

## The LOG Newsletter March 19, 2026

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

[Follow us!](#)



### View the FY27 Draft Budget

The Fiscal Year 2027 draft budget has been approved by the Village Board.

Submit comments and questions to [board@hickoryridgevillage.org](mailto:board@hickoryridgevillage.org).

### Police Involved Fatal Shooting

On Sunday, March 1, 2026 in the early hours of the morning, Howard County Police Officers responded to a request for wellness check from a resident of Patuxent Commons. When they arrived, officers encountered the man outside the building. The man approached officers holding a knife and disregarded commands to drop the weapon. Officers then shot the man, who was pronounced dead at the scene after they attempted life-saving measures.

The Hickory Ridge Village Board was shocked and dismayed at this outcome. The community trusts the Police to use all available options before using deadly force. The Board approved a letter to County leaders to state their disappointment and ask questions. [Read the letter here.](#)



### Hickory Ridge Election!

#### Columbia Council Seat Is A Contested Race

Two candidates are running for one seat on the Columbia Council (AKA CA Board of Directors):

- Skye Anderson
- Micajah McGarity



### CARES Corner: Move to Limit Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

Spring is coming and soon we'll again be hearing the sound gas-powered leaf blowers in the neighborhood as residents and landscapers begin yard clean-up activity. While this equipment may make the job easier and quicker, gas-powered lawn care equipment puts out more smog-forming air pollution than in the 5 million cars registered here in Maryland.

## Hickory Ridge Village Board

Two candidates submitted for five seats on the Village Board.

- Mark Covington
- Mariah Robertson

These Board members can appoint additional members to the Board after they are officially seated as the FY27 Village Board.

### Important dates:

Wednesday, April 8, 7:00pm  
Candidates Night, *Virtual, Scripted*,  
*Zoom meeting*

Thursday, April 16, 7:00pm  
Candidates Night, *In-Person at The  
Hawthorn Center, Unscripted*

Friday, April 24, 5:30 - 7:30pm  
Community Celebration, The  
Hawthorn Center parking lot! Native  
plant giveaway! Cast your vote! Food  
trucks! Music and fun!

### **VOTE! VOTE VOTE!**

Saturday, April 25th 9:00pm -  
12:00pm, Election Day/Annual  
Meeting. Annual meeting convenes at  
12:00pm after the election concludes.

State and County governments are working on initiatives to reduce the use of gas-powered landscaping equipment in our area. The Maryland legislature is considering a bill that will phase out gas leaf blower use in our state parks. To comment, [FIND YOUR LEGISLATOR](#).

Howard County established its first green zone certified park. This means the county will be using battery-powered hedgers and leaf blowers for landscaping.

Columbia Association is also moving in this direction by replacing old gas-powered equipment with new battery-powered equipment. CA has started using small battery-powered landscaping equipment in some areas of Columbia and plans to increase their usage over the next two years. A charging infrastructure has to be installed at village community centers to support this rollout and while it will be a some time before the infrastructure can support electric mowers, your HRV CARES team is encouraging CA to work with our Village early in the roll-out of hand-held battery-operated landscaping equipment so we can enjoy quieter parks and clearer air.

## Hickory Ridge Community Association Upcoming Meetings

**April 1:** RAC meeting \*

**April 13:** Board meeting \*

**April 15:** RAC meeting \*

**April 16:** CARES meeting \*

*\*virtual meeting*

[Meeting Information](#)

## 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 with answers may be featured in future issues of The Log!



## 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."](#)



## 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.

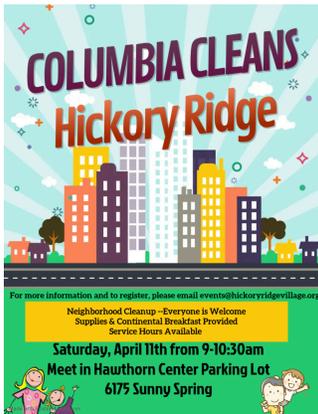
[Submit Inquiry](#)



## Who Handles What?

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

## Upcoming Events! Please RSVP to [events@hickoryridgevillage.org](mailto:events@hickoryridgevillage.org)



**Columbia Cleans**  
April 11th from 9:30-11am  
The Hawthorn Center

Join us for a community clean-up of the CA Open Space in the Hawthorn neighborhood. Individuals, families, and groups are welcome! Registration is required. Service hours are available.



