

CROWN PRINTS



VOLUME 48/No. 01 January 8, 2026 The Twice-Monthly Newsletter of the Village of Kings Contrivance



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OUR KC RESIDENTS!



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.



LADIES' NIGHT BINGO FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20 7:30PM @ AMHERST HOUSE

Bring your friends and join us for this adult-only evening of refreshments & BINGO with fun prizes! Tickets are \$16 per person & include 12 BINGO cards; 12 games will be played. Extra cards will be available for purchase. To register, please call 410-381-9600 or stop by Amherst House.

*Seats are limited! Get your tickets by February 9 for a chance to win a \$25 Corner Stable gift card.

Tickets go on sale January 19.



FREE WEBINAR *Microponds*

THUR., FEBRUARY 19 @ 7PM

Join KC CARES for a webinar to learn how to make a very small pond in your yard, how to populate it with plants, prepare it for wildlife, and how it will benefit our ecosystem. Sponsored by KC CARES.

Email KCvillageCARES@gmail.com to register.

VOLUNTEER FOR NEIGHBOR RIDE

An affordable, volunteer-based transportation system for Howard County seniors. Neighbor Ride helps connect seniors to people, services and activities that add meaning and value to their lives. To volunteer, support Neighbor Ride's efforts, or to request a ride, call **410-884-7433** or visit NeighborRide.org

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**

Tuesday, March 24 from 7-8pm *Propagating Perennial Plants*

 Have you been shocked by the price of perennials recently? Would you like to multiply your favorite plant? This beginner class is for you! In this talk you will learn which of your own plants are easiest to propagate and which method works best for each type of plant.

Visit: zoom.us/join
Zoom Meeting ID: **874 4136 0730**
Passcode: **772138**



DON'T FORGET...
PHOTOS FROM OUR SANTA EVENTS
ARE AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP AT
AMHERST HOUSE.

A MESSAGE FROM KC CARES KC VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP Winter Salt and Spring Ponds



Melted snow and ice from the winter flow into spring ponds that are home to our frogs and other aquatic life. But the salt we use on sidewalks and streets creates a toxic runoff that is absorbed in the groundwater and in

freshwater ponds, streams and rivers, making them unsafe for many amphibians and fish. Salt also erodes cement and steel (i.e., your driveway and car), kills plants, is toxic to pets, and poisons our drinking water.

Fortunately, there are great alternatives:

- Shovel or sweep your driveway and let the sun melt or evaporate any remaining snow
- In shady areas or where the snow doesn't melt and you need traction, plain sand or cat litter usually does the job.
- Coffee grinds or ash from your fireplace provide both grit and a dark color, increasing the rate of melting
- Pickle juice can be used to melt small areas of ice

Learn more:

chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/how-do-road-salts-impact-chesapeake-critters

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

KCvillageCARES@gmail.com

TAX TIPS

1. **File early** to avoid identity thieves who use stolen social security numbers to file tax returns.
2. **Check out your preparer.** Make sure your preparer is properly licensed by going to DLLR's website: DLLR.State.MD.US/PQ/
3. **Avoid refund anticipation loans.** Fees and interest will be deducted from your refund.
4. **Stay alert for IRS imposters.** The **IRS does not call taxpayers** who owe back taxes. Hang up if the caller asks for immediate payment, even if Caller ID says IRS.

FREE TAX PREP!

Low and moderate income taxpayers can obtain **free** tax prep from:

- ⇒ AARP - locations around the county. Visit Aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/
- ⇒ Making Change—a HoCo non-profit. For info, visit: **MakingChangeCenter.org** or call 443-518-7650.

AMHERST HOUSE SCHEDULE



Amherst House will be closed on Saturday, January 17th and Monday, January 19th in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The offices will reopen on Tuesday, January 20th at 10am.

⇒ Trash & recycling pick-up will be on a regular schedule the week of January 19th. It is not a *slide week*.

ELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED



Village elections are approaching and we need volunteers to serve on the Election Committee. Committee members oversee the voting process to include issuing, receiving and counting the ballots cast on election days. This year's elections will be held on Friday, April 24th from 5pm to 7pm and on Saturday, April 25th from 9am to 1pm. Are you interested in serving on the committee? Contact Beverley Meyers at 410-381-9600.

CA POOLS: SUMMER 2026

NOW HIRING

- Pool managers
- Lifeguards
- Swim lesson instructors

Work poolside all season with a great team, free training and flexible hours! You don't have to live in Columbia to join the team.

