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Community notes

Lisbon Horse Parade

The Great Lisbon Horse Parade will return this year on Saturday, December 10 at 3:30 p.m. This Lisbon tradition features saddle horses, carriage horses, and tractors in addition to the beer garden, bonfire, pony rides, live music, holiday vendors and fried chicken and ham dinner at the Christmas village. The official parade route is along Frederick Road between Daisy Road and Lisbon Circle. For more information on the parade route and where to park, visit their [website](#). The Howard County Farm Bureau is presenting this event to benefit the Howard County Food Bank, Carroll County Food Sunday, Farmers & Hunters Feeding the Hungry, and the Lisbon Volunteer Fire Company.



Columbia Pro Cantare Presents A Christmas Noel

The Columbia Pro Cantare Chamber Singers present seasonal music from four centuries: some old, some new, mostly a capella in an acoustically rich sanctuary of wood and glass. Columbia Pro Cantare is a nationally recognized mixed chorus of auditioned local volunteer singers which seeks to present the high artistic quality concerts to a growing regional audience. Join in the celebration this holiday season on Saturday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the Christ Episcopal Church (6800 Oakland Mill Rd. Columbia 21045). The advanced tickets are \$15 for adults and \$13 for seniors and students, which can be ordered [here](#).



Greetings

I love this time of year. Opportunities to celebrate with family and friends abound this coming weekend. Enjoy!

Mary Kay

Breakfast With Santa

Spend breakfast with you family and Santa on December 17 from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm at the Linden Hall (4765 Dorsey Hall Dr Ellicott City, MD 21042). While eating breakfast catered by the Omelet Queen, you and your family can listen to Santa reciting "Twas the Night Before Christmas," watch a magic show, and of course, take pictures with Santa. Bring your holiday wish list and drop it in Santa's special mailbox that goes directly to the north pole! Tickets are \$4 for lien paying residents and \$6 for non-residents.



For more information, contact Nancy Meredith at nmeredith@columbiavillages.org or go to Dorsey Search's [website](#).

Nutcracker on Ice at the Columbia Ice Rink



The Columbia Figure Skating Club is presenting their annual Nutcracker on Ice performance Saturday, December 10 and Sunday, December 11 at the Columbia Ice Rink. Watch the incredibly talented figure skaters in the classical holiday tale this weekend for \$15. Tickets can be purchased at the Columbia Ice Rink's [website](#).

Tail Lights at the Symphony of Lights



Tail Lights gives dogs and their owners a chance to walk through the annual holiday light displays benefiting Howard County General Hospital, on Tuesday, December 13 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Pets can participate in a best-dressed

contest judged for creativity and holiday spirit. The event costs \$10 per person in advance and \$12 at the door. Children 4 and under are free.

Breakfast and Train Ride with Elsa and Anna

Come down to the B&O Railroad Museum for a royal breakfast buffet with some of beloved Frozen characters on Saturday, December 10 from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m.! Enjoy a delicious feast of pancakes, sausage, bacon, eggs, and fruit with Elsa, Anna, Kristoff, and Olaf. After breakfast photos may be taken with the royal guests. Indoor carousel rides, model train layouts and an exclusive train ride aboard the B&O Magical Holiday Express with Elsa, Anna and Kristoff for a ride fit for a king. Space is limited; advance purchase required. There are (8) eight seats per table. Seating is sold and assigned on first come, first purchased basis. For more information visit the B&O Railroad's [website](#).

Geminid Meteor Shower at the Conservancy

Bring a reclining lawn chair, your blankets, sweaters, warm socks and a good snack and watch the Geminid meteor shower on Tuesday, December 13, 10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. at the Howard County Conservancy (10520 Old Frederick Road, Woodstock MD). The Geminids is the king of the meteor showers, considered by many to be the best shower in the heavens, producing up to 120 multicolored meteors per hour at its peak! It is produced by debris left behind by an asteroid known as 3200 Phaethon, which was discovered in 1982. Meteors radiate from the constellation Gemini, but can appear anywhere in the sky.



Dr. Joel Goodman and Dr. Alex Storrs will bring meteor pieces to examine and high power viewing telescopes to look at planets and moon; they will explain the meteor shower phenomenon. For more information, visit the Howard County Conservancy's [website](#).

HoCo Open 2017

Artists who live, work, or study in Howard County are invited to drop off a single piece of artwork for HoCo Open 2017. This all-hung, salon-style exhibit showcases the wealth and diversity of artistic talent in our community. Now is the time to start working on a piece to put on display for the community! Drop-off is Thursday, January 5, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. HoCo Open 2017 will be on display from Friday, January 13 to Friday, February 24. Entry forms are available on the Exhibits [page](#).

Volunteer Opportunities

As the weather turns colder and our minds begin to focus on the holiday season, I encourage all to take this time not only to spend with your family but also to give back to our community. There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer this holiday season in Howard County. Here is a list of several places in the county looking for volunteers and donations:

Community Action Council's mission is to diminish poverty, enable self-sufficiency, and advocate for low income families and individuals. They have several volunteer options including helping the food bank, working with pre-school kids, and support through administrative duties in their main office. For more information, here is the [website](#).

