CA MONTHLY

A Publication of the Columbia Association

OCTOBER 2008

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Enjoy Columbia's pathways this fall

Whether you're exploring on foot or exercising on wheels, take time this fall to enjoy the beauty and serenity of Columbia's open spaces on your travels along CA's 93.5 miles of pathways.

The most used paths are those around Lake Elkhorn, Lake Kittamaqundi and Wilde Lake, said Dan D'Amore, manager of Land Maintenance at CA. The paths run through all 10 villages, and in conjunction with Howard County paths, they stretch south to Savage Mill. CA's Open Space division provides year-round maintenance. Crews seal cracks in paths, replace signs, mow grass, prune foliage and remove graffiti, D'Amore said.

The paths are completely renovated on a 20-year cycle, with 20,000 feet of pathway currently being renovated each year, said Craig Garrison, operations manager for Open Space Improvement. At least once a year, Open Space Improvement crews survey all of the paths to identify areas needing attention, Rob Plummer, project manager for Open Space Improvement, said.

Two of the paths feature a fitness course by World Trail with 14 stations including chin-up bars, leg lift bars and more. The stations allow for a circuit-style workout combined with walking, said Bill Morris, Open Space field manager.

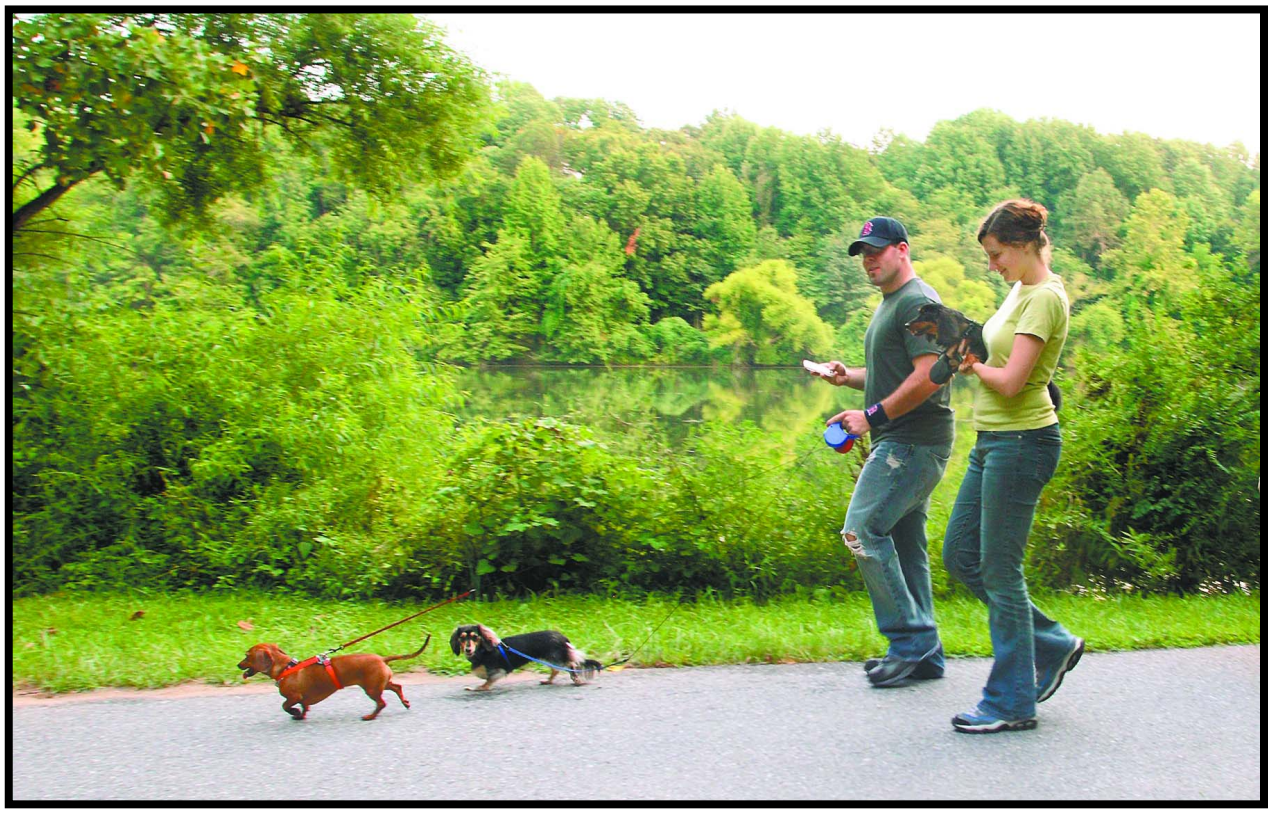

PHOTO BY DON WATKINS

Members of Columbia Dogs on the Go enjoy a walk around Lake Elkhorn with their pets.

