Oakland Mills Village Meeting

“Improving Oakland Mills for Tomorrow, Today”

January 15, 2005
The Other Barn
Oakland Mills Village Center
Thank you to the Partnership Group for your support and dedication to the success of Oakland Mills.

Members of the Partnership Group represent the following organizations: the Columbia Foundation; the Horizon Foundation; the Rouse Company Foundation; the Enterprise Foundation; the United Way of Central Maryland; the Oakland Mill Village Board; the Oakland Mills Community Association; Howard County Council; Brother on the Move; the Howard County Department of Police; the Local Children’s Board; Kimco Realty; the Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development; the Columbia Association; Howard County Economic Development Authority; the Howard County Public School System, and Howard County Planning and Zoning.
Setting Priorities for the Future of Oakland Mills

Last February, 160 residents of Oakland Mills came together to launch a planning process to revitalize the Village. Over the course of the half-day forum, participants developed a vision for the future of the community, identified the most important actions needed to reach the vision, and made personal commitments to do their part.

The results of the town meeting have been used over the past year to create a draft Revitalization Plan that will be reviewed at today’s meeting. The draft plan, which offers strategies in the areas of safety, housing, education, and Community Vibrancy, will serve as a road map for helping Oakland Mills to reach its vision.

A Year of Accomplishments

In addition to drafting the plan, residents of Oakland Mills and partner organizations have already made many positive steps towards reaching their vision:

Initiatives Led by Residents of Oakland Mills

- The creation of four Action Committees to lead and monitor action on each of the Revitalization Plan’s strategic areas
- The hiring of a Community Development Officer to engage residents in the revitalization process and to help implement the Revitalization Plan
- A participant in last year’s village meeting created a Street Captains program to improve communication in the community
- The community successfully rallied for full-day kindergarten and a favorable high school redistricting decision

Other Initiatives and Accomplishments

- A Community Policing Office was created to improve public safety; it received a Governor's Crime Prevention Award
- A 50% decrease in crime throughout Oakland Mills
- The opening of Food Lion on November 17, 2004
- The Columbia Association ran new youth programs to provide structured activities throughout the summer
- Funds were allocated from the Local Children's Board for after school programs at Oakland Mills High School and Talbott Elementary School
- The Oakland Mills Community Association completed a property standards evaluation program that has improved the appearance of the Village by bringing attention and resources to properties needing repairs

How was the Revitalization Plan Created?

Over the past 18 months, The Enterprise Foundation has worked with the Partnership Group, a committee of community leaders, to manage the Oakland Mills community planning process. This effort has led to the development of four strategies to revitalize the community.
The primary goals of the planning process have been to:

- Define and clarify key issues
- Explore solutions to address these issues
- Develop strategies that solve problems and strengthen the community
- Determine priority strategic actions

To date, the Enterprise Foundation has collected data about the community, convened focus groups, met with key stakeholders, interviewed residents, conducted an online survey of community members, hosted a town hall meeting and facilitated planning and strategy sessions with the Partnership Group.

The input from all of these sources was then used to shape the Revitalization Plan for Oakland Mills.

**Purpose and Goals of Today’s Meeting**

During today’s meeting we will review and discuss the draft Revitalization Plan and its primary findings. We will consider each of the four strategic areas in turn. Every person will have the opportunity to suggest additional action items that they feel are missing from the current Plan.

Participants will also be asked to select the action items they believe are of greatest importance in achieving the vision for Oakland Mills. Following a discussion around priorities, each person will cast a vote for the two or three actions they believe must be implemented to successfully revitalize Oakland Mills.

**What Will Happen After Today?**

Following this meeting the Partnership Group will use your input to revise and finalize the Revitalization Plan. The Final Plan will reflect the ideas, actions and priorities identified today.

After finishing the Plan, the Partnership Group will identify available public and private resources and support the work of the newly formed Action Committees in their efforts to implement the Plan.

There are four Action Committees, one for each of the strategic areas of the Plan. The Committees are responsible for coordinating implementation of the action items and for oversight of the Plan. The structure of the four Action Committees has been put in place, but there is still much work to be done.

The Committees are eager to welcome any residents interested in helping to further their work. Throughout the day you will learn more about the Action Committees and have the opportunity to join a Committee.
Background

Who We Are

Oakland Mills is a diverse and dynamic community that is home to more than 9,000 residents, including more than 3,400 households. The Village consists of three neighborhoods; Thunder Hill; Talbott Springs; and Stevens Forest.

