

2002

Hickory Farms

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Hickory Farms News

Hickory Farms Community Association

P.O. Box 2239

Fairfax, VA 22031-2239

www.communitypath.com

January 2002

Message from the President

by Bob Cosgriff

Not too long ago, or so it seems, I sat down to write the first of these articles to welcome the new millennium. Certainly a lot has happened in the world and in our neighborhood since then. Now a new year is beginning. Let us all hope it is one in which peace and 'normalcy' return to the world at large.

As for Hickory Farms, we intend to operate with the same vision and goals as we have in the past. That means trying to make our neighborhood the best place in Fairfax County to live. Our "Mission Statement" is included in this newsletter just to remind everyone of the key ingredients of this quest. In 2001, we believe HFCA was successful in meeting the goals outlined. One visible example is the new "all way" stop signs at the corner of Still Meadow and Cotton Farm. Another is in the improved appearance at the neighborhood entrances. We also noted an improvement in the overall 'curb appeal' of the neighborhood through approved home improvements and generally better 'housekeeping' of properties. Perhaps not coincidentally, we observed a big run-up in prices for homes sold in 2002. We had successful neighborhood social events in the Spring and Fall, and we welcomed several new residents to the community. We achieved county approval and funding for a storm water project to eliminate flooding in a neighbor's house. We had a very commendable turnout for the Annual Meeting in October. All the successes were due to the hard work of the volunteer Board members, and I'd like to recognize them: Pam Barrett (Vice President), Bob and Lee Sottile (ACC), Rita Mullin (Secretary), Kathy Gillette (Neighborhood Watch), Chuck Bethany (Treasurer), and Bill Galinis (Grounds). Thanks go to Bob Montgomery, George Rosenkranz and Jeff Bush, who were members of the Architectural Control Committee. I'd also like to thank Diana Galinis who often attended meetings for Bill when he was on Navy travel. And a tip of the hat to Pete Scala for organizing the successful Hickory Farms Yard Sale in September.

I'd now like to introduce this year's Board:

President:	Bob Cosgriff
Vice-President:	Ginny Herchert
Treasurer:	Brand Niemann
Secretary:	Rita Mullin
ACC:	Robert and Lorna Cooke
Grounds:	Richard Dudley
Neighborhood Watch:	Ken Danger
Welcome Wagon:	Ginny Herchert

I'd like to thank Rita and Ginny for staying on, and the five new members for making the commitment to serve their community in the upcoming year.

In closing, you can contact any Board member by using the numbers listed elsewhere in the newsletter. We also have a web-site at www.communitypath.com, where we post general information. We will announce monthly meetings via the newsletter, which we will distribute toward the end of each month. In February, the meeting is on Wednesday, 13 February, at 7:30 p.m. at Rita Mullin's house (4317 Farm House Lane). If you plan to attend, please let her or me know so we have enough chairs.

Please take note that the annual HFCA assessment of \$100, approved at the general meeting, is due and payable no later than 31 March. Thanks for getting your payments in on time.

Community News

We extend our condolences to the family of Jerry Pressler (4380 Harvester Farm Lane) who passed away just before Christmas. The Presslers are original homeowners in Hickory Farms.

Congratulations to Vince and Jennifer Tricarico (Cotton Farm Road), who welcomed new son Vincent Rocco on January 19th.

Former Board member Bill Galinis was co-author of an article published in the December issue of *Seapower* magazine. The article dealt with the capabilities of a new class of amphibious ship (LPD-17), for which Bill is the Navy Sea Systems Command's Production Officer (that's why he was traveling so much the last couple of years!)

Found:

- A bike was found by Neighborhood Watch in the woods across from 10005 Cotton Farm Road on December 7. If you are missing a bike, please call Rich Pernicano at 703-425-5003. Describe your missing bike to Rich to see if your description matches the bike found.
- Children's plastic picnic tables, in common ground along creek. Contact Bob Cosgriff at (703) 764-0720

Capitol Steps, a nationally known musical political satire comedy troupe, will perform at W.T. Woodson High School Auditorium on Sunday, March 3, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$22 in advance, \$27 at the door. A limited number of reserved, block seating will be available for groups of 24 or more. For advanced purchase send a stamped, self-addressed envelope and check payable to the Woodson Band Patrons to: Capitol Steps, 10176 Red Spruce Road, Fairfax, VA 22032. Part of the price of each ticket benefits both the Woodson Band and the 2002 Cavalier Cruise Graduation Party. For additional information contact Joe Barnes at joba4@msn.com or 703-425-8014.

Hickory Farms Community Association Board

President	Bob Cosgriff	703-764-0720
Vice-President	Ginny Herchert	703-978-0783
Secretary	Rita Mullin	703-323-6904
Treasurer	Brand Niemann	703-503-8124
Grounds	Richard Dudley	703-503-2060
Architectural Review	Robert & Lorna Cooke	703-426-5164
Neighborhood Watch	Ken Danger	703-323-1628

HFCA Vision and Goals 2002

Hickory Farms has always been, currently is, and for the foreseeable future will remain, essentially a community of young and growing families, which nonetheless comprises a variety of residents, including young, unmarried professionals, occasional college (usually graduate) students, empty-nesters, and some retirees. Approximately ninety percent of the residents of the residents are homeowners, and the remainder renters, often long-term, who eventually buy homes here.

Our greatest assets are:

- The people who choose to live in our neighborhood
- Our seventeen acres of common grounds, including open mowed fields, forested areas, creek habitat, and a restored natural meadow with bluebird trail
- Our placement in the Woodson pyramid, enabling our children to attend some of the finest schools in Fairfax County—Oak View Elementary, Frost Middle, and Woodson High School
- Our central location, convenient to Metro (Vienna), VRE (Burke Center), the City of Fairfax, the Reagan National Airports, and Washington, D.C.
- Our nearness to George Mason University, with its many education, cultural and sports activities
- The reasonable price of our homes compared to neighboring subdivisions

Our goals for the future include:

- Maintaining the physical attractiveness of this twenty-five-year-old neighborhood to ensure that property values continue to increase
- Protecting, preserving and, where appropriate, enhancing the common grounds
- Increasing the involvement of residents in community operations and events, such as membership on the HFCA Board, Neighborhood Watch, the Architectural Control Committee, Spring and Fall Cleanups and social events
- Continuing our already strong working relationship with the office of the Braddock District Supervisor and our elected School Board Representative to ensure that our residents' concerns receive attention at these levels
- Maintaining the peace and safety of the neighborhood through on-going coordination with the Fairfax County Police and specifically through the Neighborhood Watch program
- Ensuring that the operation of the HFCA Board is open, responsive and consistent with the legal requirements of our By-laws and Covenants and the Virginia Property Owners' Association Act (VPOA), without being intrusive

To carry our these goals, we will:

- Use persuasion, example and, where necessary, the powers of the HFCA Covenants to ensure that all homeowners show respect and courtesy for their neighbors by maintaining their properties so that all may enjoy increasing value for their major investment
- Actively seek neighbors to assist the Board as volunteers and to take their turn as active Board members for at least one year
- Assign one Board Member with the primary responsibility of maintaining close liaison with the office of the Braddock District Supervisor and the School Board representative
- Continuing the monthly publication of the HFCA Newsletter to keep all residents informed of community news, and keep our website (www.communitypath.com) current.
- Maintain our annual dues at the lowest level consistent with having a balanced budget and sufficient reserve funds for future contingencies or membership-approved capital expenditures. Currently, the dues are \$100/year and the reserve is equal to just over one year's operating expenses.

Neighborhood Watch

by Ken Danger

The neighborhood watch is looking for a few good women and men to volunteer about 3 hours of their time, roughly 3 times a year. For further info please contact the Watch Coordinator, Ken Danger, at (703) 323-1628 or email him at Kenneth.Danger@usdoj.gov

No significant activity was reported during the early part of January although the following find seems notable. A rather large drug "bong" was found along the path going up the hill in the lower common grounds. It would seem that there are a few kids in the neighborhood who 'just don't get it'. As a result, I encourage you to talk with your children early and often about drug use, to get to know who their friends are and to know where they are going since, quite honestly, you care a lot about their well-being—and so do we.

Neighborhood Watch Schedule

Fri.	January 25, 2002	Angel Meza	Jason Meza
Sat.	January 26, 2002	Kirk Randall	Jerry Tumelty
Fri.	February 1, 2002	Ken Danger	Johnny Kim
Sat.	February 2, 2002	Dave Maurer	Sanjeev Munjal
Fri.	February 8, 2002	Bob Cosgriff	Don Klingemann
Sat.	February 9, 2002	Ed Kiechlin	Bob Wright
Fri.	February 15, 2002	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters
Sat.	February 16, 2002	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg
Fri.	February 22, 2002	Jeff Lindsay	Larry Rogers

Welcome Wagon

by Ginny Herchert

The Pham family has recently moved into 4318 Farm House Lane. Thanh and Hoa and their son Jonathan, 9, and daughters Harmony, 7, and Hannah, 5. They lived for a year in Annandale after arriving in Virginia from California.

When Ken and Margaret McBeth decided to leave Upper Marlboro, Maryland, to be closer to their daughters and grandchildren, they found Hickory Farms to be just the right community in the right location. For several months they have been living at 10020 Cotton Farm Road.

Welcome to Hickory Farms!

Consumer Protection Information

The Fairfax County Consumer Protection Division maintains complaint histories closed within the last two years on the Fairfax County website. The site also includes information on Auto Repairs, Home Improvements, New Home Construction, and information on filing a complaint about an organization.

Visit the Consumer Protection site at: <http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/dtcs/conserv/homepage.htm>

Architectural Control

by Robert and Lorna Cooke

What's up with home values? How can home prices be at near-record levels while the rest of the economy seems to be slowing? The answers add up to BIG money for anyone who owns a house or is considering buying one. While economists may debate over factors such as the limited supply or high demand for housing, the bottom line is, take good care of your house. It may be the best investment account you've got.

Here at Hickory Farms, home values have steadily risen over the past three or four years. Just ask your *new neighbors*. We all play an important role in preserving the value of each other's investment. By maintaining the appearance of our home, Lorna and I help to maintain the value of all the homes in Hickory Farms. A house that increases in value can help pay for a child's education, the medical expenses for a loved one or that well-deserved retirement.

In the coming weeks an architectural control committee member will be walking through the neighborhood making notes of needed home improvements. If you receive an improvement notice, please make the necessary corrections as soon as possible. In September 2001, several neighbors received improvement notices. We look forward to seeing the innovative improvements.

Elsewhere in the newsletter we've reproduced the Architectural Control Committee Application for Architectural Review. The back of the form includes a list of improvements that require ACC approval and those that do not. If you have any questions about whether your improvement requires approval, don't hesitate to contact us. We look forward to working with all of you this year.

Grounds

by Richard Dudley

One of the greatest assets of Hickory Farms is our seventeen acres of common grounds, including open mowed fields, forested areas, creek habitat, and a restored natural meadow with bluebird trail. The attractiveness and extensive size of the common grounds area has a significant impact on our property values. I encourage each of you to take pride in this valuable neighborhood asset and help me ensure these areas continue to be well maintained and kept free of trash, downed tree limbs, and overgrowth of vines.

As you are likely aware, our recent vote to increase annual dues to \$100 will allow HFCA to contract additional grounds care services to improve the appearance of the neighborhood entrances and common grounds. In the coming weeks, I will conduct a walk-through assessment of all the common grounds to look for areas of improvement that can be undertaken by our landscaping contractor and by neighborhood volunteers during the Spring Clean-Up. If any of you have suggestions on how we can further beautify and maintain our entrances and common grounds, please feel free to contact me.

Though the Spring Clean-Up is still four months away, I want to encourage each of you to be a part of it. It is a great way to meet your neighbors and make a contribution to our community from which we all benefit. Details regarding the Clean-Up will be announced in the coming months. I look forward to meeting and working with you in the coming year.

Let It Snow

by Bob Cosgriff

As the snow blanketed the neighborhood in a lovely white that disappeared by the time we returned to work on Tuesday, we'd like to remind you that when a significant snow falls you can help everyone in the neighborhood out by doing a few things:

1. Park off the street to facilitate full plowing of our streets and cul-de-sacs. This will also protect your car from possible damage by other cars or plows. And by doubling up in your driveway you'll have less snow to shovel to get to the street. If you have more cars than driveway, see if a friendly neighbor will let you use their driveway on an emergency basis, at least until the plows go by.
2. Shovel your walk promptly. Surprisingly, there is no state or county regulation on this, but it only makes good sense to clear your sidewalk so others (especially kids who will eventually have to walk to the bus stop) can pass safely. If you don't like shoveling or are unable, there are lots of kids listed in our phone directory who would be glad to help you out!
3. Do not throw snow from your walk or driveway into the street. Not only is it discourteous and dangerous to drivers, but it's against the law.
4. When the roads are clear, there will still be snowdrifts and there may well be kids on or behind them, so please drive extra carefully through the neighborhood.
5. For the kids: It is dangerous and against the law to throw snowballs at motor vehicles.

Neighborhood Notes

Eva Tran, an independent, experienced beautician, is offering her neighbors at Hickory Farms 20% off on the following services:

- Hair Care: Highlight, color perm, cut, style and corrective color for hair with color problems. Perm and color for eyelashes.
- Skin Care: Facial, acne treatment, waxing, microdermabrasion to effectively improve almost any skin problems.
- Permanent Makeup: Eyebrows, eye liners, lip liners and full lip color.
- Body Massage: Full body massage or face, head, shoulder, back and foot massage (performed by a male masseur).
- Hi-Tech Treatment Program: Face lifting, bust lifting, body slimming, toning and firming for any specific area.

