



HICKORY RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Village Board Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2025, at 7:30 pm

MEETING RECORDING

Members Present: Steve Hannan, Samantha Link and Skye Anderson. Mr. Campbell joined the meeting at 8:00pm. Ms. Amari had an excused absence and Dr. Ball was absent.

Staff Present: Laura Mayton

Guests: Approximately 12 virtual guests.

Call to Order: 7:38pm

1. **Approval of Agenda:** When the meeting started, quorum had not been met. The meeting proceeded using the draft agenda until Mr. Campbell joined at 8:00pm and the quorum was met.
2. **Approval of February 24, 2025, Meeting Minutes:** The meeting minutes were not approved due to lack of quorum. They will be reviewed at the next Board meeting.
3. **Board Update:** There were no updates.
4. **Resident Speak-Out:** No residents spoke.
5. **CA Board of Directors Report—Skye Anderson:** Ms. Anderson shared that CA decided not to move forward in purchasing a headquarters building. CA will be installing new pathway signs with QR codes, fewer words and identifiable, meaningful logos. The project will begin at Lake Elkhorn and is expected to take 5 years. The CA Board approved a policy to evaluate CA's CEO and President, Shawn MacInness.
6. **New Business:**
 - a. **Donation Requests – CHS Sundevils, Swansfield ES PTA, Wilde Lake HS PTSA, Atholton HS PTSA, Clemens Crossing ES PTA, Harper's Choice MS PTA, Columbia Housing Center, and CEI:** Various organizations presented information about their donation requests. Ms. Mayton showed previous donations how much was budgeted. The Board approved \$250 for Columbia Housing Center, \$500 for CEI and CHS Sundevils, and \$650 for all PTA and PTSA organizations.
 - b. **Climate Change Presentation (Deborah Wessner):** Ms. Wessner presented on climate change and sustainability actions. Ms. Wessner shared the many events, activities and advocacy work that the Watershed Advisory Committee and CA have taken to educate residents and support environmental efforts.
 - c. **Aging Well in Columbia Committee Report (Celindah Grier):** Ms. Grier shared the initiatives the Committee has focused on: accessibility, fraud and loneliness.
7. **Old Business:**
 - a. **CA Facility Management Proposal:** Ms. Mayton stated that the Columbia Association Board of Directors removed the topic from their meeting agenda on Thursday, March 27, 2025.

b. CA Management Agreements Update: Ms. Mayton stated that she spoke on behalf of eight Village Managers at Resident Speak-out at the Columbia Association Board of Directors' meeting on Thursday, April 10, 2025. Mr. MacInnes, CA's CEO, and Ms. Krabbe, CA's CFO, met with Ms. Mayton and Mr. Ingley, the Village Managers' representatives in the negotiation of the agreements, on Monday, April 14, 2025, and they will all meet again later in the week.

- 8. Manager Report – Laura Mayton:** Ms. Mayton encouraged the Board and residents to check their mailboxes for their ballot postcard and to vote. She highlighted two upcoming events, the Hickory Ridge Community Celebration and Saturday voting both happening the weekend of April 25th.
- 9. Closed Session per Maryland HOA Act Section 11B-111 (4)(i) *Discussion of matters pertaining to employees and personnel.*** Mr. Campbell made a motion to close the meeting. Mr. Hannan seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The Board went into closed session at 9:15pm. Those present were Steve Hannan, Samantha Link and Michael Campbell and staff member Laura Mayton. At 9:23pm, Mr. Campbell made a motion to reopen the meeting and Ms. Link seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- 10. Action Items:** There were no action items for this meeting.
- 11. Adjournment:** Ms. Link made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Campbell seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:24pm.



Hickory Ridge Community Association

6175 Sunny Spring, Columbia, Maryland 21044 • 410 730-7327
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DONATION REQUEST FORM

Date: 02/12/2025

Name of Organization: Wilde Lake High School PTSA

Contact Person: Linda Lamppert Leslie

Address: 5460 Trumpeter Rd, Columbia, MD 21044 (school)

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@verizon.net

Please answer the following questions:

The Hickory Ridge Board prefers that the donation be used primarily for Hickory Ridge residents.

Who will receive the service?

The services will be received by WLHS seniors and juniors and their guests.

How many people?

Approximately 200 guests.

What will the donation be used for?

Rent for the venue, food, drinks, transportation to the after prom and prizes.

What is the total budgeted amount of the project?

\$ 13,000.00

How are other funds being obtained? What other organizations have made or will be making donations?

We have reached out to other villages with residents at WLHS, the County Executive, the WLHS Boosters, community donations and fundraising. See below.

Please use another page for any additional information.

Amount requested: \$ 1,000.00

The more we can raise through donations, the less we can charge students for tickets. Our goal is to keep the event as inexpensive as possible for students.



5460 Trumpeter Road, Columbia, MD 21044

February 8, 2025

Dear Hickory Ridge Village Board,

On behalf of the Wilde Lake PTSA, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for the Board's past support of the WLHS After Prom and to let you know that once again this year, the PTSA will be sponsoring this important event for our students.