**Family Bingo Night**  
April 18th at 7pm  
The Hawthorn Center

Everyone is welcome to join us for a fun-filled Family Bingo Night! Plenty of laughs, great prizes, and a chance to connect with friends and neighbors. Get your tickets now and don't miss the fun! \$5 for 10 rounds of Bingo!



**Flower Story Time**  
April 21st & 22nd at 9:30am  
The Hawthorn Center

Families are invited to join us for a flower-themed Story Time! Enjoy blooming tales, creative flower-inspired crafts, and delightful snacks. It's free to attend, and everyone is welcome! 🌸

# Hickory Ridge Community Celebration



JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OUTSIDE WITH  
**FOOD TRUCKS, MUSIC & FUN**

The Hawthorn Center Parking Lot----6175 Sunny Spring

**FRIDAY, APRIL 24TH FROM 5:30-7:30PM**

**\*DMV SLIDERS   \*TACO JOINT   \*TASTY EMPANADAS**

All are welcome but Hickory Ridge residents, please bring your absentee postcard ballot to vote in this year's Village Election.

**Questions? Please email [events@hickoryridgevillage.org](mailto:events@hickoryridgevillage.org)**



# Join Us

## Mondays Community Walk



[www.hickoryridgevillage.com](http://www.hickoryridgevillage.com)



Connect with neighbors, make new friends, and discover more about Hickory Ridge! This is a wonderful opportunity for everyone—of all ages and abilities—to meet members of the **Community Engagement Committee** while enjoying fresh air and great conversation.

After the walk, **we'll be serving coffee**, so stick around and enjoy a warm drink with your neighbors!

Let's build community, one step at a time!

EVERY  
17

**Every Monday,**

 **10:00 AM**

 **Meet at**

**The Hawthorn Center,  
6175 Sunny Spring**

**FREE!**

**Questions? Call  
410-730-7327**



**Pets welcome!**



Source: Gemini

# *Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden*

*Thursday, April 9, 2026  
Noon - 1:45 pm; No Fee*

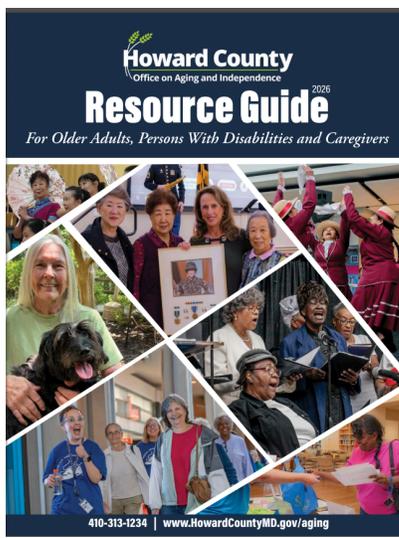
*Hawthorn Center  
6175 Sunny Spring  
Columbia, MD 21044*

Speakers: Janine Grossman & Ann Hackeling, Master Gardeners

Learn about the process of selecting a site, choosing plants,  
and maintenance of a pollinator garden

Bring a bag lunch - Light refreshments provided  
Sponsor: Longfellow Garden Club: [pscull1@umbc.edu](mailto:pscull1@umbc.edu)

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## 2026 HoCo Resource Guide For Older Adults Now Available

Howard County residents are embracing new opportunities to live longer and thrive, and the [Office on Aging & Independence](#) (OAI) helps ensure those added years are healthy, connected and secure.

With this in mind, they've updated the [Resource Guide for Older Adults, Adults with Disabilities and Caregivers](#) with programs and services for older adults of all ages and abilities, including wellness and prevention programs, caregiver and benefits support, nutrition and housing options, dementia-friendly initiatives, transportation, and opportunities to stay active and engaged.

Pick up a copy at your local 50+ Center or view the [2026 Resource Guide online](#).



### Free Tree Canopy Program

Free trees and no planting? Sound too good to be true? It's not! HoCo's Tree Canopy Program was created to improve environmental equity through focused tree planting in communities. The Tree Canopy program has a simple goal - plant as many trees as possible. The program seems to be meeting that goal as HoCo has planted over 400 trees each year of the program.

