CA's FY 2007 Third Quarter Board Report Summaries Page 2

2007 Village Election Information and Schedules Page 3

ca MONTHLY

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Progress Continues for Lake Elkhorn and Kittamaqundi Dredging Project

BY SHELIA L. GREEN

Beginning in August of last year, CA and its design and engineering consultant began presenting various options for dredging Lakes Elkhorn and Kittamaqundi to CA's Board of Directors, Owen Brown and Town Center Village Boards, and the CA Board's Planning and Strategy Committee that would include access and staging sites for both lakes. Dredging or removal of sediments from Lakes Elkhorn and Kittamaqundi does present CA with the challenging task of developing staging areas that will create the least impact on the community and citizens of Columbia.

Progress is still being made on this initiative as CA continues to seek creative ways to locate staging areas that will minimize the project cost, be favorable to the community and are permitable by local, state and federal agencies.

Proposed Dredging Options

Selected sites are being examined for possible use but none have been confirmed at this time. "CA is committed to putting forth the time and energy necessary to ensure that the site selection process is effective and results in a selection that presents minimal inconvenience to our residents," said CA President Maggie Brown. To date, CA staff has presented several proposed dredging options to the CA Board and community which include:

- Northern end of the lake, Vantage Point
- Crescent property behind Meriweather
- South Entrance Road property
- Hopewell Park

continued on page 3

Lake Elkhorn

Lake Kittamaqundi

TAKE NOTE

this month on Columbia Matters

Host Mike Easterling **discusses the latest developments on dredging** with Dennis Mattey, Assistant Division Director of Open Space and CA's Time Banking Program with guest Muriel Nolen, Columbia Association Network Manager (CAN) Manager.

Columbia Matters airs on Howard County Comcast channel 71, and Verizon channel 41, on Mondays at 11am, 4pm and 7pm, as well as Saturdays at 8:30pm.

For more information on the program, call 410-715-3120 or email CATVshow@columbiaassociation.com.

Third Quarter Budget Summaries

CA projects ending FY 07 with an increase in net assets of approximately $5.1 million. Total revenue and operating expenses are anticipated to be $54.9 million and $44.6 million, respectively.

These projections are the results of CA's fiscal year 2007 third quarter Board report which also project total revenues to exceed budget by $977, 000 (1.8 percent). This is attributable mainly to a positive variance of $688,000 in annual charge revenue, due to a significant number of property sales; higher than budgeted fees income, primarily from lessons and leagues at the Sport and Fitness facilities and higher than budgeted tuition and enrollment revenue in School Age Services. Copies of the entire report are available at your local community center.

The **Administrative Services Division** reported that during the third quarter of FY 07, CA's IT Department implemented significant upgrades and improvements to the IT infrastructure at CA. Some of the most noteworthy upgrades and improvements include work on the upgrade of the Association-wide telephone system (including bandwidth considerations) in conjunction with the upcoming migration of the point-of-sale component of the Resident Services System and the evaluation and enhancement of the electronic file back-up and restoration process.

The **Communications and Marketing Division** reported that membership and Package Plan Allocation is projected to end the year on budget. This is primarily due to the success of the campaigns surrounding multi-year package plans in the second and third quarters. As a result of the efforts to reach out to income qualified residents, as of the end of the third quarter, more than 6,000 residents were participating in the income qualified program, which is projected to continue to require a subsidy of around $1,000,000 from the CA annual charge in FY 07.

Other significant accomplishments in the third quarter include the distribution to 36,000 residents and member households of the winter issue of *CA Activities Guide*, the fourth annual sponsorship in conjunction with the Howard County Department of Transportation of the Images of Freedom Poster Contest and the continued coordination for the sixth straight year of the CA Points Program which is serving hundreds of Columbia school children this year.