As the chart below shows, Oakland Mills is home to residents of a variety of ethnic and racial backgrounds.

![Population of Oakland Mills](chart)

- Caucasian, 55%
- African America, 31%
- Asian, 6%
- Latino, 8%

Oakland Mills is a youthful village, with 1,300 people between the ages of 5 and 14. An additional 1,300 residents are between the ages of 50 and 59. There are 300 residents over the age of 70.

How We Are Organized

Oakland Mills is not governed in the same way as most other communities in the United States. Because Columbia was a planned “new town,” the responsibility for community operations are divided between several entities:

- Howard County Government
- Howard Research and Development Corporation
- The Columbia Association
- The Oakland Mills Community Association (OMCA)
- The Village Board
- The residents themselves

On the next page is a brief description of each of these entities, including their areas of responsibility.

Another entity working with the Village is the Partnership Group, made up of community leaders and stakeholders focusing on the revitalization of Oakland Mills. Partnership Group members are dedicated to successfully achieving the vision of the community. The Group has elected an Executive Committee to work with the community to implement the Revitalization Plan and to monitor the achievement of goals set by the community.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entity</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| Howard County | The Howard County government represents 248,000 people. The County is governed by a five-member County Council | - Oversees Public schools and libraries  
- Police and fire services  
- Snow removal  
- Planning and zoning  
- Trash collection  
- Street maintenance  
- Other traditional government services |
| Howard Research and Development Corporation (Rouse Company) | HRD developed Columbia according to Howard County’s New Town Zoning District. HRD is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Rouse Company | - Only HRD may propose amendments to the Final New Town Development Plan before the County Planning and Zoning Board |
| Columbia Association (CA) | The Columbia Association is a private non-profit, community service corporation governed by a 10 member board of representatives from each of Columbia’s nine Villages and the Town Center | - Owns and maintains over 3,100 acres of open space, including over 80 miles of pathways  
- Owns and operates the Teen Center and the Ice Rink  
- Owns the Other Barn, Talbott Springs, Thunder Hill, and Steven’s Forest neighborhood centers |
| Oakland Mills Community Association (OMCA) | OMCA is a non-profit civic organization managed by a five member Board of Directors elected by residents | - Promotes the health, safety, common good and social welfare of Village residents  
- Fosters community participation on a grassroots level  
- Supports the Village Board and administers the village covenants  
- Manages the Other Barn and the CA’s neighborhood centers |
| OMCA Members | Members are owners of property within Oakland Mills’ three neighborhoods or tenants who reside on property within Oakland Mills under a written lease | - Elect the Village Board  
- Maintain property  
- Contribute to the vision of Oakland Mills |
Our Vision

Last year, the residents of Oakland Mills came together to develop a shared vision for the future of the community:

To be an attractive, stable, and healthy community where businesses thrive, open space is well maintained, youth are supported and people of all ages have the opportunity to engage in community activities.

Our Values

The following values were also identified by residents as part of the core of their vision for Oakland Mills:

♦ Respect for Others ♦
♦ Diversity ♦ Community Involvement ♦ Empowered Residents ♦ Quality Education ♦
♦ Security and Safety ♦
♦ Economic Viability ♦ Integrity ♦
♦ Youth ♦

Our Goals

To achieve the vision the community has set for itself, the following goals must first be met:

A safe, beautiful, thriving village center with viable businesses and opportunities for learning, sociability, civic action and recreation that sustain community-wide cohesion and village identity

Residents of all ages, backgrounds, and incomes are supported and have the opportunity to grow and positively contribute to the health of the community

A well-informed and engaged community forging a public image of health, beauty, and strength
Our Strategy

The Revitalization Plan for Oakland Mills focuses on four related strategies that have been identified as the most critical issues facing the community. These strategic areas are directly linked to Oakland Mills’ vision and goals. To achieve the goals and subsequent vision, these strategic areas and actions items must first be undertaken:

**Strategic Area 1: Safety**

To foster a safe environment through crime prevention methods, resident awareness and physical improvements to enhance the quality of life for all who live, work, shop and play in the community.

*Strategic Action Items:*
1. Improve Pathways
2. Enhance Lighting
3. Enforce Leases
4. Support Effective Law Enforcement
5. Establish a Village-wide Community Watch

**Strategic Area 2: Housing**

To create an attractive and stable housing market through activities and programs to support homeowners, tenants, property managers and homebuyers.

