

CROWN PRINTS

VOLUME 47/No. 21 November 6, 2025 The Twice-Monthly Newsletter of the Village of Kings Contrivance



SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO AMHERST HOUSE!

Tickets are available now at Amherst House.



LUNCH WITH SANTA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6
11:30AM-1:30PM

Enjoy pizza, making a craft, decorating cookies and a visit and photo with Santa!

\$7.00 CA assessed/\$7.50 non-assessed
Everyone in attendance needs a ticket.



COOKIES WITH SANTA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13
2:00PM-4:00PM

Enjoy making a craft, cookie decorating and a visit and photo with Santa!

\$6.00 CA assessed/\$6.50 non-assessed
Everyone in attendance needs a ticket.

FAMILY FUN BINGO AMHERST HOUSE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21 7:30-9PM



Family Fun Bingo is back! Bring your family and friends to Amherst House on Friday, November 21, from 7:30-9:00pm. Join us for a night of fun and prizes!

Bingo cards are just \$2 for 6 cards.
Drinks are \$1 & snacks are free!

VETERANS DAY PARADE DOWNTOWN COLUMBIA SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 @ 9:30AM



Honor our community's veterans at the 11th Annual Veterans Day Parade & Celebration! The parade begins at 9:30am on Merriweather Drive and travels down Little Patuxent Parkway, ending at the Downtown Columbia Lakefront. A ceremony will follow at the lakefront. Parking is available at the Mall. For more information, please visit HowardCountyVeterans.org/parade

TOILETRY DRIVE AT AMHERST HOUSE THROUGH NOVEMBER 17



Columbia Association Youth & Teen Center and its Teen Outreach Committee are holding a Community Toiletry Drive from Oct. 1 - Nov 17. There will be a collection box in the lobby of Amherst House. Please support this effort by donating items such as shampoo, conditioner, lotion, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, feminine products, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, and laundry detergent. Full-size and travel-size will be accepted.

AMHERST HOUSE CLOSED



Amherst House will close at 1PM on Wednesday, November 26 and will remain closed through Saturday, November 29 for the Thanksgiving holiday. We will reopen at 10AM on Monday, December 1.

HOLIDAY SLIDE SCHEDULE

Thanksgiving week is on a "slide" schedule. All trash, recycling and yard trim collections scheduled on or after Thanksgiving will "slide" and be made one day later that week. Alpha Ridge Landfill will be closed on Thanksgiving.

NEED HELP? CALL 2-1-1



2-1-1 Maryland provides simple access to health & human services information. 2-1-1 connects people with help for employment, utility assistance, food, housing, health care & family resources such as child and elder care. Specialists answer calls 24 hours a day.

SAVE THE DATE!

- ◇ Three **free online gardening talks** presented by the Howard County Master Gardeners. Gardening talks will be held on Zoom at 7pm on January 20, February 24 & March 24.
- ◇ Family Fun BINGO - January 23 @ 7:30pm
Details in upcoming issues of the Crown Prints.

A MESSAGE FROM KC CARES KC VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP LEAVE THE LEAVES!



Leaves falling in the autumn are a key part of the natural cycle of our local ecosystem; a blanket of leaves provides insulation, habitat, nutrients, and even improves the soil. Pollinators (and fireflies!) depend on fallen leaves to survive the winter, and birds hunt among them for delicious insects. Leaves suppress weeds, improve soil structure and nutrient content, and retain moisture. Instead of hauling away leaves in the fall and then hauling in fertilizer and mulch in the spring, you can reap the benefits of the leaf layer by just leaving them where they lay.

Got lawn? No problem! A thin layer of leaves won't hurt your grass, but you can rake abundant leaves into garden beds or around trees. No need to shred or mow; piling the leaves will compress them and speed the natural process of decomposition.

For more information, check out the Xerces Society at xerces.org/blog/leave-the-leaves or contact us at KCVillageCARES@gmail.com.

Sign up for the Columbia CARES newsletter for local weekly environmental news and opportunities by emailing:

KCVillageCARES@gmail.com

REMINDER

Please do not blow or rake leaves into the street where they will clog storm drains and pollute waterways.

⇒ Howard County does not pick up leaves from roadways.

