

CROWN PRINTS



VOLUME 48/No. 7/April 9, 2026 The Twice-Monthly Newsletter of the Village of Kings Contrivance



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.
- 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. Encouraging kids to participate will instill a sense of civic pride and remind them of the importance of voting when they are older.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION TUESDAY, APRIL 21 @10:30AM AMHERST HOUSE

***"Creating Meaningful Moments:
Empathy and Understanding of Those
with Dementia"***

Do you know someone who is living with dementia? Are you struggling to understand their actions and how to best respond to them? Come learn ways to connect with and have positive interactions with those living with brain change. To register, please call 410-381-9600 or email Events@VillageofKC.org

Presented by Gilchrist

ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES! SATURDAY, APRIL 25 9AM-NOON COMMUNITY YARD SALE



After you vote, come shop for treasures at our popular yard sale that will take place in the Amherst House parking lot!

Would you like to rent a space? The cost for CA-assessed residents is \$15 for one space or \$20 for two spaces; \$20 per space for non-CA. Maximum of two spaces. Spaces sell out quickly!

Call **410-381-9600** for availability.
No vendors please! Rain date is May 2.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25 9AM-11:30AM 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 wren houses! Free microponds! Free native plants!
Questions? Contact: KCVillageCares@gmail.com

Welcome to Kings Contrivance! 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

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.



CANDIDATES' NIGHT at AMHERST HOUSE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15@ 7PM

Join us at Amherst House and meet the candidates who are seeking election/re-election to the Kings Contrivance Village Board. A hybrid option is also available; email Kings@VillageofKC.org to request the link. Please plan to attend so you can hear their statements and have your questions answered.

The following six residents are seeking election to a two-year term on the Kings Contrivance Village Board. *Four seats are available.*

Melissa Hogle

I have been a resident of Huntington in the village of Kings Contrivance since 1987. I was lucky enough to raise my two daughters here where we were able to take part in many of the wonderful activities that Columbia has to offer such as: being members of the Huntington Dolphins Swim team, attending CA summer camps, using the skating rink, summer parties in the cul de sac, and the Supreme Sports Club to name a few. I absolutely love living here! With my fifth term now complete I am seeking re-election and asking for your vote. I would love to continue to serve our Village to ensure that we maintain the quality of life that we all enjoy by living here.

Madeleine Borowski

I joined the village board in 2023 as I wanted to contribute to the neighborhood that raised me. I grew up in Dickinson. I participated each summer on the KC Waves swim team, worked as a lifeguard for the KC pool cluster, and graduated from Hammond High School in 2012. Now, my goal as a village board member is to ensure Kings Contrivance remains a great place to live for its residents. I am committed to the values and vision that Kings Contrivance was built on, but open to adapting and growing with the needs of the village. I would be grateful to continue to serve on the Kings Contrivance board for the next term.

Heidi Schweingruber

I moved to Kings Contrivance as a single parent 15 years ago with two young children for the quality of life and proximity to nature. Now I am ready to give back to the community that has given us so much. My work in DC is on national science education policy and research and my weekends are with my grown sons and as part of the KC CARES leadership team. I've planned and staffed numerous community environmental events. My years here and my community experience have given me an understanding of how the village operates and the importance of the village board. I am eager to lend my voice and energy to the board to ensure that our community continues to be vital and supportive for all who live here. I am especially interested in ensuring we have activities for all ages and maintaining our beautiful woodlands and green spaces.

Paul Rader

As a father, husband, and community volunteer, I hope to continue contributing positively to the neighborhood by serving on the Kings Contrivance Village Board. As a father, I care deeply about maintaining a safe, welcoming, family-friendly community—a "garden for growing people." As a dedicated volunteer, I am committed to putting the community's needs first. I am actively involved in local environmental projects and initiatives that have helped our neighborhood blossom in many ways. Strong leadership begins with honesty, transparency, and listening to every voice. I am committed to preserving Kings Contrivance's character while planning responsibly for its future, keeping our village a great place to call home. Hopefully we run into each other sometime in the community or on the pathways with my family and our golden retriever. I would truly appreciate your support!

Vivian Feen

Over the past two years, my service on the Board has deeply reinforced my belief that effective governance requires more than just a 'yes' or 'no' vote. I have learned that complex issues rarely have simple solutions, and I am committed to the process of asking the right questions to uncover the 'why' behind every challenge. By actively listening to my fellow Board members and, most importantly, the homeowners who share their concerns at our meetings, I've developed a balanced perspective that prioritizes thoughtful deliberation over quick assumptions. I would like to continue my service to ensure our decisions remain thorough, transparent, and truly reflective of our community's diverse needs.

Fred Nizio

I'm running for reelection to the KC Village Board to continue to protect our neighborhood's quality of life and ensure every resident's voice is heard. As a longtime KC resident and member of the Village Board, I've voted to establish community events, safety initiatives, and open space improvements that bring neighbors together. If reelected, I will continue to prioritize transparent, responsive Board actions and decisions, fiscal responsibility in village budgeting, and common sense ideas for covenant enforcement and guidelines. I'll also continue to advocate for stronger partnerships with Howard County, Columbia Association, and the other village associations to secure resources for play areas, environmental programs, and other projects that may arise. I'm committed to community-first leadership that preserves our village's character through my work on the Architectural Committee and to plan responsibly for the future. I respectfully ask for your vote so we can move Kings Contrivance forward, together.

**THE CROWN PRINTS WELCOMES
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.**



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

NEW TOT LOT PLANS



At the Village Board Meeting on March 18, Columbia Association gave a presentation on reimagining play areas in Kings Contrivance. The proposed plans from CA involve five tot lots in Huntington. 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.



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.

UPCOMING BOARD AGENDA ITEMS



May 6 @ 7:30pm

Vote on Fiscal Year 2027 Budget

Vote on Huntington Play Area Cluster Plan

The following absentee ballots may be used by any resident of Kings Contrivance 18 years or older. Extra copies are available at Amherst House. No photocopies will be accepted. Cut out the ballot and mail the postcard or hand-deliver it to Amherst House. There is a ballot box on the front desk or you may put it in the secure mailbox attached to the left of the main entrance.

All absentee ballots must be received no later than 5PM on Thursday, April 23, 2026.

KINGS CONTRIVANCE VILLAGE

ELECTIONS 2026 - ABSENTEE BALLOT

I certify that I will not cast a ballot at a polling place on April 24 or 25, 2026. In the absence of a quorum, I vote to adjourn this meeting until a quorum has attended.

Signature

Printed Name

Street Address

FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Placing an X in the appropriate box, choose no more than 4 (four).

Melissa Hogle []

Madeleine Borowski []

Heidi Schweingruber []

Paul Rader []

Vivian Feen []

Fred Niziol []

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Heidi Schweingruber []

Paul Rader []

Vivian Feen []

Fred Niziol []

Coverage for the life you want to live

- Home Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Business Insurance



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**LOOKING FOR SPACE TO
TEACH A CLASS? HOLD A SEMINAR?
GIVE A PRESENTATION?**



Amherst House is available daytime & evenings. With a banquet room and a board room, we have the perfect place for you and your students or clients. Both rooms have streaming capability. Call 410-381-9600 for more information or for a tour.
*Liability insurance may be required.



If you have questions or concerns about CA Open Space, please contact Columbia Association Open Space directly. 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



**Kings Contrivance Community Association
7251 Eden Brook Drive
Columbia, MD 21046**



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