

The Scroll

February 2025

Village website: www.dorseyssearch.org

Volunteers for Village Elections



Please consider volunteering for our Election Committee. As a volunteer Committee member, you will ensure that our By-Laws are followed during our Election process.

Our Village Election Day is Saturday, April 26 from 8am—1pm.

Eligibility for membership on the Election Committee—By-Laws Article VIII Section 8.02. *“Any member of the Association eligible to vote in the next forthcoming election of Directors and Council Representative shall be eligible for membership to the Election Committee, but in no event shall a member be a candidate for any Association office. No member of the Election Committee may actively campaign for or against any candidate.”*

Whether you have a lot of time or a little time, consider volunteering. Duties for committee members are described on page 4.

Please email Nancy Meredith at nmeredith@dorseyssearch.org and Ingrid Hatz at ihatz@dorseyssearch.org

Village Election—Saturday, April 26

3 Board Seats & the Columbia Council Representative (CCR) representing Dorsey’s Search on the Columbia Association Board of Directors will be open for 2025.

If you are interested in running for a Board or CCR seat, you will need to pick up a Candidate packet. The packet contains information about the Dorsey’s Search Community Association (Village) as well as information about being a Candidate. You must be a member of the Association (Dorsey’s Search Community Association) to be eligible to run for a seat. A member is defined as an owner or renter on CA lien holding property located in Dorsey’s Search. In addition, the Directors and the CCR shall not be in violation of the Dorsey’s Search Restrictions (Dorsey’s Search Covenants) or in violation of any dues or assessments established by the Columbia Association (By-Laws Section 2.03-Qualifications of Directors). Responsibilities for Directors and CCR are on page 9.

Candidate packets will be available on:

Monday, February 24, 2025

The Village office is open:

Monday and Friday from 8am—3pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8am—7pm

Note: The business hours listed above are normal operational hours. Please check the website for possible closings or delays due to inclement weather or staffing issues.

www.dorseyssearch.org

Reminders

Nomination packets for Election will be available starting Monday, February 24, 2025

Please view the election calendar and information regarding the Village Election on page 8 & 9

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**Dorsey's Search
Community Association
Information**

Village Board Meeting Schedule

All village board meetings are held at Linden Hall unless otherwise noted on our website. Each regular meeting has a scheduled resident speak-out for residents to voice their opinion on issues of concern. Meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted. A link is posted on our website under the Village Board-Meeting, Minutes and Agenda and our facebook page. Please email Ingrid Hatz if you have any questions, see email below.

- Wednesday, February 12, 2025
- Tuesday, March 11, 2025 **
- Wednesday, April 9, 2025

*** Date change; not the 2nd Wednesday of the month*

Agendas and approved minutes are posted on the village website.

Village Office Staff

Phone: 410-730-4005

Ingrid Hatz, Village Manager—ihatz@dorseyssearch.org

Anne McKissick, Covenant Advisor—amckissick@dorseyssearch.org

Nancy Meredith, Administrative Assistant to the Village Manager—
nmeredith@dorseyssearch.org

Patricia Jones	Head Facility Assistant
Bitsy Furr	Facility Assistant
Mary Hesse	Facility Assistant
Carole Ball	Facility Assistant
Bill Salciccioli	Set-up Tech
James Petit	Set-up Tech

Village Board Members

Ellen Mackey	410-730-4005
Derek Carey	410-730-4005
Crissy Simpson	410-730-4005
Luke Menefee	410-730-4005
Russell Stephenson	410-730-4005

Columbia Council Representative

Chris Fuchs	410-730-4005
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Office Hours

Monday, Friday	8am- 3pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	8am-7pm
Saturday	Open for rental; no Village Office hours
Sunday	Open for rental; no Village Office hours

Note: Please check our website for updated closings or delays. Inclement weather or staffing issues may affect these hours.

Please call in advance for rental availability.

