

ADVANTAGE LAWN & LANDSCAPING

410-665-0601

AdvantageLawnAndLandscaping.com

Grass Cutting • Spring/Fall Clean Up • Mulching
Hardscaping • Lighting • Other services offered
We could be your "one call does it all" company for your lawn!

Mention this ad and get a discount of 20%

Restrictions apply, may not be combined with other offers
Expires 12/31/2026



OVERLEA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Quarterly Newsletter - Winter 2026

The Overlea Community Association creates neighborhood awareness, community building and works to preserve Overlea's charm by promoting and cultivating this thriving, growing and diverse neighborhood so others will come to live and call Overlea home.

www.OverleaRocks.org • Follow on Facebook too!



Overlea History

In 1858, Margaret Fuller, a widow, brought her six children from Ohio and purchased 43 acres and a tract called Sophie's Garden Regulated, adjacent to Taylor Avenue and Belair Road.* The Lassahn family, as well as other early families in Fullerton, played significant roles in the business and community development of the area. The first post office and general store opened in 1885. Fullerton School started in 1886 in a one room log house. In 1890, it was replaced with a frame school house built on land purchased from the Lassahn family.

Overlea was rural, made up mainly of farmland. Real estate men recognized that the high-lying farmland would make excellent home sites and persuaded the United Railways to extend the Belair Road carline. Belair Road was unpaved in 1902, and the single track carline only ran four times a day, ending at Kenwood Avenue.

Continued on p.2, column 2

Come to the 13th Annual Overlea Community

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

Saturday, December 12, 2026 • 7 PM
Overlea Fullerton Community Center • 7209 Belair Road

Santa and Mrs. Claus are Coming!
On the Rosedale Volunteer Fire Company Truck with gifts for children.

Special Performances By:
Josie Baltimore
The Coal Miners

Activities:
Children's Craft Table provided by Holt Park Center for the Arts
Fire Pit with Boy Scout Troop 419
Free hot chocolate, cookies, and eggnog!

Parking:
Behind Fullerton Community Center with overflow in the Raymond Geddes & Co. parking lot.

Food Drive:
Please bring in-date canned and dry food goods, which will be donated to the local food pantry for our neighbors in need this holiday season.

Sponsored By:
Overlea Community Association

With generous support from:
Raymond Geddes & Co.
Sippel Electric
Rosedale Volunteer Fire Co.
Baltimore County Government

Tina Gale
Branch Manager
Assistant Vice President

ROSEDALE BANK

OVERLEA BRANCH
6708 Belair Road
Baltimore, MD 21206

tgale@rosedale.bank
OFFICE 410.668.1122

NMLS ID 1637773

State Senator - 8th District



Carl JACKSON

Office: 410-841-3620
Carl.jackson@senate.maryland.gov

102 James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

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

MICHAEL ERTEL
Chairman

Baltimore County Council
Old Court House, Second Floor
400 Washington Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204

mertel@baltimorecountymd.gov
410.887.3388
Fax: 410.887.5791



Casper G. Sippel, Inc.
Electrical Contractors



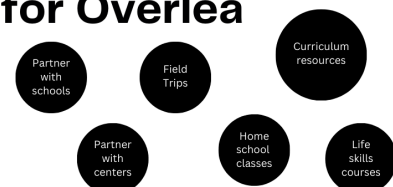
**** Free Estimates on All Electrical Work ****

Address: 7408 Belair Road
Baltimore, MD 21236

Office #: 410-668-3910
Fax #: 410-882-6707
E-Mail: office@caspersippel.com

We teach financial literacy and take Financial Field Trips

Financial Literacy for Overlea



Diapers 2 Deposits
Scan QR code to play S&P Memory Game



CONTACT OUR PROGRAM DIRECTOR:

For more information about partnership, programming, field trips, and classes email Mary-Anne at mary-anne@diapers2deposits.com



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 8
BALTIMORE COUNTY

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 Bhandar, Treasurer Indra Thapachhetri