*Strategic Action Items:*
1. Provide Financial Assistance and Incentives for Homeownership
2. Rehabilitate and Beautify a Home to Serve as a Demonstration Model
3. Strengthen the Management of Rental Properties
4. Create a Housing Policy Subcommittee
5. Coordinate a Master Campaign Emphasizing the Benefits of Living in Oakland Mills

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**Village of OAKLAND MILLS**

**Vision:**
To be an attractive, stable, and healthy community where businesses thrive, open space is well maintained, youth are supported and people of all ages have the opportunity to engage in community activities.

**STRATEGIC AREAS**
- Safety
- Housing
- Education
- Community Vibrancy

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OAKLAND MILLS VILLAGE MEETING
Improving Oakland Mills for Tomorrow, Today
**Strategic Area 3: Education**

To provide opportunities for lifelong learning through programs and services designed to prepare all residents for effective participation in the community.

*Strategic Action Items:*
1. Establish a Village Shuttle Bus
2. Develop Academic and Recreational After School Programs at All Schools
3. Create a Collaborative to Organize Youth Activities and Programs
4. Strengthen Continuing Adult Education Programs
5. Support Development of the Thunder Hill Park Children’s Garden
6. Create an Education Policy Sub-Committee

**Strategic Area 4: Community Vibrancy**

To grow the community through shared communication, coordinated systems, and the election of diverse, talented and accountable leadership, to benefit the growth of all members of the community.

*Strategic Action Items:*
1. Establish a Town Link Website
2. Grow the Street Captains Program
3. Support an Annual Village Board Training and Planning Retreat
4. Offer English as a Second Language Classes
5. Energize the Village Center
Strategic Area 1

Safety
Oakland Mills residents said improving Village safety was critical to the future of the community. They said that crime could be reduced through regular path upkeep, and improved lighting on paths and throughout the Village.

To decrease and prevent juvenile crime, residents have suggested the development of constructive activities for young adults that take place during the gap periods when juvenile crime rates are highest. Residents also suggested that improving rental screening and lease enforcement might positively affect safety.

The Current State of Safety in Oakland Mills

Crime
- In 2003, Oakland Mills had higher numbers of arrests for the possession or sale of illegal drugs than comparable Villages
- Oakland Mills also had slightly higher numbers of arrests for disorderly conduct, robbery, and weapons violations
- The highest numbers of calls to police included assault, disorderly conduct, noise complaints and suspicious subjects
- In 2004, crime was dramatically reduced by fifty percent for assaults, burglaries, disorderly conduct, and loitering. There were even greater reductions in the number of motor vehicle thefts and drug violations

Paths
- Paths are maintained by both Howard County Parks and Recreation and the Columbia Association

Lighting
- Many light fixtures have been vandalized, others are not well maintained, and in some areas there are not enough lights
- Lighting improvements along Stevens Forest Road were approved and will be funded by Howard County
- New lights are needed at Grande Point Apartments, Dorsey’s Forge Apartments, Shadow Oaks Condominiums, and Autumn Crest
- The pathways are not lighted

Juvenile Crime
- 47% of violent youth crime occurs during the after-school hours of 2 p.m.-8 p.m. These times are also the peak periods for substance abuse
- Just 14% of violent youth crime occurs between 11 p.m.-7 a.m.
- These gap periods (after school, weekends, summers and vacations) are high risk times for young people
- Structured gap period activities can prevent juvenile crime

Lease Enforcement
- Lease enforcement can be an effective tool in decreasing criminal activity
- The appropriate language must be in the lease and lease violations must be reported to the property manager

Achieving Our Vision
We should foster a safe environment through crime prevention methods, resident awareness and physical improvements to enhance the quality of life for all in the community.
Based on the ideas and suggestions presented at the February 7, 2004, the following safety-related Action Items were developed to achieve our goals and shared vision for Oakland Mills:

1) **Improve Pathways** – To maintain and monitor paths to ensure they are safe and clean so all residents can enjoy them.

