



SENIOR  
LEADERSHIP  
TEAM

**Milton W. Matthews**  
President/  
Chief Executive  
Officer

**Susan Krabbe**  
Vice President/  
Chief Financial Officer

**Dan Burns**  
Director of  
Sport and Fitness

**Jane Dembner**  
Director of Planning  
and Community Affairs

**Sheri Fanaroff**  
General Counsel

**Norma Heim**  
Director of  
Communications  
and Marketing

**Janet Loughran**  
Executive Assistant  
to the President/CEO

**Dennis Matthey**  
Director of Open Space  
and Facility Services

**Ron Meliker**  
Director of  
Human Resources

**Michelle Miller**  
Director of  
Community Services

**Chuck Thompson**  
Chief Information  
Officer

**Jackie Tuma**  
Director of  
Internal Audit

## January 2018

### Office of the President/CEO

CA's President/CEO accepted an invitation to serve on the Howard County Spending Affordability Advisory Committee (SAAC) for 2018. The SAAC will meet every Thursday morning for approximately two hours from January through February, with a report and recommendations due to the County Executive by 1 March 2018. Mr. Matthews has served on the committee since 2015.

Mr. Matthews has also accepted an invitation to serve as a member of the Executive Leadership Team for the 2018 Howard County Heart Ball. Mr. Matthews joins other Howard County leaders in planning the event, which is under the auspices of the American Heart Association. The ball will be held on Saturday, 5 May.

The Downtown Columbia Arts and Culture Commission (DCACC) is working with appropriate organizations to determine the cause of the roof collapse at Merriweather Post Pavilion early Saturday, 13 January. The roof will be rebuilt and the venue expects to start its 2018 season as planned, including hosting Howard County high school graduations in May and June.

The Downtown Columbia Partnership (DCP) reported that Festive Friday events in December were well attended. New stores at The Mall in Columbia include Shake Shack, Bibibop Asian Grill, Lolli & Pop's, Friendly Faces, and Love Culture. DCP also reported that Costello Construction has purchased the Sheraton Columbia Town Center Hotel and is planning a \$10 million renovation to the property, including a 33-room addition.

The DCP also hosted Maryland Construction Network's "Construction Industry Summit" in November. Mr. Matthews presented an update on "What's Happening in Columbia." Other speakers included Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman and Howard County Economic Development Authority CEO Larry Twele.

Other news from Downtown Columbia, Pearson, a global online learning company, moved into the Two Merriweather office building in December.

Leonardo McClarty, president/CEO of the Howard County Chamber, offered testimony to the Howard County Council on Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) legislation—CB1 and CB2 – 2018 on 16 January. The Chamber also held a luncheon on 18 January featuring a panel discussion on "State of Healthcare in Howard County." Panelists were Steven Snelgrove,



president, Howard County General Hospital: A Member of Johns Hopkins Medicine; Dr. Maura Rossman, health officer, Howard County Health Department; Dr. William Saway, Columbia Medical Practice; and Elizabeth Kromm, PhD, vice president of population health, Howard County General Hospital: A Member of Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Led by the Howard County Economic Development Authority, discussions continue with many of the property owners in the Gateway Business Park and Gateway Commerce Center as to a vision and plans for the roughly 1048 acres comprising that area of the community.

During a meeting on 11 January, Ayers Saint Gross, a firm based in Baltimore City known nationally for providing master planning and architectural services, provided some initial thoughts and preliminary concepts related to future land uses in the area.

## **Administrative Services**

### **Accounting**

The Accounting Division completed the production of the draft FY 2019 and conditional FY 2020 budget document. The document was distributed to CA Board members and the village community associations and posted on CA's website.

### **IT**

Chuck Thompson, CA's Chief Information Officer, achieved CRISC (Certified in Risk and Information Systems Control) certification, which involved passing an examination administered through ISACA (formerly known as the Information Systems Audit and Control Association). CRISC is designed to demonstrate that the holder is able to identify and evaluate IT risk, and help their enterprise accomplish its business objectives through the design, implementation, monitoring and maintenance of effective, risk-based information systems controls. In addition to the exam, the certification also requires specific, related work experience.

