

## The LOG Newsletter April 16, 2026

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

[Follow us!](#)



### **In-person Candidate Forum**

Join the candidates for the Columbia Council, Skye Anderson and Micajah "Mike" McGarity, for the Candidate Forum at The Hawthorn Center on Thursday, April 16 at 7:00pm.

This in-person Forum will allow residents to ask candidates questions. Come a few minutes early to sign up!

We hope to see you there!

The Election Committee will moderate the Forum.



### **What did the Village Board do this week?**

The Village Board meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. The five members of the Board oversee the governance of the community. At their last meeting on April 13, they did the following:

- Approved \$820 donations to each of the local organizations listed below,
- Heard a report from Chris Clem, the Columbia Association liaison to the Board,
- Discussed concerns brought to the Board by residents,
- And, in a closed session, reviewed the performance of the Village Manager.

There are three open seats on the Board starting May 1. If you would be interested in joining this organization, please send a letter of interest to Laura at [manager@hickoryridgevillage.org](mailto:manager@hickoryridgevillage.org) by April 30, 2026.



Hickory Ridge Village Board donations this fiscal year:

- Atholton HS PTSA
- CEI/Freetown Farm
- Clemens Crossing PTA
- Columbia Housing Center
- Downtown Columbia Arts Commission
- Grassroots Crisis Center
- Harper's Choice MS PTA
- Swansfield ES PTA
- Wilde Lake MS PTA
- Wilde Lake MS Performing Arts
- Wilde Lake HS PTSA



### 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

#### Hickory Ridge Village Board

Two candidates submitted for five seats on the Village Board.



### CARES Corner: Reusable Shopping Bags

Have you ever wondered if the county's nickel fee for using plastic bags has been effective? A study was done by the Sierra Club and the Less Plastic Please organization showing that plastic bag usage among shoppers dropped from 75.7% in 2019 to 40.3% in 2023, a decline of nearly half from levels seen before the plastic bag fee took effect. The number of plastic bags used continues to decrease as shoppers choose paper bags or bring their own reusable bags for their purchases.

- 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:

#### TONIGHT:

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.

Since Howard County established the practice over \$3 million has been deposited in a special Disposable Plastics Reduction Fund (not the grocery residents. general fund). One of the approved uses of the fund is to provide reusable bags “predominantly to vulnerable individuals.” Since the beginning of the program, Howard County has provided 25,536 reusable bags to Howard County residents. In addition the money funds other environmental projects in the community. For a detailed list see the [Annual Bag Fee report](#).

If you do not yet own reusable bags, consider the following before you choose one: The bag should be durable, have comfortable handles, have a sturdy flat base and be easy to pack and unpack. [Here is a study](#) from last year that lists a few of the reasons why.



### 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).

## A Smarter Way to Age in Place



Need a place to live, but looking to make a connection? Want a roommate, but not sure how to start?

[HoCo Home Share](#) is a free program that matches homeowners who have a room to spare with local residents seeking housing. Program staff use a smart, automated platform to identify strong potential matches based on personal profiles and preferences, then guide both parties through introductions, development of a home-sharing agreement, and the leasing process.

The program is managed by [Bridges to Housing Stability](#), a nonprofit organization that has provided housing services to Howard County residents for 35 years.

For more information:

#### [Program Details](#)

Contact the program staff at (410) 312-5760 x121 or email [HoCoHomeShare@bridges2hs.org](mailto:HoCoHomeShare@bridges2hs.org)

To apply to the program:

#### [Homeowner Application](#)

#### [Home Seeker \(Renter\) Application](#)

# 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**

**\*BRUSTERS TRUCK OF ROCKVILLE**  
**\*DM 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)**

Made with PosterMyWall.com

## Hickory Ridge Community Association Upcoming Meetings

**April 16:** CARES meeting \*

**April 25:** Annual meeting/Election

**April 27:** Board meeting

**May 6:** RAC 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!





## 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](#)

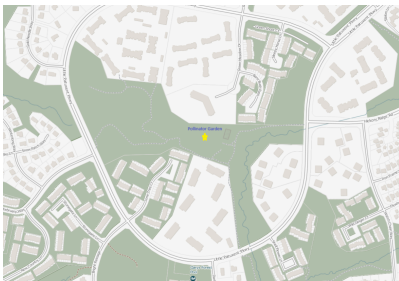
## Community Mailboxes

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."](#)



## 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.



## New Pollinator Meadow in Clary's Forest!

Perhaps you've heard about the decreasing number of butterflies and bees in the area? Fewer pollinators can have a negative impact on our ecosystem and food supply. Your Hickory Ridge Village (HRV) CARES Committee recently sent a HRV board-approved proposal to the Columbia Association requesting a pollinator garden in the Clary's Forest circle. The proposed area, which is currently home to invasive plants, will be replanted with native plants that will attract butterflies and bees. We also requested that the field be maintained so children will have room to play. CA approved the idea and proposed expanding it to a pollinator meadow with native trees added to the mix. While we do not have a firm time-line for completion, CA started work the week of 30 Mar removing the invasive plants and prepping the area for planting. A sign marks the area to be planted. The CARES team will track progress and report back, hopefully with pictures.

