



# The Oella Almanac

A publication of the Oella Homeowners Association  
Fall 2006



*Editor's note: If you have any suggestions or contributions for the newsletter, please e-mail Amanda Lauer at laueram@yahoo.com or drop them off at 748 Oella Ave or at any HOA board meeting. Contributions may be subject to editing.*

## News from the Board of Directors

***The mill race bridge is complete!*** To access the bridge, follow the trail behind Long Brick Row to the stepping stones across Race Rd. Take the trail a short distance to the bridge. You can follow the trail across the bridge into the Patapsco State Park all the way to Rt. 40. Please remember to be courteous to your neighbors who live along the trail. Pick up litter and pet droppings, and don't make too much noise near homes. The bridge and trail is for the use of Oella HOA members and their guests. There is no parking available for trail users along Race Rd. **All Oella HOA members are invited to a party to celebrate the bridge on Race Rd. on Oct. 28 from 3 to 6 pm.** Light refreshments, beer, wine, and soft drinks will be served. Please RSVP by Oct. 13th to Amanda at laueram@yahoo.com or 410-480-8418. A response is only necessary if you plan to attend. Kids are welcome!

***Other board news:*** Please welcome Toni Mullin to the Board of Directors. Toni will be filling out the remainder of Andreas Walter's term. She will oversee the landscaping in HOA common areas. Thanks go to Andreas for his service.

At the July and August meetings, the board formed two task forces to work on two important issues facing the HOA community. The Oella Mill task force will work on matters pertaining to our relationship with the Mill and its owners. The Architectural Control task force will work to move along the transfer of architectural control to the HOA.

All HOA members are welcome at the regular board meetings held monthly. Dates, times, and agendas are posted on the website.

*Go to the Oella HOA website at [www.oellahoa.org](http://www.oellahoa.org) and the blog at [www.oellahoa.blogspot.com](http://www.oellahoa.blogspot.com) for frequent community news updates and events.*

## Architectural Review Committee (ARC) Update

Changes to the exterior of your home must be reviewed and approved by the ARC *before* you make them. The ARC attempts to respond to all requests within 30 days. This process helps retain property values and ensures that Oella will maintain its beautiful streetscape. Thanks for your cooperation. Contact: Charles Wagandt at the Oella Co. 410-465-1700.

## Home Maintenance Tips

Fall is an excellent time to complete routine maintenance on the exterior of your home. The temperature outside makes it an ideal time for repainting, caulking, and replacing rusted fixtures and rotted wood. Regular maintenance in which you simply replace/repair items in kind does not require ARC approval. For instance, if you paint your red door with the exact same shade of red you don't need approval. For those who live in historic houses, Benjamin Moore offers a line of historic paint colors. For those with newer homes, Sherwin-Williams offers Duration exterior paint. This paint is guaranteed not to blister, peel, or fade for a lifetime.

## Gardening Tips

Fall is also a great time to garden. Trees, grass, and perennials can be planted now. They will have plenty of time to establish strong roots before winter, and they won't have to suffer from the intense summer sun. Remember to keep plants hydrated by watering deeply during dry spells. Mulch to within 2 inches of the stems or trunks of plants to help maintain soil temperature, control weeds, and retain moisture. Be sure to turn over old mulch before adding new material. While you're at it, dig in fallen leaves to add nutrients to your soil. For plants that perform well in our climate, visit the State of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources website. A link to this site and other useful sites is located on the blog.

*Join the new Oella Garden Club for a Fall Garden Exchange on Sept. 30 from 1 to 3 pm behind Long Brick Row. Bring your unwanted plants and gardening tools to swap. Info: laueram@yahoo.com.*

## Pet Corner

If you have a furry family member in your household, you know how difficult it can be to keep the pet hair under control in your home. To help reduce the time you spend manning the vacuum, brush your pet frequently. Pets with long coats may need to be brushed every couple of days with a wire brush designed for use with dogs and cats. Breeds with very short hair may only require an occasional swipe with a wet paper towel.

Did you know that you can compost pet hair? Just dump it in the compost bin along with other organic material. You can also just dig it directly into your garden soil.

**For the safety of residents, pets, and the environment, please remember to always keep your pets leashed in common areas and clean up after them. The HOA provides Mutt Mitts for your convenience at several locations around Oella.**

## Local Business Highlight

The Phoenix Emporium, located on the corner of Main St. and College Avenue in old Ellicott City, has been a longtime local favorite. Known for their Railroad chili, the restaurant offers a variety of other moderately priced treats such as burgers made with beef from Oella's Treuth and Sons. The Phoenix also offers an extensive list of beers from around the world. The restaurant has an

attached bar which makes the place pretty smoky late in the evening, so it's best to go early.