Action Items:
- Improve the appeal and safety of the pathways through new signs that create reference points for emergency responders
- Develop a regular schedule of path upkeep and put a system in place to report maintenance needs
- Transform the most useful informal paths into official paths
- Clearly mark paths and the space surrounding them as private property, open space or county property to assist the police

What Resources Do We Need to Implement This Strategy?
- How much funding is needed? And where will it come from?
- Volunteers to help clean the paths
- Support from Howard County in maintaining paths on county property
- Frequent police patrols
- Trash collection
- Coordination between the Columbia Association and Howard County
- Lighting, signs and landscaping
- Addition of an emergency locator system

What Resources Might Be Available To Help Us Implement This Strategy?
- Support of Howard County
- Partnership with the Columbia Association
- Support of the Howard County Police Department
- Cooperation of people who own private property adjacent to paths
- Possible donations of time and materials from private contractors

2) **Enhance Lighting** – To improve lighting across the village to increase the safety of residents and deter criminal activity.

Action Items:
- Improve the lighting surrounding apartment buildings and on the roads leading in and around the Village Center
- Repair, replace, and clean all lights
- Install timer activated solar powered lights along pathways

What Resources Do We Need to Implement This Strategy?
- How much funding is needed? And where will it come from?
- Cooperation of the Howard County Department of Public Works
- Support of the Columbia Association
- Cooperation with Baltimore Gas and Electric
- Support of Kimco Security

What Resources Might Be Available To Help Us Implement This Strategy?
- Support of the Columbia Association
- Support of Baltimore Gas and Electric
- Cooperation of the Howard County Department of Public Works
- Willingness of private property owners to light their property

3) **Enforce Leases** – To work with property owners and property managers to hold renters throughout the Village (renters of single-family homes and apartment units) accountable for meeting the legal provisions of their leases.
Action Items:

- Encourage property owners to use leases that can be legally enforced if necessary
- Encourage property managers to communicate with renters about any lease violations they are aware of
- Begin a formal partnership with the Howard County Police Department to provide property managers with police reports that pertain to renters

What Resources Do We Need to Implement This Strategy?

- Ongoing communication between property managers and the police
- Cooperation of property managers and home owners who rent their properties
- An effective way to screen potential tenants
- The expertise of a lease or legal expert
- Materials to educate property owners on leases and legal requirements

What Resources Might Be Available To Help Us Implement This Strategy?

- The Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development
- Collaboration with the Howard County Police Department
- Partnership with the Columbia Association
- Support of property owners and managers
- Support of the State’s Attorney’s Office
- Support of the community

4) Support Effective Law Enforcement – To encourage police to adopt community suggestions that will lead to more effective crime prevention.

Action Items:

- Work with the police to coordinate police substation shifts with the needs of the community, this might mean staffing two separate shifts
- Encourage police to adopt a strategy that increases the number of bike patrols

What Resources Do We Need to Implement This Strategy?

- How much funding is needed? And where will it come from?
- Support of the Howard County Police Department and the Village sub-station
- Support of Kimco Security
- Community support
- Bike patrol capabilities
- Spanish speaking police officers

What Resources Might Be Available To Help Us Implement This Strategy?

- Support of the Howard County Police Department
- Community support
- The Oakland Mills Police sub-station
- Kimco Security at the Village Center

5) Establish a Village-Wide Community Watch – To reduce crime and compliment the Street Captains program by expanding communication between the community and police.

Action Items:

- Residents partner with police to be careful observers, good reporters and to support the work of the police

What Resources Do We Need to Implement This Strategy?

- How much funding is needed? And where will it come from?
- Community Participation
- Collaboration with Howard County Police
- Participation of local merchants and retailers
What Resources Might Be Available To Help Us Implement This Strategy?

- Support of the Enterprise Foundation
- Community Participation
- Partnership with the Howard County Police Department
- Support of merchants and retailers
- The Community Development Officer
Strategic Area 2

Housing

Oakland Mills residents said improving housing conditions in the Village was critical to the future of the community. They said they wanted attractive, stable housing, bolstered by activities and programs that help to support homeowners, tenants, property managers and homebuyers.

Residents cited the importance of Oakland Mills’ reasonable cost of living in their decision to move to this community. This continues to be a high priority for many people. Residents also said they value the variety of housing opportunities that allow people of all backgrounds to call Oakland Mills home.

The Current State of Housing in Oakland Mills

Housing Stock

- 54% of homeowners are between the ages of 45 and 64
- The homeownership rate is 62%
- The majority of homes in the Village were built in the 1970s with many showing signs of aging

Demographics

- 32% of current residents did not live in their home or in Howard County before 1995
- Between 1990 and 2000, the number of seniors in Oakland Mills grew from 338 to 557. In 2008, this number is projected to increase to 859

Property Management

- 36% of housing units are renter occupied
- 1,200 housing units are rented (900 apartments and 288 homes)

- 64% of renters are between the ages of 25 and 44

Achieving Our Vision

Create an attractive and stable housing market through activities and programs that support homeowners, tenants, property managers and homebuyers.

