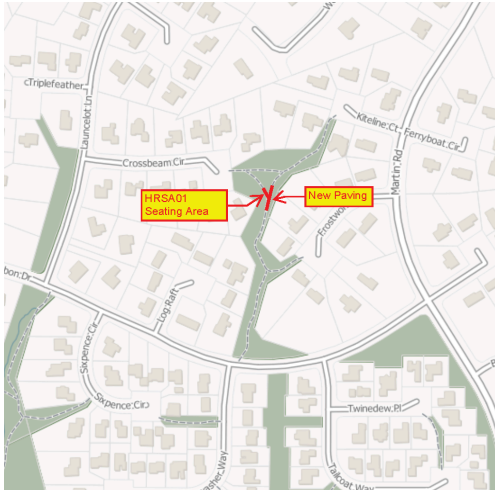


The LOG Newsletter
September 17, 2026

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

[Follow us!](#)



HRSA01 Seating Area Installation

Columbia Association has a contractor that will be paving the pathways around the new HRSA01 seating area. The project is expected to begin during the week of 9/21/26 and be completed within 30 days, weather permitting. Please see the attached map for the approximate location of the paving. After the pathway is paved, a landscape contractor will backfill and stabilize the areas adjacent to the pathway. Signs will be posted to notify the public. The pathway will have limited access during working hours but will remain open.



How Do You Display an American Flag?

Have you wondered how to properly display your American flag? We thought that it would be helpful to share some tips on flag etiquette.

The US flag should never be displayed so that any part of it touches the ground. If a flag is flown 24 hours a day, it should be illuminated, according to the Federal Flag Code, Section 2, Paragraph (a). (Displaying the Flag/Special Rules and Illumination Guidelines)

[Find flag etiquette information here!](#)

[Find the flag's status here.](#)

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.*



Cub Scout Pack 720 is Recruiting

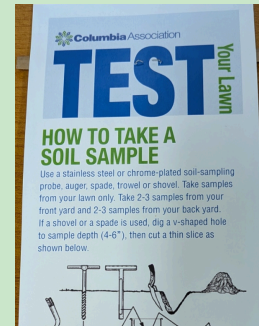
Fun with a purpose. Camping, fishing, hiking, and life skills. Adventure awaits your son and/or daughter at Cub Scout Pack 720! K-5th grade. Serves Swansfield and Running Brook students. Contact Cubmaster Josh White at jmwhite0610@gmail.com to find out more!

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:

- Sept. 18 - Super Mario Galaxy
- Sept. 25 - Moana – Live Action
- 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.](#)

The Author Next Door at The Hawthorn Center

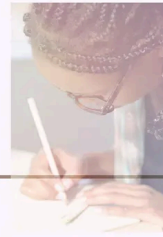
The Little Patuxent Review will sponsor its third “Author Next Door” evening. HCC professor George Clack (and Hickory Ridge resident) will interview two local authors: romance novelist Rebecca Coleman and biographer Jeffrey Boutwell. This will be a highly

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!

LITTLE
PINKY
REVIEW JOIN US FOR

THE
AUTHOR
NEXT
DOOR



RSVP Here

Smart Salting!

Do you know of a property that gets oversalted in the winter months? The Maryland Department of the Environment is looking for property managers, business owners, landscaping companies, and other private contractors and salt applicators who maintain parking lots, driveways, and sidewalks in the winter to participate in the Smart Salting: Enhanced Winter Maintenance Training this fall



The goal of this program is to reduce winter salt pollution from parking lots, driveways, and sidewalks. More information, including how to register, is available here:

[Maryland Department of the Environment Smart Salting Course](#)

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.



Watershed Wise from the Watershed Resident Advisory Panel at Columbia Association

National Nitrate Pollution Awareness Week is July 26 thru August 1st.

Nitrate is a naturally occurring compound made up of nitrogen and oxygen which is essential for plants.

Squirrels, Opossums and Raccoons, OH MY

In suburban Maryland local wildlife has adapted remarkably well to residential environments. While we are able to view many wildlife in our backyards, their dwellings are typically shielded from view.

What do we know about dwellings in general? Tree-dwelling species, such as the Eastern

Unfortunately, human activities (e.g., lawn and plant fertilization, pet waste, poorly maintained septic systems) add more nitrogen than plants and soils can use or retain.

Since nitrate is soluble in water, rain and irrigation can wash nitrate into our waterways or allow it to soak into groundwater.

Excess nitrate not only impacts our environment (algal blooms, fish kills, and “dead zones” like the one in our Chesapeake Bay), it also poses a serious risk to human health. Cancer, thyroid disease, and birth defects can all be caused by consumption of drinking water containing high nitrate levels.

[Click here for more information and to learn what you can do.](#)



gray squirrel, construct leafy, spherical nests known as dreys, or might hide in tree cavities or attic spaces in the cold winter. Nomadic animals, like the Virginia opossum, rely on temporary shelters, carrying leaves and grass in their prehensile tails to form homes under the deck, in woodpiles, or on the shed floor. Raccoons often relocate every few days to avoid predators and parasites. Subterranean species, such as the red and gray fox, often build dens using abandoned groundhog burrows. The most complex underground architects are the Eastern chipmunks, who design elaborate burrow systems that extend as long as 30 feet.

Homeowners seeking to protect the integrity of their own dwellings can blend friendly exclusion methods around the house with specialized natural habitats farther within the yard. A few options include wire fencing around decks, capping chimneys, installing dryer vent guards, and closing openings along the side of any soffits or shed foundations. At the same time, a quiet brush pile or line of trees at the edge of the property can give wildlife a safe hiding place outdoors.

For more information see the [Maryland DNR Backyard Wildlife & Living with Squirrels Guide](#) and across the [Maryland DNR Mammals Directory](#). Additionally, you might enjoy Lynne Rae Perkins’ fictional *Nuts to You*, a fun portrayal of squirrels’ culture, and two non-fiction works, Catherine Raven’s memoir *Fox and I*, and Halsey Berryman’s *Pests & Other Friends*.



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!

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!



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:



- 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](#).



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!



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. 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 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

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.](#)

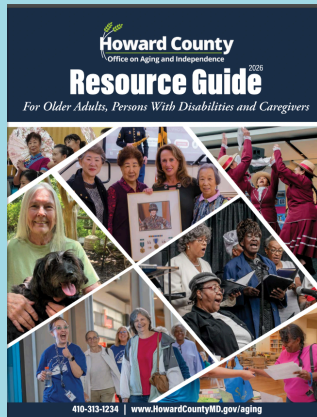
[Crime Statistics Map](#)



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](#)



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.



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

Pick up a copy at your local 50+ Center or view the **2026 Resource Guide online.**

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

*Jae Johnson: 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

*Beth Roberts:
bcaitynl.8@gmail.com

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



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

*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.

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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

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.



[Our Company](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

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

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