Over the past several years, the WLHS After Prom has been held at private facilities and this year, we anticipate welcoming 200+ guests to the SkyZone on Friday, April 25th. Students and their guests will be able to use the amazing facilities, enjoy snacks and music, and win prizes, all in a safe environment. We hope to provide them with an amazing evening to celebrate their achievements and all they have gone through on their high school journeys.

Without the support of our Village partners, there is no way the PTSA would be able to sponsor this annual event. Our desire is to make the event as affordable as possible, and your support will help us achieve that goal. Of course, we will be happy to publicize the Village's support in our publications and website.

As always, Wilde Lake High School is proud to be a part of the Hickory Ridge community. We thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Linda Lamppert Leslie
on behalf of the WLHS PTSA

lindaleslie@verizon.net
617-834-3671



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DONATION REQUEST FORM

Date: 3/14/2025

Name of Organization: Clary's Forest/Hawthorn/Swansfield Sundevils Summer Swim Team

Contact Person: Kristin Burns

Address: 11805 Bright Passage, Columbia, MD 21044

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Please answer the following questions:

The Hickory Ridge Board prefers that the donation be used primarily for Hickory Ridge residents.

Who will receive the service?

Swimmers aged 5-18 that are members of the CHS Sundevils summer swim team

How many people?

Team was 160 kids last season

What will the donation be used for?

Purchase new swim and concessions equipment

What is the total budgeted amount of the project?

\$2000

How are other funds being obtained? What other organizations have made or will be making donations?

Funds raised from past seasons' concessions and apparel sales

Please use another page for any additional information.

Amount requested: \$1000

The Clary's Forest/Hawthorn/Swansfield (CHS) Sundevils are one of 14 teams in CA's Columbia Neighborhood Swim League (CNSL). CNSL is a summer recreational swim league with swim teams located throughout the Columbia, Ellicott City and Clarksville areas. CNSL is open to swimmers 18 years old or younger with all ability levels who meet the league requirements. CA provides coaches, facilities, and a framework for CNSL participants to improve swimming abilities, develop good sportsmanship, and test performance in actual competition as part of a team in a safe and supportive learning environment. Individual teams are responsible for raising funds to purchase additional swim and concessions equipment by selling team apparel and having a concession stand at hosted swim meets throughout the summer.

CHS is comprised of swimmers and families from all three neighborhoods, but the majority live in the Hickory Ridge neighborhood. The Sundevils have had an influx of new families in the past few summers, which means the team would like to purchase additional kickboards to be used during practices. The team is also interested in purchasing some new equipment (specifically a snowball machine) which can be used at the concessions stand and team events.



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DONATION REQUEST FORM

Date: 04/09/2025

Name of Organization: Community Ecology Institute

Contact Person: Angela Nichols

Address: 8000 Harriet Tubman Lane

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@cei.earth

Please answer the following questions:

The Hickory Ridge Board prefers that the donation be used primarily for Hickory Ridge residents.

Who will receive the service?

CEI is seeking funds for the Youth Garden at Freetown Farm.

How many people?

Serves approximately 150 youth.

What will the donation be used for?

This donation would go directly toward new fencing to safeguard the Youth Garder



What is the total budgeted amount of the project?

\$ 3,200.00

How are other funds being obtained? What other organizations have made or will be making donations?

We are seeking funds from other villags and mission-aligned non-profits in Columbia



Amount requested: \$1,000

Please use another page for any additional information.

Amount requested: \$ 1,000.00

Community Ecology Institute

Request for Funds for Youth Garden Fencing at Freetown Farm



The mission of CEI's Roots & Wings Learning Community is to offer supplemental experiential education for approximately 150 home-schooled children that nurtures a deep connection to self, community and the environment. The mission of CEI's Youth Garden is to cultivate a participatory and active learning space that provides youth with skills in plant science, growing food, self-empowerment, and community care while encouraging a lifelong, reciprocal relationship with nature and land stewardship.



In addition to supporting Freetown Farm's food donations to community food distribution programs, we also instill Howard County youth with a care for the environment in hopes that they will grow their appreciation for nature and become future environmental stewards in their communities, which in our present times has ever increasing importance. As the last working farm in Columbia, we are a place where youth are immersed in the power of caring for land and growing food at a time when access to these spaces is becoming limited.





The Youth Garden is also utilized by our Community of Families in Nature (CFIN) program, which provides nature-based experiential education that can be enjoyed by the entire family. By connecting families with nearby nature, the goals of CFIN are to increase environmental awareness and action and support the well-being of participants, including strengthening family and community connections.





The cost for the fencing, which includes labor and materials, is \$3,200. Any funding from Hickory Ridge will help CEI continue its mission to cultivate communities where people and nature thrive together.

Thank you for your consideration!