Call: Eva Tran at 703-507-0797
A Head of the Times Salon
11035 Lee Highway

Fairfax, VA

(next to Guitar Center, behind The Big Screen Store, in Westfair Center)

(note: the HFCA makes announcements for community members from time to time. By including these announcements we are not recommending any goods or services. If you would like an announcement included in an upcoming newsletter, contact Rita Mullin at 703-323-6904 or via e-mail at rita_mullin@discovery.com)

Mark Your Calendar: Key Dates for 2002



Dues	March 31
Spring Clean-up	Saturday, May 4 (9 a.m. to noon)
	Rain Date: May 5
Spring Block Party	Sunday, May 19 (1 to 4 p.m.)
Yard Sale	September 7 (tentative date)
Fall Clean-Up	Saturday, October 5 (9 a.m. to noon)
	Rain Date: October 6
Fall Block Party	Sunday, October 20 (1-4 p.m.)
Annual Meeting	October (date to come)

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 _____



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February 2002

Message from the President

by Bob Cosgriff

Here we are in the midst of winter, although you would never guess it as you look around the neighborhood. The 'sledding hill' is strangely bare and silent. Unusual for this time of year is the sight of 'for sale' signs sprouting up along with the crocuses and daffodils. Outdoor home improvement projects are in evidence. This is keeping the Board occupied with ACC approvals, providing VPOAA packages to neighbors who are selling their homes, collecting the annual dues and keeping up on doings at the county and state level.

The General Assembly is meeting now until March 9 to hash out the budget for Virginia. As you know from the headlines, this is proving anything but easy. Everything is on the table for cutting, and talks of tax increases (or at least a referendum on same) is in the air. How does this affect us in Hickory Farms? We would see results of budget retrenchments in our schools (particularly the W.T. Woodson renovation project), traffic (deferral of some already-scheduled road improvements), college tuitions (increases), and curtailment or elimination of certain (as-yet unspecified) governmental services. Of course, all these things will fall on all citizens and not specifically on HF residents. But they are of concern, so I urge you to contact our elected officials (Del. Chap Peterson and Senator Leslie Byrne at the state level; Supervisor Sharon Bulova at the county level) to express your opinion and recommendations.

The one county-funded project that will affect HF is funded and in planning. This is the storm water runoff project behind Wheatfield Court. This has taken a bit longer than we anticipated to get to the construction stage, now tentatively looking like June. There is one potential complication, and that is a proposed in-fill development in the City of Fairfax on Orchard Drive/Mosby Street in the Halemhurst subdivision at our northern boundary line. The proposal would put four large (\$500K) houses where two older houses now stand behind Country Squire Lane and Wheatfield Court. Part of this area is where the storm water runoff project is slated to go. It will probably take nine months to a year to get all the approvals for this development. We are working with Supervisor Bulova's office to coordinate with the City of Fairfax and the developer to ensure that everyone is working together on the HF storm water issue. We would like to thank Bob and Shirley Ambrogi (Wheatfield Court), who have attended two meetings on this issue and provided the Board with diagrams, plans and excellent notes.

Continued on page 2

Message from the President (*con't.*)

At the January meeting, the HFCA Board appointed Lorna Cooke as Treasurer to serve for the remainder of the year in place of Brand Niemann, who had to step down due to other commitments. Brand will remain on the Board and assist in other capacities.

Since the year 2000, over twenty-five new residents have moved into the neighborhood. The Board thought it would be a good idea to re-run a series of articles that briefly tell a little of the history of this part of Fairfax County. Our houses sit on land that is rich in history dating back to the earliest days of British colonial settlement in Virginia and proceeding up through the Civil War and beyond. Famous names such as Fairfax, Braddock, Washington, Mason, Lee, Jackson, Mosby and others are linked to the area around Hickory Farms. We hope that the new residents (and even older neighbors who have read this before) will enjoy this series and gain a new (or renewed) appreciation for the place we call home. The series begins on page 7.

Welcome Wagon

by Ginny Herchert

Three new families have recently moved into homes in Hickory Farms.

- **John and Aggie Berry** (4356 Farm House Lane) and daughter Arlene, 14, and son John, 8, have come to our neighborhood after many years in the Far East with the State Department. Also with them are Aggie's mother, Nellie, and her sister, Baby.
- **Ted and Kelly Williams** (4375 Farm House Lane) and daughter Sarah, 2, have recently moved here from San Diego. In the U.S. Navy, Ted is a Marine Chaplain in Washington, D.C.
- **Don and Shirley Bragg** (4377 Farm House Lane) moved to Northern Virginia from Lancaster, PA, a year ago, lived for awhile in Fairfax City, and are now enjoying Hickory Farms. They have three grown children.

Welcome to Hickory Farms, everyone.

Hickory Farms Community Association Board

President	Bob Cosgriff	703-764-0720
Vice-President	Ginny Herchert	703-978-0783
Secretary	Rita Mullin	703-323-6904
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Neighborhood Watch	Ken Danger	703-323-1628
At-Large	Brand Niemann	703-503-8124

A History of Hickory Farms

Part 1: Colonial Era

by Bob Cosgriff

This is the first of a series of articles that was originally published in 1994. Since many new residents have moved into the neighborhood in the intervening years, this year's Board thought it would be interesting to re-publish a short history of the area where Hickory Farms now sits. There are many anecdotes about the historical events that took place in this area, but just what is fact and what is fancy? What is known of the Native Americans who inhabited this area? Did General Braddock march up what is now Braddock Road? What happened here during the Civil War? Who has owned the land where we now live? The style is informal, and citations to the secondary sources are included. So here we go, back into time to see the interesting and often exciting history of the place we all call home.

Ownership of this land by Europeans is dated from 25 February, 1672, when Charles II of England granted proprietary rights to approximately 5,000,000 acres to Henry Earl of Arlington and Thomas Lord Culpeper, Baron of Thorsway, for their support of Charles's claim to the throne during the period of the Commonwealth under Cromwell. This so-called Northern Neck Proprietary included all the lands lying between the "first spring" or headwaters, of the Potowomack (Potomac) and Powhatan (Rappahannock) Rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. Some scholars believe this is the largest private land holding in history.

As proprietors, these Lords could dispose of their property to other tenants. In 1682, Lord Arlington assigned all his rights to Lord Culpeper. His rights passed through his descendants, one of whom, Catherine Culpeper, married Thomas Fairfax, Fifth Baron of Cameron. Upon the latter's death, the land passed to his son, Thomas, Sixth Baron of Cameron. In 1694, just 300 short years ago, a patent was issued to one William Fitzhugh. His 21,996 acre estate, the largest single land holding in what is now Fairfax County, stretched from near the present-day City of Fairfax to what is now the Shirley Highway, south of Little River Turnpike. He never lived on the land, but planned to lease it out to settlers including, among others, French Huguenots for the purpose of raising grapes for wine. This plan never came to fruition (!) as the subsequent history of colonial Virginia agriculture showed. The first owner to reside on Ravensworth was the original William's great-grandson, also William, who lived there with his wife, Ann Randolph Fitzhugh. The estate was named 'Ravensworth' after an ancestral Fitzhugh home in England.

One of the interesting things to note is the familiar place names encountered: Fairfax, Arlington, Cameron, Culpeper, Ravensworth. In this vein, we should note that the supporters of Charles II were called "Cavaliers." This connection lives on in the immediate area in the W.T. Woodson Cavaliers.

The relationship between Ravensworth and Hickory Farms is found in an investigation of various written sources and land grants. One such description of the estate says that it ". . . stretched from Fairfax Court House to Alexandria and included most of the territory between Route 123 and the Shirley Highway, south of the Little River Turnpike."¹ Other narrative accounts taken from various newspaper articles found in the Ravensworth file describe the holdings as running from Pohick Church (on Route 1) to near Falls Church (Four Mile Run) to Fairfax City, and taking in essentially all of the watersheds of Accotink, Pohick and Back Lick creeks. Rabbit Run, which rises north of Hickory Farms in the woods at the end of Barbara Ann Lane (off Burke Station Road), flows eventually into Pohick Creek, so our location seems to match the description above. The definitive word on Ravensworth is found in a book published by Fairfax County, which states that the Fitzhugh property was the largest single patent in Fairfax County, comprising 21,996 acres, approximately 35 square miles or 9% of the total area of the county. Because of its central location, the estate looked even more imposing, dwarfing its numerous, but much smaller neighboring estates. The accompanying map with land grants overlaid on present-day Fairfax County conclusively shows the north-western corner of Ravensworth to be in Fairfax City and the western boundary tending southwest, intersecting Rabbit Run where that stream flows under Braddock Road in a box culvert.² Thus, the land we all live on can safely said to have once been owned by the Fitzhugh family. The northern boundary line ran due east between modern Route 236 and Route 50, basically parallel and south

of the latter, taking in Daniel's Run Park (which is in the Accotink Creek watershed), most of Mantua and so on eastward across the Beltway, terminating in the Falls Church/Annandale area where the eastern boundary line ran started.

Like most estates, Ravensworth was divided and subdivided as Fitzhugh's heirs died and willed parts of it to their descendants, both sons and daughters. The great-grandson of the William Fitzhugh who first lived on the property left part of the estate in trust for his niece, Mary Randolph Custis, who was the wife of Robert E. Lee.³ The Lee's spent their honeymoon at Ravensworth and General Lee rested there after the Civil War, before leaving to become President of Washington College in Lexington (now Washington and Lee). Anna Maria Fitzhugh, the aging aunt of Mrs. Lee, stayed on the estate during the Civil War. She was forceful enough to cause her property to be placed under the protection of the various Union commanders in Fairfax County. Thus her land suffered little of the damage inflicted on other property here.⁴ We would have to do further digging to determine whether Hickory Farms was actually part of her estate, the center of which was just off Braddock Road at Port Royal road. It seems more likely that with all the Union troops in and around Fairfax Court House that our area probably saw its share of tree cutting and other usage by the Federal forces. Moving to the post-war years, according to newspaper accounts found in the library file, the estate, even in its diminished state was quite famous. The manor house was mysteriously burned (possibly by the son of the caretaker) in 1926, with the loss of a number of heirlooms of the Fitzhugh and Lee families. The holdings later formed the nucleus of the development of North Springfield, including the namesake Ravensworth Shopping Center.⁵

Another question concerning our area is whether Braddock Road was actually traversed by its eponym, General Edward Braddock, and his young colonial aid-de-camp, Major George Washington. The latter was dispatched by Governor Dinwiddie in October 1753 to deliver a message to the French Commander on the Ohio. In Washington's own laconic style, he states that he "left Alexandria and went to Winchester,"⁶ thus leaving us in doubt as to his actual route. The following year he went back to the Forks of the Ohio with a small army of Virginians, but no mention again was made of any of the route until the force was near present day Cumberland, MD, nearer to the enemy. His small force was surprised and defeated, resulting in Washington's capture. He was paroled and therefore was part of Braddock's larger force of regulars which set out in 1755 to chastise the French. According to the diary of a participant, "one regiment and a portion of stores (was) to (go by way of) Winchester, Virginia, whence a new road was nearly completed to Fort Cumberland . . . on the 8th and 9th of April, the provincials and 6 companies of the 44th (regiment) under Sir Peter Halket, set out for Winchester."⁷ According to an article in the *Connection*, there was an Indian trail in the vicinity of present-day Braddock Road. This path followed an Ice-Age path made by bison moving between the Shenandoah Valley and the Potomac. There is mention of George Washington clearing this path the year prior to Braddock's march.⁸ If this is so, it must have been as part of his own campaign; it is doubtful that he cleared the road for Braddock, since the latter was not in the colonies yet. The article also states that Braddock "was supposed to have widened it (the path) to 12 feet." However, the Sargent book describes the Army as being split, one column under Halket in Virginia, the other ferrying across to present day Washington and proceeding up along Rock Creek and thence out a road that was widened, as noted on an historical marker at the corner of Wisconsin Avenue and River Road, near Tenley Circle. The Virginia column only marched a few miles in Fairfax before crossing near Georgetown.⁹ The consensus among historians is that the route went out toward the original county court house (near present Tysons Corner), perhaps along modern Route 7, before crossing the Potomac.

Even if Braddock or Washington themselves never did march up Braddock Road, it is still interesting to think of what this area must have looked like then, or even earlier when now-extinct Ice Age beasts such as bison did in fact range about Virginia. In any case, the aura surrounding the ill-fated General Braddock was strong enough to result in a road being named after him at some point in time. However, until it was recently widened outside the Beltway, Braddock Road was not exactly an impressive monument to the general. Hardly more than a two-lane rural road well into the 1980's, definitely out of place in suburbia, it could make you swear that Braddock's baggage train moved faster than rush-hour traffic on Braddock Road.

¹ Historical Society of Fairfax County, *Yearbook*, vol. 3, 1954. A rough sketch shows the area now occupied by Hickory Farms to be just inside the western boundary. In the Ravensworth file in the Virginia Room of the Fairfax

City Regional Library, there is a modern map of Fairfax with an overlay which shows Hickory Farms lying just outside the western boundary of Ravensworth, which is shown to the east and running through the Fairfax Memorial Park cemetery. However, this map has no date, no attribution and appears to be in error, based on the research cited in the next footnote.

² from Mitchell, Beth. Beginning at a White Oak: Patents and Northern Neck Grants of Fairfax County, Virginia. Fairfax: Office of Comprehensive Planning, 1977. This meticulously researched book is the definitive source. The maps were done in accordance with the most current cartographic techniques to ensure accuracy. While the unattributed map cited above in footnote #2 shows the same surveying angles and distances, its point of origin in Fairfax City is off by about 1/2 mile compared to the Mitchell map.

³Netherton, Ross and Nan. *Fairfax County: A Pictorial History*. Norfolk: The Donning Company, 1986. p.23.

⁴ *ibid.*, p. 75.

⁵ various contemporary newspaper accounts found in the library file.

⁶*The Journal of Major George Washington*. Williamsburg, Va.: Colonial Williamsburg, Inc. , 1959, p. A2

⁷ Sargent, Winthrop, ed., *A History of an Expedition against the Fort Duquesne in 1755 Under Major-General Edward Braddock*. New York: Arno Press, 1971 reprint. This work was originally published by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in 1855 and consists of original diaries, records and other accounts of the ill-fated Braddock march. His army was small by modern standards, his regiments numbering 500 each. With his colonial troops, levied here, his forces were approximately 1400 strong. Braddock's force, marching in formal European style, was ambushed by the French and their Indian allies, suffering over 900 casualties, including Braddock and Colonel Halket.

⁸ Clark, Allison and Brodie, James Michael, "Travel Through History on the Long, Winding Braddock Road," *Fairfax Connection*, November 8, 1990, pp. 16-17. Since there are no sources cited in the article, there is no way to find the basis for such assertions as "Braddock and his men needed nine days to travel from the Port of Alexandria to the village of Newgate, which was renamed Centreville in 1792. The fact is, Braddock himself was part of the Maryland column.

⁹ Sargent, op. cit., *passim*.



