



HICKORY RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Village Board Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2025, at 7:30pm

Meeting recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/aWD-gv7tJtOPca-50pF-gFNArU6zEHpth-f-v6a8As-TxUglWCjmclcGK-xw99nE.mNaHMeTxo-AET7wl?startTime=1760397530000>

Members Present: Kristine Amari, Mark Covington, Mike McGarity, Mariah Robertson and Skye Anderson. Mr. Hannan had an excused absence.

Staff Present: Laura Mayton & Emily Rieger

Guests: 22 attendees

Call to Order: 7:30pm

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Dr. Robertson made a motion to approve the agenda and Ms. Anderson seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.
2. **Approval of September 8, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes:** Dr. Robertson made a motion to approve September 8, 2025, Board Meeting minutes. Dr. McGarity seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **Board Update:** Dr. Robertson shared her positive experience attending the Howard County Library System's Longest Table event and encouraged others to attend in the future. Ms. Anderson discussed attending the Columbia Association bandshell groundbreaking. Dr. McGarity shared updates on the Town Hall hosted by the Columbia Association (CA).
4. **Resident Speak-Out:** Ms. Grier announced upcoming Aging Well in Columbia meetings and speakers.
5. **CA Board of Directors Report—Skye Anderson:** Ms. Anderson reported on modifications to the ethics policy regarding campaigning in village elections.
6. **New Business:**
 - a. **Hickory Ridge Village Center Maintenance Update, Greg Reed, Kimco VP of Development:** Mr. Reed from Kimco discussed the proposed maintenance updates for Hickory Ridge, including roofing and awning changes. He explained the challenges faced with the Architectural Review Committee and the need for village board support. Ms. Amari made a motion to send a letter of support for the awning color change. Mr. Covington seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Pazula provided updates on ongoing maintenance work and plans for the fountain and lighting at the Village Center. Mr. Jolly shared details about the renovations and changes happening at Giant.
 - b. **Hawthorn Green Proposal, Samuel Quick, Open Space and Landscape Services, Columbia Association:** Mr. Quick from CA presented the Hawthorn Green proposal to create more usable space and add native plants. The Board discussed the proposal. Dr. McGarity made a motion to support the work. Ms. Amari seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. **Donation Request, Wilde Lake Middle School PTSA:** Ms. Bates from Wilde Lake Middle School PTSA requested a donation to support various school programs and activities. Dr. Robertson made a motion to approve a \$1,000 donation to Wilde Lake Middle School. Dr. McGarity seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Amari and Mr. Covington abstained.
- d. **Hickory Ridge Draft Audit Report:** Ms. Mayton reviewed the draft audit report, highlighting issues related to the transition to QuickBooks Online and other financial policies. Dr. McGarity made a motion to approve the audit report and to send a letter to the audit firm and CA addressing the audit findings and outlining steps to prevent future issues. Mr. Covington seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- e. **Adjusted FY25 Q4 Financials:** Ms. Mayton discussed the FY25 Q4 financials, adjusted to account for the audit findings. Ms. Amari made a motion to approve the adjusted FY25 Q4 Financials. Dr. McGarity seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- f. **Review FY26 Q1 Financials:** Ms. Mayton reviewed the FY 26 Q1 financials, noting minor changes and the impact of rental rate changes. Dr. McGarity made a motion to approve the FY26 Q1 Financials. Mr. Covington seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Old Business:

- a. **Howard County Budget Priorities:** Ms. Mayton introduced the letter for Howard County regarding FY 27 budget priorities. The Board discussed a traffic study at Martin Road, pothole filling, and a buyback program for gas-powered equipment. Dr. McGarity made a motion to approve the letter with edits. Mr. Covington seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. **Columbia Association Budget Priorities:** The Board discussed priorities including splash pad projects, storm drain outfall and expectant mother parking at CA facilities. Ms. Amari made a motion to approve the letter to Columbia Association with the addition of expectant mother parking. Dr. Robertson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. **Board Meeting Schedule:** Ms. Anderson proposed reducing the number of scheduled board meetings from two to one per month. The Board discussed the feasibility of having one mandatory meeting and one optional meeting. Ms. Mayton suggested running a live experiment for the next several months. The Board agrees to try the new meeting schedule and monitor its effectiveness.
- d. **Candidate Requirements for 2026 Election:** Ms. Mayton asked the Board to table this topic. The Board agreed.