CEI is in need of new fencing to safeguard the Youth Garden. Unfortunately, we lose countless plants and produce to rabbits and deer, and increasingly so with each season. While it's fair to say the students learn an important lesson about gardening from the animals, it is very disheartening when they continuously come to program to find the plants they've cared for were devoured overnight. It also greatly impacts the full circle learning of our program, as it affects our harvests and therefore the programming for our cooking activities, etc. It also hinders our participants' ability to contribute to donations for the community when our plant growth and harvests are devastated by the animals. We have tried a number of ways to keep animals out in attempts to mitigate the damage, but they have not been successful and we continue to lose plants. Again, this is a learning experience for the students but not sustainable for the garden.



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DONATION REQUEST FORM

Date: 04/04/2025

Name of Organization: Atholton PTSA

Contact Person: Lorie Gumbs-Tyler, After Prom Chair

Address: 6520 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Please answer the following questions:

The Hickory Ridge Board prefers that the donation be used primarily for Hickory Ridge residents.

Who will receive the service?

The donation will benefit Atholton HS students, including Hickory Ridge residents.

How many people?

100, possibly more

What will the donation be used for?

The donation is for the 2025 After Prom Party taking place after the Jr/Sr prom.

What is the total budgeted amount of the project?

\$ 9,500.00

How are other funds being obtained? What other organizations have made or will be making donations?

Howard County Executive Office \$3000, Owen Brown Community Assn \$500.

Please use another page for any additional information.

Amount requested: \$ 1,000.00



March 1, 2025

Dear Community Member:

Atholton High School (AHS) Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) will be hosting an After Prom Party for students again this year. **We are reaching out to you to see if you would be willing to support our efforts by donating to this year's party.**

AHS PTSA is a non-profit, volunteer organization established to support and speak on behalf of students in schools, the community, and before government bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting students; assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children; and to encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools.

AHS PTSA supplements the county's budget by providing support to students and teachers in many ways, including hosting an After Prom Party each year. This year the AHS Junior-Senior Prom will be held on Saturday, April 26th. **We are planning a safe, fun party for students to go to after prom, but we need your help.** To keep costs down for students we are seeking sponsors for the party. Sponsors will receive name recognition on the PTSA website as well as in the PTSA email newsletter and at the After Prom Party.

Sponsorship levels are \$2,000 Emerald Sponsor, \$1,500 Platinum Sponsor, \$1,000 Gold Sponsor, \$500 Silver Sponsor, or \$250 Bronze Sponsor. The PTSA will have a digital banner recognizing sponsors at the party as well as acknowledgment on the Atholton PTSA website. **All donations are tax-deductible.** The AHS PTSA Tax ID number is 52-1617240.

Thank you very much for considering our request. To donate today via credit card visit, <http://atholtonptsa.memberhub.com> and click "after prom". Please contact Lorie Gumbstyler at lorie.gumbstyler@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to donate by check. Checks can be made payable to Atholton PTSA.

Thank you for your support!

Best Regards,
AHS PTSA After Prom Committee

The AHS PTSA is a non-profit, volunteer organization established to support and speak on behalf of students in schools, the community, and before government bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting students; assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children; and to encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools.

Atholton High School PTSA
6520 Freetown Road
Columbia, MD 21044



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DONATION REQUEST FORM

Date: 2/15/25

Name of Organization: Swansfield Elementary School

Contact Person: Emily Shreve (SES parent & Hickory Ridge resident)

Address: 11869 Bright Passage, Columbia MD 21044

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Please answer the following questions:

The Hickory Ridge Board prefers that the donation be used primarily for Hickory Ridge residents.

Who will receive the service?

Swansfield Elementary, a Title 1 HCPSS public school, has approximately 650 students from pre-K-5th grade. Students and families are served by the programs for which we are requesting financial support. As a Title 1 school, many families do not have the resources to support these programs, so we rely on the generosity of donors and community partners to provide funding to allow us to continue providing high-quality and accessible educational and community-building programs for our Swansfield ES students and families.

**More than 50% of Swansfield students live in Hickory Ridge neighborhoods, with the balance from Harpers Choice and River Hill villages.*

How many people?

The Fun Run and Family Culture Night are typically attended by 200-350 students, families, and community members.

What will the donation be used for?

Fun Run: Funding supports scholarships for students and family members who would like to participate but are not able to pay the registration fee. Proceeds from this fundraising event will fund the purchase of new P.E. equipment for the school, and the addition of a Gaga Ball pit for students to use during recess. See attached sponsorship packet for details.

Family Culture Night: Funding supports culturally diverse entertainment (including a henna artist), dinner for attendees, and purchasing flags representing students' cultural heritage to be displayed in the school (supplementing what we already have displayed - purchased with the HRVB's past donations - thank you!)

What is the total budgeted amount of the project?

Fun Run: \$2,500 (primary expense is shirts for participants)

Family Culture Night: \$1,100 (primary expense is dinner for attendees)

How are other funds being obtained? What other organizations have made or will be making donations?

Fun Run: Sponsorships are solicited from a PTA event committee (confirmed or potential sponsors - both in-kind and cash - include Wegmans, Patient First, Harper's Choice Village Center, Davis, Agnor, Rapaport & Skalny and Wright, Constable & Skeen).

