

## The LOG Newsletter January 1, 2026

*What's happening in and around the  
Village of Hickory Ridge!*

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### Happy New Year! It's going to be a great 2026!

The Hickory Ridge Community Association's office at The Hawthorn Center will be closed through January 2nd. All private rentals will proceed as scheduled.

See below for upcoming events - there is a lot going on in January!



### Hickory Ridge Community Association Upcoming Meetings

**January 12:** Board Meeting, 7:30pm\*

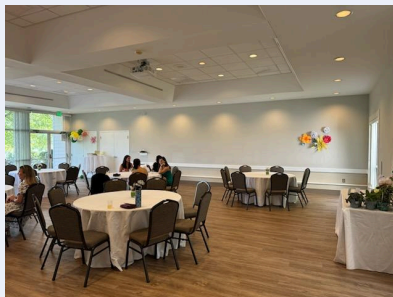
**January 15:** CARES Meeting, 7:00pm\*

**January 21:** RAC Meeting, 7:30pm\*

#### Meeting Information

### Let's Have a Party!

The Hawthorn Center is a lovely location to celebrate life's moments. Whether it's a birthday, shower, wedding or retirement party, we would love to help you host your event. Call or submit a rental inquiry for more information.



### Community Mailboxes

The community mailboxes are property of the United States Postal service. If the mailbox your mail is delivered to is in need of attention, find [more information here under "Community News."](#)

### Questions for CARES Committee?

The Community Action and Resources for Environmental Stewardship (CARES) Committee will answer your environmental sustainability questions! Email questions to [cares@hickoryridgevillage.org](mailto:cares@hickoryridgevillage.org) and CARES will answer. Some questions may be featured in future issues of The Log!

[Submit Inquiry](#)

## Who Do I Call?

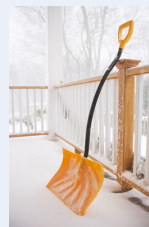
Check out the Useful Information page on the Hickory Ridge website. There are phone number and/or links to various resources.

[Useful Information](#)



## Who Handles What?

Want to know who handles what—CA, the Howard County Government, or the Columbia Village Community Associations? Click [HERE](#) to see a simple breakdown.



## Snow Shoveling

We are looking for people willing to shovel snow for neighbors (for a reasonable fee). If you are able to help shovel and would like your name added to our snow shoveler list, please call us at 410-730-7327 or email [events@hickoryridgevillage.org](mailto:events@hickoryridgevillage.org) and provide your name, street and phone number.

Please note that the list below are individuals interested in providing snow shoveling services but are not vetted by this office. You must contact the individual for availability and pricing.

\*David Garza: 347-574-2881

\*The McGarity Family: 410-929-5320

## January Events

Space is limited! Be sure to register and email [events@hickoryridgevillage.org](mailto:events@hickoryridgevillage.org) with any questions. All events listed below will take place at The Hawthorn Center, 6175 Sunny Spring.



### Snowman Story Time January 13 & 14th @ 9:30am

Register today to join Emily for a magical, frosty adventure at Snowman Storytime — a cozy and engaging reading event perfect for little ones ages 0–5 and their adult companion(s)!



### What to Throw Where January 14th @ 7pm

Join Hickory Ridge CARES and the Howard County Department of Public Works, Bureau of Environmental Services for an eye-opening “What to Throw Where” Seminar!



### Wills, Trusts & Estate Planning January 27th @ 6:30pm

Looking to get your affairs in order but not sure where to start?

Join Columbia resident Andrew Swanekamp for an informative and easy-to-understand seminar

She'll explore delightful snowman-themed stories, crafts, and activities that celebrate winter wonder and spark young imaginations.

Attendees will enjoy a story, fun crafts, and tasty treats. FREE to attend.

Discover what really belongs in your curbside recycling bin, how food scrap collection and composting work, and simple ways to reduce everyday waste. It's FREE and open to everyone—come get the inside scoop on smarter, greener living! Register early: the first 10 to register will receive an environmental goodie bag filled with eco-friendly items!

on the basics of wills, trusts, and estate planning. Whether you're planning ahead for peace of mind or just curious about how these tools work, this session will break it all down in a friendly, approachable way.

The seminar is FREE, and everyone is welcome. Come learn valuable information that can help protect you and your loved ones—no prior knowledge needed!

Refreshments will be served, so bring your questions and enjoy an evening of practical guidance and community connection.



## Everyone's Invited!

January 14th 10–11 AM  
The Hawthorn Center

Skye Anderson, Hickory Ridge Representative to the Columbia Association Board of Directors, will be hosting office hours. This is an opportunity for Hickory Ridge residents to stop by and chat one-on-one with Skye—share concerns, offer feedback, or highlight what's working well within the Columbia Association. All are welcome!



