

## September 2016

### Message from the Office of the President/CEO

“Spotlight on the Website” returns this month and features the Volunteer Center Serving Howard County. Since 2001, the Volunteer Center has connected individuals, groups, and businesses to regional volunteer opportunities. Following the flash flood in Ellicott City on July 30, it shared information with the community via its website, [www.VolunteerHoward.org](http://www.VolunteerHoward.org). In mid-August, at the request of Howard County Recreation and Parks, the lead department for disaster volunteer management, VolunteerHoward.org became the portal through which potential volunteers could register to help during the recovery phase.

Volunteer opportunities exist throughout the year, and individuals interested in offering their time are encouraged to visit <https://www.volunteerhoward.org/opportunities>. On the website they can Search Opportunities, find a Calendar with opportunities listed by month and date, and find information on Group Volunteers/Teams and Family & Youth Group Volunteers. Step-by-step instructions on “How to Get Started” are available. Check out <https://www.volunteerhoward.org/register> to create an on-line account; <https://www.volunteerhoward.org/youth> for ways to get involved as a youth volunteer; <https://www.volunteerhoward.org/olderadults> for information on Neighbor Ride; <https://www.volunteerhoward.org/partners> for a list of partner organizations, their respective missions, and ways to volunteer with each one; and <https://www.volunteerhoward.org/resources> for links to organizations offering resources to volunteers.

Organizations needing assistance are encouraged to visit <https://www.volunteerhoward.org/beapartner>. Links at the top of the page offer information on how to register and become a partner, how to request volunteers (<https://www.volunteerhoward.org/requestvolunteers>), and community resources for nonprofit organizations (<https://www.volunteerhoward.org/nonprofitresources>).

Columbia Association applauds those individuals who give freely of their time and talents throughout the year. Their contribution is valued and is best summed up by Kofi Annan, 7<sup>th</sup> UN Secretary General and 2001 Nobel Peace Prize Winner:

*“...let us remember the large numbers of citizens who, day in and day out, through acts of volunteerism large and small, bring hope to so many of the world's disadvantaged. Let us ensure that this wonderful resource, available in abundance to every nation, is recognized and supported as it works towards a more prosperous and peaceful world.”*



## **Administrative Services**

### **Accounting**

Columbia Association's Fiscal Year 2016 financial audit and the 2015 calendar year 401(k) plan audit were successfully completed and the results shared with the Audit Committee and Board of Directors in late July. The independent auditors found no material errors or omissions in the financial statements.

### **Information Technology (IT)**

IT has been engaged with Howard County's Information Technology department to develop a scope and project budget to expand the Inter-County Broadband Network (ICBN) to more CA sites.

## **Sport and Fitness**

### **Athletic Club**

New eco-friendly (LED) lights were placed in service on the Athletic Club Indoor Tennis courts, enhancing the CA green initiative on conserving our natural resources.

### **Hobbit's Glen Golf Club**

Thirty-two golfers enjoyed a shotgun start and scramble format in the annual Ladies Twilight League Charity event. The league collected approximately \$1000 for the Claudia Mayer Cancer Resource Center.

Hobbit's Glen hosted the Fall Meeting of the Northern Chapter of the Mid- Atlantic PGA. Approximately 70 PGA professionals attended.

### **Supreme Sports Club**

Recent renovations to the Supreme Sports Club include new lockers, vanities, grooming stations, flooring, ceiling fans and finishes in the locker rooms; energy efficient LED lighting upgrades in several areas; and new paint featuring Columbia Association-branded wall colors in the main lobby, stairwell, and group fitness studio 1. The ADA accessible ramp, located outside the skate lobby, is in the final stages of completion.

## **Community Planning**

### **Increasing Influence in Columbia Planning and Development**

Staff from the Office of Planning and Community Affairs (OPCA) continued to participate in and monitor proposed and on-going development projects in and around Columbia. The [Development Tracker](#) provides information on development related meetings and submitted proposals for sites in and near Columbia. The tracker is updated monthly and is available on-line at <http://bit.ly/developmenttracker>.

Staff also attended and participated in various meetings related to planning and development.

- Hickory Ridge Village Center Redevelopment Proposal – Met with Kimco representatives and attended the Hickory Ridge Village Center redevelopment meeting hosted by Kimco on August 3, where a revised development plan was presented in response to previous community comments related to the original redevelopment concept.

- Oakland Mills Village Center Redevelopment Feasibility Study – In conjunction with staff from Howard County, continued to work with the client team for the village center redevelopment feasibility study. The consultant team is currently analyzing background information, collecting market data and engaging with stakeholders.
- Downtown Columbia Affordable Housing – Continued to monitor pending legislation and provide support to the CA Board as it considers and deliberates on this important issue.