Family Culture Night: Currently, sponsorships are only requested from Hickory Ridge and Harper's Choice Village Centers.

Please use another page for any additional information.

Amount requested: \$1200 (\$700 for Fun Run, \$500 for Family Culture Night)

SWANSFIELD FUN RUN 2025

Saturday, April 26, 2025

Sponsorship Opportunities



Why Support SES?

Swansfield Elementary School (SES) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, Title 1 public school (*Title 1 schools are defined as serving a low-income population, based on number of students qualifying for free and reduced school meals*) located in Columbia, MD.

The SES PTA hosts community events and in-school programming throughout the year, providing opportunities for our more than 600 Pre-K - 5th grade students and families to engage with friends, neighbors, and educators, and to foster a sense of community.

Programs are free or are significantly subsidized to allow all to participate. *As a Title 1 school, we rely on the generous support of community partners and donors to make programs and events possible and accessible.*

2024-25 initiatives include:

- In-school Assemblies
- Back to School Picnic
- BINGO Night
- Science Fair
- Family Culture Night
- After-school Enrichment Programs
- ...and more!

Why Support the Fun Run?

SES Fun Run proceeds will fund P.E. equipment for students, including the school's first Gaga ball pit

The Fun Run promotes healthy physical activity and is an opportunity for students and families to connect and build community.



Sponsorship Levels

**presenting and custom level details available upon request*

Marathon Sponsor \$500

- 4 Fun Run entries
- Logo on event t-shirt (premier placement)
- Table on-site (premier placement) with opportunity to provide branded giveaway
- Verbal recognition at event
- Recognition in Swansfield newsletter and one dedicated social media post

Sprinter Sponsor \$250

- 3 Fun Run entries
- Logo on event t-shirt (premium placement)
- Table on-site with opportunity to provide branded giveaway
- Recognition in Swansfield newsletter and one dedicated social media post

Power Walk Sponsor \$100

- 2 Fun Run entries
- Name on event t-shirt
- Table on-site with opportunity to provide branded giveaway
- Recognition in Swansfield newsletter



Sponsorship Levels

**presenting and custom level details available upon request*

LeSwan James* Sponsor \$75

- 4 Fun Run entries
- Donation to support SES P.E. equipment

Swanrena Williams* Sponsor \$50

- 2 Fun Run entries
- Donation to support the purchase of SES P.E. equipment

Friend of SES \$30

- Can't participate in the event? Fund entries for two students or staff members.

Donation: From \$1 to unlimited

- Can't participate in the event? Make a donation to support the purchase of SES P.E. equipment



Sponsor Registration

Sponsorship Level (check one):

- ☐ **Marathon Sponsor \$500**
- ☐ **Sprinter Sponsor \$250**
- ☐ **Power Walk Sponsor \$100**
- ☐ **LeSwan James Sponsor \$75**
- ☐ **Swanrena Williams Sponsor \$50**
- ☐ **Friend of SES \$30**
- ☐ **Donation \$ _____**
- ☐ **Custom Sponsor \$ _____**

Payment by check preferred:

Make checks payable to **Swansfield Elementary School PTA**. Mail to:

Swansfield Elementary School
Attn: PTA Fun Run / Emily Shreve
5610 Cedar Lane
Columbia, MD 21044

Submitting Your Sponsor Registration:

Please send this completed form and a high-resolution logo (jpg or PDF preferred) by March 18 for inclusion in Fun Run t-shirts.

Questions?

Contact Emily Shreve, event chair
emily.m.shreve7@gmail.com or 443-629-2599

*Why Support
the Fun Run?*

.....

***SES Fun Run proceeds will fund P.E.
equipment for students, including
the school's first Gaga ball pit***

The Fun Run promotes healthy physical activity and is an opportunity for students and families to connect and build community.

Thank you for your support!



Hickory Ridge Community Association

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DONATION REQUEST FORM

Date: 3/12/2025

Name of Organization: Clemens Crossing PTA

Contact Person: Tamara Bishop

Address: 10320 Quarterstaff Road, Columbia MD 21044

Telephone: 410-313-6866

Email: vicepresident@clemenscrossingpta.org

Please answer the following questions:

The Hickory Ridge Board prefers that the donation be used primarily for Hickory Ridge residents.

Who will receive the service?

1. Clemens Crossing Elementary School students and families.
2. Teachers and other staff working at Clemens Crossing Elementary School.

How many people?

1. Projected to be 300 to 400 people.
2. 40 staff members.

What will the donation be used for?

1. Balloon Artist

What is the total budgeted amount of the project? 1. \$900.00 for two artist

How are other funds being obtained? What other organizations have made or will be making donations? 1. Monetary and "In-Kind" donations from local businesses (Patient First, Giant,...).

2. PTA Membership Dues and other Fundraisers such a Bingo, Bake Sales and Book Fair.***Please use another page for any additional information.***

Amount requested: __\$900.00_____



February 11, 2025

Hickory Ridge Village Board
c/o Hickory Ridge Community Association
6175 Sunny Spring
Columbia, MD 21044

Dear Members of the Village Board:

I am contacting you as the Executive Director of Columbia Housing Center (CHC), a 501(c)3 charitable organization based in Columbia, MD with the mission to champion and sustain thriving, integrated neighborhoods in and around Columbia.

