

The LOG Newsletter  
May 7, 2026

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

[Follow us!](#)



## Columbia Council

Congratulations to Micajah "Mike" McGarity on his win for the Columbia Council seat.

Thank you to Skye Anderson, for her three years of service as the Columbia Council representative from Hickory Ridge. In addition to three years on the Council, Skye served for five years on the Village Board.

The Village staff also sends a big THANK YOU to all the residents who volunteered their time to make this election as smooth and efficient as possible. A thriving Village has residents who participate and get involved, and we are fortunate!

Thank you to all those who voted. Your participation matters!

[See the full results here.](#)



## 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](#)

# Race Through Hickory Ridge, Sunday, May 6, 2026

Howard County Striders is running the Women's Distance Festival 5K race through the Hickory Ridge neighborhood on Sunday, May 17, 2026. The race will start at 8am; however, Hickory Ridge Road will be closed off by 7:30am either at Sunny Spring but definitely at Campus Drive with a rolling opening as the runners move through the course. The community is encouraged to come out and cheer on the runners.

[More information here!](#)



## New: Columbia Association Watershed Resident Advisory Panel

The newly formed [CA Watershed Resident Advisory Panel \(WRAP\)](#) brings together representatives from every Columbia village committed to protecting and improving our local watershed. This group was established in response to growing concerns about water quality, stormwater runoff, erosion, and the impact of development and climate change on our shared natural resources.

A central goal of the WRAP is to build awareness and encourage stewardship—providing information through community outreach about watershed health, conservation practices, and simple actions residents can take to make a difference.

The CA WRAP will collaborate with village boards, CARES groups, and county partners.

Representatives will share updates on CA's watershed management initiatives and gather input and feedback from the community on the issues that matter most to residents. Look for upcoming

## Please use the GREEN bin!



The GREEN bin, provided by Howard County with your tax money, is a great way to reduce/reuse/recycle. These GREEN bins are used for two major types of residential items: yard trim and food scraps. By yard trim we mean grass cuttings, leaves, twigs and branches. Food scraps include wilted flowers, vegetable and fruit skins, seeds and cores, expired or deteriorating foods or uneaten leftovers from your fridge or pantry. Yes, you CAN put meats and fish into the GREEN bin! Unfortunately, the GREEN bin is not for the plastic or styrofoam packaging your food comes with from the store, so please remove it before you toss those items in the bin. To reduce odors, feel free to wrap the scraps in paper bags, old newspaper, compostable bags or layer it with shredded paper.

Why use the GREEN bin? The collected items from the GREEN bin are used to make HoCoGro compost at Howard County's Alpha Ridge landfill. The compost takes 75 days to "mature" and can then be sold. Compost makes great fertilizer for your garden and landscape plants, and even your lawn. HoCoGro Compost is sold to Howard County residents year round at the landfill for \$24/cubic yard. HoCoGro Compost, mulch and blended topsoil are unbagged, so be sure to bring your own bags or containers unless filling a truck bed. For information about estimating your need or for a list of contractors who deliver HoCoGro products, please visit the [Howard County website](#).

As residents we can do better: Howard County conducted an audit of residential trash in 2022, after the GREEN bin was introduced, and found that 38% of the trash was organic waste that could have been made into compost. This was

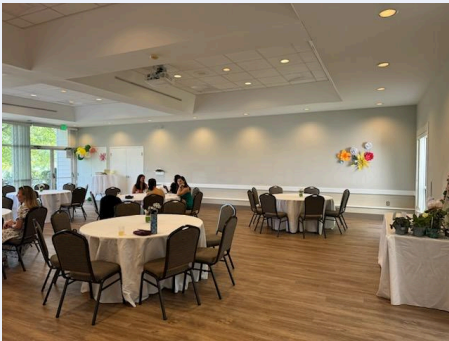
guidance on sustainable watershed practices from the new 'Watershed Wise from the WRAP' contribution to the village newsletter. The Hickory Ridge Village Representative to the WRAP is Colin MacLachlan. [For more information, click here!](#)

actually higher than the previous study in 2019. So think before you put those foods turning odd colors at the back of your fridge into the trash: put them in your GREEN bin! Don't have your own green bin? Contact the Howard County Bureau of Environmental Services office (410-313-6444) or [sign-up online](#) to have one delivered to your home.

## Hickory Ridge Community Association Upcoming Meetings

**May 11:** Board meeting  
**May 20:** RAC meeting \*  
**May 21:** CARES meeting \*  
*\*virtual meeting*

### 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

## 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."](#)



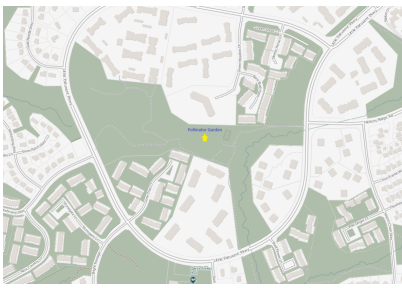
## Who Handles What?

