WILL MEET WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2014</p>

Holiday Decoration Judging Set for Dec. 15

On Sunday, December 15, make sure everyone has their outdoor lights and decorations ready for the annual Olde Mill Holiday Decorating Contest. The hours for judging are 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. Let's light up Olde Mill for the holidays!

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

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VOMCA Election Results for 2014

Elections for Officers and the Board were held at the November 4 meeting. Results are as follows:

Officers

President: Sarah Hakulin
Vice President: Zach Campbell
Secretary: Lisa England
Treasurer: Colleen Flack
Membership: Sandy Sacra

Board

Term 2014: Al Miller
Term 2015: Paul Shaffer, Andi Campbell
Term 2016: Mike Hakulin, Sr.

New Pool Bond Payment Plan

Community residents who wish to join the Olde Mill Swim Club for 2014 have two options to pay for their Pool Bond. You may make a one-time payment of \$400.00, or choose a 4-month payment plan of \$100.00 per month starting in January 2014 thru April 30, 2014. Please contact Kevin Kendall, Pool Membership coordinator, on the Olde Mill Swim Club phone line (410-987-7890) with your desire to participate in either option.

Update from F.O.O.M.

Here's an update from your neighborhood friends – FOOM (Friends of Olde Mill):

It was a year ago that FOOM re-energized our efforts to raise money to make improvements for our community. Our first initiative is to replace the equipment at the playground for all of our children and community.

We'd like to thank you for your continued support! By participating in our fundraisers over the past year you've helped us raise over \$12,000 toward our cause.

After doing research on different types of playgrounds and playground equipment we've found out we need about \$50,000 to replace our current structure with something that is appropriate for the ages and needs of the children in our community.

Ultimately we have decided on a unique natural play space for our children. We have hired a designer that specializes in natural play spaces from Abundant Playscapes. Abundant Playscapes (www.abundantplayscapes.com) will offer us a one-of-a-kind play space designed for our children and community using natural resources. Some of the advantages of these natural play spaces are that children are able to be more creative and can connect with the natural world through their play.

We invite you and your children to help in the design of our "new" play space. Keep an eye out in the *Crier* and on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/TheVillageofOldeMill) for dates in January and February for our Junior Design Days. These are events where you can bring your children and their friends to play with interesting items to explore and manipulate. We will gain valuable insight from these sessions where we will use this information from the kids, to help us design our new play spaces.

Looking to make a tax deductible donation? Consider making that donation to FOOM, we are a 501 (c)(3) organization.* Your donation can be made payable to FOOM, Inc. and mailed to FOOM, Inc.; PO Box 151; Millersville, MD 21108. After receiving your donation you will be mailed a thank-you card and letter for your tax deductible donation. We would really appreciate your support and help to accomplish this first goal of updating our playground for our children!

If you would like to be more actively involved with any fundraisers we are doing or have any ideas you'd like to share with us please contact Andi at cautionkidsatplay@gmail.com.

"Like us" on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TheVillageofOldeMill or visit our webpage at www.friendsofoldemill.org for information and events for our community.

*FOOM is also a private foundation that accepts tax-deductible donations. It is wholly staffed by volunteers, so therefore your donations are used 100% for the playground equipment.

—Andi Campbell

Santa Scheduling Home Visits Here

If you would like Santa to visit your home before Christmas, you can schedule him to bring a treat, chat with your child(ren), and pose for photographs. Contact Santa’s appointment secretary soon, as openings are limited. Email tomdixon13@hotmail.com.

Santa Returns to Olde Mill

On Saturday, December 21, Santa comes to Olde Mill via a Glen Burnie Fire Department fire truck. Santa will have candy for the children and a “Ho, ho, ho!” for everyone!

It is also Olde Mill’s annual food drive for the North County Emergency Outreach Network (NCEON), based in Glen Burnie. Their program benefits many families in the North County area and has been in existence for many years. Please place your donations on the front step if you will not be home that day and Santa’s elves will pick it up. If you would like to volunteer to join Santa’s helpers, please email board@vomca.org or call 410-987-1239. Please see the scheduled times near your street, listed below.

