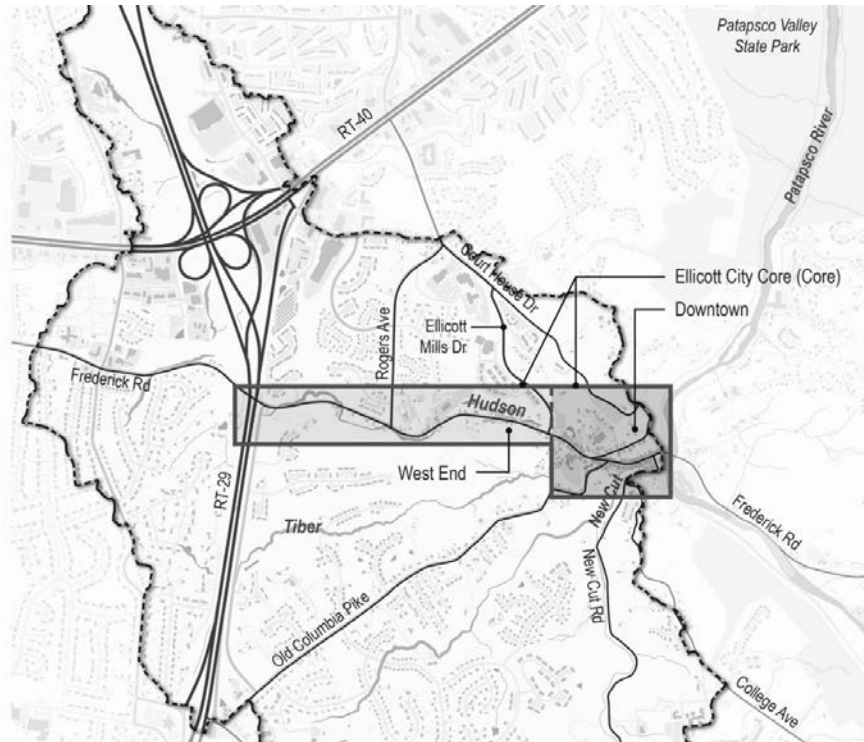


## WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE -

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## CONSIDER OLD ELLICOTT CITY: PROXIMITY AND PLANS

Old Ellicott City and Oella, to the west of Catonsville, are familiar to all of us. A short drive on Frederick Road and a longer, pleasant walk on the Trolley Line #9 Trail bring many in OCNA to the OEC. We have all walked Main Street to shop, dine and visit this historic, special place. We are fortunate to have this unique resource in such close proximity to our neighborhood. Much discussion and deliberation on resiliency and sustainability has occurred in Howard County as a result of the tragic and destructive 2016 and 2018 flooding of Main Street. Considering all this, I think it practical we all know more about some of the current plans for OEC.



code. This is to say, I'm personally interested in the flood mitigation and development plans and believe many of our OCNA neighbors are also keen to learn of relevant information and resources.

The OEC flooding was caused by storm-water runoff into the four secondary streams that converge to form the Hudson Branch/Tiber Creek that runs along the Main Street rock ravine. On the West End, the saturated Hudson Branch jumped its banks at Ellicott Mills Drive where the raging waters up-ended parking lots

and careened down Main Street. Overdevelopment and climate change were identified as the primary catalysts for the disasters. Measured analysis, deliberation, and design solutions already underway were accelerated by the 2018 flood.]

I relocated my architectural practice from the Baltimore County Landmark First National Bank building in Catonsville to Main Street, Ellicott City in 2011. Ankle-deep flooding occurred as we moved in, and it proved a harbinger for the 2016 and 2018 floods that brought 4 feet, then 8 feet of water to the first floor of the building we occupied. The second flood forced us to move across the Patapsco River into Baltimore County to the Oella Church building (in the National Register Historic District of Oella) although we maintain an Ellicott City address and zip

Immediate decisions followed as the County sought action to mitigate the storm water issue as the 2018 elections approached. The former Howard County Executive promoted a plan to demolish 10 historic Main Street buildings near the landmark B&O (railway) Station to create a storm water retention pond that would reduce the severity of future flooding by approximately

30%. This plan was aggressively challenged by concerned residents and the historic preservation community.

