CA MONTHLY

A Publication of the Columbia Association

APRIL 2008

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Cast your vote April 26 for Columbia Council representatives and village board members

BY ELIZABETH SCHROEN

Village elections for Columbia Council representatives and village boards will be held Saturday, April 26.

Owen Brown has no contested races, so there will be no election in that village. All villages are offering voting by absentee ballot, so check with your village for details if you cannot attend on Election Day. Columbia Council representatives will be elected in Harper's Choice, Hickory Ridge, Oakland Mills, Owen Brown, Town Center and Wilde Lake. In Hickory Ridge, incumbent Miles Coffman is running unopposed. In Oakland Mills and Town Center, incumbents Barbara Russell and Gail Broida decided not to run for re-election. Village board elections will be held in every village, as well. Be sure to attend the forums at your village to learn about the candidates. Election times and locations vary, so be sure to see the complete schedule on **page 3.** ■

2008 Columbia Council Representative Elections

DORSEY'S SEARCH • Non-Election Year • Incumbent: Tom O'Connor

HARPER'S CHOICE • Incumbent: Cynthia Coyle • Lynda Maxwell

HICKORY RIDGE • Incumbent: Miles Coffman

KINGS CONTRIVANCE • Non-Election Year • Evan Coren

LONG REACH • Non-Election Year • Incumbent: Henry F. Dagenais

OAKLAND MILLS • Phil Engelke • Alex Hekimian

OWEN BROWN • Incumbent: Pearl Atkinson-Stewart

RIVER HILL • Non-Election Year • Incumbent: Michael Cornell

TOWN CENTER • Stephen Meskin • Suzanne Waller

WILDE LAKE • Incumbent: Philip W. Kirsch • Linda Odum

Member Appreciation Days

Columbia Gym honored members on March 8 with a full day of fun, games, food, refreshments and prizes. Pictured is Bill Taylor, 9, from Ellicott City squinting as he front kicks a practice pad. Bill takes a youth martial arts class at the gym and was practicing tae kwon do. Columbia Athletic Club's appreciation day was held in February, and the **Supreme Sports Club** appreciation day is **Saturday, April 5.** For more information, call 410-381-5355. Thanks to our members for continued support, patronage and consistently voting our facilities **Best of Howard** in *Howard Magazine*!

TAKE NOTE

this month on Columbia Matters

Organizers of **The First Tee of Howard County** will be in the studio with host Mike Easterling to talk about how their golf program teaches young people character development and values. Also see footage of the **Teen Role Model Competition,** and CA President Maggie Brown will discuss **village elections.** In the **50 Plus** segment, learn all about **free classes** for seniors at Howard Community College. **Visit www.ColumbiaMatters.org to watch this month's episode.**

Columbia Matters airs Mondays at 11am, 4pm and 7pm, as well as Saturdays at 8:30pm on Comcast cable channel 71, and Verizon cable channel 41. It can now also be seen on Comcast channel 73 on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10am, 2pm and 7pm.

For more information, call 410-715-3120 or e-mail CATV@ColumbiaAssociation.com. Visit us on the web at www.ColumbiaMatters.org.

What CA was up to in FY2008's third quarter

BY KIM HENRY

The Columbia Association has posted its third quarter results for Fiscal Year 2008, resulting from operations over the nine-month period from May 1, 2007, through Jan. 31, 2008. As of the end of the third quarter, the Columbia Association expects to finish the year with an increase in net assets of nearly $3.7 million.

Administrative Services

As noted in CA President Maggie Brown's report to the Board of Directors, the Columbia Association expects to end FY2008 with an increase in net assets of approximately $3.7 million. Total income and total operating expenses are anticipated to be $56.6 million and $47.7 million, respectively.

The projected total income of approximately $56.6 million is expected to exceed budget by $418,000 (less than 1 percent), due mainly to a positive variance in annual charge revenue. A large number of property sales resulted in annual charge revenue based on the phase-in values, which are not subject to the cap. In addition, income from new construction, including the land in Benson East, was greater than projected.

Total operating expenses are projected to be about $47.7 million by year-end, exceeding budget by approximately $293,000 (a variance of less than 1 percent). Interest expense is expected to be significantly under budget by year-end because the issuance of new financing was postponed due to the timing of some capital projects and credit market considerations.