Columbia Matters, CA's first cable television program, which started in late FY05 has gone through some changes in Q3. Popular show host Barbara Kellner has stepped down and is being replaced by Mike Easterling whose past experience includes working for WJZ in Baltimore. In addition, show producer Garett Tache has taken an opportunity outside of CA and has been replaced by Mary Weeks, who has worked on *Columbia Matters* through her experience at HCC. We are excited with these changes and expect resident reaction to the shows to remain overwhelmingly positive.

The **Community Services Division** finished the third quarter $821,000 better than budget and the division is projecting to end the year $643,000 better than budget.

This year a record number 1,537 youth are participating in the School Age Service program. Due to the increased number of participants, along with offering for the first time a summer school childcare program, the School Age Services department is $ 347,000 ahead of budget at the end of the third quarter. In addition, 109 youngsters, who otherwise may not have been able, are attending the before and after school program thanks to CA's income-qualified program at a subsidy of approximately $85,000.

This past summer over 4,000 campers participated in 24 camps held throughout the Columbia Association facilities and over 85 youngsters, who otherwise may not have been able, attended CA's camps thanks to CA's income-qualified program at a subsidy of approximately $53,000.

Some of the many important programs that are supported by the third quarter subsidy of $1,275 from the annual charge include the Summer Lakefront Festival, the International Day Festival, and access to camps and before and after school care for income qualified youngsters. In addition, it provides support to the village associations in the amount of $3,592,000 to fund village elections, village board activities and community-building programs and services that residents enjoy in the community centers.

All in all, the Community Services Division is poised to have an excellent year and meet or finish the year better than budget in all departments.

The **Open Space Management Division** completed the third quarter of the fiscal year better than budget in total operating expenses by $518,000 and with a decrease in net assets of $8,196,000. This represents a favorable variance of $1,240,000 from budget. Total operating expenses were less than budget through the quarter and division-wide, projected to complete the year with savings in total operation expenses.

Open Space Administration operated under budget through the third quarter in total operating expenses.

The current estimate shows that by year's end, a total of $11,324,000 of annual charge revenue will be required to protect and maintain the environmental assets of Columbia, which include more than 3,400 acres of open space, 93 miles of pathways, 168 tot lots, three lakes and 41 ponds. Because of the annual charge paid by Columbia residents and business owners, Columbia continues to be a place where residents, surrounded by the natural environment, can partake of this beauty as they go about their everyday lives.

The **Sport and Fitness Division** reported extremely high levels of usage at CA's three fitness clubs and during the January 6, 2007 Billy Blanks Workshop & Exhibition which was held at the Supreme Sports Club. During the third quarter CA's fitness facilities hosted a total of 405,360 visits at an average of 4406 visits per day. Billy Blanks, world-renowned Tae-Bo instructor and motivational speaker, led three separate classes with a total of 600 participants during the January event at the Supreme Sports Club. Participants traveled from all over the region to attend.

The "Service Magic" training program, which began at the Supreme Sports Club in the first quarter of this year, commenced on a weekly basis at the Columbia Gym in the third quarter and will begin at the Columbia Athletic Club in the fourth quarter. This training program, fashioned after a similar program at the Ritz Carlton Hotels, initially provides 13 one-hour weekly workshops and 5 to 10 minute daily "huddles" to reinforce the thirteen service concepts each day. The goal of the program is to continually enhance customer service so that service at CA's Sport and Fitness facilities clearly differentiates CA from other facilities in the area.

The Sport and Fitness Division is projecting to end the year essentially on budget, with a projected decrease in net assets of $3,447,000 (the budget was $3,389,000). Revenues are projected to slightly exceed budget (+$62,000) and expenses are expected to be greater than budget by $120,000. ■

Be A Part of It! Cast Your Vote This Month

BY SHELIA L. GREEN

Election day for Columbia's 10 villages is rapidly approaching! Seven Columbia Representative seats are up for election.Philip Marcus of Kings Contrivance and Patrick Von Schlag of River Hill announced last month that they will not seek re-election to the CA Board of Directors.