Based on the ideas and suggestions presented at the February 7, 2004 Village Meeting, the following housing-related Action Items were developed to achieve the goals and shared vision for Oakland Mills:

1) Provide Financial Assistance and Incentives for Homeownership - To assist households with limited down payment amounts to become homeowners.

Action Items:

- Create a lease purchase program for residents to lease a house, with a part of their rent payments going towards a down payment on the same house
- Provide down payment assistance as part of “Marketing Fest,” a day long coordinated effort to promote the benefits of living in Oakland Mills
- Partner with community development financial institutions to create savings accounts – Individual Development Accounts (IDA), where participants can save money for a down payment
- Participate in Howard County’s “Workforce Housing” program to promote affordable home-ownership opportunities in Oakland Mills

What Resources Do We Need to Implement This Strategy?

- How much funding is needed? And where will it come from?
• How will we gain public support for these programs?
• Where will we find the expertise we need to implement this strategy?

What Resources Might Be Available To Help Us Implement This Strategy?
• Support of the Enterprise Foundation
• Partnership with the Columbia Bank
• Support of the Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development

2) **Rehabilitate and Beautify a Home to Serve as a Demonstration Model** - To serve as a resource for those in the community interested in renovating their homes. Helps maintain and increase the property value of homes.

Action Items:
• The Village will buy an aging home and modernize and renovate it
• Market the rehabbed home as a model for other property owners
• Hold demonstrations for neighbors on how to rehabilitate their own homes

What Resources Do We Need to Implement This Strategy?
• How much funding is needed? And where will it come from?
• How will we gain public support for this program?
• Where will we find the expertise we need to implement this strategy?
• How do we identify homeowners interested in participating in this program?

What Resources Might Be Available To Help Us Implement This Strategy?
• Local Building Expertise
• The Citizen Services Loan Program provides low interest loans for home improvements

• Homeowners and renters interested in volunteering
• Support of the OMCA Architectural Committee

3) **Strengthen the Management of Rental Properties** – To increase communication between apartment managers, single property rental managers and the community.

Action Items:
• Provide support to apartment property managers, including creation of an information exchange system
• Provide support to one-property landlords and enforce rental permit laws

What Resources Do We Need to Implement This Strategy?
• How much funding is needed? And where will it come from?
• Where will we find the expertise we need to implement this strategy?
• Support of tenants associations
• Support of the Housing Authority
• Relationships with property owners and managers

What Resources Might Be Available To Help Us Implement This Strategy?
• Partnership with the State Health Department
• Support of the Oakland Mills Community Association
• Support of the Howard County Department of Housing and Housing Inspectors

4) **Create a Housing Policy Sub-Committee** – To understand housing
policies and to monitor their impact on Oakland Mills.

Action Items:
• Monitor and influence state and local policy on issues that impact the housing market in Oakland Mills

What Resources Do We Need to Implement This Strategy?
• Current data on state, county and federal housing policy
• Cooperation of the Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development

What Resources Might Be Available To Help Us Implement This Strategy?
• State and County housing resources and officials
• The Village Board Sub-Committee on Housing

5) Coordinate a Master Campaign Emphasizing the Benefits of Living in Oakland Mills - To attract long-term investment in Oakland Mills and remain competitive in the real estate market.

Action Items:
• Create brochures for realtors and prospective buyers
• Add photos of beautiful homes to the Oakland Mills website
• Maintain a list of high-quality contractors and cooperative realtors
• Recognize and emphasize the value of the pedestrian connector to the Village Center
• Organize “Marketing Fest,” a day long coordinated effort to promote the benefits of living in Oakland Mills. Provide a bus tour of the community, and guided tours of notable homes

What Resources Do We Need to Implement This Strategy?
• How much funding is needed? And where will it come from?
• Where will we find the expertise we need to implement this strategy?
• How do we identify homeowners interested in participating in this program?
• The creation of marketing materials

What Resources Might Be Available To Help Us Implement This Strategy?
• Partnership with the Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development
• Support of the Columbia Bank
• The local expertise of community members
Strategic Area 3

Education

Oakland Mills residents noted the importance of ensuring that all youth attend good schools, enjoy access to quality afterschool activities, and benefit from safe transportation to and from afterschool activities.

Residents also support the creation of more lifelong learning programs. This may include English as a Second Language classes and other courses or workshops that meet the needs of the adult community.

