

THE LOG

Hickory Ridge
The Hawthorn Center
6175 Sunny Spring

Hours: Mon-Thurs, 9:30am-5:00pm
Friday, 9:30am-3:30pm
September 3, 2026

Connect with us at
HickoryRidgeVillage.org
Phone: 410-730-7327



Remembering Emily Rieger— Our Beloved Friend & Colleague



In March, Emily and her family began planning a big change; a move to rural Michigan where they hoped to start a fresh adventure together. In May, before the move, Emily was diagnosed

with a rare autoimmune disorder. She faced her illness with courage and determination, but despite every effort, she passed away on June 26th.

When Emily joined the Hickory Ridge team in June of 2021, she arrived with a simple goal: to connect as many residents as possible. She didn't just do her job; she truly got to know the people who live here.

Emily poured her heart into bringing everyone together. She kept Hickory Ridge traditions alive, like the lively BINGO nights and Story Times, while always looking for new ideas. At events, Emily often connected strangers who became future best friends.

With her joyful smile and genuine warmth, Emily made sure every single person felt welcome and at home. She looked after our community in so many ways—from bringing us together at events, to sharing our stories in the newsletter and on social media. Through her endless dedication, Emily truly became the heart of Hickory Ridge. Her gift for building community will be deeply missed, but the connections she created will stay with us for a long time to come.



Free Soil Testing

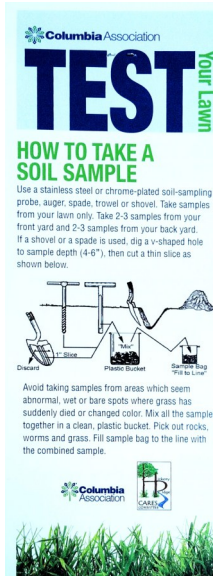
Hickory Ridge Village is offering free soil testing for homeowners! Testing your soil will give you a good idea of your soil's health, and healthy soil is the first step to healthy plants. For local homeowners and gardeners, a standard soil analysis ensures your plants get exactly what they need. Specific reasons to test include:

- **Determining Soil pH:** Soil acidity or alkalinity dictates how well your plants can absorb nutrients. If your pH is off, plants won't benefit from fertilizer even if it's there.
- **Identifying Nutrient Deficiencies:** Tests measure macronutrients (phosphorus, potassium & more) and micronutrients (iron, zinc) so you only add the amendments you actually need.
- **Saving Money:** By knowing the exact fertilizer or lime requirements, you avoid wasting money on unnecessary additives.
- **Protecting the Environment:** Excess nutrients left in the soil can run off into local watersheds and pollute the ecosystem.

Stop by the Village office in The Hawthorn Center to pick up your free soil test bag!

Stay Social!

Want to know what's happening in Hickory Ridge? Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @hickoryridgevillage To receive the e-newsletter issues of **The Log**, scan the QR code or go to bit.ly/3GyJJa5 to sign up today.



Volunteer for the Resident Architectural Committee!

Are you interested in the housing styles and architecture in Hickory Ridge? Join the Resident Architectural Committee (RAC)! The RAC reviews exterior alteration applications for homes in Hickory Ridge. Get to know community members and learn more about the Village you live in. The RAC meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month in a virtual meeting at 7:30pm. In addition, RAC members visit 1 – 4 neighborhood properties in the week before the meeting as part of the application review process. Interested? Email Tania at applications@hickoryridgevillage.org.



Who Does What?

Howard County's email is always available for inquiries, including questions about county services, events, or support resources. For information, simply send your questions to ask@howardcountymd.gov.



 For Hickory Ridge questions, you may email info@hickoryridgevillage.org or call the Village office at 410-730-7327.

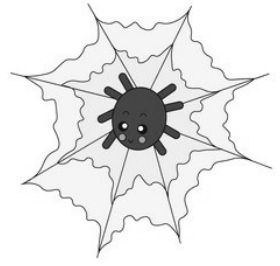
Here is a brief list of who to reach out to for common issues:

- **Damaged cable boxes:** Take a photo and send it to cadmin@howardcountymd.gov.
- **Graffiti:** Use Tell HoCo or contact the police non-emergency number (410-313-2200). If the graffiti is on a Columbia Association property, email open.space@columbiaassociation.org.
- **Road condition, damaged street sign, sidewalk, storm drainage or street tree problems:** Use Tell HoCo or contact Highways Operations Division at highways@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-7450.
- **Traffic signal, intersection safety, traffic calming or mistimed signal concerns:** Use Tell HoCo or contact Traffic Engineering Division at traffic@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-2430.
- **Other issues:** Use the Contact Us form found on the Howard County Government web site or call 410-313-2022 for information and referral.

CARES Corner

Along Comes a Spider

Spiders across Maryland spin purpose-built traps that double as brilliant engineering marvels. Formed from silk, their varied geometric shapes reflect distinct hunting strategies tailored to specific environments.