## Upcoming Events!

Please RSVP to [events@hickoryridgevillage.org](mailto:events@hickoryridgevillage.org)



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! 🌸



Butterfly Story Time  
May 12th & 13th @9:30am  
The Hawthorn Center

Families are invited to join us for a Butterfly Story Time! Flutter into a world of enchanting butterfly tales, create colorful butterfly-inspired crafts, and enjoy delightful snacks. It's free to attend, and everyone is welcome!

---

Join the Little Patuxent Review at The Hawthorn Center for The Author Next Door on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 7:00pm. [RSVP here.](#)

JOIN US FOR

# THE AUTHOR NEXT DOOR



Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>  
at 7PM

The Hawthorn Center  
at Hickory Ridge

LITTLE  
PATUXENT  
REVIEW

You may be aware that a famous writer like Michael Chabon grew up in Longfellow and that the best-selling novelist Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie spends half the year in Columbia, but do you know about the surprising number of local authors working in our community?

The Little Patuxent Review is sponsoring its 2<sup>nd</sup> Author Next Door series and discuss the author's work, publishing process, ambitions and more!

## MEET OUR AUTHORS



**Sarah Berger**

*LPR's Editor*



**Sally Rosen Kindred**

*Poet*



**Karen Outen**

*Novelist*

# Salute to 250 Years of Military Service



## A Community Celebration of Service, Sacrifice & Patriotism

DATE: **Sunday April 19th 2026**

TIME: **11am - 4pm**

LOCATION: **Belmont Manor & Historic Park**  
6555 Belmont Woods Rd, Elkridge, MD 21075

**FREE & OPEN  
TO ALL AGES!**

Join us for a heartfelt community celebration honoring the rich legacy of the Army, Navy and Marines—from the Revolutionary War to today—as part of HoCo250, Howard County's year-long celebration of America's 250th anniversary!

### Highlights Include:

- ★ Patriotic Ceremony & Music
- ★ Military Vehicle Displays
- ★ Giveaways & Prizes
- ★ Fun activities for kids & families
- ★ Food Trucks & Local Eats (Bring a blanket!)
- ★ "Honor Wall" to recognize local service members & families

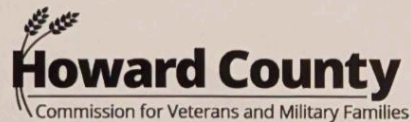
### Special Feature:

Military Tribute Moment — We'll honor each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces with a ceremonial salute and community applause!

**Bring your family. Bring your pride. Let's celebrate service, honor sacrifice, and make history together!**

### Want To Participate?

- ★ Showcase veteran stories or memorabilia
- ★ Volunteer!
- ★ Sponsorships available



Contact: [hoco250@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:hoco250@howardcountymd.gov) to get involved!



# Join Us

## Mondays Community Walk



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!

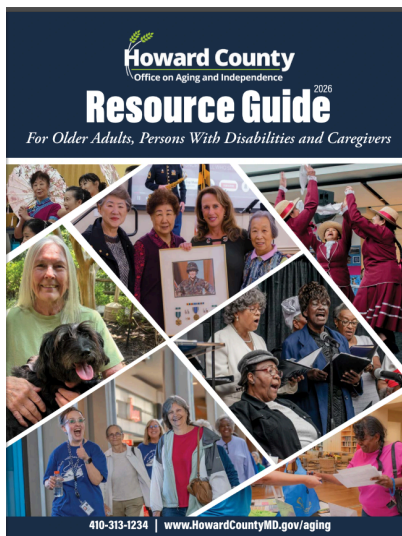
**Every Monday,**  
**10:00 AM**  
**Meet at**  
**The Hawthorn Center,**  
**6175 Sunny Spring**

**FREE!**

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



**Pets welcome!**



## 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](#).



# 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](#).



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](http://wlcn.net)
- [@wlcncolumbia](https://www.instagram.com/wlcncolumbia)
- [@wildelakechildrensnursery](https://www.facebook.com/wildelakechildrensnursery)



Recognized as a high-quality program by: **MARYLANDEXCELS**

**ENROLL NOW!**



### **Petsitters 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)



### **Babysitters in Hickory Ridge**

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

\*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



### 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

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](#)

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)**





# HAROLD HOWARD'S PAINTING SERVICE

Residential & Commercial

Painting • Drywall • Flooring • Carpentry • Wallpaper  
Bathroom, Kitchen, & Basement Remodeling

**Proudly Serving Customers for over 30 Years!**  
Outstanding References

**410-218-6261**

**HowardPaintingMD.net**

BONDED AND INSURED • MHIC NUMBER: 47783

## COLUMBIA TREE & LAWN SERVICE

Licensed & Fully Insured  
FREE ESTIMATES

- Hedge and Tree Trimming
- Tree & Stump Removal
- Snow Plowing
- Vegetation Clearing
- Mulching
- Firewood
- Retaining Walls
- Water Flow Solutions
- Tree Planting
- Bamboo Remediation



CHARLES N. PEDDICORD, President

Licensed Tree Expert  
DNR #068

Total Home Care  
MHIC #47824

**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**

### 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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email & social marketing for free!