The current County Executive won the 2018 election by supporting a plan to demolish a reduced number of buildings – four – in addition to drilling a 10-foot diameter storm water diversion pipe through the granite outcropping from the West End of Ellicott City to the Patapsco River. This is projected to cost over 100 million dollars. Initial funding for the design has been approved. More localized mitigation measures are ongoing throughout the watershed (from Route 40 to west of Route 29 to Montgomery Road to Rodgers Avenue). The Hudson/Tiber Creek Channel has been stabilized and fortified. The County has performed admirably in its execution while involving the public in the design decisions through regular public and online forums. The result was the comprehensive and educational Ellicott City Watershed Master Plan approved in December of 2020. (See: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/planning-zoning/ellicott-city-watershed-master-plan>)

On the Baltimore County side of the Patapsco, plans are underway to repurpose the former Wilkins-Rodgers flour mill. The mill has been sold to developer David Tufaro of Terra Nova Ventures, LLC. (Of note, Tufaro has converted the Whitehall Mill and the Mill Center, along the Jones Falls Valley in Baltimore City, into mixed-use buildings containing apartments, offices and restaurants. Both mills were recognized as historic and were able to obtain City, State and Federal historic tax credits.)

Terra Nova is seeking similar historic tax credit support to fund this Ellicott Mill project as it is in the Oella National Register Historic District. As with the Jones Falls mills, Ellicott Mill is in a flood plain and will include planning and construction resiliency to protect the residents and the building. This adaptive reuse project will enable the new residents of Ellicott Mill to support and patronize the Main Street businesses as Ellicott City continues to rebuild, react to, and recognize climate change. The story of the Patapsco Valley and its milling history continues its evolution. (See: <https://www.ellicottmill.com>)

