

# **2001**

## **Hickory Farms**

### **Newsletter Archive**

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# Hickory Farms News

Hickory Farms Community Association

P.O. Box 2239

Fairfax, VA 22031-2239

April 2001

## Message from the President

*by Bob Cosgriff*

Spring has sprung and in keeping with Hickory Farms tradition, we will be holding two neighborhood-wide social events in early May. First is the Spring Cleanup on Saturday, May 5. I encourage you to meet with Grounds Committee Chair Bill Galinis at the corner of Farm House Lane and Cotton Farm Road at 9:00 a.m. Bill will provide assignments to help in the upper common ground, lower common ground, creek, north black path and entrances. Tasks will include mulching trees, trimming branches, picking up litter and planting flowers. We hope to be done by noon, but with 20 yards of mulch to spread, we might go a wee bit over. No problem—spend what time you can, since every helping hand will make a difference. If you are unable to join the working party, then consider dedicating time on that date to sprucing up your own property.

The next event is the annual Spring Fling, to be held in the upper common grounds (near the grove of trees), starting at 1:00 p.m. and going to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, 12 May. This is a great chance to come out and meet your neighbors. We particularly encourage all the new residents (those moving in during the last two years or so) to join us. The HFCA will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, soda and condiments. We ask that you bring a dish (salad, dessert, chips and dips, etc.) to share. We have a lot of neighbors with origins in many other countries. We invite you to bring a dish from your native cooking tradition to complement the usual American cook-out menu to make this a Spring Fling with an “international flavor.” *(continued on page 2)*



### Mark Your Calendar!

**Spring Cleanup Saturday, May 5, 9 a.m.- noon.**

*(Raindate: Sunday, May 6, 9 a.m.- noon)*

**Meet at Cotton Farm Rd. and Farm House Ln.**

**Spring Fling Saturday, May 12, 1 - 4 p.m.**

*(Raindate: Sunday, May 13, 1 - 4 p.m.)*

**Upper Common Grounds**

## Message from the President (cont'd)

On a final note, although there have been only a handful of homes up for sale in Hickory Farms so far this year, they are commanding some pretty impressive prices. We will undoubtedly break the \$300,000 barrier this year. This validates our assertion that Hickory Farms is perhaps the best value in central Fairfax. To ensure that our property values continue to rise, we all need to do everything we can as a community and a neighborhood to keep our homes and streets looking their best.

We have a very good grounds service to do the common areas, including the Burke Station Road and Roberts Road frontages. I hope you have already noticed the difference there. But the real key is with each and every homeowner. We can make the biggest difference by doing just a few small things around our own property: edge lawns, paint trim, plant flowers, keep fences in good repair, etc. The Covenants spell out the legal requirements for appearance. The ACC helps to explain these rules, approve improvements and, where necessary, to enforce the standards of appearance. Bob and Lee Sottile are doing a great job for the neighborhood as co-chairs of this committee.

Once again, what we are asking for is what is termed "pride of ownership," which motivates people to go beyond the bare minimum requirements to make their property special. In this way, visitors and potential buyers will be impressed and we will all enjoy the special beauty of our special neighborhood. Pride of ownership will ensure that property values continue to rise; conversely, absence of it will take value out of our neighborhood. We would like to see every house in Hickory Farms be a home of distinction. Let's see what we can do this year to make that goal happen.

We may, in fact, have some new neighbors soon. Bluebirds have been spotted in the lower common grounds and appear to be building in more than one box. We'll keep you posted. Please do not approach too close to the boxes during this critical time. You can get a good view from the benches just up the hill. Happy Spring!

### Hickory Farms Community Association Board

<b>President</b>	Bob Cosgriff	703-764-0720
<b>Vice-President</b>	Pam Barrett	703-978-2132
<b>Secretary</b>	Rita Mullin	703-323-6904
<b>Treasurer</b>	Chuck Bethany	703-503-8574
<b>Grounds</b>	Bill Galinis	703-426-4569
<b>Architectural Review</b>	Bob & Lee Sottile	703-978-1122
<b>Neighborhood Watch</b>	Kathy Gillette	703-503-3158

## Treasurer's Update

*By Chuck Bethany*

Thanks to all of you who paid your annual assessment so promptly this year. We had a record year. Only four homeowners failed to pay on time. Each has received a letter from the HFCA reminding them of their obligation and the additional late fee that is now due.

Our annual assessment is one of the lowest in the area and is used primarily to keep the common areas maintained. The common areas are one of the features that distinguish Hickory Farms and contribute to our quality of life here. Thank you for your support.

## Hickory Farms Spring Clean-Up

*By Bill Galinis*

Warm weather is returning, baseball season is underway, and plans are being finalized for the Hickory Farms Spring Clean-Up. This year's neighborhood spring clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. If that time and /or day is inconvenient, I will be coordinating a work list that families and neighbors can "sign up" for, to work when your schedule permits. A sign-up form is provided below. It's a great opportunity for the kids to earn community service hours for their church or school. Spend a couple of hours on a community activity that will directly affect the area we live in—make it a family affair! Many of us were first drawn to Hickory Farms because of the neighborhood's appearance. Help us maintain that look. Don't leave this up to just a few of our neighbors. Take some time and help out.

Some of the tasks we plan to accomplish during neighborhood clean-up are:

1. Spread mulch around the entranceway flowerbeds and the common areas. We will have mulch delivered a day or two prior to May 5<sup>th</sup>.
2. Pick-up trash in and along the neighbor common areas. Bags will be provided.
3. Trim trees/brush in the common areas and along the paths on the property.
4. Install an erosion barrier on the wooded path along the south end of the property.
5. Spend some time sprucing up the old homestead—cleaning up leaves left over from the winter, trimming grass, and doing that "spring cleaning thing."

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### Hickory Farms Spring Clean-Up Sign-Up Form for Tasks to Do on Your Own Schedule

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Job / Activity** \_\_\_\_\_

If you have other suggestions, please let me know and they will be included on our work list. Please return this form to Bill Galinis, 4280 Country Squire Lane, or call Bill at 703-426-4569.

# Community Notes

## • **Architectural Review**

*by Bob and Lee Sottile*

The Committee has approved the following property alterations:

- 10031 Wheatfield Ct.—an extension of fence on rear of property;
- 4313 Still Meadow Rd.—painting of the shutters, front door and storage shed;
- 4320 Still Meadow Rd.—construction of a 12' x 20' wooded deck on the rear of your home;
- 10005 Cotton Farm Rd.—painting of the shutters and front door.

Everyone is reminded that all applications for review must be submitted no less than 30 days prior to the planned start date of the project. Please factor this into your planning. Information concerning what does and does not require review are contained on the backside of the application which a copy of is included elsewhere in this newsletter. If you need any assistance, please contact one of the ACC members.

Bob and Lee Sottile, co-chairpersons

Jeff Bush

Bob Montgomery

George Rosenkranz

## • **Welcome Wagon**

*By Ginny Herchert*

With the weather turning warmer and more pleasant, more of us will have the opportunity to meet and welcome some of Hickory Farms' newest residents.

- **Nemat and Naz Sharif** have moved into 10014 Cotton Farm Rd. from Annandale along with their six-year-old daughter Media and their son Chalang, also six.
- **Peri and Seri Singh** are our new neighbors at 4334 Still Meadow Rd. They have moved to Hickory Farms from Alexandria with their daughter, Shanti, age 2.

## • **Keeping Hickory Farms Clean**

*By Bob Cosgriff*

When you put out newspapers and plastic milk containers to recycle, ensure that they will not blow all over the neighborhood (as happened on Tuesday, 4/19, covering an entire block with the Post, and a few milk cartons to boot). This is not just our rule, but the trash service's and the county's as well. Tip of the hat to Tom Herring, who cleaned up the papers.

**Found:** on 4/19, one large dark green Rubbermaid wheeled trash container, containing some yard debris. To claim, contact Bob Cosgriff (in front of whose house it showed up early one morning. It was probably not the wind that deposited it there . . .)

# Neighborhood Watch

by Kathy Gillette

- **Burglary Statistics**

In Fairfax County statistics for 1999, there were 1,573 burglaries. Of these, 911 occurred during the hours of 6am to 6pm! (652 happened between the hours of 6pm and 6am, and 10 were unknown.) The trend continued in 2000 (statistics are not available yet), and other neighborhoods in the West Springfield district continually get hit by burglaries. It has been proven that Neighborhood Watches keep crime rates down in the areas that have them. Hickory Farms residents should continue to watch out for their neighbors so we can keep our neighborhood safe.

- **Stolen Bike**

A bike was stolen from a carport on Tumbleweed Court during the week of April 1. Please call Kathy Gillette (703-503-3158) if you have any information in regards to this. Remember to lock down your bikes when they are not in use.

- **Reminders for Neighborhood Watch Members**

At the March 28 training session for Neighborhood Watch, the following reminders were given by our Crime Prevention Officers:

- Report any suspicious activity.
- Do not pursue vehicles or suspects.
- Do not attempt to enforce traffic rules.
- Vary your route.
- No weapons of any kind are allowed by Neighborhood Watch.

The main thing to remember when you are doing your Watch is that you are there to make passive observations and communicate any suspicious activity to the police.

## May Neighborhood Watch Schedule

Friday	April 27	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Saturday	April 28	Kirk Randall	Jim Garfield
Friday	May 4	Bob Cosgriff	Don Klingemann
Saturday	May 5	Tom Barrett	Pam Barrett
Friday	May 11	Charles Walters	Ron Arnold
Saturday	May 12	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg
Friday	May 18	Jim Lindsay	Larry Rogers
Saturday	May 19	Jeff Maurer	Ed Wagner
Friday	May 25	Rich Pernicano	Steve Mathews
Saturday	May 26	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz

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## Vice President's Corner

*By Pam Barrett*

- **Braddock District Council News**

On March 13, 2001, the monthly meeting of the Braddock District Council was held at Supervisor Sharon Bulova's Office. The meeting featured a presentation on the proposed Fairfax County Fiscal Year 2002 budget by County Executive Anthony Griffin and County Chief Financial Officer Ed Long.

Mr. Griffin used a version of the PowerPoint presentation that was delivered to the County Board of Supervisors as his background, but rather than simply reading that presentation, he focused on issues that were of interest to the Council, issues that were likely to be controversial, and issues that were attracting media attention. These included the revenue generated by higher assessed value of real property and the County transferral of funds to the Fairfax County School Board.

He explained that the recent increase in assessed property value was the result of an impartial assessment, conducted independent of County control. The rate at which property is taxed has not increased, but the County benefits from increased revenue as the result of the increased assessed value.

The county is proposing to transfer \$1.06 *billion* to Fairfax County Public Schools for School Operations. This amount is less than the \$1.09 billion requested by the School Board, a 10.8% increase over FY 2001. The level of State support to the Schools for FY 2002 is uncertain. This amount is in addition to other services provided to the Schools, including \$104.8 million in debt service, and \$44.1 million in new State mandated expenses, including additional Public Health Nurses and an expanded Substance Abuse Program.

Mr. Griffin was candid in his discussion of the budget situation. He said that he recognized that there would never be enough money to satisfy all interests, and that the County, in order to remain competitive, could not expect to substantially increase revenues. Fairfax County is trying to make the most of all available resources.

- ***Legislative Update: A Report on the the Richmond Session***

The next important date to mark on your calendar is the April 2001 Braddock District Council Meeting featuring our state legislators reporting on their recently concluded law-making activity. It will be held **at Supervisor Sharon Bulova's office, Chapel Square Center, 4414 Holborn Ave. on Tuesday April 24. Be there at 7:30 PM** and bring your questions to obtain answers from your state Legislators!

Call **703-425-9300** for more details or directions.



# Hickory Farms

Hickory Farms Community Association

P.O. Box 2239

Fairfax, VA 22031-2239

May 2001

## Message from the President

*by Bob Cosgriff*

Springtime is always a busy time for the community, as people begin to beautify their property, whether through gardening, applying a new coat of paint to the trim or putting on a deck or other addition. HFCA likewise has a busy spring, with two major events: the annual Spring Clean-up of the Common Grounds and the Spring Fling. This year, we were blessed with beautiful weather on consecutive weekends and we had a great turnout for both events. It takes a lot of behind-the-scenes planning to make these two community endeavors work. I would like to thank the board members, particularly Bill Galinis for organizing the Clean-up, and Pam Barrett, Bob and Lee Sottile and Rita Mullin for their contributions to the Spring Fling. And I'd like to thank all the neighbors who turned out to help improve the appearance of our community.

Things should slow down a little over the summer. However, upkeep of yards and homes is an on-going proposition. The ACC, assisted by some other board and community members, will be doing a walk-around in early June to get a sense of the general state of compliance with our HFCA covenants. Of particular interest will be lawns (are they mowed, trimmed and neatly edged?), carports (are they cluttered beyond normal usage?), fences (are they in good repair?), attic vents and shutters (are they installed, in good repair and painted?). We would ask that you step outside and give your own property a self-assessment on these items. One way to look at it is would you like to buy the house next to your house, based on how your house appears from the curb? This is exactly the test that potential buyers and realtors use when looking at properties. And of course they will look at all the other houses up and down the street too.

After our walk-around, we will address any serious deficiencies with homeowners involved and offer suggestions on how to remedy them. We will also note in the July newsletters homes that are "Hickory Farms Homes of Distinction" based on overall excellence in exterior maintenance of house and yard. We really hope the latter list will be much longer than the former.

