

**Funding for Oakland Mills study**

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I was surprised to read that Howard County County Executive Kittleman, the county council and the department of planning and zoning are actually going to spend 50,000\$ of tax payer money to fund a study for Oakland Mills. The idea to make Oakland Mills a sports destination comes from only a very few residents and some members of the village board, it has never been a vision of the community to my knowledge. Last time I checked Oakland Mills was a fully developed village, all land being dedicated for use. The proposed projects, it would seem, would mean that something that currently exists would be removed or repurposed to make way for this project. Additionally, the main roads leading to and through Oakland Mills would sustain traffic and use issues that would be pretty imposing on the village residents living along Stevens Forest Road and Thunder Hill Road most notably.

So reading this news makes me wonder why this is really happening. A few members of the Oakland Mills Board do not take NO for an answer when they want something. This is not necessarily a good thing because they often want things that come from their singular vision, not what the community needs. It is well known in Oakland Mills and surrounding villages that some of the members of the OM board have strong opinions about who should make up the population of Oakland Mills, and, paraphrasing their vision, using land currently occupied by subsidized apartment complexes is a great way to redirect the demographics.

As a resident in another part of Columbia I would have liked to have seen this money used in another way that would be truly positive and benefit everyone in Howard county, not for a study whose results have the potential to uproot families, and anger and inconvenience more residents than it benefits in the community.

As it is, the approval of this study makes it look like the county wants to pander to a pushy, opinionated, intolerant village board who has no idea what the community wants because they only consider their own opinion valuable.

Thank you for your attention

Deb Bach

Resident of Hickory Ridge