Hickory Farms News

Hickory Farms Community Association

P.O. Box 2239

Fairfax, VA 22031-2239

www.communitypath.com

March 2002

Message from the President

by Bob Cosgriff

With the coming of Spring, the neighborhood is beginning to brighten up with flowers and the return of singing birds. In fact, bluebirds have already been spotted looking over the boxes in the lower common ground. At the same time, many homeowners are beginning to undertake home improvements such as decks, new roofs, new siding, new windows, etc. Just a reminder: any *change* to the exterior appearance of your house requires approval in advance from the Architectural Control Committee. On the other hand, if what you are doing does not change the appearance (e.g., repainting trim with the same color, replacing a storm door with a like model in same color), then you do not have to submit a request for ACC approval. Some projects, such as decks, also require a Fairfax County building permit, evidence of which must be provided to the ACC with any request.

Ginny Herchert and I have heard repeatedly during Welcome Wagon visits that the appearance of the neighborhood is often the determining factor in a decision to buy or rent a home in Hickory Farms. That is why it is so important for all homeowners to spend the time, effort and money to keep their houses in a state of peak repair and appearance.

Here's a short list ("The Dirty (Half) Dozen") of things that can really detract from a property's appearance:

1. **Dilapidated fences.** These are fences with rails, slats or whole sections missing, posts leaning, needing paint, etc. The Covenants are specific: if you have a fence, it must be kept in good repair. This is going to be a priority with the ACC this year, so if your fence meets the descriptions above, please take action now to correct any deficiencies.

(Continued on page 2)



Have You Paid
Your Annual Assessment?

\$100 fee due by March 31
See page 5 for payment details

Message from the President (con't.)

2. **Unedged lawns and curb strips.** The most exemplary properties in the neighborhood are those that pay attention to trimming, weeding and edging. This extends to grass growing in sidewalk and driveway cracks, and even gutters. The best time of year to start eliminating this detractor is with the very first cutting. It looks like that is going to be very soon, given the weather.

3. **Litter.** It pops up everywhere and takes many shapes: soda or beer cans, cigarette packs, cardboard boxes, plastic bags, newspaper pages, candy wrappers, etc. Some comes from recycling bins that are not protected from the wind. Some comes from the act of emptying garbage cans with loose refuse in it. Some is discarded by thoughtless people passing through the neighborhood. Any litter will stay where it is until someone picks it up. So if you see litter in front of your house, or as you are walking along, please take the time to make your neighborhood a bit more attractive by picking it up. A tip of the hat to Larry Russe (Tumbleweed Court) who keeps the area around the creek free of debris.

4. **Ripped screens, broken shutters, cracked attic vents, loose siding, peeling paint etc.** Many of these detractors are fairly easy and inexpensive to correct. They make a big difference in appearance.

5. **Cracked or spalling driveways and entrance walks.** The driveways and walkways here are getting to be old, and many are showing it, some more than others. Maybe now is the time for that new look you've been thinking of.

The ACC will be conducting a Spring walk-around to get an initial impression of the neighborhood. Hopefully, it will show the level of attention and pride of ownership that has appealed to many of our newest residents when they decided to move here. As we did last year, we will notify owners when there is a violation of the Covenants.

To shift gears somewhat, some of the other reasons new neighbors have given for liking Hickory Farms is that it is friendly, it is quiet, it is safe (Neighborhood Watch), the HOA is involved, it is in the Woodson pyramid of schools, or they have friends or relatives here. Many new neighbors have waited a year or more to find the right house for sale so they could buy here. That's a pretty strong testimonial. We would love to hear our future new neighbors say the same things about our special neighborhood.

Hickory Farms Community Association Board

President	Bob Cosgriff	703-764-0720
Vice-President	Ginny Herchert	703-978-0783
Secretary	Rita Mullin	703-323-6904
Treasurer	Lorna Cooke	703-426-5164
Grounds	Richard Dudley	703-503-2060
Architectural Review	Robert Cooke	703-426-5164
Neighborhood Watch	Ken Danger	703-323-1628
At-Large	Brand Niemann	703-503-8124

Architectural Control

by Robert and Lorna Cooke

Many home improvement projects begin with someone in the household saying “Wouldn’t it be nice if...?” What follows may be a wish for a remodeled kitchen or bath, building a deck or simply replacing those old windows and shutters. Although buying a home is the “American Dream,” it seems there’s always something about our homes that we would love to improve.

Here in Hickory Farms, our neighbors have many home improvement projects underway. Please remember that the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) must review any project that alters the outward appearance of your property. If you are uncertain whether a project requires ACC review, contact one of the ACC members (*at a reasonable hour*). The Application for Architectural Review should contain enough detailed information to enable the committee to make an informed decision. On page 9, we’ve included a sample application filled out.

Please include the following information as part of the application as needed to clarify the project proposal:

Description of the project (feel free to include additional sheets)
Architectural drawings / construction materials sheet
Color samples
Plot plan
Photo or brochure
Copy of work permit

A History of Hickory Farms

Part 2: Colonial Era

by Bob Cosgriff

In last month's newsletter, we mentioned the Ravensworth estate, granted to one William Fitzhugh in 1694. He never lived on the land, but planned to lease it out to settlers including, among others, French Huguenots for the purpose of raising grapes for wine¹. This plan never came to fruition as the subsequent history of colonial Virginia agriculture showed. The first owner to reside on Ravensworth was the original William's great-grandson, also William, who lived there with his wife, Ann Randolph Fitzhugh. The estate was named 'Ravensworth' after an ancestral Fitzhugh home in England.

The relationship between Ravensworth and Hickory Farms is found in an investigation of various written sources and land grants. One such description of the estate says that it “. . .stretched from Fairfax Court House to Alexandria and included most of the territory between Route 123 and the Shirley Highway, south of the Little River Turnpike.”² Other narrative accounts taken from various newspaper articles found in the Ravensworth file describe the holdings as running from Pohick Church (on Route 1) to near Falls Church (Four Mile Run) to Fairfax City, and taking in essentially all of the watersheds of Accotinck, Pohick and Back Lick creeks. Rabbit Run, which rises north of Hickory Farms in the woods at the end of Barbara Ann Lane (off Burke Station Road), flows eventually into Pohick Creek, so our location seems to match the description above. The definitive word on Ravensworth is found in a book published by Fairfax County, which states that the Fitzhugh property was the largest single patent in Fairfax County, comprising 21,996 acres, approximately 35 square miles or 9% of the total area of the county. Because of

its central location, the estate looked even more imposing, dwarfing its numerous, but much smaller neighboring estates. The accompanying map with land grants overlaid on present-day Fairfax County conclusively shows the north-western corner of Ravensworth to be in Fairfax City and the western boundary tending southwest, intersecting Rabbit Run where that stream flows under Braddock Road in a box culvert.³ Thus, the land we all live on can safely be said to have once been owned by the Fitzhugh family. The northern boundary line ran due east between modern Route 236 and Route 50, basically parallel and south of the latter, taking in Daniel's Run Park (which is in the Accotink Creek watershed), most of Mantua and so on eastward across the Beltway, terminating in the Falls Church/Annandale area where the eastern boundary line ran started.

Like most estates, Ravensworth was divided and subdivided as Fitzhugh's heirs died and willed parts of it to their descendants, both sons and daughters. The great-grandson of the William Fitzhugh who first lived on the property left part of the estate in trust for his niece, Mary Randolph Custis, who was the wife of Robert E. Lee.⁴ The Lee's spent their honeymoon at Ravensworth and General Lee rested there after the Civil War, before leaving to become President of Washington College in Lexington (now Washington and Lee). Anna Maria Fitzhugh, the aging aunt of Mrs. Lee, stayed on the estate during the Civil War. She was forceful enough to cause her property to be placed under the protection of the various Union commanders in Fairfax County. Thus her land suffered little of the damage inflicted on other property here.⁵ We would have to do further digging to determine whether Hickory Farms was actually part of her estate, the center of which was just off Braddock Road at Port Royal road. It seems more likely that with all the Union troops in and around Fairfax Court House that our area probably saw its share of tree cutting and other usage by the Federal forces. Moving to the post-war years, according to newspaper accounts found in the library file, the estate, even in its diminished state was quite famous. The manor house was mysteriously burned (possibly by the son of the caretaker) in 1926, with the loss of a number of heirlooms of the Fitzhugh and Lee families. The holdings later formed the nucleus of the development of North Springfield, including the namesake Ravensworth Shopping Center.⁶

Another question raised last month was whether Braddock Road was actually traversed by its eponym, General Edward Braddock and his young colonial aid-de-camp, Major George Washington. The latter was dispatched by Governor Dinwiddie in October 1753 to deliver a message to the French Commander on the Ohio. In Washington's own laconic style, he states that he "left Alexandria and went to Winchester,"⁷ thus leaving us in doubt as to his actual route. The following year he went back to the Forks of the Ohio with a small army of Virginians, but no mention again was made of any of the route until the force was near present day Cumberland, MD, nearer to the enemy. His small force was surprised and defeated, resulting in Washington's capture. He was paroled and therefore was part of Braddock's larger force of regulars which set out in 1755 to chastise the French. According to the diary of a participant, "one regiment and a portion of stores (was) to (go by way of) Winchester, Virginia, whence a new road was nearly completed to Fort Cumberland . . . on the 8th and 9th of April, the provincials and 6 companies of the 44th (regiment) under Sir Peter Halket, set out for Winchester."⁸ According to an article in the *Connection*, there was an Indian trail in the vicinity of present-day Braddock Road. This path followed an Ice-Age path made by bison moving between the Shenandoah Valley and the Potomac. There is mention of George Washington clearing this path the year prior to Braddock's march.⁹ If this is so, it must have been as part of his own campaign; it is doubtful that he cleared the road for Braddock, since the latter was not in the colonies yet. The article also states that Braddock "was supposed to have widened it (the path) to 12 feet." However, the Sargent book describes the Army as being split, one column under Halket in Virginia, the other ferrying across to present day Washington and proceeding up along Rock Creek and thence out a road that was widened, as noted on an historical marker at the corner of Wisconsin Avenue and River Road, near Tenley Circle. The Virginia column only marched a few miles in Fairfax before crossing near Georgetown.¹⁰ The consensus among historians is that the route went out toward the original county court house (near present Tysons Corner), perhaps along modern Route 7, before crossing the Potomac.

Even if Braddock or Washington themselves never did march up Braddock Road, it is still interesting to think of what this area must have looked like then, or even earlier when now-extinct Ice Age beasts such as bison did in fact range about Virginia. In any case, the aura surrounding the ill-fated General Braddock was strong enough to result in a road being named after him at some point in time. However, until it was recently widened outside the Beltway, Braddock Road was not exactly an impressive monument to the general. Hardly more than a two-lane rural road well into the 1980's, definitely out of place in suburbia, it could make you swear that Braddock's baggage train

moved faster than rush-hour traffic on Braddock Road.

¹ Netherton, Ross and Nan. Fairfax County: A Pictorial History. Norfolk: The Donning Company, 1986.

² Historical Society of Fairfax County, Yearbook, vol. 3, 1954. A rough sketch shows the area now occupied by Hickory Farms to be just inside the western boundary. In the Ravensworth file in the Virginia Room of the Fairfax City Regional Library, there is a modern map of Fairfax with an overlay which shows Hickory Farms lying just outside the western boundary of Ravensworth, which is shown to the east and running through the Fairfax Memorial Park cemetery. However, this map has no date, no attribution and appears to be in error, based on the research cited in the next footnote.

³ from Mitchell, Beth. Beginning at a White Oak: Patents and Northern Neck Grants of Fairfax County, Virginia. Fairfax: Office of Comprehensive Planning, 1977. This meticulously researched book is the definitive source. The maps were done in accordance with the most current cartographic techniques to ensure accuracy. While the unattributed map cited above in footnote #2 shows the same surveying angles and distances, its point of origin in Fairfax City is off by about 1/2 mile compared to the Mitchell map.

⁴ Netherton, Ross and Nan. Fairfax County: A Pictorial History. Norfolk: The Donning Company, 1986. p.23.

⁵ *ibid.*, p. 75.

⁶ various contemporary newspaper accounts found in the library file.

⁷ The Journal of Major George Washington. Williamsburg, Va.: Colonial Williamsburg, Inc., 1959, p. A2

⁸ Sargent, Winthrop, ed., A History of an Expedition against the Fort Duquesne in 1755 Under Major-General Edward Braddock. New York: Arno Press, 1971 reprint. This work was originally published by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in 1855 and consists of original diaries, records and other accounts of the ill-fated Braddock march. His army was small by modern standards, his regiments numbering 500 each. With his colonial troops, levied here, his forces were approximately 1400 strong. Braddock's force, marching in formal European style, was ambushed by the French and their Indian allies, suffering over 900 casualties, including Braddock and Colonel Halket.

⁹ Clark, Allison and Brodie, James Michael, "Travel Through History on the Long, Winding Braddock Road," *Fairfax Connection*, November 8, 1990, pp. 16-17. Since there are no sources cited in the article, there is no way to find the basis for such assertions as "Braddock and his men needed nine days to travel from the Port of Alexandria to the village of Newgate, which was renamed Centreville in 1792. The fact is, Braddock himself was part of the Maryland column.

¹⁰ Sargent, *op. cit.*, *passim*.



Hickory Farms News

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April 2002

Message from the President

by Bob Cosgriff

Spring is officially here and the neighborhood is bright with blossoms. It appears that we have some new residents in the bluebird boxes in the lower common ground. The W.T. Woodson track team runs through every afternoon. Kids are out playing after school, and the sound of lawnmowers is beginning to fill the air.

Since it is springtime, then it's also time for the semi-annual neighborhood clean-up and party. This year, the clean-up will be held on Saturday, May 11, **and** Sunday, May 19. Why two days, you ask? Well, it seems that some people can't make it on the usual Saturday date, so we decided to give everyone an opportunity. This year, we will concentrate on just a few light projects that Grounds Chair Richard Dudley is planning. He will oversee the Saturday portion, and Rob and Lorna Cooke will head up the Sunday contingent. Both days, the work is from 9 – 12, so that will leave the afternoon free for you. If you can't make it to help out in the common areas, then we would ask that you dedicate a few hours to cleaning up around your own property. The net result will be a more beautiful neighborhood. See Rich's article on page 3 for more.