Many community groups take advantage of the paths. Mary Love, of Kings Contrivance, organizes the dog walking group Columbia Dogs on the Go, which has 163 members and is a part of www.MeetUp.com. Members walk the paths several times a month.

"We've lived here 25 years, and we're still surprised we can find new areas to walk in," Love said.

Leonard Guralnick, of Harper's Choice, runs the paths with the group Howard County Striders. The group coordinates a "bagel run" on Saturday mornings that begins at Columbia Swim Center and tracks across Columbia, from 6 to 20-plus miles, ending back at Wilde Lake Village Center for bagels. For more information, visit www.Striders.net.

For safety, pathways are closed from dusk to dawn. Officer Stephanie Wall, community resource officer for Howard County Police's southern district, advises residents to walk with a buddy and carry a cell phone and whistle.

If a stranger approaches, Wall said to turn around, call police and head toward a group of people or home. Howard County Police patrol paths on foot and bike during the day and perform area checks at night. To report suspicious activity, call 410-313-STOP.

To keep the natural areas enjoyable for all, use trash receptacles, keep pets on leashes, pick up after pets and be cautious with cigarettes and matches.

Pathway maps, published by CA and Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, are available at the Membership Service Center, 10221 Wincopin Circle, Columbia, for a small fee. Visit www.CAmonthly.org to view a PDF of the map. *For questions about paths or to report a maintenance concern, call 410-312-6330.* ■

CA on budget for first quarter of FY09

Columbia Association ended the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2009 on July 31. CA expects to finish the fiscal year with an increase in net assets of nearly $3.3 million. Total revenue is anticipated at $59.2 million, essentially on budget. Operating expenses are anticipated at $51.2 million.

Administrative Services

Administrative Services has been busy testing the new Customer Service System. ITC specialists visited Columbia, and significant progress was made narrowing the gap between CA's functional requirements and the original specification document; analyzing and testing core functional requirements; designing the web application; and planning for the conversion.

The IT Department implemented new security software on CA's network. IT team members also implemented new firewalls and mapped this new security for monitoring. The department provided Internet connectivity to Community Services programs outside of headquarters; upgraded computer labs at Columbia Gym, Supreme Sports Club and Columbia Teen Center; and released three web sites for internal communication.

The division also participated in annual independent audits by Clifton Gunderson, LLP. Unqualified opinions were issued for CA's financial statements and the Incentive Savings Plan.

Communications & Marketing

Sales of Package Plan memberships exceeded last year's actual by 113 units and were 13 units less than budget. This success was primarily due to the print, direct mail and web campaigns, the offers advertised and the value of programs and services. Aggressive marketing against competition continues to be successful.

Several events also saw increased participation due to increased communications in print, web and village outlets. Lakefront Wednesdays offered live concerts over eight weeks and was attended by more than 500 people. KidsDay was a huge success with more than 400 participants.

An enhanced CA web site was launched at www.ColumbiaAssociation.org this quarter with improved aesthetics and navigation, plus Google search capability.

Other division programs include CA Points, "Columbia Matters" TV show, *CA Monthly* newsletter and *CA Activities Guide*.

Community Services

Community Services finished the quarter $152,000 ahead of budget. The variance is primarily due to $75,000 savings in allocations and small savings from each department throughout expense lines.

Some of the most popular events of Lakefront Summer Festival were Teen Tuesdays, which have averaged 300 teens per event; and movie nights, which attracted 400 participants per showing.

Enrollment in CA's 24 camps was 3,260. More than 85 youngsters attended camps thanks to the income-qualified program, at a subsidy of about $56,000. School Age Services saw increased enrollment, and KidSpace, continuing with increased usage, averaged 9,000 visits per month.