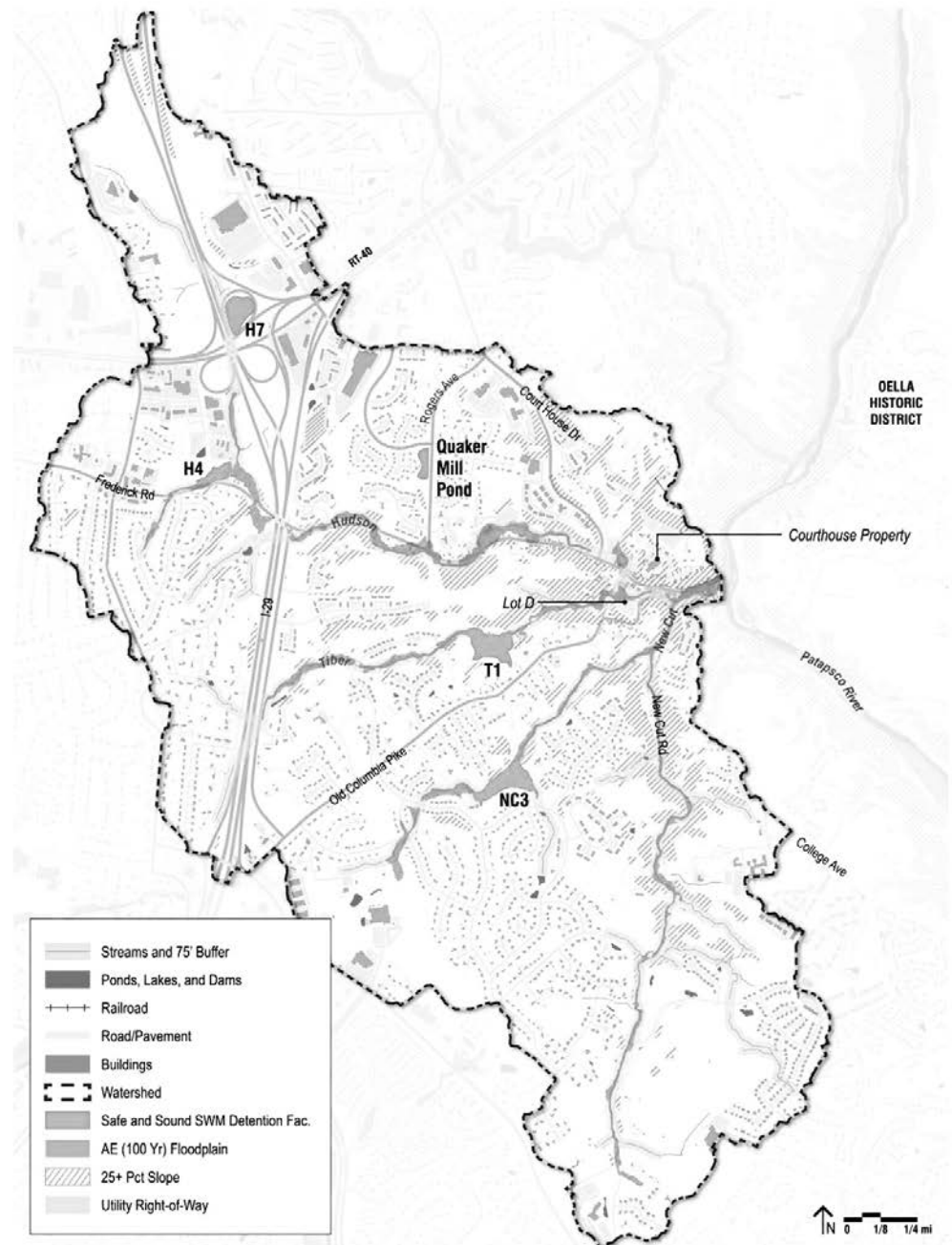


Figure 35: Watershed Diagram: Hydrology and Steep Slopes

Let’s continue to support Ellicott City’s resilience and renaissance. Catonsville’s proximity and frequent visitors to Ellicott City have been mentioned in design meetings as critical to the rebuild. A proposed Trolley Trail bridge over the river and onto Main Street – separate from the car bridge – symbolizes this important link. (See the EC Watershed Master Plan for various innovative plans.) Catonsville will soon have two historic, adaptive reuse mill projects, the Oella Mill (opened in 2008) and the Ellicott Mill.

Consider Ellicott City. ■

by Rob Brennan  
 Old Catonsville Neighborhood Association resident

# THE HOUSE SPARROW: A FRISKY LITTLE OUTLAW

House sparrows are a highly invasive species that live in nearly all Maryland ecosystems. Though they are small birds, they are highly aggressive, outcompeting native species for resources. In fact, house sparrows commonly kill other birds or destroy their eggs to steal the most desirable nesting sites. To protect your backyard and native ecosystems from these invaders, there are several actions you can take:

- 1.) Limit shelter for house sparrows.** Plug birdhouse entrances using cork or paper until April, when house sparrow nesting season ends and most native bird nesting seasons begin. If you are getting new bird houses, avoid those made of wood, which house sparrows prefer. Make sure to keep garage/shed doors closed when you can to prevent the birds from nesting inside. And if you want to go the extra mile, you can install mesh wire under your eaves to prevent the birds from nesting there.
- 2.) Use house sparrow-proof feeders.** House sparrows are ground foragers, so they prefer ground feeders or stable platform feeders. Replacing these with smaller feeders such as mesh or tube feeders (preferably with perches shorter than 5/8 inch) will spook house sparrows because these feeders sway in the wind. Because of their cone-shaped beaks, feeders with small holes prevent house sparrows from accessing food. Clean up spilled bird seed from under your feeders to ensure that the house sparrows don't get to it!



Figure 1. Male and female house sparrows (photo credit: [www.pixabay.com](http://www.pixabay.com))

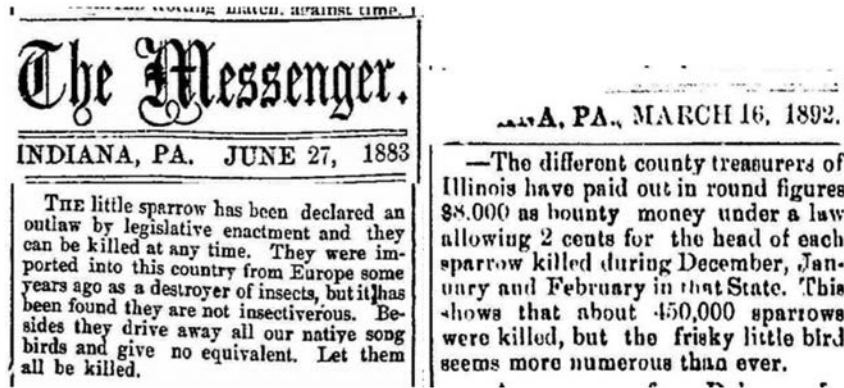


Figure 2. A sparrow spooker (photo credit: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))

- 3.) Fill feeders with foods that house sparrows will not eat.** Cracked corn, wheat, oats, millet, bread, and sunflower seeds are all favorites of house sparrows. You can replace these options with Nyjer (thistle seed), safflower seeds (which also deter squirrels and invasive European starlings), suet, nectar, fruit, and nuts. Though you may still find house sparrows eating these foods, they will not overcrowd bird feeders, allowing native birds to eat.
- 4.) Deter house sparrows from bird baths.** You do not have to remove your bird baths, but by placing uneven rocks in the water, you will prevent house sparrows from bathing in them. And if you are looking to buy a bird bath, consider hanging bird drinking stations, misters, or drippers instead, which are still beneficial to native species, but will not attract extra house sparrows.
- 5.) Protect native birds with sparrow spookers.** A sparrow spooker is a small contraption you can buy or make yourself using mylar (or a similar material) and dowel rods. Once a native bird has occupied a nesting box and laid its first egg, attach a sparrow spooker to the back of the bird house. This will scare away house sparrows and keep the eggs safe.

