

The Scroll

February 2024

Village website: www.dorseyssearch.org

Volunteers for Village Elections



Please consider volunteering for our Election Committee. As a volunteer Committee member, you will ensure that our By-Laws are followed during our Election period. Our Village Election Day is Saturday, April 20 from 8am—1pm.

Eligibility for membership on the Election Committee—By-Laws Article VIII Section 8.02. *“Any member of the Association eligible to vote in the next forthcoming election of Directors and Council Representative shall be eligible for membership to the Election Committee, but in no event shall a member be a candidate for any Association office. No member of the Election Committee may actively campaign for or against any candidate.”*

Whether you have a lot of time or a little time, consider volunteering. Duties for committee members are described on page 5.

Please email Nancy Meredith at nmeredith@dorseyssearch.org and Ingrid Hatz at ihatz@dorseyssearch.org



Village Election—Saturday, April 20

2 Board Seats will be open for this 2024 year

If you are interested in running for a Board seat, you will need to pick up a Candidate packet. The packet contains information about the Dorsey’s Search Community Association (Village) as well as information about being a Candidate. You must be a member of the Association (Dorsey’s Search Community Association) to be eligible to run for a seat. A member is defined as an owner or renter on CA lien holding property located in Dorsey’s Search. In addition, the Directors shall not be in violation of the Dorsey’s Search Restrictions (e.g. Dorsey’s Search Covenants) or in violation of any dues or assessments established by the Columbia Association (By-Laws Section 2.03-Qualifications of Directors).

Reminders

Nomination packets for this years Election will be available starting Monday, February 26, 2024

Please view the election calendar and information regarding the Village Election on page 8 & 9

Candidate packets will be available on:

Monday, February 26, 2024

The Village office is open:

Monday and Friday from 8am—3pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8am—7pm

Saturday hours vary; please check our website

www.dorseyssearch.org

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Dorsey's Search Community Association Information

Village Board Meeting Schedule

All village board meetings are currently held via Zoom. 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. A link is posted on our website under the Village Board-Meeting, Minutes and Agenda and our facebook page. Please email Ingrid Hatz if you have any questions, see email below.

- Wednesday, February 14, 2024
- Wednesday, March 13, 2024
- Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Agendas and approved minutes are posted on the village website.

Village Office Staff

Phone: 410-730-4005

Ingrid Hatz, Village Manager—ihatz@dorseysearch.org

Anne McKissick, Covenant Advisor—amckissick@dorseysearch.org

Nancy Meredith, Administrative Assistant to the Village Manager—
nmeredith@dorseysearch.org

Bitsy Furr	Facility Assistant
Patricia Jones	Facility Assistant
Kathy Ralston	Facility Assistant
Charles Treger	Facility Assistant
Bill Salciccioli	Set-up Tech

Village Board Members

Ellen Mackey	410-730-4005
Derek Carey	410-730-4005
Crissy Simpson	410-730-4005
Luke Menefee	410-730-4005
Russell Stephenson	410-730-4005

Columbia Council Representative

Chris Fuchs 410-730-4005

Office Hours

Monday, Friday	8am—3pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	8am—7pm
Saturday	9am—11am
Sunday	Open for rental; no village office hours

Please call in advance for rental availability.

Website: www.dorseysearch.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dorseysearch/>

Twitter: Dorsey's Search C.A. @dorseysearch

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 December 2023 & January 2024

- ⇒ December Board Meeting was cancelled
- ⇒ Accepted the 2nd Quarter Report
- ⇒ Approved the 2024 Election Calendar



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To view our Columbia Council Representative's report to the Dorsey's Search Board of Directors, please visit our website at:
<https://dorseysearch.org/village-board/council-rep-report/>

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

Order

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: Nov 22-Jan 24

(descriptions are abbreviated)

Application Approvals:

