

CROWN PRINTS

VOLUME 48/No. 8/April 23, 2026 The Twice-Monthly Newsletter of the Village of Kings Contrivance



We need your vote in the Village Elections!
Stop by Amherst House to vote on Friday evening (5-7pm) or vote on Saturday (9am-1pm) and shop at our Community Yard Sale (9am-noon) and take part in KC CARES Gardens for Wildlife Event (9am-noon).
Be the Quorum Voter (#86) and receive a KC swag bag!



VILLAGE ELECTIONS

FRI, APRIL 24: 5PM-7PM
SAT, APRIL 25: 9AM-1PM



- WHAT:** Kings Contrivance Village Board (4 seats—2 year terms)
- WHEN:** Friday, April 24, 5-7PM
Saturday, April 25, 9AM-1PM
- WHERE:** Amherst House
- WHO:** **Melissa Hogle, Madeleine Borowski, Heidi Schweingruber, Paul Rader, Vivian Feen and Fred Niziol** are seeking election/re-election to the Village Board. Read the Candidate Statements on the home page of our website: VillageofKC.org
- WHY:** This is a wonderful opportunity to fulfill your civic duty; we need a quorum of 86 votes to validate the elections.

All KC residents 18 years or older are encouraged to vote.

Questions? Please call 410-381-9600



KC KIDS VOTE TOO!

Children residing in the village who are not yet 18 years old are encouraged to vote, too! They will vote to select which animal the Kings Contrivance Community Association will adopt from the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR JUNE 14, 2026

Come celebrate the **40th Anniversary** of the Kings Contrivance Village Center on the evening of June 14!

Look for details in upcoming issues of the Crown Prints.
Sponsored by KIMCO

2026 COURTYARD CONCERTS: SUNDAYS @ 5PM
JUNE 14, JULY 12, and AUGUST 9

ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES!

SATURDAY, APRIL 25
9AM-NOON
COMMUNITY YARD SALE



After you vote, come shop for treasures at our popular community yard sale that takes place in the Amherst House parking lot! Rain date is May 2.



SATURDAY, APRIL 25

9AM-NOON
KC CARES EVENT



Join KC CARES at Amherst House on Election Day for their event:

GARDENS FOR WILDLIFE!
BRING IN THE BIRDS! THE FROGS!
THE BUTTERFLIES!

Come talk with experienced wildlife gardeners for help and advice.

Free chickadee houses! Free microponds!
Free native plants!

Questions? Contact: KCVillageCares@gmail.com

NEW RESIDENT OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, MAY 16
10:30AM-NOON
AMHERST HOUSE



Would you like to learn more about your village? All new residents are invited to a *free* open house at Amherst House.

Join us for coffee, pastries and crafts for the kids while you learn about your new neighborhood.

Get your free giveaway from the KC CARES environmental committee!

Please let us know if you would like to attend.
Call 410-381-9600 or email Events@VillageofKC.org

**A MESSAGE FROM KC CARES
KC VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP
Garden for Wildlife!**



A few thoughtful changes can turn even a small yard into a refuge for songbirds, wood frogs, and summer fireflies. Native plants are key. Flowers like Golden Alexanders and Mountain Mint provide food for bees, butterflies, and caterpillars, while native grasses like Purple Love Grass and Little Bluestem provide seeds and shelter for birds.

Water makes all the difference. A shallow pond or basin attracts frogs and dragonflies and gives birds a place to drink and bathe. Shrubs and small trees, including Redbuds and Winterberry Hollies, supply berries and nesting sites for cardinals and robins. Leaving leaf litter and avoiding lawn chemicals supports fireflies and other insects, which are essential food for both birds and frogs.

Come to Amherst House on Saturday, April 25, from 9am-noon to pick up free native plants, micropond kits, and chickadee houses from KC CARES to help welcome wildlife to your yard!

Supplies limited, no pre-registration, KC residents only.

To learn more about KC CARES, sign up for our weekly environmental newsletter, and join our efforts, contact KCvillageCARES@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Here's your chance to nominate a Kings Contrivance resident who has done an outstanding job improving life in Kings Contrivance. Nomination forms are available at Amherst House and on the home page of our website: VillageofKC.org. Please email completed forms to Kings@VillageofKC.org or drop them off at Amherst House.

