

CA

APR 2011

Monthly

A PUBLICATION OF COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION

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web
extras

Log on to CAmonthly.org for these additional features:

Nutrition Q&A:
All About Protein

Fitness Q&A: Training
For Your First 5K Run

Expanded Village
Events Calendar

Columbia Association Events

THIS MONTH ON Columbia Matters

On April's show, find out about all of the free Welcome Events that are sponsored by the Columbia Association and are available to residents in 2011. Get your calendars out; you won't want to miss out on all the fun! Events offer a chance for you to come out and meet your neighbors and enjoy Columbia's open space.

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 6pm on Comcast channel 98; and Mondays at 10:30am, Tuesdays at 7:30am, Wednesdays at 8am and 7pm, Thursdays at 7:30am, Fridays at 8am and 7:30pm, Saturdays at 10am and Sundays at 11:30pm on Comcast channel 99 and Verizon channel 44. Watch Columbia Matters online anytime at ColumbiaMatters.org.

Make Your Vote Count on April 30!

for Columbia Council Representatives and Village Board Members

Village elections for Columbia Council representatives and Village Board members will be held on **Saturday, April 30** all around Columbia. Each village will be offering the option to vote by absentee ballot, check with your village center for details if you cannot attend on Election Day.

Columbia Council representatives will be elected in Dorsey's Search, Hickory Ridge, Kings Contrivance, Long Reach, Oakland Mills, River Hill and Wilde Lake. Village Board members will be elected in every village as well. Don't forget to attend the forums at your village center to learn about the candidates. Election times and locations vary; **check out a complete schedule on page 3.**

Village Board members and Columbia Council representatives each play an important part in Columbia's governing process and community input is needed to make the best decisions for Columbia. You have the power to pick the representatives who will lead Columbia into the future. Make your voice heard by casting your vote.

FYI

To learn about the dangers of underage drinking, visit CAmonthly.org or HowardCountySafety.org to view April's safety tip provided by the Howard County Department of Police.

For the 2011 Columbia Village Election **voting locations and hours**, please see page 3.

2011 Columbia Council Representative Elections

DORSEY'S SEARCH Uncontested Election - *Tom Coale*

HARPER'S CHOICE Non-Election Year - *Cynthia Coyle*

HICKORY RIDGE Uncontested Election - *Gregg Schwind*

KING'S CONTRIVANCE Uncontested Election - *Shari Zaret*

LONG REACH Uncontested Election - *Edward T. Coleman*

OAKLAND MILLS Uncontested Election - *Alex Hekimian*

OWEN BROWN Non-Election Year - *Andrew C. Stack*

RIVER HILL Uncontested Election - *Michael Cornell*

TOWN CENTER Non-Election Year - *Suzanne Waller*

WILDE LAKE Uncontested Election - *Philip W. Kirsch*

CA Releases Third Quarter Report For FY2011

Learn more: Visit CAMonthly.org for an extended version of the article or log on to ColumbiaAssociation.org and click on "Get Informed".

Columbia Association ended the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2011 on Jan. 31. CA expects to finish the fiscal year with an increase in net assets of nearly \$5 million. Total income and total expenses are anticipated to be \$61.2 million and \$56.2 million, respectively.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Operating supplies/expenses are under budget by \$191,000 for the combined service bureaus, primarily as a result of the timing of the purchase of supplies and training, most of which will be incurred by year-end. Repairs and maintenance expense variances are mainly a result of the payment of Lawson annual maintenance and the Microsoft Assurance renewal at the beginning of the fiscal year. Repairs and maintenance expense is projected to be over budget by \$152,000 for the year, because while it had been approved by the Board, the Microsoft Assurance expense was mistakenly not included in the FY11 budget.

Interest expense is negative year-to-date due to fact that the adjustment of the interest rate used for budgeting to the actual rate is made on the Annual Charge page. Interest expense is allocated to the various facilities based on their net book value and the interest rate used to prepare the budget. The difference between that rate and the actual interest rate is recorded on the Annual Charge page, so that one budget center is not impacted by another budget center's ability to close projects in a timely manner or fluctuations in market conditions such as the rate on the line of credit.

The upgrade of the Lawson financial system is well underway. Team members have validated actual data transferred to the new version in the test platform and they are conducting the first round of testing the new version set-ups. This project is a significant undertaking for the CA team, as it actually skips a couple of releases of the software. The project is on track to be completed by the deadline of May 1.

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Through the third quarter, combined membership income was \$138,000 less than budget, or -1.1 percent. Retention remained high at 91.4 percent in the third quarter.