8. Manager Report—Laura Mayton: Ms. Mayton highlighted the community walks on Mondays and the upcoming Halloween event at the Hickory Ridge Village Center sponsored and hosted by Kimco.

9. Action Items

- a. Ms. Mayton will write a letter in support of the awning color at the Hickory Ridge Village Center and send it to Mr. Reed at Kimco.
- b. Ms. Mayton will send the Howard County and CA Budget Priority letters.

10. Adjournment: Dr. McGarity made a motion to adjourn, and Dr. Robertson seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:35pm

The Hickory Ridge Village Board
The Hawthorn Center
6175 Sunny Spring
Columbia, Maryland 21044

September 17, 2025

Subject: Request for Support – Hickory Ridge Village Center Roof and Awning Updates

To Village Board Members,

Attached please find concept renderings to update the roof and awnings at Hickory Ridge Village Center.

The metal roofing above Giant and the adjacent small shops has significantly deteriorated. We plan to address this by treating rust, resealing caulk joints, degreasing, pressure washing, and repainting the metal surfaces. As part of this maintenance, we propose changing the roof color from the existing faded green to a charcoal gray that complements the yellow/tan brick façade.

Additionally, we propose replacing the current yellow canvas awnings—which are torn, dirty, and faded—with Sunbrella fabric in Charcoal Gray. This material aligns with the new roof color and will create a more cohesive and modern appearance. Sunbrella fabric is the industry standard for awnings and comes with a 10-year limited warranty, ensuring durability and resistance from fading from normal use and exposure.

We believe these updates will significantly enhance the visual appeal of the center while improving long-term performance and aesthetics.

We have submitted this proposal to the Architecture Review Committee (ARC) for their consideration and approval simultaneously because we would like to have this work complete before the end of the year. A letter of support from the Village Board would be greatly appreciated and would help demonstrate community endorsement of these improvements.

Please let us know if you have any questions or need further information.

Thank you for your time,



Abbey Oklak
Director of Development
Kimco Realty

Hickory Ridge Village Center

Existing



Proposed



Hickory Ridge Village Center

Existing



Proposed





Hawthorn Green

Project Goal

Create a level turf green for programmed events and other village needs

Fall 2025





Hickory Ridge Community Association

6175 Sunny Spring, Columbia, Maryland 21044 • 410 730-7327
hickoryridgevillage.org • thehawthorncenter.org

DONATION REQUEST FORM

Date: _____

Name of Organization: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

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?

How many people?

What will the donation be used for?

What is the total budgeted amount of the project?

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

Please use another page for any additional information.

Amount requested: _____



WILDE LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL
PARENT TEACHER STUDENT ASSOCIATION

10481 Cross Fox Lane
Columbia, MD 21044

tigersharks.memberhub.com
Tax ID (EIN): 23-7077116

Dear Hickory Ridge Village Community Association,

The Wilde Lake Middle School (WLMS) Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) is excited to invite you to continue to be a business sponsor for our school.

WLMS is the local middle school many of the children in your area attend. Our school is a diverse school whose children benefit from extra initiatives such as scholarships, enrichment and cultural programs and positive behavior reinforcement events.

The PTSA relies on funds and partnerships with local businesses in our community to finance our activities and events throughout the year. We are embarking on our New Year fundraising efforts and the PTSA is actively looking for funds to expand the range of help and benefits it can give to the students.

Because of partnerships with community associations like you, the PTSA will be able to continue to purchase items to support our middle school's Positive Behavioral Intervention Support program, support gift card drives for our families in need, provide supplies to the school community, contribute to a 6th and 7th grade social event, support 8th grade graduation festivities, subsidize student services support activities, and introduce a physical and mental wellness day program for the enjoyment and education of all our students.

Any amount of donation would help, but an amount between \$1000 and \$2000 could really have a powerful effect on our ability to enrich the lives of the students in our community.

The WLMS community will greatly appreciate any contribution that you could make to help us do our work in our community. Our small group of volunteers has worked tirelessly despite the numerous challenges that we have faced over the last several years to make the lives of the Wild Lake Middle School students a little brighter and we hope that we can count on the Hickory Ridge Community Association to help us with our mission.