- **Orb Webs:** The iconic Black and Yellow Garden Spider (*Argiope aurantia*) and the nocturnal Barn Spider use concentric circles and radiating spokes to intercept flying insects with perfect symmetry, often stretching across fields, porches, and trees.
- **Funnel Webs:** Maryland's native Grass Spider carpets lawns with flat, densely woven sheets of silk that taper into a hidden retreat. Rather than relying on sticky silk, they use pure speed, darting out the moment they feel a victim's vibrations.
- **Cobwebs and Tethers:** The Northern Black Widow (*Latrodectus variolus*) abandons geometry for a messy, three-dimensional "cobweb" hidden in dark woodpiles to snag ground pests. Meanwhile, free-roaming Wolf Spiders and Bold Jumping Spiders forgo webs entirely, trailing a single line of silk behind them as a life-saving safety tether while hunting on foot.

While we don't like to have spiders spin webs in our homes and offices, they are marvelous to watch in their natural outdoor environment.

For additional information on spiders and their webs native to Maryland, including tips on managing them if you find one indoors, tips on overcoming arachnophobia, and children's books, see:

- University of Maryland Extension Resource Guide found at <https://www.extension.umd.edu/resource/spiders-maryland/>
- For Children: Fiction—Charlotte's Web by E.B. White and The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle, and Non-Fiction—Nefertiti the Spidernaut: The Jumping Spider Who Learned to Hunt in Space by Darcy Pattison and Valeria Tisnes.
- For Adults, Non-Fiction: The Private Life of Spiders by Paul Hilyard

Village Staff

Laura Mayton, Village Manager

manager@hickoryridgevillage.org

Tania Tavares, Covenant Advisor (Applications)

applications@hickoryridgevillage.org

Devora Wilkinson, Covenant Advisor (Violations)

devora@hickoryridgevillage.org

Open Position, Events Coordinator

events@hickoryridgevillage.org

Heather Havranek, Facility Coordinator

facility@hickoryridgevillage.org

Ellen Roberts, Facility Assistant

Erica Carpio, Facility Assistant

Daniel Nairn, Facility Assistant

John Pongracz, Facility Assistant

Bianca Smalls, Facility Assistant

Hickory Ridge Board, Committees, and Volunteers

Hickory Ridge Village Board

Mariah Robertson, Chair

Shane Lease, Vice Chair

Skye Anderson

Mark Covington

Lynn Hannan

CA Council Representative

Micajah McGarity

Resident Architectural

Committee

Bob Opatovsky, Chair

Celindah Grier, Vice Chair

Barbara Condron

Matthew Heyne

Shane Lease

Watershed Advisory

Committee

Deborah Wessner, Chair

Leah Donovan

Jerry Lioi

Vanessa Lin Mims

Bill Richardson

Patrice Donnelly

Community Engagement

Volunteers

Paul Armstrong

Brian England

Viviana Lindo

Simona Puiu

Thank You!

All of the volunteers who give time to our Village to keep it functioning deserve our thanks! The Village cannot do all it does without them!



Advertise in this Newsletter

You can advertise your business in The Log newsletter! The newsletter goes out on the first and third Thursdays of the month. In mailed, print issues like this one, a standard ad costs *ONLY* \$100 and your ad is seen by more than 4700 households in Hickory Ridge! For e-issues, the cost is \$30 and it goes out to a subscriber list of 2000. Both print issues and e-issues are posted on social media and our website, too! Email Laura at manager@hickoryridgevillage.org for more information!

New Residents, You Are a Member of Our Community!

If you received this newsletter, you are a member of the Hickory Ridge Village! Stop by the Village Office at The Hawthorn Center for a new resident Welcome Bag filled with useful information and goodies!



We hope to see you at one of our upcoming events or meetings. Hickory Ridge is at its best when members of the community connect and contribute to its success. The staff and volunteers in Hickory Ridge hope you join us!

Village Office Services

- ⇒ Resale packets (also available on website)
- ⇒ Compliance requests
- ⇒ Covenant inquiries
- ⇒ Exterior Alteration Applications
- ⇒ Copies
- ⇒ FAX
- ⇒ Notary Public (by appointment only)



The Hawthorn Center

Host a party,
seminar, baby

shower or other life celebration at The Hawthorn Center! Our well-appointed, contemporary setting is the perfect backdrop for any occasion. The Hawthorn Center can also accommodate weekday and evening meetings. Please consider The Hawthorn Center for your next social or business event! For rates and more information, visit

TheHawthornCenter.org





Hickory Ridge Community Association
The Hawthorn Center
6175 Sunny Spring
Columbia, MD 21044

Winter Artisan Market

Sunday, November 15, 2026

2:00—5:00pm at The Hawthorn Center

Calling all local artisans! The Winter Artisan Market application is LIVE! If you are interested in participating in this year's market, just fill out the form and upload some photos of your work. The deadline to apply is Friday, October 2nd at 5:00pm. Use the QR code or apply here: <https://forms.gle/hUuQ5YnHxbUfAjM7A>



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Dr. Terri Ambrose is a board certified pediatric dentist who is passionate about helping kids maintain happy and healthy smiles.

We are accepting new patients. We accept most insurances, including Maryland Medicaid.

WE LOOK FORWARD
TO HEARING FROM
YOU!

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