

OCHOA Newsletter Spring 2025

NOTE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

As your new OCHOA Board President, I want to introduce myself and let you know my ideas for my three-year term. My husband, Glen, and I are 32-year residents of Olney Crossing. Glen was HOA President in the mid-1990s. I also want to thank the former OCHOA Board: Ann Metayer (Vice President), Audrey Partington (Secretary), and Eric Wenocur (At-Large Member) for their work.

My main goal is to help all of us form a tighter community by creating opportunities for residents to gather for social or volunteer activities that would benefit all our members. Later in this newsletter, you will see some ideas for getting started, like the May 18 get together, and sharing of email addresses (see items below). The Board would like to have more on-going interaction with homeowners. So, when I, or one of the other Board members, are out walking, we might come up and introduce ourselves.

Best regards,

Michele McLeod, OCHOA President

email: president@olneycrossingmd.org

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, MAY 18 FOR COMMUNITY OUTDOOR EVENT

On Sunday, May 18, starting at 3 p.m. Olney Crossing HOA will hold a community-wide get together at the common area field on the north side of Hines Road, just beyond Monitor Drive. OCHOA residents are invited to stop by and meet neighbors from other streets, enjoy food and drinks, and play games. You may meet people in the community who have similar interests to you, whether it's walking, card playing, Pokemon GO adventuring, or other pursuits. If you play an instrument, bring it along!

More details will be provided on the OCHOA website closer to the date. We will need help with organizing food, and outdoor games for adults and kids. Please email events@olneycrossingmd.org if you can help. We look forward to seeing you!

BOARD ACTIONS JANUARY – MARCH 2025

Your volunteer OCHOA Board members Michele McLeod (President); Eric Wenocur (Vice President); Iman Niknejad (Secretary) and At-Large Members Delyara Vacin and Carol Bickford dealt with several issues in the first quarter.

February saw two snowstorms that required the landscaping company (CER) to salt and clear the sidewalks on Hines Road. Because we tend to have mild winters, expenditures on snow removal may

exceed the amount allotted in the budget. The Board is exploring ways to save money on snow removal in future years.

A large tree in the common area on the south side of Hines Road and Winter Laurel Drive was uprooted in a windstorm and fell into a resident's yard. The homeowner's insurance covered minor damage to the house and removal of the portion of the tree that landed in the yard. The remainder of the tree and stump in the common area was removed and the ground repaired by OCHOA's landscaper.

The Board approved an architectural change request to add a fence to a property located on the north side of Monitor Drive.

DUES PAYMENTS THROUGH ZELLE VS CHECKS

Since the winter of 2022, OCHOA residents have had the option of paying quarterly dues through Zelle, a free money transfer system offered by all the local banks in Olney and many credit unions.

Homeowners are encouraged to pay by Zelle, if possible. Paying by Zelle saves the homeowner the cost and uncertainty of mailing the check and provides assurance that the payment is automatically credited. Paying by check, on the other hand, creates a lag from the time the check is mailed, collected from the post office, and deposited into the HOA bank account. In 2024, roughly 55 percent of households paid their dues by check, 35 percent paid through the Zelle app from their bank and nine percent used both Zelle and check over the course of the year.

To switch to a Zelle payment, use the money transfer section of your online banking website. From the Zelle payment system, direct your payment to: treasurer@olneycrossingmd.org. If you are concerned about using the system for the first time, you can send a test payment of a dollar. You will receive confirmation from your bank that the payment was delivered. Then you can send the remainder of the payment.

EFFORT TO COLLECT EMAIL ADDRESSES

Every three months members are mailed a paper copy of the newsletter, along with their quarterly billing statement, to keep residents informed of Board actions and upcoming events. OCHOA has been making an effort to get a current email address for at least one person in each household to whom we can send the newsletter and invoice. We will send out a test email to addresses we have and will collect additional emails in person. If you would like to voluntarily share your email, please send the email address, your name and street address to: webmaster@olneycrossingmd.org

Thanks for your help on this!