

The Scroll

February 2026

Village website: www.dorseyssearch.org

Village Elections 2026

There will be two (2) Village Board of Directors seats open for election. If you are interested in taking a position on the Dorsey's Search Board of Directors, please come to the office to get your candidate packet. Inside the packet is information/procedures about our Village Elections, past Board of Directors Meeting minutes, and the nomination petition. Please read the material and submit your nomination petition by the stated deadline.

The Village will only have an election if we have more than 2 candidate running for the 2 open seats. If we have 2 or less candidates running for the open seats, the Village will not have an election. The candidates will be automatically elected and will take their seat at the May 2026 Board of Directors meeting.

Our Board of Directors meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month unless cancelled due to lack of quorum or agenda items. Meetings are held at Linden Hall, but may be online due to inclement weather. Any cancellation or online meetings are posted on the Village website: www.dorseyssearch.org.

Please contact us via email or by phone if you have any questions.

Email: Nancy Meredith—nmeredith@dorseyssearch.org and Ingrid Hatz—ihatz@dorseyssearch.org

Office phone number: 410-730-4005

Reminders

Village Elections

Candidate packets are available starting on Monday, February 23.

Deadline for nomination petition
Friday, March 20 at noon

Two board seats are open for election

Village Elections

The Village Elections will occur on Saturday, April 25, 2025. The election calendar is also posted on page 10. We are accepting Volunteers for the Election Committee.

Qualifications for Committee members:

- 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 following our By-Laws
- Prepare and make available blank nomination 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

The Village Staff is here to assist volunteers. Please email Ingrid Hatz at: ihatz@dorseyssearch.org if you are interested in volunteering. Your name will be presented to the Board of Directors for appointment to the Election Committee.

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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. Please email Ingrid Hatz if you have any questions, see email below.

- Wednesday, February 11, 2026
- Wednesday, March 11, 2026
- Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Agendas and approved minutes are posted on the village website. Please visit our website or facebook page for up-to-date status information regarding Board meetings and/or office hours.

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

Facility Assistants: Michael Piños; LaRisha Tracenrider; Bitsy Furr, Mary Hesse

Village Board Members

Ellen Mackey	410-730-4005
Derek Carey	410-730-4005
Russell Stephenson	410-730-4005
Eric Miller	410-730-4005
Dick Boulton	410-884-2964

Columbia Council Representative

Delilah Holmes 410-730-4005
Delilah.holmes@ca-board.org

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 and viewings.

Website: www.dorseyssearch.org

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

X: 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 2025 & January 2026

- Howard County Police Department Outreach Division visited the Board of Directors
 - Accepted the modified 2nd Quarter financials.
- Anne McKissick appointed as a member of the election committee
 - Election Calendar 2026 was approved

CCR Report given to the Village Board regarding the Dec 11 CA Board Meeting:

- The board has received a few easement requests:
 - Fall River Terrace in Harpers Choice
 - ◆ Building mixed income apartments
 - ◆ Requesting a sidewalk & utility easement- facilities sidewalk improvements and installation of a new multi-use path
 - ◆ Private storm drain and utility easement- facilities re-configuration of existing storm train outfall on CA property and improvements to the pathway
 - South Entrance Trail
 - ◆ Request from Howard County Office of Transportation, DPW, Rec & Parks for the south entrance trail, which will be a pathway connection
 - ◆ Structured project 63 in the BikeHoward master plan
 - ◆ Provides multiuse pathway providing passage under 29 and BLPW bridges
 - ◆ 1.0 mile off-road asphalt pathway along LP River
 - ◆ Currently missing a bike/pedestrian link between Stevens Forrest and downtown
 - ◆ Requesting a total of 3 easements for the project
- 990 approved
- Rate & cap set and staying the same
- Membership rates passed & will increase slightly
- First viewing of draft capital allocation, income, and operating expenses
- Discussed converting one of our outdoor pools to a splash pad.
 - ◆ Would be open once frost ends until it starts again—longer than the pools, would be available to anyone; no membership necessary

Reviewed Q2 financials

TownHall is Thursday 1/22 at 7pm at Slayton House. Next CA Board of Directors meeting will be on February 12 at CA Headquarters.