ROBINSON NATURE CENTER HOLIDAY FUN



Check out all of the exciting activities available at Robinson Nature Center this holiday season - from films in the digital planetarium to guided nature walks; from a holiday Makers Mart to "Frozen Fest." Lots of programs for kids and/or adults! For more info, please call: 410-313-0400 or visit:

HowardCountyMD.gov/Robinson

NEVER MISS AN EVENT!

Do you receive two issues of our newsletter each month? Visit **VillageofKC.org** and scroll to the bottom to sign up to receive both issues of the *Crown Prints* via email each month, this issue and our digital only issue.

FALL CLEAN UP & SHREDDING WAS A SUCCESS!



KC residents came out to help clean up and beautify our village and collected **23 bags of trash!** Thank you to our fantastic volunteers.

We were pleased to see **149 residents** take advantage of our free shredding event. Look for our next shredding event in the spring. Thank you to *Board Member Fred Niziol* for volunteering!

LOCAL HOLIDAY SHOPPING



Find hand-crafted gifts for your family and friends at several Village craft fairs being held in November & December.

- ♦ **Town Center's Annual Holiday Craft Fair:** November 15 from 10am-3pm @ Historic Oakland Manor. Take a stroll around and support small businesses that are selling jewelry, gifts, art, and more! Bring canned goods for their food pantry.
- ♦ **Winter Artisan Market:** November 16 from 2pm-5pm @ The Hawthorn Center in Hickory Ridge. Shop and discover unique, handcrafted items from over 20 local artisans.
- ♦ **Natural Holiday Sale:** December 6 from 10am-3pm @ the Howard County Conservancy. Shop nature inspired gifts made by local artisans. Enjoy free kids' crafts and live music.



CA BUDGET PROCESS

Welcome to the Columbia Association Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 budget process, a chance for you to provide feedback on CA's priorities and investments. CA's FY2027 begins May 1, 2026 and ends April 30, 2026.

The Board began discussing the FY2027 budget during its September 25 Board Meeting. The Board will continue to discuss the budget at their November 13 meeting. Residents are always welcome to participate in Resident Speakout, which happens at the start of every Board meeting. The Board meetings are also live streamed and recorded on YouTube.

In addition to Board meetings, you have a chance to offer your input online from November 14-December 2.

Anyone looking to affect change in the budget should get involved in the early part of the process and let the Board know what your priorities are for CA.

Questions? Call 410-715-3000 or visit ColumbiaAssociation.org/budget

Links to the surveys, as well as the complete budget process calendar, can be found on the above website.

COVENANT CORNER

The Resident Architectural Committee (RAC) meets via Zoom on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:30PM.

The next meeting is December 10, 2025. Please submit complete applications by December 1, 2025 @ 10am.

Find the Exterior Alteration application on our website: **VillageofKC.org** under the Covenants tab. Bring your completed application to Amherst House, drop it in the secure mailbox hanging on the front of Amherst House, or email it to: **Covenants@VillageofKC.org**



RAC MEETING SCHEDULE

There will be only **one RAC meeting** each month in November and December.

MAKING A COLOR CHANGE?



Please remember that *any change in color* requires approval to keep your home in compliance. This includes (but not limited to) items such as doors, trim, shutters, and decking.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING?



Please remember to submit an **Exterior Alteration Application** for items such as Basketball Poles and Backboards, Play Equipment, Trampolines, Ponds & Hot Tubs.



Report non-emergency issues to Howard County using the **Tell HoCo mobile app**. You can report issues pertaining to potholes, signs, graffiti, sidewalks, roadways, guardrails, parks, trees, sewers, dead animals or water.

VILLAGE BOARD

If you have concerns you would like the Village Board to address, attend a Board meeting. Board Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7:30PM. Meetings are held in-person at Amherst House.

The Monday before each meeting, the agenda is posted on **VillageofKC.org** and on Facebook (Kings Contrivance Village). If you would like to receive the agenda by email, please contact **Kings@VillageofKC.org**.

PACKAGE DELIVERY SAFETY TIPS

Reports of "porch pirates" who brazenly steal packages off of front doorsteps, are all too common. When shopping from online retailers, Howard County Police Department reminds residents to plan ahead to avoid becoming a victim of package theft.

