

The LOG Newsletter October 1, 2026

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

[Follow us!](#)

The Author Next Door at The Hawthorn Center

Tuesday, October 6 • 7 PM - 9 PM

The Little Patuxent Review will sponsor its third “Author Next Door” evening. HCC professor George Clack (and Hickory Ridge resident) will interview two local authors: romance novelist Rebecca Coleman and biographer Jeffrey Boutwell. This will be a highly interactive session where the audience will get to ask two local writers about their work, their ways of getting published, their ambitions, and any other mysteries of the writing life.

Admission is free! All you have to do is sign up using the link below!

[RSVP Here](#)



Cub Scout Pack 720 is Recruiting

Fun with a purpose. Camping, fishing, hiking, and life skills. Adventure awaits your son and/or daughter at Cub Scout Pack 720! K-5th grade. Serves Swansfield and Running Brook students. Contact Cubmaster Josh White at jmwhite0610@gmail.com to find out more!



Watershed Wise from the WRAP: Keep Leaves Out of Storm Drains

Fallen leaves are great for improving your soil, but leaves that wash into streets can clog storm drains and contribute to localized flooding. Storm drains also carry water—and anything in it—directly to our streams, lakes, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. As leaves break down in waterways, they release nutrients that can contribute to algae blooms, reducing oxygen levels and harming aquatic life.

Instead of letting leaves wash into the street, use them as mulch beneath trees and shrubs or in your garden. You can also add them to your compost bin or place them in paper bags for collection at the Alpha Ridge yard waste area.

If you live near a storm drain, consider volunteering to keep it clear or taking turns with neighbors to check it regularly. It is especially important to remove leaves and other debris before and after storms.

*Article and graphic courtesy of the
Watershed Resident Advisory Panel (WRAP) at Columbia Association.*

Join the Election Committee!

Help Shape the Future of Hickory Ridge! We're looking for dedicated residents to volunteer on the Election Committee for the 2026 Annual Meeting & Election Day in the Village of Hickory Ridge. Each April, our community elects Village Board Members and a Columbia Council Representative — and we need your help to ensure a fair and smooth election process!



As a Committee Member, You'll:

- Help plan and moderate Candidate Nights.
- Assist with voter check-in and vote counting on Election Day – April 24, 2027.
- Ensure Election rules & procedures are followed.

Requirements to Join:

- Be a member of The Hickory Ridge Community Association (must own or rent a Columbia Association–assessed property in Hickory Ridge).
- Be available to contribute ~15 hours of your time for meetings, Candidate Night, and Election Day.
- Complete and submit the Volunteer Application form found on the website.

Your participation is a great way to get involved, meet neighbors, and support local democracy!

Fill out a [Volunteer Form](#) today!

Socktober



Abiding Savior Lutheran Church is collecting new men's, women's, and children's socks for the Grassroots Shelter/Day Resource Center. Please help support this initiative by placing your donations in the marked collection bin at The Hawthorn Center, 6175 Sunny Spring.

Deadline: October 31, 2026

Thank you for your generosity!

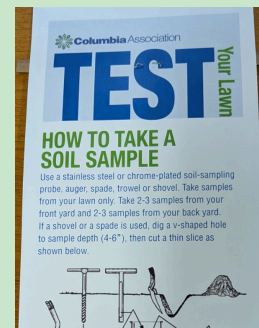


CARES CORNER

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, calcium) 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!

Deer Management:

What to Know About Columbia Association's Controlled Archery Hunts



Columbia has about 100 deer per square mile – far above the 20–25 deer per square mile considered to be sustainable. Because the population exceeds available resources, increased competition for food and habitat causes deer to seek out food sources in yards and landscaped areas. This contributes to the loss of plant and animal biodiversity, plus damage to residential areas.

By reducing the deer population gradually, CA hopes to:

- Support a healthier deer herd with better access to food and habitat
- Protect forests and newly planted trees
- Reduce deer-related damage to landscaping
- Help lower deer-vehicle collisions
- Reduce concerns associated with deer-related tick exposure

This October, CA will hold controlled archery hunts on the following dates:

- Wednesday, October 14
- Tuesday, October 27
- Friday, November 6
- Friday, November 20
- Wednesday, December 16

To read the full article, click [here](#)

Movies in the Park in Merriweather District include family favorites starting September 18

The Merriweather District in partnership with the Merriweather Arts and Culture Center is hosting Movie Nights in the Park on Fridays Sept. 18-Oct. 9, with pre-movie activities from 6:30-7 p.m., followed by the movie screening at 7:15 p.m.



The family-friendly pre-movie events at Color Burst Park include a variety of games, trivia and music with complimentary popcorn and candy concessions.

The lineup includes:

- Oct. 2 - The Wizard of Oz
- Oct. 9 - Toy Story 5

Attendees are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs and/or blankets. The movies are free and open to the public. [RSVP here.](#)

"Autumn Gardening & Putting Your Flower Garden to Rest."

