



## Hickory Ridge Community Association

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# FY2023 Annual Report

Our fiscal year ended April 30, 2023. During the year, the Village's **Representative to the Columbia Board of Directors** was Brian England. The members of our **Village Board** of Directors were:

William Inglis, Chair  
James Blackwood

Skye Anderson  
Jeremy Domm

Kristine Amari

The Board employs a Village Manager who oversees the day-to-day operation of the Village, and she acts as advisor to the Board. The Manager hires and manages Covenant Advisors who process forms for architectural alterations, perform compliance inspections, act as liaisons to the Resident Architectural Committee (RAC) and handle resident inquiries. The Manager also hires and manages any other necessary staff. The current Village staff is comprised of the following: Laura Mayton, Village Manager; Tania Tavares, Covenant Advisor for applications and compliance and Devora Wilkinson, Covenant Advisor for violations; Emily Rieger, Special Events Coordinator; Charlotte Nisos, Bookkeeper; Bill Laing, Facility Manager; Heather Havranek, Head Facility Assistant; and John Pongracz and Bianca Smalls, Facility Assistants.

## Village Board

The Village Board continued to meet via Zoom for FY2023. The Board effectively advocated for the community and worked on the following issues this past fiscal year:

- Supported community programs by approving donations to Atholton High School PTSA, Wilde Lake High School PTSA, Wilde Lake Middle School PTSA, Swansfield Elementary PTA, Clemens Crossing Elementary PTA and Bryant Woods Elementary School PTA as well as Grassroots Crisis Center, Community Ecology Institute, Columbia Community Care, and Columbia Festival of the Arts.
- Interfaced with Howard County's Department of Public Works regarding crosswalks, road repaving, drainage, bike lanes, and traffic safety issues. Successfully advocated for a stoplight at Howard Community College entrance on Hickory Ridge Road at Campus Drive and it was installed in the spring of 2023.
- Worked with CA Open Space to handle various resident concerns, including watershed issues and general maintenance.
- Successfully advocated with Columbia Association for replacement of the Sixpence Tot Lot play structure.
- Sponsored Scout Pack 720.
- Provided County Executive Calvin Ball with priorities for the FY24 County Budget.
- Attended events throughout the community either virtually or in person.
- Directed legal counsel to oppose Kimco Realty's appeal of the Howard County Zoning Board's decision to deny the proposed redevelopment of the Hickory Ridge Village Center.
- The Village election/annual meeting was held in April with absentee ballots mailed to each household in Hickory Ridge. Two Candidate Forums were organized by the Election Committee to allow opportunities for residents to get to know the candidates. In-person voting occurred on April 22, 2023.
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## Covenant Work

The following volunteers served on the **Resident Architectural Committee (RAC)**:

Bob Opatovsky, Chair  
Linda Loesch, Vice Chair

Celindah Grier, Vice Chair  
Barbara Condron

Ed Gillis  
Craig Benjamin

Matt Heyne

Tania Tavares, Covenant Advisor for Applications, coordinated the RAC's review of 186 Exterior Alteration Applications: approving 178 through the regular process, and eight via the Fast Track process. The RAC denied one application. The applicant did not appeal the decision. Two applications were withdrawn by applicants.

Appeals of Exterior Alteration application decisions are heard by the **Architectural Committee (AC)**, composed of three Village Board members and two RAC members. In FY2023, Skye Anderson chaired the AC, joined by William Inglis, James Blackwood, Linda Loesch, and Celindah Grier. There were no requests for an appeal FY2023.

Additionally, Tania received 93 requests for a Letter of Compliance. Eighty-five Letters of Compliance and 13 Letters of Non-Compliance were issued.

In FY2023, Devora Wilkinson, Covenant Advisor for Violations, handled 47 covenant inquiries. From these inquiries, 22 new covenant violation cases were opened. Devora resolved 24 covenant cases in FY2023. Eight violation cases were unresolved at the end of the FY2023 fiscal year and carried over into FY2024.

Devora, in addition to supervising violations in Hickory Ridge, participates in the Architectural Resource Committee (ARC) at Columbia Association. The ARC pursues violation cases after the Villages have exhausted their violation process. In this capacity, Devora attended monthly ARC meetings. One ARC case that was carried into FY2023 was closed. However, no new cases were sent to the ARC from Hickory Ridge for legal action this fiscal year.