Website: www.dorseyssearch.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dorseyssearch/>

Twitter: Dorsey's Search C.A. @dorseyssearch

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Dorsey's Search Community Association mission shall promote the health, safety, common good and social welfare of Dorsey's Search residents. The Board's mission is not for pecuniary gain or profit. The Village will sponsor, engage in, conduct and encourage cultural, educational, social, civic and other beneficial activities.

Village Board Notes

December 2024 & January 2025

- ⇒ Resolution Letter issued to CA for 4620 Broken Lute for the removal of the flagged property and to restore access to CA facilities
- ⇒ Board approved moving March Board meeting to Tuesday, March 11, 2025
- ⇒ 2nd Quarter Report was accepted



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To view our Columbia Council Representative's report to the Dorsey's Search Board of Directors, please visit our website at:

<https://dorseyssearch.org/village-board/council-rep-report/>

Want to join our Constant Contact group? Use your phone to scan this QR code. Type in your email address and name, press Sign up. It is that simple. We send out Crime Bulletins and other pertinent information regarding the happenings of our Village. Be in the know!



Covenant

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The Resident Architectural Committee (RAC) is a village board appointed volunteer committee that meets twice a month to review exterior alteration applications. Property owners must apply for **ALL** exterior changes to their property/home. If you have any questions regarding the application process, please feel free to contact the Covenant Advisor at 410-730-4005, ext. 11. The Exterior Alteration Application can be found at our web site. www.dorseysearch.org in the Covenant section.

Approved/Denied Applications: Nov 20-Jan 17

(descriptions are abbreviated)

Application Approvals:

- 4037 Fragile Sail—paint front door
- 5314 Chase Lions—exterior lights
- 4022 Seabird—storm door
- 4026 Starwreath—windows on 1st floor
- 4062 Fragile Sail—ADA railing, bathroom vent
- 4616 Broken Lute—trex deck, aluminum railing
- 4624 Broken Lute—roof
- 4705 Leyden—garage door
- 5308 Chase Lions—light fixture and privacy fence for trash
- 4661 Columbia—Fence
- 4785 Leyden—deck & stairs
- 4037 Chariots Flight—tree removal
- 4745 Rams Horn—rear upper windows, shed, front windows, slider
- 4201 Bright Bay—fence
- 4065 Fragile Sail—gas meter; new heat pump
- 4501 Hemlock Cone—roof
- 4616 Broken Lute—remove shutters
- Approval with Conditions**
- 4582 Kingscup—remove deck, new patio, shed propane tank
- 4616 Broken Lute—walkway
- Approved as amended**
- 4616 Broken Lute—foundation, doggie door, front step railing, gate on deck, greenhouse
- 4620 Broken Lute—partial fence, concrete patio, privacy screen
- 4049 Firefly—screened in porch & deck
- Denied**
- 4013 Willow Bend—garage door, woodpile, mismatched siding

Application Deadlines and Meeting Dates

7p.m. Deadline	Review Date
Feb 4	Feb 29
Feb 18	Mar 5
Mar 4	Mar 19
Mar 18	Apr 2
Apr 1	Apr 16
Apr 15	May 7

December Holiday Decorations
Should be down and stored out of sight.

**Please remember
to apply for any
exterior alteration!**



Looking for a RAC Member

The Resident Architectural Committee (RAC) is looking for a resident volunteer to fill an open seat on this Board appointed Committee. The Committee members review applications and make suggestions to update the Village Guidelines in keeping with the Dorsey's Search Covenants. The Committee members meet twice a month. Committee members are required to visit properties in which owners submitted applications for RAC review. If you are interested in volunteering, please email the Covenant Advisor, Anne McKissick at amckissick@dorseysearch.org

Anne will review the process of being a Volunteer on the Committee. You will have a chance to experience a couple of RAC meetings and do some property visits with current RAC members and/or the Covenant Advisor. Your property should be in compliance with the Dorsey's Search Covenants and Guidelines. If you have experience in architecture, home repair, landscape design, construction, we highly covet those skills. Please consider joining the RAC.