The Current State of Education in Oakland Mills

Several schools feed into the Oakland Mills High School. Those schools include Oakland Mills Middle School, Cradle Rock School (K-8), Jeffers Hill Elementary School, Stevens Forest Elementary School, Talbott Springs Elementary School, and Thunder Hill Elementary School.

Schools

- 2004 Assessment Data shows uneven results in meeting the local standards for Reading and Math across schools and within a variety of student groups (the local standard is to have 70% of the students pass the test).
- Some schools met the local standards while student groups within that school did not.
- 76% of Oakland Mills Middle School students were at or above proficiency in Reading and 50% were at or above proficiency in Math
- 73% of Cradle Rock School students in grades 6-8 were at or above proficiency in

Reading and 52% were at or above proficiency in Math
- 82% of Jeffers Hill Elementary School students grades were at or above proficiency in Reading and in Math
- 80% of Stevens Forest Elementary School students grades K-5 were at or above proficiency in Reading and 77% were at or above proficiency in Math
- 70% of Talbott Springs Elementary School students grades K-5 were at or above proficiency in Reading and 77% were at or above proficiency in Math
- 94% of Thunder Hill Elementary School students grades K-5 were at or above proficiency in Reading and 90% were at or above proficiency in Math

Transportation

- Transporting youth to resources after school hours is still an obstacle
- Attendance for programs that are fee-based is very low, there is a need to provide programs that are free or that determine fees on a sliding scale

Lifelong Learning

- 60% of residents surveyed indicated that currently available lifelong learning opportunities do not meet their needs
- OMCA is improving educational offerings for the community but more needs to be done to inform residents of learning opportunities

Achieving Our Vision

To provide lifelong opportunities for learning through programs and services designed to prepare all residents for effective participation in the community.

Based on the ideas and suggestions presented at the February 7, 2004 Village
Meeting, the following education-related action items were developed to achieve our goals and shared vision for Oakland Mills:

1) Establish a Village Shuttle Bus - To transport young people to youth programs and to increase the number of youth participating in after school activities.

Action Items:
- Operate a Village Shuttle Bus (preferably an energy efficient vehicle) to transport Village youth to and from after-school activities
- Provide transportation for parents to schools for parent teacher nights and other relevant school events

What Resources Do We Need to Implement This Strategy?
- How much funding is needed? (To purchase the bus, hire a driver, pay insurance, operate and maintain the bus) And where will it come from?
- Bus stops and a parking spot
- Support of Howard County Transit and other local entities
- Coordination of all local entities
- Logistics of scheduling, service area, hours of operation

What Resources Might Be Available To Help Us Implement This Strategy?
- Support of local youth programs
- Charge a small youth transit fare
- Partnership with the Howard Area Transit Service

2) Develop Academic and Recreational After School Programs at All Schools – To reach every student performing below grade level and to have a substantial impact on the lives of students, parents and the school overall.

Action Items:
- Begin a three year fully funded after school program for students performing below grade level
- Combine academic instruction with recreational classes to build life skills, and provide a nutritional snack for each participant
- Recruit talented teaching staff who interact with the students during the school day as well as volunteers to staff after school program
- Hire a program manager to oversee curriculum development

What Resources Do We Need to Implement This Strategy?
- How much funding is needed? And where will it come from?
- Where will we find the expertise we need to implement this strategy?
- Need to hire a Program Coordinator, teachers and library and school staff
- Identify interested students
- Transportation
- Support of volunteers
- Support and involvement of parents

What Resources Might Be Available To Help Us Implement This Strategy?
- Support of the Columbia Association
- Space in school facility
- Teachers and staff
- Students

3) Create a Collaborative to Organize Youth Activities and Programs – To provide a coordinated approach to youth service delivery by connecting all youth from pre-K-12 with necessary services and learning opportunities.
Action Items:
- Convene an action team to share information affecting youth service delivery and program development
- Serve as the contact point for volunteers and civic organizations wanting to support youth

What Resources Do We Need to Implement This Strategy?
- Funding for Youth Coordinator and other staff
- Support of volunteer mentors
- Location, space and equipment
- Cooperation of existing service providers

What Resources Might Be Available To Help Us Implement This Strategy?
- The Columbia Association Teen Center
- Partnership with Howard County Parks and Recreation
- Support of Family Tree, a non-profit that aids individuals, families and communities with child abuse and neglect issues
- Collaboration with the Local Children’s Board
- Support of the local PTAs
- Support of local merchants (for job training)
- Connexiones, which works to promote educational opportunities for Hispanic students in Howard County
- The Howard County Public Schools

4) **Strengthen Continuing Adult Education Programs** – To provide a greater number and variety of adult programs to meet the lifelong learning needs of the community.