On Saturday, May 18, we will hold our Spring Fling in the upper common ground from 1 – 4 p.m. Come one, come all and please bring a favorite dish to share. Since so many residents of Hickory Farms are originally from other countries, we suggest that you bring a favorite dish from your cuisine to go with the hamburgers and hotdogs supplied by HFCA so that we have a true international experience. Hope to see you all there.



Spring Community Events

Cleanup: May 11 and 19

9 a.m. to noon, upper common grounds

Spring Fling: May 18

1-4 p.m., upper common grounds

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

Hickory Farms Community Association Board

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Neighborhood Watch	Ken Danger	703-323-1628
At-Large	Brand Niemann	703-503-8124

Welcome Wagon

by Ginny Herchert

Welcome to Ken and Jody Kleponis, who moved into 10004 Cotton Farm Road in January from South Carolina. They came to the area to work at their company's Falls Church office. They live here with their son Tyler, 2-1/2, and daughter Colleen, 5 months.

Neighborhood Watch

by Ken Danger

There is both good and bad-news to report this month. If you're like me you'll want the bad news first. So here it is.

The bad news is that the Watch team no longer has Bob Wright to count on, at least for the time being. Unfortunately a medical situation has arisen for Bob and as a result he has decided to take an indefinite break. He has been a steadfast member since 1984. Let's all wish him health and happiness. Moreover, if you have some time, drop by and say hello or lend a hand if you're willing.

The good news is that no significant activity was reported during the latest period. I'll attribute that good news to members of the Watch and the great community in which we live.

By the way, the Hickory Farms Watch program is looking for new members. If you'd like to volunteer, please keep in mind that your commitment is roughly 3 times a year and for only a few hours each time. To enroll you need only email Kenneth.Danger@usdoj.gov or call Ken at 202-307-5820 during work hours, or at his home (703-323-1628).

Neighborhood Watch Schedule

Fri.	April 26, 2002	Pingjun Li	Jin Wang
Sat.	April 27, 2002	Bob Sottile	Lee Sottile
Fri.	May 3, 2002	Angel Meza	Jason Meza
Sat.	May 4, 2002	Kirk Randall	Jerry Tumelty
Fri.	May 10, 2002	Ken Danger	Johnny Kim
Sat.	May 11, 2002	Dave Maurer	Sanjeey Munjal
Fri.	May 17, 2002	Bob Cosgriff	Don Klingemann
Sat.	May 18, 2002	Ken Danger	
Fri.	May 24, 2002	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters
Sat.	May 25, 2002	Dave Froberg	Beverly Froberg
Fri.	May 31, 2002	Jeff Lindsay	Larry Rogers
Sat.	June 1, 2002	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay
Fri.	June 7, 2002	Rich Pernicano	Steve Mathews
Sat.	June 8, 2002	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz

A History of Hickory Farms

Part 3: Early Civil War

by Bob Cosgriff

Hickory Farms History: The disastrous campaign of General Braddock, which began in Fairfax County, was not the last major event to occur here. We are all familiar with the legacy of such early "Founding Fathers" as George Mason and our Number One Citizen, George Washington. However, since the focus of British military efforts was aimed elsewhere (New York, Philadelphia and later on, the Carolinas), our immediate area was not much affected by the Revolution. Great personages acted out their great events elsewhere. For more drama, we must jump ahead to 1861 and the American Civil War.

Place yourself at the Fairfax County Court House on Thursday, May 23, 1861. This building still stands at the corner of Rt. 123 (Chain Bridge Road) and eastbound Rt. 236 (Main Street). A vote is being taken on the weighty issue: "An Ordinance to Repeal the Ratification of the Constitution of the United States by the State of Virginia, Adopted in Convention at the City of Richmond on 14 April, 1861." The vote was 151-6 to adopt the Resolution, that is, to secede from the Union. Most of Virginia (with the exception of many western counties, now West Virginia) followed suit. I have not had the time to track down whether any of the voters lived on what is now Hickory Farms; however, the one-sided vote shows that "secession fever" surely prevailed in this immediate area. It would also be interesting to determine what became of the six men who voted pro-Union.

By the time the vote was taken, there were already Confederate troops stationed at Fairfax Court House and Fairfax Station. The troops here comprised two cavalry and one rifle company, about 150 men, essentially untrained and untested county militia, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Ewell, late a Captain in the U.S. Army. The Union also had forces in Virginia, from Alexandria to Falls Church. A clash was inevitable. On the night of 31 May, only a little more than a week after the secession vote, a Union cavalry detachment set out from near Falls Church to reconnoiter the area near Fairfax Court House. About a mile below the town, on the "Falls Church Road," (I believe this to be near Fairfax High School on present-day Old Lee Highway; I'll have to do a bit more digging), this force captured some dozing Confederate pickets, one of whom escaped to warn the forces at the Court House. At approximately 3:00 a.m., the Union forces proceeded on and maneuvered into column onto Little River Turnpike, then- as now - the main east-west street of Fairfax, and commenced a charge, firing wildly. The disorganized Confederates were unable to stop the charge, which pushed some of the southern troops back to the creek west of the Court House (this creek runs across Main Street at the cemetery). The Confederates rallied and set up a line across the road about at Truro Church. The Union commanding officer, probably realizing that he had allowed himself to let the enemy get between him and his best escape route, wheeled his forces about and charged back in the opposite direction. The Confederates managed a few volleys, and the battle was over, as the Federals withdrew. The Union commander's report stated that he faced perhaps 1,000 enemy troops - an excellent example of the "fog of war." Total casualties were light: Federals - 1 killed, 4 wounded, 1 missing and 3 captured; Confederates - 1 killed, at least one wounded (Col. Ewell) and 5 captured (although some Union reports mentioned 'heavy' Confederate casualties). The one person killed was Captain John Quincy Marr of the Warrenton Rifles, who was the first Confederate officer killed in the Civil War.

In July, 1861, Union forces passed nearby Hickory Farms on their way Manassas Junction; some of the forces retreating from the ensuing battle (First Manassas/First Bull Run) came through Fairfax Court House. In October, 1861, Confederate President Jefferson Davis met here with his generals to discuss a military strike against Washington, D.C. The generals dissuaded him and the forces went into winter quarters in Centreville, leaving a small detachment at Fairfax Court House to watch for Union activity. In the Spring of 1862, the Confederates pulled out altogether and from then on, the Federals used the location as a lookout point and a station for patrols. During the course of the Civil War, most of Northern Virginia was devastated by the occupying forces, both Northern and Southern, who cut down trees, commandeered livestock and later, even burned barns and crops. The area comprising the Ravensworth estate was largely spared this destruction due to the resolute actions of its aged owner, Mrs. Anna Maria Fitzhugh, widow of the uncle of Robert E. Lee's wife. She was granted personal protection by the Union generals commanding in Fairfax and thus suffered little property damage. I did not find any references to tell

whether Hickory Farms was then under cultivation, or just forest. It does seem likely that, being so close to the Court House (and quite far from the Ravensworth manor house) that the normal wartime activities of cutting firewood, foraging, patrolling, etc. did take place on Hickory Farms. There were Confederate cavalry camps on Main Street (on property of the Fairfax Christian Church) and one unsubstantiated account of one on Burke Station Road. I would surmise that this camp would have been on high ground, near water, and near known roads, making the area near Sharon Ct./Barbara Ann Lane, or at Fairfax Memorial Park two likely spots. Anecdotally, I recall a bulldozer operator tell me in 1979 that he unearthed two cannon balls on Hickory Farm, and showed them to me. They were probably Union, since their occupation was longer and in greater numbers. Were they dropped here to lighten a load during the retreat from the disastrous Battle of Second Manassas in August, 1862, or just overlooked by a careless artilleryman? With further research, it might be possible to find further documented links between Hickory Farms and the Civil War era.

Sources for this installment: Netherton, Ross and Nan. Fairfax County in Virginia: A Pictorial History. Norfolk: The Donning Company, 1986. (The best concise history of the area). "An Eyewitness Account of the Skirmish at Fairfax Court House" by Governor William ("Extra Billy") Smith, published in Fairfax County and the War Between the States. Fairfax: Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, 1987. Written 21 years after the brief battle, it uses official after-action reports, plus the colorful author's own personal recollection of events. Netherton, Ross D. and Waldech, Ruby. The Fairfax County Court House. Fairfax: Fairfax County Office of Comprehensive Planning, 1977, pp 33-35. An excellent overview of the history of all the Fairfax County court houses, including the one we are most familiar with. Griffin, Georgiana, "Heritage Brought to Light," Northern Virginia Sun. Saturday, November 13, 1971, p.3. Contains photos of Confederate cavalry equipment unearthed on grounds of Fairfax Christian Church near Roberts Road. Finally, a photocopy of the ballot on the issue of secession. Voters' names and how they voted are there for all to see!

The Music That You Hear

by *Bob Cosgriff*

Hickory Farms, with its naturalized common areas and the Rabbit Run creekbed is a favorite destination for regional birds and winged passersby. Over twenty years in the neighborhood I've recorded 85 different species. I'd be interested in hearing from you if you've seen any I've missed.

Hérons, Beterms Great Blue Heron Green Heron	Pigeons, Doves Rock Dove Mourning Dove	Flycatchers Eastern Kingbird Eastern Phoebe Eastern Wood Pewee	Wrens Carolina Wren House Wren
Geese Ducks Canada Goose Mallard Duck	Cuckoos Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Swallows Barn Swallow Purple Martin Tree Swallow	Kinglets Ruby-crowned
Hawks, Eagles, Vultures Turkey Vulture Black Vulture Sharp-shinned Hawk Cooper's Hawk Red-tailed Hawk Red-shouldered Hawk	Owls Barred Owl	Jays and Crows Blue Jay American Crow	Gnatcatchers Blue-grey Gnatcatcher
Grouse, Quails Bobwhite	Nighthawks Common Nighthawk	Titmice Tufted Titmouse Carolina Chickadee	Mimic Thrushes Northern Mockingbird Grey Catbird Brown Thrasher
Seagulls, Sandpipers, Plovers, etc. Spotted Sandpiper Ring-billed Gull Woodcock	Swifts, Hummingbird Chimney Swift Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Nuthatches White-breasted Nuthatch	Thrushes American Robin Wood Thrush Swainson's Thrush Eastern Bluebird
	Woodpeckers Common Flicker ("Yellow-shafted") Pileated Woodpecker Red-bellied Woodpecker Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Hairy Woodpecker Downy Woodpecker	Creepers Brown Creeper	Waxwing Cedar Waxwing

(con't. on next page)

Hickory Farms Bird List (con't.)

Starlings

Eastern Starling

Vireos

Red-eyed Vireo

White-eyed Vireo

Blue-headed Vireo

Wood Warblers

Black and White Warbler

Northern Parula Warbler

Yellow Warbler

Wood Warblers (con't.)

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Blackpoll Warbler

Common Yellow-throat

American Redstart

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Cape May Warbler

Weaver Finches

House ("English") Sparrow

Blackbirds

Baltimore Oriole

Orchard Oriole

Common Grackle

Brown-headed Cowbird

Rusty Blackbird

Tanagers

Scarlet Tanager

Finches

Northern Cardinal

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Purple Finch

House Finch

Common Redpoll

Pine Siskin

American Goldfinch

Eastern Towhee ("Rufous-sided")

Northern Junco

American Tree Sparrow

Chipping Sparrow

White-throated Sparrow

Fox Sparrow

Song Sparrow

Community Announcements

• College Acceptance

Laura Stein (Harvester Farm Lane), who will graduate from W.T. Woodson on June, will attend James Madison University in the fall. Possible courses of study are art and pre-law.

• Welcome Home

SGT Keith Lindsay, USAR, son of Jeff and Roberta Lindsay (Harvester Farm Lane), has returned safely after serving for six months in Bosnia as part of a peacekeeping contingent. His Army reserve unit was mobilized to help meet our nation's commitments to this effort. Keith is a junior at York College (PA), majoring in Education. He will resume classes now that he has returned. He was promoted to his current rank while deployed. Congratulations, Keith!

• University Mall Spring Fling Day

The University Mall merchants are celebrating their 25th anniversary on May 11. Special events will include a moon bounce, DJ, pony rides, rock wall climbing, dog wash, Fire department demonstration and more. They will also sponsor a flea market in the parking lot. Participation is free. To register for a space at the flea market or for more information, contact Ruth Walker at Burke Florist University Mall at 703-352-3633.

• Coalition for Smarter Growth

Traffic congestion, uncontrolled growth and sprawling development affect our communities throughout Northern Virginia. We all experience this through our commutes, our loss of open space and our taxes. However, we can create communities that satisfy our needs without worsening traffic congestion, destroying open spaces, and spending our taxes on new infrastructure. If you are concerned about these issues and would like more information or would like to become involved in changing your community, please contact the Coalition for Smarter Growth (www.smartergrowth.net) at 202-588-5570 or e-mail nicola@smartergrowth.net. (please note: HFCA occasionally prints notices for organizations to inform our community. These notices do not constitute an endorsement or any organization or its goals.)

Gypsy Moth Update

You recently received notification of gypsy moth spraying nearby. Although Hickory Farms is not targeted for spraying, you will see helicopters overhead when spraying is conducted in adjacent areas. Here is some additional information on the County's spraying program.

Background Information

Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) is a biological pesticide containing bacterial spores similar to naturally occurring bacteria. With a single Bt application, population reductions of 60 to 80 percent can be achieved. This pesticide is not harmful to people, pets, plants, or other wildlife. Caterpillars die within one week after treatment.

Aerial Spraying

- The spray program will begin in mid- to late-April and continue until it has been completed. This may take several days to two weeks, depending on weather conditions. Treatment times are from dawn until dusk.
- Although the area will be treated only once, the helicopter may fly over several times. The application takes 10 to 20 minutes. The helicopter will fly 50 feet above trees, traveling at 50 to 70 mph, spraying an area approximately 100 feet wide with each pass.
- The pesticide will be applied in a fine mist that will take 30 minutes to dry and adhere to leaves.
- The spraying will be conducted only during periods of calm winds (0 to 10 mph) and dry weather. Every precaution will be taken to prevent treatment of areas when school children are present at bus stops.

Preparation for Spraying

Based on scientific research, the County believes that the spray is one of the most environmentally sound pesticides available for suppressing the gypsy moth. Although the spray is not harmful to people or pets, you may choose to follow these recommendations:

- Close car windows and take in laundry
- Go inside while the actual spraying is occurring overhead. You may return outdoors as soon as the pesticide has settled from the air (about 5 minutes).
- You may wish to bring pets inside because the low flying aircraft could alarm them, especially if your pets are sensitive to loud noises.