Sales of Package Plan memberships exceeded FY10 by 2,381 units and were 106 units over budget. This increase is due to strong Package Plan promotions and e-marketing campaigns.

The Division helped coordinate several successful events this quarter, including the eighth annual Images of Freedom poster contest in recognition of Black History Month. The Division has also launched a social media initiative and reached a milestone of 1,300 "likes" on the CA Facebook page. We

have also identified new social media sites, including a "365 Wellness" Facebook campaign and a community events advisor. We are identifying several CA team members who will serve as contributors.

We are continuing our goal of informing Columbia residents about CA activities, programs and events through various social media platforms, advertisements, websites and e-marketing campaigns.

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/SUSTAINABILITY

The Community Development/Sustainability Service Bureau (CDS) is new this fiscal year to the annual program of the Columbia Association. The major emphasis of the Service Bureau is focusing on the future of the Columbia community and the challenges that must be addressed to assure the CA remains a viable, resilient and sustainable organization. The major components of this Service Bureau include departments formerly associated with the Open Space Management Division; these are Landscape Services and Capital Improvement Projects. Two new areas of endeavor for CA beginning in FY11 are also part of CDS; these include Community Planning and Watershed Management. The Community Planning component includes the newly-approved Community Planner position and the two part-time Community Organizer positions. The Watershed Manager position was also newly-approved by the CA Board beginning this fiscal year and in direct alignment with the approved Columbia Comprehensive Watershed Plan and the initial 18 retrofit projects for the Lake Elkhorn watershed.

The budget for the bureau was created by shifting and distributing line items from the Open Space budget center and newly-approved funds for the new initiatives mentioned above. Although there are some variances from the initially redistributed and reallocated budget through the third quarter, some budgetary components are still being refined. The year-end estimate as of third quarter has the service bureau finishing the year better than budgeted for FY11.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Community Services Division finished the third quarter \$573,000 ahead of budget. The positive variance is primarily due to additional tuition and enrollment income from increased participants in School Age Services; savings in operating supplies, rentals and contract labor from Camps; and small savings from each budget department throughout the various Operating Expense lines. It is

anticipated that the division will end the year better than budget.

Two new programs focused on combating childhood obesity were introduced at KidSpace; iDance and Recess & Results. The Art Center held the holiday art show Singular Sensations and continued the partnership with Little Patuxent Review, allowing residents to enjoy presentations by local writers, poets, artists and musicians.

The Teen Center and teen outreach programs hosted a Special Olympics Skate at the Columbia Ice Center; more than 200 families were served during Clothing Drive Distribution Days; a modeling casting call and several fundraisers were held. The International Exchange and Multi-Cultural Programs began recruiting for the summer 2011 youth exchange.

LEARN MORE

Visit CAMonthly.org for more information. For further explanation of individual variances, please refer to the FY 11 Third Quarter Board Report, available at CA Headquarters, 10221 Wincopin Circle, Columbia, MD 21044.

Some of the important programs that are supported by the third quarter subsidy of \$1,447,000 from the annual charge are the Summer Lakefront Festival, the Columbia Archives, the Columbia Community Exchange program, the International Day Festival, Art Center, Volunteer Center, Teen Center, covenant enforcement fees 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 \$3,700,000 to fund village elections, covenant enforcement personnel, village board activities, community building maintenance and community-building programs and services that residents enjoy in the community centers.

OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT

The Open Space Management Division completed the third quarter of the fiscal year better than the budget in total operating expenses by \$1,707,000 and with a decrease in net assets of \$8,433,000—a favorable variance of \$2,071,000. All of the departments in the division had total operating expenses less than the budget through the quarter.

The Land Maintenance Department expenses were less than budget in nearly all

line items through the quarter. Close to normal weather conditions, a revised approach to the implementation of the Lake Elkhorn Watershed Retrofit Projects and a timing variance in the development of a water quality monitoring plan contributed in keeping costs down through this period.

The RV Storage Park is at 93 percent capacity and is better than budget through the quarter in total operating expenses.

The current estimate shows that by year's end, a total of \$12,372,000 of annual charge revenue will be required to protect and maintain the environmental assets of Columbia, which include more than 3,600 acres of open space, nearly 94 miles of pathways, 171 tot lots, three lakes, 41 ponds, 34 miles of stream valleys, forestlands and other amenities. The annual charge paid by Columbia residents allows Columbia to remain a place where residents can enjoy the natural environment and be assured this valued resource will be preserved for future generations.

SPORT & FITNESS

The Sport & Fitness Division finished the third quarter \$518,000 ahead of budget. The positive variance over budget is primarily due to savings in salary and wages from the three fitness facilities and tennis. Much of this savings is a result of lower than anticipated participation in a number of fee-based programs. Smaller expense savings were realized in almost every expense category.