If you are able to contribute, please make a direct donation to our website [Givebacks \(memberhub.com\)](https://memberhub.com), select the "Any Amount Donation" option. You can also mail a check payable to Wilde Lake PTSA to the address in the header of this letter. Our PTSA is a non-profit entity, and your contribution is tax deductible as allowed by law.

For additional information please contact me at Jacqiefive@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Jacqueline Bates

WLMS PTSA Sponsorship Chair

VOICE OF ALL STUDENTS,
SUPPORT OF ALL TEACHERS.

Wilde Lake Middle School
PTSA
everychild.one voice.®

September 23, 2025

To the Board of Directors
Hickory Ridge Community Association, Inc.

We have audited the financial statements of Hickory Ridge Community Association, Inc. for the year ended April 30, 2025, and have issued our report thereon dated September 23, 2025. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our engagement letter to you dated June 16, 2025. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by Hickory Ridge Community Association, Inc. are described in Note 2 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during fiscal year 2025. We noted no transactions entered into by the Association during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected.

The most sensitive accounting estimate affecting the financial statements related to management's estimate of depreciation, which is based on the expected useful lives of the associated assets, and the allowance for credit losses which is based on historical account write-off trends, facts about the current condition of the debtor, forecasts of future operating results based on current trends, and macroeconomic factors. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimates, determining they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosure affecting the financial statements is Note 5 Related Party Transactions because 68% of the Association's revenue is from the Columbia Association. The financial statements are neutral, consistent and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. The attached schedule summarizes uncorrected misstatements to the financial statements. Management has determined that their effects are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

In addition, the attached journal entries were detected as a result of our audit procedures and were recorded by management.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated **September XX, 2025**.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Association's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of other matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Association's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

This information is intended solely for the use of the Board of Directors and management of Hickory Ridge Community Association, Inc. and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

Fitzpatrick, Leary & Szarko, LLC
Lutherville, MD

Village: HICKORY RIDGE
Fiscal Year: FY25
Quarter: 4
Date Prepared: 09/15/2025 REVISED

SUMMARY STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
May 1 - April 30

	<u>Actual Quarter</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>YTD Prior Year</u>
<u>REVENUES</u>					
1 CA Annual Charge Share	81,469	325,876	325,876	0	320,887
2 Lease & Rental	65,404	161,708	134,000	27,708	105,989
3 Tuition & Enrollment	0	0	0	0	0
4 Interest	33	135	180	(45)	137
5 Special Events	885	5,125	4,500	625	6,521
6 Fees	99	132	200	(69)	153
7 Miscellaneous	350	2,420	4,200	(1,780) Requires Comment	3,980
8 Gain/loss on Disposal of Asset	0	0	0	0	0
Total Revenue	<u>148,240</u>	<u>495,395</u>	<u>468,956</u>	<u>26,439</u>	<u>437,667</u>
<u>EXPENSES</u>					
9 Staff Salaries	67,114	277,329	270,000	7,329	246,040
10 Janitorial Wages	0	0	0	0	0
11 Contract Labor	1,725	1,725	100	1,625 Requires Comment	0
12 Payroll Benefits	5,642	22,492	21,000	1,492	24,816
13 Payroll Taxes	5,903	21,748	23,000	(1,252)	20,777
14 Janitorial Expense	6,661	28,964	29,000	(36)	24,912
15 Fees	3,729	14,281	19,500	(5,219) Requires Comment	23,506
16 Operating Expenses	4,062	13,293	11,000	2,293	9,375
17 Business Expenses	272	1,900	3,400	(1,500) Requires Comment	1,754
18 Insurance	0	10,414	12,000	(1,586)	11,342
19 Advertising	0	1,029	1,000	29	585
20 Newsletter	8,148	21,369	25,000	(3,631)	24,209
21 Other Printing	4,699	4,699	4,500	199	0
22 Donations/Contributions	4,500	12,100	11,000	1,100	25,400
23 Special Events	7,499	27,627	28,000	(373)	27,573
24 Taxes	940	2,465	1,600	865 Requires Comment	1,251
25 Utilities	4,539	12,751	12,400	351	11,524
26 Repairs & Maintenance	5,521	9,381	10,100	(719)	5,946
27 Furniture & Fixtures	(284)	1,583	5,000	(3,418) Requires Comment	1,374
28 Total Expenses Before Depreciation	<u>130,670</u>	<u>485,149</u>	<u>487,600</u>	<u>(2,451)</u>	<u>460,385</u>
29 Depreciation	160	4,237	5,434	(1,197)	7,788
30 Total Expenses	<u>130,830</u>	<u>489,386</u>	<u>493,034</u>	<u>(3,648)</u>	<u>468,173</u>
Increase/(Decrease) in Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>17,410</u>	<u>6,009</u>	<u>(24,078)</u>	<u>30,087</u>	<u>(30,506)</u>



