

OCA 2023-2024 MEMBERSHIP FORM

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(July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024)

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Please check membership type and make checks payable to:

Overlea Community Association

Member - \$10 per person Good Neighbor \$25 per person

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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.

Holt Park and Center for the Arts

34 Elmont Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21206

Holt Park Happenings!

Autumn is a special time at Holt Park and Center for the Arts. Join us for annual events, celebrations, art classes, and nature programs!

- National Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration: September 15th to October 15th
- Halloween Fairy Houses: October 8th
- Holt Harvest Day: October 22nd
- Holt Haunted Hike: October 28th
- BYO Pumpkin Carving: October 29th

Please visit www.overleafrc.com/programs/holtpark to find out more about our programs and volunteer opportunities!

Community Improvement Updates

The OCA is aware of several abandoned properties within our neighborhood, including the building destroyed by fire at 7201 Belair Road. We continue to stay in contact with both code enforcement and building inspections in Baltimore County to ensure this building is being monitored and will be moving forward for demolition. Unfortunately, this process is slow and leaves the community with an unsightly and unsafe structure to contend with.

If you see a house on your street that is abandoned and needs code enforcement, please call them at 410-887-3551 or use the #BaltCoGO app right on your phone. Easily report items such as overgrown grass, trash, and more. For city properties, call 311 to report issues.

If you see anyone attempting to break into an abandoned property, please call the police. It is crucial that as a neighborhood we keep any eye out for these empty properties that become an eyesore for the community and a target for graffiti and illegal activity.

BGE Updates

BGE contractors have been installing new gas lines and meters in Overlea, east of Belair Road. Members of the OCA have been working with BGE and Baltimore County to limit the impacts of this work on our neighborhood and neighbors. The work is scheduled to be completed the end of July but may still be ongoing due to delays and weather. The work involves replacing the main lines in the road and replacing the old meters with new smart exterior meters. If the contractors have not stopped by your home yet, here is a summary of how the process should go.

BGE will replace the line in the road and may have traffic restricted or blocked with limited parking for a few days. If they are working on your street, they are required to provide you with safe access to your home or driveway at your request within a few minutes. There should be signs to notify you at least 48 hours in advance and for no longer than one week. Once that is done, another crew representative will stop by your home to schedule a meter replacement. At this time you can request where it's located on the outside of your home with some restrictions. You can also decide not to have it done at all if you prefer. The contractors are required to repair the road and your property before they are finished. When the work is completed, the paving crew will patch the trenches with asphalt and repave the roads (either 1/2 or completely, depending on how much was impacted by the work).

If you find that the road conditions or other items related to the work are not going as expected, feel free to email the OCA and we can put you in contact with the appropriate person to address your concerns.

Do You Have the Right Stuff? If So, We Need You!

An OCA Newsletter carrier is needed to deliver newsletters to homes on Maple Ave., between Belair Rd. and Kenwood Ave., four times a year. The route is very small, only about 20 homes.

Please contact Martin Nibali, Community Newsletter editor and distributor at martin@noumeno.us. If this route is not covered, residents will no longer have delivery service on this street. Thank you!

ADVERTISING RATES FOR THE OCA NEWSLETTER

2"x3.5" (business card size) \$50 per issue, \$150 per year (4 issues)

2"x7" / 4"x3.5" \$100 per issue, \$350 per year (4 issues)

Contact Cory Scott @ Corsco@gmail.com

OCA OFFICERS AND NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

President: Melissa Davis, mspicknall1@gmail.com

Vice President: Rebecca Loumiotis

Secretary: Martin Nibali, martin@noumeno.us

Treasurer: Brent Ceryes, ceryes@gmail.com

Newsletter Distributor: vacant

Newsletter Chair: Martin Nibali, martin@noumeno.us

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

Overlea
a Charming Baltimore Neighborhood

Fall 2023 • www.OverleaRocks.org • Join us on Facebook too!

Overlea Community President's Message

Dear Overlea Residents,

Greetings to all the vibrant members of our wonderful community! As the President of the Overlea Community Association, I am delighted to share with you exciting updates and cool events happening in our beloved neighborhood.