Communications and Marketing

The Communications and Marketing Division reported that FY08 membership income and Package Plan income combined is $36,000 higher than comparable FY07 income. With their low cost and high value, Package Plan offerings remain very attractive, and total membership sales for the quarter exceeded budget projections by 260. Membership retention also remained high for the quarter, which reinforces the quality of CA's facilities and programs. Current FY08 income estimates are projected to be 3 percent below budget, as a result of soft sales in the first quarter from golf and pool memberships. YTD expenses are $37,000 over budget; however, the end-of-year forecast is $4,000 below budget.

Other significant accomplishments throughout the third quarter included the sales and service provided to thousands of residents by the Membership Service Center; the introduction of a new format for "Columbia Matters" (CA's cable TV show) and its companion web site, www.ColumbiaMatters.org; the success of the fifth annual Images of Freedom poster contest in recognition of Black History Month, sponsored in conjunction with the Howard County Department of Transportation; the launch of a new web site for CA camps — www.ColumbiaCamps.org; the official launch of FitBeginnings, CA's first physician referral fitness program; and the distribution of hundreds of Welcome Packets to new residents at the Welcome Desk and at welcome events.

Community Services

The Community Services Division finished the third quarter $700,000 better than budget, and the division is projecting to end the year $356,000 better than budget. The positive variance at the end of the third quarter is primarily due to increased tuition and enrollment income from School Age Services, savings in interest expense and savings in the Administrative Services and Community Relations allocations expense. Due to a reallocation of insurance expense among various CA departments to more accurately reflect actual results, the camps department will not meet budget this year.

The School Age Services program is $424,000 ahead of budget and $51,000 ahead of last year, primarily due to a change in licensed capacities allowing for increased enrollment.

Approximately 200 youngsters were able to attend CA's School Age Services and camps programs, thanks to CA's income-qualified program at a subsidy of approximately $174,000. Columbia Teen Center is slightly behind budget at the end of the quarter due to a reduction in grant funding from Howard County government; based on the anticipated funding cuts, staff hours have been reduced.

Other programs supported by the third quarter subsidy of $1,619,000 from the annual charge include the summer Lakefront and International Day Festivals, Columbia Archives, the Sister Cities program, Columbia Art Center and Volunteer Center Serving Howard County. In addition, the subsidy provides support to the village associations in the amount of $3,455,000 to fund village elections, covenant enforcement personnel, village board activities, building maintenance and other community programs and services.

Community Services is projected to finish the year better than budget in most departments.

Open Space Management

The Open Space Management Division completed the third quarter of FY08 better than budget in total operating expenses by $362,000, with a decrease in net assets of $8,377,000, representing a favorable variance of $1,321,000. All departments in the division had total operating expenses less than the budget throughout the quarter, and it is projected the division will complete the year with savings in total operating expenses.

Primarily due to the mild weather conditions, the Land Maintenance Department reported expenses less than budget in most line items throughout the third quarter; the RV Storage Park is also better than budget in total operating expenses for the quarter. Related to income, there is a positive variance in income through the third quarter, and the department should end the year slightly ahead of budget. The current estimate shows that by year's end, a total of $12,324,000 of annual charge revenue will be required to protect and maintain the environmental assets of Columbia, which include more than 3,500 acres of open space, 93.5 miles of pathways, 169 tot lots, three lakes and 41 ponds.

Sport & Fitness

The Sport & Fitness Division reported record usage during the third quarter of FY08 at CA's three fitness clubs with 122,905 recorded visits to Columbia Athletic Club, 120,455 visits to Columbia Gym and 185,683 visits to Supreme Sports Club, for a total of 429,043 visits.

The FitBeginnings physician referral program, which began in October, is enjoying tremendous initial success; nearly 300 individuals have been referred to the program by more than 60 local physicians. Participants in the 60-day program enjoy a personalized introduction to exercise by CA's fitness professionals.

The Service Magic training program, which includes a series of weekly workshops aimed at teaching the fundamentals of customer service, is now in its second year and is enhancing customer service throughout the Sport & Fitness Division. To date, more than 200 Sport & Fitness team members have completed the program.