Upcoming Events



Looking for Election Committee Volunteers

Qualifications for Committee members are:

- You are eligible to vote at the forthcoming Election
- You are not a candidate for any Association office
- You will not actively campaign for or against any candidate

Duties (Entire list of duties can be found in the Dorsey's Search By-Laws):

- Establish administrative rules and regulations
- Prepare and make available blank nominations petitions
- Prepare all absentee and regular ballots upon receipt of all nomination petitions
- Issue, receive, and count ballot cast and post results upon closing of the polls
- Certify, in writing, the name of those persons elected and offices to which they were elected, respectively, to the incumbent Board of Directors of the Association

Staff will be here to consult and help with any questions regarding election procedures.

Village Election on Saturday, April 26 for in-person voting

Absentee Balloting will take place from Tuesday, April 1—Thursday, April 24, 2024. You may come to the Village Office to cast your Absentee Ballot or you may call the Village office to have one mailed to you. The resident must mail the ballot back or return it to Linden Hall by Thursday, April 24 before close of business which is 7pm. Your sealed ballot may be placed in the black exterior mailbox located at the parking lot entrance door. The sealed ballot will be collected by staff and transferred to the ballot box. Only Election Committee members may open the ballot to verify voting qualifications and vote counting.

If the election is uncontested, no election will take place. Candidates who submitted a nomination petition will be automatically elected.

Shredding at Dorsey's Search Saturday, March 29 from 9am—noon Dorsey's Search Community Association/Linden Hall 4765 Dorsey Hall Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21042

The Village is sponsoring a paper document shredding event for our residents. You must be a resident of Dorsey's Search and you must show ID before you shred. Paper document shredding is for documents that have personal information. Junk mail which does not contain your name and address can be put in your recycling can. This is for residential use, not for commercial business.

Special events are sponsored by the Dorsey's Search Community Association and some events may be co-sponsored with the Villages of Columbia and/or Dorsey's Search Village Merchants and Columbia Association. For those events requiring a ticket, tickets can be picked up at Linden Hall during regular business hours. For most events, there are a limited number of tickets available, so tickets are distributed on a first-come, first served basis. **No telephone reservations can be taken unless otherwise noted.** Tickets must be picked up in advance—there are no tickets available at the door, since caterers need an exact headcount before hand. **If you picked up free tickets and cannot attend an event, please return to the village office as soon as possible so you can be taken off the headcount and allow a wait-listed family to attend.** Staff may require ID in order to verify residency; please do not send children to pick up tickets, since they are not included on the resident list. Family or Children's events must have an adult accompanying a child. Tickets may still be available when the newsletter is being printed, but may be sold out before you receive your issue. Please feel free to call us to see if there are still tickets available. Thank you.

Sharpshooting on County Open Space

Signs for Sharpshooting are posted at the entrances of the County pathways in Dorsey Hall and Centennial Park. Sharpshooting areas will be closed to the public from 3pm—midnight weather permitting. If you have any questions about sharpshooting events, please visit the County website at and scroll down to Deer Management at:

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/natural-resources>

On the Village website, sharpshooting dates are listed under the “Calendar of Events” for Howard County’s Dorsey Hall Open Space and Centennial Park.

Be aware of the dates and keep your pets secure.

www.dorseyssearch.org/events/calendar

Columbia Cleans

Every year the Columbia Villages and Columbia Association select a date for a Columbia Wide Clean Up. This year, the date is **Saturday, April 5 from 9am—noon**. We ask that volunteers sign up and help keep the public use areas of our village clean. We have two routes which takes our volunteers onto County and CA pathways. Each route has one tot lot area which is apart of the cleanup.

I am proud to say that our Village does a good job with keeping litter/trash off of our public use spaces. Trash can be found in the wooded areas just off of the pathways. To help with litter/trash, have secure, tight fitting lids on your cans. If you leave a trash bag with food scraps in it and it is NOT placed in a can, the birds or other type of animals can rip open the bag and make a mess by the curb. Stormwater will take that garbage down the storm drain which leads into our beautiful wooded areas in our neighborhood. Please clean up the mess as soon as you can.