What You Can Do to Control Gypsy Moths in Hickory Farms

- From May to July, band your shade trees with burlap
- Check these bands regularly and destroy the caterpillars you find beneath them.
- From August to March, check your property thoroughly for gypsy moth egg masses. The egg masses can be destroyed by scraping them into a container of soapy water and letting them soak.
- For further advice, call the County Forest Pest Program at 703-324-5304.



Hickory Farms News

Hickory Farms Community Association

P.O. Box 2239

Fairfax, VA 22031-2239

www.communitypath.com

May 2002

Message from the President

by Bob Cosgriff

The annual springtime cleanup on May 11th was quite successful. However, Mother Nature interfered with our scheduled Spring Fling on May 18th. We rescheduled it for May 25th and had a terrific turnout. The Board appreciates the time and effort put forth by the volunteers who contributed to the success of the cleanup and the planning for the picnic. Thanks to Rich Dudley for organizing the very productive Clean-up and to Brand and Katherine Niemann for overseeing the very successful Spring Fling.

This time around, we tried a little experiment. We did not put up any signs at the entrances, relying instead on the yellow flyer that we walked around just before the clean-up on the 11th of May and a follow-up last week about the rescheduled Spring Fling. You might recall that for the past several years, we have placed large signs to notify folks of these events. However, one sign was vandalized a couple years ago by graffiti. The other sign was beginning to show some wear and tear too. The signs seemed too large for the entrances, and were hard to store and move. We have investigated buying newer, smaller signs, but before committing money to something that was not budgeted for, we decided to see if signs made any difference. They don't appear to cause a greater or lesser turnout for the cleanups or for the rescheduled Spring Fling. So I ask you—do you think signs make a difference? Did you miss seeing them this year? Are they the critical factor in helping you decide whether to attend a neighborhood event? Or do you think the newsletter plus flyers do the job of notifying everyone? We welcome your input. It will help us decide whether to go ahead and get signs, or just let it go. Just a note: even small signs (like realtor signs) made out of chloroplast cost money. Aluminum signs cost even more. Frames add to the expense. Signs with removable letters and numbers cost much more. What do you think?

Now that the clean-up has occurred, the Board will do its annual walk-around visual check of the neighborhood in early June. This is a good time to do this, since everything is (or should be) at its best. Check last month's newsletter for the list of the "Dirty (Half) Dozen" things that detract the most from property appearance, and if you have one, please try to get rid of it before we come around. We really don't want to write any letters of "encouragement" this year!

Continued on page 3

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

Hickory Farms Community Association Board

President	Bob Cosgriff	703-764-0720
Vice-President	Ginny Herchert	703-978-0783
Secretary	Rita Mullin	703-323-6904
Treasurer	Lorna Cooke	703-426-5164
Grounds	Richard Dudley	703-503-2060
Architectural Review	Robert Cooke	703-426-5164
Neighborhood Watch	Ken Danger	703-323-1628
At-Large	Brand Niemann	703-503-8124

President's Letter (*con't*)

There is one other detractor that didn't make that list, and that is the placing of yard waste at the curb several days before the weekly pickup on Wednesday. Please remember to place your bags out on Tuesday night, and not on Saturday or Sunday. We have had input from neighbors complaining about the unattractive appearance that moldering bags of grass make as they lie in front of houses for up to five days. I had the Neighborhood Watch on Friday, May 11th and noted several such bags (which means five more days of lying in the sun on the street). Prospective homebuyers will get the same negative impression as your neighbors. So whether you do your own lawn work, hire a neighborhood kid, or have a lawn service, please cooperate in this matter to make the whole neighborhood look better. It may not seem like a big thing of itself, but little things do add up. While on this topic, please check the article elsewhere in this issue on the subject of backyard composting, which represents a good alternative to the bags.

That's it for now. Enjoy these beautiful days before the heat and humidity hit us again. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for information about high school and college graduates, results of the cleanup and other community news.

Community News

With spring comes graduations. We offer congratulations to the following graduates. Please let Rita Mullin or Bob Cosgriff know of any other Hickory Farms graduates and we'll include them in our next newsletter.

- Congratulations to Brian Lobb (formerly of Harvester Farm Lane), who is graduating from Virginia Tech with a B.S. in Finance. Brian is also a Lance Corporal in the USMC Reserve, with a Combat Engineering MOS. He will be working for a local brokerage firm after graduation.
- Congratulations to Evin Shoap (Still Meadow) who is graduating from W.T. Woodson; He will attend GMU in the fall.

Congratulations to Bob and Judy Cosgriff (Cotton Farm Road), whose son, Chris, was married to Jessica Ferris on 27 April.

The Board wishes Robert Wright (Harvester Farm Road) a rapid recovery after his recent surgery.

Watch this space—we expect to have some good news about Hickory Farms in the June issue.

The June Board Meeting is Thursday, 9 June (7:30 p.m.) at Richard Dudley's house (4358 Farm House). If you wish to attend, please call Bob or Rita so we can put you on the agenda.

Neighborhood Watch

by Ken Danger

I am pleased to announce that Rob and Sharon Mikula recently signed up to support the watch program. Both the greater Hickory Farms Community and I appreciate their support. Great going!!

By the way, it's a great time to join the Watch. We're developing the summer and fall schedule right now (which should be finalized by early June). If you do decide to join the Watch, the earliest that you would be called upon would be mid-October, a long way off. At last count, only 37 homes out of the 198 in the community participated in the Watch. For current members, if you have vacation plans this summer, please let me know by emailing Kenneth.Danger@usdoj.gov.

If you'd like to volunteer please keep in mind that your commitment is roughly 3 times a year and for only a few hours each time. To enroll you need only email Kenneth.Danger@usdoj.gov or call Ken at 202-307-5820 during work hours, or at his home (703-323-1628).

Neighborhood Watch Schedule

Fri.	May 31, 2002	Jeff Lindsay	Larry Rogers
Sat	June 1, 2002	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay
Fri.	June 7, 2002	Rich Pernicano	Steve Mathews
Sat.	June 8, 2002	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz
Fri.	June 14, 2002	Pete Scala	Rose Scala
Sat.	June 15, 2002	Stan Lee	Jim Marshall
Fri.	June 21, 2002	Bruce Berhardt	Nancy Bernhardt
Sat.	June 22, 2002	Robert Cooke	Lorna Cooke
Fri	June 28, 2002	John Verheul	John Cotner
Sat.	June 29, 2002	Alfonso Acosta	Marie Acosta

Memorial Day

The article concerning the Civil War reminds us that the Memorial Day holiday we are celebrate at the end of May began as Decoration Day to honor Civil War dead. While the three-day weekend is observed as the unofficial start of summer and a great time for retailers to hold sales, we should of course remember its more important meaning: a day to recall the ultimate sacrifices of the men and women of our Armed Forces in all America's wars, and in times of dangerous peace. The on-going war against terrorism tells us that the time of sacrifice did not end in 1865, or 1918, or 1945, or 1953, or 1975, or 1991 (to pick the official ending dates of various conflicts). It continues, and we mourn the lose of those involved in the ght in Afghanistan to avenge September 11. Please fly your flag this weekend to commemorate the sacrifices of others that have allowed us to live in peace and to enjoy all our days, and especially holidays.

Grounds

by Rich Dudley

Thank you to all who participated in this year's multi-day Spring Clean-Up. Judging from the volume of trash and the huge piles of tree debris that were hauled away, we had a very successful set of events! Our clean-up crews picked up trash, cut down obtrusive tree limbs, and tangled with a myriad of vines that spread since last year. Efforts were focused on the Upper and Lower Common Areas, the northern path, nature trails along Rabbit Run, and our neighborhood entrances at Burke Station and Roberts roads. The springtime weather could not have been much more cooperative on Saturday, May 11, and Sunday, May 19 – making everyone's tasks a lot more pleasant to undertake.

The following people should be recognized for setting aside the time to help make our neighborhood a more beautiful place to live:

John Berry & his son John
Frank Denny
Bill Galinis
Rita Mullin
Lynn Welch
David Cain

Robert & Lorna Cooke
Bob & Judy Cosgriff
Rich Dudley
Ginny Herchert
Pete & Rose Scala

I'd also like to thank all of you who used the nice weather to take on projects in your own yards. I noticed that most of the neighborhood was looking its best those days.

Now that our official Spring Clean-Up is done, I encourage each of you to help keep our common areas looking their best by spending the few extra moments it takes to pick up any bottles, cans, and papers that inevitably find their way into our grounds. Trash cans are located in both the Upper and Lower Common Areas for your convenience. If you missed the chance to participate in the past weeks' clean-ups, we will have a Fall Clean-Up later this year. Thanks again to all those who participated.

Welcome Wagon

by Ginny Herchert

There has been a lot of activity in recent weeks as new neighbors have been moving into Hickory Farms. Please make it a point to welcome:

Sonny Zhang and **Grace Wu** and their 1-1/2 year-old son, Katon, at 4323 Still Meadow Rd. They had been living in Maryland.

Andy and **Linn Douglas** and their 14-year-old daughter, Kathryn, who have made a short move from Fairfax City to 4283 Country Squire Lane

David and **Dawn Dempster**, who, with infant son Cody, recently moved from Arlington to 4352 Farm House Lane.

Architectural Control

by Robert Cooke

Spring is a good time of year to look at our homes and begin repairing any damage done by the winter weather. Although we had a relatively mild winter, the recent wind and rainstorms were strong enough to destroy our 25-year-old attic vent; perhaps your home has experienced the same problem.

For the most part, the residents at Hickory Farms take great care of their homes. However, we seem to save our least favorite projects for “some-day”. This spring, take a close look at your house. Are the shutters faded, cracked or missing? Is mildew growing on your window frames? Are the window screens in good shape? Is paint peeling from your eaves or trim? Consider developing a list of all the repair projects that you have around the house. A project a week should allow you to complete all your repair items during the long days of spring and summer.

Backyard Composting

by Bob Cosgriff

With the end of school now only a few weeks away, things will begin to slow down a bit as we enter the summertime routine. One of those routines is the weekly mowing of lawns. To some, it is relaxation; to others, drudgery. This will not be an article on how to tend a lawn, other than to say that lawns must be tended. To give Hickory Farms the very best appearance, this means cutting grass before it gets too high to cut easily. It means edging the sidewalks and driveways. Okay, so the first time is tough, but after that, especially as the summer wears on, it goes pretty quickly and easily, and it's always nice if your neighbors compliment you on your yard's squared-away appearance. And what to do with all that grass?? Trash haulers provide weekly pickup of yard debris. Please note: branches should be cut into 3' - 4' lengths and tied. Leaves and grass clippings must be in clear plastic bags or biodegradable paper bags clearly marked as lawn waste.

If you don't want to 'bag and drag,' then here's another idea: why not turn your clippings in “pay dirt” by composting? It is really quite simple to do. First, find a good spot in your yard, well drained and preferably sunny. You can basically just pile the grass there. It is best to alternate layers of 'green' (grass, leafy clippings, vegetable scraps from the kitchen, etc.) and 'brown' (dirt, chopped-up dead leaves in the fall). The key to proper composting is air: the pile needs to breathe. You can assist by building a small enclosure (say about 3' x 5' x 4' high (decking lattice works fine, as do cinder blocks or green chicken wire), open at one end. You can plant things like melons, cucumbers, tomatoes and let them climb up your enclosure. Or mask your enclosure with flowers for another yard highlight. Being next to all that rich soil will work wonders.

Don't be afraid to throw in some small branches, as these will keep the pile from compacting and becoming anaerobic (you'll know by the smell and appearance). Keep the pile watered, and turn it occasionally with a pitchfork to keep the yard debris loose and aerated. Some garden stores sell bacteria that speeds the decomposition process. If you follow these simple procedures, you will have a pile that will smell nice and which will yield a surprising amount of good, composted soil in a very short time. A good pile will continue to 'cook' even in the winter. I have been doing this for years and really enjoy not having to buy bagged dirt. Add in the free mulch from the county landfill on West Ox Road, and you have quite a deal. By the way, composting is supported by the County and also the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District. For further information, please call 703-324-5052 or check the article on the Fairfax County website at <http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/dpwes/recyclingwww.co.fairfax.va.us/nvswcd>. Building a compost pile is a fun project for kids too.

A History of Hickory Farms

Part 4: Civil War

by Bob Cosgriff

This installment continues the chronicle of Civil War events in the immediate area of Hickory Farms. Fairfax Court House was an important location, since it was the county seat, and sat athwart important roads such as the Warrenton Pike (Route 29), Little River Turnpike (Rts. 50 and 236) and Ox Road (today's Rt. 123). It was about equidistant between two railroads: the Orange and Alexandria, to Manassas via Fairfax Station (the VRE uses this route today), and the Alexandria, Loudoun and Hampshire toward Purcellville through Vienna (the W & O. D. trail). We have already read in a previous newsletter of the nighttime cavalry raid on Fairfax Court House which occurred on 1 June, 1861. Following the Confederate victory at First Manassas (Bull Run) in July, 1861, General Beauregard established his headquarters here. In October, 1861, Confederate President Jefferson Davis met with Beauregard to discuss further operations against Union forces. Here was made the decision not to attack Washington, D.C. General Beauregard then pulled his troops back to Centreville for the winter. This placed him closer to strategically important Manassas Junction. Union forces quickly reoccupied Fairfax. As noted in earlier accounts, the presence of headquarters garrison troops of both armies at Fairfax Court House indicates that various routine military activities occurred on what is now Hickory Farms.