- 4225 Blue Barrow—deck
- 4010 Willow Bend—pathway
- 4697 Columbia—light fixture
- 4607 Maydew—windows
- 4280 Coattail—siding, lights, window
- 4045 Firefly—garage door
- 5344 Chase Lions—roof
- 4620 Morning Ride—roof
- 4209 Bright Bay—deck, windows, rock under deck
- 4353 Wild Filly—square off garage door openings
- 4289 Red Bandana—fence
- 4557 Kingscup—deck
- 4081 Fragile Sail—roof, gutters, gutter guards, slider, windows, basketball hoop
- 5141 Columbia #8—slider
- 4285 Red Bandana—roof
- 4720 Hallowed Stream—siding, trim, roof, gutters, downspouts
- 4017 Twilight Grove—shutters
- 4348 Wild Filly—tree removal
- 4741 Columbia—roof
- 4741 Columbia—white slider
- 4022 Starwreath—railing on front steps
- 4240 Blue Barrow—storm window, paint house

Denied

- 4240 Blue Barrow—fence

Application Deadlines and Meeting Dates

7p.m. Deadline	Review Date
Feb 6	Feb 21
Feb 20	Mar 6
Mar 5	Mar 20
Mar 19	Apr 3
Apr 2	Apr 17
Apr 16	May 1

December Holiday Decorations

Should be down and stored out of sight.

**Please remember
to apply for any
exterior alteration!**

Compliance visits

With the wintry weather upon us, compliance visits will be made when it is safe to walk on the property. Also with snow accumulating on the ground, we cannot do a complete inspection of the property. Please be patient. Once most of the snow has melted, a complete inspection of the property can be made. If you know you are going to place your property up on the market, feel free to request a letter of compliance. If there is maintenance work or if an application must be submitted for an exterior alteration, you will have that information before it is up for sale. This gives you time to work on the items written on the non-compliance letter. We haven't had this type of snowfall for a couple of years. Be careful as you shovel your property and any sidewalks around you.



FYI: Snow Removal

Please remember to shovel sidewalks that abut your property. What does that mean? If you have a sidewalk that is on either side of your property or behind your property, you are responsible for snow removal as per Howard County Code Section 18.402 (h) (1). The sidewalk must be cleared within 48 hours. The County Executive may extend the time for snow removal if a snow emergency is declared. The County will only remove snow on pathways leading to schools. Columbia Association will only remove snow on pathways leading to schools. Please be neighborly and shovel out the fire hydrants and cluster mailbox. Seconds count when it comes to battling a fire at your home. Help the Fire and Rescue Department easily find your hydrant by clearing a 3 foot area around the fire hydrant.

When a snow emergency is declared, you are prohibited to park on any snow emergency route.

Columbia Road is designated as a snow emergency route by Howard County.

Sharpshooting on County Open Space

Signs for Sharpshooting are posted at the entrances of the County pathways. Sharpshooting areas will be closed to the public from 3pm—midnight weather permitting. If you have any questions about the sharpshooting events, please visit the County website at:

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/natural-resources>

There are 5 dates listed on the website. Be aware of the dates and keep your pets secure.

Columbia Cleans

Every year the Columbia Villages and Columbia Association select a date for a Columbia Wide Clean Up. This year, the date is **Saturday, April 13 from 9am—noon**. We ask that volunteers sign up and help keep our public use areas clean. We have two routes which takes our volunteers onto County and CA pathways. The routes have one tot lot area which are apart of the cleanup.

I am proud to say that our Village does a good job with keeping litter/trash off of our public use spaces, but we can do better. Trash can be found in the wooded areas just off of the pathways. The cause for trash can be from our neighbors upstream when we have heavy rainfall or animals getting into our trash or recycling cans and the wind takes it. Regardless of where we find trash, it is not good for wildlife, waterways, or our woods. Other ways to help with litter/trash is to have secure tight fitting lids on your cans. If you leave a trash bag with food scraps in it and it is NOT placed in a can, the birds or another type of animal will have that garbage strewn across the front of your property by the curb. Stormwater will take that garbage down the storm drain which leads into our beautiful wooded areas in our neighborhood. Of course we have clever wildlife, so on occasion we have garbage can incidents which we cannot control. Please clean up as soon as you can.