Please take the time to read the other articles in the newsletter. This has traditionally been our main way of communicating with everyone. However, we now have another high-tech way, via a new website. Hats off to Bob Sottile for doing the research and getting this set up. His article will tell you the particulars of how to log on and keep up with neighborhood news via the Internet. This should prove to be a really good way to pass the word, especially if something comes up between newsletters.



### **Message from the President (cont'd)**

That's it for this month. Next month, we will give you the semi-annual update on how we have been doing in meeting the goals spelled out in our 2000 Mission and Vision Statement, which is guiding us this year as well. Happy Summer.

### **Arrivederci, Hickory Farms!!**

We are losing two neighbors who are, by coincidence, both moving to Naples, Italy.

- Clare Coleman, who works for the State Department, has been assigned to the U.S. Consulate there; she and Sean left in late April for a three-year tour.
- CDR Tom Nicholas has been assigned as the Public Works Officer at the Naval Support Activity in Naples. He, Ingrid and their two children will depart in July. Inasmuch as they have sold their house on Harvester Farm Lane, they will be leaving Hickory Farms for good. We wish Sean and Clare, and Tom and Ingrid the best for their new adventure in la bella Napoli. Ciao!!

### **Important Announcement Concerning AAA Trash Service**

You probably have received a notice in the mail concerning an increase in rates. This DOES NOT apply to Hickory Farms members, who have the benefit of a two-year, fixed-rate agreement of \$48.75 per quarter. You probably received a bill reflecting the increase. Please call AAA at the Customer Service Number to ensure that they adjust your account.

I have addressed this issue directly with AAA Management on more than one occasion, but for some reason, we still got the letter and erroneous bills. I'll keep trying to clear this up; in the meantime, pay only the agreed amount \$48.75 per quarter. You can also contact the Customer Service Manager, Ms. Brenda Cockrell at [bcockrell@aaatrash.com](mailto:bcockrell@aaatrash.com). Perhaps if she gets enough e-mails, she will get the notifications and billing changes stopped.

If you have already paid the additional fee, please contact AAA so they can credit your account.

#### **Hickory Farms Community Association Board**

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<b>Welcome Wagon</b>	Ginny Herchert	703-978-0783

# Neighborhood Watch

*by Kathy Gillette*

## Home Security Tips

- Lock all doors and windows when you are not at home.
- If you are working or relaxing in your backyard, lock all doors and windows in the front of your home. Make sure that any unlocked doors or windows are within your view when you are working in the yard.
- Close garage doors when you are not actively going in or out of the garage.
- Install a deadbolt lock in the door from the garage to the house. Easy access to a garage provides a potential burglar with sufficient time unobserved to enter a door that is not secured with a deadbolt.

## Neighborhood Watch Schedule

Friday	May 25	Rich Pernicano	Steve Matthews
Saturday	May 26	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz
Friday	June 1	Eric Manbojoc	Clarissa Dacanay
Saturday	June 2	Pete Scala	Rose Scala
Friday	June 8	Stan Lee	Jim Marshall
Saturday	June 9	Robert Cooke	Leonna Cooke
Friday	June 15	Dave McIntyre	Joyce McIntyre

## Hickory Farms Launches Website

*By Bob Sottile*

As you probably know, one of the biggest challenges for any community is establishing effective communication. Work, family, friends, and hobbies all contribute to a busy lifestyle that leaves little time for direct communication. The Internet, though, is now making it easier and more convenient for people to communicate with each other on their own schedule.

We want to be a part of this more advanced and convenient form of communication, so our community has taken the plunge and set up an Internet web site. Rather than spend precious time and money developing the site ourselves, we have chosen to work with a company called CommunityPath.com.

CommunityPath.com, Inc. is the leading provider of interactive web sites, or "community intranets," for communities, and they are now providing us with our official web site. The

site offers us an abundant range of powerful tools and ensures privacy in our communications that will better serve all our community needs. The following are a few tools and benefits that we feel will be very useful.

**Privacy** - Our site is safe and secure. Only members of our community can access it. CommunityPath.com requires every user to register so that our appointed site administrator can verify that you are a resident of this community. With this kind of privacy we can freely discuss sensitive issues, post articles, and share private information that only members of our community need to know.

**Calendar** - Now you can post and read descriptions of upcoming events in the community. The Calendar feature allows the board and registered users to post events on the calendar for all the residents to see. Events are marked on a monthly calendar, and you can click on it to read about the details of the event. You can post anything from an upcoming PTA meeting to an upcoming high school football game.

**News Articles** - In addition to regional and national articles of interest, we can add local news stories to our site. This tool also allows us to put items from our newsletter online. Since we can now do this on the Internet, we will always be updated with the most current issues in our community. As a board, we won't have to wait for the next printing of the newsletter to inform you of important news and information about our community. Also, when we need to get urgent news out, it will be highlighted right at the top of the home page for every registered user to see when they log in.

**Bulletin Board** - Post a notice, get a babysitter, or find a tennis partner. The Bulletin Board is where our residents can interact with the site and with each other. Anyone who has registered with our site can post messages about anything of interest to the community. Are you having a garage sale? Invite your neighbors. Are you having an open BBQ? Let us know. It's a great way to keep in touch with your neighbors on your schedule.

**Instant Survey** - Weigh in on issues without having to attend meetings or write letters. The Instant Survey is one of the most powerful tools for our community. It allows us to get an accurate reading on issues in a matter of days or even hours. Let your views be known and see if the majority agrees with you. It will give us a very accurate picture of our community's position on an issue in a democratic forum.

**Member Discounts** - Benefit from membership in your community by taking advantage of discounts on services and products that have been negotiated by CommunityPath.com. Discounts include items like high speed Internet access.

**Community Favorites** - Find local vendors through the Community Favorites section. You can find a local restaurant, specialty store or product, or identify a painter, cleaners, plumber or any other type of service person that works in our area and find out what your neighbors think of their product or service before calling.

We hope that you take the time to sign on to our community intranet and check out the site. The board, as a representative of our community, is putting valuable time and effort into the site. With your participation and support, we are sure that this new site will play a key part in improving our communications and our community life for years to come. We look forward to seeing all of you online.

You can log onto our site by going to [www.communitypath.com](http://www.communitypath.com) and inputting our zip code (22032) in the yellow "join in three easy steps" box. Select "Hickory Farms," enter your email address and hit continue. Please contact Bob Sottile if you have any questions about how to register online. Welcome to our Intranet!

## **Thanks to All Who Helped with the Spring Clean-Up**

*By Bill Galinis*

The neighborhood Spring Clean-Up was held on Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup>. We had a very good turn out and I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all those who donated their time and effort to make this event a success. In particular, I would like to thank Bob Cosgriff, Chuck Bethany and Bob Sottile, who put in additional hours outside of the scheduled clean-up time to complete several additional items.

During the clean-up we were able to:

- Trim a number of trees in common areas.
- Clean out several gardens including removing vines and overgrown brush.
- Pick up trash throughout the property including the common areas and the many paths and walkways on the property.
- Clean up the entrances on Burke Station and Roberts Road.
- Clean out and plant new flowers in the entrance gardens off Burke Station and Roberts Road.
- Spread new mulch around many trees and several gardens throughout the property (including the entrance ways).

Thanks again to all that participated and worked to improve the appearance of Hickory Farms. There will be a follow-up to this clean-up in the July time frame to remove several large trees that have fallen or been cut down in the common areas. Look for information on this in the next newsletter.



### **Fly the Flag Proudly**

The next few months bring several holidays that call for flying the U.S. flag. First, Memorial Day on May 28, then Flag Day on June 14 and finally Independence Day on July

4. We encourage everyone to "buy and fly" the flag for these meaningful holidays that are very much a part of the American tradition. Let's make Hickory Farms a neighborhood of flags on these days and all Federal holidays.

## Community Notes

### • Graduation News

We would like to congratulate all Hickory Farms graduates. We need your help to ensure that we include everyone, so if you know of someone who is graduating, please let us know. This month is college graduation time and we have two graduates to acknowledge:

- **Reena Rao**, daughter of Satish and Suchetha Rao (Tumbleweed Court): Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Toronto, with honors.
- **Patrick Kiechlin** (Wheatfield Court): Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from James Madison University.

Next month, we will list High School graduates and any other college grads who come to our notice. Please let any Board member know about your graduates—and their future plans.

### • Welcome Wagon

*By Ginny Herchert*

Welcome Wagon has had the opportunity to meet some new neighbors on Farm House Lane and to fill them in on the history of Hickory Farms and what life is like here in central Fairfax County.

- **Richard (Dick) Sowa** comes to our neighborhood from the Seattle area after a one-year stay in Ballston. Dick lives at 4324 Farm House.
- **Carol Patterson** and her daughter **Brittany** have been living here since the Fall. A lifelong resident of Fairfax County, Carol is enjoying home ownership in Hickory Farms. Carol and Brittany live at 4365 Farm House.

Welcome to the neighborhood!

### • Thank-You from the 4-H Club

**Chad Reynolds** and **Ran Li**, both of Hickory Farms, want to thank all the Hickory Farms residents who kindly donated teddy bears during a drive sponsored by the Fairfax County 4-H Ambassadors. Their club won the contest for collecting the most bears, which will be donated to Family Services of Virginia to be distributed to foster children.

### • Congratulations

Congratulations to **Brenda-Leigh Denny** (Country Squire Lane), who took part in the 23rd Annual Cherry Blossom Invitational at the Mt. Vernon Ice Rink in Alexandria in late April. Skating in her first "finals" competition, she earned fourth place in her initial skate and 15th overall in the juvenile level comprising 66 skaters. Good luck in future competitions, Brenda-Leigh.

*Share your accomplishments with us. We'll put them in the next Hickory Farms newsletter. Please let any Board member know or forward them to Rita Mullin at 703-323-6904 or via e-mail at [rita\\_mullin@discovery.com](mailto:rita_mullin@discovery.com).*

## **Architectural Review**

*By Lee Sottile*

During the next few weeks members of the Board of Directors and several of your neighbors will be conducting a walk-through of our neighborhood. If you are interested in participating in this walk-through please contact Lee Sottile at 703-978-1122.

Now is the time of year when that dreaded task of mowing the lawn becomes a necessary chore. The following is an excerpt from the County Code concerning lawn maintenance.

Code County of Fairfax, Virginia

Codified through Ord No. 44-00-G-9 adopted Dec 11,2000. (Supplement No 82, 12-00)

Chapter 119. Grass or Lawn Area 1

Article 3. Regulations and Procedures.

Section 119-3-1. Prohibited grass or lawn area height.

“(a) Developed Residential Property: It shall be unlawful for any owner of any occupied residential lot or parcel which is less than one-half acre (21,780 square feet) or any vacant developed residential lot or parcel which is less than one-half acre (21,780 square feet) to permit the growth of any grass or lawn area to reach more than twelve (12) inches in height/length.

If the lawn is in violation of the above code, the owner of the property is notified to correct the situation. If this is not done the county will come and cut the grass. The owner of the property will then be charged for the cost and expenses and may receive an additional fine of \$100.00.”

Please remember that lawn debris is not to be disposed of in any common area and that trash receptacles and lawn debris are not to be placed along the street until the night before pickup and all receptacles must be removed the day of pickup.

## **Cleaning Up Around Our Homes**

*By Bill Galinis*

In addition to the community clean-up, I noticed several folks who took the opportunity to clean up around their own property. This is *much appreciated*. As I mentioned in a previous newsletter, many of us were initially drawn to this area by its appearance. As citizens of this community, it's incumbent upon all of us to maintain our property as well as the areas in which we live.

For those of us who haven't be able to spend as much time sprucing up around our homes as we would like, I would encourage us all to make the effort to do so. Keeping the grass mowed (especially with all the rain we've had recently) can certainly be a challenge during the spring and early summer timeframes. Lawns should be mowed before the grass gets to a height of 6 inches. Additionally, take a look at carports and other open areas. If these areas are full of trash or create an unsightly appearance, let's clean them up. It shouldn't take our neighbors to point out our deficiencies in this area.

Okay, I'm off my soapbox. For the most part, we all do a great job in keeping up the appearance of our homes. For those of us who could do a little better, let's take make the extra effort and keep Hickory Farms one of the best neighborhoods in the area!



# Hickory Farms News

Hickory Farms Community Association

P.O. Box 2239

Fairfax, VA 22031-2239

June 2001

## Message from the President

*by Bob Cosgriff*

As promised in the last newsletter, here is the HFCA "2001 mid-term report" on how we are doing as a Board and a community towards the goals that were spelled out in the January newsletter.