The first three quarters of the year have been very busy. The Neighborhood Swim League, First Tee of Howard County and USTA Tennis Leagues all exceeded participation from the previous year. Additionally, conditions of play at the two golf courses were superb and the SportsPark had a robust year of corporate outings. Activity continued to be strong at the three fitness facilities, the Swim Center, Indoor Tennis and the Ice Rink.

The Sustainability Committee launched three initiatives with a campaign to reduce water usage at the facilities, encourage greater use of "green" cleaning products and reduce electricity.

A new youth exercise program was launched at the clubs—Recess & Results; two new adult group fitness programs were started as part of the personal training program—Gravity and TRX. All three programs are off to a good start.

Nine of the 14 Sport & Fitness budget centers are on or ahead of budget and eleven are ahead of FY10 YTD. Overall, the Division is projected to end the fiscal year \$157,000 ahead of budget, with eleven of the fourteen budget centers projected to be better than budget.



Ask the CA EXPERT!

CARA ZALLER, C.N.C.
 Cara L. Zaller is a CA team member, certified nutrition consultant, holistic lifestyle coach, group fitness instructor and personal trainer. Cara is available for nutritional counseling at Columbia Gym. Read an extended bio online at CAmonthly.org.

Visit CAmonthly.org for this month's featured Ask the Expert article! Certified Nutrition consultant and holistic lifestyle coach Cara Zaller offers you all of the need-to-know information about protein in a comprehensive Question and Answer format.

Dog Day Afternoon Sat, Apr 16 • 11am-2pm Hopewell Park

Columbia residents and their favorite canines are invited to come out to Hopewell park to play! Enjoy an afternoon filled with games, contests, treats and entertaining activities. Local area pet vendors will be on hand to supply information on how to keep your pets healthy and happy. Information: 410-715-3104.

KidsKorner Spring Social Mon, Apr 18 • 10am-noon Hawthorn Center

Bring your kids to enjoy the spring KidsKorner social, featuring a presentation by Mad Science of Central Maryland. Kids will enjoy interactive science experiments, including a special experiment about the science of cotton candy. Free food and beverage will be provided. Registration is required by April 11. Information/registration: 410-715-3102.

CA's 11th Annual BikeAbout Sat, May 14 Starting between 9-10:30am

Organized by the Columbia Archives and sponsored by CA, BikeAbout takes advantage of Columbia's extensive pathways while uncovering the area's historic and natural beauty. For information and to register, visit ColumbiaArchives.com or call 410-715-3103.

kidskorner contest

Contest: April 22 is Earth Day, a time to appreciate and spread awareness about Earth's environment. This month, write a few sentences about what Earth Day means to you, and how you can contribute to your community's environment. You could win two AMC movie tickets! Visit CAmonthly.org and click on KidsKorner for this month's fun features!

2011 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 center.

Dorsey's Search 410-730-4005

Date: Sat, April 30

Voting location/hours: 8am-2pm at Linden Hall

Village board seats: Two open

Council representative seat: Open

Candidates' forum: None

Harper's Choice 410-730-0770

Date: Sat, April 30

Voting location/hours: 9am-3pm near Safeway

Village board seats: Four open

Council representative seat: Non-election year

Candidates' forum: None

Hickory Ridge 410-730-7327

Date: Fri, April 29 and Sat, April 30

Voting location/hours: Fri from 5-7pm at Hickory Ridge Village Center and Sat from 9am-3pm at the Hawthorn Center

Village board seats: Five open

Council representative seat: Open

Candidates' forum: None

Kings Contrivance • 410-381-9600

Date: Fri, April 29 and Sat, April 30

Voting location/hours: Fri from 5-7pm and Sat from 9am-1pm at Amherst House

Village board seats: Three open

Council representative seat: Open

Candidates' forum: Time TBA

Long Reach • 410-730-8113

Date: Sat, April 30

Voting location/hours: 9:30am-noon at Stonehouse

Village board seats: Two open

Council representative seat: Open

Candidates' forum: Time TBA

Oakland Mills • 410-730-4610

Date: Sat, April 30

Voting location/hours: 8:30am-5pm at The Other Barn

Village board seats: Nine open

Council representative seat: Open

Meet the Candidates: Tue, Apr 19 at 7pm at The Other Barn

Owen Brown • 410-381-0202

Date: Sat, April 30

Voting location/hours: 9am-3pm at Owen Brown Community Center

Village board seats: Three open

Council representative seat: Non-election year

Candidates' forum: Tue, Apr 19 at 7pm at the Owen Brown Community Center

River Hill 410-531-1749

Date: Sat, April 30

Voting location/hours: 9am-noon at Claret Hall and 12:30-3pm at River Hill Giant

Village board seats: Four open

Council representative seat: Open

Candidates' forum: None

Town Center 410-730-4744

Date: Sat, April 30

Voting location/hours: Town Center does not hold an election when there are no contested races. There will be no election in Town Center.