FY2025 4th QUARTER VARIANCE REPORT

7 Miscellaneous	Newsletter ad sales were down slightly, and sales of resale packets continue to decline.
11 Contract Labor	Hickory Ridge changed from a bookkeeper who was employed by the Village to a remote, contracted bookkeeper. The bookkeeper costs will now be through Contract Labor rather than Staff Salaries.
15 Fees	For possible legal expenses, \$6000 was budgeted. There were some minor legal expenses, but the majority of the budget was not spent.
17 Business Expenses	Mileage and business meal expenses were lower than budgeted.
24 Taxes	The Village has not received the tax credit from Howard County yet.
27 Furniture & Fixtures	Less furniture was damaged or worn than expected so new items were not purchased.

Village: Hickory Ridge
 Fiscal Year: FY26
 Quarter: 1
 Date Prepared: 1-Oct-25

SUMMARY STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
May 1 - July 31

	<u>Actual Quarter</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>YTD Prior Year</u>
REVENUES					
1 CA Annual Charge Share Grant	83,906	83,906	83,907	(0)	81,469
2 Lease & Rental	43,164	43,164	43,150	14	38,758
3 Tuition & Enrollment	0	0	0	0	0
4 Interest	62	62	45	17	34
5 Special Events	765	765	765	0	665
6 Fees	20	20	20	0	15
7 Miscellaneous	1,075	1,075	1,075	0	850
8 Gain/loss on Disposal of Asset	0	0	0	0	0
Total Revenue	<u>128,992</u>	<u>128,992</u>	<u>128,962</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>121,791</u>
EXPENSES					
9 Staff Salaries	76,411	76,411	76,400	11	64,576
10 Janitorial Wages	0	0	0	0	0
11 Contract Labor	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0
12 Payroll Benefits	7,047	7,047	7,050	(3)	5,237
13 Payroll Taxes	6,049	6,049	6,000	49	3,816
14 Janitorial Expense	7,203	7,203	7,203	(0)	6,605
15 Fees	3,709	3,709	3,710	(1)	3,820
16 Operating Expenses	3,892	3,892	3,765	127	2,191
17 Business Expenses	281	281	280	1	495
18 Insurance	8,284	8,284	8,300	(16)	8,102
19 Advertising	0	0	0	0	0
20 Newsletter	4,074	4,074	4,100	(26)	4,074
21 Other Printing	0	0	0	0	0
22 Donations/Contributions	0	0	0	0	2,000
23 Special Events	3,710	3,710	3,710	0	5,609
24 Taxes	0	0	0	0	0
25 Utilities	3,762	3,762	3,755	7	2,526
26 Repairs & Maintenance	1,501	1,501	1,490	11	2,041
27 Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	0	0	0	0	823
28 Total Expenses Before Depreciation	<u>127,423</u>	<u>127,423</u>	<u>127,263</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>111,915</u>
29 Depreciation	534	534	534	0	1,359
30 Total Expenses	<u>127,957</u>	<u>127,957</u>	<u>127,797</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>113,274</u>
Increase/(Decrease) in Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>1,035</u>	<u>1,035</u>	<u>1,165</u>	<u>(130)</u>	<u>8,518</u>



Hickory Ridge Community Association

6175 Sunny Spring, Columbia, Maryland 21044 • 410 730-7327
hickoryridgevillage.org • thehawthorncenter.org

September 23, 2025

Calvin Ball, Howard County Executive
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Ball:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on short, medium, and long-term priorities for communities in Howard County. We appreciate your efforts in the past year in accomplishing several items on our previous list. Below please find our updated list of priorities.

