

CROWN PRINTS

VOLUME 47/No. 23 December 4, 2025 The Twice-Monthly Newsletter of the Village of Kings Contrivance



SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO AMHERST HOUSE!

COOKIES WITH SANTA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 FROM 2-4PM

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

Tickets are available at Amherst House; please call for availability.



FAMILY FUN BINGO!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

7:30-9PM

AMHERST HOUSE

Family Fun BINGO is back! Bring your family and friends of all ages to Amherst House on Friday, January 23 from 7:30-9:00pm. Join us for a night of fun and prizes!

Bingo cards are 6 for \$2.

Drinks are \$1 and snacks are free.

There is no registration for this event, just show up for a fun family night out.

THANK YOU TIFFANY!

Many thanks to Tiffany Heath as she concludes her service on the RAC. As a new resident, Tiffany jumped right in and generously dedicated her time to supporting our community. We are grateful for her commitment to our village and the thoughtful, open-minded, collaborative input she provided. We wish her all the best.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULES AMHERST HOUSE CLOSED

Amherst House will be closed for the holidays. The offices will close at 3pm on December 23rd and reopen on January 2, 2025 @ 10am.

- ◆ Resale Packets are available on our website: VillageofKC.org under the "Covenants" tab.

SLIDE SCHEDULE: TRASH & RECYCLING

Both Christmas and New Year's weeks are on a "slide" schedule. All trash, recycling and yard trim collections scheduled for Thursday and Friday on those weeks will "slide" and be made one day later that week.

Alpha Ridge Landfill will be closed Dec. 25 & Jan. 1.

MASTER GARDENER EVENTS

Join us this winter for a series of **FREE** gardening talks via *Zoom*. Enjoy these informative presentations given by Howard County Master Gardeners. Registration not required.

Tuesday, January 20 from 7-8pm

Preventing and Solving Vegetable Growing Problems



Come learn methods and skills to avoid common problems in growing vegetables and how to establish a productive plot. Discuss soil health, fertilization, and moisture, as well as recommended vegetable varieties.

Visit: zoom.us/join

Zoom Meeting ID: **849 0152 9454**

Passcode: **315660**

Tuesday, February 24 from 7-8pm

Perennial Gardening for Season Long Beauty



This talk provides an in-depth forum for creating and maintaining beautiful perennial gardens. Learn design concepts, plant selection, soil preparation, on-going plant care, and sustainable practices. Recommendations for herbaceous plants, with an emphasis on native plants.

Visit: zoom.us/join

Zoom Meeting ID: **859 6066 9622**

Passcode: **241255**

TOILETRY DRIVE EXTENDED DROP SUPPLIES AT AMHERST HOUSE THROUGH DECEMBER 17



Please support this effort by donating items such as shampoo, conditioner, lotion, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, feminine products, cleaning supplies, and laundry detergent. Full-size and travel-size accepted.

A MESSAGE FROM KC CARES KC VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP Creating Winter Structure in the Landscape

Leaving leaves in the garden over the winter is a great first step to support soil structure and provide support for overwintering insects. However, there are additional steps you can take to create winter structure that both looks attractive and supports animals. Leaving plant stems standing—especially the hollow stems of perennials like coneflowers and Joe-Pye weed—can provide insects like native bees a place to overwinter. Seedheads on ornamental grasses and perennials like asters and sunflowers provide beautiful shapes when covered with frost and also feed birds through the winter. If you want to go a step further, a simple pile of sticks in a quiet corner provides shelter for overwintering animals like toads, small mammals, and insects. Holding back on the fall cleanup is a simple step to support animals over the winter and can be more attractive than a bare garden until spring.



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

KCvillageCARES@gmail.com

SHOP & PLAY KIDS DROP OFF PROGRAM FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 4-8:30PM



Looking for an stress-free way to shop while your kids have fun in a safe, engaging environment? HoCo Rec and Parks' Shop & Play drop-off program is designed just for families like yours! Shop, run errands, or have a night out while your children enjoy a fun-filled, recreational experience that includes arts and crafts, a kid-friendly meal & hands-on activities. For ages 5-14 yrs. Located at the Harriet Tubman Center. Registration is \$10, Info? Call Daneisha Nicholas @ 410-313-4625 or Dnicholas@howardcountymd.gov.

If you have questions or concerns about CA Open Space, please contact **Columbia Association Open Space** directly. You can report issues in Open Space such as trees across a CA pathway or tot lot problems. Call **410-312-6330** or email:

Open.Space@ColumbiaAssociation.org

GIFT CARD SCAMS



Our Office of Consumer Protection is sharing this warning from the Federal Trade Commission about gift card scams. A favorite amongst criminals, scammers will tell their victims a range of different stories - that they're from the government, tech support, or your utility company, a friend or family member with an emergency, you've won a prize, and more, through call, text, email, or social media message to get you to buy gift cards so they can steal your money. Remember, gift cards are for gifts and only gifts, not for payments. **NEVER** buy a gift card because someone tells you to buy one and give them the numbers.