## **Sport and Fitness**

### **Haven on the Lake**

Kevin Shaffer joined Columbia Association on 9 January as General Manager of Haven on the Lake. Mr. Shaffer's most recent assignments were in Arizona, where he served as Director for the Anthem Community Center and Park, following tenure at CopperWynd Resort and Club, and DMB Sports Clubs.

### **Membership Sales Director**

Michael (Mike) Fecht joined Columbia Association on 16 January as Membership Sales Director. Mr. Fecht has more than 17 years of experience in the health and fitness industry, and recently relocated from Florida where he served as Co-President of Yoga for Men and the Owner/Operator of Warrior Spirit Yoga. He previously led operations at RHBSolutions in Atlanta, Georgia and Crunch Fitness in New York City.

## Planning and Community Affairs

### Increasing Influence in Columbia Planning and Development

Staff from the Office of Planning and Community Affairs continued to participate in and monitor proposed and on-going development projects in and around Columbia, which included participation in various meetings related to planning and development.

- Reviewed proposed development materials and attended meetings of the Design Advisory Panel related to several proposed projects within and near Columbia, including the Long Reach Village Center redevelopment; the proposed 63-acre Erikson Living development (continuing care retirement community project) in Clarksville; and the Clarksville Square retail development project.
- Staff also attended the pre-submission community meeting for the Long Reach Village Center redevelopment, and a pre-submission meeting for the five Community Homes properties in the Villages of Wilde Lake and Harper's Choice, which addressed the potential redevelopment of these sites as mixed income housing communities. The latter project proposes to retain the number of affordable homes and replace the existing homes with new units in combination with new market rate homes.

## Communications and Marketing

A survey is currently posted on CA's homepage and several other pages on the website to gain feedback as to the primary sources used by individuals to obtain information about CA. The survey will remain up through the end of January.

### Marketing Initiatives

CA has launched a new membership marketing campaign theme entitled *CA Has It!* The campaign will run for approximately 1.5 years. The campaign graphics appear on direct mail pieces, digital and mobile ads, lead landing pages, and print ads. A video explaining the choice of theme was included in the 5 January 2018 employee eNewsletter; a version for external audiences is being prepared.

### Publications

*CA Monthly* is now *CA Update*, a single page publication (printed on both sides) covering Community Events, CA's Board of Directors meetings, and other essential information.

The January issue of *CA Today* had a cover story on BOGAFit, and the cover for February, in recognition of Valentine's Day, is about working out together and other fun CA date-night ideas.

### Upcoming Events

Excite Columbia, CA's Citizen Academy, is open for registration, with the spring sessions scheduled for 6, 13 and 20 March.

Dog Day has been moved to fall and is scheduled for 13 October.

Kids Day is scheduled for 9 June.

## **Open Space and Facility Services**

### **General Construction**

The Long Reach Indoor Tennis Center is in its final stages of completion. The mechanical and court lighting systems for the building have been installed and are operational. Interior and exterior finishes are underway, as well as final landscaping and associated parking lot work. The Long Reach Indoor Tennis Center will open spring 2018.

Wilde Lake dredging is substantially complete and the contractor will be de-mobilizing and moving off-site within several weeks.

Pathway renovations, including repaving of 4,000 linear feet of pathway in Hickory Ridge from Swansfield to Gray Star, have been completed.

Roof replacements on the Phelps Luck bath house and Linden Hall were completed in December. Oakland Manor's veranda sprinkler project also was also completed in December.

### **Open Space**

CA will begin a detailed inventory of trees in Merriweather Park at Symphony Woods (Park) later this winter. The inventory is the first step in developing best management practices to protect and enhance the health of the trees. Staff will work closely with the Inner Arbor Trust and other organizations/entities that stage events in the Park to implement these practices.

### **Energy**

Planning continues for the 20 February community energy meeting in Owen Brown. The primary focus is promoting CA's solar cooperative program for residents, together with the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program.

## **Community Services**

### **Columbia Art Center**

Columbia Art Center's Ceramics Program hosted an outreach Raku firing workshop on 3 December for participants at the Bain Center of Howard County. Fifteen individuals participated in the workshop.

The Art Center hosted its annual holiday show, "Singular Sensations," with a reception on 7 December which was attended by more than 100 individuals. The 2017 holiday sale marked its 20th anniversary. The gallery show featured all media for sale at \$200 or less. More than 325 works created by 70 artists were featured. The annual community show provides a wonderful venue for holiday shopping, home decorating and collecting art. Music was provided by local guitarist and singer Ken Friedman. Sales at the show, including gift shop sales, totaled more than \$5000, which was the highest in sales in three years.

