

Village Elections

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

Location address: 4765 Dorsey Hall Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Dorsey's Search Community Association (Village) Board Candidates

In accordance with By-Law Article VIII; Section 8.05—"The Election Committee shall draw the names of candidates by lot to determine position on ballot."

Ellen M. Mackey

Christine F. Simpson

Jake R. Burdett

Residents may **submit questions** prior to the day of the forum. The moderator will ask each candidate a set of received questions and then the floor will be opened to questions from Residents. Residents will be allowed to ask questions with one follow up question before the moderator moves on.

Please email questions to Ingrid Hatz at ihatz@dorseyssearch.org **and** Nancy Meredith at nmeredith@dorseyssearch.org. In your email, please include your name and address. You may also submit questions in person prior to Candidate's Night. Please write your name and address on the paper and submit to Linden Hall.

Reminders

Office Closed

Friday, April 3 &
Monday, April 6

Candidate's Night

Tuesday, April 14 at 7pm

Absentee Ballots available from

April 1—April 23

In-person voting

Saturday, April 25
8am—1pm

Village Election

Saturday, April 25 from 8am—1pm

Polling will take place at Linden Hall (4765 Dorsey Hall Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21042)

Candidate Statements are on page 4

Who is eligible to vote on page 5

How to receive an **Absentee Ballot** page 5

A Native Plant Giveaway will take place during polling hours to try to increase voter turnout. There will be 50 Penstemon and 50 Golden Alexanders to be given away; first come, first served.

One plant per one property. Bring ID.

Come vote and pick up a plant.

We'll also have coffee and donuts.

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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, March 11, 2026
- Wednesday, April 8, 2026
- Wednesday, May 13, 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

William Wright, Covenant Advisor—covenants@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, Thursday	8am–7pm
Wednesday	8am–4pm
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 March 2026

- Accepted the 3rd Quarter Report
- \$100 donation for Dunloggin Middle School PTA

CCR Report to Dorsey's Search Board of Directors -Delilah Holmes

Feb 12:

- We received an easement request for a raised intersection in Owen Brown. This will be designed to address speeding and aggressive driving.
- We passed the capital and operating budgets. Here are some highlights:
 - Maintains current annual charge rate & cap
 - Modest increase in most membership rates—driven by inflation and wage increases
 - An additional full time director and part time manager for School Age services
 - \$150,000 in community grants
 - Funds for the design of transitioning one of CA's 23 outdoor pools into a splash pad open for all (not just those with memberships)
- We voted on two easements—one for a storm drain in Harpers Choice and another for the Howard County South Entrance Trail. Both were approved.
- We discussed reducing the number of board meetings for FY 27.

Feb 26:

- We further discussed the FY 27 board meeting schedule
- Further discussed the FY 27 board meeting schedule
- Viewed a presentation by CA staff on the CA Business Capability Model

Our next meeting is March 26th at 7pm!

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

rehearsal

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: Feb26-Mar24
(descriptions are abbreviated)

Application Approvals:

- 4741 Columbia—rear slider
- 4022 Seabird—garage doors, deck
- 4029 Wildwood—deck
- 4018 Bright Rocket—deck to paver patio
- 4610 Learned Sage—storm door
- 5133 Columbia—windows
- 5324 Butler—replace support posts on deck
- 4026 Starwreath—tree
- 4237 Scarlet Sage—rain garden
- 4669 Hallowed Stream—deck
- 4777 Leyden—landscaping
- 4629 Old Dragon—rain barrel , raised garden beds
- 4654 Smokey Wreath—addition

Approve as amended with conditions

- 4617 Morning Ride—addition, concrete patio

Application Deadlines and Meeting Dates

7p.m. Deadline	Review Date
Mar 31	Apr 15
Apr 14	May 6
May 5	May 20
May 19	Jun 3
Jun 2	Jun 17

Please remember to apply for any exterior alteration!

Welcome William Wright!

Bill Wright is our new Village Covenant Advisor. Bill has jumped right into the daily routines. We believe his professionalism will be a great asset for the community. He lived in the Village of Harper's Choice and briefly in Dorsey's Search. He recently moved back to area and is ready to assist our residents. Feel free to call or stop by with any questions regarding Covenants, Guidelines, or if you just want to drop a line and say "Hello".

His email address is:

Covenants@DorseysSearch.org

Phone number is our village office number: 410-730-4005

His work hours will shift as needed, but in general, the plan is:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8am—3pm. For the Wednesdays when the RAC has a meeting, Bill will be available from noon to 7pm.

Candidate Statements

Ellen M. Mackey — I'm Ellen Mackey, and I am running for re-election to the Dorsey Search Board. I've served on this board for 15 years and would be honored to have the opportunity again.