Action Items:
- Offer various continuing learning experiences for adults, such as gardening, painting, or English as a Second Language

What Resources Do We Need to Implement This Strategy?
- How much funding is needed? And where will it come from?
- Where will we find the expertise we need to implement this strategy?
- Support of volunteers and instructors
- Child care services
- Resources for teaching parenting skills
- Program/workshop curriculum
- Support of volunteers and instructors
- Spanish Speaking staff or volunteers
- Support of the Howard County Board of Education and local schools

What Resources Might Be Available To Help Us Implement This Strategy?
- Partnership with the Howard County Community College
- Support of the Oakland Mills High School
- Oakland Mills Community Association facility and staff
- The Teen and Interfaith Centers

5) **Support Development of the Thunder Hill Park Children’s Garden** – To make the Garden into a destination point for residents and families and to broaden and enrich children’s experience with nature.

Action Items:
- Encourage community support for the Thunder Hill Park Alliance and the Children’s Garden
What Resources Do We Need to Implement This Strategy?
- How much funding is needed? And where will it come from?
- Where will we find the expertise we need to implement this strategy?
- Support of the community
- Support of volunteers and instructors

What Resources Might Be Available To Help Us Implement This Strategy?
- Thunder Hill Park Alliance non-profit
- Support of the Horizon Foundation

6) Create an Education Policy Subcommittee - To keep abreast of policies affecting the education of Oakland Mills students. To ensure that there is an equitable and appropriate distribution of resources across schools.

Action Items:
- Monitor and influence state and local policy pertaining to issues that affect the education system in Oakland Mills

What Resources Do We Need to Implement This Strategy?
- Knowledge of pending school policies
- Current data on state, county and federal education policy
- Cooperation of the Howard County Board of Education

What Resources Might Be Available To Help Us Implement This Strategy?
Howard County Council
- Support of the Oakland Mills Community Association Village Board Sub Committee on Education
- The Howard County Board of Education
- Partnership with local PTAs

Strategic Area 4

Community Vibrancy
Oakland Mills residents want to nurture communication and dialogue between community institutions and residents. Particularly vulnerable to missing key information are those residents who speak a first language other than English and those who live in apartment buildings.

Residents said that community life in Oakland Mills centers around the Village Center. For this reason, it is important to reenergize the Center by offering more shopping options and community activities.

The Current State of Community Vibrancy in Oakland Mills

Social Connections
- 75% of surveyed residents believe that it is important to work together to help their neighbors
- 61% of surveyed residents are interested in learning how they can be more involved in the community
- In the last year residents have successfully come together to participate in an International Festival, a community meeting and other events
- Some residents may speak a first language other than English, which may be an obstacle to social interaction

Village Center
- The Village Center is underutilized
- Participants at last year’s community meeting cited the importance of recruiting unique businesses to revitalize the Village Center
Oakland Mills Community Association (OMCA)

- Serves as a reliable system in place to share information with all residents
- On the recommendation of residents, The Partnership Group has hired a full time Community Development Officer to coordinate community outreach and involvement

Achieving Our Vision
To grow the community through effective communication sharing, coordinated systems and the election of diverse, talented and accountable leadership, to benefit the growth of all members of the community.

Based on the ideas and suggestions presented at the February 7, 2004 Town Hall meeting, the following Community Vibrancy-related Action Items were developed to achieve our goals and shared vision for Oakland Mills:

1) Establish a Town Link Website – To provide a way for residents to exchange information and to play a role in the revitalization of Oakland Mills.

Action Items:
- Employ the latest web technology to create an interactive web portal for residents to interact and exchange information and ideas

What Resources Do We Need to Implement This Strategy?
- Are there public computers community members can access?
- An internet host site
- Volunteer to regularly update website
- Spanish translation

What Resources Might Be Available To Help Us Implement This Strategy?
- The current Oakland Mills website
- Residents who have technology expertise
- Support of the Columbia Association
- Experiences of other villages or similar communities

2) Grow the Street Captains Program - To serve as a regular source of information on Village news. To provide neighborly interaction and feedback to village leaders that informs their decision-making.