**1. Maintain the physical attractiveness of the neighborhood:** We have placed emphasis on this goal in every newsletter, both in the President's Corner and in the ACC article. As promised in previous newsletters, members of the Board and the ACC did a walk-around of the neighborhood on Sunday, 24 June, to take a "snapshot" of appearance and compliance. We were looking for the obvious things. The results were generally pretty good. The great majority of homes showed compliance with the Covenants governing property upkeep and appearance. Some homes had only one noticeable departure from the standards, and a small fraction of homes had more than one departure from the standards. Shutters, broken or missing vents, lawn mowing/edging, weeding and trimming and carparks seemed to head the list of those areas where just a little more attention would make a big difference in the top-to-bottom appearance of Hickory Farms. In addition to notifying homeowners in cases of discrepancies, we also wanted to point out "homes of distinction" where certain neighbors have done an exemplary job of maintenance and beautification (see separate list in this newsletter). These latter homes are an excellent example of what all houses could—and should—look like. ACC co-Chairs Bob and Lee Sottile continue to do a great job working with homeowners who want to make improvements to their property, and thus to the neighborhood as a whole. Grounds Chair Bill Galinis and an enthusiastic group of volunteers performed an excellent Spring Clean-up in May. Our grounds service is doing a great job and we added to the contract the care of the Burke Station Road and Robert Road frontages. With home prices moving steadily upwards (we have had three houses go for 300K+ already this year and another just listed in low \$300's), it is imperative that all of us do everything we can to keep our neighborhood looking its best.

**2. Protect, preserve and where appropriate, enhance the common grounds:** We've already mentioned the very successful Spring Cleanup. Bill Galinis is going to organize a follow-up project of removing some of the trees that were cut last year in the lower common ground. Speaking of that area, we had bluebirds look it over, but apparently they were driven off by English Sparrows. However, we had our first-ever nesting of a Tree Swallow, a very beautiful and beneficial insect-eating bird. We are investigating ways to eliminate the standing water problem in the lower common ground near the black path behind 10007 Cotton Farm Road. We may need to install a type of drainage system there to let the water percolate down. We may also get the County Arborist to come to Hickory Farms to give us an overall assessment on our trees and ways to eliminate some of the invasive plants (including poison ivy) that are choking out more desirable trees.

**3. Increasing the participation of residents in community events.** This seems to be going fine, with the Neighborhood Watch picking up a few new members to replace some of the folks who have moved this year. Welcome Wagon representative Ginny Herchert has met with several new neighbors and created interest in our activities. We had a nice turnout for the cleanup and the Spring Fling the following week. We will be working on the Community Yard Sale in September (Pete Scala is the organizer), and hope to increase participation over last year's successful event. We'd like to thank everyone who paid the 2001 dues on time: we have almost no



## Message from the President (cont'd)

"collection" problems this year. A tip of the hat to Treasurer Chuck Bethany for so capably running the financial duties, such as collecting the dues, paying vendors and getting VPOAA packages into the hands of neighbors who are selling their homes.

**4. Continue our strong working relationship with Supervisor Bulova.** This year, we don't have all the drama we did last year with the cemetery issue (for an update of this, see the separate article elsewhere). However, we do have a storm water run-off problem that is affecting two residents at the end of Wheatfield Court. We have had two on-site meetings (for some reason, both were in the rain). Sharon's land-use guru, Florence Naeve, once again has helped nudge this along (although the budget battle has made this stretch out a bit longer than we would have liked). We will have another meeting at Sharon's office on 28 June. We'll keep you posted on this project, because when it starts, part of the northern "black path" will be closed for a while. We have received word that VDOT has approved a 3-way stop-sign for Cotton Farm/Still Meadow. Sharon has promised her support for this when it goes to the Board of Supervisors for approval under the "cut through traffic abatement" program. We should see the signs later this summer. Board VP Pam Barrett continues to participate in Braddock District Council (BDC) meetings, representing HFCA. As of 1 July, Pam will be the Chair of the County's Disabilities Service Board. We were represented at the annual BDC Barbeque at Supervisor Bulova's office earlier this month. This was a good way to maintain neighborhood visibility and also to show our thanks to Sharon for her help. We haven't had any issues to discuss with School Board representative Tessie Wilson this year, but did monitor the School Budget process, since it affected Woodson High School. There will be a bond issue for schools on the ballot this Fall.

**5. Maintaining the peace and safety of the neighborhood through Neighborhood Watch and cooperation with the FCPD:** We have had a few minor incidents of vandalism (mailboxes, egging, TP-ing, etc.) but by-and-large, Hickory Farms continues to be a tranquil and safe place to live. Our thanks to Watch Coordinator Kathy Gillette and all the members of the Neighborhood Watch for their efforts in making this happen. As noted above, we should soon have a new stop sign at Cotton Farm/Still Meadow. This should help with cut-through traffic. There is also a school bus stop there, so stop signs make sense.

**6. Ensuring that the Board is open, responsive and consistent in carrying out its legal requirements:** You are the judge of this. If you have any concerns, or have not received a prompt answer to a question, let me know. As you can tell by this and other newsletters, each Board Member is working hard to take care of the business of the community in a 'user-friendly' way. The biggest and best way we have to keep everyone informed is this newsletter. Board Secretary and newsletter editor Rita Mullin is doing a great job in getting this put together and out on time each month. We also have another way to pass the word with our website, which can be found at "communitypath.com." You will have to log in with a password of your choosing. The site is secure and your name/e-mail, etc. doesn't go to third parties. Bob Sottile gets the credit for making this happen. Please visit the site soon. We have had forty-eight neighbors already log in. *(continued on page 3)*

### Hickory Farms Community Association Board

<b>President</b>	Bob Cosgriff	703-764-0720
<b>Vice-President</b>	Pam Barrett	703-978-2132
<b>Secretary</b>	Rita Mullin	703-323-6904
<b>Treasurer</b>	Chuck Bethany	703-503-8574
<b>Grounds</b>	Bill Galinis	703-426-4569
<b>Architectural Review</b>	Bob & Lee Sottile	703-978-1122
<b>Neighborhood Watch</b>	Kathy Gillette	703-503-3158
<b>Welcome Wagon</b>	Ginny Herchert	703-978-0783



### **Message from the President (cont'd)**

So that's the status at mid-year. We on the Board look forward to the second half of 2001 and hope that we will have more good news to report at the Annual Meeting in October. This meeting will probably be in the new community meeting room in Supervisor Bulova's new office next to the Kings Park Library on Burke Lake Road (just off Rolling Road, one block south of Braddock Road). We'll keep you posted as to the exact time and place. I'll put in a plug at this point: please think about being on the Board yourself next year. It's a great way to get to meet people and make a difference in your community. We have to have a slate by September to present at the Annual Meeting. I would expect some of the current members will step down since most have served two years. The greater the participation, the better the neighborhood. So please think about it over the summer and contact a Board member if interested.

Finally, have a great Fourth of July to celebrate our nation's 225<sup>th</sup> year of independence. We hope to see lots of flags flying on our country's birthday.

## **Congratulations Recent Graduates**

*We congratulate all these graduates on their accomplishments and wish them the best in their future endeavors. If you have a graduate, or know a graduate, and would like to share the good news, please contact a Board member with the information.*

### ***College Graduates***

- **David Gutierrez** (Harvester Farm Lane). BA in Education from Virginia Tech
- **Mark Gutierrez** (Harvester Farm Lane) BS in Materials Engineering from Virginia Tech
- **Doug Klingemann** (Harvester Farm Lane). BS in Aerospace Engineering from Virginia Tech. Doug is working for Ball Aerospace in Boulder, CO.

### ***High School Graduates***

#### ***From Fairfax High School:***

- **Patrick Connolly** (Tumbleweed Court). Patrick is employed by Mount Vernon-Lee Enterprises.

#### ***From Woodson High School:***

- **Tom Ferrara** (Farm House Lane). Tom plans to attend Virginia Military Institute (VMI).
- **Andrew Gurry** (Farm House Lane). Andrew left for Army Reserves boot camp right after graduation. He hopes to attend George Mason University after completing his training.
- **Faith Hall** (Farm House Lane). Faith will attend George Mason with plans to transfer to UVA after one year to pursue pre-med studies.
- **Ran Li** (Still Meadow Road). Ran will be attending Virginia Tech.
- **Forrest Mathews** (Spinning Wheel Court). Forrest will attend James Madison University.
- **Billy Morrison** (Farm House Lane). Billy will attend Northern Virginia Community College (Annandale campus).
- **Vien Nguyen** (Farm House Lane). Vien will attend William and Mary as a James Monroe Scholar.
- **Chad Reynolds** (Farm House Lane). Chad will be attending the University of Virginia. Wise campus.
- **Allison Wagner** (Harvester Farm Lane). Allison will enroll in Virginia Tech to study engineering. We also note that Allison was selected "All-Met Honorable Mention" in girl's soccer.

# Neighborhood Watch

*by Kathy Gillette*

- **Makeup of Your Neighborhood Watch**

There are 198 houses in the Hickory Farms neighborhood. Fifty-seven concerned people are regularly doing Neighborhood Watch patrol. Of these, there are 13 married couples, two father/son teams, eight teams of neighbors who are unrelated and team up with another neighbor, 11 people who like to meet new people and have not opted to have a regular partner, and four people who substitute for Neighborhood Watch. Thanks to the participants.

Please call Kathy Gillette at 703-503-3158 if you are interested in joining Hickory Farms' Neighborhood Watch team.

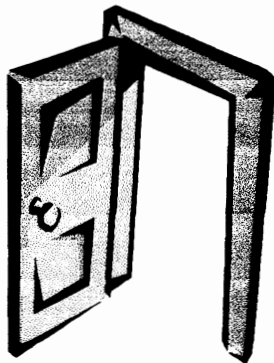
- **Welcome to New and Returning Members!**

Please welcome our new watch members, Jerry Tumelty and Jaime Gutierrez. And welcome back to Bob and Nancy Bentley!

- **July-December Schedule Goes Out**

Neighborhood Watch members should be receiving the watch schedule for July 2001-December 2001 within a few days. Please call Kathy Gillette at 703-503-3158 if you have any changes/corrections.

Friday	July 6	Larry Russe	Chris Russe
Saturday	July 7	Eric Mondschein	Bob Wright
Friday	July 13	Greg Gillette	Kathy Gillette
Saturday	July 14	Jay Kistler	John Morrison
Friday	July 20	Pingjun Li	Jin Wang
Saturday	July 21	Bob Sottile	Lee Sottile
Friday	July 27	Dave McIntyre	Joyce McIntyre
Saturday	July 28	Kirk Randall	Jerry Tumelty
Friday	August 3	Bill Galinis	Diana Galinis
Saturday	August 4	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay



## Free Home Security Inspections!!

A trained Fairfax County Police Officer will inspect the locks, doors, and windows of your home with you. Exterior lighting, landscaping, and other factors affecting the protection of your home from burglary will also be reviewed. You can arrange for a free inspection by calling 703-644-5026.

# Vice President's Corner

by Pam Barrett

- **Good News from Supervisor Sharon Bulova**

As discussed in previous newsletters, this year's county budget included a \$23 million shortfall between what the County Executive included in his budget and what the Fairfax County School Board requested. At the April 23 Board of Supervisors meeting, the Board shifted \$17 million from the county to our schools to bridge the gap. The School Budget will have to reprioritize spending to meet the budget minus the remaining \$7 million.

- **Virginia Legislative Update**

The topic for the April 24 Braddock District Council Meeting was the Legislative Update. Our Senators Leslie Byrne and Dick Saslaw, and Delegates Jim Dillard, Jack Rust and Vivian Watts gave a presentation on what happened in Richmond during the last Session.

The message was "there is still no budget agreement and it may not be possible to get one" (Senator Saslaw). Apparently it all boils down to "car tax or not to car tax." Originally the charge to the state when the car tax was fully eliminated was to be \$625 million per year. However, with the 45% car tax reduction of the current budget, it is already costing the state \$525 million. The cost at 100% phase out is being projected at \$1.3 billion.

One of the big targets for cuts would be the state universities, which are already funded way below other states. For example, while North Carolina funds its state universities at the level of \$14,000 per student, Virginia funds its universities at the rate of \$6,500 per student.

Senator Byrne told us the car tax is a "stupid" tax and expensive to administer, but its elimination requires the legislature to take money from one pocket to put into another. What is needed is a new revenue source for the localities that could entirely replace the revenue that will be lost from the car tax. One option would be to piggyback state income tax with a set percentage designated for the resident's locality.

Other issues Senator Byrne discussed were her bill to raise the net worth amount below which retirees may apply for tax relief and the need to address the over crowding of residential properties.

In many cases, increased real estate value and the value of IRAs and pensions make it appear that seniors on fixed incomes are wealthier than they really are, and they are taxed out of their homes. Her bill to raise the net worth amount for seniors would help alleviate this problem.

To address the issue of overcrowding of residential properties, she introduced a bill to allow the building code to define what is a bedroom. Senator Byrne felt the bill was misrepresented in *The Washington Post*, and consequently voted down. She intends to reintroduce another version in the next Session.

Delegate Dillard had worked on a compromise between the House and the Senate to move the current 45% reduction of the car tax to 70% elimination. However, this was found not acceptable because the parties still could not find a way to fund state programs.

He was personally very disappointed that the effort to get a sales tax referendum to benefit localities for education and transportation was killed in the House, despite commitments by many delegates who did not follow through, or even show up for the vote.

Delegate Watts said that much of our current dilemma is due to the state's unwillingness to raise state sales tax during high growth years when many other states did. Now, with pressure to cut taxes further, the state simply cannot afford to cut the already low tax rate (Virginia ranks 47th in the country for state income tax)

and at the same time continue to fund its growing needs. She also was concerned about the state's continuing ability to fund health care and maintain minimum federal standards for nursing home staffing.

Delegate Rust was the lone dissenter on the subject of retaining the car tax or finding other revenue sources, and expressed support for its elimination and the Governor's budget. He believed a workable budget would eventually result without raising taxes to recoup any revenue shortfalls.