### **Columbia Association Open Space Assessment**

Columbia's open space is a distinguishing feature of Columbia and provides health, recreation, aesthetic and ecological benefits that contribute to Columbia's quality of life. As part of achieving one of CA's strategic goals to "Maintain and enhance Columbia's facilities, open spaces, connectivity and environmental stewardship", Columbia Association President/CEO Milton W. Matthews has convened an interdepartmental work group to review existing open space related-plans, policies, programs and management protocols. The work team is to assess what CA may need to augment, update or change in its open space planning and/or management framework. The anticipated result of the work team's efforts will be a report that documents what CA has in place, what has been achieved in recent years, and a list of recommends related to CA's management and stewardship of CA's open space resources. This effort began in August 2016 and is anticipated to be completed by April 2017. Staff will provide updates to the CA Board as the work team undertakes this assessment and will review draft findings with the Board and stakeholders prior to finalizing the report. Questions about this project may be addressed to Jane Dembner, director of Planning and Community Affairs, at [Jane.Dembner@ColumbiaAssociation.org](mailto:Jane.Dembner@ColumbiaAssociation.org).

### **Community Building Speakers Series – October 4**

Columbia Association's next Community Building Speakers Series event "Sustaining Racial Integration in Housing in Columbia: Exploring the Model of Oak Park, Illinois" will be held on Tuesday, October 4 at 7pm at the Owen Brown Community Center. Our speaker will be Rob Breymaier, Executive Director of the Oak Park Regional Housing Center, where he leads the nation's most successful effort to promote integration and the affirmative furthering of fair housing in the private housing market. [Advance registration](#) is recommended.

## **Community Services**

### **50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration**

As part of the 50th Birthday Celebration, a twenty-foot Columbia history timeline wall mural was installed August 15 at the Mall in Columbia, Lord & Taylor Courtyard, lower level. The Mall has waived rental fees for the space, and social media is being used to publicize the mural.

### **Columbia Archives**

Columbia Archives made the collection accessible to Richard Popp, professor at the University of Wisconsin, for his research on the transformation of American media culture between the mid-1960s and early-1980s. During his day long visit he used the collection of material covering innovative ideas for cable television and the proposal of Time-Life to bring cable to Columbia and Howard County.

### **Volunteer Center Serving Howard County**

In mid-August, the Volunteer Center Serving Howard County was asked by Howard County Recreation

and Parks to support spontaneous volunteer registration and referral in partnership with MD VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster). VolunteerHoward.org will serve as a central registration portal for individuals and groups wishing to aid in Ellicott City's recovery following the July 30th flash flood. MD VOAD and the Community Action Council of Howard County have posted opportunities supporting Ellicott City's recovery.

## **Communications and Marketing**

### **Press/Media**

Columbia is expected to be highly ranked in the upcoming biennial Money Magazine "Best Small Cities to Live In" list. The official announcement of Columbia's rank on the list will be made on Monday, September 19.

### **Social Media**

CA has been posting youth-oriented messaging on Instagram, as it seems to be one of the more popular social media platforms for that age group. About 100 additional individuals are following us each month on this platform.

### **Website**

We are engaging about 500 new individuals each month on the website. This increase is the result of marketing efforts and membership leads, or from more individuals signing-up to receive urgent notifications or one or more of our eNewsletters.

### **Events**

Eighteen residents of the community have signed up for the fall session of the Excite Columbia citizens academy, which begins on September 20.

## **Monthly Updates**

### **Inner Arbor Trust**

The Chrysalis construction is on schedule and completion is expected by the end of the calendar year. The official opening of the Chrysalis is scheduled for March 15, 2017, the date of the kick-off event for Columbia's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration. The 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Committee would like to use the Chrysalis in its opening ceremonies, symbolizing the connection between old and new Columbia.

The IAT Board and representatives from the Howard Hospital Foundation ("Foundation") are drafting an agreement allowing the Foundation to use IAT property for its Symphony of Lights in 2016. Most of the vehicular traffic will not be on IAT land, but most of the displays will be installed inside the park.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Columbia Art Center**

As part of the Howard County Arts Council Road to the Arts, Columbia Art Center will host a gala reception on September 17, 2-4pm for its annual theme show ManneqART: Sculpture on the Human Form. The 2016 theme is Flora, Fauna, Action and Androids. The reception is free of charge and open to the community.

### **Columbia Archives**

The Columbia Archives' Annual BikeAbout is September 17. There are seven sites featured along the 10-mile course, including the history of the construction of Wilde Lake, Hickory Ridge Place names, and Howard Community College. In partnership with Wilde Lake Community Association, Columbia Archives is encouraging riders to stop at the Wilde Lake Community Picnic.

### **Youth and Teen Center**

The Youth and Teen Advisory Committee will begin hosting Columbia Teen Idol Auditions. Auditions will be held September 15 and 20 at The Barn and on September 22 at Lord & Taylor at the Mall in Columbia. In its 14th year, the Teen Advisory Committee chose to partner with Shattered the Stigma Initiative - a non-profit organization whose goal is to educate, inspire, and encourage hope around the stigmas of addiction. This organization, together with HC Drugfree, has been invited to the final idol competition to provide information and education to participants and attendees.

### **Columbia Community Exchange**

Columbia Community Exchange (CCE) will host an organizing workshop at the East Columbia 50+ Center on September 22 entitled "The Clutter Buster Guide to Tidying Up." Led by two CCE members who are professional organizers, it will feature an interactive question and answer session.