Consider volunteering to help keep our area litter and trash free. You may email Nancy Meredith at nmeredith@dorseyssearch.org to sign up.

We meet at the Dorsey Hall pool parking lot at 9am. Donuts, Coffee, and water will be available., as well as, a map of the routes, instructions, garbage bags, gloves, trash bags, and trash grabbers.

ALWAYS REMEMBER TO PICK UP YOUR PET WASTE!



FYI: Snow Removal Please remember to shovel sidewalks that abut your property. What does that mean? If you have a sidewalk that is on either side of your property or behind your property, you are responsible for snow removal as per Howard County Code Section 18.402 (h) (1). The sidewalk must be cleared within 48 hours. The County Executive may extend the time for snow removal if a snow emergency is declared. The County will only remove snow on pathways leading to schools. Columbia Association will only remove snow on pathways leading to schools. Please be neighborly and shovel out the fire hydrants and cluster mailbox. Seconds count when it comes to battling a fire at your home. Help the Fire and Rescue Department easily find your hydrant by clearing a 3 foot area around the fire hydrant.

When a snow emergency is declared, you are prohibited to park on any snow emergency route.

Columbia Road is designated as a snow emergency route by Howard County.



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Whether you are looking to buy or sell now or in the future, I'm happy to be a resource for all your home-related needs. Feel free to contact me if you'd like a copy of our Home Resource list, trusted contractors with great client feedback.

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"What a breath of fresh air, is the best way to describe both the experience and Ms. Kimberley Amprey Flowers." - Meshelle M.

♥ Valentine Promo! ♥

Simply scan the QR code and fill out the form! The first two readers to complete it by Feb 10th will win a LOVE-themed gift basket, just in time for Valentine's Day. ♥



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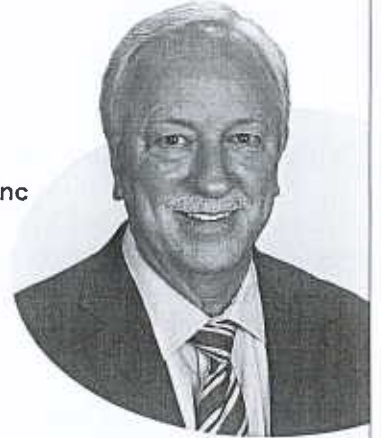
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The **Village Election** will be held on Saturday, April 26, at the Village Office/Linden Hall (located in the Dorsey's Search Village Center; 4765 Dorsey Hall Drive, Ellicott City) with polling from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

There will be no election if after the date for which nominations for the Board of Directors are closed, the number of nominees meeting the requirements is less than or equal to the number of vacant director positions, the qualified nominees shall be deemed to have been elected by the members and the Board of Directors shall appoint nominees to available director positions for the term provided for in Article 8 of the Association's Articles of Incorporation.

Offices to be filled: There are three (3) open seats for the Village Board of Directors and one (1) Columbia Council Representative who will represent Dorsey's Search on the Columbia Association Board of Directors. Candidates must be in compliance with the covenants. Each term will be two years; a term running from May 1, 2025 until April 30, 2027.

Who is eligible to vote: There is **one vote per property** and the property must be in compliance with the covenants. To cast a ballot, the individual must be a property owner or tenant (*tenants must have proof of residency, e.g. drivers license, utility bill, lease*) as of March 1, 2025. Please call the office to have an absentee ballot mailed to you. Your name will be matched to "The List of Members" as is stated in By-Law Section 1.08 List of Members. The ballot may be placed in our exterior mailbox, mailed, or brought to the office no later than Thursday, April 18 at noon.