## Community News

### Welcome Wagon

by *Gimmy Herchert*

- **Ann and John Morrison** have recently moved into 4352 Harvester Farm Lane with their four daughters, Christine, age 14, Katie, age 13, Colleen, age 10, and Kelly, age 8. John is in the Army. They come to Fairfax from Fort Hood, Texas. As teenagers John and Ann attended Fairfax County high schools and then attended James Madison University.
- **Mike Donnelly and Candy Johnson** and their children David, age 14, and Marie, age 11, have recently moved into 10007 Cotton Farm Road. Mike is in the Navy. They come to Virginia from Yokosuka, Japan.
- **Bob and Sharon Mikula** are very pleased to be living in Hickory Farms, at 4344 Still Meadow Road. They had been living in Fairfax City before coming to our neighborhood.
- **Ken and Stacy Danger** have recently moved into 4320 Farm House Lane from the Kingstowne area of Fairfax County. They have two young daughters, Ilana, age 5, and Isabel, age 1.

Please make sure to say hello to these new neighbors and make them feel very welcome in Hickory Farms.

### Community Updates

- The Maloney family would like to thank our Hickory Farms neighbors for all of their fundraising support for our childrens' activities. Claire has been the top fundraiser for her Girl Scout troop for the past 5 years due to her sales of Girl Scout cookies. Brian and Stephen have been among the top fundraisers for Fairfax Little League for the past 3 years due to Bat-a-thon pledges and sponsors. Your support has certainly gone a long way for these worthwhile causes. Thank you!
- On Sunday, May 20th at the 2001 May Day Open Figuring Skating Competition, Brenda-Leigh Denny received a Gold Medal for her performance in Juvenile Compulsory Moves. This USFSA sanctioned competition was held at the Gardens Ice House in Laurel Maryland. Brenda-Leigh competed against 13 skaters (which included 2 boys!)
- Farewell to our neighbors who are leaving Hickory Farms: Nathan and Kate Clukey (Farm House Ln.), Tom and Barbara Herring (Still Meadow Rd.) and Bernie and Lola Boehm (Cotton Farm).

*Have an announcement you'd like included in the next issue of Hickory Farms News? Contact any Board member or send your article directly to [rita\\_mullin@discovery.com](mailto:rita_mullin@discovery.com).*

## Fairfax Memorial Park Update

*by Bob Cosgriff*

As you know, the Board of Zoning Appeals last year approved the construction of a funeral home/mausoleum/crematory on the grounds of the Fairfax Memorial Park. As part of the approval process, the cemetery was directed to put up a wall on the back (northern side) of the building. Based on citizen input, the cemetery came up with a modified plan to shield the building with a berm and trees, instead of a fence. They have gone through the process with the County Arborist and with the surrounding homeowners' associations. I have been to two meetings on this. The plan is a good one and will create a nice bit of landscaping to buffer the proposed building from the north side. The cemetery is going before the BZA later this month to request modification of their Special Permit to install this berm and trees as directed by the Country Arborist. Construction on the building will probably not commence before 2002, because the cemetery has to work out several other site-plan issues with the County staff. They will also be constructing a continuation of the path that currently runs north from the Burke Station Road entrance. The continuation will go from the entrance to Braddock Road and tie into the sidewalk there. That will give Hickory Farms residents a safe walking path in either direction. They have established a surety bond for the project and have 18 months to do it.

We'll keep you posted on any other cemetery news.

## A Note About Noise

*by Bob Cosgriff*

The Fairfax County Noise Ordinance "promotes an environment for county citizens that is free from noise that jeopardizes their health or welfare or degrades the quality of life." Businesses and individuals are required to comply with these restrictions. Some specific prohibitions are:

Activity	Prohibited	
	From	To
1) Operating exterior loudspeakers and amplifiers	11 p.m.	7 a.m.
2) Operating construction equipment (outdoors)	9 p.m.	7 a.m.
3) Operating construction equipment (outdoors) on Sundays and federal holidays	9 p.m.	9 a.m.
4) Repairing vehicles or equipment (outdoors)	9 p.m.	7 a.m.
5) Operating powered model vehicles (outdoors)	9 p.m.	7 a.m.
6) Truck loading/unloading (outdoors)	9 p.m.	6 a.m.
7) Refuse collection in residential neighborhoods	9 p.m.	6 a.m.

(Note: recently AAA came through on a few occasions as early as 5:15 a.m.. The Board President called the company to object, and they said they would notify the route manager to prevent a recurrence. We will monitor the situation and take action as warranted).

The following guidance is from county sources: TV, radio, musical instruments and animals that howl, bark, meow or squawk frequently and habitually are declared a disturbance *any time* when plainly audible across property lines or through partitions. **We have had two cases of this come up just in the last couple of weeks, prompting this article.** To register a complaint, contact the county's Zoning Enforcement Branch at (703) 324-1300 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. During non-business hours, please call the Public Safety non-emergency number at (703) 691-2131.

Obviously, using common sense and courtesy will go a long way toward keeping our neighborhood the peaceful and quiet place that it always has been. Before calling the county or the Board, discuss any possible breach of the rules, e.g., early hours, weekends, etc., (and the list above is not exhaustive) with the neighbor or business that caused it. This usually solves the problem and maintains good relations all around.

## Architectural Review

*By Lee Sottile*

Several members of the Architectural Control Committee and Board of Directors did a complete walk-through of the neighborhood on June 24, 2001. For the most part the neighborhood looks very nice. There are some areas of concern, however. Many homes have missing or broken vents, shutters in need of repair or replacement, and trim that needs to be painted. The homes in our neighborhood are anywhere from 20 to 25 years old, and several roofs should be replaced. Letters will be sent to the home owners notifying them of any area of concern.

Other homes and their yards really stood out for their home maintenance and landscaping. Please take time to walk past the homes listed below as Hickory Farms Homes of Distinction. Congratulations to these owners for their contributions to making Hickory Farms such a fine neighborhood.

**A note about satellite dishes:** As satellite dishes become more popular, please be aware that the dish is considered an antenna and must be installed on the roof.

If you are submitting a request for review to the ACC, please remember to allow 30 days for the committee to process the request. When talking to a contractor about your project don't take the word of the contractor about the need for a building permit from Fairfax County. Check out this for yourself. A simple phone call could save you many hours of aggravation later. Please refer to the back of the ACC request form for guidance on whether or not your intended project needs an ACC review. Please feel free to contact us at 703-978-1122 for any assistance.



### **Hickory Farms 2001 Homes of Distinction**

**10015 Cotton Farm Road *Vince and Jennifer Tricarico***

**4336 Farm House Lane *Noel and Charlotte Clinger***

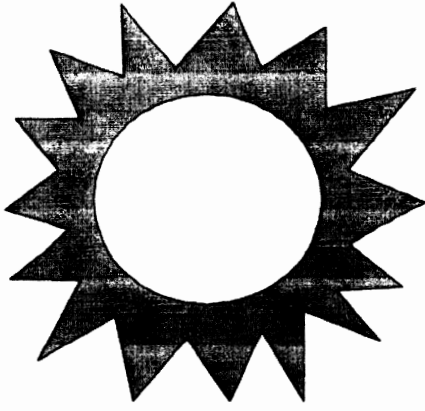
**4345 Farm House Lane *Rolly and Susan Santos***

**4310 Still Meadow Road *Mike and Sara Sharp***

**4312 Still Meadow Road *Herbert and Caryl Gradl***

**4337 Still Meadow Road *Jim and Carol Marshall***

**10035 Wheatfield Court *Chris and Shari Cobb***



# Hickory Farms News

Hickory Farms Community Association

P.O. Box 2239

Fairfax, VA 22031-2239

July 2001

## Message from the President

*by Bob Cosgriff*

Here we are at the end of July and the dog days of summer are upon us. Things are pretty quiet around Hickory Farms: the kids are going to the pool, the insects buzz away, the weather is hot, humid and hazy. Weekends are punctuated by the aroma of barbeques and the sound of lawnmowers. Parents are beginning to think fondly of Labor Day and the start of school. For newsletter purposes, it is what they would call a "slow news day." There is not really too much to report on since last month's newsletter, which looked back over the first six months of the year. Looking forward, we can anticipate the annual Hickory Farms Yard Sale in September, the Fall Clean-up and Oktoberfest in early October, and the annual meeting in late October.

We will be looking for two and perhaps as many as four people to replace outgoing board members. Serving on the board has many advantages: it is a great way to get to know more of your neighbors, it gives you an active role in the governance of the community, and it also exposes you to countywide issues and officials. If you are interested, please contact a board member (for our part, we will be contacting some people we think would be good board members!).

Elsewhere in the newsletter, you can find out information about who's moving out and who's moving in. In this regard, Welcome Wagon Chair Ginny Herchert and Secretary Rita Mullin have collaborated to produce a one-page update to the 1999 HFCA Phone Directory. We have had about 20 new neighbors in the last two years, so rather than produce another complete phone book at this time, we thought this addendum would suffice. By next year, a new directory will probably be in order. Other things to look for in this edition: information about Parks and Recreation programs, the ACC update, and the Neighborhood Watch schedule.

Hope you all enjoy the warm days of mid-summer. Maybe next month, we'll have a busier 'news day.' Please drive carefully around the neighborhood.



**Mark Your Calendar!**

**Neighborhood Yard Sale September 15**

HFCA arranges ads, provides maps

Details in next month's *HFCA News*

## Community News

### Welcome Wagon

*by Ginny Herchert*

Welcome Wagon has just learned of some neighbors who have been living in Hickory Farms since early winter. Manmohan and Sangita Malik are now living at 10027 Wheatfield Court with the daughter Jyoti and two sons, Arjun and Purnima. Welcome to our neighborhood.

More recent arrivals are the Haley family at 10011 Cotton Farm Road, Ross and Catherine and their two sons, Tyler, 9, and Jonathan, 5. They come to Hickory Farms from Connecticut. Welcome!

For an update for your HFCA Directory including families who have joined Hickory Farms in the last year, see pages 5 and 6.

### Community Notes

Congratulations to Becky Sottile (Spinning Wheel Court), who was named to the President's List (4.0 average) at the Health Sciences College in Roanoke for the Spring 2001 term.

## Architectural Review

*By Lee Sottile*

Congratulations to the Hickory Farms Community for maintaining such a beautiful neighborhood. The lawns are being well kept, homes are being maintained and kept in good repair. On the whole our neighborhood has great curb appeal. Keep up the good work, neighbors.

The ACC approved a brick-style backyard patio at 4365 Farm House La.

Each month we will be recognizing a different Home of Distinction.

Way to go, Jay and Sheila Kistler, for having this month's Home of Distinction at: 10118 Round Top Court.

### Hickory Farms Community Association Board

<b>President</b>	Bob Cosgriff	703-764-0720
<b>Vice-President</b>	Pam Barrett	703-978-2132
<b>Secretary</b>	Rita Mullin	703-323-6904
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<b>Welcome Wagon</b>	Ginny Herchert	703-978-0783



# Vice President's Corner

by Pam Barrett

I recently took part in a televised Braddock District Town Meeting titled **Stop & Smell the Roses: Recreational Opportunities in Fairfax County**. Although I was on the panel to represent the Disabilities Service Board and publicize the development of a new accessible park with a playground for children with disabilities, I thought our homeowners would like some information about the wonderful park and recreation opportunities we have in Fairfax County.

The Park Authority has over 380 parks on nearly 20,000 acres. Specific facilities include a horticulture center, a working farm, an activities/equestrian center, eight indoor Recreation Centers, five nature and visitor centers, eight golf courses, an off-leash dog park, three lakes, two campgrounds, an ice skating rink, a Water Park and a working mill.

Recreational opportunities in the parks abound, with millions of people per year enjoying picnicking, hiking, fishing, tennis and golf. There are also carousels, miniature golf courses, amphitheaters and marinas. More than 30 of the parks have staff on-site throughout the year.

For more information on the facilities and programs at each of the county's RECenters, call the numbers below.

The Fairfax County Government Channel 16 produces *Parks Plus*. This program informs viewers of the facilities and recreational opportunities available in the Fairfax County parks system, emphasizing the personal rewards of involvement with Park Authority programs and encouraging active participation. Each program is sprinkled with fascinating subjects ranging from history to sports to nature. There is something of interest for everyone.

