

The LOG Newsletter December 18, 2025

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

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Village Office Closed for the Holidays

The Hickory Ridge Community Association's office at The Hawthorn Center will be closed for the holidays December 24th-January 2nd. All private rentals will proceed as scheduled.



Hickory Ridge Community Association Upcoming Meetings

December 18: CARES Meeting, 7:00pm*

January 12: Board Meeting, 7:30pm*

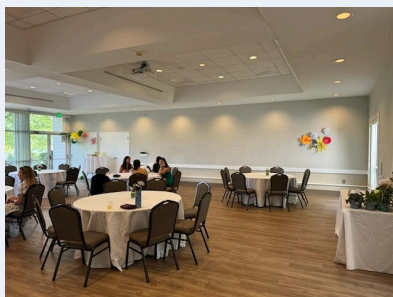
January 15: CARES Meeting, 7:00pm*

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.



Submit Inquiry

Community Mailboxes

Do you know that the United States Postal Service owns the single family neighborhood cluster boxes in Columbia?

USPS is required to maintain the cluster boxes. Contact the local Postmaster regarding maintenance issues. To find your local Postmaster, [click here](#).

Postal Bulletin 25545 specifically gives direction to the Postmaster or their assigns to maintain the cluster mailbox equipment. Chapter 6 of the Postal Operations Manual also establishes the single family neighborhood cluster mailboxes as USPS equipment and gives the Postmaster direction for dealing with this equipment.

However, currently, USPS has no money for addressing *aesthetic* issues with cluster mailboxes. Therefore, the USPS current policy for cluster mailboxes is to repair, not to replace them. If the boxes cannot be repaired, they will be replaced with an old box, not a new one. Only repairs for broken or damaged locks and unsafe conditions will be addressed, not aesthetic issues. Currently, the Post Office is only repairing broken, damaged, or unsafe cluster boxes.

[Find more information here under "Community News."](#)

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's Who in Hickory Ridge

This newsletter is published by the [Hickory Ridge Community Association](#), a non-profit corporation that provides a variety of services to residents of the Village of Hickory Ridge. All homeowners and tenants are automatically members of the association.

Hickory Ridge is one of ten villages that make up the planned community of Columbia, MD.

The Association's office is located in The Hawthorn Center, next to the Hawthorn pool on Sunny Spring.

Please note that the Hickory Ridge Village Center is separate from the Community Association. The Village Center, located at 6480 Freetown Road, is home to Giant as well as numerous shops and restaurants. It is owned and managed by [Kimco Realty](#). Kimco organizes the summer concert series at the Village Center, Halloween at the Village Center and other events at the shopping center. To learn about Village Center events, please [follow them on Facebook](#).

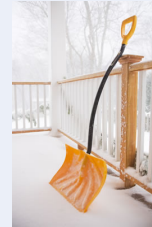


Who Handles What?

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

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 and CARES will answer. Some questions may be featured in future issues of The Log!



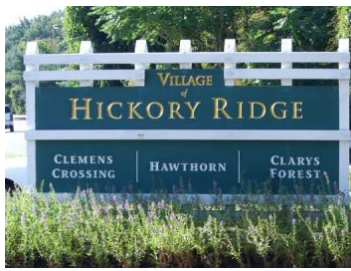
Snow Shoveling

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 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



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!

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!



CARES Corner: Snow & Ice Melt

I'm someone who loves the idea of snow during the winter - the holiday lights blinking against a white landscape; a hot drink in front of a warm fire as white flakes float down. Then I remember that we have to shovel the sidewalks and driveway.

As we work to keep our walkways clear and safe, consider our impact on the environment. Many of us live close to streams so anything we put on our walkways could potentially run off into those streams, impacting both plants and wild life.

In fact, the StreamWaders group for CA recently reported that the amount of salt in streams they have studied is negatively impacting aquatic life. For more information on stream health, click [here](#).

So what can we do to help?

- Limit ice build up by shoveling early and often.
- Moderate use of rock salt when clearing ice. Twelve ounces is enough to treat about 1000 square feet.
- Try **sustainable alternatives** to rock salt such as beet juice, coffee grounds, and alfalfa meal

Whether or not we have snow, here's wishing everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.

January Events

Space is limited! Be sure to register, and feel free to email 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)!

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.



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!

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!



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 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.



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.



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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.

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/ 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](#)



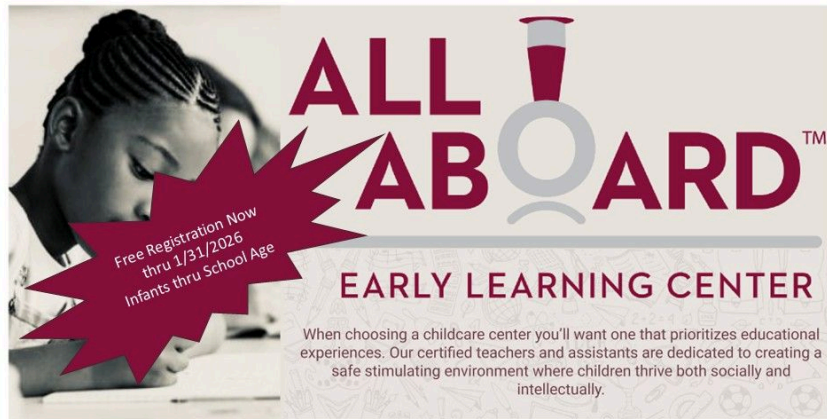
CA Community Programs

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.



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- ♦ Free WiFi and Sound System
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Contact us for more information

410-730-7327

info@hickoryridgevillage.org

thehawthorncenter.org

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Hickory Ridge Community Association

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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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