The Sport & Fitness Division is projected to end the year with $678,000 more revenue than last year, and operating expenses (exclusive of a one-time $750,000 insurance expense) are projected to increase by $355,000 (1.6 percent). ■

BikeAbout

Get out and enjoy the spring weather with a bike ride around Lake Elkhorn in the Village of Owen Brown on **Saturday, April 26, starting at 9am.** Riders can enjoy the 13-mile route at their own pace while exploring Columbia's history. The event is organized by Columbia Archives and sponsored by CA. **Pre-registration is encouraged.** For a registration form, visit **www.ColumbiaAssociation.org,** CA Headquarters, Columbia Archives or any CA sports facility. For more information, call Barbara Kellner at 410-715-3103. ■

Dog Day Afternoon

Tails are wagging as Columbia's canines get ready for Dog Day Afternoon on **Saturday, April 12, from 1 to 4pm.** at Lake Elkhorn. For more information, call Kelly Cooper at 410-715-3104.

WEBEXTRA! Catch up with **Mr. Howard County Brent Jackson** and **Miss Howard County Lizzi Carpenter,** winners of CA's Teen Role Model Competition, and enter the **KidsKorner** pet photo contest online at **www.CAmonthly.org.**

Watershed Resident Advisory Committee Forms

In an effort to **beautify** Columbia's streams and lakes, **improve the environment** for wildlife and plant life and save funds, Columbia Association is investing in watershed improvement. The CA Board of Directors recently approved the creation of a resident advisory committee to participate in the process. The **Watershed Advisory Committee** met for the first time on March 12. The committee is comprised of one member from each village, who were recommended and approved by the village boards. An 11th member has been chosen by CA. The committee is tasked with helping create and implement a CA watershed policy and enhance public awareness and education. Meetings will be held the second Thursday of each month and are open to the public. For updates and information on the meeting location, visit **www.CAmonthly.org.** ■

CA: A Terrific Place to Work

Columbia Association team members recently submitted essays for a contest about why CA is a terrific place to work. CA congratulates **Rose Vaughn,** of the Aquatics Department, for writing the winning essay and winning a $100 gift certificate to the Mall in Columbia. Honorable mentions went to **Alyssa Felix,** of Columbia Gym; **Kelly Cooper,** of the Communications Department; and **Matt Basch,** of SportsPark. All participants received two AMC movie passes.

WEBEXTRA! To read the winning essay, log on to **www.CAmonthly.org.**

Village Election Schedule

All villages are offering absentee ballots this year. Voting hours and procedures differ from village to village. For further information, contact your village.

Dorsey's Search 410-730-4005

Date Saturday, April 26

Voting Location/Hours 8am-2pm at Linden Hall

Village Board Seats *Three Open*

Council Representative Seat Non-election year

Candidates' Forum Tuesday, April 15 7pm at Linden Hall

Harper's Choice 410-730-0770

Date Saturday, April 26

Voting Location/Hours 9am-3pm near Safeway

Village Board Seats *One Open*

Council Representative Seat *Open*

Candidates' Forum Monday, April 7 7:30pm at Kahler Hall

Hickory Ridge 410-730-7327

Date Saturday, April 26

Voting Location/Hours 9am-3pm at Hawthorn Center

Village Board Seats *Five Open*

Council Representative Seat *Open*

Candidates' Forum Monday, April 21 7:30pm at Hawthorn Center

Kings Contrivance 410-381-9600

Dates Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26

Voting Location/Hours Friday from 5-7pm and Saturday from 9am-1pm Amherst House

Village Board Seats *Three Open*

Council Representative Seat Non-election year

Candidates Forum None

Long Reach 410-730-8113

Date Saturday, April 26

Voting Location/Hours 9am-noon at village center. Rain location: Stonehouse

Village Board Seats *Three Open*

Council Representative Seat Non-election year

Candidates' Forum Thursday, April 10 7pm at Stonehouse

Oakland Mills 410-730-4610

Date Saturday, April 26

Voting Location/Hours 8:30am-5pm at The Other Barn

Village Board Seats *Seven Open*

Council Representative Seat *Open*

Candidates' Forum Tuesday, April 8 8pm at The Other Barn

Owen Brown 410-381-0202

Owen Brown does not hold an election when there are no contested races. There will be no election in Owen Brown.