## Join the Election Committee!

We're looking for dedicated residents to volunteer on the Election Committee for the 2026 Annual Meeting & Election Day in the Village of Hickory Ridge.

Each April, our community elects Village Board Members and a Columbia Council Representative—and we need your help to ensure a fair and smooth election process!



## CARES Corner: Please Look Up While You Walk the Paths

While we have all seen English Ivy greening castle walls in Europe, it is NOT a nice plant. English Ivy is considered an invasive plant. It grows not only on the ground but also climbs up trees and building walls. Ivy will eventually kill the trees by blocking sunlight and

### As a Committee Member, You'll:

- Help plan and moderate Candidate Nights
- Assist with voter check-in and vote counting on Election Day – April 25, 2026
- Ensure Election Rules & Procedures are followed

### Requirements to Join:

- Be a member of The Hickory Ridge Community Association (must own or rent a Columbia Association–assessed property in Hickory Ridge)
- Be available to contribute ~15 hours of your time for meetings, Candidate Night, and Election Day
- Complete and submit the **Volunteer Application form**

Your participation is a great way to get involved, meet neighbors, and support local democracy!

weakening them, and its roots can embed themselves in mortar and siding joints eventually causing cracks that may invite water or insect damage. English ivy quickly can shade-out and outcompete understory plants, and can kill larger trees by loosening bark and allowing moisture and fungus to invade the space.

English Ivy stays green during the winter months. So please help us by identifying locations on CA Open Space where you see the ivy climbing trees this winter. IF you find some please email the CARES team at: [cares@hickoryridgevillage.org](mailto:cares@hickoryridgevillage.org).

The CARES team will work with Weed Warriors to verify the locations and determine if we can kill the English Ivy before spring. The work will NOT involve chemicals. The approach is to cut about one foot of the ivy from the ground going up the tree. In that way we deprive it of nutrients to continue growing. Eventually the ivy vine further up the tree will die. <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/english-ivy/>

**Learn More About English Ivy!**

## The Road to Kindergarten with Howard County Public Schools

Do you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2026? Save the date and join Howard County Public Schools (HCPSS) for an upcoming Road to Kindergarten parent information session. All sessions will run 6:30-7:30 p.m. and cover the same content:

- Expectations for school readiness (and receive a Ready for Kindergarten toolkit);
- Details about the HCPSS kindergarten program;
- Information about HCPSS kindergarten registration and website;
- Ways that families and children can be supported during the transition to kindergarten.

Information sessions will be offered on the following dates:

- January 12, 2026 - Centennial High School
- January 20, 2026 - Guilford Park High School
- January 28, 2026 - Virtual Event, Hosted by the Howard County Library

In the event that in person sessions are cancelled due to snow, please join the virtual event on 1/28.

\*Korean, Chinese, and Spanish interpreters will be present at these sites.

\*Link to virtual event will be posted on 1/28: <https://www.hcpss.org/enroll/kindergarten/>

Please note, the session will include information regarding Kindergarten readiness, program components, and registration that is applicable to all HCPSS schools; specific school information will be shared by schools after registration is finalized. [Click here for more information.](#)