The Longfellow Garden Club of Howard County invites interested men & women to a talk about "Autumn Gardening & Putting Your Flower Garden to Rest."

Learn about late-blooming flowers, herbaceous plants, ornamental grasses, and ferns for fall color, and about planting bulbs for spring flowering. Tips provided for annual bed clean-up, dividing perennials, overwintering tubers, preparing beds for next spring, and fall lawn care.

The Hawthorn Center

Thurs. Oct 8, 2026 (noon-2:00pm).

LongfellowGardenClubHowardCountyMD.com

or contact: C. Konny at cgkonny@gmail.com

Light refreshments provided.

Volunteer - join 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.



Hickory Ridge Mondays Community Walk



Pets & Stroller Friendly! Free!



Every Monday,



10:00 AM



Meet at

**The Hawthorn Center,
6175 Sunny Spring**



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.

Afterward, linger for a complimentary cup of coffee and the chance to unwind with fellow walkers.

Let's build community, one step at a time!

A New Native Bush to Spice Up Your Yard?

In this article, we aim to help you learn about a native shrub called Spicebush, also called Northern Spicebush.

During the spring and summer months, this shrub blends in with many other understory plants along the CA pathways in Hickory Ridge, but in late September and into October, its fruit and leaves make it easy to identify. It typically stands 5 to 15 feet tall.

The leaves are oval-shaped with smooth edges. As the weather gets cooler, the leaves change color from green to a bright yellow and eventually fall off. You've probably seen these

before and wondered what they were. Bright red berries start to form in late August and turn a darker shade of red in October and November. Native to the eastern United States and Canada Spicebush provides food to birds and deer.



Here are two photos of Spicebush from September 13 on the path between Bright Passage and Watch Chain Way. Spicebush is often found growing within a few feet of the paths, so go for a walk and see if you can find one!



Give Hunger-Free Weekends to 117 Students at Swansfield Elementary

These kids receive free or reduced-price meals on school days, but have difficulty getting nutritious food at home on the weekend. The Blessings in a Backpack program provides a bag of food to go home with all 117 students on Fridays.

Please donate to help us meet our shopping costs

<https://giving.blessingsinabackpack.org/organizations/swansfield-elementary-school>



Thank you for helping kids be kids without the worry of hunger!

Who Takes Care of What??

The Village office receives anonymous reports of concerns about a lot of different issues. Often, they are concerns that can be addressed by the Village, but we also get reports of issues that we cannot address.

The Village **Covenants** empower the Covenant Advisor to address problems like unmowed grass, peeling paint and bulk items in a yard. However, the Covenant Advisor is limited by the Covenants as well.

Some issues that ARE NOT included in the Covenants, which would be addressed by other agencies are:

- Pet issues (off leash, waste etc.) - [Howard County Animal Control](#)
- Trees between the sidewalk and the street - [Bureau of Highways](#)
- Street issues like pot holes or a sign down - [Bureau of Highways](#)
- Columbia Association Open Space (paths, bridges, tot lots, playgrounds) - open.space@columbiaassociation.org
- Street light outage - [BGE reporting tool](#)

Some issue are on HOA property. If you live in a townhome or condo community, your HOA would handle the following:

- parking issues
- mailbox issues
- trash or trash cans on islands/collection points
- carports
- common property of the HOA

[Find contact information for HOAs on the Hickory Ridge website here.](#)



Farmers' Markets in HoCo

Howard County is not just city life in Columbia ... we have farmers who grow great fruits and vegetables that are truly fresh since they have not been transported here from other states. If you are anxious to take advantage of local produce here are the markets and the times they are available:

2026 HOWARD COUNTY Farmers' Markets

VISIT YOUR LOCAL FARMERS' MARKET FOR A WONDERFUL TIME AND SOME GREAT, LOCAL PRODUCTS.

Savage Farmers Market Washington and Foundry St. Wednesdays, May 27 – October 28 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.	Fulton Farmers' Market 11788 Scaggsville Rd., Fulton Fridays & Saturdays, April 17 – November 21 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Ellicott City Farmers' Market Miller Branch Library, Frederick Rd. Wednesdays, May 6 – October 28 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Clarksville Commons Farmers' Market 12230 Clarksville Pike Saturdays, May 2 – November 14 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Merriweather District Farmers' Market Merriweather Row Plaza (10400 Little Patuxent Pkwy) Thursdays, June 11 – August 27 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.	Old Ellicott City Farmers' Market Tiber Park, across from S & O Railroad Museum Saturdays, May 23 – October 24 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Oakland Mills Farmers' Market 5851 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, MD Sundays, May 10 – November 1 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	

Learn more here:
bit.ly/HCFarmersMarkets

HOWARD COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

- Fulton: 11788 Scaggsville Rd; Fri/Sat, Apr 17–Nov 21 (10 a.m.–2 p.m.)
- Ellicott City (Miller Branch): Wednesdays, May 6–Oct 28 (2–6 p.m.)
- Oakland Mills (Columbia): Sundays, May 10–Nov 1 (9 a.m.–1 p.m.)
- Clarksville Commons: Saturdays, May 2–Nov 14 (9 a.m.–1 p.m.)
- Old Ellicott City (Tiber Park): Saturdays, May 23–Oct 24 (9 a.m.–1 p.m.)
- Savage: Washington and Foundry St; Wednesdays, May 27–Oct 28 (4–7 p.m.)

