

The Scroll

March 2026

Village website: www.dorseyssearch.org

Village Elections

Candidate packets with nomination petitions are available for pick up at the Village Office located at Linden Hall, 4765 Dorsey Hall Drive, Ellicott City. Please view pages 4 and 5 for information about becoming a candidate and the Board approved Election Calendar. Nomination petitions are due on Friday, March 20 at noon.

There are two (2) open Dorsey's Search Board of Director seats. If the Village only receives 2 nomination petitions or less, the Village will not have an election. The candidates will be deemed elected. If there is an open seat after the nomination petitions are due, the Board of Directors will begin a search in May to fill the empty seat.

Absentee Balloting will begin on Wednesday, April 1—Thursday, April 23

Candidate's Night is on Tuesday, April 14 at Linden Hall starting at 7pm.

Election Day (in-person voting): Saturday, April 25 from 8am—1pm.

Information regarding who is eligible to vote can be found on page 4.

There is only one vote per property.

Important date: Friday, March 20. Nomination petitions are due by noon. We will know that evening if we have enough candidates to have an Election.

Keep reading The Scroll and sign up for important updates via Constant Contact. Constant Contact is our email distribution for any important news. There is a QR code at the bottom of page 2 or you can email Nancy Meredith at nmeredith@dorseyssearch.org.

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

Farewell and Thanks

Anne McKissick

February 26th marked my last day as your Covenant Advisor. I would like to thank the DSCA Board of Directors, RAC, Linden Hall Staff and residents for your support over the past 8 years. It has been a pleasure working for this Village to help its residents navigate the covenants and the application process. I truly believe this is the best Village in Columbia! I have met so many lovely people during my time here and it is hard to leave this position. Even though we do not have a new covenant advisor at this time, Nancy and Ingrid are here to continue to help our residents. Thank you again and I hope to see you around the Village!

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Covenant

o r h 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.dorseysearch.org in the Covenant section.

Approved/Denied Applications: Jan29-Feb24
(descriptions are abbreviated)

Application Approvals:

4724 Dorsey Hall Dr. #702—windows

4312 Sweet Bell—roof

4586 Kingscup—Slider, deck color

5718 April Journey—EV charger

5324 Butler—windows

4633 Hallowed Stream—ext. lights

4245 Bright Bay—Koi pond

4256 Lilac—rear door, windows, no grids on rear of house

Approve as amended

4702 Leyden—deck & rail color

Approved with conditions

4586 Kingscup—ext. light; trim around slider

4581 Kingscup—windows

Application Deadlines and Meeting Dates

7p.m. Deadline	Review Date
Mar 3	Mar 18
Mar 17	Apr 1
Mar 31	Apr 15
Apr 14	May 6
May 5	May 20

Please remember to apply for any exterior alteration!



With Anne's departure, the Village office will hire a new Covenant Advisor. Office staff will monitor Anne's email until the position is filled, so our Covenant process will continue to be handled for the Village. In the meantime, we wish the best for Anne and for her family as they create a new chapter in their lives. You will see her around when she volunteers in the Village and at the various events we have throughout the year. It's not good-bye. It's more of a "I can't wait to see you as a volunteer in our Village". Our Volunteers have a huge impact on our lives. Thanks for giving us your time in the office and now outside of the office. So for now.....Arrivederci!

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. *(By-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



E.O. Wilson, American Biologist and Naturalist once called insects, "...the little things that run the world." This is because they play many essential ecological roles. As Doug Tallamy writes in his book, *Nature's Best Hope*, "Insects pollinate 87.5 percent of all plants and 90 percent of all flowering plants." As we know, plants turn energy from the sun into food, for all living things. Insects are also the main way that food, created by plants is delivered through our food web. For example, vertebrates do not eat plants directly, but often eat the insects that have converted plant sugars and carbohydrates into proteins and fats that fuel food. I say this to remind us of the importance of insects. To often we recoil when we see swarms of beetles ravishing our rose bush, or hornworms devouring our vegetable garden. But as we try to combat this predicament it's important to remember the role that insects play in supporting life and look for natural predators to combat the problem, rather than convenient sprays that too often kill other beneficial insects.