The Art Center hosted a New Member Open House on 14 December. Attendees enjoyed browsing the holiday show and gift shop, taking tours of the ceramics studio, and creating a small canvas painting of a snowman.

The Art Center hosted a craft workshop at the North Laurel 55+ Center on 16 December with 12 participants. The group created painted cards for use during the holiday season. The quarterly workshops at North Laurel have grown from an average of 5 participants to 12-15 participants per workshop.

The Art Center hosted a reception on 11 January for the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) show entitled “Developing Understanding: The Photographer’s Eye.” More than 100 photographs taken by Howard County high school students (grades 9-12) were on exhibit in both the Main and Window Galleries. The annual theme HCPSS show is presented each year in January as part of the Art Center’s ongoing partnership with the HCPSS.

The Art Center’s Youth Program has implemented new quarterly *Meetings of the Minds* with youth art teachers to refine “school’s out” offerings. The internal meetings generate timely and innovative new ideas for projects that relate to art history and culture. The first meeting was held in December 2017.

### **Columbia Community Exchange**

Columbia Community Exchange (CCE) hosted a Time Bank SkillShare Fair & Swap in collaboration with Transition Howard County’s Repair Cafe on 13 January at Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Laurel. The event featured demonstrations of simple Do It Yourself tasks such as basic sewing, tool care, and homemade toiletries, plus a Time Bank Swap of small kitchen appliances and items. The Repair Cafe offers simple repairs on items such as vacuum cleaners, sewing machines, jewelry, and garments.

CCE Time Bankers collaborated with Winter Growth, Inc. adult day programs to offer a cookie and card writing social. The event focused on sharing, supporting, and socializing with older adults with cognitive and/or physical challenges.

### **Youth and Teen Center**

On 15 January 2018, the Youth and Teen Center (YTC) hosted the culminating activity for Howard County’s Achieve 24/7 MLK Youth Service Project: CommUnity Toiletry Drive. The toiletry drive is a community effort with various organizations that include the Oakland Mills Local Leadership Team, Howard County Police Department, Jacaranda Center for Family and Youth Development, Oakland Mills Middle School Youth Advisory Group, and Oakland Mills High School VIBES mentoring group.

YTC’s Coordinator, Safire Windley, continues to be an integral partner with the Oakland Mills Local Leadership team. The group was established to highlight the overlapping resources in the Stevens Forest corridor of the Village of Oakland Mills, and to recognize and use all of the resources to improve the quality of life for the youth and families in that area. The group is also creating various program opportunities in the Village of Oakland Mills to bring pride and a sense of community to the targeted area.

### **School Age Services**

School Age Services (SAS) completed another “Litter to Glitter” campaign in December. Students transformed recyclable materials into art projects, which were sold during program times. A donation of \$2,800 was made to FISH of Howard County from this service project.

SAS is working with outside agencies to provide therapeutic services to children enrolled in the After School Program. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and recognizing that services are best provided in a child's natural environment, the efforts of SAS have made it possible for tutors, occupational therapists, behavioral therapists, and others to work with children with diagnosed disabilities during their after school time.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Columbia Art Center**

The Columbia Art Center Ceramics Program will host a visiting guest artist workshop with internationally recognized ceramics artist Gay Smith on 3 February 2018, 10am-4pm. The workshop is designed for students continuing their work in ceramics, and will include demonstrations and hands-on exercise with new glaze and throwing techniques.

The Art Center, together with Little Patuxent Review, will host a salon series presentation on 10 February at 6pm, entitled "Black Books Live: A Literary Podcast" which features literature by black authors. Writer, publisher and podcast creator Jason Harris and local authors will read new works and the works of well-known black authors, such as James Baldwin, Zora Neale Hurston and Toni Morrison, in honor of Black History Month. The event is free of charge and open to the public.

HoCoPoLitSo will host the Wilde Literary Reading Series at the Columbia Art Center with a free presentation on 13 February, 7-8:30pm. Authors Hiram Larew and Ann Philips will talk about their recently published works. The evening event is free of charge and open to the public.