Other programs include Sister Cities, Columbia International Day, Columbia Archives, Columbia Art Center, Volunteer Center Serving Howard County and Columbia Teen Center. The division also provided more than $1.1 million to village associations.

Open Space Management

Open Space completed the first quarter of the fiscal year better than the budget in total operating expenses by $264,000 and with a decrease in net assets of nearly $2.9 million. This represents a favorable variance of $552,000 from budget. Most departments in the division had total operating expenses less than the budget through the quarter.

Close-to-normal weather conditions and timing variances for major projects helped to keep costs down through this typically busy period.

The current estimate shows that by year's end, a total of $13.6 million 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, 167 tot lots, three lakes and 41 ponds.

Learn more

For further explanation of individual variances throughout CA's operations, please refer to the FY09 First Quarter Board Report, available at CA Headquarters, 10221 Wincopin Circle, Columbia.

Sport & Fitness

Swansfield Mini WaterPark opened on Memorial Day weekend with a new SplashPad, bathhouse and landscaping. More than 37,000 members and guests visited Swansfield this summer – 15,000 more visits than last summer.

Participation in tennis leagues reached an all-time high this summer. More than 1,500 members participated in leagues at CA's four tennis clubs.

Both Hobbit's Glen and Fairway Hills golf clubs have been in excellent condition. The Bermuda grass fairways and the new greens have fully matured and created optimum playing conditions.

Sport & Fitness is projected to end the year with a positive net-from-operation of $295,000, which is $74,000 greater than budget. This is a result of most of the fitness facilities being projected to exceed budget at year end. ■

TAKE NOTE

this month on Columbia Matters

Watch **highlights from Dia de la Familia,** learn about **CA's two golf clubs,** find out **how to age in a healthy way** and hear about why **Columbia was recently ranked No. 8 place to live in America.** Plus, find out about **School Age Services** in the **KidsKorner segment.**

Columbia Matters airs Mondays at 11am, 4pm and 7pm and Saturdays at 8:30pm on Comcast channel 96 and Verizon channel 41; Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10am, 2pm and 7pm on Comcast channel 98; and Fridays at 11am, 4pm and 9pm and Saturdays and Sundays at 10:30am on Comcast channel 99 and Verizon channel 44.

Visit www.ColumbiaMatters.org to watch this month's episode on demand.

Learn the origins of your street name

Researching Columbia's unique street names was an undertaking that would last more than five years for Columbia Archives manager Barbara Kellner, archivist Robin Emrich and resident Missy Burke.

After countless hours combing through records and databases, conducting interviews and reading poetry, they have developed a comprehensive book – although a few mysteries remain.

"Oh, you must live in Columbia! The origins of place names in Columbia, Maryland" was released this summer. In addition to the origins of street and place names in Columbia, it contains historical facts, photos, stories and excerpts from poems and literature from which the names were chosen. It is available for purchase at Columbia Archives for $25. Copies are also available at Howard County library branches and school media centers.

The project started in 2002 when Burke visited the archives to research Columbia's street names for a book. Intrigued with the idea, Kellner asked Burke to join forces. Research started with a card file that had been donated by a Rouse Company employee whose job it was to suggest street names. But some of the information in the card file didn't match memos and other documents, which led to more questions and intensive research.

"We had to ask, 'How?' and 'Why?'[the names were chosen]," Emrich said.

Those questions led to a lot of reading and interesting conversations with many people involved in the naming process, including employees of the Rouse Company and Howard County, Kellner said.

"I'm not sure anyone thought that 40 years later we would be discussing how and why the names were picked," Kellner said, "but here we are."

The book lists the origin of almost every name with certainty. However, in some cases, the authors cannot be absolutely sure and have included a rating system to show how much evidence supports the listing.

To learn more about the book, call 410-715-3103 or e-mail **Columbia.Archives@ColumbiaAssociation.com.** ■

Learn more about the book

Columbia Archives Open House & Book Talk Wednesday, Oct. 15, at Columbia Archives in American City Building in Town Center. Open House from noon to 5pm with programs hourly. Book talk at 7pm.