At CHC, we are proud of the racial and socioeconomic integration that was a hallmark of James Rouse's original vision for our city. Unfortunately, while our community is very diverse overall, Columbia has become increasingly segregated (both racially and socioeconomically) at the neighborhood level over the past 30 years. We believe that the education, advocacy, and housing services provided by Columbia Housing Center can change that. We hope to renew James Rouse's vision for an integrated community that is open and accessible to all who wish to live here.

One of our key goals for 2025 is to better educate current and prospective Columbia residents about Columbia's unique history, values, and design. As you may know, most new residents come to Howard County because of our good schools. Many then choose Columbia specifically because of its amenities, like pools and pathways. At CHC, we want everyone to know that Columbia is much more than that. Columbia is the New City that was intentionally planned to be a better "garden for growing people." Columbia's design was based on values like inclusion, environmental stewardship, and the importance of community.

Therefore, we are creating an online presence that provides accurate, unbiased, and holistic information about Columbia and each of its neighborhoods. This new website, ColumbiaLiving.org, will be a place for current and prospective residents to learn all about Columbia's unique history, values, and characteristics -- and to conduct research on the various neighborhoods in Columbia to learn what makes each one special, and which one feels like home. ColumbiaLiving.org will provide a more robust, accurate, and positive picture of our city than Zillow or Great Schools. We will work with current Columbia residents and the village offices to ensure that each Columbia neighborhood is described and depicted as the people who live and work there see it. We want to market Columbia as a great place to live, no matter which neighborhood you choose -- you just need to discover which one is right for you! We intend to share all of Columbia's awesomeness with the world -- in the words of those who live here.

Columbia Housing Center believes that the villages must be key stakeholders in building this resource, because we know you love Columbia as much as Columbia Housing Center does! We have already received some valuable information about your village from the Village Manager, and we will be reaching out for more information as we build your village's landing page over the next 4-6 weeks.

We also hope you will consider sponsoring this project with a donation of \$1,000 to help us launch the website. As I mentioned above, we will have a unique page for your village that will provide an overview of its amenities, housing stock, and schools, along with beautiful photos and a link back to the village website. Your support as a partner on this project will help us ensure that ColumbiaLiving.org has the high-quality, professional look and feel that will make it the primary, trusted source for information about life in Columbia and for each of its neighborhoods and villages.

There's a lot more I would love to share about this initiative, so I would be happy to come speak with you in person at a board meeting to tell you more and answer any questions you have. Thank you for your consideration of our request, and I hope to hear back from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessamine Duvall', with a stylized, flowing script.

Jessamine Duvall
Executive Director



Hickory Ridge Community Association

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DONATION REQUEST FORM

Date: 4/06/25

Name of Organization: Harper's Choice MS PTA

Contact Person: Robyn Chang

Address: 5450 Beaverkill Rd., Columbia, MD 21044

Telephone: ~~410-730-7327~~

Email: ~~rob.chang@hickoryridgevillage.org~~ @gmail.com

Please answer the following questions:

The Hickory Ridge Board prefers that the donation be used primarily for Hickory Ridge residents.

Who will receive the service? HCMS PTA is requesting funds to help support 8th grade end-of-the year activities, which includes the 8th Grade Cruise and Promotion Ceremony.

How many people? Approximately 160 students

What will the donation be used for? The grant money will help subsidize some of the cost of the 8th grade cruise, which is expected to be over \$10,000, and will be used to support any needs for the 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony.

What is the total budgeted amount of the project? \$10,000

How are other funds being obtained? What other organizations have made or will be making donations? Currently, HCMS PTA is reaching out to local businesses, the HCMS community, and to PTA members seeking corporate sponsorship for the 8th Grade Cruise. As of date, we do not have any additional donations or grants going towards 8th Grade events.

Please use another page for any additional information.

Amount requested: \$1,000



Subject: Grant Request for Harper's Choice MS 8th Grade End-of-Year Celebration

4/13/2025

Dear Hickory Ridge Community Association Board,

The Harper's Choice Middle School (HCMS) Parent Teacher Association (PTA) respectfully requests a grant of \$1,000 to support our 8th-grade students in their End-of-Year Cruise and the Promotion Ceremony, scheduled for June 2025.

As you may know, Harper's Choice MS serves the Hickory Ridge community, feeding directly into Wilde Lake High School. Our PTA is committed to ensuring all students have access to enriching experiences, regardless of financial circumstances. This year, our primary goal was to fully subsidize the 8th-grade End-of-Year Cruise, a cherished tradition that, alongside the Promotion Ceremony, marks a significant milestone for our students. We have historically allocated \$1,500 towards this event, but this year, we aimed to eliminate the financial barrier for all our students. Despite extensive efforts to secure corporate sponsorships, our solicitations have not yet yielded results.