Becoming a Candidate

Dorsey's Search property owners or renters may run for the a Village Board of Directors position. Candidates must be in compliance with the covenants. An Exterior inspection of your property will be made. All candidates must pick up a Candidate Packet and complete the nomination petition which is contained in the packet. Please see election calendar for deadlines. The nomination petition must be signed by at least ten (10) residents and if the resident is a renter, proof of residency must be provided, such as a copy of drivers license, utility bill, or lease showing the address. These documents will be used by the Election Chairman to validate residency. It is a good idea to get more than ten signatures. Petitions must be returned to Linden Hall staff by the deadline that appears in the election calendar. Candidates are responsible for writing and submitting a candidate statement by the deadline.

Election Calendar 2025

Mon., Feb. 24, 2025

Candidate packets may be picked up at Village Office/Linden Hall during operating hours (see page 2 for hours)

Mon., Mar 3, 2025

Nomination petitions will be accepted starting on March 1, 2024.

Fri., Mar 21, 2025

Nomination petitions must be returned to the Village Office/Linden Hall by noon. **DEADLINE DATE/HOUR** (By-Law; Section 8.03—Nominations)

Tue., Mar. 25, 2025

Candidate Statements are due by noon. Statements must not exceed 150 words (By-Law; Section 8.04—Candidate's Statements)

**Tue., Apr. 1, 2025—
Thu., April 24, 2025**

Absentee ballots are available at Village Office/Linden Hall for Dorsey's Search residents. Absentee ballots may also be mailed to you. Please call the Village Office at 410-730-4005 to have one mailed to you. (By-Law; 8.07—Absentee ballots)

Thu., April 10, 2025

Candidate's Night 7:00pm, if the election is contested. Candidate's Night will be held at the Village Office located at Linden Hall.

Sat., April 26, 2025

Village Election polling (in-person) at Village Office/Linden Hall from 8am—1pm.

Absentee Ballots may be mailed to members upon request. No Absentee Ballots may leave the office unless the member requests it to be mailed to them. If you are a tenant, supporting documents must be viewed to ensure membership as stated in Article 6 in the Dorsey's Search Articles of Incorporation. As stated in Article 7—Section B, "such members will collectively be entitled to one vote relative to the lot, unit, share, membership or other interest, and if such members cannot jointly agree as to how that vote should be cast, no vote shall be allowed with respect to such lot, unit,".

Responsibilities of a Dorsey's Search Board member:

The primary responsibility of a **Board member** is that of an advocate. The following is a list of responsibilities:

- ⇒ Oversees the Village Budget
- ⇒ Hires and evaluates the Village Manager
- ⇒ Appoints standing and ad hoc committees and oversees their effectiveness
- ⇒ Attends one Board meeting per month on the second Wednesday at 7:00 pm
- ⇒ Develops and presents testimony to government agencies, e.g. HC Council, Columbia Council, Columbia Association, and state legislators (when needed).
- ⇒ Negotiates and complies with the management contract between the village and Columbia Association
- ⇒ Offers programs and services which help unite the community

Responsibilities of the Columbia Council Representative Member:

- ⇒ Be informed regarding the missions, policies, and programs of the Columbia Association (CA).
- ⇒ Formulate CA policies and follow CA Board/Council conflict of interest and confidentiality policies.
- ⇒ Carry out fiduciary responsibilities of CA Board, including oversight and approval of CA budget and review of CA financial statements.
- ⇒ Regularly attend Board and Council meetings.
- ⇒ Serve on CA Board/Council/Advisory Committees and regularly attend committee meetings.
- ⇒ Take responsibility for and follow through on assignments arising from meetings.
- ⇒ Review Agenda, supporting materials, and prior meeting minutes before CA Board, Council and committee meetings.
- ⇒ Attend special events and functions of CA Board, Council and Villages as well as community-wide CA events.
- ⇒ Present reports of CA Board/Council actions at respective village Board meeting.
- ⇒ Work with CA's President to establish performance objectives. Evaluate performance of CA's President, while providing the necessary support for the President to further CA's goals
- ⇒ Communicate with residents: articulate CA's goals, accomplishments, programs, and policies and obtain input from residents.