THE LOAN CLOSET OF HOWARD COUNTY

The Loan Closet of Howard County connects individuals with medical equipment (e.g., walkers, wheelchairs, crutches, bedrails, shower chairs, and much more) on a loan basis, free of charge. To receive equipment, your healthcare professional must complete a Loan Closet Referral Form. Appointments are required for all services; call **410-313-0363** to discuss your needs or ask for a referral.

Items accepted for donation!

Check inventory, find the referral form, and see what is needed for donation by visiting:

HowardCountyMD.gov/Disability-services

The Loan Closet of Howard County is located at 7125 Riverwood Drive, Suite D1, Columbia, MD



HELPING OLDER ADULTS STAY IN THEIR HOMES

A grab bar beside the shower, better lighting in the hallway, a ramp instead of stairs: these simple improvements through the Older Adult Home Modification Program are helping Howard County residents stay safer and live fuller lives in their own homes.

As a result of this program, not only do older adults experience greater independence and reduced fear of falling, but their caregivers also feel less stress and emotional burden. With modifications in place, families report increased confidence in managing care at home.

Support is available. Learn more about the Older Adult Home Modification Program at

HowardCountyMD.gov/aging-independence

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.

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 January 14, 2025. Please submit complete applications by January 5, 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**

Our covenant advisor does not inspect a property unless an inquiry is received at our office. Inquiries may be anonymous. *Please provide an exact address for the property in question.* If you have questions or observations about a property in the village, please call Amherst House at 410-381-9600.

RECYCLE HOLIDAY TREES



Prepare your tree for recycling by removing all ornaments, garlands, lights, tinsel, plastic bags, or any other artificial materials. You can recycle your tree on your normal recycling day through January 16. Trees will not be collected on trash days.

YARD TRIM COLLECTION

Reminder! Now that KC Village is eligible for the Feed the Green Bin program, yard trim collection is year round! For trash & recycling info, call 410-313-6444 or visit HowardCountyRecycles.org

Sign up for a Green Bin today! Visit HowardCountymd.gov/bureau-environmental-services/feed-green-bin

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.

HAVE A FAVORITE CONTRACTOR?

We are looking for **Contractor Recommendations** from residents who have had great experiences! We would love to expand our list of contractors and tradespeople, such as electricians, plumbers, painters, accountants, etc.

Please let us know if you've worked with a company that was:

- Reliable and on time
- Fairly priced
- Communicative
- High-quality in their craftsmanship

Email: **Info@VillageofKC.org** with the company's name and your comments.

If you would like a copy of our list, please call 410-381-9600 or stop by Amherst House.

We also keep a list of local snow shovelers, dog walkers, leaf rakers, etc. Are you interested in being put on this list? Do you have a teenager who would like to be on this list? If so, please call 410-381-9600.

FREE BIKES 4 KIDZ | Got a bike to give away? Turn that dusty bike into a shiny smile! **Donate to Free Bikes 4 Kidz.** The organization also has volunteer opportunities. For more information on donating or applying for a bike, please visit: **fb4kmaryland.org**

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 Niziol	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.

Coverage for the life you want to live

- 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.



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LEAF REMOVAL

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.

FALL CLEANUP

Refresh the look of your house.

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

Ask about our first-time customer discount.

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 & elder care. Specialists answer calls 24 hours a day.

CABLE BOX REPAIR

Outdoor cable boxes in your neighborhood in need of repair? Please report them to the HoCo Cable Administrator at: **410-313-3318**

**PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
IM**



**SWANEKAMP
LEGAL**

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

Andrew Swanekamp, Esq.
Mobile: 410-624-9299

• WILLS • TRUSTS • ESTATE PLANNING

andrew@swanekamplegal.com

**HoCo offers
FREE
CURBSIDE
BULK PICK
UP!**

Schedule a
pickup by calling
410-313-6444

Before calling for
bulk pickup,
consider donation!
Many charities &
non-profits accept
reusable items
from building
materials to
clothing to
furniture.

New Hope Lutheran Church



Celebrate the True Meaning of the Season!

Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 7 @ 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Wednesday, December 24 @ 3:00 PM (family focused)
and 7:30 PM (traditional)

Christmas Morning Potluck Brunch for the Housing Insecure

10 AM to 12 Noon

Lessons & Carols

December 28, 10 am

(Nursery available for Christmas Eve and Lessons & Carols services)

All services also available on our YouTube channel or via our website: newhopelutheran.org.

8575 Guilford Rd., Columbia, MD 21046
410-381-HOPE (4673) • www.newhopelutheran.org