Grassroots Crisis Prevention Center is a 24 hour resource to individuals and families in need of immediate assistance with a personal, mental health, family, or shelter crisis. Volunteers can help prepare food, deliver bagged lunches, work as a greeter, collect necessary items for clients, and help with holiday donations. To learn more about volunteering here, you can contact their volunteer coordinator Bonnie Hudak at 410-531-6006 and visit their [website](#).



Making Change empowers individuals and families to achieve financial stability. Volunteers are asked to be financial educators, coaches, and tax preparation aids (training included). The programs offered are expanding exponentially so volunteers are much needed! For more information, visit their [website](#) or contact Abby Doyle at 410-313-0243.

Neighbor Ride's mission is to enhance the health and quality of life for Howard County's seniors by providing affordable, volunteer based supplemental transportation. To become a driver, visit their [website](#).

Small Miracles is a cat and dog private, non-profit, no-kill shelter. Volunteers can help by cleaning and feeding at the shelter and Petco stores, fundraising and event planning, walking dogs, offering pro-bono services like photography and marketing. To see the full list of volunteer requests, visit their [website](#).



Winter Growth serves elderly and disabled adults, offering them personal care and daily interaction. Volunteers are asked to share stories, play board games, eat with residents, or help out in the office. If you are interested, visit their [website](#) and fill out an application.

Do you want to give back but just don't have the time? If you're an online shopper, try using Amazon Smile to buy your holiday gifts this year. Amazon Smile is a branch of Amazon that donates 0.5% of the price of your purchases to whatever charity you choose. Visit the [website](#) [here](#) to learn more.

Zoo Events In The Area

Zoo Lights at the National Zoo

Have you had a chance to go see Zoo Lights at the National Zoo yet? Don't panic, this family friendly winter wonderland event will be open until January 1! This free event includes live music performances, tasty winter treats, and plenty of opportunities for holiday shopping. Visit the zoo between 5:00 and 9:00 p.m. to see how it has been fully transformed into a winter wonderland with over 500,000 environmentally friendly LED lights.



If you're looking for something a little more romantic, Zoo Lights is having a Date Night on Thursday, December 8! Enjoy walking around the zoo while drinking champagne cocktails, hot toddies, and sweet treats and ride on the carousel and go snow-less tubing! For more information, visit the National Zoo's [website](#).

Zoo Snooze at the Maryland Zoo

On Saturday, December 17 at 6:00 p.m. to Sunday, December 18 at 9:30 a.m. you and your family can learn more about African penguins, polar bears, African reptiles and mammals and some local nocturnal animals at a slumber party in Penguin Coast! Participants will get a tour of the Zoo from a totally different perspective. For more information on this event, visit the Maryland Zoo's [website](#).

Celebration of Song

Toby's Columbia Center for the Theatrical Arts is presenting their annual holiday cabaret performance, "Celebration of Song," on Saturday, December 17 at 4:00 p.m. at Howard Community College's Smith Theatre. The cabaret will feature several performances from three Conservancy and Outreach classes: the New Horizons, Broadway Prep, and the Young Columbians. This performance is free of charge and open to the public. Mark your calendars for this holiday concert!

Festive Friday at the Lakefront in Columbia

Make your way down to the Lakefront on Friday, December 16 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for free family entertainment featuring carolers, ice sculptures, fire dancing, Harper's Choice Middle School Choir, as well as characters from "Frozen!" There will be holiday treats for dogs and a dog costume contest at 6:30 p.m.



Free Holiday Encore Choral Concert

The Encore Chorales of Columbia invites the community to a free Holiday Choral Concert on Saturday, December 10 at 7:30pm at Owen Brown Faith Center (7246 Cradlerock Way, Columbia). The program, co-conducted by Jeanne Kelly and Stephen Harouff, will feature holiday and seasonal pieces including, And the Glory of the Lord, Irving Berlin's Christmas, Shepherds Pipe Carol, and others.

Upcoming Events

HCC's A Christmas Carol: A Live Radio Play

Thursday, December 8 -10, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 11, 3:00 p.m.

Horowitz Visual and Performing Arts Center's Studio Theater
Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$10 for students, seniors, faculty, staff, and military. Audience members are encouraged to bring items for HCC's food pantry. For tickets, visit the box office's [website](#) or get them at the door.

DIY Cookie Cutter Workshop

Saturday, December 10, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Maryland Science Center

601 Light Street, Baltimore, MD 21230

Make your own designs as you learn about metal bending and shaping. All participants leave with their very own food-safe creation to try at home. Advance [registration](#) is required.

Howard County's Children's Chorus

Sunday, December 11, 3:00 p.m.

Mount Hebron High School

Support Howard County's Children's Chorus by attending this year's Winter Concert on Sunday!

Student Exchange Trip to Ghana Information Session

Tuesday, December 13, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

CA Headquarters

6310 Hillside Court

The first ever high school student summer exchange program between the community of Columbia and its sister city Tema, Ghana will take place in 2017. For those interested, come to the information session and visit CA's [website](#).

Citizens' Budget Hearing

Wednesday, December 14, 7:00 p.m.

Banneker Room in the George Howard Building

3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City

The County Executive is going to host a Citizens' Budget Hearing for the FY2018 budget cycle. If you would like to testify, you may sign up [online](#) or at the hearing starting at 6:00 p.m.



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