These are volunteer positions in which you commit yourself for a two-year term. You must be a property owner or tenant with appropriate paperwork. Please email Ingrid Hatz at ihatz@dorseyssearch.org and Nancy Meredith at nmeredith@dorseyssearch.org.

Important Numbers

The Howard County Bureau of Highways is responsible for pavement, sidewalks, storm drains, trees, and over 970 miles of county roads for the convenience and safety of the public. If you see a problem within the village please call the appropriate number below or use the TellHoCo App that can be downloaded onto your cell phone. Tell-HoCo may also be accessed by visiting the County website at www.howardcountymd.gov

Traffic Engineering Division...This division is responsible for traffic signals, streetlight installation, street signs, and traffic calming and safety. 410-313-2430.

Street Signs ...The Sign and Marking Division is responsible for all existing street signs and pavement markings. To report damaged or down sign, contact 410-313-7450. To inquire about the installation of a new sign, contact 410-313-2430.

To Report a Highway Maintenance concern such as road condition, sidewalks, storm drainage or street trees, contact the Highways Operations Division at 410-313-7450 or by email: highways@howardcountymd.gov.

To Report a Traffic Control concerns such as intersection safety, traffic calming, street lights and miss-timed traffic signal or school flasher, contact the Traffic Engineering Division at 410-313-2430 or by email: traffic@howardcountymd.gov.

Street Lights...BGE is responsible for all street light outages and maintenance, ("knocked down", "bulb out" or "on in daylight") - their Customer Service number is 800-685-0123 or online at www.BGE.com

Mailbox Problems: Mailboxes are the property of the US Postal Department please call 410-750-1340 for Ellicott City and 410-381-4373 for Columbia.

County Council Representative for Dorsey's Search (District 1): Liz Walsh can be reached at (410) 313-2001

Street trees need pruning call 410-313-7450.

Animal Control.....	410-313-2780
CA.....	410-715-3000
Trash/Recycling Collection.....	410-313-6444
HC Information.....	410-313-3000
Voter Information.....	410-313-5820
Bus Schedules.....	800-270-9553
Senior Info. & Assist.....	410-313-1234
Police Non-emergency.....	410-313-2200
HC Police General Information.....	410-313-3200
HC Board of ED.....	410-313-6682
Cable Complaints.....	410-313-3318
Columbia Association.....	410-715-3000
HC Citizens Services.....	410-313-6400
HC Licensing & Permits.....	410-313-2455

Bulk Trash Items: Residents receiving County-provided curbside trash collection are eligible for curbside bulk trash and metal collection. Residents in private areas that do not receive County collection are not eligible for bulk pickup. Remember: Bulk trash items collected by the County will be sent to a landfill. Residents may call 410-313-6444. Large trash items (individual items which do not fit in trash cans) such as mattresses, box springs, chairs, sofas, dressers and tables will be collected. Place these items at the curb on your regular trash day. Maximum of 4 large trash items will be collected per pick-up. Items must be able to be lifted by two collection crew members (larger items will be tagged and left for the resident's disposal). Bulk metal items include metal swing sets, file cabinets, appliances, lawn mowers, exercise equipment, etc. must be scheduled. Please remove doors from refrigerators, and drain oil and gas from lawn mowers. Please go to:


<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/curbsidecollections> for detailed information.

Trash and Recycling Pick-up: there are holidays that the County has moved pick up to a slide schedule. If you have further questions, please Call 410-313-6444 or visit their website at: www.howardcountymd.gov/holidayschedule

All trash and recycling cans should be removed from the street on the pick-up day and stored out of sight.


Yard Trim Collection: Howard County offers yard trim collection on the same day as recycling collection. Do not use plastic bags for your yard trim—it will not be collected. Use paper bags or reusable containers without lids only. Howard County offers the "Feed the Green Bin" program in our Village. Please visit the Howard County website if you are interested in participating. Information and tips can be located on the website.