Short Term (one year, in order of priority):

1. Pedestrian crossings at intersections. While pedestrian crossings have been added in several areas, the Little Patuxent Parkway loop needs additional crosswalks for safety. There are several locations where pathways are on either side of the road with no crosswalk nearby. Also, at the south end of Martin Road near the county park, there is a crosswalk without curb cuts and no connection to the sidewalks. Please continue to evaluate village intersections and other pedestrian crossing areas to be in line with the “walkability/bikeability” of Columbia. (Transportation)
2. Prioritize a buy-back program in which residents and trade-in gas-powered landscaping equipment for monies to purchase battery-powered equivalent. (Sustainability)
3. Traffic study and pedestrian study at the intersection of Freetown Road and Quarterstaff Road. This is a highly-trafficked intersection for both vehicles and pedestrians, and a safety assessment is warranted. (Transportation)
4. Traffic study on Martin Road north and south of Halfcrown Court to determine the need for traffic calming/control in this area. (Transportation)
5. Road maintenance – Pothole filling should be tended to as soon as possible to avoid compounding the problems. (DPW)

Mid Term (next two years, in order of priority):

1. Storm drain outfall between 6055 and 6058 Wild Ginger is fed by the street and a large parking lot for a group of townhomes in Clary's Woods. The pipe into the outfall is hidden from view by overhanging brush and debris. The water appears to exit the pipe with significant force and has cut a deep channel (about 10 feet) that is eroding with each new storm. We request that the location be examined to see what Howard County can do to reduce the erosion. (Sustainability)
2. Facility Maintenance – Neighborhood schools, like Bryant Woods ES, require repairs/renovations to bring facilities up to good maintenance standards.
3. School Capacity Projects and– School capacity is an issue as our part of Columbia is set for significant new housing development. We want to ensure that we have adequate school capacity for our growing population. The HCPSS 2020 Feasibility Study recommends building a new elementary school in downtown Columbia as one of the next school construction projects. New

school capacity at the elementary school level should be added to our area as soon as possible. (HCPSS)

4. Expansion/Improvements to our local public transportation options – Bus routes and maintenance of bus stops (improvements at some bus stops make them much more usable and attractive), and further extension of Complete Streets Policy/Bikeway through adequate funding. (Transportation)
5. Cedar Lane and Hickory Ridge Road Bike Corridor– implement the Bicycle Master Plan which includes improvements to Cedar Lane from Route 32 to Harpers Farm Road and improved cycling accessibility from Hickory Ridge to downtown Columbia. (Transportation)
6. Climate Action Plan – Implement recommendations of work groups in a timely manner to meet benchmarks in climate action.

Long Term (next 4 to 5 years, in order of priority):

1. Racial Equity – Hickory Ridge fully supports the mission of the Equity & Restorative Practices Unit. Please ensure that the recommended practices are being observed by all County offices. County programs and policies should be evaluated through the lenses of their ability to close racial disparities and inequalities. Columbia should strive for racial equity in metrics such as home ownership, college attainment, and wealth. (DCRS)
2. Comprehensive traffic congestion and traffic safety – a thorough, comprehensive review of traffic congestion, safety, and travel patterns should be a priority on our major corridors: Cedar Lane, Broken Land Pkwy, Little Patuxent Parkway, and Hickory Ridge Road. These roads are only going to get more congested with the pending developments in and around Columbia. (Transportation)
3. Environmental – Increase tree canopy with tree planting in Howard County Open Space areas adjacent to Hickory Ridge. Continue and expand tree giveaways for resident to allow greater tree coverage in the County.

Thank you for considering these suggestions.

Cordially,

Stephen Hannan
Chair, Hickory Ridge Board of Directors



Hickory Ridge Community Association

6175 Sunny Spring, Columbia, Maryland 21044 • 410 730-7327
hickoryridgevillage.org • thehawthorncenter.org

~~October 13~~September 22, 2025

Columbia Association Board of Directors
6310 Hillside Court, Suite 100
Columbia, MD 21046

Dear Directors:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on budget priorities for Hickory Ridge in the Columbia Association FY27 budget. Here are some suggestions that Hickory Ridge would like you to consider as you review the priorities.

- Increase the Villages' share of assessment dollars to allow the Villages to be adequately funded.
- The Clemens Crossing pool splashpad project and locker room renovation has been deferred for several years. Please return this project to the capital budget for FY25.
- Storm drain outfall between 6055 and 6058 Wild Ginger is fed by the street and a large parking lot for a group of townhomes in Clary's Woods. The pipe into the outfall is hidden from view by overhanging brush and debris. The water appears to exit the pipe with significant force and has cut a deep channel (about 10 feet) that is eroding with each new storm. We request that the location be examined to see what Howard County can do to reduce the erosion. Update the large tot lot at the center of the Little Patuxent Parkway loop. This tot lot is in a densely populated area, and it gets a lot of use. **DONE THIS YEAR**
- Prioritize transition to small, battery-powered landscaping equipment. HRV volunteers to be the next village for this change.
- Place additional charging stations for electric cars at CA facilities.
- Reach out to new residents who are not new homeowners to welcome them to Columbia and make them aware that they are members of the community and Columbia Association.

Cordially,

Stephen Hannan
Hickory Ridge Board Chair

HICKORY RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC,

Candidate's Acknowledgement

To be *completed by each applicant* for candidacy.

To be submitted *at the time of Candidate's Statement submission*.

1. Candidate's Statement Acknowledgment

I agree and acknowledge that in order to qualify as a candidate in the 20254 Hickory Ridge Village Association ("Association") election, I am required to:

- (a) Be a member of the Association, and
- (b) Submit a *Candidate's Statement* consisting of the following three parts, each of which must be completed and submitted together no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 101, 20254:
 - 150-word Personal Campaign Statement
 - Candidate Disclosure Statement
 - Campaign Pledge

2. Candidate's Handbook

I acknowledge that I have received and read a copy of the Association's:

- *Candidate's Handbook* setting forth information and requirements related to applying for candidacy, the election process, the governing election guidelines and procedures, and the certification of a winning candidate's election. The Candidate's Handbook includes the current *Conflict of Interest Policy* and the current *Election Guidelines and Procedures* describing the governing election guidelines and procedures.

Print first and last name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Candidate for: _____ Village Board _____ Columbia Association Representative

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

FOR USE BY VILLAGE OFFICE ONLY:

Received Date: _____

Village Manager/Staff: _____

HICKORY RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Campaign Pledge

This Campaign Pledge is part of the Candidate’s Statement and is to be *completed by each applicant* for candidacy. Completed Campaign Pledge is required to be submitted *at the time of Candidate’s Statement submission*.

Purpose. Purposes of this Pledge include removing barriers to full participation by candidates and voters in Hickory Ridge Community Association, Inc. (“Association”) elections and promoting diversity, equity and inclusion in Association elections and their outcomes through (a) ~~equalizing the relative~~ eliminating the cost of a candidate’s election campaign so participation is within reach of all Association members; (b) equalizing the relative ability of Association members to affect the outcome of Association elections; and (c) promoting transparency of Association campaigns and elections.

Who is required to submit Pledge, When and Where. This Pledge is one of the three parts of the *Candidate’s Statement*, all of which together are to be completed and submitted by each applicant for candidacy no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 10, 2025, via email to manager@hickoryridgevillage.org.

PLEDGE

I am a member of the Association and an applicant for candidacy to serve in elected office representing Association residents. In connection with my candidacy and campaign for the 2025 Association elections, I hereby pledge and agree that, to the best of my ability and after exercising reasonable and good faith due diligence:

The Hickory Ridge Village ~~Board~~ election process seeks to facilitate maximum access and participation for all Village residents. Therefore, the Village stipulates that there be no expenditures funds/donations for the promotion of an individual candidate or group of candidates during the election cycle. Materials to promote election awareness will be provided by the Village to candidates.

1. I pledge that I will ~~only use~~ ~~not produce or accept~~ campaign materials ~~not produced by Hickory Ridge the Village, or~~

2. I will not accept campaign monetary contributions.

3. Those who campaign on my behalf will only use campaign materials produced by Hickory Ridge.

~~1.~~

~~2.~~ **Violation of Pledge: Action by Board.** If, even after exercising reasonable and good faith due diligence, I knowingly violate this Pledge, I agree that the Hickory Ridge Village Association, Inc. Board of Directors may take such action as they deem appropriate, including, but not limited to (a) requiring I return all contributions accepted in violation of this pledge; (b) a public reprimand or public censure (including, to the extent practical, a permanent posting of such reprimand or censure on the Associations’ website, in the *The Log* newsletter, and on the Association’s

Facebook and Twitter); or (d) requesting I resign or requesting I recuse myself from the discussion and vote on any matters giving rise to such violation and before the Association; and/or (e) calling for a vote of the Association members to remove me from office.

By my signature below, I hereby agree to fulfill each and every provision of this Pledge to the best of my ability and to use reasonable and good faith efforts in doing so.

Print first and last name: _____

Sign first and last name: _____

Date: _____

Candidate's Handbook

All candidates for the Columbia Council and Village Board will receive a copy of this handbook.

To run for either the Village Board or the Columbia Association Board of Directors (Columbia Council), candidates must submit the following by **Monday, ~~March 10, 2025~~, at 5pm:**

1. A statement of no more than 150 words, as counted in the Microsoft Word software program. If a candidate's statement is greater than 150 words, Village staff will notify the candidate via email and give them 24 hours to revise the statement to 150 words. If the candidate does not respond within 24 hours, the statement will be cut to 150 words as it is.
2. A signed copy of the *Candidate's Acknowledgement*.
3. A signed copy of the *Candidate Disclosure Statement*.
4. Completed *Candidate Application*.
5. A signed copy of the *Campaign Pledge*.

The documents listed above are in this Handbook.

Information Candidates should know:

- Village staff will verify that candidates are members of the Association. If homeownership cannot be verified using state information, a deed should be provided. Renters must provide a valid lease, in their name, for ~~a property~~ [property](#) in the Village.
- ~~Signs may not be placed on Columbia Association property or public property. Candidate signs may be placed on private property, with permission. On Election Day, please follow the Election Day Sign map for sign placement and electioneering at The Hawthorn Center. See Election Day Sign Map. Candidates must use signs supplied by Hickory Ridge Community Association (HRCA).~~
- ~~Signs may not be placed on Columbia Association property or public property. Candidate signs may be placed on private property, with permission. On Election Day, please follow the Election Day Sign map for sign placement and electioneering at The Hawthorn Center. See Election Day Sign Map.~~
- Please read the Campaign Pledge carefully. A brief summary of the main points is below, but the documents themselves should be read thoroughly.
 - Candidates are not to accept monetary contributions of any kind, nor are they allowed to self-finance their campaign.
 - ~~Contributions of a volunteer's time consisting of canvassing on a candidate's behalf shall not be considered an in-kind contribution. Volunteers are~~

[welcome to canvas on behalf of candidates provided they use materials produced by Hickory Ridge Community Association.](#)

- Candidates are encouraged to distribute HRCA-provided flyers and signs which promote election activities.
- ~~Candidates should encourage those campaigning on their behalf to distribute HRCA provided flyers and signs.~~

Also included in this Handbook are the following documents that Candidates should review:

- Election Calendar 2025⁴
- Who Can Run
- Election Day Sign Map
- Election Procedures and Guidelines



Hickory Ridge Community Association

6175 Sunny Spring, Columbia, Maryland 21044 • 410 730-7327
hickoryridgevillage.org • thehawthorncenter.org

Application for Candidates

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

Telephone: _____

Village Board _____ Columbia Association Board _____

*Candidates may run for either the Hickory Ridge Village Board **OR** the Columbia Association Board of Directors, but candidates **MAY NOT** run both seats in the same election. Please note that a Board member's property must be in compliance with the Covenants of Hickory Ridge. After the election, a winning candidate's property will be inspected for compliance.*

Commented [LM1]: Should this be changed?

Please submit the following items, **including this completed form**, to the Village Manager at manager@hickoryridgevillage.org no later than Monday, March 10, ~~2023~~, 2023, at 5pm.

1. *Application for Candidates.*
2. A statement of no more than 150 words, as counted in the Microsoft Word software program. If your statement is greater than 150 words, the Village staff will notify you via email and give you 24 hours to revise the statement to 150 words. If you do not respond within 24 hours, the statement will be cut to 150 words as it is.
3. A signed copy of the *Candidate's Acknowledgement.*
4. A signed copy of the *Candidate Disclosure Statement.*
5. A signed copy of the *Campaign Pledge.*



Hickory Ridge Village Election Information

Columbia Council (CA Board of Directors)

The candidates are:

⇒ Skye Anderson

⇒ Jared Ball



Scan this QR code for more election information including candidate questionnaire as well as all things Hickory Ridge!

The Village Board is not contested.

Election Events:

- Virtual Candidate Forum – Monday, March 31st, 7:00pm
- Absentee ballots arrive in your mailbox in early April.
- In-person Candidate Forum – Monday, April 7th, 7:00pm, The Hawthorn Center
- Community Celebration – Friday, April 25th, 5:30 - 7:30pm, The Hawthorn Center
- Election Day – Saturday, April 26th, 9:00am - 12:00pm, The Hawthorn Center

Ballots will hit your mailbox in early April!