I have been a resident of Dorsey Search for 29 years and with my husband raised our children here. During my time serving on the board we have hosted many community events, including family and holiday events and our senior luncheon. We have built relationships with our local schools, our police and fire departments, while ensuring Linden Hall is always welcoming and beautiful to the people who choose to rent it for events. I'm very proud of the great relationship we have built with Columbia Association during my tenure. We support the Dorsey Hall Garden Club, and we participate in the annual cleanup effort to keep our pathways beautiful.

I would appreciate your vote on April 25th!

Christine (Crissy) F. Simpson — I have been a consistent Dorsey volunteer to include for the Dorsey Dolphins, NES PTA, DMS PTA, WLHS Boosters, and Village Board. I am proud to have been a Federal employee of over 21 years and I currently work for a private company. I support inclusivity and positive community-building. I want everyone to feel comfortable, valued, and at home in our community. Aside from a few years in Catonsville, Dorsey has been my home starting in 2000. I have been a renter in two Dorsey apartment complexes and I am currently a homeowner. One of my favorite things is saying hi to dogs on our lovely paths.

Jake R. Burdett — I am a 28 year old renter at Columbia Glade apartments on Columbia Road. I'm running for the Dorsey's Search Village Board because I have been trying to raise the alarm about special interest interference in the Columbia Association by private actors like Howard Hughes Corporation and hedge fund billionaire Bill Ackman for years now, which you can read more about here, <https://www.hocowatchdogs.com/guestpost-7/>. It is the Columbia Association and Village Boards who are best-positioned to watch out for and push back against such inappropriate outside influences, and make sure that the CA's \$90 million+ annual budget and resources are used for the good of the residents, rather than private pet projects.

I also want to be an advocate for renters on the Village Board, as we currently have no tenants on the Village Board, despite renters making up nearly 40% of Columbia residents.

Only two seats are available. The three (3) Candidates will be listed on the ballot. Residents may vote for up to 2 candidates. The winners of the election shall be ranked from highest number of votes to lowest number of votes. The terms of office shall be awarded to the election winners using this same ranking to the two-year term.

Please view "who is eligible to vote" and Absentee Ballotting on page 5.

Plant Giveaway on Election Day—page 9

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. A completed ballot may be placed in our exterior mailbox, mailed, or brought to the office no later than Thursday, April 23 by close of business.

Absentee Ballots may be mailed to members upon request. Absentee Ballots are available at the Village Office located at Linden Hall. 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,"



Butterflies get all the attention...but the moth is the workhorse....

We often consider them a nuisance... fluttering around the porch light on summer nights. You've heard the expression. "...like moths to a flame." Or we think they will get into our clothes closets and eat holes in a favorite wool sweater. However, out of 160,000 species of moths only 2 common species actually eat fibers of animal origin such as wood, fur and feathers. When our summer gardeners think of moths, they are reminded of the dreaded Cabbage Moth that plays havoc in their raised beds under the hot summer sun. But as we know, there are many unfounded fears and myths in the land of gardening and I can assure you that the majority of moths are not a threat.

Although butterflies are often works of art, their beautiful and distinctive wing patterns captivating our attention, they pale in comparison to the moth when it come to their ecological contributions. And although we think that the moth followed the butterfly in terms of evolution, it is actually the butterfly that came after the moth. For every species of butterfly in North America, there are 19 species of moths.

Scientists have recently discovered that moths play a much broader role as plant pollinators than previously suspected. Entomologist Dan Janzen described the moth as the 'meat and potatoes' of the terrestrial food web. You see, moths, mostly in their larval (caterpillar) stage, transfer more energy from plants to other animals than any other type of plant eater. Most importantly, moths make up the basic food source for many small amphibians, mammals, bats and many of our beloved songbirds.

My hope is that you will turn off your patio bug zapper, change out your front porch light for a yellow conventional bulb or amber LED light. They lack the UV and blue light wavelengths that attract moths. We can all help in small ways to benefit this important pollinator.

The Dorsey Hall Garden Club will be hosting a presentation by Scott Munroe. Scott Munroe, a Landscape Architect and Park Planner for Howard County Recreation & Parks, is involved in developing the county's first-ever Public Garden, which features sustainable, native, and beneficial plant species. The project, aims to showcase environmental stewardship through a mix of formal and natural landscapes designed for ecological value. Our presentation will be held at Linden Hall on April 14th, at 7pm. Come early for refreshments and a chance to meet our garden club members.