If you are interested in participating in this free program, go to the [HoCo Forestry](#) page and scroll down to *Tree Canopy Program*. Trees will be planted with your input, based on your goals for planting and on what will thrive on your property. Keep in mind that all trees must be native to Maryland. For more info, contact DJ Scheckelhoff, 410-313-1688 or [dscheckelhoff@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:dscheckelhoff@howardcountymd.gov).



# Join the Columbia LakeFest VOLUNTEERS!

Lakefest Weekend  
June 12-14

The lifeblood of the largest and longest running music and art festival in Howard County

Volunteers assist primarily with on-site LakeFest events but may also help with office tasks and reception or ushering at indoor events throughout the rest of the year. Shifts range from two to four hours. You select your volunteer task(s) based on your availability and interests.



## 2026 New Volunteer INFORMATION SESSIONS

Since there are dozens of volunteer tasks, we highly recommend you attend an information session that gives you a quick overview of our volunteer mission and positions. Sessions are remote & take place on:

Tuesday, 24 March, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Saturday, 18 April, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, 12 May, 7:00 -8:00 p.m.

### INTERESTED IN BECOMING A VOLUNTEER?

To register as a volunteer or our information sessions, follow this QR Code.



## SwiBits Sundays--Columbia Swim Center

Swibits Sundays are back at the Columbia Swim Center every Sunday from 11am - 4pm. Come ready to bounce, slide, climb, and splash your way through the inflatable obstacle course - it's high-energy fun for kids, teens, and adults.



Click [HERE](#) for more information.

## CA Lifeguards Needed

Columbia Association (CA) is looking for new lifeguards and pool managers in our community. CA team members enjoy flexible hours, a fun work environment, competitive pay, and a free CA Fit&Play membership — including pools, gyms, and much more!



The first step in the process is to apply [HERE](#).

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## Cul-de-sac Cooperation

Maintenance of the cul-de-sac islands throughout Columbia is the responsibility of the owners whose homes or driveways face the cul-de-sac island. An important point to know - this is to be a shared responsibility, for all of the homeowners that surround the cul-de-sac. Please note: No basketball or other sports equipment, permanent or temporary, may be placed on, in or around the cul-de-sac, as per County code. We encourage residents to develop a schedule and take turns mowing or have each family contribute and hire a service to take care of the mowing, leaf removal, weeding, etc.

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**WILDE LAKE**  
*Children's Nursery*  
 COLUMBIA'S OLDEST COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL

10518 Marble Faun Lane  
 Columbia, Maryland 21044  
 410-997-4856  
 info@wlcn.net

## NOW ENROLLING FOR 2026-2027

▶ No Toilet Training Required ▶ Play-based Learning ▶ Easy Online Registration

### TWO-YEAR-OLD PROGRAM

Tu / Th  
 9:15 - 11:15 AM  
 Class size: 10  
 \$225 / month  
 Must be 2 by Sep. 01

### THREE-YEAR-OLD PROGRAM

Mon / Weds / Fri  
 9:15 - 11:45 AM  
 Class size: 16  
 \$286 / month  
 Must be 3 by Oct. 15

### FOUR-YEAR-OLD PROGRAM

Monday - Friday  
 12:30 - 3:00 PM  
 Class size: 16  
 \$385 / month  
 Must be 4 by Oct. 15



### Why Choose Our Cooperative Preschool?

Families are an active part of our school! Parents and grandparents are encouraged to participate in the classroom, stay closely connected with teachers, and help build a strong, supportive community.

#### Our curriculum focuses on:

- Social-emotional growth
- Early math and literacy skills
- Learning through play in a fun, positive environment

#### Interested?

Contact us to learn more or schedule a tour—we'd love to meet your family!

- 🌐 WLCN.net
- 📷 @wlcncolumbia
- 📘 @wildelakechildrensnursery



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**ENROLL NOW!**

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**Petsitters in Hickory Ridge**



**Babysitters in Hickory Ridge**

If you live in Hickory Ridge, you pet sit and would like to be included in the pet sitter list in the next edition of The Log, please email [events@hickoryridgevillage.org](mailto:events@hickoryridgevillage.org).

Please note that the list below are individuals with experience and interest in pet sitting but are not vetted by this office.

