

# 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, Dec. 3, 2014, 7:00 p.m.  
Old Mill High, Room A270. No Swim Club meeting.



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## President's Message

There will be no Swim Club meeting for December. Swim Club members are asked to attend the Dec. 3 VOMCA general meeting at 7 p.m. for presentation of the 2015 budgets.

The holiday season is in full swing. The “polar vortex” is again bearing down on us. And unfinished business still exists in your community association. Elections have not been held due to lack of volunteers to run for Officer and Board positions. We have not even had enough members to hold a meeting to conduct business or make any decisions about the needs of the community. We need a quorum of 11 members to proceed, and can't draw even 1% of our residents to a meeting.

Apathy and lack of interest in community affairs has had historic consequences in governments throughout history. In our community lack of an active association, such as VOMCA has been over the years, could mean:

- Pool closure
- Disposal of Barlowe Field
- Lack of community services such as county dumpsters for clean-up week
- No grant applications for repair of sidewalks or speed humps.
- No upkeep and improvement of the playground

These things may not seem important to everyone. But they are things that are taken for granted and when they are gone the resources that they provided may never be accessible again. There is little enough money to maintain all these services and amenities, but without an association there would be nothing.

It is unfair to expect that all current officers and board members should continue in these positions for years on end without a break. The jobs require maybe two hours of your time per month, and the reward is that you have helped maintain the community you found when you moved here or that you made it *better!*

The community, as a whole, bears the responsibility of supporting the neighborhood for everyone. We need 100% community involvement. About 110 families out of 1,300 families who live here is a poor percentage—less than 9% of the community voluntarily bothers to join VOMCA. In order to change this ratio, the idea of applying for special tax district status has been proposed. Everyone would pay a small additional community tax on their property taxes, which would then be allocated to Olde Mill to be used for funding its needs. The community of Parke West, north of Olde Mill along I-97, has done this with very good results in being able to pay for maintenance and insurance costs on community property.

A 2015 VOMCA Membership Application is in this issue, as well as a return envelope, so you can join your community association for the coming year. Or go to [www.vomca.org](http://www.vomca.org) to join by using PayPal. Email [board@vomca.org](mailto:board@vomca.org) if this appeal prompts you to reach out beyond yourself and encourages you to serve Olde Mill as an Officer or Board Member for 2015. You may find you will enjoy the sense of involvement and accomplishment that it brings.

Please also look for the enclosed flyer for information on Santa's visit on December 20 elsewhere in this *Crier*. Donations of canned food for NCEON will be collected while Santa hands out candy to children along his route.

Happy Holidays to all.

—Sarah Hakulin, President

## November 5 VOMCA Meeting Fails to Draw Quorum

Unfortunately there were not enough members present to constitute a quorum (11 members). Elections could not be held and there were no new nominations for any of the Officers or Board member whose term expires this year.

NOTE: It is critical that members of the Olde Mill community step up and volunteer to take part in this association to continue the operation of the pool.

### Treasurer's Report

VOMCA: Savings \$1,581.85; Checking \$2,431.37

Swim Club: Savings \$12,048.17; Checking \$27,822.28

### Budget Planning Meeting Held

The VOMCA and Swim Club budget meeting was held on Sunday, November 9.

Paul Shaffer, VOMCA Treasurer Colleen Flack, and VOMCA President Sarah Hakulin met. They took suggestions that were sent in by email into consideration and came up with the proposed budgets for 2015, shown on page 4. These budgets will be discussed at the December 3 meeting and any changes, additions, or deletions will be addressed at that time. If there are none, a vote will be taken. If there are concerns that need to be addressed or items changed, the budget will be voted on at the January 7, 2015, VOMCA meeting.

If there are comments or issues regarding these budgets, please be present at the December 3 meeting or send an email to [board@vomca.org](mailto:board@vomca.org) in time for the meeting at 7 p.m.

#### *2014 Pool Proceeds*

Memberships	\$67,070
Swim Lessons	\$ 7,170
Pool Rental	\$ 576
Lifeguard Fee	\$ 840
Fundraisers	\$ 60
Guest Fees	\$ 5,445
TOTAL	\$81,161

As of August 1: Active Members 165; Inactive Members 48; New Certificates 8

### Village of Olde Mill Articles of Incorporation and Deed for Pool/Athletic Field

Residents can view the deed that gave the swimming pool to the Village of Olde Mill Community Association, Inc. for \$1.00, which transferred it from the developer to the Association in 1975.

Also available is a copy of the Articles of Incorporation that established the association called VOMCA in 1970. These Articles spell out the rules and regulations that govern the pool and community. Read these public documents on our website by going to [www.vomca.org](http://www.vomca.org). Scroll down about halfway on the first page. Also, check out the **bylaws** for your association on the same line.

### Dates to Remember

- Wednesday, December 3: Community Association Meeting at OMHS @ 7 p.m. No Swim Club meeting; Swim Club members are asked to attend general meeting for budget presentation and voting.
- Thursday, December 4: Start of canned & nonperishable food collection for the needy, at Hair Expressions. Donations accepted until Dec. 20.
- Saturday, December 20: Santa's visit to Olde Mill starting @ 2 p.m. See included flyer for time, route, and street information. Canned food donations will also be accepted along the route.

## Thoughts on Olde Mill, and a Farewell

As President Sarah Hakulin says so well in her message on page 1, the Village of Olde Mill needs help and a spirit of renewed volunteerism if it is to continue to make progress and remain viable. It's been 45 years since the first homes were built here. A lot of the "old guard" have served for years, even decades, in various capacities.

Many from that first wave have retired elsewhere, or passed on. In the early years virtually every resident had something in common, establishing their new homes, raising families, and helping build a neighborhood that was great to live in. It was both appealing and easier to donate time and effort to a volunteer community association.

Nowadays there are many more demands on people's time, and usually both parents are in the labor force. But if more of the current generation offered to help in some small way, the work load would be minimal for all involved. And an influx of fresh ideas would serve Olde Mill well. I can see that in the enthusiastic efforts of FOOM with its focused goal of improving the Barlowe Field play area. Just having more than a half dozen residents show up at the monthly VOMCA meeting would be a start.

My personal feeling is that Olde Mill should seriously consider a vote on becoming a Special Tax District. That would create a consistent and significant source of funding to do more than just the bare minimum to keep Olde Mill a desirable neighborhood. Moreover, a management company could be hired to oversee the budgets and handle the big-ticket items of maintaining the pool and play areas, rather than putting that responsibility on the shoulders of volunteers.

All this is a lead-in to me saying that I will be stepping down as the production editor of *The Village Crier*, after more than 25 years. My wife Eileen and I have loved it here in Olde Mill since 1974. But our other love has always been our native state of Pennsylvania, where we plan to relocate in the next six months. I want to see Olde Mill remain a nice place to live for the current and future generations, and will always have a soft spot in my heart for this community. So now we need an editor, too . . .

—Bernie Quarrick, Village Crier production editor

## Santa Taking Reservations for Annual Home Visits

Santa will once again be making home visits in Olde Mill starting Friday, December 12. Parents should call 410-672-2837 and leave a message. You can also send an email to [tomdixon13@hotmail.com](mailto:tomdixon13@hotmail.com). You will be contacted by Santa's helper, Tom Dixon. Please be patient—Santa is very busy this time of year, but he will get back to you.

## VOMCA Membership Information for 2015

Now is the time to renew your 2015 membership in your community association. Please complete the application below and enclose your check for \$15.00 payable to VOMCA in the attached pre-addressed envelope. Your membership card will be mailed to you in the new year. You can also go to [www.vomca.org](http://www.vomca.org) and click on "Join VOMCA" to pay by using PayPal.

 CLIP OUT THIS APPLICATION & MAIL IT IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED WITH THE PRINT EDITION

## 2015 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.*

**PROPOSED 2015 BUDGETS**

**VOMCA  
2015 BUDGET**

		<u>Proposed 2015</u>	
Income			
	Crier Advertising		
	Membership	1,760.00	116 @\$15 Dues
	Mens Softball League	600.00	
	Childrens Soccer	400.00	
	Pool Ops Transfer	2,500.00	
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>5,260.00</b>	
Operating Expenses			
	Crier Advertising	200.00	
	Membership	100.00	
	Bank Fees	20.00	
	<b>GENERAL &amp; ADMINISTRATIVE</b>		
	Presidents Fund	100.00	
	Post Office Box	130.00	
	Website	60.00	
	Grant Filing	150.00	
	<b>TAXES</b>		
	Supplies		
	Real Estate Taxes	1,100.00	Raintax \$1,066.28
	Personal Property Taxes	240.00	
	Tax Preparation Fees	2,800.00	
	<b>MAINTENANCE</b>		
	Field & Area Maintenance	105.00	
	Childrens Playground Area		
	<b>COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES</b>		
	Egg Hunt	60.00	
	Christmas Lights		
	Santa's Ride (NCEON)	100.00	
	Flyers/Fundraisers	50.00	
	Yard Sale Advertising	45.00	
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>5,260.00</b>	
	<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-</b>	

**SWIM CLUB  
2015 BUDGET**

		<u>Proposed 2015</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
Income			
	Active Members	64,970.00	178 members @ \$365
	Guest Fees	5,500.00	\$5.00 flat fee til 5PM--\$3 after 5PM
	Inactive Members	4,000.00	50 members @ \$80
	New Certificates	2,800.00	7new certificates @ \$400
	Transfer Fees	50.00	5 transfers @\$10
	Swim Lessons	7,900.00	Member \$55 Non-member \$70
	Pool Rentals	550.00	\$65 per party
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>85,770.00</b>	
Operating Expenses			
	<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>		
	Advertising/Web Page	250.00	
	Office Supplies	100.00	
	Bank Fees	50.00	
	Insurance	5,500.00	PerProp. \$2246, Bond \$732, Pers \$700-900
	Hospitality (youth parties)_	600.00	
	First Aid Supplies	100.00	
	Amusement Tax	300.00	
	<b>MAINTENANCE &amp; IMPROVEMENTS</b>		
	Barlowe Field	5,255.00	\$4875 Barlowe, \$380 flower boxes FOOM
	Building Structures	1,500.00	
	Decks/Sidewalks	525.00	
	Fire Extinguishers	100.00	
	Furniture	1,000.00	
	Lawn/Grounds - Pool Area	200.00	
	Other		
	Pool/Pump/Filtration	1,530.00	
	Supplies/Chemicals	1,000.00	
	Trash Removal	800.00	
	Propane	200.00	
	<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	1,500.00	Printing, Stamps, envelopes, etc.
	<b>OPERATIONS</b>		
	Health Permit	500.00	
	Management	44,000.00	New contract, Continental Pools
	Supplies	200.00	Toilet tissue, paper towels, cleaners, etc
	<b>PROGRAMS</b>		
	Swim Supplies	475.00	\$240 Red Cross Certificate, swim jackets, barbells
	Swim Instructors	4,400.00	
	<b>UTILITIES</b>		
	Electric	3,600.00	
	Parking Vapor Lights	500.00	
	Telephone - Poolside	450.00	Phone 410-987-1513
	Telephone - Voice Mail	250.00	Phone 410-987-7890
	Water	2,500.00	
	Transfer to VOMCA	2,500.00	
	Transfer to Savings	6,135.00	
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>85,770.00</b>	
	<b>Net Income</b>	<b>85,770.00</b>	

## Here Comes Santa Claus

On Saturday, December 20, Santa will arrive on a Glen Burnie Fire Dept. fire truck with treats for all the girls and boys in Olde Mill. They will also be collecting canned and non-perishable food for the North County Emergency Outreach Network (NCEON), which distributes food to those families in our area who need it most. If you will not be home that day, you can leave your donation (marked "NCEON") on your front step along the route and Santa's elves will pick it up. The need is always greatest around the holidays so please be as generous as you can this season.

If you would like to donate early, you can drop your donations off at **Hair Expressions** in the Olde Mill Shopping Center starting Thursday, Dec. 4, until 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20. We appreciate your support and **Hair Expressions'** yearly generous assistance in this important project. See the list of routes and times of Santa's arrival below.



### SANTA CLAUS IS COMING

Saturday, December 20, 2014



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. 4 and until 1 P.M. December 20, 2014.

Thanks and a Very MERRY CHRISTMAS from  
VOMCA





P.O. Box 151  
Millersville, MD 21108  
December 2014

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 two years including bake sales, our Barlowe 5K Bolt, a Family Fun Day, flea markets, restaurant nights, a craft show, a Trunk or Treat Halloween event, and quarter auctions to raise money for this enormous task.

We plan to replace the present structure and have a natural playscape created for the children of Olde Mill. We have a volleyball court and a climbing wall already and have displayed at various events the plans for the new playscape at Barlowe Field which you all have the chance to help create through your time, support and donations.

Our goal is to raise a total of \$50,000. Through the support of the community and local businesses, we have raised over \$20,000 toward our goal! This is an awesome amount for a community that does not have a mandatory homeowners association and has only been fund raising for 2 years. Your support has been amazing!

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 playscape! 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](http://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.

## Quarter Auction Event Was a Success

We had our best turnout and most money made at the Nov. 15 Quarter Auction. Thanks to all who came to a fun evening of food and shopping to support a new and improved playscape for the children of Olde Mill. Below are some photos from that event.

—*Friends of Olde Mill (FOOM)*



## Be Safe—Crime Can and Does Happen Here

Anne Arundel County Police Lt. John McAndrew spoke to the few people who attended the Nov. 5 VOMCA meeting. He noted that crime can occur anywhere, even here in a safe neighborhood like Olde Mill. Don't be complacent or careless—lock your doors even when you are at home or working in the yard. One example he gave was an incident in Arnold, where an elderly couple left their garage door open while their daughter was visiting. A stranger happened by, hid in the garage, and when the daughter left he was able to enter the home and rob the residents.

A common occurrence is when a resident leaves their car unlocked at night, making it an easy target for vandals or someone looking to steal money from the console, CDs, electronics, or other valuables.

Officer McAndrew's point about crime nearby was underscored very recently, when the Subway shop in Northway Plaza was robbed after 9 p.m. on Nov. 19. Earlier that same week, a Gaithersburg man was the victim of a homicide, found in his car near Williamstowne Drive on the morning of Nov. 17; fortunately, police quickly made an arrest of a Brooklyn Park suspect in that case.

So be smart, be safe, and you won't be sorry.

## Swim Club Changes for 2015

Pool Party Coordinator: Barb Mason

Credit card access for pool membership.

Price increase price for swim lessons: Members \$55 instead of \$45; Non-members \$70 instead of \$60

On membership form, a place for email address has been added.

Swim Lessons: - Eight half-hour classes per session instead of 10 half-hour classes.

- Add lessons taught by certified Red Cross water safety instructors.

- Rain dates will be made up on Fridays as needed. No built-in rain dates.

- No refunds or make-up classes issued to ill children without a doctor's note.

- Do not leave registration at pool. Mail-in only, allowing 4 business days for delivery.

*Note:* A vote will be taken to approve WiFi installation at the the pool for the new season at the December 3 VOMCA meeting.