Please consider volunteering to help keep our area as litter and trash free as possible. You may email Nancy Meredith at nmeredith@dorseyssearch.org to sign up.

We start at the Dorsey Hall pool parking lot. Donuts, Coffee, and water will be available. As well as, a map of the routes, instructions, garbage bags, gloves, trash bags, and trash grabbers.

Upcoming Events



Looking for Election Committee Volunteers

Qualifications for Committee members are:

- You are eligible to vote at the forthcoming Election
- You are not a candidate for any Association office
- You will not actively campaign for or against any candidate

Duties (Entire list of duties can be found in the Dorsey's Search By-Laws):

- Establish administrative rules and regulations
- Prepare and make available blank nominations petitions
- Prepare all absentee and regular ballots upon receipt of all nomination petitions
- Issue, receive, and count ballot cast and post results upon closing of the polls
- Certify, in writing, the name of those persons elected and offices to which they were elected, respectively, to the incumbent Board of Directors of the Association

Staff will be here to consult and help with any questions regarding election procedures.

Village Election on Saturday, April 20 for in-person voting

Absentee Balloting will take place from Thursday, March 28—Thursday, April 18, 2024. You may come to the Village Office to cast your Absentee Ballot or you may call the Village office to have one mailed to you. The resident must mail the ballot back or return it to Linden Hall by Thursday, April 18 before close of business which is 7pm. A black exterior mailbox located at the parking lot entrance door may be used to drop your sealed ballot in. The sealed ballot will be transferred to the ballot box. Only Election Committee members may open the ballot to verify voting qualifications and vote counting.

If the election is uncontested, no election will take place. Candidates who submitted a nomination petition will be automatically elected.

Shredding at Dorsey's Search

Saturday, May 11 from 9am—noon

Dorsey's Search Community Association/Linden Hall

4765 Dorsey Hall Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21042

The Village is sponsoring a paper document shredding event for our residents. You must be a resident of Dorsey's Search and you must show ID before you shred. Paper document shredding is for documents that have personal information. Junk mail which does not contain your name and address can be put in your recycling can. This is for residential use, not for commercial business.

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.

Psalm 72:6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass
as showers that water the Earth.

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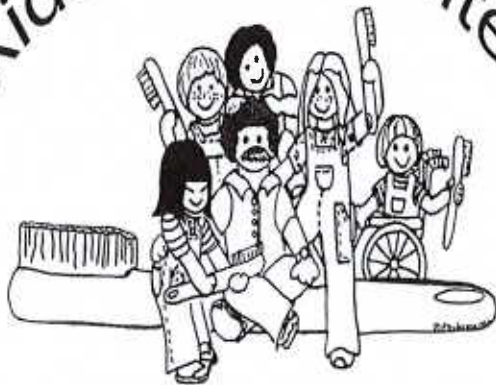
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The **Village Election** will be held on Saturday, April 20, at Village Office/Linden Hall (located in the Dorsey's Search Village Center) with polling from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

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 Village Board of Directors. Candidates must be in compliance with the covenants. Each term will be two years, a term running from May 1, 2024 until April 30, 2026.

Who is eligible to vote: There is one vote per household and the property must be in compliance with the covenants. Must be a property owner or tenant (*tenants must have proof of residency, e.g. drivers license, utility bill, lease*) as of March 1, 2023. 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 18 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 2024

Mon., Feb. 26, 2024

Candidate packets may be picked up at Village Office/Linden Hall during operating hours (see page 2 for hours)

Wed., Mar 1, 2024

Nomination petitions will be accepted starting on March 1, 2024.

