

1999

Hickory Farms

Newsletter Archive

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- February 1999

The Hickory Farms Newsletter

Hickory Farms Homeowners Association
P.O. Box 2239 Fairfax, VA 22031-2239

February 8, 1999 Vol. 2 /99

Hickory Farms Community Association 1999 Assessment Notice Pay by February 26, 1999

During the 1998 Hickory Farms Community Association (HFCA) Annual Meeting, the outgoing Board of Directors recommended a budget for 1999 which was subsequently approved by the 1999 Board of Directors. That budget provided for an annual assessment of \$80.00. Last year two members of the association failed to pay their assessment and legal action was taken by the Board to obtain payment and to protect everyone's rights. We all hope that will not be necessary this year!

The HFCA is committed to maintaining and improving the quality of life in Hickory Farms, to maintaining our property values and to resolving issues of concern to our neighbors. Assessments are collected in accordance with the by-laws to cover expenses such as common ground maintenance, the neighborhood watch program, insurance, and other costs of managing and operating your Association.

The assessment of \$80.00 is due February 26, 1999. In order to help conserve your Association's financial resources, it is important that your payment is received on time since additional notices are costly. In fairness to the majority of the homeowners who make their payments on time, the Board has approved (in accordance with the by-laws and as in prior years) imposing a **late fee of \$25.00 if dues are not paid by March 31, 1999.**

If you are not the property owner, and are not responsible for paying the assessment, we would appreciate your forwarding this notice to the property owner promptly.

Please complete the coupon below, detach it and mail it with your check for \$80.00 to HFCA, P.O. Box 2239, Fairfax, VA 22031-2239.

1999 HFCA ANNUAL DUES

Dues are payable by February 26, 1999. Please make checks payable to HFCA. The address is:

HFCA, P.O. Box 2239, Fairfax, VA 22031-2239

Your Name: _____

Lot Number: _____

Address: _____

Delinquency date is March 31, 1999.

Thank you!!

1999 HFCA Board of Directors

The HFCA Board of Directors meets monthly. Please call any board member for additional information or to have an issue discussed at the board meeting. Please note that you can also reach most HFCA members via e-mail. The table below now includes e-mail addresses for board members so send them questions or comments, on-line! The next meeting will on February 16th at 7:30 p.m.

1998 HFCA Board Members

President	Pete Scala	764-0730	pscala@pop.erols.com
Vice President	Tom Herring	764-5886	tunnaship@aol.com
Treasurer	Kathy Bethany	503-8574	kcbethan@erols.com
Secretary	Sean Coleman	503-1031	cwlaw@erols.com
Grounds	John Morrison	503-3633	jmorri6768@aol.com
Neighborhood Watch	Bruce Bernhardt	426-9446	bnbnjb96@bellatlantic.net
Architectural Control	Chuck Stewart		73203.1400@compuserve.com
Welcome Wagon	MaryBeth Pernicano	425-5003	

4344
corner
of
still need

Crime Report

Roving Crime Reporter

As you know, Hickory Farms is a very safe, low-crime neighborhood. Our location and the Neighborhood Watch help keep us that way. However, *we need more participation in Neighborhood Watch, and we need everyone to be good neighbors and report to the police when you see unusual or suspicious activity or people.* Further, to ensure we get good police attention, when there are problems, we need to report them to the police. The police keep tabs on what's happening in different neighborhoods, and allocate their patrols accordingly. And despite everyone's efforts, we still have problems sometimes. Let's learn from them.

Recently a neighborhood house was burglarized in broad daylight. On a school day. The police told the homeowner that there had been several burglaries in this district lately. In this case the burglar(s) were frustrated by a bar on the sliding glass doors, but were able to pop the lock on a window in back.

A simple technique to keep people from being able to pop open your windows with a screwdriver is to drill a hole through the center two sashes and put a long screw in the hole. Or you can put a stick in each window.