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/public-works/feed-green-bin>



Tell HoCo is an easy way for anyone in Howard County to report non-emergency issues while on-the-go, such as potholes, damaged street signs, graffiti, street maintenance, street light issues, damaged trees, and more.

Visit the website below and let us know what needs attention today!



<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/tell-hoco>

Why Feeding Deer is Bad for Them



Now that it's winter and green foliage is scarce, local deer are browsing twigs, bark, mushrooms, and even lawn grass. Deer can survive on these high-fiber and low-carb foods thanks to a digestive system adapted to seasonal food availability. During the winter, their system is populated by bacteria that can extract nutrients from these low-nutrition foods.

Having less nutrition in winter is so natural that having extra nutrition is actually dangerous. Deer's winter bacteria cannot process corn, alfalfa, and other high-calorie foods. Eating these in the winter leads to rapid fermentation of starches, causing a painful condition called rumen acidosis. This results in abdominal cramping, dehydration, weakness, breathing difficulties, and even death. So, as tempting as it is to feed deer in winter, it is not actually a kindness to them.

The best way to support our deer is to balance a healthy and stable deer population with a healthy understory of native shrubs and plants.

Cul—de-Sac Beautification

The Dorsey's Search Community Association has decided to grant money towards the beautification of 2 cul-de-sacs in the Village. Each grant will be \$250. This is a great time to begin gathering your information for the cul-de-sac design and paperwork as noted below. We will have an application for Cul-de-Sac beautification in the next issue. Once the Village reviews and approves the plan, the application will be sent to the County for their consideration. The applicant will be notified once the County approves the plan.

Here are things the Village and County will be looking for:

- Picture of the cul-de-sac
- Petition signed by 80% of residents in the cul-de-sac
- Proposed planting plan, drawing
- List of specific plants to be used

The Village and County will not be responsible for what is planted in the cul-de-sac. Residents must agree to the upkeep of the cul-de-sac which may include mulching every year. As a reminder, you may not have plants that will grow and block the visibility through the island and you may not have plants that will grow into the roadway.

If you have further questions about this program, please contact the Covenant Advisor, Anne McKissick at 410-730-4005 or by email at amckissick@dorseyssearch.org

Anne's office hours are: Tuesday—Thursday from 8am—3pm and Wednesday evening if there is a RAC meeting.

Deer Survey Results

In November 2024, Dorsey's Search residents had the opportunity to participate in a survey and submit comments or questions regarding the introduction of archery to address the overpopulation of white-tailed deer in the area. The majority of residents who responded support archery. The results have been shared with Howard County Recreation and Parks.

Total responses to the survey:

In favor of the Managed Archery Hunt – 84%

Not in favor of the Managed Archery Hunt – 16%

The detailed results are broken down by area below.

Updates will be posted in future issues of the Scroll.

Deer Management Survey Results

The predominant number of responses to the Deer Management Survey came from Single Family households. This is not surprising due to the exploding deer population problems that have been felt most by single family homes in the Dorsey Hall area of Dorsey's Search.

The survey was divided into three major areas of Dorsey's Search.

Area A – Consists of 667 households of which 596 (89%) are single-family homes, and 71 (11%) are townhomes. Some of the homes border the Howard County open space property which extends from the Northwest side of Columbia Road to Larkspring Row along the Little Patuxent River. Area A includes homes in Dorsey Hall on both sides of Gray Rock Drive.

This area had 157 responses to the survey out of a possible 667 households (24%)

Those in favor of the County establishing a Managed Archery Hunt Program – 141 or 90%

Those not in favor of a Managed Archery Hunt Program – 16 or 10%

Of those in favor of the Managed Archery Program, 91% favored the three weeks in November, and 96% favored the two weeks in Oct, Nov, and Dec. Note: Most respondents favored both choices.

Area B – Consists of the open space beginning at the Southeast side of Columbia Road and follows along the Red Hill Branch of the Little Patuxent River. The open space extends behind the townhomes on Learned Sage, Hallowed Stream, and Rams Horn Row, the single-family homes on Old Dragon Path, and the townhomes on Kingscup Court. The other side of the open space is bordered by townhomes, condos, and business areas along Dorsey Hall Drive, where the Plumtree Branch flows into the Red Hill Branch of the Little Patuxent River.

