The LOG Newsletter
November 19, 2026

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

Follow us!

Wishing you a wonderfully delicious and joy-filled Thanksgiving holiday!

Please note that The Hawthorn Center will close at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, November 25th, and will reopen on Monday, November 30th.

We look forward to welcoming you back after the holiday!





Needed: Columbia Council Representative

Help Shape the Future of Columbia!

Micajah McGarity, the current Columbia Council Representative to the Columbia Association Board of Directors, is resigning from the position effective December 1, 2026. Hickory Ridge is grateful to Micajah for his dedication to the role and his leadership.

The Hickory Ridge Village Board is seeking letters of interest from residents interested in serving as the Hickory Ridge Columbia Council Representative on the Columbia Association Board of Directors through remainder of the current term ending April 30, 2027.

This is a unique opportunity to be a voice for Hickory Ridge and contribute to decisions that affect the quality of life, programs, services, and future direction of Columbia. As a member of the Columbia Association (CA) Board, you will prepare for and attend both Village Board and CA Board meetings.If you are committed to community service, collaborative leadership, and helping fulfill Columbia Association's mission, we encourage you to apply.

Questions? Contact Laura Mayton at **manager@hickoryridgevillage.org** or 410-730-7327.

To apply: Submit a letter of interest to **manager@hickoryridgevillage.org** by **TOMORROW, Friday, November 20, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.**

Interviews: Monday, November 23, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.The Hawthorn Center6175 Sunny Spring

Eligibility: Applicants must reside on Columbia Association-assessed property within Hickory Ridge.

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 2027 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!

Abiding Savior Toy Giveaway



Mark your calendar for the 3rd Annual PreLoved Toy Giveaway for children ages 1 day to 18 years! No registration required - just come!

Saturday, December 12, 10 am - 12 pm
Abiding Savior Lutheran Church
10689 Owen Brown Road, Columbia, 21044

- Offering gently used toys, stuffies, books, games, and puzzles.
- Please bring tote bags to take home the treasures!
- Adults only preferred; no children in the giveaway room. If you bring your children, they can write holiday cards in the sanctuary.
- Please do not open any bags or boxes. All items offered have been checked for safety and completeness.

Have any items to donate? Please drop off to Kim Lowe's house almost anytime - leave on front porch. 6072 Sunny Spring, Columbia, MD 21044.

Need community service hours? Kim needs volunteers on:
- Friday, December 11, 3 pm - 5 pm to set up the room.
- Saturday, December 12, 9 am - 1 pm for set up, giveaway, and clean up.
Kim welcome teens, adults, and children between 8-12 with an adult present.

Any questions? Contact Kim Lowe, sos.aloha@yahoo.com

Hickory Ridge Community

Questions for CARES Committee?

Association Upcoming Meetings

November 23: Special Board meeting - Columbia Council interviews
December 14: Board meeting *
December 16: 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

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.**

Make a Difference with Ripple Effect!

Ripple Effect, a new Columbia Association (CA) project, invites residents to monitor local streams and ponds for two important pollutants: chloride from winter road salt and nitrate from fertilizers and other sources. By collecting and testing water samples, volunteers will help CA better understand local water-quality conditions and identify where education and outreach could make a difference.

No water-testing experience is needed! CA will provide testing kits, with everything you need. You'll gain practical experience, learn more about the health of Columbia's waterways, and contribute valuable local data. Every volunteer can help create a ripple of positive change for our community and the environment!

Ready to get involved? Whether you can help regularly or just for a while, your participation matters. Join us at the **Hickory Ridge Village Board meeting** on December 14th to learn more

and get started with your free kit or contact **Sustainability@columbiaassociation.org** to get involved. Volunteers from across Columbia are welcome!



Fall Leaves: What to do?

Do you know the most environmentally-friendly way to deal with leaves in your yard is to mow them?

If you don't mulch the leaves by mowing, please remember to dispose of your raked leaves properly. Leaves and yard waste can be recycled on your regular recycling pickup day.

Here are some helpful tips to keep in mind:

- Yard waste must be placed in paper bags or reusable containers. No plastic bags. The green bin is a great place for leaves!
- Do not rake or blow leaves into the street. It is a violation of the Howard County code and Howard County does not collect them.
- Please do not dump your leaves and yard debris onto CA Open Space.

Thank you for keeping Hickory Ridge beautiful!

Who Takes Care of the Area Outside My Fence? (Spoiler Alert - You Do.)



If the back or side of your property abuts road in the Village, please remember that it is your responsibility to mow and maintain the grassy area between the sidewalk and curb, including the area around street trees. This is true even if your property is wooded. Remember to clear the leaves and snow from the sidewalk, too!