Another good technique is to get a home security system. The local big companies (Guardian, ADT, Brinks, etc) often have specials where you can get a simple installation, covering all the doors and an infrared area monitor, for a few hundred dollars or less. Then you have to pay about \$25/month for monitoring. We have such a system in our house, and it gives us considerable peace of mind, knowing that if the alarm goes off (and we've had that happen when we first got the system!) someone will call in about a minute – and without the password, the police will be dispatched. Or you could get a dog.

For other home security ideas, there are some good books in the library. A friend of ours, Helen Maxwell, (don't worry, we don't get a commission) wrote a very good book on home security called "Home Safe Home/How to Safeguard Your Home and Family Against Break-Ins" that you might want to check out. If you can't find it in a library, it can be ordered from New Horizon Press, P.O. Box 669, Far Hills, NJ 07931, or you can find it at <<http://www.amazon.com>> on the internet for \$11.16. No, I DON'T get a commission! I swear!

Got Any Feedback on Local Contractors?

Pete Scala

As part of our effort to get group rates for services like roof repairs, as discussed in my article elsewhere in this fine newsletter, we're looking for feedback from people who have had work done in a number of areas. If you can recommend a contractor or give us information about the one who did your work, you'll be helping out your neighbors. We will also check with BBB.

Give me a call or drop me a line (phone number and e-mail address elsewhere in the article, or you can send me snail mail at 4313 Still Meadow Rd).

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH SCHEDULE

As a reminder, the following is the neighborhood watch schedule for the next few weeks. **We need additional volunteers for the watch!!** Help make our neighborhood safer. Please call Bruce Bernhardt at (703) 426-9446.

Watch Date	Watch Partner	Watch Partner
Fri. Feb. 5	Rich Pernicano	Steve Mathews
Sat. Feb. 6	Jay Kistler	John Morrison
Fri. Feb. 12	Dave McIntyre	Joyce McIntyre
Sat. Feb. 13	Bob Cosgriff	Don Klingemann
Fri. Feb. 19	Bob Wright	Donna Wright
Sat. Feb. 20	Bob Sottile	Lee Sottile
Fri. Feb. 26	Angel Meza	Jason Meza
Sat. Feb. 27	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg
Fri. Mar. 5	Sean Coleman	Claire Coleman
Sat. Mar. 6	Tom Short	Ron Arnold
Fri. Mar. 12	Ginny Herchert	Brenda Denny
Sat. Mar. 13	Tom Barrett	Pam Barrett
Fri. Mar. 19	Kirk Randall	Bill Galinas
Sat. Mar. 20	Jeff Lindsay	Larry Rogers
Fri. Mar. 26	Dave Maurer	Ed Wagner
Sat. Mar. 27	Alfonso Acosta	Alex Acosta
Fri. Apr. 2	Pete Scala	Rose Scala
Sat. Apr. 3	Bruce Bernhardt	Nancy Bernhardt
Fri. Apr. 9	Steve Lobb	George Rosenkranz
Sat. Apr. 10	Eric Maribojoc	Clarissa Dacanay

Spring and Summer Work Project Planning

Pete Scala

Okay, it's time to start thinking about ways to lower your bank account balance while at the same time keeping the house and lot in shape . . .

Chuck Stewart (Architectural Control) and I will be working on getting good group rates in a number of areas, if anyone is interested. And to make this work, we need to hear from you in the next several months. You can reach me by phone or e-mail, and you can reach Chuck by e-mail (see Board Member section elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter) if you are interested. Unfortunately, last year nobody was interested until June, when I started getting calls, one or two at a time. If they all would have called in March or April, we could have gotten good group rates. But by the time five had called, the first four had already had the work done.

Anyway, we're looking at things like:

Chimney cleaning	Lawn service
Roof replacement	Driveway sealing/replacement
Siding replacement	Window/door/shutter replacement
Fencing	Basement leak-proofing
Gutter replacement	Shed building
Siding or deck power-wash	Home Security Services

So if you are interested, give us a call.