*Parks Plus* can be seen on:

- **Sundays** - 10 a.m.
- **Mondays** - 10 a.m. and 10 p.m.
- **Tuesdays** - 5 p.m. and 10 p.m.
- **Wednesdays** - 10 a.m. and 10 p.m.
- **Thursdays** - 6 p.m.
- **Fridays** - 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- **Saturdays** - 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

For more information on Park Authority facilities, call ParkLine, a 24-hour telephone message system, at 703-324-8700, using a touch-tone phone. Or visit the Fairfax County Parks and Recreation Website at [www.co.fairfax.va.us/parks/](http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/parks/)

## County RECenters

**George Washington 703-780-8894**  
**Oak Marr 703-281-6501**  
**Lee District 703-922-9841**  
**Spring Hill 703-827-0989**

**Mount Vernon 703-768-3224**  
**Providence 703-698-1351**  
**South Run 703-866-0566**  
**Wakefield 703-321-7081**

# Neighborhood Watch

by Kathy Gillette

## Next Month's Neighborhood Watch Schedule

Friday	July 27	Angel Meza	Jason Meza
Saturday	July 28	Kirk Randall	Jerry Tumelty
Friday	August 3	Bill Galinis	Diana Galinis
Saturday	August 4	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay
Friday	August 10	Bob Cosgriff	Don Klingemann
Saturday	August 11	Tom Barrett	Pam Barrett
Friday	August 17	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters
Saturday	August 18	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg
Friday	August 24	Jeff Lindsay	Larry Rogers
Saturday	August 25	Dave Maurer	
Friday	August 31	Rich Pernicano	Steve Matthews
Saturday	September 1	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz

- **National Night Out**

The National Association of Town Watch (NATW) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development and promotion of organized, law enforcement-affiliated crime and drug prevention programs. The NATW is sponsoring an annual National Night Out (NNO) program on August 7, 2001. Please turn on your front porch lights on this night and support your Neighborhood Watch program. Your Neighborhood Watch program wants to heighten your awareness of crime, enhance police-community relations, and bolster volunteer morale and programs.

- **Sliding Glass Door Security**

Sliding glass doors should have a strong working key lock. A dowel or pin to secure a glass door should be installed to prevent the door from being shoved aside or lifted off the track. Sliding glass doors should be locked every night and each time you leave the house.

- **Carseat Safety Checks**

To schedule a FREE safety inspection of your car seat, call the West Springfield District Station at 703-644-7377. Appointments are taken every Tuesday evening from 5 to 8 p.m.

## Directory Update

Clip along the line on the next page and insert the Neighborhood Update into your Hickory Farms Directory.

## Fairfax Fast Facts from the Fairfax County Website

<http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/>

- Fairfax County is the largest County in Virginia; its 1999 population was 946,371—making the population larger than that of seven states (Alaska, Delaware, Montana, North Dakota, Vermont and Wyoming).
- Fairfax County, which covers 399 square miles, has 344,563 households with a median family income of \$84,000 as of 1997. The 1999 median market value of a single-family home in Fairfax County is \$238,185.
- Fairfax County is governed by a Board of Supervisors composed of 10 members--the Chairman, elected at large, and one member from each of nine Supervisor districts, elected for four-year terms by the voters of the district in which the member resides. The Board of Supervisors appoints a County Executive to administer the County Government. The County Executive serves at the pleasure of the Board of Supervisors, carrying out the policies established by the Board.
- Fairfax County's public school system is the largest in Virginia and the 12th largest in the nation. School Board members are elected for four-year terms by Fairfax County voters. Because the School Board doesn't have the power to tax or incur debt, the local operating costs of the school system are provided from federal and state government funds and by transfers from the County Budget to the schools. Approximately 51 cents of each County tax dollar goes to schools.
- Out of approximately 25,000 counties and cities in the United States, Fairfax County is one of only 24 with three Triple A bond credit ratings—the highest credit ratings possible. This means that the County's bonds always sell at lower interest rates, saving millions of dollars each time bonds are sold.
- Fairfax County is one of the safest counties of its size in the nation and has fewer police officers per 1,000 residents than any other suburban area. Yet it has one of the highest levels of police service at one of the lowest per capita costs in the D.C. area.
- As of the 1990 Census, Fairfax County ranks number one in the nation in terms of the percentage of workers in executive, administrative and managerial positions and ranks sixth in the United States in its percentage of residents with a college degree.

### Cotton Farm Road

10004 DaCruz, Arlene ..... 703-764-7274  
Anneka, Domenic

10007 Donnelly/Johnson; Michael/Candy ..... 703-764-3123  
David, 14; Marie, 11

10011 Haley, Ross and Catherine ..... 703-426-1463  
Tyler, 9; Jonathan, 5

10014 Sharif, Nemat and Naz ..... 703-978-8505  
Meda, 6; Chalang, 4

### Country Squire Lane

4281 Tumelty, Gerard and Eileen ..... 703-764-0632  
Catherine, 13; Emer and Shannon, 9

### Farm House Lane

4318 Corcoran, Gene and Stephanie ..... 703-426-8174  
Tim, 11; Brian, 9

4320 Danger, Ken and Stacy ..... 703-323-1628  
Iana, 5; Isabel, 1

4324 Sowa, Richard P. .... 703-764-3047

4365 Patterson, Carol ..... 703-503-5674  
Britany

### Harvester Farm Lane

4352 Morrison, John and Ann ..... 703-764-2593  
Christine, 15; Katie, 13; Colleen, 10; Kelly, 8

4370 Konchar, Mark and Jennifer ..... 703-978-6708

4347 Ngo, Phong and Nga ..... 703-764-3026

### Still Meadow Road

4306 Foster / Winkler, Kristi/ Courtney ..... 703-764-3465

4316 Niemann, Brand and Katherine ..... 703-503-8124  
Jeffery, 7; Michael, 4; Brandon, 3

4319 Cortez, Rosalio ..... unlisted

4334 Singh, Peri and Seri ..... 703-425-5544  
Shanti, 2

4344 Mikula, Rob and Sharon .....703-503-802

**Tumbleweed Court**

10000 Pomager, Joe and Carla .....703-503-8028  
Steven, 14

**Wheatfield Court**

10027 Malik, Manmohan and Sangita .....703-426-7228  
Jyoti, Arjun, Purnima

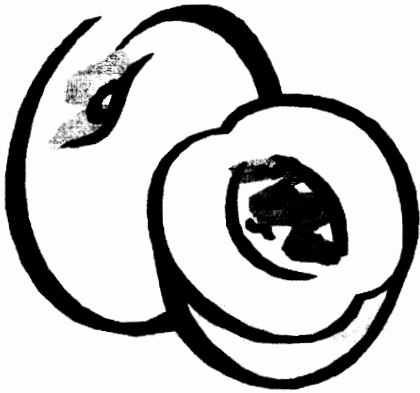
10030 Sayyed, Bilal and Kathy .....703-764-8716  
Two daughters, 4, 3

10031 Reimann, Bob and Trish .....703-323-6063  
Melissa, 11; Dayna, 8

**Alphabetical**

Corcoran, Gene and Stephanie .....703-426-8174  
Cortez, Rosalio .....unlisted  
DaCruz, Arlene .....703-764-7274  
Danger, Ken and Stacy .....703-323-1628  
Donnelly, Michael .....703-764-3123  
Foster, Kristi .....703-764-3465  
Haley, Ross and Catherine .....703-426-1463  
Johnson, Candy .....703-764-3123  
Konchar, Mark and Jennifer .....703-978-6708  
Malik, Manmohan and Sangita .....703-426-7228  
Mikula, Rob and Sharon .....703-323-0917  
Morrison, John and Ann .....703-764-2593  
Niemann, Brand and Katherine .....703-503-8124  
Ngo, Phong and Nga .....703-764-3026  
Patterson, Carol .....703-503-5674  
Pomager, Joe and Carla .....703-503-8028  
Reimann, Bob and Trish .....703-323-6063  
Sayyed, Bilal and Kathy .....703-764-8716  
Sharif, Nemat and Naz .....703-978-8505  
Singh, Peri and Seri .....703-425-5544  
Sowa, Richard P. ....703-764-3047  
Tumelty, Gerard and Eileen .....703-764-0632  
Winkler, Cortney .....703-764-3465

- Fairfax County has more than 18,000 acres of public parkland and more than 350 parks. The County is the home of Wolf Trap Farm Park, the only national park for the performing arts.
- Tysons Corner, located within the County, contains one of the largest concentrations of retail shopping on the East Coast outside of New York City.
- Fairfax County's public library is the largest in the southeast United States and one of the busiest in the nation for its size, with 19 branches and a collection of over 2 million items. For a branch near you, call 324-3100, or visit the Library's Web site at <http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/library/>.
- There are 399 square miles and 255,360 acres of land.
- The average temperature is 53.9 degrees, and the average precipitation is 40 inches.
- According to the 2000 Census, 969,749 people live in Fairfax County.
- The average monthly rent in Fairfax County is \$989.
- Fairfax County is second only to midtown Manhattan as an East Coast shopping paradise.
- The racial/ethnic distribution of the population is as follows: 64.4 percent non-Hispanic Whites, 8.4 percent non-Hispanic Blacks, 13 percent non-Hispanic Asians and Pacific Islanders, 11 percent Hispanics, and 3.2 percent Others (2000 Census)
- Fairfax County is larger than seven states: Alaska, Delaware, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont and Wyoming.
- If Fairfax County were a city, it would rank 11<sup>th</sup> in population, larger than Boston, Atlanta, or Charlotte.
- The two fastest growing segments of the County's population are the seniors, 65 years and older, and persons under age 20.
- Several Fortune 500 companies are headquartered in Fairfax County, including Federal Home Mortgage Loan Corp., General Dynamics, Capital One Financial, Nextel Communications, SLM Holding (Sallie Mae) and Columbia Energy Group.
- More than 27,000 payroll establishments employing nearly 518,000 workers are based in the county.
- There are more than 175 international companies in Fairfax County, the largest representation of foreign-owned companies in the Washington metropolitan area.



# Hickory Farms News

Hickory Farms Community Association

P.O. Box 2239

Fairfax, VA 22031-2239

August 2001

## Message from the President

*by Bob Cosgriff*

It's remained pretty quiet around Hickory Farms in August. However, as the Fall approaches, things are going to pick up. The next big event in the neighborhood is the annual Hickory Farms Yard Sale. Please look on page 3 for the sign-up form, instructions, etc. Pete Scala has agreed to coordinate this (again) and we'd like to thank him for taking the time and effort to make this a success. The Yard Sale gives you a chance to get rid of "stuff" you no longer need or want, but may be just what someone else is looking for. I encourage you to take part if you can, either as a participant or a customer. We are also going to use this event to "market" Hickory Farms, by providing all customers with a written form extolling the things that make our neighborhood special. Who knows—maybe some of them will come back and buy a house here someday. In any case, preparatory to the Yard Sale (15 September), I hope everyone will make a little extra effort to spruce up, since we will have probably a couple hundred "visitors" that day.

In October, there will be three events: the Clean Up (Saturday, 6 October), the "Oktoberfest" Block Party (Saturday, 20 October) and the HFCA Annual Meeting (Tuesday, 30 October, at W.T. Woodson High School). Please put these events on your calendar now. We will have more details in the next newsletter. For the Annual Meeting in October, we will put forth a slate of new Board members for 2002. A few of this year's members will be stepping down, so we are looking for volunteers. Please contact any Board member if you are interested in helping out your neighborhood for a year.

Wish there were more, but that is about it for now. Enjoy the rest of the summer.

### Mark Your Fall Calendar!



Saturday, September 15, 8 a.m. to noon

Neighborhood Yard Sale

Saturday, October 6, Neighborhood Clean-Up

Saturday, October 20, Oktoberfest Party

Tuesday, October 30, HFCA Annual Meeting

## Community News

- **Welcome Wagon**

*by Ginny Herchert*

Since midsummer the new residents of 4306 Still Meadow Rd. have been **Kristi Foster** and **Cortney Winkler**. Kristi is working in the city and Cortney has recently started a nursing program at George Mason University. Be sure to make them feel welcome.

The new couple at 4347 Harvester Farm Ln. are **Phong** and **Nga Ngo**, who are enjoying their shady backyard but wondering what work Hickory Farms' trees will bring in the fall. Welcome to the neighborhood. Please note: The addition to the HFCA Phone Directory contained an error. Their address is 4347 Harvester Farm Ln.

Farewell to Ray and Juanita Kraus, 4377 Farm House Ln., who were among the very first people (if not the first) to move into Hickory Farms back in 1976. They are remaining in the area.

- **Announcement**

Eva Tran, an independent experienced beautician, is offering her neighbors in Hickory Farms 20% off on hair services, including highlight, color, perm, cut and style. Eva also specializes in corrective color. If you have any problems with your hair color, give me a try; it will be worth your while. Call Eva Tran (703) 507-0797 at A Head of the Times Salon, 11035 Lee Highway, Fairfax (next to the Guitar Center, behind the Big Screens Store, in the Westfair Plaza).

*(HFCA does not necessarily endorse this service, but we do, from time to time, announce things offered by neighbors for neighbors. If you have a similar announcement for an upcoming newsletter, please send it to Rita Mullin at [rita\\_mullin@discovery.com](mailto:rita_mullin@discovery.com))*

### Hickory Farms Community Association Board

<b>President</b>	Bob Cosgriff	703-764-0720
<b>Vice-President</b>	Pam Barrett	703-978-2132
<b>Secretary</b>	Rita Mullin	703-323-6904
<b>Treasurer</b>	Chuck Bethany	703-503-8574
<b>Grounds</b>	Bill Galinis	703-426-4569
<b>Architectural Review</b>	Bob & Lee Sottile	703-978-1122
<b>Neighborhood Watch</b>	Kathy Gillette	703-503-3158
<b>Welcome Wagon</b>	Ginny Herchert	703-978-0783



# Hickory Farms News

Hickory Farms Community Association

P.O. Box 2239

Fairfax, VA 22031-2239

September 2001

[www.communitypath.com](http://www.communitypath.com)

## Message from the President

*by Bob Cosgriff*

Much has happened in the neighborhood—and the world—since the last newsletter. I'm sure the World Trade Center/Pentagon terrorist attacks on 11 September will remain in the forefront for weeks, months, perhaps years, to come. We had Hickory Farm neighbors in the Pentagon when the plane struck; undoubtedly there were friends or relatives as well for many residents. Although we do not know if anyone in Hickory Farms lost a loved one, if such is the case, we offer our sincerest condolences.

As far as neighborhood news, the Board would like to thank Pete Scala for once again coordinating a successful community yard sale. The weather was perfect and he estimates that we had over 300 cars come through. There was some sentiment expressed to have this in the Spring, and we will take a look at this.

### Fall Clean-Up and Block Party

As for upcoming events, due to a variety of conflicts on the original dates, the Board has moved the Fall Clean-up and Fall Block Party ("Oktoberfest"). Both events will be on the same day, **Saturday, 20 October**. The cleanup will be from 9-12 and the party from 1-4. You do not have to take part in the cleanup to go to the party (although the more people who do turn out, the better!!). If you can't come help out in the common grounds, then we encourage you to use the time to do some tidying up around your own property.

### Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 30 October at 7:30 at Woodson High School (Cafeteria A). One of the items to be discussed will be a motion to raise the annual dues from its



## Mark Your Fall Calendar!

**Saturday, October 20:**

Neighborhood Clean-Up and Fall Block Party

**Tuesday, October 30:**

HFCFA Annual Meeting

long-time level of \$80 per year. Although the dues have not gone up, costs for insurance and grounds maintenance, our two biggest expenses, have risen over the years. While we can still meet the expenses, it leaves very little margin for error, as Treasurer Chuck Bethany's article explains. It is prudent for any corporation to have a sufficient reserve. We don't want to have to dip into ours for normal operating expenses, because we would have no buffer for unexpected costs (e.g., repair to the paths, legal fees, etc.)

We will also be electing a new board. At this moment, it appears that only two of this year's board will be able to continue: Secretary Rita Mullin and myself. The Welcome Wagon coordinator, Ginny Herchert, will also stay on in this un-elected volunteer position. This year, we had a veteran board of people who have served many times in the past.

They won't be back, so I view next year as my chance to help train some new people in board operations for the future, in line with one of HFCA's goals to get as many people as possible involved in the governance of the association. So if you have been thinking about volunteering, now is the time. I'm not exactly Uncle Sam, but we do need YOU.

If you can't come to the meeting to discuss and vote on these issues, then PLEASE sign and return the proxy form. This enables us to have a quorum and to accurately assess the wishes of each and every one of you on the items subject to a vote.

#### **Some Good News for the Neighborhood**

We received some good news on two issues that we have been working for a long time. First, the County Board of Supervisors approved the funding to fix the house flooding problem affecting the Ambrogi's and the Cobb's on Wheatfield Court. The construction of storm water run-off controls will temporarily close the black path when it begins. We don't have a date, but will try to let you know as soon as we do via our web-site. It will probably be in October or November. The Supervisors also approved a three-way stop sign for the Cotton Farm/Still Meadow intersection. This should be done within a month.

And in case anyone was wondering what those traffic counters were for on 9/17-9/18, they were part of a triennial traffic survey run by VDOT to measure changes in traffic in different

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<b>Welcome Wagon</b>	Ginny Herchert	703-978-0783



areas of the county. This is used for future road planning

### **School Bond Referendum**

At this year's election, there will be a bond referendum for the Fairfax County Public Schools. It includes funding for planning the renovations of Woodson High School, starting in 2004. There is a direct link between our property values and the quality of Woodson High School. Lots of WTW parents worked hard to get this line item added in this referendum to move up construction. Some people in Hickory Farms do not have children in Woodson, but many will, and many have in the past. We need to support this bond issue, not only for our own neighborhood interests, but for all the school children, present and future, in the county.

The HFCA Board meets every month on the second Thursday of the month. We rotate meetings from Board member to Board member monthly. The meetings are always open to any member of the Association, and to residents who are not members as well. In October, the meeting will be at my house (10003 Cotton Farm Road). If you have an item you would like to discuss at this, or any other meeting, just let me know in advance so we can put you on the agenda. Also, to keep advised of what is going on in the neighborhood between newsletters, please check our website at [www.communitypath.com](http://www.communitypath.com). It's free and easy to navigate. Thanks to Bob Sottile, this has proven to be a great way to foster communication in the neighborhood.

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That's it for this month. I hope to see you at the Fall Clean-up and Block Party on the 20<sup>th</sup> and at the Annual Meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **Fly the Flag Proudly—and Properly**

It is inspiring to see the flags flying around the neighborhood. The candlelight ceremony was also beautiful. There was a group of young people (presumably from Hickory Farms) at the Burke Station entrance waving flags on that night. On the subject of flag etiquette, here are a couple of pointers (adapted from the Public Law governing display of the flag):

1. Fly a clean, untattered flag. If you have an old, worn banner, it should be burned with appropriate dignity, not discarded in the trash.
2. If flown at night, the flag should be illuminated by a light.
3. The flag should hang or fly freely, and not hit or get hung up on branches, parts of buildings, etc. The flag should not touch the ground.
4. If hung horizontally, the canton (field of stars) should be to the upper left as viewed from the front
5. If hung vertically, the canton should be in the upper left as viewed from the front.
6. If flown with other flags (state, local, military service, etc.) the U.S. flag is to its right, (looking out from the point of display), the position of honor. It should also be higher than the other such flags.
7. No other flag should fly on the same flagpole as the U.S. flag (unless the pole is designed with an arm and hoists to support other flags in the lower position, such as you see at government buildings).
8. The flag itself should not be used as bunting.

## Community News

**Congratulations** to to Mike and Sara Sharp (Still Meadow Road) , who welcomed new son Ryan on August 23.

## Architectural Review

*By Lee Sottile*

The Architectural Control Committee has been very busy this summer. The following improvements have been approved. A trellis patio cover at 4332 Still Meadow RD, new vinyl siding and shutters, gutters and down spouts along with a wooden storage shed at 4354 Harvester Farm La, new vinyl siding and a paver patio at 4349 Farm House La, brick patio at 4365 Farm House La, new garage door, front storm door, side lights by the garage and a wooden lattice enclosure at 10017 Cotton Farm Rd, new roof at 10113 Round Top Ct, new vinyl siding and new windows at 4361 Harvester Farm La.

The end of summer is upon us, and thus the end of the major grass mowing time. The area of grass between the sidewalk in front of your home and the street are to be maintained by the property owner. Please mow and edge this area when mowing the rest of your lawn.

If you are planning any home improvements, please remember that ACC approval is required. A copy of the application is included in this newsletter.

## Neighborhood Watch

*By Kathy Gillette*

### Schools Are Open!

Please drive carefully and remember it's the law to stop for school buses when the red lights are flashing. Passing a school bus is "reckless driving," and if you are convicted it is six demerit points on your driving record. The length of time that this conviction stays on your Department of Motor Vehicles record is 11 years!

### September/October Watch Schedule

Fri	September 21	John Verheul	John Cotner
Sat	September 22	Alfonso Acosta	Alex Acosta
Fri	September 28	Ron Cruz	Louise Cruz
Sat	September 29	Jaime Gutierrez	Ed Wagner
Fri	October 5	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Sat	October 6	Bob Bentley	Nancy Bentley
Fri	October 12	Larry Russe	Chris Russe
Sat	October 13		Bob Wright
Fri	October 19	Greg Gillette	Kathy Gillette
Sat	October 20	Jay Kistler	John Morrison
Fri	October 26	Pingjun Li	Jin Wang
Sat	October 27	Bob Sottile	Lee Sottile

# **HFCA Budget Increase Proposed**

*By Chuck Bethany*

HFCA has not raised its annual assessment for some years. Much like you in your personal life, your homeowners association has also experienced general increases in many areas. Currently, our expenses exceed our income.

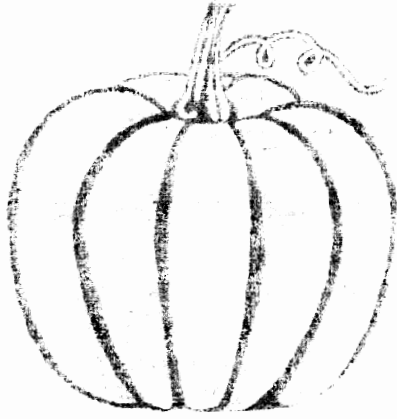
In three out of the last four years, our expenses have slightly exceeded our income [from annual assessments] for the year. For 2 years the overage was under \$310 [1998 - \$310 and 2000 - \$194]. This year [2001] the overage is anticipated to be approximately \$3,000. The overage for 2001 is higher than previous years because the Board voted to perform additional maintenance and landscaping of the common areas. Since our overall financial situation is good [savings \$15,000 and checking about \$10,000] the additional expenditures are not a problem. However, assuming that in 2002 we maintain the same level of maintenance as we have in 2001, we need to raise the annual assessment from \$80 to \$95 so as to ensure that our income [from annual assessments] for 2002 will at least match our expenses.

The Board has discussed expanding the maintenance of our common grounds to have a limited amount of grounds maintenance performed year around. After obtaining and carefully reviewing bids, we have identified a contractor to perform this potential future maintenance. We estimate that this additional effort will cost approximately \$1,000 per year. The additional maintenance will help enhance the beauty of our community, particularly at the entrances to the development. Assuming the Board decides to expand the maintenance of the common areas, we need to raise the annual assessment from \$80 to \$100.

<b>Explanation</b>	<b>Year 2001</b>	<b>Year 2002</b>
Expenses exceed income by	\$3,000	\$4,000
Add'l revenue needed to cover	\$15/year	\$20/year
Cost per week	29 cents	32 cents

While other expenses such as insurance, newsletters, and postage have increased, the largest increase is in maintenance and landscaping of the common areas. Your Board of Directors is dedicated to maintaining the fiscal integrity of the HFCA as well as ensuring that the common areas are adequately maintained without dipping into our reserve fund. Maintaining an adequate reserve fund is a prudent business practice in order to be prepared for unforeseen contingencies such as repair to paths, legal fees, etc. The Board recommends that you consider raising the annual assessment from \$80 to \$100 so as to allow some flexibility in management of our future expenditures.

Please plan to attend the HFCA Annual Meeting on October 30 at 7:30 at W.T. Woodson High School in Cafeteria A, when we will vote on this recommendation.



# Hickory Farms News

Hickory Farms Community Association

P.O. Box 2239

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October 2001

[www.communitypath.com](http://www.communitypath.com)

## Message from the President

*by Bob Cosgriff*

October is upon us. Next to May, this is the busiest month for the Association Board, since we have the Fall Cleanup, Fall Block Party (or "Oktoberfest") and the Annual Meeting. The first two are going to be held on 20 October, and the latter event will be at 7:30 p.m. on October 30 at Woodson High School (Cafeteria A).

It is very important that everyone take an interest in the governance of the neighborhood through its Homeowners' Association. Without people willing to volunteer time and effort throughout the year, we would be unable to sponsor social events and carry out the legally required business of the HFCA. You guessed it—I'm about to appeal for members to serve on next year's Board. All but two of this year's elected Board are stepping down at year's end. At press-time, we have two neighbors who have indicated their willingness to serve next year. That leaves us three short of the number needed to fully staff the Board. You, the members of the Association, elect the Board at the Annual Meeting, and the Board selects its officers and committee heads. Right now, it appears that we still need a Vice-President, ACC Chair and Neighborhood Watch Coordinator.

All these jobs require a basic commitment of time. We hold monthly meetings of between one and two hours depending on the issues, and there are tasks outside of that:

- **The President and Vice-President**, in addition to overseeing the Board's activities, also deal the bigger issues with Supervisor Bulova. This can involve coordination with her and her staff, attending meetings of the Braddock District Council, and even speaking at Board of Supervisors meetings (e.g., the cemetery issue).



### Mark Your Calendar!

**October 20** *Neighborhood Cleanup 9 a.m. -12 noon*  
*Fall Block Party 1-4 p.m.*

**October 30** *Annual Meeting 7:30 p.m.*  
*Woodson High School Cafeteria A*

- **The Treasurer** has to prepare the annual budget, collect dues, write checks and ensure the annual audit. He/she also picks up the Association's mail on a regular basis, provides VPOAA documents when a house is sold and works with our attorney to file liens in case of non-payment of dues.
- **The Secretary** has to keep the minutes of meetings, put out the newsletter and maintain records of correspondence.
- **The Architectural Control Committee Chair** directs the work of the ACC, which acts on home improvement applications. This involves handling the paperwork involved within a 30-day time frame. Occasionally, the ACC writes letters to residents who are in violation of one or more Restrictive Covenants and holds hearings to resolve such issues that are not otherwise corrected.
- **The Neighborhood Watch Coordinator** has to keep in touch with the Fairfax County Police on crimes, trends and programs. She/he recruits new members and writes up the watch bill.
- **The Welcome Wagon representative** (un-elected volunteer position) keeps track of new arrivals in the neighborhood, gathers information from the County and City of Fairfax and in company with the President meets all new people in person to welcome them to the neighborhood.

Time involved in these duties can range from a few to several hours a month, depending on the Board position, time of year and the issues. It also depends on how much creativity the person in the job has. Many Board members in the past have thought of new ways to do things, or projects, and they willingly committed time to make those things happen. So everyone has a piece of the action. The bottom line—it does take time to do the job right.