In 1862, the Union made a strategically bold attempt to end the war by moving a large army to the peninsula between the James and the York Rivers. The planning conference for this operation was held at Fairfax Court House in March, 1862 (just 133 years ago for those who are counting!) The Confederate forces at Centreville were withdrawn to the defense of the Southern capital. Due to the scope of the Peninsula Campaign, it is doubtful that very many Union troops remained behind in our area, since there was no immediate military threat to Northern Virginia. Following the Seven Days' Battle around Richmond (much of it in the area where I-295 passes east of the capital to intersect I-64), the Union adopted a different strategy, assigned a new general (Pope) and began to concentrate forces from the Shenandoah Valley and the Peninsula in Northern Virginia, again aiming at the Manassas Junction area. In the ensuing campaign, the events of primary impact on this area occurred after the Battle of Second Manassas (Bull Run) in late August, 1862. Following the bloody three-day battle (28 - 30 August), the thoroughly defeated Union Army retreated on a broad front back from the Manassas battlefield. St. Mary's Church on Ox Road (Rt. 123) became the center of a large field hospital where Clara Barton, among others, helped to tend to the hundreds of casualties brought there to await train transportation to Alexandria and Washington. There is anecdotal indication that the mansion house in Aspen Grove, across from Hickory Farms, was used for a similar purpose. Although the house that stands there now includes additions since the Civil War, it is likely that if the then-existing house was of any size, it probably was used, since accounts of other major battles verify that it was common practice to commandeer virtually every available structure to serve medical purposes. I have not yet been able to determine whether there were any buildings on Hickory Farms in the Civil War. If so, they too would likely have been used after Second Manassas, since the Union forces suffered nearly 8,500 wounded, out of over 14,000 casualties.

Another little-known, but significant event occurred just after the Battle of Second Manassas and can rightfully be considered part of the overall campaign. Upon delivering the crushing defeat on Pope's army, General Robert E. Lee decided to attempt to cut off the Union retreat, regroup his own Army of Northern Virginia and perhaps strike a knock-out blow against the Union Army and/or Washington, D.C. After weighing his alternatives, Lee decided to aim at Fairfax Court House in an attempt to get behind General Pope's forces, which were heading there via Centreville. Forces under General 'Stonewall' Jackson began moving north and east from the Manassas battlefield to outflank the retreating Union Army. Bad weather and his soldiers' fatigue hampered the usually fast-moving Jackson. Advance cavalry units under General J.E.B. Stuart reached the area around Kamp Washington (probably around the K-Mart/Montgomery Wards shopping centers) and fired on Pope's supply wagons and ambulances moving north on the Warrenton Pike (modern Rt. 29) toward Fairfax Court House on 31 August. This appears to be the approximate limit of the Confederate turning maneuver; certainly the cupola on the courthouse itself could be seen from the Confederate position. The pivotal battle was fought in a late-afternoon thunderstorm on 1 September, 1862, at Ox Hill. There is a small Fairfax County Park marking the site, just off West Ox Road. Part of the battle was fought on what is now Fair Oaks Mall and the large townhouse and apartment complex along Monument Road. The costly Union victory saved Pope's army, and most likely preserved the nation's capital from the threat of attack or siege. Lee subsequently received approval to launch an invasion of the North by way of Maryland. The historical road marker at the intersection of Route 50 and Jermantown Road (where the former Hechinger's is now a Gourmet Giant) indicates where the famed Army of Northern Virginia turned north. The bloodiest single day in American history lay just a few weeks ahead along the Antietam Creek.

Sources: Netherton, Ross and Nan, Fairfax County in Virginia: A Pictorial History. Norfolk: The Donning Company: 1986. An excellent and attractive all-purpose overview of our historic county. Fairfax County and the War Between the States, Fairfax County Office of Comprehensive Planning, 1987 (reprint of the Fairfax County Civil War Centennial Commission). This small publication contains an excellent article on the Battle of Ox Hill (Chantilly).

Ballard, Ted and Arthur, Billy, Second Manassas Staff Ride Briefing Book, Washington, D.C., U.S. Army Center of Military History, undated. Provides an in-depth look at the entire campaign and contains a particularly good West Point map showing how close the Confederates came to beating the Union forces to Fairfax Court House. Had that happened, Hickory Farms undoubtedly would have witnessed the horrors of war on a large scale. A few years ago, I had the opportunity to participate in a one-day staff ride of the Second Manassas battlefield conducted by Mr. Ballard.

The last source is Kelly, Dennis, The Battle and Campaign of Second Manassas, Harrisburg, PA: Civil War Times Illustrated, 1982. Reprinted by permission by Eastern Acorn Press, 1992 for the Eastern National Park and Monument Association. Ox Hill is an after-thought in this well-written account of the sprawling Second Manassas campaign. This book, and a companion on First Manassas, are available at the battlefield bookstore.



Hickory Farms News

Hickory Farms Community Association

P.O. Box 2239

Fairfax, VA 22031-2239

June 2002

Message from the President

by Bob Cosgriff

Last month in the "Community News" section, I said to check the June issue for good news about Hickory Farms. And indeed we do have some great news.

I am pleased and honored to report that our very own Bob and Lee Sottile have been chosen as the recipients of the 2002 Braddock District Council 'Citizen of the Year' award. Supervisor Sharon Bulova presented them with a citation and distinctive plaques at the annual Braddock District Council Picnic on Tuesday, 11 June. In addition, Congressman Tom Davis presented Bob and Lee with a copy of a testimonial to their service that was read into the *Congressional Record* at his behest.

The Sottiles were cited for their two decades of active involvement and leadership in youth sports, including Little League baseball, Fairfax Police Club wrestling and W.T. Woodson wrestling. This involvement included coaching and serving in visible positions on the organizations sponsoring teams for boys and girls in our area. What makes the Sottiles' involvement distinctive is that it has continued well beyond the time that their own two children, Bob and Becky, outgrew the programs. For example, at present, Bob is the First Assistant District Administrator for Virginia Little League District 10, which comprises nearly 70 teams in Fairfax and Loudoun counties. In addition to these contributions, the Sottiles have always been active participants in neighborhood events, including service on the HFCA Board, most recently in 2000 and 2001 as Co-Chairs of the Architectural Control Committee, where they help to clarify and streamline procedures for applying for approval for exterior changes to homes in Hickory Farms.

The Sottiles are the second recipients of this award from Hickory Farms, making our community one of only two repeat winners out of the nearly 40 community associations comprising the Braddock District Council in the twelve years the award has been presented (the other community is Country Club View, a much larger neighborhood than Hickory Farms). They are also the first husband-and-wife team to be honored. On behalf of everyone in the neighborhood, I extend a sincere "Well Done" to Bob and Lee on this occasion. The citation is reprinted on page 3.

continued on page 3



Planning to Sell Your Home? Don't Forget the VPOAA

Selling your house? You will need to get a VPOAA package from HFCA. It is required by state law. Normally your realtor or title company will get it for you. Whether you request it yourself, or have them do it for you, here's the procedure:

1. Contact the Treasurer (Lorna Cooke). Tell her when you need the package and where to send it.
2. Send (or have sent by your agent) a \$50 check made out to HFCA. It should be mailed to P.O. Box 2239, Fairfax, VA 22031-2239, attn: Treasurer.
3. The package must contain ACC clearance of your property, certification that your annual dues are paid (these will be prorated between buyer and seller at closing for the current year), our budget, by-laws and covenants.

Each package requires a personalized letter for your property, signed by the Treasurer. For this reason, the package cannot normally be provided overnight. You should provide 10 working days notice, although in many cases it can be done more quickly.

Please notify your realtor of these requirements. This will save steps for everyone involved.

Hickory Farms Community Association Board

President	Bob Cosgriff	703-764-0720
Vice-President	Ginny Herchert	703-978-0783
Secretary	Rita Mullin	703-323-6904
Treasurer	Lorna Cooke	703-426-5164
Grounds	Richard Dudley	703-503-2060
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At-Large	Brand Niemann	703-503-8124

President's Letter (cont.)

Environmental Excellence Nomination: We have listed our 17+ acres of common ground as one of our biggest assets. One of the goals of the Board is to preserve, maintain and improve the common areas of our community, which provide not only an attractive park-like setting for humans to enjoy, but also some valuable open space and suitable habitat for a variety of wildlife. This year, the Board decided to let others know of our community's stewardship of our natural resources. We submitted a nomination for the Fairfax County Environmental Excellence Award. The nomination cited our restored meadow, our bluebird trail, the Eagle Scout project along the creek, regular community clean-ups, and our policy of keeping the open space open and natural. At press time, we had not heard of the selection of winners in this competition. We will keep you posted.

To close, in next month's newsletter, we will present our semi-annual report card that lets you know how well we think we have done in carrying out the goals set for 2002. In the meantime, enjoy the beautiful early summer weather.

BRADDOCK DISTRICT COUNCIL CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2002

**Presented to
BOB AND LEE SOTTILE
(HICKORY FARMS)**

For nearly two decades of active leadership in youth sports organizations, thereby assisting hundreds of youngsters to pursue wholesome recreational activities, develop athletic skills and physical fitness, and learn the lessons of teamwork and sportsmanship. Through their unstinting contribution of time and talent to such organizations as the Fairfax Little League, the Fairfax County Baseball and Softball Council, the Fairfax Police Youth Club (FPYC), the Fairfax County Athletic Council, Virginia Little League District 10, the Northern Virginia Wrestling Federation, and W.T. Woodson High School, Bob and Lee Sottile have greatly advanced the goals of these worthy organizations, which play such an integral part in the high quality of life in the Braddock District and Fairfax County as a whole. A most noteworthy fact is that the participation of this husband-and-wife team has continued to the present, long after their own children have outgrown these organizations and become adults. Additionally, they have consistently served their neighborhood through membership on the Board of Directors and active involvement in neighborhood events. Their sustained commitment to their neighborhood and, moreover, to the youth of our District is a strong testament to the dedication of Bob and Lee Sottile over many, many years and is most deserving of the recognition conferred by this award for outstanding service to the community.

News Briefs

by Bob Cosgriff

• Cemetery Update

Work has commenced on a continuation of the asphalt path from the cemetery entrance opposite Cotton Farm Road south to Braddock Road. This should be completed very shortly. We will write to the Mayor and City Manager of the City of Fairfax to urge them to complete the 'missing link' sidewalk from Laurel Street to Sharon Court. This would give convenient access by foot to Main Street for Hickory Farms residents and those folks living along Burke Station Road.

I spoke with the President of the cemetery about the planned funeral home. There is a sign at the BSR entrance saying it is coming in Summer 2003. He related that they have received approval for sanitary sewer hook up (tying in to the NVTC system across Braddock Road), but that the site plan has not received final approval from the County. Florence Naeve of Supervisor Bulova's staff has told me that she will attend the pre-construction conference, once all the site planning receives an okay.

• AAA Rate Increase Does NOT Apply to Hickory Farms

I contacted AAA concerning the recent letter announcing an increase in rates effective 1 July. Because of our two-year agreement, this increase does not apply to residents of Hickory Farms. The billing system is supposed to be set up to identify Hickory Farms residents, but if, by some chance, you do receive a higher bill in error, please call the Customer Service number on your invoice and receive a credit. We will begin discussions with AAA about continuing our agreement beyond 1 October. I would imagine there will be some sort of increase about our current fee, but won't know what it is until a bit later. Stay tuned.

• Hickory Farms is For the Birds

Our resident bluebirds have started their second brood in a box in the lower common grounds. This is the second repeat nesting for us. We have also added a few more outstanding birds to the list published in April. They are: Cerulean Warbler, Ovenbird and Golden-crowned Kinglet. This brings our total species count to 89.

Based on a brief song and a tantalizing glimpse, it is likely that a Great-crested Flycatcher was also present in the common area near the creek. This attractive bird does nest in our area during the summer months, so it is entirely possible, even probable, that this was the bird species sighted. If it was here once, it will probably be back so we can get a better look and confirm the sighting.

• Community Website Closed

The Board has decided to take down the community website after the server informed us that they would begin charging a fee for hosting the previously free site. We will investigate other free options but felt that the fees, which had not been budgeted, were not warranted based on the traffic the site has received.

Welcome Wagon

by *Ginny Herchert*

Please welcome to Hickory Farms the new owners of 10014 Cotton Farm Road. **Patrick Rio, Kathleen Rio** and **Troy Hunter**, all young professionals working in Northern Virginia.

Community News

by *Bob Cosgriff*

Graduation News:

From W.T. Woodson—**Jyoti Malik** (Wheatfield Court) will attend Lehigh University to pursue a double major in Engineering and Accounting.

From Bishop O'Connell—**Catherine Cruz** (Harvester Farm Lane) will attend NOVA with plans to transfer to a four-year school next year to pursue photojournalism.

In what we believe is a first for Hickory Farms, we have a mother-daughter college graduation to announce. **Maritza Andree** (Spinning Wheel Court) graduated from National-Louis University with a B.S. in Business Management, *summa cum laude*, with a 4.0 GPA. Her daughter, **Diana Salazar** graduated from Virginia Tech with a BS in Psychology and a minor in Sociology. She is currently attending the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, pursuing a Master's degree in Social Work.

Birth Announcement:

Maya Jolie to **Mark and Kathy Benson** (Farm House Lane) on May 19th. The Bensons have recently moved from Hickory Farms and we wish them all the best in their future home and endeavors.

Please let us know if you have any good news (births, promotions, graduations, awards, etc.) that we can share with your friends and neighbors. Notify Bob Cosgriff or Rita Mullin for inclusion in the next newsletter

Neighborhood Watch

by Ken Danger

The Neighborhood Watch schedule for the remainder of the year has been distributed to Neighborhood Watch volunteers. Please consider adding your name to the Watch list. You'll be assigned only 2 to 3 times per year for a Friday or Saturday evening. If you don't have a partner, don't let that stop you. We'll happily pair you with someone else. Call Ken Danger at 703-323-1628 or e-mail him at Kenneth.Danger@usdoj.gov to find out more or to volunteer.

Neighborhood Watch Schedule

Day	Watch Date	Watch Partner	Watch Partner
Fri.	June 28	John Verheul	John Cotner
Sat.	June 29	Alfonso Acosta	Marie Acosta
Fri.	July 5	Ron Cruz	Louise Cruz
Sat.	July 6	Rob Mikula	Sharon Mikula
Fri.	July 12	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Sat.	July 13	Jaime Gutierrez	Ed Wagner
Fri.	July 19	Bill Galinis	Diana Galinis
Sat.	July 20	Greg Gillette	Kathy Gillette
Fri.	July 26	Larry Russe	Chris Russe
Sat.	July 27	Bob Bentley	Nancy Bentley

Home Burglary Prevention Tips from the Fairfax County Police

- **DO** make your home look like you're there. Lights turned off and on by timers give your home a "lived in look" when you're away.
- **DO** have good locks. A high quality, one-inch deadbolt lock on every outside door is a basic requirement.
- **DON'T** leave your home unlocked, even for a brief trip to the store or a visit to the neighbor across the street. Many homes have been burglarized in just such short periods of time.
- **DON'T** hide a key outside your home. Leave the extra key with a trusted neighbor or friend. If you have deadbolt cylinder locks you must use a key to lock the door, and can't possibly lock yourself out.
- **DON'T** put a name or address tag on your house or car keys. That's an open invitation to an unwelcome visitor should you ever lose your keys.
- **DO** plug a radio into a timer set to go on when you're away. Set the radio to all-talk station, leave the volume low, and give a would-be burglar the impression you're talking to someone. Light and noise are burglars' worst enemies.