Properties Sold in '98

Hickory Farms

Unit No./ Address	List Price	Sold Price	Model
4369 FARM HOUSE	\$182,000	\$177,000	CAPE COD
4324 STILL MEADOW RD	\$194,900	\$187,000	HARVESTER
10116 ROUND TOP CT	\$242,000	\$232,000	SWEETBRIAR
4356 FARM HOUSE LN	\$208,888	\$206,500	HARVESTER + DEN
4324 FARM HOUSE LN	\$219,900	\$217,500	WHEATFIELD
4338 FARM HOUSE LN	\$229,888	\$227,000	EXPANDED KIT/FAM
10014 COTTON FARM RD	\$204,900	\$175,000	HARVESTER
4326 STILL MEADOW RD	\$224,888	\$223,950	COUNTRY SQUIRE
4357 FARM HOUSE LANE	\$219,990	\$207,000	COUNTRY SQUIRE
10015 COTTON FARM RD	\$204,000	\$200,000	HARVESTER
4379 HARVESTER FARM LN	\$239,888	\$236,750	CHATEAU
10027 WHEATFIELD CT	\$234,900	\$231,000	COUNTRY SQUIRE

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Barbara Sipos
RE/MAX Choice
703-978-9400 Ext.41

Beltway Improvement Plans Briefed

Pete Scala

At the January Braddock District Council meeting we got a briefing from VDoT and others about the status of the Beltway improvement project you may have heard about. This briefing was given at the request of Sharon Bulova, our District Supervisor, who had attended one of the farces that VDoT calls a public hearing (more accurately described as a PR show). This was solely an information briefing, with no decision expected. In fact this is a fairly long range project, which will start as the "mixing bowl" project in Springfield is finishing up, and will take many years to finish.

To their credit, the VDoT representatives were very forthright. They showed plans for two intersections, Rt 236 and 495 and Braddock Rd and 495. There were two options shown for each interchange. VDoT is looking at a number of alternatives to alleviate the cross traffic (traffic that isn't going in or out of DC, but around it) congestion that is predicted. In their studies, they have virtually eliminated all alternatives except for adding HOV lanes and making Express lanes. There is still some discussion of buses and light rail, but in my opinion VDoT didn't seem serious about them.

HOV lanes would be added based on the hope that people will all of a sudden start commuting in groups of three or more (although the national trend as well as the local trend seems to be going in the opposite way – too bad for the environment). Express lanes would be intended for people going from north of DC to south of DC and vice versa, rather than local traffic. For both local HOV traffic and express traffic there would be limited access; Braddock Rd and Tyson's corner would be two interchanges that HOV and express traffic could use. There would of course be others, but 236 wasn't one of them.

Considerations for the designs of the two intersections included noise abatement, traffic volume, traffic flow, and environmental impact. Also, there are several houses near the interchanges that would have to be condemned. VDoT was initially advised by the EPA that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be appropriate. When VDoT informed the EPA of the scope of the planned work, however, the EPA representative agreed that only an Environmental Assessment (EA) would be necessary. The VDoT representatives somewhat disingenuously presented the EA as virtually the same as an EIS. However, since they're so eager to do an EA instead of an EIS, most of us suspected that there was a significant penalty to doing an EIS. Certainly, in the Navy we've found that EISs usually take twice as long to do and can cost many times as much as EAs. But maybe highway projects are different. In any event, it did appear from the plans we were shown that VDoT is going to minimize any impact on the environment other than the noise, air pollution and other heavy machinery impacts that will be felt during work.

If you want to find out more about this project, look on the web at the following address:
http://project1.parsons.com/capital_beltway/. There will be a public information meeting at Churchill Elementary School in McLean on February 9th, too.

Proposed Schedule for 1999

The Board of Directors has tentatively decided on the following schedule of events for the association during 1999.

February 28	Dues are Due
May 1	Spring Clean-up (Rain date May 8)
May 15	Spring Fling (Rain: May 22)
September 4	Fall Block Party (Rain: Sep 11)
September 18	Fall Clean-up (Rain: Sep 25)
October 12/13 or 19/20	Annual Meeting

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