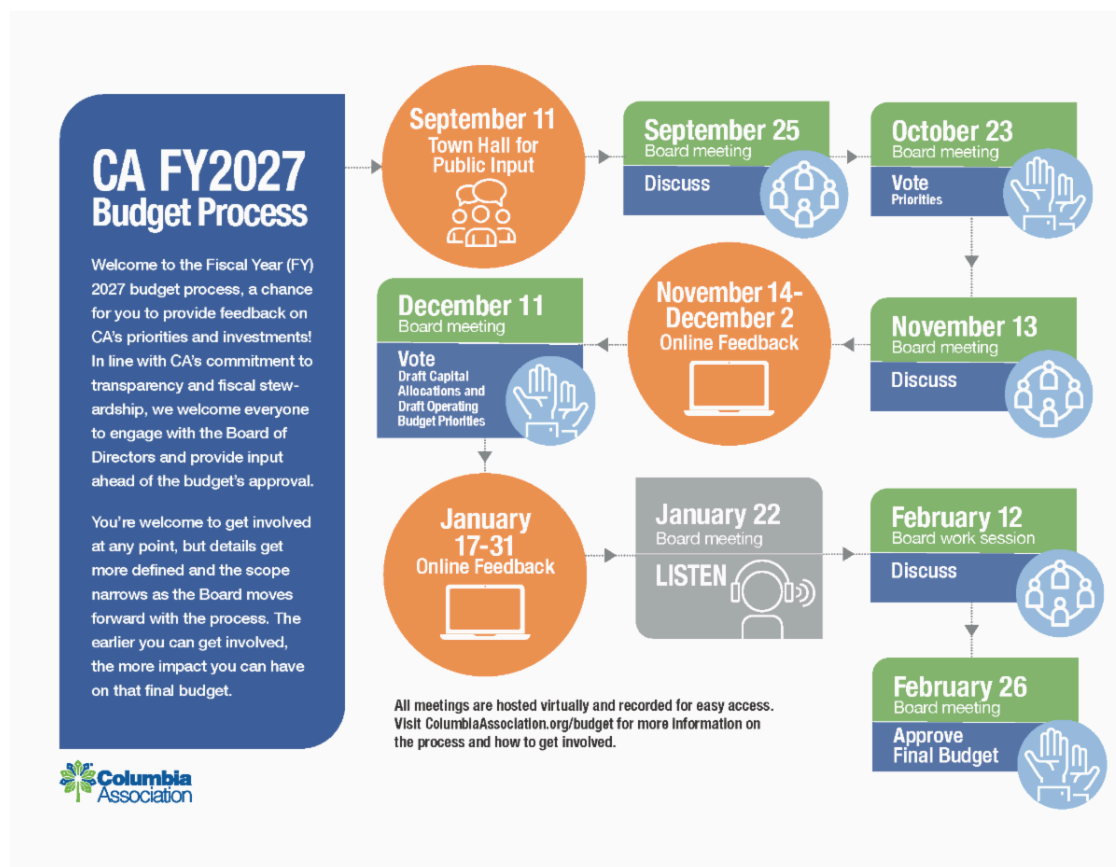
## Windy Weather

Nobody wants a neighborhood of scattered recycling. When setting items out for collection, be sure your recycling cart lids are closed and any material set outside of it is secured in a box or paper bag.

Have a recycling bin with no lid? [Contact Howard County Trash & Recycling](#) to exchange your bin for a cart with a lid and wheels.

**Remember!** The clean-up of recycling, especially in grouping areas, that is spilled/spread by animals or wind is the responsibility of the residents.

Thank you for your help keeping neighborhoods clean!



# HOLIDAY (NOT) RECYCLING

**NO**

These items DO NOT belong in curbside recycling.



***ribbons &  
bows***



***string lights\****



***plastic  
packaging***



***Styrofoam  
packaging***



***foil-type gift wrap  
(won't tear easily)***

\*Recycle with electronics at Alpha Ridge Residents' Convenience Center



# Merry Mulch

Help keep thousands of trees out of the landfill.

## Step 1

Remove all tinsel, garland, ornaments, lights, tree stands and plastic bags.

## Step 2

December 26, 2025 to January 17, 2026

### Residents with Yard Trim Collection

Trees must be cut into less than 4 foot lengths and tied. Bundles must weigh less than 40 pounds.

Set your tree out the night before or by 6AM on collection day.

### Drop-Off Sites

Alpha Ridge Landfill Wood Waste Area  
Cedar Lane Park  
Kendall Hardware  
Rockburn Park  
Old Circuit Court upper parking lot  
Savage Park  
Schooley Mill Park  
Western Regional Park

**HowardCountyRecycles.org | 410-313-6444**



## News From The Community Ecology Institute (CEI)

Did you know? CEI is a Howard County based environmental non-profit committed to cultivating communities where people and nature thrive together. They own and steward two Howard County properties - Freetown Farm (Columbia) and Green Farmacy Garden (Fulton) where they host nature-based and sustainability-focused events for participants of all ages! They have some exciting membership-based offerings for 2026 that they want to make sure are on your radar! Registration is open now, please don't delay in reserving your spot!

### ***For families with kids:***

Seedlings; the early childhood nature playgroup, for children ages 5 and under with a caregiver. Friday or Sunday mornings, seasonally; registration now open for winter and spring sessions; [Click to read more and register!](#)

Families on the Farm; a year at Freetown Farm with CEI's Family Nature Club. Welcoming families with kids of all ages (most engaging for kids ages 6-11 and their adults). Gathering on the third Sunday each month, families will engage in farm and nature-based projects while building community and strengthening family bonds; [Click to read more and register!](#)

### ***For teens:***

Green SEEDS Internship program; our seasonal internships offer experiential education and leadership opportunities for high school and college students to strengthen understanding and respect for personal discovery, connection to nature, food security, and land stewardship in an inclusive community. High

school students receive SSL hours. College students may receive college credit. Fall, winter, and spring sessions are held after school on Wednesdays and on Saturday mornings. Summer sessions are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

[Click to read more!](#)

[Click to register!](#)

### ***For adults:***

Nourishing Gardens: Through the Seasons; join a welcoming community at monthly meetings where you will receive support to discuss and troubleshoot challenges that come up in your garden, interactive workshops with experienced gardeners on related topics, and tips and tricks to keep you on track for garden success! Led by our Nourishing Gardens Program Manager, a Baywise-certified Master Gardener and Columbia Association Weed Warrior, with over a decade of farm and garden experience. In-person meetings will be held the 3rd Tuesday of every month in addition to online recordings and resources.