APPLY HERE:
ColumbiaAssociation.org/about-us/careers/aquatics/

Or CALL CA AQUATICS: **410-312-6332**

All CA Team Members receive a
FREE Fit & Play membership!

SIDEWALK MAINTAINANCE

Please remember...if your property has a sidewalk along the **SIDE OR REAR** property line (even if the sidewalk area is behind a fence) it is your responsibility to mow the grass, rake the leaves and **shovel snow** in this area. You are responsible for maintaining the sidewalk and grassy areas so that it is safe for public use. It's the law! *Howard County code, Section 18.402(a) and (h).*

NEED TO TALK? CALL 9-8-8

Winter months can bring lonely nights and we're here to remind you that you are not alone in your struggle. In Howard County, we believe in building a community of compassion and care. **Call 988** to talk to someone now, because healing begins with connection and it's ok to ask for help.

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 28, 2026. Please submit complete applications by January 20, 2026 @ 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

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 17. 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



CHILD CARE INFO FAIR
SATURDAY, JAN. 24, 10AM-1PM
EAST COLUMBIA 50+ CENTER
6610 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD

The 2026 Howard County Child Care Information Fair will provide parents and guardians with "one stop shopping" for info on child care, pre-school, school-aged & summer programs. Admission is free. For info, contact HoCo Office of Children at 410-313-1940 or email:

Children@HowardCountyMD.gov

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

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.

◊ If you have an issue or concern that can't wait for a Board Meeting, contact Beverley Meyers, the Village Manager. Call 410-381-9600 or email Kings@VillageofKC.org

COMING
SOON!

VILLAGE CENTER UPDATE

At the October 15 Board Meeting, Kimco gave a Village Center update.

- Presented new signage for the Village Center
- Reported that a lease was signed a new nail salon, **Aurora Nails**. It will be in the former Glamour Salon space.

Details will be coming soon!

HAMMOND HIGH SCHOOL WINTER DANCE CONCERT JAN. 15 and JAN. 16 @ 7PM Hammond High Auditorium

Featuring the Hammond Dance Companies and Dance Classes!

General admission tickets are \$6.00 and can be purchased at the door or in advance at:

Hcpss.booktix.com/dept/hahsdance



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 222
Columbia, MD 21046
mspedden@farmersagent.com

Call 443-718-9824 today!

For a no-obligation quote.



Advertisement produced on behalf of the following specific insurers and seeking to obtain business for insurance underwritten by Farmers Insurance Exchange, Fire Insurance Exchange, Truck Insurance Exchange, Mid-Century Insurance Company, Farmers Insurance Company of Washington (Bellevue, WA) or affiliates. F.T.C. Insurance is underwritten by Farmers Insurance Exchange, Fire Insurance Exchange, Truck Insurance Exchange, Mid-Century Insurance Company of Texas or Texas Farmers Insurance Company. In NY, insurance is underwritten by Farmers Insurance Exchange, Truck Insurance Exchange, Mid-Century Insurance Company of New York. In MA, insurance is underwritten by Farmers Insurance Exchange, Truck Insurance Exchange, Mid-Century Insurance Company of Massachusetts. Each insurer has sole financial responsibility for its own insurance. List of all insurers and states where licensed at farmers.com/companies/state. Not all insurers are authorized in all states. Not all products, coverages, and discounts are available in every state and may vary by state. Restrictions, exclusions, limitations, and conditions apply. See agent for details. Farmers New World Life Insurance Company, 3120 159th Ave SE, Ste 300, Bellevue, WA 98005. Farmers New World Life Insurance Company is not licensed and does not conduct or offer life insurance in the state of Maryland.

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, housing, utility assistance, food, health care & family resources such as child & elder care. Specialists answer calls 24 hours a day.

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.

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 shoveling, 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? Please call 410-381-9600.

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IM

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

Andrew Swanekamp, Esq.

Mobile: 410-624-9299

andrew@swanekamplegal.com



SWANEKAMP LEGAL

• WILLS • TRUSTS • ESTATE PLANNING

YOUR AD HERE!

For only **\$25 per e-issue** and **\$60 per printed issue**, your ad will be sent directly to more than 800 emails and all 1800 of our *Facebook Friends*.



Your ad will also appear on our Website & Instagram.



The printed version is delivered once a month to over 5,000 village homes via USPS.

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**

MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland provides a number of core programs and support services including Homebound Meal Delivery, Grocery Assistance, Isolation Reduction, Phone Pals and Kibble Connection (for clients with pets.) To learn more, call **410-558-0923** or visit: **MealsOnWheelsMD.org**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Call 410-558-0923 or email
Volunteer@mowcm.org