

Overlea

a Charming Baltimore Neighborhood

Sept 2015 • www.OverleaRocks.org • Join us on Facebook too!

A Message to all Overlea Citizens

By Carol Stover

Warm greetings to everyone! In my first newsletter message as incoming president, I want to share how excited I am to offer my ideas and energy to our common goal of a great community. Dennis Robinson is a strong force in the community – we are grateful to him for his service as former president. Thankfully, he will continue as safety advisor, and keep us connected to news from the local police and fire departments.

I've lived in Overlea with my husband for four years. I love this unique neighborhood and its people. I have great neighbors, and I'm looking forward to getting to know more of the residents, businesses and institutions that make this a fascinating place to live.

The OCA board has many plans for progress in the community. We are creating a marketing plan with improvements to our newsletter, website and social media, to promote a more positive awareness of Overlea. We want to organize more family-oriented social events to bring people together and encourage them to get to know each other. There will be more collaboration with the Overlea-Fullerton Business & Professional Association (OFBPA) to share information and join forces on projects for greater success. We are planning more outreach and connection with the businesses, schools and churches here, to forge a stronger bond with them and help them prosper. Recently I participated in a "business walk" event along Belair Road, and met some great businesspeople. And we continue to work on reducing the bus ridership and trash issues at the bus turnaround, and hope you join this effort. One of our goals is to empower you as residents to contact your local elected officials about concerns. Information is included in this newsletter issue explaining how to lend your voice to that effort.

Our next meeting is Tuesday September 15th at 7:00 PM – I would love to see you there to share your concerns and interests. Come introduce yourself to me, I would enjoy meeting you. The OCA Board is comprised of wonderful people dedicated to Overlea. Consider volunteering with us to work on an issue that holds special meaning for you. And please join the OCA with the membership form in this packet. This is your organization. It speaks for you on the local government level and plans events and improvements for the benefit of all. The more residents that join the OCA, the more we can all do.

I am committed to working hard to help Overlea grow and flourish. This is our neighborhood, let's continue to work together! See you on the 15th!



Community Yard Sale Day Sept. 26, 2015

One person's trash is another person's treasure! To participate in the Community Yard Sale contact Karen Bogner at 410-254-4696. She will put you on the advertising list.

Rain date October 3, 2015.

Get Connected on



Are you "connected" yet? Overlea has its own neighborhood social networking site called NextDoor. Catch up on community news and join neighborhood conversations, simply by clicking on the NextDoor house icon shown on any page of our new website, www.overle rocks.org. Or go to <https://overleabl.nextdoor.com> to sign up. It even has a phone app for the tech-savvy to get instant info on neighborhood happenings. See you "NextDoor!"

OCA MEETING SCHEDULE

NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING:

September 15, 2015 • 7pm

LOCATION: The Natural History Society of MD

6908 Belair Road, Baltimore, MD 21206
corner of Chesley Ave. & Belair Rd.

GUEST SPEAKERS FOR THE SEPTEMBER MEETING:

- Councilwoman Cathy Bevins will be providing legislative updates and Senator Katherine Klausmeier has also been invited.
- Marcus Tadros, MD SHA Project Manager for the Rt. 1 Reconstruction Project. Overview presentation and opportunity for questions from residents.

The OCA holds monthly Board meetings on the first Thursday of every month at 7p.m. All residents are invited to attend. Call or email Carol Stover to confirm meeting time, location and dates - 410-961-6293 or carolstover@comcast.net

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www.lassahnfuneralhomes.com

DUMPSTER DAYS

It does not matter if you live city side or county side - **if you live in Overlea, you can use the dumpster for FREE. Dumpster Days are for OVERLEA RESIDENTS ONLY - NOT FOR COMMERCIAL USE.** There will also be a blue pick-up truck at each event to collect metal objects you want to dispose of.

DUMPSTER DATES at Brook & Overlea Avenues

September 12 • December 12

9am - Noon or until full • Brook Avenue and Overlea Avenue

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED: oil-based paints, pesticides, herbicides, car and household batteries, drain cleaners, gasoline, pool chemicals, tires or any other hazardous materials.

LOOK FOR COUNTY DUMPSTER DATE AND LOCATION IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

Managing Rodent Issues on Your Street

Several streets and alleys in Overlea are experiencing a rat problem. The classic reasons for rats to take up residence in your back alley or yard are TRASH, DEBRIS and dog waste. Don't risk a code violation and a fine from the county or city, as well as your relationship with your neighbors! Here are the community rules for maintaining a clean property and reducing rat activity:

1. All trash must be contained within **TIGHTLY CLOSED METAL OR PLASTIC CANS, AND NOT IN BAGS. DO NOT PUT CURBSIDE GARBAGE OUT IN PLASTIC BAGS!**

2. Do not store your trash in sheds or back yards. Trash and debris in your back yard and the alley behind your house must be disposed of promptly. Piles of yard waste and household junk make perfect nesting areas for rats.

3. Do not allow your grass to become more than 12" high. If the county or city cites you and comes to cut it for you, you will be sent a bill from local government which will be added to your tax liability for the property.

All of these "messy neighbor" habits are enforceable with code violations. If a resident on your block is in violation, you may anonymously report them to Code Enforcement. To report by phone call 410-887-3351 in Baltimore County, and 311 in Baltimore City. To report online, go to <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/permits/codeenforcement/codecomplaint.html> in the County; and in the City, go to <http://www.baltimorecity.gov/311-services>, then click on Trash Garbage/Recycling Collections/Rodents in the drop down menu.

If you decide to use traps or poison to deal with the problem yourself, be mindful of children and pets on your block (as well as birds, squirrels and rabbits), and place the bait and traps where they are unlikely to come in contact with them. Rat colonies are larger and more difficult to eradicate than most people expect, and it may require a professional exterminator.

Meet the OCA Board!

John Miller

John Miller, is the newest Overlea resident to join the OCA Board. He has lived in Overlea for 67 years and still lives in the house he and his father-in-law built from paving stones when Pratt Street was repaved in 1948. The walls of John's house are 18 inches thick! John brings a wealth of insight and history to the Board and we are delighted have him!

US 1- Reconstruction Project Update

Curt Phillips, OCA Task Force Representative

I recently spoke with the Project Manager from the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) to get an update on the US 1 Urban Reconstruction Project.

It is currently on schedule and 90% of the design work is slated for completion by Spring 2016. Likely you've noticed surveyors in the US 1 corridor performing soil borings and digging test pits to locate existing utilities. Work is also in progress preparing right-of-way plats. While all funding and exact timelines are not finalized, it is important for all Overlea businesses and residents along this corridor to keep informed during project phases.

The Current Projected Phases

- Clear Right of Way – Spring 2016 (pending funding)
- Clear Utilities – Spring 2018 (pending funding)
- Begin Construction – Summer 2018 (pending funding)
- Open to traffic – 2021

As the OCA Task Force Representative, I will provide project updates and project information as it becomes available. You may also direct questions or concerns to me at shaoverlearouteone@gmail.com.

Current information can also be found by visiting the SHA Project Website: www.roads.maryland.gov

- Click "Business Center", "SHA Project" and Select Baltimore County.
- Click the US 1, Belair Road project.

Northern Parkway Repaving

Many thanks to Councilman Brandon Scott for listening to the concerns of the community about this road. What a great improvement! We have good friends in Overlea!

We Won!

The Overlea community was awarded BEST EVENT in a commercial revitalization district in Baltimore County. Our Christmas Tree Lighting event was simply outstanding and many thanks to Heather Lassahn for her time, talent and energy at producing this event.

Adult Fitness Classes in the Neighborhood

Fullerton Elementary School. Fall session begins on September 28th. Choose Aerobics, Yoga, or Zumba. (Adult Jazz & Tap available at Elmwood Elementary). Best deal in town. \$40 for the 10 week session, 2 times a week is just \$2 a class. Not sure what you want to do? You can drop in to any class for just \$5. Call Fran Burkhead at 410-661-1898 for more information, or go to www.ofrcdance.com

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Snub The Hub!

Issues at the Bus Loop Turnaround – You Can Help!

For the past several years, Overlea has experienced disturbing problems because of the large number of people using the bus stop on both sides of Belair Road at Overlea Avenue. Overlea is a major MTA Hub, and unacceptable noise levels, extensive graffiti and constant trash throughout this area are daily occurrences.

Volunteers from the OCA remove the graffiti by regularly painting over it, but it has reached a point where they cannot keep up. The Baltimore ARC was commissioned to clean trash from the bus loop on both sides of Belair Road, and State Highways has also been enlisted to help with this constant problem. The sheer volume of patrons at this bus stop area has created an overwhelming concern that our small community simply cannot absorb, and it is having a detrimental effect on Overlea.

For that reason, the OCA has been working diligently since Fall of 2013 to reduce the traffic at this hub. Senator Klausmeier and the MTA have been the focus of the communication, as the MTA is a state agency. It is our belief that moving this major hub to a location farther north on Belair Road with public rest rooms and available food outlets would provide better service to such a large number of bus patrons, and reduce the stress on our neighborhood. It would also help us to upgrade the appearance of the Belair Road corridor, making it more attractive to new businesses. This is a slow process that requires multiple meetings and correspondences with the MTA, and with the office of our State Senator Kathy Klausmeier. We have made progress on the issue, but now we are at point where we need a large outpouring of opinion from the Overlea residents in order to push it forward.