Thu., Mar 21, 2024

Nomination petitions must be returned to the Village Office/Linden Hall by noon. **DEADLINE DATE/HOUR** (By-Law; Section 8.03—Nominations)

Mon., Mar. 25, 2024

Candidate Statements are due by noon. Statements must not exceed 150 words (By-Law; Section 8.04-Candidate's Statements)

**Thu., Mar. 28, 2024—
Thu., April 18, 2024**

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. (Bu-Law; 8.07-Absentee ballots)

Tue., April 16, 2024

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 20, 2024

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

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THE DORSEY'S SEARCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION IS LOOKING FOR A RELIABLE FACILITY ASSISTANT (HOST) TO WORK WEEKEND EVENTS. THE HOURS VARY DEPENDING ON SCHEDULED EVENTS. THE PERFECT APPLICANT WOULD BE A GREAT COMMUNITOR AS YOU WILL BE OVERSEEING EVENTS THAT RENT THE FACILITY. PLEASE CONTACT INGRID HATZ, VILLAGE MANAGER - IHATZ@DORSEYSSEARCH.ORG OR CALL 410-730-4005. SHE CAN ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE ABOUT THE POSITION. THERE WILL BE ON THE JOB TRAINING. IF YOU ARE A PEOPLE PERSON YOU ARE ALREADY QUALIFIED.

Important Numbers

The Howard County Bureau of Highways is responsible for pavement, sidewalks, storm drains, trees, and over 970 miles of county roads for the convenience and safety of the public. If you see a problem within the village please call the appropriate number below or use the TellHoCo App that can be downloaded onto your cell phone. Tell-HoCo may also be accessed by visiting the County website at www.howardcountymd.gov

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.

County Council Representative for Dorsey's Search (District 1): Liz Walsh can be reached at (410) 313-2001

Street trees need pruning call 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

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.

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>



Tell HoCo is an easy way for anyone in Howard County to report non-emergency issues while on-the-go, such as potholes, damaged street signs, graffiti, street maintenance, street light issues, damaged trees, and more.

Visit the website below and let us know what needs attention today!



<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/tell-hoco>

Dorsey Hall Garden Club

The weatherman predicted snow. Instead, today it is only wet and gray except for a shimmering white bloom on a transplanted Hellebore. Imagine my surprise when in early January, I first spotted the stark white flower popping up out of the gray brown leaves that I added to the garden beds last fall. A few years ago, I started adding Hellebores to my garden and have never been disappointed. They bloom in the winter, usually around February and stay around for several months. They are the first thing to look for in gloomy winter and their appearance gives hope for an early spring and another gardening season. Hellebores are a cup forming, low growing evergreen plant with toothed, palmate foliage that spread out like a tree skirt under the blossoms.

The genus *Helleborus* is made up of approximately 20 species of herbaceous or evergreen perennial plants in the *Ranunculaceae* family. This family of plants include the delphinium, anemone, buttercup and others. Also known as *Lenten Rose*, *Winter Rose* and *Christmas Rose*, (although they are not related to the rose) they come in a stunning and sophisticated array of colors, thanks to the science of Hybridization. They can be a bit pricy but I have been told that they take up to 5 years to bloom. Younger, less expensive Hellebores can be purchased from mail order catalogs.

The most popular and the easiest to grown are the Oriental hybrids. (*Helleborus x hybridus* cvs). Hardy in zones 5a to 8b, they reach 18 to 24 inches in height. The plant does well in evenly moist, well-drained soil, in partial shade and are perfect for a woodland garden. They like decayed organic matter but are content in acid or alkaline conditions.

Hellebores are toxic when ingested and the leaves can cause mild dermatitis in some sensitive people. Always wear gloves when handling.