[Click to learn more and register!](#)

CEI also offers: Second Saturday Socials for teens, monthly Repair Cafe sessions, workshops, property tours, a popular homeschool enrichment program, free community meals, and more! Our property spaces are also available to rent for events. Follow them on our website, Social Media: Facebook, Instagram and by joining their mailing list to stay up to date with all our community offerings!

### **Letter of Compliance**

If you are putting your house on the market, request a Letter of Compliance well in advance of a settlement date. It's best to make the request when the house is put on the market. This letter is not required, but it is a valuable tool for sellers because it verifies that your property is in compliance with the Hickory Ridge Covenants. Any covenant violations on your property become the responsibility of the new owner, so home buyers often request a Letter of Compliance from the Seller. Request forms are available on the [Sellers and Buyers page](#) of our website and at the Village Office. Questions? Email [applications@hickoryridgevillage.org](mailto:applications@hickoryridgevillage.org).



**Call 988 for emergency emotional support.**  
*Safe, supportive, confidential. Available 24/7.*



#### **Who Do I Call?**

Check out the [Useful Information page on the Hickory Ridge website](#). There are phone number and/or links to various resources.

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## **Columbia Association and Howard County**



### See Click Fix

See Click Fix is an interactive website for Howard County residents to report issues to the County. Issues include, but are not limited to, roadway issues, missing street signs or fallen street signs, street tree issues, potholes, cracked sidewalks, etc. **THIS IS NOT a site for 911 emergencies or police or fire issues.**

[See Click Fix](#)



### CA Open Space Questions or Concerns?

If you have questions or concerns about Columbia Association Open Space areas, contact CA Open Space directly by calling 410-312-6330 or by emailing [Open.Space@ColumbiaAssociation.org](mailto:Open.Space@ColumbiaAssociation.org).

Columbia Association (CA) Open Space project information is now available online via CA's Project & Access Dashboard. Visit [columbiaassociation.org/open-space/development/real-estate-services/](http://columbiaassociation.org/open-space/development/real-estate-services/) and click on the Dashboard. You can view various projects, access, and requests currently taking place on CA Open Space.



### HoCo Crime Statistics Map

Howard County has interactive maps with information about properties and neighborhoods. One is the Crime Statistics map. It used to be that the Howard County Police would have to put these statistics together for us, but now they are available at our fingertips. [Check out the Crime Statistics map.](#)

[Crime Statistics Map](#)



### CA Community Programs

You've made Columbia your home. You're part of a unique and diverse community, and that certainly has its benefits. At Columbia Association, it's their mission to foster a unique sense of place and enhance the quality of life. Take a moment to explore some of their many options.

[Community Programs](#)

### Paid Advertisements

We offer very affordable advertising rates! For information on placing an advertisement in The Log, please email [manager@hickoryridgevillage.org](mailto:manager@hickoryridgevillage.org).



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[www.columbiatreeandlawn.net](http://www.columbiatreeandlawn.net)

## THE HAWTHORN CENTER



**Event Space For Your Next Celebration!**

Conveniently located in the Village of Hickory Ridge, The Hawthorn Center offers attractively appointed and reasonably priced rental space for both social and business events.

- ♦ Free WiFi and Sound System
- ♦ Lobby and Kitchen
- ♦ Ample parking, and more



Contact us for more information

**410-730-7327**

[info@hickoryridgevillage.org](mailto:info@hickoryridgevillage.org)

[thehawthorncenter.org](http://thehawthorncenter.org)

6175 Sunny Spring, Columbia MD 21044

**HICKORY RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Hickory Ridge Community Association  
410-730-7327

The Hawthorn Center  
6175 Sunny Spring, Columbia MD 21044

## Hickory Ridge Community Association

### Hickory Ridge Village Board

**Kristine Amari**

**Mark Covington**  
Vice Chair

**Steve Hannan**  
Chair

**Micajah McGarity**

**Mariah Robertson**

**CA Representative**

**Skye Anderson**

### Village Staff

**Laura Mayton**, Village Manager

**Tania Tavares**, Covenant Advisor

**Devora Wilkinson**, Covenant Advisor

**Emily Rieger**, Events Coordinator

**Heather Harvanek**, Facility Coordinator

John Pongracz, Facility Assistant

Ellen Gallagher Roberts, Facility Assistant

Daniel Nairn, Facility Assistant

Erica Carpio, Facility Assistant

Tiwana & Ed Nicholson, Custodians

### Village Services

- Rentals of The Hawthorn Center
- Covenant Enquiries
- Information & referral
- B/W and color Copies
- Notary Public - *Please call for an appointment.*
- Free classified newsletter ad
- Fax
- Special Events
- Story Times

*Please note: fees may apply.*



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The Hickory Ridge Community Association | 6175 Sunny Spring | Columbia, MD 21044 US

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