Joan Oliver, DHGC

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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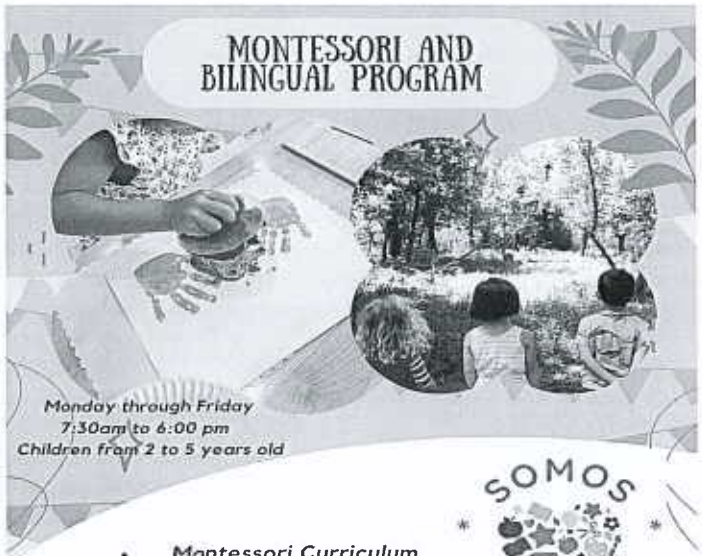
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State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL

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/)

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Carpentry & remodeling also

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.

We have a few volunteers signed up. We will have donuts, coffee, and some water to help you on your journey through the paths. This is a rain or shine event. If it needs to be cancelled, we will call all the volunteers who signed up and post the cancellation on facebook and our website.

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 for in-person voting. If a resident cannot vote on that day, the resident may vote by Absentee Ballot. Absentee Ballots are available at Linden Hall during business hours. Linden Hall is located at 4765 Dorsey Hall Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21042. Our business hours are:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8am—3pm

Tuesday and Thursday: 8am—7pm*

*Please call before coming to the office after 3pm. Depending on staffing, we may close have to close early. Reminder: Absentee ballots may be mailed to you. Call the office at 410-730-4005.

To increase voter turnout, a Plant Giveaway will be conducted at Linden Hall. Columbia Association and the Dorsey's Search Community Association will giveaway 100 Native Plants on a first come, first serve basis. There will be:

50 Penstemon and 50 Golden Alexanders

Only one plant per property.

An information sheet about the plants will be available. Pamphlets about various Columbia Association Sustainability programs will be on hand. Come early: vote and get your first pick of plants. Below is some information about the two plants available for the plant giveaway.



Penstemon (Foxglove Beardtongue)

Spring is the best time to plant this Native Beauty!

To Plant: Dig a hole that's slightly larger than your plant's root ball and located the plant in the hole at the same depth it was growing in it's nursery pot. Fill the hole with soil, add mulch and water well.

Does well in full sun at least 6—8 hours of direct sunlight per day

Drought resistant once established. The plant does a lot better if they receive 1 inch of water per week. Don't over water because they will develop root rot. They don't like weeds or being over-crowded among other plants.

Great for pollinators; minimal maintenance except for the occasional weeding.

According to the gardeners, these plants are deer resistant. But as we have seen in our Village, many plants listed as "Deer Resistant" have become a deer delicacy.

The plant is not listed as being toxic to dogs. If a dog does digest a plant, it might cause some gastrointestinal upset.



Golden Alexander

Bright yellow flowers that look similar to Queen Anne's Lace. Unlike Queen Anne's Lace, Golden Alexander is a native plant while the Queen is not native to North America. Let's be mindful of non-native species.

Golden Alexander is a part of the parsley family and Black Swallowtail butterflies gravitate to these plants. If you love butterflies, this is the plant for you. According to online sources, this is a low maintenance plant. The plant loves full sun or part sun. It doesn't care about the soil type and will come back year after year.

These plants are generally considered "Deer Resistant", but I am still waiting to hear how this plant will do in our Village. If you pick the Golden Alexander plant for your garden, let the Village office know if it survived the Dorsey's Search Deer herd. We don't want to give out free plants that the deer find delicious.

If the plant survives, it is a great buffet for bees, butterflies, and other insects. The foliage remains green in your garden.

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.



Spring Home Maintenance

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It's April, and with the rising temperatures and longer days, we'll soon start to see the first signs of spring, including all the crocuses, tulips and daffodils beginning to sprout.

Here are some tips to get your home in good shape for the warmer months ahead:

Schedule air-conditioning service. Make sure your HVAC unit is working before the warm weather arrives. Don't forget to regularly change filters.

Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Change batteries at least once a year and replace each unit every 7 to 10 years.

Clear gutters and downspouts. Prevent damage from spring rains by clearing out debris. Make sure water is diverted away from your home to protect its foundation.

Check door and window screens. Avoid having insects enter your home by examining and repairing any holes or tears in your screens.

Reseal exterior woodwork. Prolong the life of the woodwork on your home, as well as any wood decks, fences and other outdoor structures, by painting or resealing them every few years. Inspect caulking and replace, if needed.

If you're planning to sell your home this spring, I'll be happy to provide recommendations on repairs, improvements, renovations, or other suggestions to help make your home picture perfect both inside and outside. Happy Spring!



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