By applying one or a few of these techniques to your backyard, you can help control the house sparrow population and protect native ecosystems. ■

by Evelyn Sangree

# LITTLE (& BIG) FREE LIBRARIES IN OLD CATONSVILLE

I've been walking by the little libraries along the road in our community and sometimes picking up or sharing a free book. According to Wikipedia, "Little Free Library is a 501 nonprofit organization that promotes neighborhood book exchanges, usually in the form of a public bookcase. More than 150,000 public book exchanges are registered with the organization and branded as Little Free Libraries." Their website at <https://littlefreelibrary.org/> offers library information, news, and building plans and actually sells libraries that you can post on your property.

Libraries in our neighborhood:

**Hillcrest Elementary School** - is located at the front of the building before the entrance to the parking lot on Frederick Road. This library has printing on the door that says: "the intention of this collection is to share books with inclusive characters and stories because representation matters! Please keep this in mind as you add books to the shelves." I left *Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* and picked up *Girl on the Train*.



**Summit Ave** - located near the corner of Summit and Smithwood. I found another book in a mystery series that I read and left a book from that same series for someone else to discover titled *Precious and Grace*.

**The Big Library** - There is, of course, the Baltimore County Public Library at 1100 Frederick Road which is an important part of the Old

Catonsville neighborhood. It features books, movies, periodicals, music, a Catonsville history room, game nights and other events, computers, 3-d printers, a community bulletin board, a quiet room, and a children's play area.



**9 Melvin Ave:** The first registered Little Free Library I found is located at 9 Melvin Ave. It looks to be under renovation at this time but is usually full of books.

**46 Melvin Ave:** A registered Little Free Library that mimics the look of the lovely home behind it. Full of books on various topics



**115 Osborne Ave** - Another registered Little Free Library that is surrounded by roses and full of interesting books.

These libraries are a nice addition to our neighborhood. I'm not sure if I found all of them but I'll keep looking for more to add to this list! ■

by Christina Drews Leonard

We'd like to congratulate the Old Catonsville Neighborhood Association for their valuable contribution to our community!



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Some of the Events at the Library:** *See full list here: <https://www.bcpl.info/events-and-programs/list.html#!/?locations=-Catonsville>*

Saturday, September 10, 2022, 10 to 11am  
Catonsville Nature Club: Birds and Fall Migration

Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 7 to 7:45pm  
Tarot Under The Stars

Saturday, September 24, 2022, 10 to 11:30am  
Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month with Bailes de Mi Tierra: A Celebration of Dance Cultures in Mexico

Wednesday, September 28, 2022, 10 to 11am  
Books, Coffee, and Conversation Book Club

**Other Events:**

Saturday, September 11, 2022, 10am to 5pm  
49th Annual Catonsville Arts & Crafts Festival  
CAA Park

Saturday, September 23, 2022  
Crab Feast at Knights of Columbus Patapsco Council  
1010 Frederick Road  
Call for details 410-242-6130

Sunday, September 18, 2022, 1pm  
Paw Paw: The Wild Banana  
Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum  
300 Oella Ave, Catonsville, MD, 21228

Tuesday, October 4, 2022, 5 to 7pm  
Fall Open House at Catonsville Chamber of Commerce  
757 Frederick Road Suite 102

Tuesday, October 25, 2022, 7pm  
OCNA Annual Meeting (including election of officers for 2023), 1404 Summit Ave

Sunday, November 13, 2022, 1pm  
Candle Making  
Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum  
300 Oella Ave, Catonsville, MD, 21228

Every Sunday May-November, 9am - Noon  
Catonsville Sunday Farmers Market  
15 Mellor Ave Catonsville MD 21228



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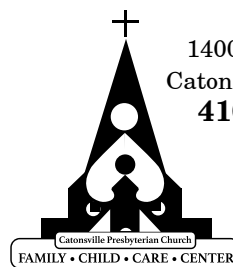


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Catonsville, MD 21228  
**410-747-6180**

Catonsville  
Presbyterian Church  
Child Care Center  
**410-747-4581**



## CALLING ALL RESIDENTS OF OCNA

**P**lease join us for our annual meeting on Tuesday, October 25th. Whether you are new to OCNA or a long-time resident, come out to meet your neighbors and help us make OCNA an even better place to call home.