Village board seats: Three open

Council representative seat: Non-election year

Candidates' forum: None

Wilde Lake 410-730-3987

Date: Sat, April 30

Voting location/hours: 9am-4pm at Slayton House

Village board seats: Five open

Council representative seat: Open

Candidates' forum: Mon, Apr 11 at 7:30pm at Slayton House

Be A Part Of It!

Wine Tasting

Friday, April 1 • 7:30-9:30pm
Historic Oakland Manor. Information: 410-730-4801.

Magic Show

Sunday, April 3 • 4pm
Owen Brown Community Center. Information: 410-381-0202.

CA Board Operations

Monday, April 4 • 6pm
CA Headquarters. For updated dates and times, please visit ColumbiaAssociation.org.

Froggy Comes a Courting

Friday, April 8 • 7:30pm
Jackson Pond in Long Reach. Information: 410-730-8113.

Breakfast with the Bunny

Saturday, April 9 • 9-11am
Claret Hall. Information: 410-531-1749.

Bridal Showcase

Sunday, April 10 • 1:30-4:30pm
Historic Oakland Manor. Information: 410-730-4801.

College Fair— 100+ Schools

Monday, April 11 • 6:30-8:30pm
Centennial High School. Information: 410-715-5523.

“The Game of Life” with New York Life

Thursday, April 14 • 7pm
Kahler Hall. Information/registration: 410-730-0770.

CA Board Meeting

Thursday, April 14 • 7:30pm
CA Headquarters. For updated dates and times, please visit ColumbiaAssociation.org.

Dog Day Afternoon

Saturday, April 16 • 11am-2pm
Hopewell Park. Information: 410-715-3104.

Searching for Spring Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 16 • 10-11:30am
Columbia SportsPark. Information: 410-381-9600.

Movie Night

Saturday, April 16 • 6-9pm
Columbia Gym's KidSpace. Information: 410-531-8984.

Jazz in the Mills presents Lavenia Nesmith

Sunday, April 17 • 5-7pm
The Other Barn. Information: 410-730-4610.

Spring KidsKorner Social

Monday, April 18 • 10am-noon
Hawthorn Center. Information: 410-715-3102.

School's Out Artsy Fun Day

**Monday, April 18-22 and
Monday, April 25**
Columbia Art Center. Full day and half day available. Information: 410-730-0075.

Slayton House Gallery Exhibit: Ann von Lossberg and George Smyth

Thursday, April 21-May 21
Slayton House Gallery. Information: 410-730-3987.

Oakland Nights Music Series: Tres Amigos

Friday, April 22 • 7:30-9pm
Historic Oakland Manor. Information: 410-730-4744.

Columbia Orientation Tour

Thursday, April 28 • 10am-Noon
CA Headquarters. Information: Please email ColumbiaOrientation@ColumbiaAssociation.com.

CA Board Meeting

Thursday, April 28 • 7:30pm
CA Headquarters. For updates, please visit ColumbiaAssociation.org.

Villages Elections

Saturday, April 30
Locations and hours vary by village. Contact your village community center for information.

Oakland Mills Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, April 30 • 9am-1pm
The Other Barn. Information: 410-730-4610.

Rain Barrel Workshop

Saturday, April 30 • 10am
The Other Barn. Information: 410-730-4610.

Election Day Flea Market

Saturday, April 30 • 9am-1pm
Hawthorn Center. Information: 410-730-7327.

Flea Market/Book Swap

Saturday, April 30 • 9am-noon
Amherst Hall. Information: 410-381-9600.

Community Safety Day— Blood Drive and MD Chip Child ID Program

Saturday, April 30 • 9am-2pm
Kahler Hall. Information: 410-730-0770.

Save the Date: Slayton House Gallery Reception: Ann von Lossberg and George Smyth

Sunday, May 1 • 3-5pm
Slayton House Gallery. Information: 410-730-3987.

Save the Date: BikeAbout

**Saturday, May 14 • Start time
from 9-10:30am**
Information: 410-715-3103.

Save the Date: Columbia Home Tour

Sunday, June 5 • 11am-5pm
Tickets go on sale Fri, Apr 15.
Information: 410-730-3987.

Have a question or comment? E-mail CAmonthly@ColumbiaAssociation.com