Several of the villages will hold a candidate's forum to give residents the opportunity to discuss issues with their prospective representatives. For more information, please refer to the adjacent Village schedule and the Columbia Council Representative Election schedule below or contact your local Village Community Center. ■

2007 Columbia Council Representative Elections

DORSEY'S SEARCH • Incumbent: Tom O'Connor • Lester Straw

HARPER'S CHOICE • Non-Election Year • Incumbent: Cynthia Coyle

HICKORY RIDGE • Incumbent: Miles Coffman • Marvin Lawson

KINGS CONTRIVANCE • Jason Ridgell • Evan Coren

LONG REACH • Incumbent: Henry F. Dagenais

OAKLAND MILLS • Incumbent: Barbara Russell • Ian Kennedy

OWEN BROWN • Non-Election Year • Incumbent: Pearl Atkinson-Stewart

RIVER HILL • Michael Cornell

TOWN CENTER • Non-Election Year • Incumbent: Gail Broida

WILDE LAKE • Incumbent: Philip Kirsch • William Santos

Progress Continues for Lake Elkhorn and Kittamaqundi Dredging Project

continued from page 1

• Lake Elkhorn Park adjacent to Broken Land Parkway

Community input is essential in assisting CA's Planning and Strategy Committee and Board with making informed decisions on this process. Thus, residents are encouraged to voice their opinions on dredging developments at upcoming community meetings at Owen Brown on Tuesday, April 3 and at Town Center on Tuesday, April 11.

CA will continue to keep the community informed on new project developments. ■

Village Election Schedule

Voting hours and procedures differ from village to village. Unless noted, voting will take place on ***Saturday, April 21.*** *For further information, please contact your village community association.*

Dorsey's Search 410-730-4005

Date: April 21

Voting location/hours: Linden Hall, 8am to 2pm

Village board seats: two open

Council representative seat: open

Candidates forum: April 11, 7pm at Linden Hall

Harper's Choice 410-730-0770

Date: April 21

Voting location/hours: In front of Rita's, 9am to 3pm

Village board seats: seven open

Council representative seat: not open

Candidates forum: April 17, 7pm at Kahler Hall

Hickory Ridge 410-730-7327

Date: April 21

Voting location/hours: Hawthorn Center, 9am to 3pm

Village board seats: five uncontested

Council representative seat: open

Candidates forum: April 16, 7:30pm at Hawthorne Center

Kings Contrivance 410-381-9600

Dates: April 20 and 21

Voting location/hours: Amherst House, 4/20 from 5 to 7pm; 4/21 from 9am to 1pm

Village board seats: three open

Council representative seat: open

Candidates forum: April 18, 7pm to 7:30pm at Amherst House

Long Reach 410-730-8113

Date: April 21

Voting location/hours: Long Reach Village Center (Stonehouse in the case of inclement weather), 9am to 12pm

Village board seats: two open

Council representative seat: open

Candidates forum: No Candidates' Night is scheduled as the election is uncontested

Oakland Mills 410-730-4610

Date: April 21

Voting location/hours: The Other Barn, 8:30am to 5pm

Village board seats: seven open

Council representative seat: open

Candidates forum: April 10, 8pm at The Other Barn

Owen Brown 410-381-0202

Dates: April 20 and 21

Voting location/hours: 4/20 Owen Brown Place, 1pm to 3pm; 4/21 Parkview, from 3pm to 5pm

Village board seats: three open

Council representative seat: not open

Candidates forum: April 17 – 7:30pm – Owen Brown Community Center

River Hill 410-531-1749

Date: April 21

Voting location/hours: Columbia Gym from 8 to 10am; Claret Hall from 10:15 am to 3pm

Village board seats: four open

Council representative seat: open

Candidates forum: April 16, 7:30pm at Claret Hall

Town Center 410-730-4744

Date: April 21

Voting location/hours: Vantage Point Park, 9am to 2pm; Vantage House (for Vantage House residents only), 10am to 1pm; Evergreens from 10am to 1pm (Evergreens residents only)