We are asking all residents to call or write Senator Kathy Klausmeier and Councilwoman Cathy Bevins. Complete contact information is listed below. Ask the senator and councilwoman for their support and assistance in getting the hub moved out of Overlea. Include your name, contact information and state any particular instances that you have personally observed or experienced. You can leave a message on their voice mail. A sample letter and phone call script is available and can be emailed to you and it will also be posted on NextDoor. To obtain the sample script, or for more information, please contact Dennis Robinson at 410-426-6709 or drobinson52@comcast.net.

State Senator Katherine Klausmeier
James Senate Office Building, Room 103
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401
410-841-3620
katherine.klausmeier@senate.state.md.us

Baltimore County Councilwoman Cathy Bevins
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OCA OFFICERS AND NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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Design/editing courtesy of Imagine Design Imagine55@verizon.net

The OCA Newsletter is published quarterly for the
Overlea Community Association
P.O. Box 18895, Raspeburg, MD 21206

NEW! Free Programs at the Natural History Society- Naturalist Center

Enjoy Sunday afternoons of fun, hands-on activities and exploration designed for families and for anyone eager to learn more about nature. The programs at the Naturalist Center, located at 6908 Belair Road, will be held every 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month with a separate nature theme each weekend. Programs are free and open to the public. Topics will range from the earth to the sky; from wildlife to plants; from the ancient to the new. Some examples are migration, astronomy, minerals and rocks, and the life in a stream. Activities are planned from 1-4 p.m. - drop in anytime within those hours. More details on each 'Nature Connection', such as guest speakers and activities, will be posted on our webpage at www.marylandnature.org/nature-connections and on the Natural History Society of Maryland Facebook and Meetup pages. The Natural History Society is excited to offer these programs to educate and entertain the community, and to showcase the valuable collections and talented professionals at the center. The staff and volunteers look forward to connecting with you and your families!

Fall Calendar of 'Nature Connections' themes:

Sept 13: Life of Streams

Sept 27: Migration: Hawks & Eagles

Oct 11: Fossil Day!

Oct 25: Halloween special: Spiders, Snakes, and Other Beasts

Nov 8: Life on the Forest Floor

Nov 22: Geology

Save the Date - Holiday Tree Lighting

The second annual tree lighting event is on Saturday, December 12th, 7pm at the community center. Over 200 people attended last year. This year promises to be another great evening to celebrate the holidays!

Safety Report

By Dennis Robinson

Neighbors who are on our Overlea Community Nextdoor site see the weekly crime updates from Major Rich Worley, Commander of the Northeastern District. I want to make sure all are aware that to date not one of the crime trends he has identified have been happening in our community. We continue to be free of crime trends on the county side of the Overlea community as well.

For those not on Nextdoor this is another reminder of the value in logging on if you have internet access. This site alerts each of us to what is happening, including the presence of police helicopters as well as the observations of your neighbors when they see something suspicious or become a victim of a crime. Being well informed helps in our continuing efforts to deter crime.

The most obvious trend in our community is the reluctance of residents to call 911. Commanders of each of the police facilities that serve our community tell me repeatedly, that we should all **CALL 911** for anything of concern or a suspicious nature.

If you live in the city you have the option of using the 311 system for non-emergency calls to the police. Please use it. This system (911 & 311) creates a data base that allows the police to monitor persistent issues. Too often when I hear of a concern from a resident I contact the respective commanders, who check for the 911 calls to the area and find that none were made. I know that in the past many residents viewed the 911 call as futile because the response was so slow. That has improved significantly due to a new shift configuration and a command emphasis on getting to the calls. We need to call to get results and we need results to enhance the community we live in. **CALL!**

Please remember that school has started and we must stop for school buses with flashing lights as they are picking up or discharging children. Drive gently through our community for the safety of all.



Overlea Community Association 2015 – 2016 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Dear Neighbor,

YOUR Overlea Community Association works hard on your behalf to make our community better for everyone who lives here, and we need your support to keep our programs and services going through next year.

Here's what your dues help to finance:

- The quarterly newsletters you receive
- The www.OverleaRocks.org website
- Donations for use of the facilities for General Meetings
- Our post office box
- Beautification projects
- Welcome baskets for new neighbors
- Donations to support the annual fireworks display
- Donations and insurance for the Christmas Tree Lighting event
- Our membership drive
- ... as well as various other operating costs and charitable causes.

The people who serve you in the community are all volunteers, and your dues are only used for Overlea events and operating costs. So every dollar goes into making YOUR community better!

Together we CAN make a difference! Your dues make your neighborhood a better place, so don't wait. Join today!

OCA 2015-2016 MEMBERSHIP FORM - YES! I WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OVERLEA!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please check membership type and make checks payable to: **Overlea Community Association**

Member - \$10 Good Neighbor - \$25 or more Business - \$50

MAIL TO: Overlea Community Association, P.O. Box 18895, Raspeburg, MD 21206

OR PAY ONLINE: with PayPal at www.OverleaRocks.org, click on OCA Membership tab.