Covenant r o o r e r

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.dorseyssearch.org in the Covenant section.

Approved/Denied Applications: Nov20-Jan29

(descriptions are abbreviated)

Application Approvals:

- 4282 Bright Bay—remove window grids
- 4503 Mustering Drum—rock swale
- 5349 Chase Lions—deck gutter system
- 4754 Leyden Way—rear retaining wall
- 4724 Dorsey Hall #709—window, slider
- 4506 Mustering Drum—color scheme for house
- 4081 Fragile Sail—paint front and back door
- 4569 Hemlock Cone—siding, trim, and shutters
- 4318 Snowdrop—railing by front steps
- 4013 Starwreath—roof
- 4900 Columbia Road (Heatherfield Condominium) - roof
- 4633 Smokey Wreath—siding, trim, gutters, windows
- 4250 Blue Barrow—siding, windows, doors porch, and trim
- 4503 Mustering Drum—shed
- 4609 Morning Ride—3 season room
- 4511 Kingscup—railing at front steps
- 4225 Dancing Sunbeam—front light & pole light
- 4683 Columbia—front walk
- 4269 Red Bandana—exterior lights
- 4312 Sweet Bell—landscape edging
- 5314 Butler—deck and railing

Cont'd

- 4688 Smokey Wreath—mini split
- 4213 Red Bandana—Playset
- Approved with conditions
- 4581 Kingscup—windows

Application Deadlines and Meeting Dates

7p.m. Deadline	Review Date
Feb 3	Feb 18
Feb 17	Mar 4
Mar 3	Mar 18
Mar 17	Apr 1
Mar 31	Apr 15

Anne McKissick is our Covenant Advisor. She processes exterior alteration applications. She works on the request for letter of compliance visits, complaint requests, and violation processes associated with legal cases. Her office hours are:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 8am—3pm

On the first and third Wednesday of the month, she is present for the Resident Architectural meetings that begin at 7pm. This sounds like a busy schedule, but she is always ready and willing to listen and help our residents with anything associated with the Village Covenants, Guidelines, or general questions. Email: amckissick@dorseyssearch.org

Decorations for the Holiday

If you still have Christmas decorations up, it is time for them to hibernate until next year. In our guidelines, you have 21 days before the holiday and 21 days after the holiday to have them displayed. If you do the math, it is 43 days of celebration. It seems so bare when we take down our decorations, but you can start to plan your garden!

Spring is right around the corner and the explosion of color from those plants can rival any holiday decoration. An added bonus is the feeling of accomplishment. Just think about how wonderful those plants look or smell. The Dorsey Hall Garden Club has a wonderful article about Peonies on page 5. Do you know they are drought tolerant once fully established?

Just starting to garden? I recommend becoming a member of the Dorsey Hall Garden Club. They tend the garden across the street from Sunlit Passage, gather for monthly meetings, and take field trips. They are always learning and are so eager to share their joy of gardening. Join them on this journey of knowledge, passion, and growth. Information on the Garden Club is on page 5.

Cluster mailbox replacement & repair

There have been many questions about whose responsibility it is to maintain cluster mailboxes in Dorsey Search. The answer is a little complicated depending on where you live, but it has never been the responsibility of the Columbia Association (CA) or the Dorsey's Search Community Association (DSCA). These Associations do not own the property mailboxes are on, nor do they own the mailboxes.

- When it comes to **repairing** mailboxes, USPS is responsible. If your mailbox needs repaired, contact postmaster Shelley Smith at (410) 750-1340 if you live in the Dorsey Hall neighborhood. Dorsey Hall resident, your home post office is located at: 3375 Ellicott Center Drive, Ellicott City. If you live in our Fairway Hills neighborhood, your home post office is located at 6801 Oak Hall Lane in Columbia. Their phone number is 410-381-4373. USPS will not replace irreparable mailboxes.