And what do you get in return? Mainly, you have a say in how your neighborhood is governed by the HOA. You get a chance to actively improve your neighborhood to make it a nicer, safer place to live. You get to meet neighbors you otherwise might not get to meet. You get to meet, in some circumstances, our elected officials and county employees. You gain more knowledge of County policies and issues. And you have fun at events like the Spring and Fall social outings. Sounds like a pretty good deal! So let's see, we have 198

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<b>Welcome Wagon</b>	Ginny Herchert	703-978-0783

homes in the neighborhood and seven board members. That means we could go 28 years if each owner's household provided just one person to serve just one year during their time in the neighborhood. The reality is that most boards (including this one) are made up of people who have done it in the past, and most people never do take their "turn in the barrel."

If you have never served, please give it some thought. Otherwise, at the Annual Meeting, we'll have to hope that wives will nominate their husbands or vice versa, or "friends" nominate neighbors who are not at the meeting. And you know that nomination is tantamount to election in Hickory Farms. Seriously, please plan on attending the Annual Meeting; if you can't come, then PLEASE return the signed Proxy form so that we can conduct the neighborhood's business.

## Community News

- **Helping to Keep the World Safe—**

LTJG Michael Salehi, Supply Corps, USNR, son of Michael and Parveneh Salehi (Still Meadow Road) is the Disbursing Officer onboard the Aegis cruiser U.S.S. *Philippine Sea* (CG-58), which is part of the U.S.S. *Enterprise* Battle Group on extended duty in the Persian Gulf as part of our response to terrorism. His ship has launched several cruise missiles at targets in Afghanistan, while providing anti-aircraft protection for the Battle Group. Mike is a 1995 graduate of Woodson High School and received his commission via the NROTC program at the University of South Carolina in 1999.

While our attention is understandably on the military build-up in response to the 11 September terrorist attacks, we should be mindful that members of our Armed Forces are also on duty elsewhere in the world protecting freedom. Spec/4 Keith Lindsay, USAR, son of Jeff and Roberta Lindsay (Harvester Farm Lane), is serving in Bosnia as part of a peacekeeping contingent. His Army reserve unit was mobilized to help meet our commitments to this effort and will remain in Bosnia until April, 2001. Keith is a junior at York College (PA), majoring in Education. He will resume classes upon return from the deployment.

We all wish Keith and Michael a safe and on-time return from their assignments, and thank them for their devotion to duty.

- **County Sticker Enforcement Date Approaches**

The date of property tax sticker enforcement is approaching (11/15). This means police will be taking closer looks at all vehicles. In addition to current tax stickers, all vehicles must have current registration and safety inspection stickers. If a car is found on the street without any one of these current items, it can be ticketed and towed; the fine is substantial—and the owner still has to pay for the inspection/registration/tax. Don't let this happen to you.

- **Support School Bond Referendum—and Woodson High School**

Don't forget to vote on Tuesday, November 6, and support the school bond referendum, which includes funding for a much needed refurbishment of Woodson High School. The quality of Woodson High School has a direct bearing on our property values in Hickory Farms, so please vote even if you have no children or your children are grown. We need your support.

# Vice President's Report

*by Pam Barrett*

- Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs has published an 88-page Citizen Handbook that includes informative paragraphs and relative contact information organized by topics. Ever wonder who to call about unleashed dogs in the neighborhood, noise, or streetlights? It's all here. You can browse the content by logging on to [www.co.fairfax.va.us](http://www.co.fairfax.va.us) and searching by subject. To get your own copy, call the Office of Public Affairs at 703-324-3187.
- The new Braddock District Supervisor's office, located at  
9002 Burke Lake Road  
Burke VA 22015-1608  
is having an open-warming on October 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., including refreshments, a signature plaque, and a time capsule to be opened in 50 years.

## Neighborhood Watch Needs a Few Good Men and Women!

*by Kathy Gillette*

Your Neighborhood Watch needs more volunteers! We lost several people this year, mostly due to moving out of the area. Watch teams are scheduled now about every 3 ½ months. The more people we have, the more time in between watches for those dedicated neighbors who have been doing the watch for the neighborhood, some for many years. Statistics prove that neighborhoods that have an active Neighborhood Watch have less crime. Is it your turn to volunteer for your Neighborhood Watch? Please contact Kathy Gillette (703-503-3158) if you would like to join.

### Neighborhood Watch Schedule

Fri	October 12	Larry Russe	Chris Russe
Sat	October 13		Bob Wright
Fri	October 19	Greg Gillette	Kathy Gillette
Sat	October 20	Jay Kistler	John Morrison
Fri	October 26	Pingjun Li	Jin Wang
Sat	October 27	Bob Sottile	Lee Sottile
Fri	November 2	Angel Meza	Jason Meza
Sat	November 3	Kirk Randall	Jerry Tumelty
Fri	November 9	Bill Galinis	Diana Galinis
Sat	November 10	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay
Fri	November 16	Bob Cosgriff	Don Klingemann
Sat	November 17	Tom Barrett	Pam Barrett
Fri	November 23	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters
Sat	November 24	David Roberg	Beverly Froberg
Fri	November 30	Jeff Lindsay	Larry Rogers

# Notice of Annual Meeting

## October 30, 2001

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the general membership of the HFCA, as required by Article III, Section 1 of the By-Laws, will be held on **Tuesday, October 30, 2001, at 7:30** in Cafeteria A at W.T. Woodson High School.

Items to be considered at the meeting:

1. Approval of minutes of 2000 Annual Meeting
2. Board reports on 2001 activities
3. Vote on proposal to raise annual assessment from \$80 per year to \$100 per year to permit additional grounds maintenance and maintain proper fiscal solvency of the Association.
4. Approval of 2002 Operating Budget.
5. Nominations from the floor and election of 2002 Board of Directors.
6. Any other such business as may properly be brought before the Board.
7. Adjournment

### Annual Meeting Proxy

If you are unable to attend the HFCA Annual Meeting, please complete and mail this proxy form to HFCA, P.O. Box 2239, Fairfax, VA 22031-2239, or deliver this proxy in a sealed envelope addressed to a Board member, prior to the meeting on October 30.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ member of the Hickory Farms Community Association, appoint:

\_\_\_\_\_ Rita T. Mullin, Secretary of the Association; or,

\_\_\_\_\_ to be my proxy with all of the power I would have if I were present, and cast my vote on any matter which may arise during the Annual Meeting of the members to be held on October 30, 2001, or at any adjournment meeting thereof

(Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

Lot # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_



# **HFCA Budget Increase Proposed**

*By Chuck Bethany*

HFCA has not raised its annual assessment for some years. Much like you in your personal life, your homeowners association has also experienced general increases in many areas. Currently, our expenses exceed our income.

In three out of the last four years, our expenses have slightly exceeded our income [from annual assessments] for the year. For 2 years the overage was under \$310 [1998 - \$310 and 2000 - \$194]. This year [2001] the overage is anticipated to be approximately \$3,000. The overage for 2001 is higher than previous years because the Board voted to perform additional maintenance and landscaping of the common areas. Since our overall financial situation is good [savings \$15,000 and checking about \$10,000] the additional expenditures are not a problem. However, assuming that in 2002 we maintain the same level of maintenance as we have in 2001, we need to raise the annual assessment from \$80 to \$95 so as to ensure that our income [from annual assessments] for 2002 will at least match our expenses.

The Board has discussed expanding the maintenance of our common grounds to have a limited amount of grounds maintenance performed year around. After obtaining and carefully reviewing bids, we have identified a contractor to perform this potential future maintenance. We estimate that this additional effort will cost approximately \$1,000 per year. The additional maintenance will help enhance the beauty of our community, particularly at the entrances to the development. Assuming the Board decides to expand the maintenance of the common areas, we need to raise the annual assessment from \$80 to \$100.

<b>Explanation</b>	<b>Year 2001</b>	<b>Year 2002</b>
Expenses exceed income by	\$3,000	\$4,000
Add'l revenue needed to cover	\$15/year	\$20/year
Cost per week	29 cents	32 cents

While other expenses such as insurance, newsletters, and postage have increased, the largest increase is in maintenance and landscaping of the common areas. Your Board of Directors is dedicated to maintaining the fiscal integrity of the HFCA as well as ensuring that the common areas are adequately maintained without dipping into our reserve fund. Maintaining an adequate reserve fund is a prudent business practice in order to be prepared for unforeseen contingencies such as repair to paths, legal fees, etc. The Board recommends that you consider raising the annual assessment from \$80 to \$100 so as to allow some flexibility in management of our future expenditures.

Please plan to attend the HFCA Annual Meeting on October 30 at 7:30 at W.T. Woodson High School in Cafeteria A, when we will vote on this recommendation.

## Community Announcements

- Ken Danger is seeking a carpool from Hickory Farms to the area near 6th and E, N.W., leaving Hickory Farms between 7 and 8 a.m. Please call him at 703-323-1628.
- Eva Tran, an independent experienced beautician, is offering her neighbors in Hickory Farms 20% off on hair services, including highlight, color, perm, cut and style. Eva also specializes in corrective color. If you have any problems with your hair color, give me a try; it will be worth your while. Call Eva Tran (703) 507-0797 at A Head of the Times Salon, 11035 Lee Highway, Fairfax (next to the Guitar Center, behind the Big Screens Store, in the Westfair Plaza).

*(HFCA does not necessarily endorse this service, but we do, from time to time, announce things offered by neighbors for neighbors. (Contact Rita Mullin at [rita\\_mullin@discovery.com](mailto:rita_mullin@discovery.com) to submit announcements for future newsletters.)*

## Official Notice: Property Owner Change-of-Address

The Board of Directors has identified a need to establish a policy regarding changes to the official “address of record” for property owners. Unless notified otherwise **in writing**, the official “address of record” for a property owner is the owner’s property address within the Hickory Farms development. Should an owner establish an alternate residence, he/she shall notify the Hickory Farms Community Association in writing of the change of residence.

Failure to provide proper notification of a change of address will not excuse an owner for failure to comply with HFCA notices, such as annual and/or special assessments and other critical information.

Notifying HFCA will ensure that the property owner continues to receive the HFCA newsletters. Normally, newsletters are delivered to each property owner’s residence and mailed to non-resident owners. The HFCA newsletter serves as the vehicle for notifying property owners of official HFCA business as well as general news about activities in our community. Don’t miss out on critical information about your community—please send us your new address using the form below:

Name (Print legibly) \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

New Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: HFCA, P.O. Box 2239, Fairfax, VA 22031-2239

## **Fall Clean-Up Planned**

*by Bill Galinis*

The community Fall Clean-Up will be held on **Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.** We will meet in the upper common area. Please bring gas-powered grass trimmers/edgers, pruning shears, hand clippers and work gloves. We will be focusing on sprucing up the upper and lower common areas, working along the path on the north and south ends of the property, and cleaning up the entrance ways. This is also a good time for all of us to spend a little extra effort in cleaning up around our own homes as the winter approaches.

## **Architectural Committee**

*by Bob Sottile*

Recently the Board of Directors made a walk of our entire community and was really impressed with how well most of the homes are being maintained and updated. The overall curbside appearance is excellent, which makes it easy to understand how the value of homes in our community has surpassed the \$300,000 mark and will continue to rise.

We did note some homes that need some work and sent out 25 letters to the homeowners concerned. The most obvious problem appears to be the condition of our attic vents. Twenty-five years have taken a toll on the original plastic vents that the builder chose to install. They have deteriorated to the point that they crumble to the touch, and apparently many of them have been touched because they have holes through them. Some of the holes are large enough to allow squirrels and birds into the attic, which I'm sure none of us wishes to have.

The home improvement stores carry a vinyl version that will fit right into the rectangular openings and is relatively easy to install. I replaced mine several years ago and it took less than two hours. However, at that time the standard circular one was about an inch smaller in diameter than the current one, which made it a little bit harder, but still not that difficult.

During the past month the Committee has reviewed and approved the following improvements within our community:

- At 4316 Still Meadow Road, replacement of the front entrance door;
- At 10110 Round Top Court, construction of a front porch; and
- At 10114 Spinning Wheel Court, replacement of the soffitt with white vinyl.

## **Next Board Meeting**

The next meeting of the Hickory Farms Community Association Board will be Thursday, November 8 at 7:30 at Rita Mullin's home (4317 Farm House Lane). Please call Rita or Bob Cogriff if you'd like to attend so that we can put you on the agenda.



# Hickory Farms News

Hickory Farms Community Association

P.O. Box 2239

Fairfax, VA 22031-2239

[www.communitypath.com](http://www.communitypath.com).

November/December 2001

## Message from the President

by *Bob Cosgriff*

The 2001 Annual Meeting was very successful in my opinion. In addition to the twenty seven households who had one or both owners present (including a good number of relatively new community members to go with the "old timers"), we received 48 proxies. Thanks to all who took part for your support of this important HFCA function.

The two main items of business were the approval of the 2002 budget and the election of next year's Board. The budget was approved, along with an \$20/year increase in the annual assessment. Please refer to the Treasurer's article for details on the rationale for the increase, and a breakout of how the money is to be spent next year. The biggest line item is to pay for additional service to the common grounds. The first step in this can already be seen at the entrances at Burke Station Road and Roberts Road, where our maintenance company has trimmed and weeded, removed leaves, and planted cold weather pansies to beautify these spots.