ADVERTISING RATES FOR THE OCA NEWSLETTER

2"x3.5" (business card size) \$70 per issue, \$200 per year (4 issues)
2"x7" / 4"x3.5" \$120 per issue, \$400 per year (4 issues)
Contact Cory Scott @ Corsco@gmail.com

OCA OFFICERS AND NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

President: Martin Nibali, president@overleasonline.org • 410-302-4342

Vice President: vacant • Secretary: vacant

Treasurer: Cory Scott • Newsletter Distributor: Tom Brocht

Newsletter Editor: Doris Poling, dfpoling18@yahoo.com

Layout/Design courtesy of Imagine Design, Imagine55@verizon.net

COMMUNITY MEETING NOTICE

Community Meeting Tuesday October 13, 2026 at 7pm

Lassahn Funeral Home, 7401 Belair Road

Guest speaker John Smeltzer, Business Development Liaison, Baltimore County Economic and Workforce Development. Resources available for training, job placement and other employment opportunities as well as business opportunities, loans and grants for businesses in the Overlea Commercial Revitalization District.

Recognition by elected officials of Carol Stover for her Overlea Artsfest leadership.

Overlea Community President’s Message

Dear Overlea Neighbors,
Autumn is upon us, and with it comes an invitation: please join us for our Community Association Meeting on **Monday, October 13th**.

We’re pleased to welcome **Johnathan Smeltzer** of **Baltimore County Workforce Development** as our guest speaker. He’ll highlight programs supporting business loans, job training, and job search assistance — valuable resources for residents and local businesses alike.

We’re also delighted to recognize **Carol Stover** for her contributions to our community through Overlea ArtsFest. Thank you, Carol, for bringing creativity and neighbors together year after year.

The arts remain a renewed focus for our association and the county. Look for ongoing developments in our mural project, asphalt art, and neighborhood ID initiative — and ways you can get involved.

Finally, our **Community Tree Lighting** returns on **December 12th**, and volunteers make it happen. If you’d like to help, sign up at the October meeting.

Thank you for your continued support. I hope to see you on October 13th.

With gratitude,
Martin Nibali
President, Overlea Community Association

Shop with a Purpose this Holiday Season - Maryland Museum of Natural Sciences, 6908 Belair Road



On Sunday, November 29, the Maryland Museum of Natural Sciences becomes a one-day-only holiday marketplace filled with minerals, fossils, crystals, shark teeth, Beanie Babyland, and our beloved Big Book Sale packed with great used natural-history books.

This is budget-friendly holiday shopping that supports the museum, strengthens community programs, and delivers gifts that spark awe and wonder, including authentic dinosaur poop.

Hours: MMNS Members: 9am early access
General Public: 10am–3pm
Free admission • Free parking

Come shop with purpose, discover something extraordinary, and take home gifts you won’t find anywhere else. <https://www.marylandnature.org>

Overlea History *Continued from page 1*
The introduction of the trolley service created interest in the location and cottages started springing up. Lange’s Farm was the first name for the area, but the name was changed to Overlea which means “over the meadow.” Apparently from the elevation of the land along the 6800 and 6900 blocks of Belair Road some residents said they could see the bay from their attic windows on a clear day.

In 1910 Cherry Heights was the first housing development in the county intended for African American homeowners. Also that year, Overlea saw its first drug store open and the Overlea Methodist Church was founded when a group of forty people met at the mansion of Mr. and Mrs. James T. Everett to establish a Sunday School in Overlea. In 1910, a grocery store/Town Hall opened on the northwest corner of Belair Road and Overlea Avenue, which is currently the site of the Maryland Natural History Society.

In 1913, the Women’s Suffrage Movement stopped in Overlea during the march from New York to Washington, DC. They held a meeting at the Town Hall, but most residents were not sympathetic to their cause. The suffragettes stayed in the homes of local residents and the meeting won some supporters. Also that year, St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church held its first service in the Town Hall.