For mailbox **replacement**:

- If you live in a multi-family neighborhood (apartments, condos, townhomes) that has an additional HOA outside of CA (like Dorsey Crossing HOA, Dorsey's Choice Townhouse Association, etc.) your mailbox might be privately owned. Your HOA fees (not your CA assessment) may pay for the replacement of your mailbox. Check with your local HOA if your box needs to be replaced.
- For single family home neighborhoods, residents are responsible for paying for mailbox replacement.

FAQ-

"But when I called the post office, they said CA was responsible for replacing the mailbox."

That is not true. CA does not own the mailboxes and therefore is not responsible for replacing or maintaining them. Perhaps postal workers are conflating multifamily HOAs with CA.

CA is working to enact an official policy that provides clarity to residents regarding their cluster mailboxes. More information forthcoming.

Traffic issues/Speeding

The Howard County Police Department's Outreach Section attended our January Board of Directors meeting. The visit was scheduled due to a complaint the office received from a resident concerned about speeding on Gray Rock Drive and Columbia Road. The officers listened to other complaints. Other concerns were:

- Not stopping before making a right hand turn at a red light
- Are the gray boxes located on Columbia Road and sometimes on Gray Rock Drive speed cameras or some other type of traffic monitoring device?
- No one seems to understand how to use the round-about on Columbia Road, Hemlock Cone Drive, and Kingscup Court.

The officers mentioned that residents may Report a Traffic Concern using the Howard County Government website. To File a traffic concern, go to: howardcountymd.gov/police/report-traffic-concerns

Click on File a Concern and fill out the isolated incident form or a recurring moving traffic violation form. The more residents that fill out a form, the more likely something will be done about the violation.



The Peony

In the dead of winter when our days are short and the nights are long, I spend time thinking of spring. What to plant, what to look forward too. Often, I'll go to my growing list of garden pictures to remember warmer times. One series of pictures that always moves me were taken at the Brooklyn Botanical gardens in New York City a few years ago. They had the most amazing collection of Peonies I had even seen and I have been a big fan ever since.

I recently came across an intriguing Chinese folklore written over 1500 years ago, on the Peony. It cites the story of a vane and cruel woman named *Wu Zetian* who called herself the Empress of China. She celebrated her rein by stating that all flowers in the royal gardens should bloom for her at the same time. As you can see, that would cause a problem! As she toured the gardens, at first, she was thrilled to see so many plants and trees flowering. But the Peony stubbornly refused to flower. Furious, she insisted that all Peonies be removed and destroyed. She also decreed that anyone caught cultivation the plant would be put to death! Time went on and years later the Empress fell gravely ill. Her doctors knew that the only thing that could save her was an elixir from the peony. Her officials scoured the kingdom and in her final hour, one of the last remaining peonies was found. The Empress was cured and at long last realized her foolish mistake. She then decided that as a grant gesture, she named the peony, *King of the Flowers*. Even today in China the peony symbolizes beauty, wealth and an unyielding resilience in Chinese culture.

The peony seems to be plagued with strange cultural superstitions. In 1597 John Gerard, in his book the *Herball* compiles a catalogue of ancient Greek and Roman superstitions about the flower. He states, "[the peony] is not plucked without danger. Therefore, a string must be fastened to it in the night, and a hungry dog tied thereto, who being allured by the smell of roasted flesh set towards him, may plucked it up by the root".

But back to the present. Today, we have a more tolerant relationship to the peony. As I saw at the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens they are grandly displayed and admired for their opulent beauty. And you will find that they are easy to acquire and easy to grow. The peony can have an exceptionally long life. It is said that they can live from 50 to 100 years with proper care. The ones I have in my garden were planted 20 years ago and I have successfully divided them several time through the years with good success. There are 3 basic types. The *herbaceous* variety that you commonly see at the nurseries. This variety dies back in the winter and show up again in the spring. The *tree peony* variety, is a woody shrub that bloom earlier in the season. The *intersectional* peony is a hybrid with a strong stem and long-lasting blooms.