The 8th-grade Class of 2025 comprises 159 students. The total estimated cost for the cruise and transportation is \$12,720, approximately \$80 per student (\$66 for the cruise and the remainder for transportation). Notably, Harper's Choice MS has a 54% Free and Reduced Meals (FARM) rate, indicating a significant portion of our families face financial hardship. The \$80 cost per student presents a substantial challenge for many, potentially excluding them from this important celebration.

While we understand that a \$1,000 grant will not cover the entire cost, it will significantly reduce the financial burden on our families, making the cruise more accessible to all students. This grant will directly contribute to reducing student costs, lowering the individual student fee, ensuring wider participation. It will increase inclusivity, enabling students from financially challenged backgrounds to celebrate with their peers. And finally, it will support the Promotion Ceremony, ensuring a memorable and well-organized ceremony for the graduating class.

We understand that due to the timing of spring break, we were unable to have a representative present at your meeting, and we apologize for any inconvenience. We sincerely appreciate your consideration of our grant request and your commitment to supporting the students at Harper's Choice Middle School.

Thank you for your time and dedication.

Sincerely,
Robyn Chang
HCMS PTA

Climate Change and Sustainability Actions: Hickory Ridge Village

Spring 2025

Presented by the CA Climate Change And Sustainability
Committee (CCSAC)

CA Climate Change & Sustainability Advisory Committee (CA CCSAC)

Supports CA's proactive approach for
mitigating/addressing climate change through:

- Engaging villages and the public
- Collaborating with other climate-focused orgs
- Advising CA on best practices

Consists of CA community volunteers with relevant background
on climate change and other environmental sustainability topics

Climate Vulnerability Assessment

- ▶ CCSAC Recommended and CA commissioned a climate vulnerability assessment that
- ▶ Noted that extreme heat and flooding can cause utility disruptions, occupational hazards, ecosystem changes, and health complications
- ▶ Identified specific potential risks to CA assets
- ▶ Recommended actions for potential mitigation
- ▶ Included resident feedback and stakeholder input
- ▶ The study report, completed by an outside contractor in 2021, can be found at <https://columbiaassociation.org/open-space/sustainability-initiatives/climate-vulnerability-assessment/>

Climate Change Impacts

In Hickory Ridge Village the Vulnerability Study Identified

- ▶ The village of Hickory Ridge contains 57 CA-identified assets, including pools, tot lots, bridges, and a neighborhood center.
- ▶ Eight of these assets have a high ranking for future flooding, including tot lot HR07 (near Sebring) and bridges HRBR6, HRBR7, HRBR8, HRBR9, HRBR10 (along pathway between Audubon and Red Keel) , HRBR15, and HRBR17 (along pathway behind Yellowbell Ct and White Cord Way).
- ▶ None of these assets have a high risk for extreme temperature.
- ▶ No CA assets in the village of Hickory Ridge were identified as serving a socially vulnerable population.
- ▶ None of these assets serve an emergency need.

Concerns Expressed by HRV Board during meeting with CCSAC 2019

- ▶ **RESIDENT EDUCATION:** Desire to have presentations on climate related topics as well as ways to engage residents in individual and community-based action
- ▶ **RESIDENT & OPEN SPACE LANDSCAPING:** Desire to understand landscaping approaches that residents can implement in their own yards and that CA can install in Open Space to improve sustainability
- ▶ **EROSION & FLOODING:** Residents are very concerned about stream erosion and flooding and want to know what they and CA can do about it
- ▶ **WASTE REDUCTION:** Residents want to understand how best to recycle and compost
- ▶ **TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS:** Residents are looking for improvements to transportation including more bicycle paths

Actions in response to these concerns

- ▶ **RESIDENT EDUCATION:** The local HRV WAC group has presented seminars and printed articles in the LOG on
 - ▶ Climate Friendly Landscaping, Leaf Removal, Fertilization, Snow removal
 - ▶ Reduce/Reuse/Recycle - How to Use Howard County's recycling/compost facilities
 - ▶ Impact of plastics in our county/country/world
 - ▶ Seasonal Maintenance of rain gardens
 - ▶ Climate Friendly lawn care
 - ▶ HR RAC guidelines, revised in 2022, have included many updates to ensure that climate sensitivity is observed.
 - ▶ Flood Prevention on residential property

- ▶ **RESIDENT LANDSCAPING:** CA has provided materials and staff support for the following activities with the HRV WAC team
 - ▶ Native Plant Giveaway, Native Seed Giveaway
 - ▶ Soil testing was provided free of charge to residents (program now ended)
 - ▶ Trash and recycle removal along pathways in addition to Columbia Cleans event
 - ▶ Removal of Japanese stilt grass (an invasive) near the pond in Clemens North
 - ▶ Stream and pathway surveys that identified ways to reduce CA staff effort while being climate sensitive
 - ▶ Over 80 Residential Rain Gardens installed- CA Cost share program (now ended)