The election for directors resulted in the following persons being selected for next year's Board. The Board will select its officers at the first meeting, but based on preliminary discussions, this is how it is shaping up:

President	Bob Cosgriff *	(Cotton Farm Road)
Vice-President	vacant	
Treasurer	Brand Niemann	(Still Meadow Road)
Secretary	Rita Mullin *	(Farm House Lane)
ACC	Rob and Lorna Cooke	(Farm House Lane)
Grounds	Rich Dudley	(Farm House Lane)
Neighborhood Watch	Ken Danger	(Farm House Lane)
Welcome Wagon #	Ginny Herchert *	(Farm House Lane)

(\* indicates returning member from 2001; # Welcome Wagon is a non-elected position)

It looks like Farm House Lane is leading the parade this year! We are seeking someone to be the Vice-President. We may also need some volunteers to fill out the ACC. It would be great if we could have a member from each street. Let a Board member know if you are interested.

*(continued on page 2)*

As is customary near the end of the year, I would like to include an updated scorecard on Board activities and accomplishments for 2001. This is basically the report that I read at the Annual Meeting. It is organized around the stated goals for the Association:

**1. Maintain the physical attractiveness of the neighborhood:** We have placed emphasis on this goal in every newsletter, both in the President's Corner and in the ACC article. We did a walk-around of the neighborhood on 24 June to take a snapshot of appearance and compliance. We sent letters to about 25 homeowners, or just over 10% of the residents, who had more than one minor discrepancy or one major infraction. I am happy to report that many residents took steps to correct discrepancies and therefore contribute to meeting this goal. There are still a few folks who have not responded; we may have to hold hearings and in extreme cases, invoke our right to fine people for non-compliance.

In addition to notifying homeowners in cases of discrepancies, we also wanted to point out representative "homes of distinction" where certain neighbors have done an exemplary job of maintenance and beautification. The purpose of this is to recognize hard work by some and to encourage others to put in more effort on their properties. We like to use this as a means of positive motivation, rather than to focus on negatives and citing people who fail to live up to their homeowner responsibilities.

With home prices moving steadily upwards (we have had several houses go for 300K+ already this year), it is imperative that all of us do everything we can to keep our neighborhood looking its best.

**2. Protect, preserve and where appropriate, enhance the common grounds:** We held two productive clean-ups this year. We added some services to our grounds maintenance contract and anticipate additional services next year. We have a couple projects lined up for next year as well, things we didn't get a chance to do this year:

- investigating ways to eliminate the standing water problem in the lower common ground near the black path behind 10007 Cotton Farm Road. We may need to install a

### **Hickory Farms Community Association Board**

<b>President</b>	Bob Cosgriff	703-764-0720
<b>Vice-President</b>	Pam Barrett	703-978-2132
<b>Secretary</b>	Rita Mullin	703-323-6904
<b>Treasurer</b>	Chuck Bethany	703-503-8574
<b>Grounds</b>	Bill Galinis	703-426-4569
<b>Architectural Review</b>	Bob & Lee Sottile	703-978-1122
<b>Neighborhood Watch</b>	Kathy Gillette	703-503-3158
<b>Welcome Wagon</b>	Ginny Herchert	703-978-0783

a type of French drain there to let the water percolate down.

- We may also get the County Arborist to come to Hickory Farms to give us an overall assessment on our trees and ways to eliminate some of the invasive plants (including poison ivy) that are choking out more desirable trees.

**3. Increasing the participation of residents in community events.** Welcome Wagon kept busy meeting with several new neighbors. This is where we try to create initial interest in our activities. We did pick up a few new members for neighborhood watch, but still only about 25% of the neighborhood households take part in this important activity. We had a nice turnout for the cleanup and the Spring Fling the following week. The Fall Cleanup drew fewer people than we had hoped for, but some residents took the opportunity to work in their own yards that day. We had about 40 people at the Fall Block Party. It was a perfect day and we had hoped for more turnout. But those who attended had a nice time. We held a Community Yard Sale in September (Pete Scala is the organizer). We may hold one in the Spring in 2002. We'd like to thank everyone who paid the 2001 dues on time; we have almost no "collection" problems this year. Many neighbors took part in the candlelight vigil after September 11<sup>th</sup>.

We had four people volunteer to serve on the Board next year. They are all relatively new neighbors to Hickory Farms. We appreciate their willingness to offer their time and skills to making this a better neighborhood, despite the demands of work and families and other responsibilities.

**4. Continue our strong working relationship with Supervisor Bulova.** This year, we had two main issues that the Supervisor helped with:

- Storm water runoff flooding problem on Wheatfield Court. We had a number of meetings both on-site and off-site, and wrote a letter to support budgeting for this project. Our work paid off with approval by the Board of Supervisors for funding for this project, which should be started sometime before the end of this year. This will temporarily close part of the black path at the north end of Hickory Farms between Country Squire Lane and Wheatfield Court.
- Three-way stop at Cotton Farm/Still Meadow. This has been approved and we are awaiting installation.

We attended Braddock District Council Meetings. I am a BDC committee head for this year, which gives us a bit more visibility with this body. Outgoing two-term Vice-President Pam Barrett was appointed by Sharon Bulova as Chair of the Fairfax County Disabilities Services Board, another plus for Hickory Farms. On 24 October, I attended the dedication of the Supervisor's new offices, located adjacent to the Kings Park Library at the corner of Burke Lake Road and Rolling Road, one block south of Braddock Road. These offices are much more centrally located and easier to find than the old offices at Chapel Square on Holborn Road in Annandale.

We had no pressing issues with the School Board representative this year. We were on record

as supporting the Bond Issue that will provide funding for W.T. Woodson renovations.

**5. Maintaining the peace and safety of the neighborhood through Neighborhood Watch and cooperation with the FCPD:** we have had a few minor incidents of vandalism (mailboxes, egging, TP-ing, etc., plus one abandoned stolen car), which most of which occurred right before Halloween, but by and large, Hickory Farms continues to be a tranquil and safe place to live. We notified people of crime trends in our area to make neighbors more alert. We have a good rapport with the FCPD, and have requested more police presence here in response to the rash of incidents cited above. More people on Neighborhood Watch would also enable us to improve security. We ask those of you who live around the common ground to be alert to the presence of groups of young people there, especially after dark. If you see what appears to be suspicious behavior, then we recommend that you note down particulars, then call the police, and let the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator know as well. Try to get license numbers. We have some reason to believe that some youths from outside the neighborhood are coming here, perhaps to drink or to "do" drugs. While the cold weather may put a damper on this, vigilance is still called for.

**6. Ensuring that the Board is open, responsive and consistent in carrying out its legal requirements:** In addition to tried-and-true methods of communication like the newsletter and just walking around and talking to people, we also have another way to pass the word with our website, which can be found at "communitypath.com." You will have to log in with a password of your choosing. The site is secure and your name/e-mail, etc. doesn't go to third parties. We update this site periodically, so please check it often.

All in all, it was a successful year for the Association. I would like to thank all the outgoing Board members for their dedication and expenditure of time on behalf of the neighborhood, and I would like to welcome the new Board members. We look forward to another enjoyable and successful year in 2002.

This will be the last newsletter for 2001. With that in mind, we wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and of course best wishes for the upcoming holiday period that will usher in the new year of 2002.

## **Donate A Phone Campaign**

*by Kathy Gillette*

The Donate A Phone campaign collects wireless phones that are no longer being used by consumers. Founded in 1999 by the Wireless Foundation, Motorola and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), Donate A Phone is an extension of the Call To Protect program, a national initiative aimed at combating domestic violence. The donated phones are taken to Motorola and rebuilt, then distributed to victims of domestic violence. The victims are able to dial 911, the non-emergency number, and the domestic violence hotline. For more information on this program, go to <http://www.donateaphone.com>.

# Treasurer's Report

by *Chuck Bethany*

This year's annual meeting was well attended and was a success. In my mind, the highlight as the approval of the budget for 2002, which is presented below. The Board of Directors has worked hard this year to try to make our community and common grounds more attractive. We have for the first time in eight years a small increase in our annual assessment, which will enable us to keep up with inflation and to perform additional maintenance in our common areas. The annual assessment for 2002 will be \$100, an increase of \$1.67 per month. The January newsletter will provide additional details about when the annual assessment will be due.

## Hickory Farms Community Association Approved 2002 Budget

	HF Acct	Budget
<b>Income</b>	Annual Dues	\$15,840.00
	Proposed Dues Increase	\$3,960.00
	Other	\$50.00
	Interest - Checking	\$70.00
	VPOAA Packages	\$300.00
<b>Income Total</b>		<b>\$20,220.00</b>
<b>Expense</b>	Audit/Tax Preparation	\$350.00
	Bank Charges	\$50.00
	Insurance, Directors	\$1,120.00
	Insurance, Liability	\$950.00
	Insurance, Surety	\$300.00
	Legal Fees	\$600.00
	Maintenance/Landscaping	\$13,500.00
	Miscellaneous	\$500.00
	Neighborhood Watch	\$500.00
	Newsletters, Postage	\$1,650.00
	Taxes, Fees	\$500.00
	VPOAA Packages	\$200.00
<b>Expense Total</b>		<b>\$20,220.00</b>
<b>Savings</b>	Interest - Savings	\$500.00
<b>Savings Total</b>		<b>\$500.00</b>



# Architectural Control

*by Bob Sottile*

During the past year the ACC has reviewed, and approved 27 applications by home owners to make improvements to their homes. Many have been upgrades for siding and adding decks. These type of upgrades are a big help in increasing our property values and it has been working. Most of the sales this past year have been over \$300,000 which is a nice jump over last year and many of the homes have sold within the first week of going on the market.

The Board of Directors made a walk through of our community and 30 letters were sent to home owners who have mostly minor problems with their property. The most common problem were attic vents. The original plastic vent the builder installed have deteriorated to the point that they just crumble to the touch, and by all appearances, many have been touched within our community because many of them have large holes in them. This allows critters (birds and squirrels) to enter the attic space and make homes. I am sure that no one wants that.

I recently replaced both of them for a neighbor on a split foyer style of home. The standard rectangular size is 18" by 24". The cost for the quality vinyl vent is \$28.15, including tax, at Home Depot. It took less than two hours to install them both. The hardest part was getting the extension ladder out, tying it on top of the vehicle, driving around the corner, and taking it back off. I highly recommend that you do not buy the cheap plastic version for around \$10.00 the little extra the vinyl version cost is well worth it. They are much easier to install, have a 40 year warranty, and look much better.

In another area, I recently came across a product that looks very interesting. Dura-Stone Epoxy Aggregate Surfaces. This surface can be used to repair some of the driveways that have been deteriorating within our community. It may not only be an option to repair your driveway, but I have seen several of them and am considering having it done just to improve the appearance of my driveway in spite of the fact that it has not deteriorated.

I have contacted the company and they gave me a price of \$5.50 per square foot. I also contacted a concrete company, and the cost to breakup, haul away, and replace a concrete driveway is \$8.00 a square foot. A typical single driveway within our community is 10 feet wide and 40 feet long. The price to replace a typical 400 square foot driveway, at \$8.00 per square foot would be around \$3,200. To resurface the same driveway with Dura-Stone would be around \$2,200. A \$1,000 savings. If you would like to talk to the Dura-Stone company, their number in Woodbridge is (703) 491-0335.

Of course the Board of Directors, Architectural Control Committee and myself can make no recommendation of this product, and highly recommend that you do your homework and check with the Better Business Bureau and check references before having any home improvement work done.

My wife and I have enjoyed serving on the Board of Directors and Chairing the Architectural Control Committee. The cooperation we have received from everyone these past two years is greatly appreciated. We would like to thank Jeff Bush, Bob Montgomery, and George Rosenkranz for all of their hard work on the ACC. As we leave these positions, we know that we are leaving them in good hands and will continue to be active in our great community.

## Community News

Congratulations to Rich and Patty Dudley (Farm House Lane), who welcomed their third son, Richard, on 22 October.

Sam Riffle (Harvester Farm Court) is currently in New York City as part of a special team rebuilding the main Verizon switching center severely damaged in the 11 September attacks on the World Trade Center. This project will last nearly two months.

Three young people (Madeline and Eleanor Breeland and Lauren Cruz, all of Harvester Farm Lane) received a certificate for raising \$30 in contributions for the 11 September disaster fund. They stood by our Burke Station Road entrance and received donations from neighbors and passers-by.

### Official Notice: Property Owner Change-of-Address

The Board of Directors has identified a need to establish a policy regarding changes to the official "address of record" for property owners. Unless notified otherwise **in writing**, the official "address of record" for a property owner is the owner's property address within the Hickory Farms development. Should an owner establish an alternate residence, he/she shall notify the Hickory Farms Community Association in writing of the change of residence.

Failure to provide proper notification of a change of address will not excuse an owner for failure to comply with HFCA notices, such as annual and/or special assessments and other critical information.

Notifying HFCA will ensure that the property owner continues to receive the HFCA newsletters. Normally, newsletters are delivered to each property owner's residence and mailed to non-resident owners. The HFCA newsletter serves as the vehicle for notifying property owners of official HFCA business as well as general news about activities in our community. Don't miss out on critical information about your community—please send us your new address using the form below:

Name (Print legibly) \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

New Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: HFCA, P.O. Box 2239, Fairfax, VA 22031-2239