THE hickory ridge LOG

Hickory Ridge
The Hawthorn Center
6175 Sunny Spring

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

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

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 meet neighbors and support local democracy!

Stay Social!

Want to know what's happening in Hickory Ridge? Follow us @hickoryridgevillage! To receive the e-newsletter, scan the QR code at the top of this newsletter or go to bit.ly/3GyJja5 to sign up!

Winter Artisan Market



Sunday, November 15, 2026
2:00pm – 5:00pm
The Hawthorn Center

Looking for beautiful homemade goods for the holidays? This Market feature clothing, home decor, jewelry & more from local artisans. No fee to shop!

Fall Puzzle Night



Friday, November 20, 2026
6:30pm – 9:00pm
The Hawthorn Center

Join us for a cozy evening of competitive puzzling! Teams will have two hours to complete a 500-piece, fall themed puzzle.

Teams of 2, $20 per team, sign up using the QR code above! Ages 18+, or 16+ with an adult.

Join the Resident Architectural Committee!

Are you interested in the architecture in Hickory Ridge? Join the Resident Architectural Committee (RAC)! The RAC reviews the 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 virtually on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 7:30pm. In addition, RAC members visit up to four neighborhood properties in the week before the meeting as part of the review process. Interested? Email Tania at applications@hickoryridgevillage.org.



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 CA at Sustainability@columbiaassociation.org to learn more.

Managing Autumn Leaves: Waterways and Wildlife

Managing fallen leaves can be tricky, but it doesn't have to be! Leaves can be harmful to our waterways, but they can positively impact a lawn. Keep leaves away from curbs, driveways, and storm drains, where they can clog infrastructure and release excess nutrients into the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Instead, use collected leaves in garden beds to shelter beneficial insects, pollinators, and other wildlife through winter.



Our Colorful Pathways

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.

Village Staff

Laura Mayton, Village Manager
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Ellen Roberts, Facility Assistant
Erica Carpio, Facility Assistant
Daniel Nairn, Facility Assistant
John Pongracz, Facility Assistant
Bianca Smalls, Facility Assistant

Thank You!

All 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 manager@hickoryridgevillage.org for more information!

Village Office Services

- Information about the Village
- Resale packets (also available on website)
- Compliance requests
- Covenant inquires
- Exterior Alteration Applications
- Copies
- Notary Public (by appointment only)
- Banquet Room social rentals
- Conference room meeting rentals

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!



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

The Hawthorn Center

Host a party, seminar, baby shower or other celebration at The Hawthorn Center! Rent The banquet room or conference room for weekday and evening meetings. 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

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HICKORY RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION