

## **Hickory Hillside\* Hive!**

April 2025 CA Report to the Village of Hickory Ridge

### **Meetings**

CA Board meetings – [agendas, board packets, meeting videos](#). The CA Board meetings were held at 7 pm on 10 and 24 April. We also had 2 closed sessions. [Registration for Resident Speakout](#) is always due COB the day before. Meetings are in person and streamed in real time as well as taped.

I attended a Risk Management meeting, the CA committee that I serve on this year. Next year I will probably go back to the Audit Committee.

At the first meeting on 10 April, we voted to increase the amount we put into the Emergency Cash Reserves Fund this year, and decided not to purchase the HQ building but will continue looking for other 'homes' for HQ. At the end of the meeting we discussed internal board committees and assignments – for most of them continuity is quite helpful.

I attended a charette on the new Natural Resources Management Plan (as did Deborah Wessner) - the two major items I recall that people appreciate were TREES and BIRDS. (A charette is a public meeting where votes are often taken to assess interest and prioritize things.) CA will hold another charette and will hire a subject matter expert to lead in creating the Natural Resources Management Plan next year.

CA will be installing many new signs on the property, with QRcodes, over the next 5 years with a goal of having signs with fewer words and more logos. Color, height and position will be meaningful and there will be more positive than negative logos. This will begin with the Lake Elkhorn pathways.

Eric Walker gave his annual educational talk on non-native invasive species (this includes bamboo and English Ivy).

Shawn MacInnes has been with us for 10 months now as CEO/President so we approved a policy for evaluating the CEO and processed his first annual evaluation.

We held a stakeholders' event on 17 April

At the 24 April meeting, we received a presentation on summer activities, mostly on the lakefront, and on the county's Patuxent Branch Trail. We talked about committees and were told that all the villages plus CA had agreed to terms for the contracts which will be for the next three years.

### **April is a Busy Month**

The village held an in-person candidate forum with audience questions for CA Rep candidates, myself and Jared Ball. There is no election this year for village board since 5 people submitted packets and there are 5 positions open.

Several other villages did not have to hold an election due to the number of candidates filing equaling or being below the number of vacancies. In both Dorseys and Kings, a CA candidate withdrew, leaving one person. Only Hickory Ridge, Wilde Lake and River Hill had CA elections. I attended all of their candidate forums (fora?).

## **Greenfest**

I worked the CA table at Greenfest on 12 April at HCC. It seemed a bit smaller this year but we managed to give away millions of LED light bulbs, various brochures and several swag items. I was in charge of having attendees answer questions on Invasive Species or the Watershed in order to win a prize (my rule was that they didn't have to answer correctly, they just had to answer – then I would tell them the real answer). I also attended Eric Walker's presentation on removing vines that kill trees – like English ivy. He also spent a great deal of time on [bamboo](#).

The spring [Weed Warriors](#) course is a super opportunity - for young boys, especially – they get to destroy things (the bad plants – those growing in the wrong places). The POC is Danielle at 410-715-3025 or you can find the dates and more info on the CA website. The course is offered twice a year while Stream Waders is offered once a year.

## **“Office Hours”**

As the Hickory Ridge representative to the Columbia Council and a member of the CA Board of Directors, I am responsible for CA's policies (along with my nine colleagues) while the village manager, Laura, and her staff handle the day-to-day operations of our village, as CA staff does for CA as a whole. I am also an ex-officio member of the Hickory Ridge village board but have no vote (ex-officio merely means to come to a position by other means than the rest of the board – therefore, not by election)

I can be reached by contacting the village office at 410-730-7327 or by emailing [Skye.Anderson@CA-Board.Org](mailto:Skye.Anderson@CA-Board.Org) and I am happy to meet with you. A good place to meet is Mad City Coffee at Hickory Ridge Road and Cedar Lane. I also meet with people at the Wilde Lake Starbucks three to four times a week.

## **Looking Ahead to May**

CA will hold an orientation on 1 May, board training on 17 May and regular meetings on 8 and 22 May.

Remember, **We are all Hickory Ridge!**

\*Hickory Hillside Hive: *Hickory* for Hickory Ridge Village, *Hillside* because CA Headquarters is located on Hillside Street (near Stevens Forest Road and Broken Land), and *Hive* – just because. However, I am going to change this to It Takes a Village.