Actions in response to these concerns

- ▶ **OPEN SPACE LANDSCAPING:** CA performed projects aligned with climate sensitivity in the following Open Space areas
 - ▶ Bamboo Removal near Bright Plume
 - ▶ Tree Planting west of Clemens Crossing pool
 - ▶ Pull and Plant activities in 4 different areas of Open Space
 - ▶ Planted sedge as an alternative to grass along pathway near Frostwork
 - ▶ Installed a pollinator garden near Hawthorn Pool (with Families in Nature)
- ▶ **EROSION & FLOODING:** CA worked to improve the flow of storm streams in the village to minimize downstream erosion
 - ▶ Bioretention area installed near Bird Song Path
 - ▶ Fencing installed near Schoolmaster Place and Quartermaster to assure student/walker safety due to deep storm water creek
 - ▶ Corrected/improved stormwater flow near/under Clary's pool parking lot
- ▶ **TRANSPORTATION:** CA installed EV charging station at Hawthorn Center

Howard Count Climate Forward Plan

► WASTE REDUCTION:

- The HR staff has worked with Howard County to ensure all village streets have year-round compost collection (the green bin)

► OPEN SPACE CLIMATE-BASED IMPROVEMENTS:

- Howard County built tables with solar umbrellas in Martin Road Park for relief from sun/heat, charging electronic devices and providing limited electric power and evening lighting
- Civic Works and HoCo along with CA have provided free resident education seminars on residential Solar Energy conversion

► EROSION & FLOODING:

Howard County has improved HR storm streams for erosion control

- Rip Rap installed near Schoolmaster Place and Quartermaster to slow stream flow and minimize additional erosion
- Pathway bridge near Bright Passage was removed due to safety concerns and stream stabilization implemented

► TRANSPORTATION:

Howard County built bike lanes on several main streets in Hickory Ridge

How HRV Can Prepare for Climate Events

- ▶ **FLOODING:** Identify any areas where there is consistent flooding in the village and notify CA Open Space to see if any preventive actions need to be taken by CA or Howard County.

- ▶ **VULNERABLE RESIDENTS:** Provide for voluntary identification of persons/groups who may need additional support during a climate crisis
 - Medical needs of chronically ill, elderly, or disabled
 - Emotional support
 - Transport to a resilience center

How HRV Can Prepare for Climate Events

- **LOCAL SUPPORT STRATEGY:** Consider a “reach out” approach in neighborhoods, HOAs
 - Block Captains
 - Delivery points for foods/water
 - Pathway clearing during major snow events
- **EDUCATION:** Post articles/hold seminars about
 - Emergency preparedness kits for each home

[Howard County MD Disaster Preparedness Kit](#)

 - Identify emergency shelters nearby
 - HEAT: recognizing heat-related illness symptoms and what to do
 - STORMS: what to do in face of hurricane, tornado, intense rainfall, flooding
 - COLD: how to prepare your home and yourselves to deal with it
 - Local/State/Federal Rebate programs for electric vehicles, Heat Pumps, Energy Efficient Doors and Windows

How HRV Can Help Provide a More Sustainable Environment

Advertise Resources and CA Sustainability Initiatives

Encourage residents to take advantage of local, state, federal rebate programs for electric vehicles, heat pumps, home energy efficiency upgrades

Continue to sponsor workshops for residents on environmental best practices (e.g. solar workshops, rain gardens, native plants)

Don't know where to go or how to begin?

Contact Climate.Committee@columbiaassociation.org

Other Resources

Columbia Association Sustainability Initiatives: <https://columbiaassociation.org/open-space/sustainability-initiatives/>

Clean Water Howard (<https://www.cleanwaterhoward.com/>): Community Stormwater Partnership Grant Program, CleanScapes Program

Howard County Bee City USA (<https://hocobeecity.weebly.com/>): Trees for bees

Bay-wise Program UMD Extension (<https://extension.umd.edu/locations/howard-county/environment-and-natural-resources/master-gardener/bay-wise-landscape-management/>)

Howard County Forestry Programs & Giveaways (<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/forestry>)

- Tree Savers

- Forest Mitigation Programs

- Tree Canopy Programs

- Turf to Trees Program

- Tree Planting

- Stream ReLeaf Program

- Annual Tree Giveaway

- Students Branching Out

Events:

- Robinson Native Plant Palooza

- HCC Greenfest

- HCC Fall for All

Bike Howard (<https://bikehoco.org/new-page-1>)



Manager's Report

April 14, 2025

1. Dates to Note:

- **April 14**, 7:30pm, Board meeting, virtual
- **April 22 & 23**, 9:30am, Donuts Story Time
- **April 25**, 5:30 – 7:30pm, Community Celebration
- **April 26**, 9:00am – 12:00pm, VILLAGE ELECTION DAY

2. Agreements Between CA and the Villages: CA and the Villages have legal agreements that dictate their financial relationship and the ways the Villages may use the CA-owned facilities. The Villages and CA are negotiating new agreements, but we have not achieved consensus on the agreements. I spoke at the CA Board meeting on Thursday, April 11, 2025, on behalf of eight Villages including Hickory Ridge, Harper's Choice, Kings Contrivance, Long Reach, Oakland Mills, River Hill, Town Center and Wilde Lake. My testimony is attached. You may also view my testimony (about 25 minutes into the recording) and CA Board discussion (at one hour, 58 minutes) on the recording of the CA Board meeting here: <https://www.youtube.com/live/OAZRV4R9WyY>. If you have any questions, feel free to call or email me (Laura) at manager@hickoryridgevillage.org or 410-730-7327.