Community Garden Blooms: Our community has many amazing gardens in full swing, and it's a sight to behold! Residents have been cultivating beautiful flowers, nutritious vegetables, and aromatic herbs. It's not just about the green thumbs; it's about fostering a sense of togetherness and creating a sustainable environment for everyone to enjoy. Our local Overlea Farmers Market continues to showcase the best summertime produce from our hyper local vendors, including Grateful Gardens located on East Elm Ave! Be sure to stop by! Our market runs until the end of October.

Overlea Artsfest: Congratulations to the ArtsFest board for another successful year! What an incredible experience this three-day event has become, and we are so lucky to have it in our neighborhood. If you missed out on ArtsFest, have no fear. The ArtsFest committee will continue the fun all year-round with a whole host of activities. Be sure to follow them on Facebook!

Volunteer Clean-up Events: We take immense pride in the cleanliness of our streets and parks. Join us for regular volunteer clean-up events, where we come together as a

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Overlea Community Association

Overlea Farmers Market

2023 Season



June 10

June 24

July 8

July 22

Aug 5

Aug 19

Sept 2

Sept 16

Sept 30

Oct 14

Oct 28

8:30-12:30

Natural History Society | 6908 Belair Rd.

facebook.com/overleafarmersmarket

OCA MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Overlea Community Association meeting will be **September 12th, 2023, @ 7pm**. A link to the meeting will be sent out on Facebook. Community updates will be broadcast via OCA Email Bulletins to current members, and advertised on Facebook and Nextdoor.

Please sign up for the community association bulletin emails by becoming a member of the Association.

If membership dues are a barrier to you, please reach out to Melissa Davis about alternatives (president@overleasonline.org).

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community to keep Overlea litter-free and pristine. It's an excellent opportunity to bond with neighbors while making a positive impact on our environment. Watch for a cleanup event in September and follow our Facebook page.

Back to School: School starts August 28th for Baltimore City and Baltimore County public schools. Please join me in wishing all students a positive and productive school year! Many of our local schools, including Fullerton Elementary, Elmwood Elementary, Parkville Middle, and Glenmount Elementary-Middle are in need of supplies. I encourage you to reach out to your local PTA and help our students start off the year stocked-up and ready to learn.

Local Business: We have a thriving business community in Overlea, and we want to celebrate it! Frank's Pizza and Pasta won Best in Baltimore! Congrats!!! New additions include a restaurant at 7400 Belair Rd. and Diablo Donuts in the Beltway Shopping Plaza. Be sure to support local entrepreneurs and strengthen our local economy.

Community NNO Picnic: Our third annual NNO on August 1st was a smashing success! Over 50 neighbors joined in on the beautiful weather and fantastic food. Many thanks to the committee chair, Doris Poling, for making it happen! And thank you to the Natural History Society of Maryland for hosting. What a terrific community partner.

Remember, these are just a few of the exciting things happening in Overlea, and there's so much more to explore and enjoy. I encourage each and every one of you to actively participate in these events and initiatives, as it is your involvement that truly makes Overlea a remarkable community.

If you have any ideas, suggestions, or want to get involved, don't hesitate to reach out to us. Together, we will continue to make Overlea a place we are all proud to call home.

With warm regards,
Melissa Davis, OCA president

Honoring An Overlea Pioneer


For many years, the OCA has been seeking an historical marker to honor an original land owner in Overlea. Margaret Fuller was a widow who moved to Baltimore from Ohio with her six children in 1858. She bought a 43 acre tract of land called Sophie's Garden Regulated. Fullerton Avenue and Fuller Avenue are evidence of the family's influence in the development of Overlea.

The OCA research was focused on the lot at the intersection of Belair Road and Taylor Avenue, believing this was the location of the original log cabin that Mrs. Fuller and her children inhabited. After reading countless deeds and maps, the OCA could not confirm she lived at this specific location. So they sought the help of the Baltimore County Preservation Services. After reviewing the information and maps, they assured the OCA that it had the right historical information, but the wrong location. Margaret Fuller and Sophie's Garden Regulated were on the east side of Belair Road, not the west side, as was originally thought. A good approximation of her original homestead is the Fullerton Community Center.

