

NEW OCHOA BOARD ELECTED

A new OCHOA Board was elected at the Annual Meeting, held virtually on October 21. The new Board is as follows:

President: Vacant

Vice President: Ann Metayer

Secretary: Audrey Partington

At-Large member: Eric Wenocur

Krista Boteler is the OCHOA Treasurer/CPA (a paid position).

In the absence of a Board President, the Vice President is performing many of the duties performed by the President. These include oversight of the landscaping and snow removal contracts, and serving as the key contact for homeowners. Thank you, Ann!

HOA FEES HOLD STEADY, GET AUTOMATED

The quarterly fees will remain at \$66 for the first quarter of 2022. Fees will only be increased during the year if there are unforeseen expenses. Homeowners will be notified in advance of an increase.

As always, residents receive quarterly bills, which can be paid by check. But now homeowners can pay their fees electronically using Zelle. Instructions for setting up a Zelle account can be found at <https://www.zellepay.com>. Zelle payments should be sent to: treasurer@olneycrossingmd.org.

TRASH TALK

It's a new year! So why not make a resolution to do a better job of trash and recycling? The OCHOA Declaration of Covenants (Article VI, section 7) states: "Garbage shall be regularly removed from property and shall not be allowed to accumulate thereon." Beyond not leaving trash on your lawn, what does this mean? The Montgomery County gov website (montgomerycountymd.gov/sws/programs) explains how to handle your trash:

Garbage must be put out for collection in 45-gallon containers.

DO NOT put trash cans, recycling bins, and bagged yard waste at the curb earlier than 1 day before pickup.

DO REMOVE THEM within 24 hours after pickup. If you have more than 5 bags of garbage (the capacity of a standard 45-gallon can) you can request bulk trash collection from the county at no cost up to 5 times per year by calling 311 (240-777-0311). Or schedule bulk pick-ups online at the county website listed above.

Recycling bins

DO NOT put Styrofoam and polystyrene packing materials in recycling bins. Doing so contaminates the entire load.

DO rinse out bottles, jars, and cans before putting them in recycling bins. Remove the lids from bottles and jars. Let's all work together to keep our properties clear of trash!

NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT – HOLIDAY HOUSE

Tim Straight will be the first to admit that he has skeletons in his closet. He also has them in his attic and garage. If you don't know who Tim is, you certainly know where he lives. Every Halloween and Christmas, Tim's house on the corner of Hines Road and Monitor Drive has the grandest, scariest, and most beautiful decorations in the neighborhood. His graveyard, spider, and ghosts made the front page of the Greater Olney News in 2020, and



Channel 4 captured aerial footage of his yard this year. And that doesn't include the car traffic. "I have to apologize to drivers coming down Hines Road because cars slow down to look at the decorations," he joked.

A self-professed Halloween enthusiast, (his wife is the Christmas decorator) Tim helped create spooky statuary and was even a living ghoul for 10 years at the seasonal attraction "The Haunted Forest" in Poolesville. "I was their head chainsaw guy," he explained. The most common question Tim gets is: Where do you store all that stuff? "Usually, everywhere," Tim explained, "but we're doing work on the garage, so my friend is storing some of the Halloween things at his place."



The holiday scenes have a secondary purpose, to raise money for St. Jude's Hospital for Children. He added fundraising to the mix after his friend's young son was taken by brain cancer. Tim and a group of other Halloween-decorators helped raise more than \$150,000 for the hospital. Beyond doing good and entertaining the neighborhood, Tim hopes to inspire others to put up their own decorations. "I've seen a lot more people put up decorations in the six years I've been doing this," he says.

So, Olney Crossing -- Got any skeletons you want to put on your lawn in October?

If you have a neighbor who does something interesting and you'd like to nominate that person/family to be profiled in a future Neighbor Spotlight, please send an email with information to webmaster@olneycrossingmd.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

OCHOA needs your help!

The Board is still without a President and can always use more At-Large members. Homeowners may volunteer to join the OCHOA Board during the year on an acting basis, pending formal Board elections at the next Annual Meeting (fall 2022).

Please consider serving on existing committees (Architectural Review, Communications/Outreach) or reviving former committees such as Grounds, Safety.

Volunteers are needed to scan OCHOA documents, such as the Bylaws and Declaration of Covenants, and convert them to a searchable format. The documents are available on the OCHOA website (olneycrossingmd.org), but are not word searchable.

Volunteers are also needed to represent OCHOA at monthly meetings of the Greater Olney Civic Association. GOCA meets (virtually) on the second Tuesday of the month, with the exception of August.

If you have questions about your billing, please email kristaboteler@comcast.net. Other inquiries can be directed to webmaster@olneycrossingmd.org.