



Hickory Ridge Community Association

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hickoryridgevillage.org • thehawthorncenter.org

FY2024 Annual Report

Our fiscal year ended April 30, 2024. During the year, the Village's **Representative to the Columbia Board of Directors** was Skye Anderson. The members of our **Village Board** of Directors were:

Kristine Amari, Chair	Jared Ball	Steve Hannan	William Inglis
Jeremy Dommu, Vice Chair	Mariah Robertson	Chris Smith	

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 FY2024 Village staff was: 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 and Heather Havranek, Facility Managers; and Erica Carpio, Ellen Gallagher Roberts, Daniel Nairn, Bianca Smalls and John Pongracz, Facility Assistants.

Village Board

The Village Board alternated in-person and hybrid meetings in FY2024. 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, Harpers Choice 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, The Village in Howard, Club Wilde Lake 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.
- Worked with CA Open Space to handle various resident concerns, including watershed issues and general maintenance.
- Sponsored Scout Pack 720.
- Provided County Executive Calvin Ball with priorities for the FY25 County Budget.
- Provided Columbia Association with priorities for the FY25 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.
- In FY2024, five candidates ran for five open Board seats. Because the number of candidates equaled the number of open seats, per the Hickory Ridge Bylaws, Section 2.03 *"Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth herein, if, after the deadline date for candidate's statements has closed, the number of candidates meeting the requirements set forth in Section 2.03 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 such nominees to*

the available director positions for the term provided for in Article 8 of the Association's Articles of Incorporation."

Covenant Work

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

Bob Opatovsky, Chair
Linda Loesch

Celindah Grier, Vice Chair
Barbara Condron

Ed Gillis

Matt Heyne
Craig Benjamin

In FY2024, Tania Tavares, Covenant Advisor for Applications, coordinated the RAC's review of 144 Exterior Alteration Applications: approving 131 through the regular process, and 12 via the Fast Track process. No applications were denied by the RAC. One application was withdrawn by the applicant.

Appeals of Exterior Alteration application decisions are heard by the **Architectural Committee (AC)**, composed of three Village Board members and two RAC members. In FY2024, The AC members were Jared Ball, William Inglis and Mariah Robertson, Linda Loesch, and Celindah Grier. There were no requests for an appeal FY2024.

Additionally, Tania received 87 requests for a Letter of Compliance. Seventy-six Letters of Compliance and 17 Letters of Non-Compliance were issued.

In FY2024, Devora Wilkinson, Covenant Advisor for Violations, handled 69 covenant inquiries. From these inquiries, 19 new covenant violation cases were opened. Devora resolved 25 covenant cases in FY2024. Five violation cases were unresolved at the end of the FY2024 fiscal year and carried over into FY2025.

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. At the end of the FY2024 year, Hickory Ridge had no active cases at the ARC.

Special Events

For the Village residents, Emily Rieger, Special Events Coordinator, planned and spearheaded thirty-three events in FY2024:

1. Flea Market (2)
2. Story Time (9)
 - a. Butterfly
 - b. Under the Sea
 - c. Kite
 - d. Ice Cream
 - e. Yard Tools
 - f. Thank-Fall
 - g. Dinosaur
 - h. Rainbow
 - i. Jungle Animal
3. Jigsaw Puzzle Competition (3)
4. Hickory Ridge Family Pool Party

5. Back to School Community Celebration
6. Artificial Intelligence & Social Media Discussion
7. Family Music & Movement Class
8. Halloween at The Hickory Ridge Village Center
9. Family Bingo Night
10. Health Advocacy: A Healthy Mind, Heart & Body Discussion
11. Paint & Sip (2)
12. Winter Artisan Market
13. Toys for Tots Food Truck Dinner co-sponsored with Wanna Pizza This
14. Scrappy Cooking Discussion and Demonstration co-sponsored with the Community Ecology Institute
15. Book Swap & Book Discussion
16. Hickory Ridge Family Pizza Party
17. Small Business Networking
18. Regenerative Landscaping Zoom Discussion co-sponsored with the Watershed Advisory Committee
19. Upcycled Art Wind Chimes co-sponsored with the Community Ecology Institute
20. Columbia Cleans
21. Community Celebration

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. The following volunteers served on the WAC during the FY2024 year: Deborah Wessner, Chair, Jerry Lioi, Vanessa Mims, Mary-Claire Roghmann, Donna Warner, Frank Horstman, Leah Donovan and Crystal Konny.

The Community Engagement Committee (CEC) was formed by the Village Board in November of 2023. The mission of the Committee is to connect residents across the Village's neighborhoods by creating links that will increase communication in the Village. The Committee met five times in FY2024. They hosted a happy hour for new residents and attended Hickory Ridge events with the goal of connecting with residents. The following volunteers served on the CEC during the FY2024 year: Jonathan McKinney, Chair, Paul Armstrong, Brian England, Elizabeth Hammon, Lynn Hannan, Viviana Lindo, Simona Puiu and Camille Williams.

The FY2024 Election Committee was formed by the Board in October of 2023. These members serve through the Board election at the end of the fiscal year and the Committee dissolves with the Chair's report to the Board in May or June following the election. The following volunteers served on the FY2024 Election Committee: Don Warner, Chair, Celindah Grier, Kathleen Hill, Nemo Lionikis and Maya Zagarra.

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 and Heather Havranek, the Facility Managers, coordinated social and meeting rentals of The Hawthorn Center. Rentals of The Hawthorn Center continued through the FY2024 fiscal year.

Services

In FY2024, 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

FY2024 Year-end

The Village Association brought in \$437,667 income. Expenses were \$468,173. The Village operating reserve totals \$67,572. \$320,887 of our income is our share of the CA special assessment that all Columbia residents pay yearly. Here is a breakdown of the budget:

<u>Income</u>	
CA Assessment Share	\$320,887
Rentals	\$105,989
Interest	\$ 137
Special Events	\$ 6,521
Fees	\$ 153
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 3,980</u>
Total	\$437,667

<u>Expenses:</u>	
Staff Salaries	\$246,040
Payroll Benefits	\$ 24,816
Payroll Taxes	\$ 20,777
Janitorial Expenses	\$ 24,912
Fees	\$ 23,506
Operating Expenses	\$ 9,374
Business Expenses	\$ 1,754
Insurance	\$ 11,342
Advertising	\$ 585
Newsletter	\$ 24,209
Other printing	\$ 0
Donations	\$ 25,400
Special Events	\$ 27,573
Taxes	\$ 1,251
Utilities	\$ 11,525
Maintenance	\$ 5,946
Furniture & Fixtures	\$ 1,374
<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>\$ (7,788)</u>
Total	\$468,173