**HOWARD COUNTY
PROPERTY TAX CREDITS**

Howard County provides a variety of Real Property Tax Credits designed to meet the needs of County taxpayers and to promote specific activity that is beneficial to the County as a whole. Visit:

howardcountymd.gov/finance/tax-credits and use The Tax Credit Calculator to see if your household is eligible for one of the many property tax credits offered by Howard County.

THANK YOU!

Over fifty residents enjoyed a fun evening at our annual Ladies' Night Bingo. Many thanks for the generous donations we received from:

- ◇ **SD Salon Studios**
- ◇ **Kings Contrivance Jewelers**
- ◇ **The Corner Stable**
- ◇ **Trattoria E Pizzeria**

Thank you to our fabulous BINGO callers - KC Board Member, **Fred Niziol** and resident **Ed Gardocki**.

Your continued support helps to make our community events successful!

THE COLUMBIA DICTIONARY



The Columbia Dictionary exists to help residents, prospective homebuyers, businesses, real estate agents, and others better understand the language that describes how Columbia works, both historically and today.

The original Columbia Dictionary was produced in the early 1990s and, for many years, was given to new residents when they moved to Columbia. This updated edition reflects the current realities of life in Columbia while maintaining the spirit of the original: welcoming new residents, fostering a sense of belonging, and helping people better understand the structures, values, and shared responsibilities that shape our community. Enjoy the Columbia Dictionary at:

columbialiving.org/resident-resources/the-columbia-dictionary/

SUMMER BLOCK PARTY

\$50 GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE!

Get to know your neighbors—host a block party this summer! Call or come into Amherst House and fill out a Block Party Registration form, invite all of your neighbors and have a blast. After the party, bring in your receipts for food, soft drinks, paper goods, etc. and be reimbursed up to \$50.

\$200 CUL-DE-SAC GRANTS

Does your cul-de-sac need sprucing up? We are offering three \$200 grants to be used to beautify your cul-de-sac. To qualify, you must live on Columbia assessed property in Kings Contrivance. Planting tips and plans are available if you need inspiration! Call 410-381-9600 or email Kings@VillageofKC.org.



SAVE THE DATE: SUMMER EVENTS

June 30 - 50+ Lunch

July 14 - Sundae Making

August 6 - Pool Party

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 May 13, 2026. Please submit complete applications by May 4, 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

SPRING DANCE CONCERT HAMMOND HIGH SCHOOL MAY 1 & 2 @ 7:00PM



Hammond Dance presents their Spring Dance Concert on May 1 & 2 @ 7pm each evening in the Hammond High Auditorium. There will be a special performance featuring Patuxent Valley Middle School dancers at the Friday performance. General admission tickets are \$7.00 each and can be purchased online:

HCPSS.BookTix.com/dept/hahsdance



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Columbia Festival of the Arts (CFA) is in need of volunteers to support the artists and the festivalgoers at LakeFest 2026 this June 12-14, at Lake Kittamaqundi in Downtown Columbia. There is a new volunteer information session on Tuesday, May 12 @ 7pm (on Zoom). Additional info and registration at:

ColumbiaFestival.org/become-a-volunteer

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 hybrid.

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

UPCOMING AGENDA

Wednesday, May 6 @ 7:30pm



- Budget FY2027
- Huntington Cluster Play Area program

VILLAGE BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2027

The village's fiscal year 2027 runs from May 1, 2026 to April 30, 2027. The draft budget is now available at:

VillageofKC.org/village-board/agenda/

The Board welcomes your input on the budget; they will approve the budget at the May 6 Board Meeting.

NEW TOT LOT PLANS



Columbia Association has proposed plans reimagining five tot lots in Huntington in Kings Contrivance.

You can view the plans at

VillageofKC.org/village-news

The Village Board will vote on this plan at their May 6 Village Board meeting.

Please send any comments on the plan to Open.Space@ColumbiaAssociation.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.