In 1919, part of Overlea was annexed by the city. The bi-section of Overlea with the city-county line made it a community under two flags, governmentally speaking. The resulting city-county line bisects 29 parcels of land in the neighborhood, sometimes in curious ways.

The Overlea Improvement League worked to have Belair Road widened to eighty feet with streetcar tracks in the middle and to have a sewage system installed. By 1926, Overlea had all the city conveniences- electricity, gas and water.

Excerpts from “A (very) Concise History of Overlea” by John Stewart. John grew up on Beech Avenue and passed in 2017.



Trick or Treating at the Overlea Farmers Market!
Bring your little ghosts and goblins trick or treating at the last market of the season on Saturday October 24th. All the farmers and vendors will be ready to hand out treats without any tricks needed! 8 W. Overlea Ave. 8:30-12:30pm.

Transformative Art in Overlea
Community artist Kim King, a few neighbors and children turned an eyesore into a treasure. The very old and damaged phone booths were transformed into a work of art. This, along with the recent power washing of the concrete and brick work at the Overlea Streetcar Station by MDOT has greatly enhanced our historical turnaround and we look forward to even more enhancements in the future!



Hey Neighbor, Can You Spare a Few Hours?
Do you have an hour to spare four times a year to take a newsletter delivery route? W. Elm Ave and a few others need a newsletter carrier. Folks love to get the newsletter delivered to their door, but it takes volunteers to do it. To take a route please contact Martin Nibali at 410-302-4342 if you can help.

OCA 2026-2027 MEMBERSHIP FORM

YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT MY COMMUNITY!

(July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please check membership type and make checks payable to:

Overlea Community Association

☐ Member - \$10 per person

☐ Good Neighbor \$25 per person

☐ Business -\$50

☐ Lifetime Member \$500 per person

MAIL TO:

Overlea Community Association, P.O. Box 18895, Raspeburg, MD 21206. If you submitted dues by mail and it was returned, DO NOT remail or throw out. Call or text Debi Brocht, membership volunteer at 410-456-7747 or email brochtdebi@gmail.com arrangements will be made to get your dues.

OR PAY ONLINE:

at www.OverleaRocks.org, click on OCA Membership tab.

My Village
By Jessica Loveless

Many Overlea families have deep roots. I can think of at least six families that have been in Overlea for multiple generations. I represent one of those families.

My parents bought their home in Overlea back in 1991. They thought it would be their starter house, and 35 years later they still call it home. It is where my five siblings and I were raised and ran the streets. When we got married, my husband Jason and I started off in Parkville, and after 6 years, we had the opportunity to move back home to Overlea. And not just back to the neighborhood, but into the home right next door to my parents. In fact, we had a duplex with us on the one side and my family on the other. It is where we raised our five children - hopping back and forth over the dividing porch wall to get to and from their grandparents. We quickly recognized that as the kids got older and bigger, our 1,200 square foot, three bedroom, one bathroom house was not going to fit these growing kids much longer. We also knew that we did not want to leave my family, the Overlea Farmers Market, nor our neighbors who make up much of our “village”. So when a much larger house with a much larger yard went on the market last summer, we jumped at the opportunity to continue raising our family only a block and a half away from our previous home.

How does a family of seven fill their time in Overlea? Well, I homeschool our five kids alongside other families in our neighborhood and keep our house from falling down around us. In my spare time, I run the Overlea Farmers Market (3 years now!) and organize grants for the community association. Jason and the kids can often be found walking around our neighborhood collecting a group of friends like the pied piper. Our children run from yard to yard finding friends to play soccer or football with on the church field behind our house. Now that the older two appreciate spending money, they have found jobs caring for dogs and mowing lawns for our neighbors. On a market Saturday, you are sure to find all of us bopping around the market lot, some working and some visiting with vendors and carrying on with friends. Familiarity is what brought us back to Overlea 11+ years ago, but it is the people in the community that keep us here.

Advertising in the OCA newsletter is accepted on a paid/space available basis, and does not constitute endorsement of any person or business.