Howard County has also published a list showing what produce is available during each month [HERE](#).



Columbia Card = DISCOUNT

If you live on CA-assessed property but aren't a CA member, you can request a free Columbia Card to access CA facilities at a reduced, pay-as-you-go rate. As a Columbia Cardholder, you'll get discounts at CA's pools, tennis courts, and golf courses, as well as on group fitness classes and kids' programs.

SUMMER BONUS: Columbia Cardholders receive 4 single-use guest passes per family on their Columbia Cardholder accounts. These guest passes are automatically added. The passes can be used at any of CA's 23 outdoor pools throughout the summer, Monday – Thursday only (excluding Holidays). They cannot be used at other Columbia Association facilities or programs.

To get your Columbia Card, please fill out the form [here](#). You can also reach out to CA's Customer Care Team via email at CustomerCare@ColumbiaAssociation.org or by calling 410-730-1801, option 6.

Hickory Ridge Community Association Upcoming Meetings

September 17: CARES meeting *

October 7: RAC meeting *

October 12: Board meeting*

October 21: RAC 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.

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 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."](#)



Columbia Association Board of Directors

Call or submit a rental inquiry for more information.

[Submit Inquiry](#)

Want to know the latest about what's going on at Columbia Association? Check out our [CA Rep's monthly report](#).



Columbia Association Mapping & Geographic Information Systems

Check out the new Mapping & Geographic Information System (GIS) Resources page for Columbia Association! You can download maps, discover interactive apps and use the information provided to explore the Columbia community. Find tot lots, fun

activities, pool information and more! Find out information about Open Space projects and download maps and other information.

[Discover CA Here!](#)



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](#).

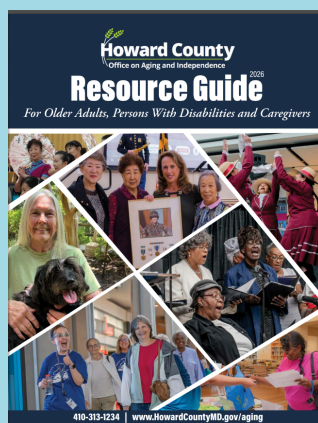
[Crime Statistics Map](#)



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](#)



A Smarter Way to Age in Place

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**.

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

To apply to the program:

[Homeowner Application](#)

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



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.

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



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.

Please note that the list below are individuals with experience and interest in baby sitting but are not vetted by this office.

Baby sitter List

*Gloribeth "Glory" Gancedo: 305-224-2095

*Kailyn Shaw: kailynshaw@yahoo.com

*Zandi Jera: sunsetjera@yahoo.com

*Shamiso Dzvairo: sunsetjera@yahoo.com

*Jae Johnson: 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

*Beth Roberts:
bcaitlyn1.8@gmail.com

*Skye Anderson
skkyebird48@yahoo.com
410-960-7327

*Jos Dumont: jos.pierre.dumont@gmail.com

*Sofia Blose 410-707-0332

*Christine Chen:
NH8ChristineS@gmail.com

*Carolina Stiefel: 443-467-5811

*Sydney Daniel: danielsydney75@gmail.com

*Kasey LaWall: 301-275-4623

*Le'Mia Tyree: lemia.tyree@gmail.com

*Mia Fatuzzo: miaholdenfatuzzo@gmail.com

*Aisha Bamidele: aisha_bamidele@yahoo.com

*Yocheved Englander: 443-574-5332

*Daynisha Holloway: daynishah@yahoo.com

*Hermione Bransford: chelsinoelle@gmail.com

*Daphne Richardson: 443-750-1151

*Grace (Stevie) Brown:
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.





Call 988 for emergency emotional support.
Safe, supportive, confidential. Available 24/7.



Asking All The Questions

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



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.

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/ and click on the Dashboard. You can view various projects, access, and requests currently taking place on CA Open Space.

Paid Advertisements

We offer very affordable advertising rates! For information on placing an advertisement in The Log, please email manager@hickoryridgevillage.org.

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

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

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

Mariah Robertson, Chair

Shane Lease, Vice Chair

Skye Anderson

Mark Covington

Lynn Hannan

CA Representative

Micajah McGarity

Village Staff

Laura Mayton, Village Manager

Tania Tavares, Covenant Advisor

Devora Wilkinson, Covenant Advisor

Beth Roberts, Events Coordinator

Heather Harvanek, Facility Coordinator

Beth Roberts, Office Assistant

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

Please note: fees may apply.



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



Try email & social marketing for free!