As I look out on to the winter landscape, with the dead plant stems of *Rudbeckia* and the spent seed pods of *Astilbe* and *Chelone* all visible above the snow and ice, I wonder how beneficial insects survive freezing temperatures. I found that they have some interesting strategies.

One way that certain insects, including many varieties of caterpillars, survive freezing temperatures is by lowering the freeze point for their body fluids. They do this by producing cryoprotectants, which act like a natural antifreeze. This prevents ice crystals from forming inside the cell and *allows tissues to remain liquid when temperatures drop below 32 degrees*.

Freeze Tolerance is another way certain insects survive. Simply put, the insect freezes in a controlled way, allowing ice to form outside the cell while the cell remains protected by special proteins and sugars. This metabolic pause lasts until the spring thaw. For example, the Woolly Bear Caterpillar (*Pyrrharctia Isabella*) freezes every winter for up to 7 years before reaching their final pupating stage.

Some insects use Microhabitat Selection to protect themselves in freezing temperatures. Insects go out and select a safe spot. For example, they may burrow under the leaf litter in your garden beds, or under bark on a tree. Some caterpillars, like many species of moths spend the winter in a caterpillar stage, hiding among the nooks of tree bark or stay where they are on small branches, blending in and becoming almost invisible to the human eye. When the temperature drops, they rely on glycerin to keep their cells from freezing. These same caterpillars feed insectivorous birds like kinglets, chickadees, titmice and some woodpeckers through the winter months. Others find spots in rolled dead leaves that are left on bushes or in the hollow stems of plants.

Timing and Dispause is a strategy that suspends growth and activity until conditions improve. Here body enzymes activity drops, conserving energy and protecting tissue.

And finally, the Migration Strategy. Butterflies, like the Monarch do not survive freezing. They are not equipped with chemical antifreeze that protect their cell structure. As we know, they migrate instead great distances to breed in select warmer locations.

A garden club member asked if the pesky *Spotted Lantern Fly* survives winter. I found that the adult and the nymphs die off in freezing temperatures, but their egg masses survive. This is because the mass produces a waxy coating that protect them from freezing. The best way to combat them is to look for masses on tree trunks, disengage them from the tree and submerge in alcohol. This will break down the coating and destroy the eggs.

Buried in the cold landscape of winter, if we look for these insects, will be hard to find.

But it's still nice to know that many beneficial insects have developed ways to survive and will be around next spring doing what they do best, supporting our food web.

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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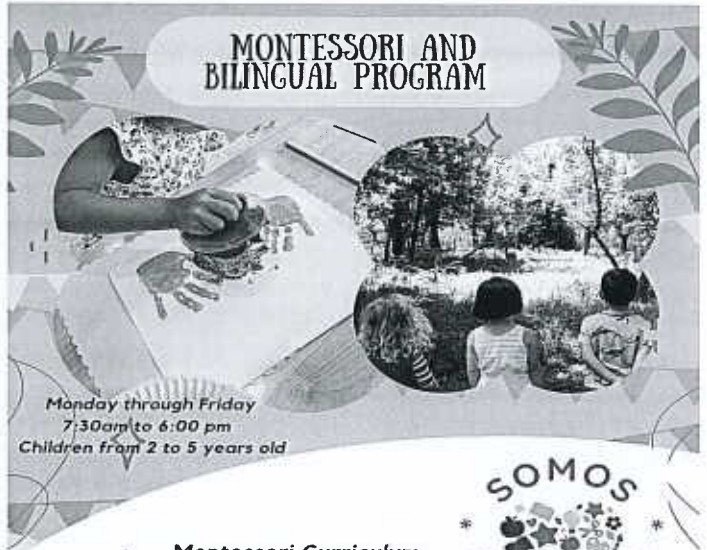
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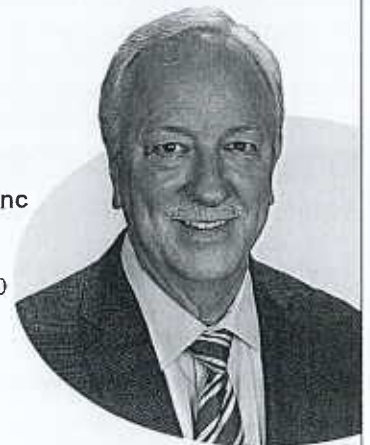
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Electronic version of the newsletter

You can sign up for the electronic version of the newsletter. Just email Nancy Meredith

at

nmeredith@dorseysearch.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/>

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.