3. Hickory Ridge Election Candidates:

- Columbia Council (CA Board of Directors), you can vote for one.
 - Skye Anderson
 - Jared Ball
- Hickory Ridge Village Board: these seats are uncontested; five candidates are running for five seats. These candidates will be appointed to the Village Board as of May 1, 2025.
 - Kristine Amari
 - Mark Covington
 - Steve Hannan
 - Mike McGarity
 - Mariah Robertson

VOTE!

4. Election Events:

- Absentee ballots are in your mailbox. Please VOTE!
- Community Celebration — Friday, April 25th, 5:30 - 7:30pm, The Hawthorn Center
- Election Day — Saturday, April 26th, 9:00am - 12:00pm, The Hawthorn Center

5. Follow Hickory Ridge: Find all the ways to connect with [Hickory Ridge here:](#)



6. Committee Reports:

- **Resident Architectural Committee:** The RAC continues to review applications as usual.
- **Aging Well in Columbia Advisory Committee (AWCAC):** Ms. Grier reports at this meeting.
- **Watershed Advisory Committee (WAC):** Ms. Wessner will give Climate Change presentation at this meeting.

**Laura Mayton's Testimony
at the Columbia Association Board meeting
on Monday, April 10, 2025**

Hi. I'm Laura Mayton, the Village Manager for Hickory Ridge. I was selected by the Village Managers to be the liaison to CA, along with Steve Ingley, the Harper's Choice Village Manager.

Tonight, I would like to discuss the Facility and Assessment Share Agreements between CA and the Villages. The Villages were optimistic about renewing the contract with CA and I hoped to collaborate with CA to arrive at Agreements that would work for all of our organizations for many years.

Last spring, Judelle Campbell, Community Planner at CA, was appointed liaison between the Villages and CA staff. She organized a meeting on June 13, 2024, with the Village Managers to discuss the process of updating the contract.

The process presented by Judelle included at least one working meeting, then time to work on solutions to any conflicts, and a joint meeting to present solutions found to conflicts. Unfortunately, the working meeting, the time to work on solutions, and the joint meeting to present solutions did not occur.

The Villages were expecting negotiation, defined by Harvard Law School as "back-and-forth communication designed to reach an agreement when you and the other side have some interests that are shared and others that are opposed." On all previous occasions when this agreement was renewed, back and forth communications occurred.

This time, the anticipated dialogue did not occur.

What did happen was this:

- CA gave the Villages new, updated agreements with some brief justifications. The old Management Contract was separated into two agreements, one for Facility Management and one for the Assessment Share.
- Village Managers and CA staff met, and CA staff presented the rationales for separating the contract into two agreements and the Village Managers presented some preliminary ideas.
- The Villages as a group submitted the red-lined agreements to CA with THIS letter from ALL TEN Village Board Chairs stating that they were writing to provide their support for the draft changes to the agreements by the Village Managers.
- CA asked the Village Managers for rationales for the red-lined agreements and the Village Managers provided them.
- Judelle scheduled a meeting including Susan Krabbe, Jeremy Scharfenberg, Lynn Schwartz, myself and Steve Ingley from Harper's Choice. At the meeting, CA staff asked me to restate the rationales sent in writing. No discussion took place.

- About a week after the meeting, Judelle informed Steve and I that we would receive the final versions of the contracts. Steve and I stated that we were surprised that no negotiation or discussion occurred. There was no opportunity to work on solutions or to resolve conflicts.
- The Villages received the final agreements on March 7th. Included with the agreements was THIS memo that states, “If signatures for both contracts have been received by April 22nd, funds will be electronically transferred by CA on 4/29 and will show up in your registered account by 4/30.” This implies that if a Village does not sign, then the Village will not receive their operating funds.
- Eight Villages sent a letter to the CA Board on March 26th requesting that the current Management Contract be extended to September 30th, as is stated in the Contract in Article IV, Section 2, to continue negotiations.

Due to the lack of collaboration during this process, the Villages are unclear about CA’s rejection of the Villages’ requested changes. This disconnect could have been avoided if the agreed-upon process for updating the contract, established last June, had been followed.

We respectfully request the following:

Please give CA and the Villages time to address and resolve the issues with the Assessment Share and Facility Management agreements. Use Article IV, Section 2 in the current Management Contract to allow negotiations to continue.

Please also fund the Villages for the first and second quarters of FY26, starting May 1, to give us time to find solutions. You, the CA Board, have approved a budget for the next fiscal year that allocates these funds to the Villages.

Thank you for your time, attention, and commitment to fostering collaboration between CA and the Villages. I appreciate the opportunity to share these concerns with you tonight, and I’m hopeful that together we can find solutions that benefit all involved.

Are there any questions I can answer for you?