Peonies require sun, at least 6 hours. Some shade in hot situations. They are drought tolerate once they are established. The plant is perfect in Zones 3-8. Plant them shallowly with the 'buds' only 12 inches below the soil level. Deeper planting with delay their blooms, as they will expend more time and energy to reach the soil surface.

So, forget the folklore, ignore the superstitions and treat yourself, this spring to a peony!

—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



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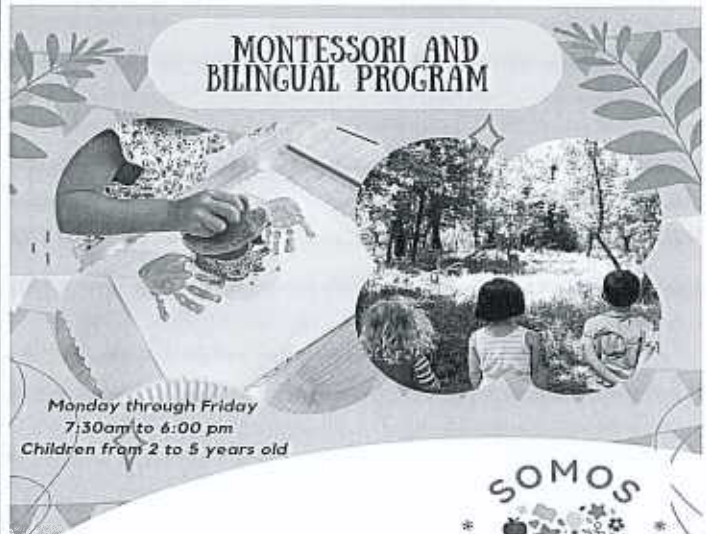
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CA's Deer Management Survey


CA wants to hear from you about the deer. Watch a short video and fill in the survey.

Video & survey link: <https://columbiaassociation.org/blog/open-space/oh-deer-tips-for-living-with-white-tailed-deer-in-columbia/>

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**Electronic version of the
newsletter**

You can sign up for the electronic version of the newsletter. Just email Nancy Meredith at nmeredith@dorseyssearch.org

Please supply an email address and your property address.

If you have new neighbors, be sure to tell them about the newsletter. We don't receive new owner information on a regular basis.

Ever wonder—What does my CA annual assessment pay for?

Go Visit the Columbia Association webpage:

[https://
www.columbiaassociation.org/
annual-charge/](https://www.columbiaassociation.org/annual-charge/)

Ads placed in the Dorsey's Search Scroll are paid advertisements. The appearance of the ads in the village newsletter does not indicate endorsement or recommendation of any advertisement by the community association.

Important Numbers

Take a picture of the problem. Use the TellHoCo App which is an app that can be downloaded onto your cell phone. TellHoCo may also be accessed by visiting the County website at: www.howardcountymd.gov. When using the County website, type in the search bar Tell HoCo, select Tell HoCo, this will bring you to the submission page. During the submission process, it will ask if you want to submit a picture. You don't have to have one have to have a picture, but it is always good to pinpoint your issue.

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. You may also use the HoCo App to report a mailbox issue.

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

Street trees need pruning 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

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>

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.

Looking to get **speed cameras or a crossing guard** at a particular intersection? Go to the Howard County's website at: www.howardcountymd.gov

Department of Public Works; Bureau of Highways; Report Traffic Control, Law Enforcement. Click on the button “File A Traffic Concern”.

Submit a “recurring moving traffic violation”. Type in your concern. Type in the website information in your web browser below:

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/police/report-traffic-concerns#file-a-concern>

Need the link sent to you? email: nmeredith@dorseyssearch.org

Upcoming Events

Village Election will be on Saturday, April 25 at Linden Hall from 8am—1pm. This date is set as per our By-Laws. The Village of Dorsey's Search will not have an election if the number of candidates is equal to or less than the number of seats open for election. This 2026 year, we have two (2) Village Board seats open they are a two year term position.