What's in a Name? Learn the stories of Columbia's street names. Tuesday, Nov. 11, at 7pm at Linden Hal in Dorsey's Search.

PHOTO BY DON WATKINS

Authors of "Oh, you must live in Columbia" from left: Robin Emrich, Missy Burke and Barbra Kellner at a book club discussion in Harper's Choice.

Columbia Teen Idol

Saturday, Oct. 11, from 3-6pm at Lake Kittamaqundi.

Sixth annual Hear My Voice competition features singing and music group performances by local teens, dancing by Savage Dance Company and a demonstration of CA's Martial Fusion. Auditions required. Top prize: $300. Information: 410-992-3726.

Ally Ulmer sings "I'll Stand By You" while her father, Dixon, plays the guitar at the 2007 Columbia Teen Idol competition. She won first place.

FILE PHOTO

webextras

Log on to www.CAmonthly.org for these additional features:

- **Dia de la Familia photo gallery**
- **Volunteer Center prepares community for disasters**
- **Meet the Watershed Advisory Committee**
- **Fitness Q&A: Optimize your weight-loss program**
- **Health Q&A: be proactive to ensure healthy aging**
- **Nutrition Q&A: keep sweets in check on Halloween**
- **Your questions answered: Do bone spurs require surgery?**
- **Computer Camp helps kids go digital**

bulletin board

Columbia Association Board/Committee Schedules

CA Board of Directors meetings and committee meetings are an excellent way to learn about 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	**Oct 23**	**7:30pm**
External Relations	**Oct 2**	**7:30pm**
Performance Oversight	**Oct 14**	**7:30pm**
Planning & Strategy	**Oct 6**	**7:30pm**
Board Operations	**Oct 13**	**6pm**

50+ Expo

FRIDAY, OCT. 17, from 9am-4pm at Wilde Lake High School. Featuring 140 exhibitors, health fair, seminars and more. Music by Capitol Steps and Milkshake Trio. CA is a proud event sponsor. Information: www.HowardCountyMD.gov/OA/50+expo.htm.

Owen Brown 35th Birthday Celebration

SATURDAY, OCT. 4, from 9am-midnight in Owen Brown. Information: 410-381-0202.

Town Center 35th Birthday Celebration

SATURDAY, OCT. 4, from 2-4pm at Vantage Point Road Park in Town Center. Live entertainment by Tres Amigos, refreshments, children's activities. Begin the day at village yard sale from 9am-noon. Free to sellers. No rain date. Information: 410-730-4744 or TownCenter@ColumbiaVillages.org.

Halloween Events

Scarecrow Making and Hayrides: SATURDAY, OCT. 11, from 11am-1pm at Amherst House in Kings Contrivance. You bring the clothes and two pairs of pantyhose. Straw provided. Enjoy a hayride for 25 cents. Pumpkins for sale. Information: 410-381-9600.

Haunted Hallow's Eve: FRIDAY, OCT. 24, from 5:30-8pm at Claret Hall in River Hill. Information: 410-531-1749.

Wilde Halloween: THURSDAY, OCT. 30, at 4:30pm at Slayton House in Wilde Lake. Cost: $5. For ages 3-10. Wear your costume. Puppet show and trick or treat. Information/registration: 410-730-3987 or WLProg.Events@ColumbiaVillages.org.

Cultural Arts Festival

SATURDAY, OCT. 4, from 11am-4pm at Oakland Mills Village Center. Rain location: The Other Barn. Featuring continuous entertainment, kids' crafts, food, crafts, artwork, clothing, jewelry and more. Information: 410-730-4610.

Harvest Festival

SATURDAY, OCT. 25, from 10am-2pm at Kahler Hall in Harper's Choice. Featuring cakewalk, balloons, family activities, music and balloon artist. Information: 410-730-0770.

Community Tree Planting

SATURDAY, OCT. 18, from 9am-noon at Dorsey Hall Pool & Meeting Room. Bring a shovel or just bring your smile. Sponsored by Columbia Association, Howard County Forestry Board and Howard County government. A project of the Columbia Watershed Management Plan. Rain or shine. Information: 410-381-0212.

CONTACT US

Send your feedback about *CA Monthly* newsletter to **CAmonthly@ColumbiaAssociation.com** or call 410-715-3102.