

Monthly Columbia Association (CA) Update Report for Hickory Ridge

Hickory Ridge's Columbia Council Representative: Micajah McGarity

Month: May 2026

Disclaimer: Please note that the views and commentary expressed in this report are my own.

Here is a summary of the latest news, facility updates, and upcoming events from the Columbia Association to keep the Hickory Ridge community informed.

1. Governance & Leadership Updates

- **Board of Directors Vacancies:** Following an ethics investigation that resulted in the removal of three members in late April, there are currently three vacant seats (Long Reach, River Hill, and Oakland Mills) on the CA Board of Directors.
- **Leadership Extension:** The CA Board of Directors has voted to approve a multi-year extension for President/CEO Shawn MacInnes, securing his commitment to the Columbia Association through Fiscal Year 2031.

2. Community News & Facility Highlights

- **Future Splash Park & Village Outreach:** CA's Fiscal Year 2027 budget officially includes funding to support the design of a highly anticipated new CA Splash Park. Furthermore, Dan Burns is interested in meeting with the villages to gauge interest in having one of their existing community pools converted into this new Splash Park.
- **Clemens Crossing Facility Refresh:** In preparation for the upcoming summer season, the bathrooms at the Clemens Crossing pool received a refresh during the offseason. The upgrades include new paint, toilets, urinals, and floors.
- **Play Area Upgrades:** Local CA play areas are currently receiving upgrades as part of a recent policy shift designed to improve community recreation spaces. The closest of these upgraded play areas to Hickory Ridge is in Macgills Common in Kings Contrivance.
- **Commitment to Inclusion:** The CA Racquet Sports and KidSpace departments have officially been designated as a Certified Autism Center™, a major step forward in community accessibility.
- **25 Years of the CA Points Program:** CA is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the CA Points program, which rewards student academic achievement and attendance with complimentary one-year CA memberships. The program has provided more than \$1 million in memberships and programs to low-income families over its lifetime.

3. Upcoming Events & Seasonal Activities

- **Lakefront Live 2026 & Movie Nights:** CA recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the official opening of the brand-new CA Lakefront Stage, along with announcing the complete 2026 Lakefront Live lineup for the community to enjoy free entertainment this summer. Additionally, movie nights at the lakefront will be on most Fridays this summer using the new Stage's built-in rear-lit projector screen.
- **Summer Pool Season:** CA's outdoor pools are officially opening up and welcoming residents back to the water for the summer season!
- **Mental Health Awareness Month:** May is Mental Health Awareness Month. CA is encouraging all residents to make the most of the month by checking in on their mental well-being, getting outside, and taking advantage of Columbia's parks, facilities, and open spaces.