Having a Safe and Legal Party in Fairfax County

A guide to frequent party problems and suggested solutions

reprinted from the Fairfax County Police website

If you're like most people, you probably enjoy getting together with friends now and then for a celebration. Maybe you're even considering throwing your own party. Whether it's a graduation, prom or holiday gathering, a party can be a fun way to mark a special occasion. To get the most out of your party it's a good idea to plan ahead, taking into consideration some potential problem areas that could spoil your good time.

This pamphlet has been prepared to help you plan a safe, legal and hassle-free party. It contains some tips to help you host your event with the least number of problems. You'll find that both you and your guests will enjoy your party more if you keep a few things in mind.

Invitations

In order to have a manageable party, invite only a specific number of people. An open invitation posted in a school or other public place is an invitation to unwanted problems. It doesn't hurt to invite your neighbors, too. If they decide to come they won't be disturbed by the party. And even if they don't come they may be a little more inclined to tolerate any inconveniences.

Parking

One of the most common complaints, and often the first police receive about parties, concerns parking. If you're expecting much of a crowd you'll need to consider how to deal with their vehicles. Before you even send out your invitations it's a good idea to discuss your party with your neighbors. You'll find that a little common courtesy goes a long way. If they've been made aware of the crowd, they'll be less likely to be concerned.

Remember that it is unlawful to block a driveway, to park within fifteen feet of a fire hydrant or to park within twenty feet of an intersection. It's also illegal to park in a manner other than parallel to the right curb. Where there are no curbs, vehicles must be parked fully off the roadway, but always on the right.

So that everyone knows where to park, include the information in your party invitation, and ask your neighbors to notify you if they see a vehicle illegally parked. This will save everyone a lot of headaches later.

Alcohol

If you're planning to serve alcoholic drinks at your party, you need to be aware of some laws that govern their use. In Virginia it's illegal for anyone under the age of twenty-one to possess alcohol, or for an adult to permit its possession or consumption by anyone underage. You must also remember to confine the consumption of any alcoholic beverages to areas out of public view. It's against the law to consume alcohol in public, so keep your guests in your back yard or inside your home.

If you plan to sell alcohol at your party, or charge an admission fee which covers drinks, you'll need

a special permit issued by the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. For information on how to obtain a permit, call the Board's Northern Virginia District Office at 703-683-2300.

Noise

If you intend to have music at your party, don't forget that Fairfax County has a strict noise ordinance. If people can hear it beyond the limits of your property, chances are that it's too loud. If you're going to have a band, outdoor music or other loud entertainment, advise your neighbors of when it will end, and keep your promise. Reasonable limits on the volume and duration of the noise will minimize the likelihood of a complaint. Remember, one person's music is another's noise.

Most noise complaints will result in a warning by police for the first violation. If officers must respond to another complaint at the same party, arrests could result. Your best bet is immediate and continued compliance when a noise complaint comes your way.

Litter

As you plan your party, keep in mind that all parties have at least one thing in common—they tend to generate a lot of trash. Make sure that when your party is over there's nothing left behind but pleasant memories. Neighborhood littering often results in a complaint and a request for police involvement.

It's against the law to deposit any type of trash on public roads or on somebody else's private property, so make sure that you've placed enough trash containers in and around your home. Let your neighbors know that you'll collect any trash in your community that may have resulted from your party. That's common courtesy. No one likes to find paper plates and drink cans scattered around a lawn or driveway.

Theft and Vandalism

As a party host you are responsible for the behavior of your guests. Take some precautions to insure that your own property, as well as that of others in your community, is neither stolen nor damaged. Theft and vandalism are often some of the more serious criminal violations occurring at a party. Damage to vehicles, lawns or landscaping, or theft are unpleasant postscripts to an otherwise positive get-together. Frequently these incidents aren't discovered until the following day.

Start by making sure that someone is supervising the party. Allowing an unsupervised gathering to continue is bad news. Hide money, jewelry, guns and other valuables in a safe place and don't let people wander into unoccupied areas of your home. Beware of party crashers—unwanted guests who are attracted to all the activity. If someone attending your party doesn't belong there, ask him or her to leave.

To a great extent, throwing a safe and legal party is a matter of using common sense and courtesy. By letting your guests know what's acceptable, you'll head off a lot of problems before they occur. By letting your neighbors know your intentions you'll find that most of them are more than willing to endure a minor inconvenience if they're made aware of it ahead of time.

Remember, a party is intended to be fun for everyone. Keep these guidelines in mind when you plan yours and you'll be well on your way to hosting a safe and successful party.

For further information on safe party planning and other crime prevention topics, contact the Crime Prevention Office at the West Springfield District Station, 6140 Rolling Road (703-644-7377).

A History of Hickory Farms

Part 5: John Singleton Mosby

by Bob Cosgriff

One of the most famous incidents of the Civil War took place just little over one mile from Hickory Farms. To set the stage, we must pick up the narrative following the Battle of Antietam in mid-September, 1862. Lee returned to Winchester following the failed invasion of the North. The Union army did not immediately pursue its foe, but finally crossed the Potomac and slowly began to push south into Virginia. The upshot of all the subsequent maneuvering was the Battle of Fredericksburg (December, 1862) which was a disaster for the North. The two armies went into winter quarters in January, 1863, separated by the Rappahannock. Farther north, the Federal forces defending the approaches to Washington, D.C., were deployed in a long arc from Dranesville through Centreville to the southern reaches of Fairfax County. Because of its strategic location, Fairfax Court House became a headquarters town once again.

While this was going on, an obscure young Confederate officer named John Singleton Mosby was given command of a unique independent force, operating under the authority of the famed cavalry leader, General J.E.B. Stuart. The mission of this small band of horsemen was to operate unconventionally, to probe and harass the Union outposts, slip through the lines to capture men and materiel and gather intelligence. In time, this unit would be mustered as the 43rd Battalion of Partisan Rangers. This official designation was very important, since it gave legitimate military status to its members. Otherwise, if captured, they would have been treated under the laws of war as guerrillas, and subject to summary execution. In fact, the Union considered them to be irregulars, although they were always officially a part of the Confederate States Army.

Mosby launched a series of annoying raids, which elicited a predictable response. He and his troops became wanted men. Union officers boastfully predicted they would soon capture these hit-and-run soldiers. A British soldier of fortune, Sir Percy Wyndham made some particularly strong public statements about Mosby the horse thief. As recounted by the well-known Northern Virginia historian, Virgil Carrington (Pat) Jones, this prompted Mosby, who had been a lawyer before enlisting in the Confederate Army, to comment that the only horses he had stolen had riders armed with a saber and two pistols. Mosby decided to stage a daring raid to capture Wyndham.

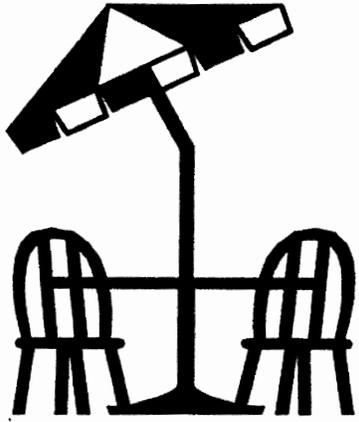
On the cold drizzly night of 8 March, 1863, he set out with 29 men from Aldie, some twenty five miles northwest of Fairfax Court House on the Little River Turnpike (modern Route 50). Already familiar with the area, Mosby had skillfully scouted it in preparation for this raid. In his intelligence gathering, he was aided by a young woman, Antonia Ford, who enjoyed easy access to the staff officers gathered around Colonel Wyndham and also Brigadier General Edwin H. Stoughton. Mosby also had the services of a Union deserter, dubbed "Big Yank Ames," who knew the locations of the Union outposts. Guided by Ames, the force slipped through the lines between Centreville and Chantilly, then became separated before joining up along the Warrenton Pike (modern Route 29). According to Mosby's memoirs, they then swung south and proceeded into town "from the direction of the railroad station." This refers to Fairfax Station; his

actual path was on or parallel to Fairfax Station Road and Ox Road (modern Route 123). It is possible that he came close to Hickory Farms on this approach, since his goal was to come from a direction where the Union pickets would not suspect an attack.

Mosby obtained complete surprise, although did not capture Wyndham, who had gone into Washington that evening. However, he did capture two of his staff officers, his horses and his uniform. Learning that Brigadier General Stoughton was residing in a house (still standing) next to the Truro Church, Mosby decided to bag him instead of Wyndham. Mosby recounted the event by noting that he pulled back the blankets and slapped the dozing and somewhat hung-over Stoughton on the backside and announced that he was a prisoner. The surprised General angrily asked: "What is this?! Do you know who I am?!" Mosby then asked if he knew Mosby, to which the General said "Yes." The Pat Jones version goes on to state that Stoughton asked, "Have you captured him?" to which Mosby replied, "No, but he has captured you!"

Mosby and his men were able to lead all their captives (34) and horses (58) away back toward Fairfax Station and then through the lines to safety in Loudoun County. The news scandalized the North and prompted Lincoln to say, when informed of the capture, "Well, I'm sorry for that. I can make new brigadier generals, but I can't make horses!"

Sources: Russell, Charles Wells, ed., Gray Ghost: The Memoirs of Colonel John S. Mosby. New York: Bantam Books, 1992. This book contains Mosby's very straight-forward account of his Civil War exploits. Jones, Virgil Carrington, Ranger Mosby. McLean, VA: EPM Publications 1993 (originally published in 1944 by the University of North Carolina Press). Very readable, with a touch of hero-worship, considered by many to be a classic. I was fortunate enough to have my copy autographed by Mr. Jones (who still lives in Fairfax) at the Fairfax Museum in 1994. Wert, Jeffrey, Mosby's Rangers. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1991. Wert has added considerable new scholarship to the Mosby saga and is more objective than Jones. Fairfax County of Comprehensive Planning, Fairfax County in the Civil War. Fairfax, VA: 1987 reprint. The account in this booklet is by, guess who, Pat Jones. As for the local color associated with this event: Stoughton's headquarters still stands on the grounds of Truro Church and is marked by a plaque just opposite the Cafe Italia II. Antonia Ford, the attractive spy, lived in the house which is now the Bailiwick Inn B & B, on the corner of Sager and Chain Bridge Road (Rt. 123), opposite the court house. Two streets off Burke Station Road remind us of this event: Mosby Road, the dead-end street just north of Laurel (site of the three new custom houses) and just at the top of the hill, Stoughton Road. Although I did not find any proof that it is named after the disgraced general, it seems like too much of a coincidence not to be. Mosby is also recalled by the Mosby Woods subdivision in the City of Fairfax, while his commander, the famed cavalier 'Jeb' Stuart is the eponym for a high school near Seven Corners. On New Braddock Road, between Union Mill Road and Route 28, there are the following streets: Singletons Drive, William Mosby (John's brother) and Montiero (one of Mosby's officers). The main area of Mosby's guerrilla operations included Loudoun, Fauquier, Culpeper and parts of Prince William and Fairfax Counties and occasionally the Shenandoah Valley. This area was dubbed 'Mosby's Confederacy.' Mosby had one of the most successful and well-known commands of U.S. military history. His Rangers did help in diverting substantial Northern forces, but were not enough to prevent the Union victory. After the war, Mosby received parole, became a friend of U.S. Grant and served as envoy to Hong Kong. Mosby is buried in the Warrenton Cemetery, not far from Captain John Quincy Marr, killed at Fairfax Court House on 1 June, 1861 (see previous article).



Hickory Farms News

Hickory Farms Community Association

P.O. Box 2239

Fairfax, VA 22031-2239

July/August 2002

Message from the President

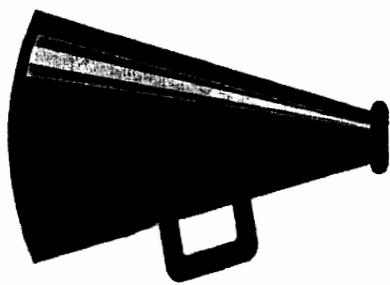
by Bob Cosgriff

Well, it's that time of the year again, when we provide you with the Board's "mid-term report card," measuring our progress toward the goals that were spelled out in our Mission and Vision Statement—2002.

1. Maintain the physical attractiveness of the neighborhood: We have placed emphasis on this goal in every newsletter. By and large, the neighborhood looks good. There are several homes that show outstanding 'pride of ownership.' Many owners have made attractive and value-enhancing improvements to their properties. The ACC, under Robert Cooke, has ensured that these additions comply with the restrictive covenants and are in harmony with the overall neighborhood. On the other side of the ledger, there are also a few homes that fall below neighborhood standards of appearance. We are going to do a walk-around visual inspection later this month, and will send letters to those who need to correct discrepancies. The very rapid sale of homes in Hickory Farms at steadily increasing sales prices validates our insistence on creating an attractive residential community. Feedback from new residents confirms that this factor (appearance) has been a key element in their decision to buy here.

2. Protect, preserve and where appropriate, enhance the common grounds: We submitted an entry into the Fairfax County's Environmental Excellence Award program, citing our restored natural meadow in the lower common grounds, the bluebird trail, and our care and concern for the Rabbit Run stream corridor. For the second straight year, we had two successful bluebird nestings. Winners will be announced in late August and will receive recognition from the Board of Supervisors. Whatever the eventual decision on our submission, we can all take pride in our beautiful park-like common areas. Our grounds maintenance contractor continues to do a very good job with the mowing and maintenance of the entrances and right-of-way along both Burke Station Road and Roberts Road. Grounds Chair Richard Dudley organized a very successful Spring Clean-Up and is making plans for the Fall Clean-Up. A thank-you goes to neighbor Ron Colaprete, who took the initiative to cut away branches from a fallen tree in the lower common grounds. Thanks also to the residents of Hickory Grove for periodically picking up litter along our Roberts Road frontage.

continued on page 3



Calling All Packrats!
Annual Neighborhood Yard Sale
Saturday, September 14
See page 5 for sign-up information.