The OCA looks forward to working with Baltimore County to have Margaret Fuller honored with an historical marker at the Fullerton Community Center.


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State Senator-8th District

Kathy Klausmeier

District Mailing Address:
4100 Walter Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21236

Annapolis Office:
103 James Sen. Off. Bldg.
Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 841-3620

katherine.klausmeier@senate.state.md.us

By Authority: Friends of Kathy Klausmeier, Rebecca Morris, Treasurer

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Councilman, Sixth District

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Historic Courthouse, Second Floor
400 Washington Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204

410-887-3388
Fax: 410-887-5791
council6@baltimorecountymd.gov



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HARRY BHANDARI

HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
COMMITTEE

Annapolis Office
6 Bladen Street, Room 303
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-841-3526 • 301-858-3526
800-492-7122 Ext. 3526

District Office
7701 Belair Road
Nottingham, MD 21236

Harry.Bhandari@house.state.md.us

By Authority: Friends of Harry Bhandari, Treasurer Indra Thapachhetri

Belair Road

Overlea Community Association president, Melissa Davis, has been meeting monthly with representatives from State Highway and Baltimore County, along with our state Senator Kathy Klausmeier. We are advocating for funding to make improvements to the safety and accessibility of Belair Rd. While the state is still in the design stages of the plan, we will continue to move forward and support a better Belair Road for the community and businesses of Overlea. This plan needs you! Let our County Executive and elected officials know that safety and accessibility is important to you as a citizen. These improvements are contingent on budgets set by the county, and those budgets only move with the support of many community members.

Grant Opportunities

The Overlea Community Association is excited about a few grant opportunities available to our neighborhood. The first grant is the Community Revitalization Area Grant, awarded through Baltimore County to neighborhoods designated as a community revitalization district. The OCA has received this grant for the last eight years. It is used to fund our annual farmers market. It was also used to initiate Overlea ArtsFest, which has since become its own non-profit organization.

The OCA also received money for signs and branding for our community. Permitting is taking longer than anticipated, but the funds are available once the project is ready to proceed.

Another grant received by the OCA will be used on the city side of Overlea. This is a Community Safety Works Grant designed to reinforce community ownership, solidarity, and pride, through clean and beautified surrounding streets, sidewalks, and signage. It will be used to replace the Overlea sign in the Fleetwood/Northern Parkway/Walther triangle

Political advertising in the OCA newsletter is accepted on a paid/space available basis, and does not constitute endorsement of any candidate.

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Fax: 410-882-6707
Email: caspersippel@gmail.com

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(Next to St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church at Belair Rd.)

and adding a native garden around it. The OCA will also seek a grant allowing further beautification of this location. The final grant application is for a Commercial Improvement Grant. This funding is available for the creation of commercial façade improvement programs to be administered by local



business associations and non-profits serving commercial corridors/Main Street areas. If the OCA receives this grant, it will be used to help businesses along Belair Road with capital improvements that create uniformity and walkability along that corridor.

There are plenty of other grant opportunities but the OCA needs people to organize these projects. If you'd like to get involved, please reach out to one of our officers or contact a board member through the website, www.overleasonline.org. We look forward to hearing your ideas and working to make them a reality!

Holt Park Enhancement Project
Public Input Meeting - Weds. Sept. 27, 2023


6:30pm • Elmwood Elementary School Gym •
531 Dale Ave 21206.

Seeking public input on upcoming renovations to the park.
info: recparks@baltimorecountymd.gov

Get Connected on **Nextdoor**

Catch up on community news and conversations on Overlea's NextDoor social networking site. Sign up at <https://overleabt.nextdoor.com>.

Danielle McCray, City Councilwoman - District 2



410-396-4808 (office)
410-382-5765 (cell)
410-396-4414 (fax)
100 Holliday Street
Room 525
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Danielle.McCray@baltimorecity.gov

State Delegate – 8th District

Carl
JACKSON

6 Bladen Street, Room 303
Annapolis, MD 21401

410-841-3766
Carl.jackson@house.state.md.us

By Authority: Citizens for Carl Jackson, Kenya R. B. Malone, Treasurer.