#### **Pet sitter List**

\*Za'ir Scarborough:443-362-0128

\*Vanessa Castro  
[Twopugz.dogcare@gmail.com](mailto:Twopugz.dogcare@gmail.com)

\*Jae Johnson: [jjohns4728@gmail.com](mailto:jjohns4728@gmail.com)

\*Saloomeh Khodami: 6674792858,  
Dog walking only, Availability:  
Afternoons

\*Gita Ehssan: 6674792855,  
Availability: Afternoons

\*Amanda Kirkpatrick: "Loving Care  
When You're Not There":  
[amandakirkpatrick1990@gmail.com](mailto:amandakirkpatrick1990@gmail.com)

\*Beth Roberts:  
[bcaitlynl.8@gmail.com](mailto:bcaitlynl.8@gmail.com)

If you live in Hickory Ridge, you babysit and would like to be included in the babysitter list in the next edition of The Log, please email [events@hickoryridgevillage.org](mailto:events@hickoryridgevillage.org).

Please note that the list below are individuals with experience and interest in pet sitting but are not vetted by this office.

#### **Baby sitter List**

\*Gloribeth "Glory" Gancedo: 305-224-2095

\*Kailyn Shaw: [kailynshaw@yahoo.com](mailto:kailynshaw@yahoo.com)

\*Zandi Jera: [sunsetjera@yahoo.com](mailto:sunsetjera@yahoo.com)

\*Shamiso Dzvairo: [sunsetjera@yahoo.com](mailto:sunsetjera@yahoo.com)

\*Jos Dumont: [jos.pierre.dumont@gmail.com](mailto:jos.pierre.dumont@gmail.com)

\*Sofia Blose 410-707-0332

\*Christine Chen:  
[NH8ChristineS@gmail.com](mailto:NH8ChristineS@gmail.com)

\*Carolina Stiefel: 443-467-5811

\*Sydney Daniel: [danielsydney75@gmail.com](mailto:danielsydney75@gmail.com)

\*Kasey LaWall: 301-275-4623

\*Le'Mia Tyree: [lemia.tyree@gmail.com](mailto:lemia.tyree@gmail.com)

\*Mia Fatuzzo: [miaholdenfatuzzo@gmail.com](mailto:miaholdenfatuzzo@gmail.com)

\*Aisha Bamidele: [aisha\\_bamidele@yahoo.com](mailto:aisha_bamidele@yahoo.com)

\*Yocheved Englander: 443-574-5332

\*Daynisha Holloway: [daynishah@yahoo.com](mailto:daynishah@yahoo.com)

\*Hermione Bransford: [chelsinoelle@gmail.com](mailto:chelsinoelle@gmail.com)

\*Daphne Richardson: 443-750-1151

\*Grace (Stevie) Brown:  
[g.lombard2583@gmail.com](mailto:g.lombard2583@gmail.com)

\*Za'ir Scarborough:443-362-0128

\*Jae Johnson: [jjohns4728@gmail.com](mailto:jjohns4728@gmail.com)

\*Gita Ehssan: 6674792855, Availability:  
Afternoons

## **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.

## **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).



**Pediatric Speech Therapy  
with over 30 years experience**  
**Child Led Speech LLC**  
Columbia

**Email or Call Melanie Gaspar MS CCC-SLP**  
**[Melanie@ChildLedSpeech.com](mailto:Melanie@ChildLedSpeech.com)**  
**410-705-5072**

- Screenings: Quick checks for peace of mind
- Assessments: In-depth evaluations
- Therapy: Fun, child-led sessions **at home**

**[www.ChildLedSpeech.com](http://www.ChildLedSpeech.com)**



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410-740-5444      410-365-6367 Cell  
[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



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Hickory Ridge Community Association  
410-730-7327

The Hawthorn Center

6175 Sunny Spring, Columbia MD 21044

Office Hours: Mon-Thu 9:30am - 5pm, Fri 9:30am - 3:30pm

### Hickory Ridge Community Association

#### Hickory Ridge Village Board

**Kristine Amari**

**Mark Covington**

Vice Chair

**Steve Hannan**

Chair

**Micajah McGarity**

**Mariah Robertson**

#### 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 Naim, 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.*

**CA Representative**

**Skye Anderson**

- Free classified newsletter ad
- Fax
- Special Events
- Story Times

*Please note: fees may apply.*



[Our Company](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

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

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