THIS IS AN AUTHORIZED CAMPAIGN FLYER PRODUCED BY HICKORY RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION. OTHER FLYERS ARE NOT ALLOWED. CONCERNS? EMAIL _____



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CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Candidate FOR Columbia Council
(CA Board of Directors)

Skye Anderson (Clary's Forest)

Hickory Ridge has been home for 35 years. I've trained dogs here, read The LOG voraciously during my Afghanistan deployment, served on the Village Board and its committees, attended nearly every event, engaged my neighbors in conversation about Columbia, held weekly Office Hours, and handed out CA business cards so you can easily contact me. More important than electing someone who thinks like you is how a decision is made and what would change it. I strive to be approachable, seek your opinion, listen to my neighbors: as a scientist, I'm objective and educate myself on the issues. My presence on the CA Board is an asset to Hickory Ridge: I would be honored to serve a third term. Please exercise your right and responsibility to vote to continue the service you have entrusted me with: CA needs experienced board members! Re-elect Skye!



***THIS IS AN AUTHORIZED CAMPAIGN FLYER
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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Candidates FOR Columbia Council (CA Board of Directors)

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⇒ **Jared Ball (Clemens Crossing)**

Greetings, my name is Jared Ball and I am seeking your vote for the Columbia Association Board. I was raised and have lived most of my life here in Columbia, with my wife have raised two daughters here, and have served two terms on the Hickory Ridge Village Board. I am a veteran of the US Navy, where I served during Desert Shield and Storm, I have been a professor in Maryland state colleges and universities for more than 20 years, and, most importantly, I have nearly 30 years of direct engagement with any number of political and social movements all of which was recently recognized with a Freedom Scholars Award. If you are looking for a candidate to vigorously defend diversity, peace, redistribution of resources, goods, services, and protection of our environment from outside corporate influence, I am here for you.



Manager's Report October 13, 2025

1. Dates to Note:

- **October 15**, 7:30pm, RAC meeting, virtual
- **October 16**, e-issue of The Log newsletter
- **October 27**, 7:30pm, In-person Board meeting with hybrid option

2. Block Party Grants: Hickory Ridge successfully issued 15, \$100 Block Party grants this year! Fifteen streets had parties for all of their neighbors, and Hickory Ridge contributed to the success of the events.

3. Walktober Community Walk: The Hickory Ridge Community Walkers are participating in Walktober. The walk is listed on [Howard County's Walktober web page](#). On Monday mornings, walk the Hawthorn neighborhood paths with members of the community. Meet at The Hawthorn Center at 10:00am, take a walk, and enjoy a coffee at The Hawthorn Center on us! Happening almost every Monday. Follow Hickory Ridge on Facebook or Instagram using the QR code below for weekly updates!

4. Kimco's Halloween at the Hickory Ridge Village Center: Kimco is organizing a magic show and trick-or-treating at the Hickory Ridge Village Center on Wednesday, October 29th, 5:30 – 7:00pm. Village staff are not participating this year. Have some Halloween fun at Kimco's event!

5. Spread Some Holiday Cheer: Greeting card event at The Hawthorn Center on Thursday, November 6th, 6:30 – 7:30pm. Come join us writing cheery, caring messages to others in donated greeting cards. Cards will be distributed via Grassroots and other organizations. Spread some cheer in your neighborhood!

6. Howard County Police, Community Outreach & Pathways Division: Do you know that Howard County Police are rebuilding their Community Outreach & Pathways Division? If you have community or pathway concerns, you can call 410-313-2207 or email HCPDOutreach@howardcountymd.gov.

7. Open Space Issues: Report issues on CA Open Space via a form on their web site. Photos may be included. It is also helpful to note the location, if possible. Tot lots and bridges are marked with identification numbers. Visit CA's web site here: <https://columbiaassociation.org/open-space/contact-us/> To view current CA Open Space projects, visit <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/400d4f61a51e4db6acebe2daf5971244>

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



9. Committee Reports:

- **Resident Architectural Committee:** The RAC continues to review applications as usual.
- **CARES Committee:** CARES meets regularly on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00pm. For meeting information, see the calendar on our website.
- **Aging Well in Columbia (AWC) at CA:** No updates for this meeting.