Village Board Seats *Two Open*

Council Representative Seat *Open*

Candidates' Forum None

River Hill 410-531-1749

Date Saturday, April 26

Voting Location/Hours 7:45-10:45am, Columbia Gym 11am-3pm, Claret Hall

Village Board Seats *Four Open*

Council Representative Seat Non-election year

Candidates' Forum None

Town Center 410-730-4744

Date Saturday, April 26

Voting Location/Hours 9am-2pm at Vantage Point Road Park Gazebo. Rain location: Historic Oakland Town Center Room. Vantage House and Evergreens residents may vote at Vantage House and Evergreens, respectively, from 10am-1pm.

Village Board Seats *Two Open*

Council Representative Seat Open

Candidates' Forum Monday, April 14 7pm at Vantage House Auditorium

Wilde Lake 410-730-3987

Date Saturday, April 26

Voting Location/Hours 9am-4pm at Slayton House

Village Board Seats *Five Open*

Council Representative Seat *Open*

Candidates' Forum Monday, April 14 7:30pm at Slayton House

bulletin board

Columbia Association Board/Committee Schedules

CA Board of Directors meetings and committee meetings are an excellent way to learn about the Columbia Association and its programs. Unless otherwise noted, regular meetings are held at the Columbia Association headquarters building, 10221 Wincopin Circle. For more information, call 410-715-3000.

CA Board	**April 24**	**7:30pm**
External Relations	**April 17**	**7pm**
Performance Oversight	**April 8**	**7pm**
Planning & Strategy	**April 10**	**7:30pm**
Board Operations	**April 14**	**7pm**

CA Board to Hear GGP Presentation

GGP will present its plans on storm water management and discuss redevelopment of Town Center on **Thursday, April 3, at 7:30pm at GGP's Spear Center.** The meeting is open to the public. For more information, visit **www.ColumbiaAssociation.org.**

Searching for Spring

The Villages of Columbia are sponsoring the annual **Searching for Spring Egg Hunt** on Saturday, **April 5,** at **Columbia SportsPark.**

This family-friendly event kicks off at **10am** with crafts and balloons followed by an egg hunt at 10:45am. Then Turner, Dean of Magic, will entertain egg hunters with mystical, magical fun. This event is for children ages 2 to 8 and is open to Columbia residents only. Admission is free, but registration is necessary due to a limited number of available spots. Please contact your village center to register or find out more information.

Bridal Showcase at Historic Oakland

More than 60 vendors from the Baltimore-Washington area will take part in the Bridal Showcase at Historic Oakland on **Sunday, April 13, from 2 to 4:30pm.** Brides-to-be can sample caterers' food, meet floral designers and photographers and see the latest fashions in bridal and formal wear. Tickets are $10 in advance or $15 at the door. This event is sponsored by Town Center Community Association. Please call 410-730-4801 for more information or to purchase tickets.

Flea Market at Amherst House

Reward yourself for spring cleaning by coming out to the **Flea Market** in the **Amherst House parking lot** on **Saturday, April 26,** from **9am to noon.** Reserve one space for $10 or two for $15. Preference will be given to residents of Village of Kings Contrivance. Residents are also encouraged to participate in a book swap where they can trade used books for new selections. The Flea Market and book swap are sponsored by Village of Kings Contrivance Community Association. Please call 410-381-9600 for more information or to reserve a space.

Celebrate Arbor Day: Plant a Tree!

Harper's Choice Community Association is sponsoring its annual **Plant Sale & Arbor Day Fair** on **Saturday, April 26,** from **10am to 2pm at Harper's Choice Village Center.** Enjoy food, a cakewalk, papermaking, an Arbor Day scavenger hunt and more. Arrive early because the first 250 participants will receive a free white pine tree seedling to plant on their own. Please call 410-730-0770 for more information.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Have a question for CA President Maggie Brown? E-mail **Maggie.Brown@ColumbiaAssociation.com** or write to Maggie Brown, The Columbia Association, 10221 Wincopin Circle, Columbia, MD 21044. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number or e-mail.