## **Notes from the Oella Historical Society**

by Chris Innes

*How did Thomas Jefferson's Foreign Policy Lead to the Founding of Oella?* Tensions between Britain and the United States grew in the years leading up to the War of 1812 as Britain, already at war with France, tried to interfere with American commerce. An attack on the USS Chesapeake by HMS Leopard off the coast of Virginia on June 22, 1807 infuriated Americans set off a wave of war fever. Jefferson believed that the United States was unprepared for a war with Britain and hoped that Napoleon could win his war with them, saving us the trouble. Instead of war, Jefferson chose economic sanctions, proposing in December 1807 an embargo on all oceanic trade with Britain. The decision had a many long lasting effects on American politics, an immediate economic impact, and inspired the founding of a mill on the Patapsco River.

Within a month of the imposition of the embargo, William Patterson, the President of the Bank of Maryland and an ardent nationalist, began the process of forming the Union Manufacturing Company. The plan was to take advantage of the embargo to expand the American textile industry, employing American workers to weave the American cotton that had previously been shipped to England. By summer, the new company had purchased the first piece of land, 94.5

acres on the Patapsco River, a tract called "Cragged Hills" just north from the Ellicott's Lower Mills. In November, the Maryland General Assembly voted to make the Union Manufacturing Company the first manufacturing enterprise to be incorporated in state history. Almost a mile of the 20-foot wide mill race had been dug by the end of December and by the end of the next year, December 1809, they had build a 44 by 106 foot, two story mill and a surrounding village. In May, 1810, production at the Oella Mill began.

*The Oella Historical Society was recently established to promote preservation of historic structures and education about the historical significance of Oella. Info: Chris Innes innes@smart2.net*

## **Oella Community Hall to Be Renovated**

by Holly Bohart

The sights and sounds of renovation are familiar in Oella, and plans are underway to restore the last major building here: the community hall, which currently houses the Village Antiques store and Infinity More—The Healing Center. Work on the hall is set to begin in spring of 2007 or later and is expected to take a year or so. Charles Wagandt will be overseeing the renovations and will receive a tax credit for renovating the building according to the Secretary of Interior's standards.

Although the lower level of the hall was renovated several years ago, this renovation will include the entire structure and will address appearance as well as any structural problems. Workers will replace the shingling with either

wood siding or "hardi-trak" planking, similar to the German siding that used to cover the building. Existing windows will be repaired or reproduced, and new windows will be added to the front of the building for extra light. These windows will be in keeping with the look of the windows on the side of the building. The front entrance will also be painted, and the rear addition will be removed and replaced.

Inside, a mezzanine may be added over a portion of the building. The building will be air conditioned, which will be a relief to tenants and to anyone who has ever visited the building on a hot day!

The stone foundation is original to the building, which dates to the 1800s. The top part of the building was torn down in the 1930s and replaced with the current building. If the interior of the upper level bears a striking resemblance to the gymnasium at Bryn Mawr School in Baltimore, it's because Mr. Dickey, wishing to save money by not hiring an architect, had the building patterned after the gym.

Over the years, the hall has served the community in several ways. The lower level housed a post office as well as a company store run by the mill owners. Officers of the mill held meetings in the building, and at one time there was a medical clinic where a doctor was available during certain hours. Community residents went to the hall to watch movies, and neighborhood children looked forward to the annual Christmas party held there. There were basketball games to watch, and performances may have been held on the stage. In the 1960s

the store became a co-op and was no longer run by the mill owners.

Although plans for the use of the renovated building are not yet firm, there are several possibilities. The current tenants might remain, office space may be added, and there is even the prospect of a coffee shop opening. Most likely, the building will have multiple functions and, we hope, will be a place for Oella neighbors to meet and greet and build new memories. The renovation of the community hall should be finished by 2008, just in time for Oella's bicentennial celebration!

### **Classifieds**

*If you have any useable goods or materials that you want to get rid of, a service to advertise (such as babysitting, gardening), or a request for something (like carpool buddies), you may post your item here. Please provide your preferred contact method for potential "takers" (it will be published along with your listing). All arrangements are the responsibility of the interested parties.*

**Oella on Yahoo:** To join the Oella Homeowners Association Yahoo Group, send an e-mail to [OellaHOA-Subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:OellaHOA-Subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

**Plants needed:** We are trying to replace the weeds that grow along the road at the base of the stone wall across from Long Brick Row with perennials so that the area is more aesthetically pleasing. If you have any extra plants, bulbs, or mulch to spare, please e-mail Amanda at [laueram@yahoo.com](mailto:laueram@yahoo.com) or drop them off at 748 Oella Ave. Thanks!

**Bricks needed:** Amanda Lauer is collecting old bricks for an indoor project. She will be happy to pick up any number of bricks in any condition. Contact: [laueram@yahoo.com](mailto:laueram@yahoo.com).