- Consider installing a doorbell camera that notifies you when someone comes to your door.
- Track your packages and try to be home when they are scheduled to arrive. If you can't be home, ask a neighbor or friend to pick up the package until you return.
- Use an alternative delivery option, such as an Amazon locker or an attended pickup location.
- Request that the delivery service place the package in a location that can't be seen from the sidewalk, such as at a side or back door.
- Install a lockbox, a sturdy, secure container for delivery personnel to place your packages that locks after drop off.
- When you are home, bring packages inside immediately after delivery.
- Look out for your neighbors and report suspicious activity on your street. Contact HoCo Police Dept. by calling 911 or the non-emergency number 410-313-2200.

Mission statement: The association represents the community of Kings Contrivance by advocating for residents, enforcing covenants, and building a sense of community.

Board of Directors

Barbara Seely, Chair	410-381-6447	bseely@comcast.net
Melissa Hogle	410-880-1830	mhogle712@gmail.com
Carol Huegel	240-319-0841	huegel.kcboard@gmail.com
Madeleine Borowski	443-537-9389	madeleine.borowski@gmail.com
Vivian Feen	443-794-4106	vivianfeen1@gmail.com
Fred Nizio	301-498-4461	mobyk@aol.com

Columbia Council Representative

Wesley Fuhrman wesley.fuhrman@ca-board.org

Aging Well in Columbia Advocacy Committee

Janet Cornick

Watershed Advisory Committee Representative

Kate Reilly katerei42@gmail.com

KC CARES Environmental Group

KCVillageCares@gmail.com

Kings Contrivance Community Association

**7251 Eden Brook Drive
Columbia, Maryland 21046**

Phone: 410-381-9600

Email: Kings@VillageofKC.org

Facebook: Kings Contrivance Village

Free Notary Services available; please call for hours.



Amherst House Hours

**Monday-Friday
10am-5pm**

**Saturday
10am-1pm (rental tours by appt.)**

Interested in booking a social or business rental at Amherst House? Looking for space to teach a class? Call 410-381-9600 or email: **Facility@VillageofKC.org**.

- Home Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Business Insurance



Maynard Scott Spedden
Your Local Agent
License #2139511
8640 Guilford Rd Ste 223
Columbia, MD 21046
mspedden@farmersagent.com

Call 443-718-9824 today!
For a no-obligation quote.

[illegible]

Avoid all the raking and
let the pros do the work.
Neighborhood discounts available
for 3 or more customers.*

**Must be presented at time of estimate.*

Refresh the look of your house.

Contact **410.531.6208**
JFKLandscape@gmail.com
www.JFKLandscape.com

Ask about our first-time customer discount.

Learn about the HoCo Dept of Public Works (DPW) projects currently underway, visit:

HowardCountymd.gov/public-works
Searchable by project category and street name, you'll find additional project details, including news releases about the project. You can also contact DPW's Office at 410-313-3440.

Contact them directly at 410-312-6330 or **Open.Space@ColumbiaAssociation.org**



Have a question about
*Wills, Trusts, or Estate
Planning?* Contact

SWANEKAMP
LEGAL

Andrew Swanekamp, Esq.

Mobile: 410-624-9299

· WILLS · TRUSTS · ESTATE PLANNING andrew@swanekamplegal.com



Need a small or large space to conduct a meeting?

Amherst House is perfect for your needs. We have a small conference room, as well as a larger space, to accommodate your group. Both rooms have streaming capability and a sound system.

Amherst House is also the perfect venue for parties, weddings, showers and holiday parties.

For more info, call 410-381-9600 or email: Kings@VillageofKC.org



General Liability Insurance required.



Howard County Police Non-Emergency
(noise complaints, non-licensed cars on the street)

◆ 410-313-2200

Howard County Highways: Maintenance
(sidewalks, street signs, trees, ponds, grass cutting)

◆ **410-313-7450**

HoCo Cable TV Authority (questions/complaints)

◆ **410-313-3318**

Howard County Senior Assistance

◆ 410-313-7212

Howard County Rec and Parks

◆ **410-313-4640**

Howard County Bulk Pickup/Trash/Recycle

◆ **410-313-6444**