

Hickory Hillside* Hive!

March 2026 CA Report to the Village of Hickory Ridge

Meetings Attended

I attended an Audit Committee meeting, a closed board meeting and the regular open board meeting of 26 March.

Popular Issue, Controversial Issue?

An issue that Hickory Ridge people are talking about is the possibility that **one** CA membership outdoor pool MAY be redesigned as a free, open park with a splashpad and other family friendly amenities. This was first presented at the [December meeting by Dan Burns](#) (starting at 2:19). It is so much easier to listen to a neighbor who heard it from a friend who heard it from someone in line at the supermarket – than it is to listen to the original presentation. I understand. However, here is the correct information.

1. The CA staff is looking into converting only ONE outdoor pool into a splashpad park, not four and not all 23.
2. No village will have to “give up” a pool in favor of a splashpad park. CA staff will work WITH the villages to select an appropriate site (sufficient parking, e.g.). The location may very well be a current pool that is underutilized or in close proximity to another pool. And there is always the possibility that no village will want a splashpad park, so none will be built.
3. “Clemens and Hickory Ridge were mentioned as possible locations by our current CA board rep. . . .” First of all, Clemens is part of Hickory Ridge but more importantly, I did not mention either as possible locations. My first few words were cut off the link posted on FaceBook. I actually asked the status of the former plans to put a splashpad at the Clemens (and McGill and one other) pool that were slated pre-COVID – another plan interrupted by COVID.

More information can be found on CA’s blog ([January 23](#)) and The Merriweather Post ([January 25](#)).

Meetings

The CA Board used to meet 20 times a year with only one meeting in November and one in December and no meetings in August. This year we are meeting less often and held two Town Hall Meetings about the budget. Being proposed for next year are even fewer, with keeping two Town Halls, one possibly being a regular board meeting and one possibly being a town hall similar to the ones our elected officials hold when they return to their districts. This does not impinge on residents’ ability to communicate with board members: we are still available as much as always by email either individually or at the [board email address](#).

“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 board position by other means than the rest of the (elected) 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 and I am happy to meet with you. A good place to meet is Mad City Coffee at Hickory Ridge Road and Cedar Lane, perhaps on Saturday mornings at 10:30 starting sometime in April. (I also meet with people at the Wilde Lake Starbucks three to four times a week.) I love Mad City’s bagels and sandwiches – just have to settle on the days and times. I am there several times a week – at all times from breakfast to 6pm (they close at 7) – just email me and we can set up a time. Or how about the new coffee shop at the Giant shopping center?

Residents can also utilize the [CA Resident Speakout program](#) or send comments directly to all CA board members [here](#). An interesting tidbit is that for past CA Board meetings, we had fewer residents speak out than in the past.

Looking Ahead to April

The next CA Board meeting will be on 9 April with at least one closed meeting that month. Elections are in April with the virtual candidate forum on 8 April and the in-person forum on 16 April, both at 7pm.

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

Hickory Hillside Hive:** *Hickory* for Hickory Ridge Village, *Hillside* because CA Headquarters is located on Hillside Street (near the intersection of Stevens Forest Road and Broken Land), and *Hive* – just because. However, I am may change this to ***It Takes a Village. What do you think?