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/>

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”

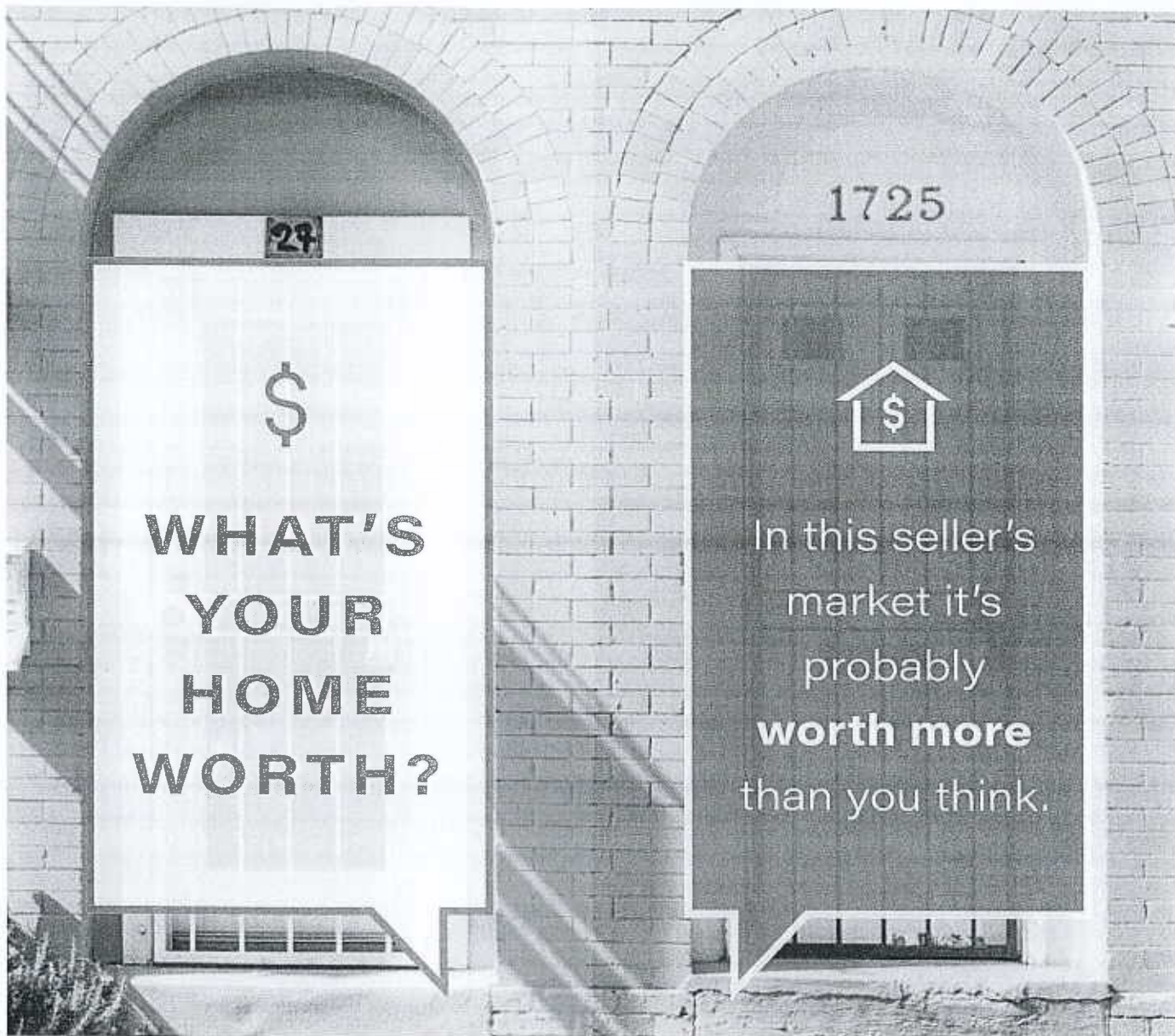
“Tree Planting & Care Guide”

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.



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