This area had 44 responses to the survey out of a possible 576 households (8%).

Those in favor of the County establishing a Managed Archery Hunt Program – 28 or 64%

Those not in favor of a Managed Archery Hunt Program – 16 or 36%

Of those in favor of the Managed Archery Program, 93% favored the 3 weeks in November, and 86% favored the 2 weeks in Oct, Nov, and Dec. Once again, most respondents favored both choices.

Area C – Consists of the part of Dorsey's Search on the South side of RT 108 consisting of townhomes, condos, and apartments. There were only 17 responses to the survey from this area with 14 (82%) in favor of the Managed Archery Hunt and 3 (18%) not in favor.

Those not responding to the detailed information provided by the Task Force and the survey are considered primarily neutral on the Managed Archery Hunt Program or did not read the newsletter.

The results of the total responses to the Survey in all of Dorsey's Search were as follows:

In favor of the Managed Archery Hunt – 84%

Not in favor of the Managed Archery Hunt – 16%



You might think that nothing is going on in your garden this time of year. Blanketed in shades of brown and gray, draped in white frost, it is hard to imagine that anything is alive in winter. But don't be fooled by the quiet, stillness of the setting. There is always more than meets the eye. We know that Hellebores bloom in this season, defying winter's grip and that perennials dormant in the cold soil will reemerge as the temperature rises in the spring. But there are more mysteries to discover in your winter yard.

Doug Tallamy provides some interesting observations in his book, "The Nature of Oaks". Oaks, specifically the white oak is known to support over 500 types of caterpillars. Research into the diets of specific birds like the golden-crowned kinglets, shows that the bird gorges on caterpillars even in the dead of winter. These caterpillars, an important food source for birds, includes many species of moths, like the *Lyctosis unitaria*, also called the twig caterpillar. This unique caterpillar, spends the winter months in the caterpillar stage, "[hiding] among the nooks and crannies of the oak tree's bark or camouflaged on small thin tree branches." They sit on these branches, blending in with the tree for the remainder of the winter. When the temperature dives below the freezing mark, they have the ability to produce glycerin to stay alive. Yes, glycerin, the same chemical that we use in antifreeze. This evolutionary adaptation, has developed to sustain insectivorous birds, like the kinglet as well as nuthatches, chickadees, titmice and even some woodpeckers.

We've been told in recent years about the benefits of using leaf litter in our garden beds. Not only does this help to provide a natural fertilizer to your garden, it also provides shelter to beneficial insects like bees, moths, ladybugs, lacewings, spiders and even earthworms. In addition to providing leaf litter, you can also leave your hollowed stems intact. Beneficial insects often use these tunneled out stems for shelter and nesting. For example, bees use hollowed out stems for hibernation in the winter months, and the papery egg mass of the praying mantis overwinters on dead stems. If you have been overzealous in cleaning up your garden this fall, you can still accommodate beneficial insects, by building small branch piles to place in your garden space, giving these pollinator insects shelter from the winter winds and snow.

And if you have tall grasses in your yard and are contemplating trimming them out before spring, reconsider. Like the long-stemmed perennials, beneficial insects use this rough vegetation to overwinter and lay eggs to hatch in the spring.

With a few maintenance changes to your garden, you can provide another way to help encourage native pollinators by providing a place to improve their success in the spring. How we look at our gardens is a matter of perspective. Knowing what the garden provides in all seasons helps us to better understand how we can assist nature in our own back yard.

Joan Oliver, Dorsey Hall Garden Club

The Dorsey Hall Garden Club meets monthly. Our Club is dedicated to encouraging the love of gardening and promoting positive horticultural practices and conservation through education of its members and the broader community. New members are welcomed. If interested in joining the garden club, please email Karen Griffith at tgriff@hotmail.com.