If you are interested in volunteering to be a Board member on the Village Board, packets are available on Monday, February 23. There is a lot of information in the packet. The following pages contain some information about Board member responsibilities, becoming a candidate, and the Board approved Election Calendar. It is important that the Candidate read the information in the packet.

Volunteers. Positions on the Board of Directors and the Election Committee are voluntary. They are not paid a salary. Please submit your name if you are interested in working on the Election Committee. Volunteers will be appointed to the Election Committee at a Board meeting. Email Nancy Meredith at nmeredith@dorseyssearch.org your name and your address if you are interested. A summary of eligibility and responsibilities are listed on the first page of the newsletter. The staff at Linden Hall will help guide election committee members through the process.

I would like to reiterate, there is no election if the number of candidates is equal to or less than the number of seats open in an election year.

Question: When do we know if we will have an election?

Answer: We will know on Friday, March 20

Dorsey's Search Cleans. This is a yearly event when we walk the pathways on the west and east side of Columbia Road by the pool to pick up trash. This is planned for Saturday, April 11 from 9pm—noon. Starting point and end point at the Dorsey Hall pool parking lot. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Nancy Meredith at nmeredith@dorseyssearch.org. You may call us and we'll place you on the sign up sheet. Our phone number is 410-730-4005.

Native Plant giveaway. The Village and Columbia Association will giveaway 100 free native plants to Village residents. Plants will be determined at a later date. The plants will be given out on Saturday, April 25 during Election Day. If there are **NO** elections, residents may pick up plants at Linden Hall from April 27—May 1 during the weekday office hours. Please be aware our office hours have been modified due to staffing issues. Our business hours are:

Monday Wednesday, and Friday; 8am—3pm

Tuesday & Thursday; 8am—7pm Stay tuned.

Columbia Association has material at Linden Hall (Village Office) regarding to the following matters:

Pamphlets:

“Adopt-A-Spot Manual”

“Watershed Stewards Academy”

“Weed Warriors and Adopt-A-Spot programs”

“Tree Planting & Care Guide”

Books for lending:

Plant Invaders of the Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas—Field Guide by Jil M. Swearingen and Judith P. Fulton

“Nature's Action Guide” by Sarah F. Jayne

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.

The **Village Election** will be held on Saturday, April 25, 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 two (2) open seats for the Village Board of Directors. Candidates must be in compliance with the covenants. Each term will be two years; a term running from May 1, 2026 until April 30, 2028.

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, 2026. 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 23 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 2026

Mon., Feb. 23, 2026

Candidate packets may be picked up at Village Office/Linden Hall during operating hours

Note: Office hours may be affected by weather or staffing issues. Please check our website for closings/delays.

Mon., Mar 2, 2026

Nomination petitions will be accepted. *By-Law; Section 8.03-Nominations*

Fri., Mar 20, 2026

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

Wed., Mar. 25, 2026

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

**Wed., Apr. 1, 2026—
Thu., April 23, 2026**

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. *(Bu-Law; 8.07-Absentee ballots)*

Tue., April 14, 2026

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 25, 2026

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

These are volunteer positions with a commitment of 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 for more information.

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.

Contact the Department of Public Works or Police Department if snow is on the sidewalk after the timeframe mentioned in the Howard County Code of Ordinances.

We still have another month or so of potential winter weather. This is article is just a reminder. We received several emails and calls regarding snow removal on Howard County roads and townhouse/condominium complexes. If you live in a townhouse or condominium association, snow removal is the responsibility of your local association unless designated as a public road by Howard County. Columbia Association does not handle any roads. They will clear pathways that are Columbia Association owned. Columbia Association will clear sidewalks and parking lots that are owned by Columbia Association. Do not park at any of the CA facility parking lots overnight. The Village will try to disseminate information from Howard County Public Works as we receive it. This is a great Village with many caring people. Check on your neighbors who might need a little extra help.

WE do not enforce Howard County Code.