Village board seats: three open

Council representative seat: not open

Candidates forum: April 11, 7pm at Vantage House Auditorium

Wilde Lake 410-730-3987

Date: April 21

Voting location/hours: Slayton House, 9am to 4pm

Village board seats: five open

Council representative seat: open

Candidate's forum: April 17, 7:30pm at Slayton House

vote

bulletin board

Columbia Association Board/Committee Schedules

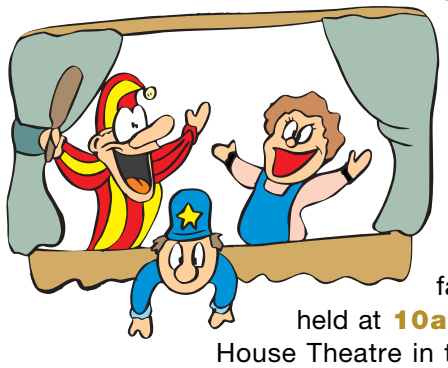
CA Board of Directors meetings and Committee meetings are an excellent way to learn about the Columbia Association and its programs. Unless otherwise noted, regular meetings are held at the Columbia Association headquarters building, 10221 Wincopin Circle. For more information call 410-715-3000.

CA Board	**April 26**	**7:30pm**
External Relations	**April 5**	**7:30pm**
Performance Oversight	**April 10**	**7pm**
Planning & Strategy	**April 12**	**7:30pm**
Board Operations	**April 17**	**7:30pm**

Wilde Lake Happenings

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

Bring the kids out for an afternoon of interactive fun at **Slayton House's Rainbow Theatre** for a special performance of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" on **Friday, April 20.** Kaydee Puppets will present an entertaining show that promises to engage the audience and create a fun "now" approach to the fantasy world of this universally loved fairy tale. Performances will be held at **10am and 1pm** at the Slayton House Theatre in the Village of Wilde Lake.



Tickets may be purchased in advance at Slayton House for $4.50 each or for $5.50 each at the door. Credit card payments and advanced reservations are not acceptable. Refunds will not be given; however, group rates do apply. For more information, please call 410-730-3987.

Election Day Plant Sale at the Other Barn

Come and enjoy a great selection of annuals and hanging baskets at wholesale prices during the Village elections! **The Oakland Mills Village** community will host its annual plant sale on **Saturday, April 21 from 9am to 12pm at The Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Place.** Village elections will take place at The Other Barn during the hours of 8:30am and 5pm. For additional information, please call 410-730-4610.

Attention Brides to Be

The Town Center Community Association will host a **Bridal Showcase at Historic Oakland** (5430 Vantage Point Road) on **Sunday, April 15 from 2pm to 4:30pm.** This lovely showcase will feature 65 of the area's premier wedding vendors, caterers, musicians, photographers, cake makers, videographers, bridal consultants and much more. Tickets can be purchased in advance for $10.00 and at the door for $15.00. For further information or to purchase tickets, please call 410-730-4801.

REALIZE YOUR MIND'S POTENTIAL

Learn the latest developments in the field of brain research during a four-week class at **Stonehouse in the Long Reach Village Center on Mondays from April 2 – April 23 from 7pm to 8:30pm.** Taught by Dr. Arasu Chellaiah, adjunct professor of biomedical studies at the University of Maryland, the class will introduce "mind mapping," a new learning technique and summarize current developments in brain research. The cost of the class is $85.00 with a 5% discount for those living on CA-assessed property. For more information on this class, call Stonehouse at 410-730-8113.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Maggie Brown, the Columbia Association's president, wants to hear from Columbia residents about what is on their minds. Send your ideas, issues or concerns. Attach additional pages if necessary.

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❏ Please get back to me on this issue.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number, Email _____

Please send your concerns, issues or questions to:

Maggie Brown, The Columbia Association, 10221 Wincopin Circle, Columbia, MD 21044
Email: Maggie.Brown@columbiaassociation.com