If you have questions about whether this applies to you, please contact the Village office and we can help you clarify your responsibility.

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:

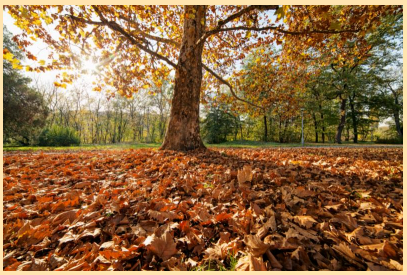
- Friday, November 20
- Wednesday, December 16

To read the full article, click **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!

Our Colorful Pathways In Hickory Ridge



As autumn days shorten and cool, trees stop producing chlorophyll, revealing yellow and orange carotenoids and prompting red and purple anthocyanins. Native plants create a vibrant, layered habitat from canopy to garden bed, while evergreens provide contrast.

The Top of the Canopy

- Tulip Poplar (Liriodendron tulipifera): This tall tree changes early, its tulip-shaped leaves turning golden yellow.
- Oak (Quercus spp.): Native White and Northern Red Oaks turn red, copper, and bronze in late autumn and produce acorns for wildlife.
- Maple (Acer spp.): Native Red and Sugar Maples blaze scarlet, orange, and amber.

Middle Canopy & Understory: Spring Favorites with Autumn Color

- Flowering Dogwood (Cornus florida): Its foliage turns crimson and burgundy, while glossy red berries feed migratory birds.
- Eastern Redbud (Cercis canadensis): Its heart-shaped leaves turn canary yellow and golden bronze.
- Hawthorn (Crataegus spp.): Native hawthorns add gold, orange, and reddish-purple foliage, plus red berries that persist into winter.

Compact Yard Accents

- American Beautyberry (Callicarpa americana): Yellow-bronze foliage and violet-purple berries feed songbirds.

Contrasting Evergreens

- Native Eastern White Pine (Pinus strobus) and Eastern Redcedar (Juniperus virginiana) contrast with autumn colors and shelter songbirds and small mammals in winter.

For further reading, try Lois Ehlert's children's book Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf or Richard Powers's Pulitzer Prize–winning novel Overstory. Find local guidance from the **University of Maryland, Extension** and the **Maryland Arborist Association**.

Managing Autumn Leaves: Waterways and Wildlife

Managing fallen leaves requires a balance between protecting local waterways and supporting yard ecosystems. You can keep leaves away from curbs, driveways, and storm drains, where they can clog infrastructure and release excess nutrients into the Chesapeake Bay watershed. At the same time, you can leave a layer of leaf litter in garden beds or areas of your yard to shelter beneficial insects, pollinators, and other wildlife through winter.

What's in your yard and neighborhood? Do you have a favorite native autumn tree?

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.

Join Us

Mondays Community Walk

hickory ridge

www.hickoryridgevillage.com



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

FREE!

Questions? Call
410-730-7327

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!



Pets welcome!

SWANSFIELD ELEMENTARY
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

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.

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.



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

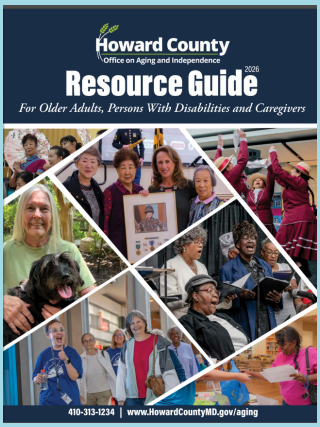
Howard County has interactive maps with information about properties and neighborhoods. One is the Crime Statistics map. It used to be that the Howard County Police would have to put these statistics together for us, but now they are available at our fingertips. **Check out the Crime Statistics map.**

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.

Crime Statistics Map

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.

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

HoCo Home Share

A Smarter Way to Age in Place

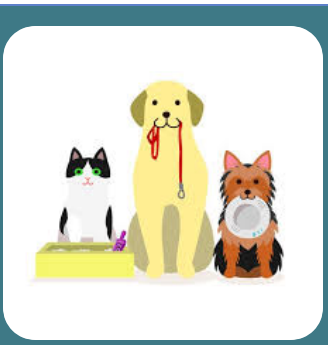
Need a place to live, but looking to make a connection? Want a roommate, but not sure how to start?

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

To apply to the program:
Homeowner Application
Home Seeker (Renter) Application



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.

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:
bcaitlynl.8@gmail.com

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

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
We're here to help

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**.

SeeClickFix

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.

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

See Click Fix

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
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
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.

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

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Constant Contact

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