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.

Join CFIN for some spring gardening this May!

\*weeding, seeding, planting\*

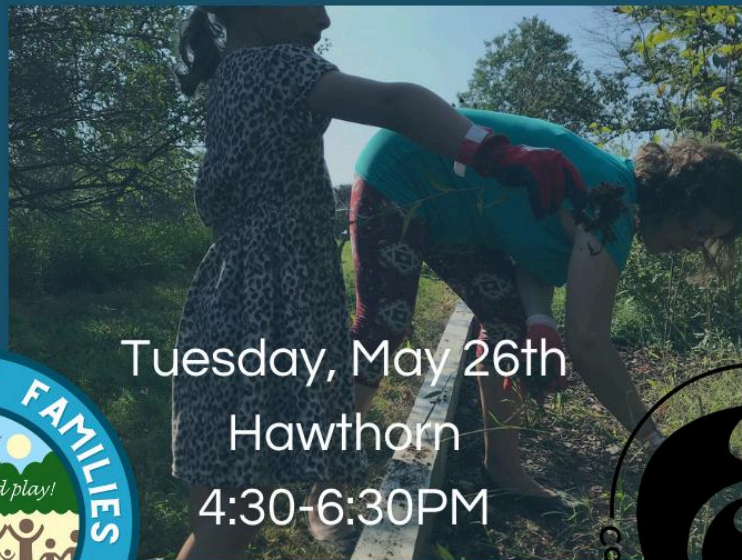
Be part of something beautiful and beneficial!

Get outside on some lovely spring afternoons.

Meet some new families and see some 'old' CFIN friends!

FREE events, must email Sara Smith at [cfin@cei.earth](mailto:cfin@cei.earth) to 'register' and get on the mailing list for details and updates.

Come for the whole time or just a short time. Gardening gloves and tools provided.



Tuesday, May 26th  
Hawthorn  
4:30-6:30PM





## Hickory Ridge Block Party Grants

Plan Your Block Party in Hickory Ridge! Get ready to connect with your neighbors and celebrate your community!

Organize a block party—simply choose a date, complete the application, and share your invitation with your neighbors.

As a bonus, you can receive a \$100 Giant gift card to help cover party supplies! Only 15 grants are available for CA-assessed addresses, and they're awarded on a first-come, first-served basis—so don't wait!

[Applications here!](#)



## Cul-de-Sac Beautification Grants

Join with your neighbors and make a plan to beautify the center of your cul-de-sac! Hickory Ridge offers \$300 grants to residents to beautify the center of their cul-de-sac.

If your grant request is approved, Hickory Ridge will reimburse up to \$300 in expenses.

Cul-de-sac Grant form must be filled out, including signatures of adjacent property owners. A plan must be submitted in order to receive approval from Howard County. Bee City plans available from the Village office.

[Applications here!](#)



## Hickory Ridge Pool Party

Saturday, June 27th

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Hawthorn Pool

It's that time of year again! Join us for an evening of fun in the sun! Pack a picnic, enjoy some music and enjoy a sweet treat from Bruster's Ice Cream. Picnics encouraged.

This event is open to Hickory Ridge residents only.

[RSVP HERE!](#)



# 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!

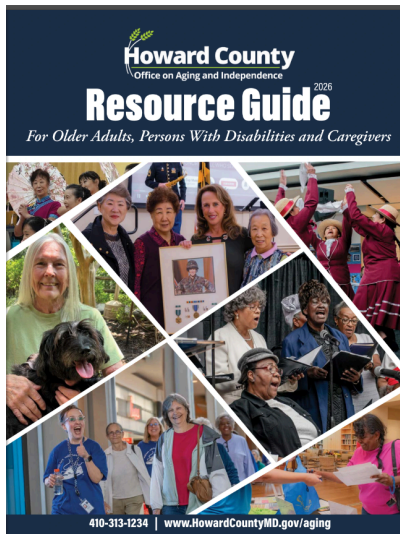
**Every Monday,**  
**10:00 AM**  
**Meet at**  
**The Hawthorn Center,**  
**6175 Sunny Spring**

**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.



## 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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 info@wlcn.net

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### 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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**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)

\*Salomeh 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.



#### **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).



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[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](#)

[Mark Covington](#)

[Mariah Robertson](#)

[CA Representative](#)

[Micajah McGarity](#)

### 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.*



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

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