Action Items:
- Recruit and support Street Captains for every street in the village
- Plan a semi-annual Street Captain summit
- Provide monthly calendars for Street Captains to distribute

What Resources Do We Need to Implement This Strategy?
- Funds for printed materials and to support a Street Captain summit
- Outreach to all neighborhoods in Oakland Mills
- Volunteers willing to serve as Street Captains

What Resources Might Be Available To Help Us Implement This Strategy?
- Volunteers
- Support of local businesses
- Support of local decision makers
3) Support an Annual Village Board Training and Planning Retreat – To develop a business plan for the Board.

Action Items:
- Yearly training for the Village Board to develop a business plan for the year that creates specific actions and goals

What Resources Might Be Available To Help Us Implement This Strategy?
- How much funding is needed? And where will it come from?
- A professional facilitator to lead the training
- Input from the Columbia Association
- Volunteers to serve on the Village Board
- Time commitment from Board members
- A liaison to the Board from the larger community and from minority community members

What Resources are Available to Help Us Implement this Strategy?
- The Oakland Mills Village Board
- Support of the Enterprise Foundation
- Support of the Columbia Association
- Collaboration with the Horizon Foundation

4) Offer English as a Second Language Classes – To offer English classes to the growing number of people in the community who speak a first language other than English.

Action Items:
- Offer classes in strategic locations and at a variety of times to support non English speakers.
- Offer classes that allow for cultural exchange, such as cooking lessons

What Resources Do We Need to Implement This Strategy?
- How much funding is needed?
- And where will it come from?
- Where will we find the expertise we need to implement this program?
- How do we identify residents interested in participating?
- Support of Teachers and volunteers
- Class space
- Computers
- Child care services

What Resources Might Be Available To Help Us Implement This Strategy?
- Support of the Foreign-born Information and Referral Network (FIRN)
- Support of Alianza de la Communidad, a group dedicated to improving lives in the Hispanic community
- Coordinate with Connexiones, which works to promote educational opportunities for Hispanic students in Howard County
- Support of Howard County Public Schools
- Support of retired teachers
- Residents who speak English as a second language

5) Energize the Village Center - To make the Village Center vibrant and stable.

Action Items:
- Identify and recruit businesses to fill vacant buildings and unused retail areas
- Run activities in the Village Center throughout the year to generate traffic and interest in the Village Center
What Resources Do We Need to Implement This Strategy?

- How much funding is needed? And where will it come from?
- Where will we find the expertise we need to implement this strategy?
- Marketing materials and efforts

What Resources Might Be Available To Help Us Implement This Strategy?
- Support of Kimco Realty
- Oakland Mills Community Association
Revitalizing Oakland Mills Together

Today’s Village Meeting is the culmination of a year of planning to create the Revitalization Plan for Oakland Mills. We appreciate your participation today and your input on the Plan.

Although many months of work are reflected in this Plan, it is important to remember that today is a beginning not an end. As you’ve heard throughout the day – we have great ideas about improving Oakland Mills – now WE NEED TO TURN THESE IDEAS INTO ACTIONS.

A Action Committee has been created for each of the Plan’s four strategic areas to coordinate action on the Plan. Each Committee is responsible for developing a detailed workplan for implementing the highest priority strategic activities. Committees are also responsible for setting measurable benchmarks and objectives that track the progress being made on implementing Action Items.

Many Oakland Mills residents have already volunteered to work as members of these Action Committees. Please consider joining one of the Committees. Remember, it is only through our combined efforts that we will successfully achieve our shared vision for Oakland Mills.

The Four Action Committees

1. Safety Action Committee
   Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 19, 7:00-8:30pm in the Other Barn
   Committee Chairperson: Trevor Britt
   Phone number: 410-964-1230
   Email address: tbritt@enterprisefoundation.org

2. Housing Action Committee
   Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 26, 7:00-8:30pm in the Other Barn
   Committee Chairperson: Phil Engelke
   Phone number: 410-537-6020
   Email address: pengelk@rtkl.com

3. Education Action Committee
   Next Meeting: Thursday, January 20, 7:00-8:30pm in the Other Barn
   Committee Chairperson: Donald Wallace
   Phone number: 410-491-5524
   Email address: brotheronthemove@aol.com

4. Community Vibrancy Action Committee
   Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 19, 7:00-8:30pm in the Other Barn
   Committee Chairperson: Mary Kate Murray
   Phone number: 410-964-1660
   Email address: journeyworks1@comcast.net