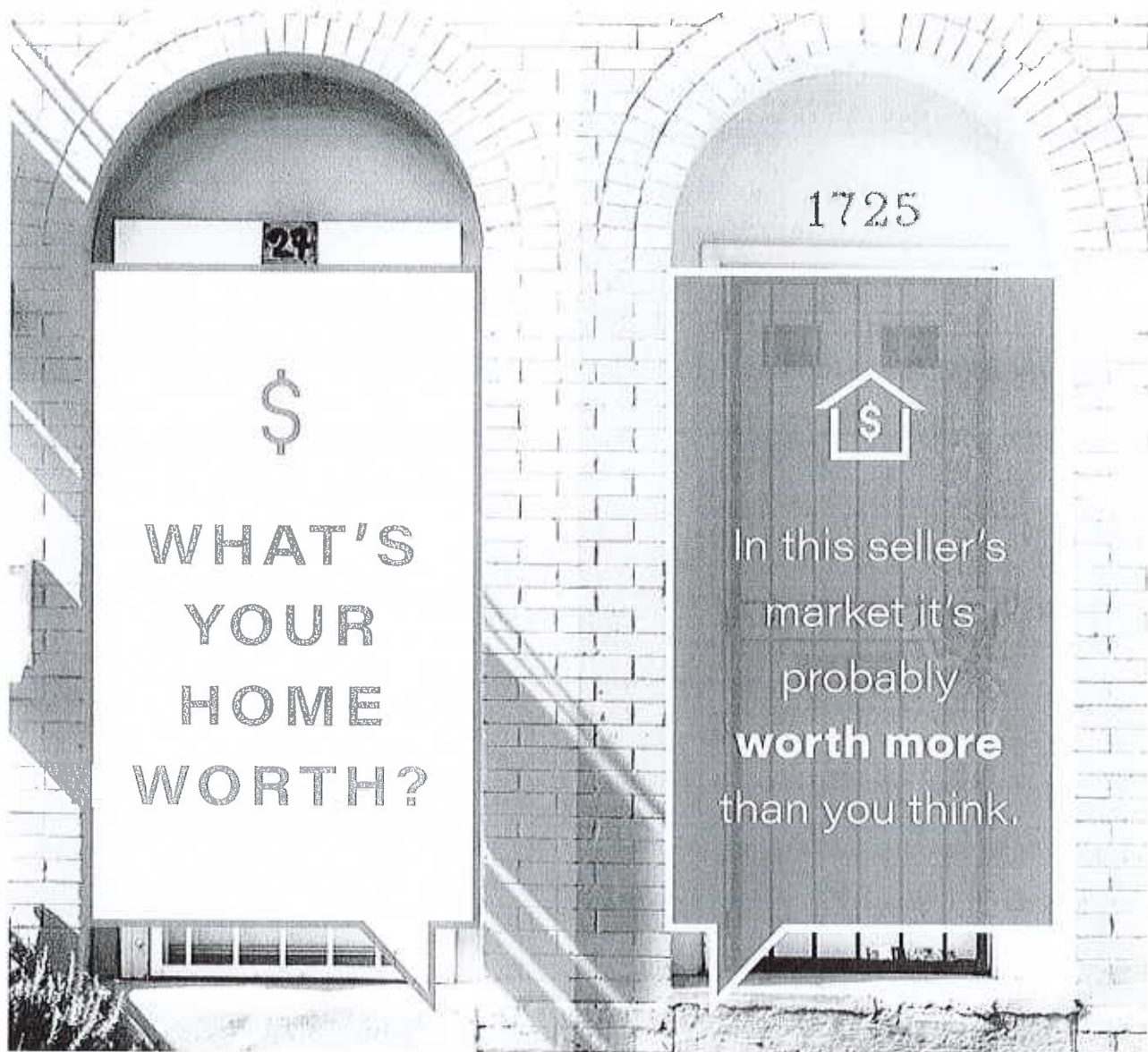
In these dismal months after the holidays, when the days are short and weather dreary, Hellebores are nature's gift to the watchful eye of a gardener. They are an easy to grow, long lived perennial and will be a benefit to any shade garden.

More information on Hellebores can be found at the University of Maryland Extension website.

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. Visit us on Facebook. New members are welcomed. Please email Karen Griffith at tgriff@hotmail.com





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