Also, as in years past, Hair Expressions will be collecting food donations at their shop in the middle of Olde Mill from Tuesday, December 8, until 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 21. Hair Expressions is in the Olde Mill Shopping Center, between the 7-11 convenience store and M&T Bank.



SANTA CLAUS IS COMING

Saturday, December 21, 2013



2:10 Brandon N.	3:05 Ahearn Dr. & Rd.
2:15 Weyburn Rd.	3:10 Chalet Dr.
2:25 Kenora Dr. N.	3:15 Condo I
2:30 Williamstowne Dr.	3:25 Chalet West
2:40 Gartlemill Rd.	3:30 Craver Rd. & Kenora S.
2:50 Condo II & III	3:35 Brandon Dr. S.



Santa arrives on a Glen Burnie VFD Fire Truck with candy canes for all the children. Santa’s helpers will collect bagged, non-perishable food for NCEON Food Bank, from your doorstep.

If you won’t be home, please leave your donation on your front step or drop it off at HAIR EXPRESSIONS in the Olde Mill Shopping Center starting Dec. 10 until 1:30 P.M. December 21, 2013.



Thanks and a very MERRY CHRISTMAS from VOMCA!



P. O. Box 151
Millersville, MD 21108

December 2013

To: The Community of Olde Mill

Friends of Olde Mill (F.O.O.M.) is a committed group of volunteers who have been working hard to renovate and upgrade our playground at Barlowe Field. A safe and thriving play space is an asset to any community. It increases the appeal and value of homes as well as provides a fun learning experience for children of all ages and capabilities.

We have held several successful events over the past year including bake sales, the 1st Annual 5K in Olde Mill history, flea markets, restaurant nights, a craft show, and a quarter auction to raise money for this enormous task.

We plan to replace the present structure and have a natural playground created for the children of Olde Mill. By next summer, we will have a volleyball sand court at Barlowe Field and will also have plans displayed for the playground that everyone can view and participate in helping to create.

Our goal is to raise a total of \$50,000. Through the support of the community and local businesses, we have raised over \$12,000 towards our goal! This is an awesome amount for a community that does not have a homeowners association and for only 1 year of concentrated fundraising.

At this time of giving, we are asking for your help to make this project a reality. Friends of Olde Mill, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) private foundation that accepts tax-deductible donations. We are solely staffed by volunteers; therefore, your donations are used 100% for the playground equipment! Please consider investing in your community.

You can make your check payable to FOOM, Inc. and mail it to FOOM, Inc.; P.O. Box 151; Millersville, MD 21108 or visit our website at www.friendsofoldemill.org to make a donation directly from there. You will receive a Thank You note acknowledging your donation and for use for tax purposes.

Thank you and Happy Holidays from the Friends of Olde Mill.

Join VOMCA for the coming year of 2014. Help make great things happen in Olde Mill!

2014 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.

What does \$15 get you these days?

- Large pizza
- Deluxe car wash
- Two dozen doughnuts
- One-third of a tank of gas
- Voting membership in your community association of VOMCA

Okay, that last one may not sound exciting or curb your hunger, but it's a valuable way to protect your investment in home and community. VOMCA really needs interested and active residents to participate in striving to keep our neighborhood a great place to live. The association is a united voice that pushes local government officials to provide services and make decisions that benefit everyone in Olde Mill. Internally, VOMCA and related organizations such as the Swim Club and F.O.O.M. help maintain and improve common areas such as Barlowe Field and the playground.

But progress is limited by our meager budget. Dues for VOMCA are completely voluntary, even though they are just \$15 annually. Fewer than ten percent of Olde Mill residents typically join each year.

Did you know that many newer communities have mandatory homeowner association fees of \$1,000 or more? The planned community of Columbia, MD, requires residents to belong to the Columbia Association, which assesses homeowners based on their house value, resulting in a bill that can reach more than \$2,000 for some people. So VOMCA's \$15 a year seems quite the bargain.

Help VOMCA do more to better Olde Mill. **Please consider filling out the 2014 VOMCA Membership Application above and sending it in with your check for \$15.** Let's all join together in keeping Olde Mill a great community!