Topics on the agenda include deciding events for 2023, electing officers, reviewing financials, and discussing any issues of interest or concern to residents.

We plan to hold the meeting outdoors and in person - and will provide beverages and light refreshments. Please join us on the back deck at 1404 Summit Ave. at 7 pm! ■

*by John Marshall*

## LOCAL BUSINESS CORNER: CATONSVILLE CO-OP MARKET

**T**he Catonsville Cooperative Market & Grocery is a community-owned store offering local and sustainable goods, and education events for a diverse community.

You do not need to be a member to shop. Non-members will incur a \$5 charge per visit, which will accrue toward a full membership. Pre-order items are available to members only.

The CO-OP is open every other Tuesday from 4:30pm to 8pm and every other Saturday from 9am to 12pm. See details on their website: <https://www.catonsvillecoop.com/> ■

*by Christina Drews Leonard*



## PAY YOUR OCNA DUES WITH PAYPAL

OCNA now accepts Paypal! Eager to pay your dues as part of this great community but unused to writing checks?

Send your \$20 with the click of a button to [oldcatonsville@gmail.com](mailto:oldcatonsville@gmail.com)

Cash and checks still gladly accepted—payable to OCNA Membership, 16 Osborne Ave., Catonsville MD 21228 with 2022 on the memo line

## ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE ONLY \$150 FOR A YEAR!

Space available in the next issue.

- 1/8 page ad  
3.75" wide x 2.375" high  
\$150/year, 4 issues
- 1/4 page ad  
3.75" wide x 4.75" high  
\$200/year, 4 issues

Contact Christina, [drewsleonard@gmail.com](mailto:drewsleonard@gmail.com) for more information.

**Deadlines to submit  
newsletter articles and ads  
to get into the next issue  
(usually flexible):**

- Winter issue - Nov 15**
- Spring issue - Feb 15
- Summer issue - May 15
- Fall issue - August 15

## SEEKING A VOLUNTEER: NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING COORDINATOR

The ad representative keeps track of ads in the newsletter and contacts advertisers about renewing their ads and checks their payment status with the treasurer. The ad rep also handles inquiries from businesses about placing new ads.

Support the OCNA Newsletter, buy advertising space for your business. Contact Christina at [drewsleonard@gmail.com](mailto:drewsleonard@gmail.com) for information.

Please submit articles or ideas, events & news for the  
Winter issue by **November 15th**  
to Ann by email: [annandsteves@gmail.com](mailto:annandsteves@gmail.com)  
or call: 410-747-4920

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## ADVERTISE IN THE OCNA NEWSLETTER

### Space Available in the Next Issue at Only \$150 Per Year (4 Issues)

- Review this issue to see the types of ads that we run for local businesses.
- Choose ad size.
- Supply artwork in black and white. Please supply high resolution artwork for your ad. If you need help creating your ad contact us. Ads have to be reviewed before they're approved.
- You must have permission to use any images in your ads.
- Proofread your ad for errors.
- Payment accepted via check or Paypal. Ad must be paid in full before it can run.
- You can start advertising at any time of the year. Updated artwork can be provided for current ads by the next issue deadline.

Contact Christina Drews Leonard at [drewsleonard@gmail.com](mailto:drewsleonard@gmail.com) with ad questions or to volunteer to be our new advertising rep.

### Deadlines to submit newsletter articles and ads to get into the next issue (usually flexible):

Spring issue - Feb 15  
 Summer issue - May 15  
 Fall Issue - August 15  
 Winter - Nov 15

Archived copies of the OCNA Newsletter are now available on <https://www.oldcatonsville.org/connect>

### Do you want free advertising?

Volunteer to write for the newsletter regularly and live in Old Catonsville, get a free 1/8 page ad in each issue.

1/8 page ad size:  
 3.75" wide x 2.375" high  
 \$150 / year, 4 issues

1/4 page ad size:  
 3.75" wide x 4.75" high  
 \$200 / year, 4 issues

1/3 page ad  
 (not shown)  
 \$200 / year  
 7.5" wide x 3.25" high



Image by *Susanne Jutzeler, Schweiz, from Pixabay*

## OCNA ANNUAL MEETING

What: OCNA Annual Meeting (including election of officers for 2023)

When: Tuesday, 25 Oct at 7pm

Where: 1404 Summit Ave (Susanne's house), outdoors, in person

Who: all residents of OCNA welcome and encouraged to attend

Why: get involved!! help make OCNA an even better place to live