## Special Events

For the Village residents, Emily Rieger, Special Events Coordinator, planned and spearheaded the following events in FY2023:

1. May 14th: Flea Market (cancelled due to rain)
2. May 20th: Zumbini Class
3. June 4th: Pull n' Plant co-partnership with the WAC
4. June 12th: Royal Tea Party
5. June 17th: End of the School Year Ice Cream Social
6. June 25th: Family Pool Party
7. August 29th: Back to School Ice Cream Social
8. September 1: Photo Contest
9. September 9: Beer, Axe Throwing and BBQ
10. September 12: Adult 50+ Chair Yoga and Lunch
11. September 13: Story Time: "Royal" Theme
12. September 24: Shredding & E-Cycling
13. October 8: Flea Market
14. October 27: Halloween at the Hickory Ridge Village Center
15. November 4: Family Bingo Night: Stock the Fridge for Hickory Ridge to support Grassroots
16. November 15: Story Time: "Fall" Theme
17. November 18th: Adult Paint n' Sip
18. November 20th: Winter Artisan Market

19. December 9th: Wine Tasting
20. December 12th: Story Time: "Gingerbread" Theme
21. December 14th: Toys for Tots Food Truck Event
22. January 9th: Story Time: "Unicorns & Dragons"
23. January 10th: Story Time "Unicorns & Dragons"
24. January 18th: CPR/First Aid/AED Training (Cancelled, instructor came down with Covid)
25. January 27th: Family Bingo Night
26. February 6th: Story Time: "Bug" Theme
27. February 7th: Story Time: "Bug" Theme
28. February 8th: CPR/First Aid/AED Training co-partnership with Howard County Fire & Rescue
29. February 22nd: Hosted Village-Wide Event Coordinators Meeting
30. March 10th: Adult Paint n' Sip
31. March 11th: Story Time: "St. Patrick's" Theme
32. March 13th: Story Time: "St. Patrick's" Theme
33. March 22nd: Volunteer Committee Dinner
34. March 25th: Columbia Cleans (cancelled due to rain)
35. April 21st: Community Celebration
36. April 22nd: Village Board Election
37. April 24th: Story Time: "Music" Theme
38. April 25th: Story Time: "Music" Theme

## Committee Work

The Watershed Advisory Committee (WAC) provided articles about watershed preservation and environmental awareness for publication in the LOG newsletter. The WAC organized several pull and plants and open space cleanups involving volunteers of all ages. In addition, the committee fielded many resident questions about water run-off and conducted site visits upon resident request. The committee also surveyed pathways in Open Space in Clary's Forest and made recommendations to Columbia Association Open Space to address the watershed concerns. A tot lot survey of the Village is ongoing. The following volunteers served on the WAC during the FY2023 year: Deborah Wessner, Chair, Leah Donovan, Frank Horstmann, Jerry Lioi, Vanessa, Lin Mims, Bill Richardson, Mary-Claire Roughmann and Donna Warner.

## The Hawthorn Center

The Hawthorn Center is used for both meetings and social rentals. Interested in hosting a wedding, party or business meeting? Please call for our very reasonable rates. We are open to CA residents and non-residents for rentals. The income from rentals of The Hawthorn Center allows the Village staff to offer more events and services to Village residents.

Bill Laing, the Facility Manager, coordinates social and meeting rentals of The Hawthorn Center. Rentals of The Hawthorn Center continued through the FY2023 fiscal year.

## Services

In FY2023, the Village offered the following services:

Notary Public  
Block Party Grants  
Faxing & Copy Services

Storm water assessments (WAC)  
Mowers List  
Welcome Bag for new residents

Cul-de-sac Grants  
Scoop the Poop signs  
Snow Shovelers List

## FY23 Year-end

The Village Association brought in \$429,107 income. Expenses were \$459,631. The Village operating reserve totals \$90,289. \$306,206 of our income is our share of the CA special assessment that all Columbia residents pay yearly. Here is a breakdown of the budget:

<b><u>Income</u></b>	
CA Assessment Share	\$306,206
Rentals	\$113,280
Interest	\$ 135
Special Events	\$ 5,624
Fees	\$ 62
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 3,800</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$429,107</b>
<b><u>Expenses:</u></b>	
Staff Salaries	\$233,519
Payroll Benefits	\$ 27,187
Payroll Taxes	\$ 19,663
Janitorial Expenses	\$ 24,115
Fees	\$ 33,603
Operating Expenses	\$ 11,550
Business Expenses	\$ 1,533
Insurance	\$ 12,581
Advertising	\$ 375
Newsletter	\$ 12,078
Other printing	\$ 4,295
Donations	\$ 20,673
Special Events	\$ 23,257
Taxes	\$ 1,240
Utilities	\$ 10,082
Maintenance	\$ 13,583
Furniture & Fixtures	\$ 2,108
<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>\$ (8,188)</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$459,631</b>