Planning to Sell Your Home? Don't Forget the VPOAA

Selling your house? You will need to get a VPOAA package from HFCA. It is required by state law. Normally your realtor or title company will get it for you. Whether you request it yourself, or have them do it for you, here's the procedure:

1. Contact the Treasurer (Lorna Cooke). Tell her when you need the package and where to send it.
2. Send (or have sent by your agent) a \$50 check made out to HFCA. It should be mailed to P.O. Box 2239, Fairfax, VA 22031-2239, attn: Treasurer.
3. The package must contain ACC clearance of your property, certification that your annual dues are paid (these will be prorated between buyer and seller at closing for the current year), our budget, by-laws and covenants.

Each package requires a personalized letter for your property, signed by the Treasurer. For this reason, the package cannot normally be provided overnight. You should provide 10 working days notice, although in many cases it can be done more quickly.

Please notify your realtor of these requirements. This will save steps for everyone involved.

Hickory Farms Community Association Board

President	Bob Cosgriff	703-764-0720
Vice-President	Ginny Herchert	703-978-0783
Secretary	Rita Mullin	703-323-6904
Treasurer	Lorna Cooke	703-426-5164
Grounds	Richard Dudley	703-503-2060
Architectural Review	Robert Cooke	703-426-5164
Neighborhood Watch	Ken Danger	703-323-1628
At-Large	Brand Niemann	703-503-8124

3. Increasing the participation of residents in community events. The Neighborhood Watch, under Ken Danger, lost a few long-standing members who moved, but managed to pick up a few new members. Board Vice-President and Welcome Wagon representative Ginny Herchert has met with several new neighbors and created interest in our activities. We had a nice turnout for the both the Spring Clean-up and the Spring Fling the following week. Thanks to Brand Niemann (and his wife Katherine) for organizing the picnic. We will be holding another 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 2002 dues on time; we have almost no "collection" problems this year. A tip of the hat to Treasurer Lorna Cooke 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. Looking ahead, we will need to present a slate of candidates in the September newsletter. I expect that we will need to fill many, perhaps all, positions on the Board, so please give this some thought. It's always good to get an infusion of new blood, so to speak. Serving on the Board is a great way to meet neighbors and have a positive impact on your community. We figure that if each household contributed one Board member for one year, it would be about 29 years before that household would have to serve again! Here's another statistic: only about 25% of our homeowners are doing 100% of the Neighborhood Watch. This is another way to help; it only takes a few hours a year to join. Give Ken Danger a call if you're interested.

We will be putting out an updated Hickory Farms phone book in the Fall. Rita Mullin and Ginny Herchert are coordinating this. We will be distributing forms to fill out and return to ensure we get all pertinent information correct, and get your permission to include it in the book. As before, we will have a "Kids' Yellow Pages."

4. Continue our strong working relationship with Supervisor Bulova. Supervisor Bulova's office has continued to be supportive of Hickory Farms. We are still working the issue of the storm water runoff at the end of Wheatfield Court. Sharon was able to get the funding for the project; the delay now is with the developer of the adjacent City of Fairfax properties, who is modifying site plans, etc. Sharon also helped us get VDOT and Board of Supervisor approval for a 3-way stop-sign for Cotton Farm/Still Meadow, which was installed. Former Board President and Vice-President Pam Barrett continues to serve as the Chair of the County's Disabilities Service Board, an appointive position. I will be the Deputy Chair of the Braddock District Council for 2002-2003, so both Pam and I will have frequent access to Sharon and her staff. We will continue to monitor the construction of the funeral home at Fairfax Memorial Park.

We also sent Sharon a copy of a Board letter addressed to the Mayor of Fairfax, in which we urged the completion of the sidewalk between Sharon Court (in the City) and Laurel Street (in the County). Sharon typically keeps an eye on projects at the city-county interface. Completion of this 'missing link' would give everyone a safe means of foot access from Main Street to Braddock Road, now that the cemetery path is completed. This would also tie into the 'raised crosswalks' installed on Burke Station Road as traffic calming measures. At present, they're crosswalks to nowhere! The mayor responded that the sidewalk is planned and the project is working its way through the system. He thought the sidewalk would be installed 'soon' and said he'll keep us posted.

Hickory Farms was particularly well represented at the annual BDC Barbeque at Supervisor Bulova's new office in June, where our very own Bob and Lee Sottile were recognized as the Braddock District Council "Citizens of the Year." This is a real big plus for our community. As we state in our Vision Statement, the people who live here are our biggest asset. Bob and Lee have devoted two decades to supporting youth sports programs and have always pitched in around the neighborhood as well, making them perfect recipients for this award.

We didn't have any issues involving our School Board representative, Tessie Wilson. However, we have had some communication with our new Delegate, Chap Peterson. He has expressed an interest in talking to us at our annual meeting in October, so we will invite him to come.

continued on page 7

Welcome Wagon

by Ginny Herchert

Quite a few Hickory Farms homes have been up for sale in recent months. Welcome Wagons hopes to meet and get to know all our new residents. Please say a friendly hello to two new families that have moved in since the start of summer.

Marc and Kanya Fogleman and their two-year-old son Nikolas are very happy to be here in Hickory Farms at 10023 Cotton Farm Road. They made a short move here from Twinbrook.

The new residents at 4326 Farm House Lane are owner Judy Lim and her husband Jang Choi. Judy and Jang are happy to have with them Jung Ok Lim and Moo Seung Lim, Judy's mother and father. The children there are niece and nephew, nine-year-old Jeong Yoon and eight-year-old Myong-Ro Yoon.

Across the street at 4325 are the newest Hickory Farms owners, Shahbas Mian and his wife Farrukh Shahbaz and their three daughters Mina, Mishal, and Fatima Shahbaz. After leaving Philadelphia, they spent a year and a half in the Tysons Corner area, and are very pleased to be making Hickory Farms their new home.

Welcome Wagon would also like to extend a "welcome back" greeting to John and Linda Coyne of 4306 Still Meadow Road, who lived here from 1982 to 1985 and have been overseas for the past eight years, most recently in Brussels. We hope you find that neighborhood is even better than you remembered.

Community News

by Bob Cosgriff

Cavalier Card Program: WT Woodson's Cavalier Card is the discount card that gets you good deals from 15 local vendors while supporting Woodson's band program. Returning vendors include Total Crafts, Carlos O'Kelly's, Papa John's Pizza, Il Lupo Restaurant, Red Hot & Blue, Cinema Arts Theaters, Moto Photo, Book Rack, Prime Cleaners, Witham's Florist, Mamma Lucia, and Subway. New vendors this year are MicroCenter, China Garden, and Noodles and Company. These vendors support our high school band program by offering discounts of 10, 20, up to 50%, and the card is good for a year beginning Sept. 1, 2002. Just flash the card and stash the cash. The cards are available starting August 22 for \$10 each. One hundred percent of the card sales proceeds goes to the Woodson band program. Contact either Shelley Vance at 703-323-8631 or Carol McDevitt at 703-425-8375 for more information and sales.

Lost and Found: The Niemanns (Still Meadow) are missing a boy's bike, a blue 'dirt bike' model. The Rogers (Harvester Farm) found two bikes in the woods off the trail by the creek, but neither one belonged to the Niemanns. If you think they are yours, please come down (10003 Cotton Farm Road) or call at 703-764-0720 and identify them. And please keep a look out for the other lost bike.

New Bluebird Neighbors: As of Sunday, 8/11, two of the four eggs in the upper box (behind 10021 Cotton Farm) had hatched. However, the next day they were gone. They probably died due to the heat (or possibly a predator) and were removed by the parents. The other two eggs did not hatch (again, perhaps it was due to the heat and/or the fact that this was a late nesting, our third of the year). Hopefully the bluebirds will be back next year in force. It would be great to have two boxes with birds nesting at once.

Neighborhood Watch

by Ken Danger

The Neighborhood Watch schedule for the remainder of the year has been distributed to Neighborhood Watch volunteers. Please consider adding your name to the Watch list. You'll be assigned only 2 to 3 times per year for a Friday or Saturday evening. If you don't have a partner, don't let that stop you. We'll happily pair you with someone else. Call Ken Danger at 703-323-1628 or e-mail him at Kenneth.Danger@usdoj.gov to find out more or to volunteer.

Neighborhood Watch Schedule

Day	Watch Date	Watch Partner	Watch Partner
Fri.	Aug 23	Jeff Lindsay	Larry Roger
Sat.	Aug 24	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg
Fri.	Aug 30	Bob Cosgriff	Don Klingemann
Sat.	Aug 31	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters
Fri.	Sep 6	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay
Sat.	Sep 7	Rich Pernicano	Steve Mathews
Fri.	Sep 13	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz
Sat.	Sep 14	Pete Scala	Rose Scala
Fri.	Sep 19	Stan Lee	Jim Marshall
Sat.	Sep 20	Pam Barrett	Tom Barrett
Fri.	Sep 26	Robert Cooke	Lorna Cooke
Sat.	Sep 27	Bruce Berhardt	Nancy Bernhardt

Vandalism Incident: Three cars (that we know of) were vandalized earlier this month. The rear windows were broken out, most likely with a baseball bat. As best as any of the victims can determine the incidents occurred after 12:30 a.m. and probably after 3:30 a.m. The residences involved were 4327, 4341 and 4343 Farm House. One of the residents reported that several cars on Orchard Street (in City of Fairfax, just north of Hickory Farms) were similarly hit. The police will obviously be out looking for the culprits.

This has happened a few times over the past several years in our neighborhood. There doesn't seem to be any good countermeasure except not parking on the street. Unfortunately, most homes do not have multiple-car driveways and thus folks have to park on the street. The Neighborhood Watch is probably a deterrent, but it only is out two nights per week and for limited hours.

Hickory Farms Community Yard Sale

by Pete Scala

Hickory Farms Community Association will have a coordinated yard sale on

Saturday, September 14

8 AM to 12 Noon

HFCA will arrange advertising, and will provide maps showing participating yards.

You will search your basements, attics, garages, and sheds for stuff you want to get rid of, and be ready to start selling at 8:00 AM on Saturday, September 14th!

The fee to participate will be between \$5 and \$10 (depending on how many join in)

HFCA needs **young men and women** to hand out flyers *for a nominal wage* and to help with picking up leftovers and taking them to Goodwill or the dump.

We also need **volunteers with pickup trucks and a licensed driver** to volunteer to drive the rental truck that will pick up your leftovers and take them to Goodwill or the dump.

Contact Pete Scala at (703) 764-0730 or pscala@cox.net to sign up.

Keys to success

1. **Select worthwhile items to sell.** You may have some true junk to sell; but your chances of selling it, or anything else, go up if you get people to look at your stuff by having good things out there.
2. **Prepare your merchandise ahead of time.** Wash and press clothes, dust and polish furniture, paint and oil old bikes, etc. This can make your items more sellable.
3. **Buy some change from the bank ahead of time.** You'll need bills and coins; how much depends on how many things you have for sale, and what prices you pick (if your stuff is all 5.99, 11.59, etc., you better have a lot of pennies).
4. **Put prices on your sale items the night before; use large tags.** People will try to bargain you down, so take that into account when you pick your asking price.
5. **Put out your sale items in an attractive display early on Saturday morning.** Aggressive yard sale shoppers start as early as 6:30 a.m., going from yard sale to yard sale. If you're out there, you can get their business.
6. **Have a chair to sit on and a partner to work with.** The day will get long. You might have to take a break. You might want to make up some lemonade the day before, as well.

If you have any opinions on the upcoming referendum, traffic, taxes, you name it, please plan on attending in the last week of October (exact date to be determined).

5. Maintaining the peace and safety of the neighborhood through Neighborhood Watch and cooperation with the FCPD: By-and-large, Hickory Farms continues to be a tranquil and safe place to live. Our thanks to Watch Coordinator Ken Danger and all the members of the Neighborhood Watch for their efforts in making this happen. We have published information in the newsletter about parties, the Fairfax County noise ordinance and hints on how to keep your property safe. Ken and I did talk to one neighbor to try to resolve a complaint about noise. Ken attends monthly meetings with our Fairfax County Police Department representative to keep abreast of crime trends.

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. As announced earlier, we discontinued our web site, due to the imposition of a charge for the service, which wasn't utilized all that much.

So that's the status at mid-year. We on the Board look forward to the second half of 2002 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 another plug at this point: please think about being on the Board yourself next year. Please contact a Board member if interested.



Hickory Farms Directory Update

A member of the HFCA Board will be contacting you in the next month to update information in the Hickory Farms Community Directory. We haven't published a Directory since 1999 and many new neighbors have joined us since then.

The Directory is for the exclusive use of Hickory Farms Community members. It is NEVER sold or distributed to outside organizations.

Welcome your Board member when we contact you. We are working hard to complete the new edition in time for distribution during our annual meeting in October.



It's Time to Sign Up
for the Annual Neighborhood Yard Sale
Saturday September 14
8 a.m. to noon

We'll even haul away items that don't sell!

Contact Pete Scala
703-764-0730
pscala@cox.net



Hickory Farms News

Hickory Farms Community Association

P.O. Box 2239

Fairfax, VA 22031-2239

September 2002

Message from the President

by Bob Cosgriff

I am very pleased to announce that the Hickory Farms Community Association has been selected as the winner of the 2002 Fairfax County Environmental Excellence Award in the "Organization" category. This award was based on our submission in May, which detailed the efforts that the Board and residents have taken since the subdivision was created to protect, preserve and enhance our beautiful common grounds. Nominations for this award had to demonstrate excellence in volunteer efforts in meeting Fairfax County Board of Supervisor environmental goals. These goals were adopted by the Board to foster a sustainable and vibrant living community both now and in the future. The goals are:

- Environmental Protection – which seeks to preserve the county's natural resources and meet or exceed federal, state and local standards for water quality and other environmental standards.
- Open space conservation – which seeks to protect plant and animal life through the preservation of stream valleys, woodlands, and other ecologically valuable areas.
- Energy conservation – which promotes energy efficiency and conservation within the public, commercial, residential and industrial sectors.

The criteria for the award include:

- The nominee clearly contributed in a tangible way toward advancement or support of County environmental goals.
- The nominee devoted personal time or expertise beyond normal fiduciary or civic re-

continued on page 3



Fall Clean-Up

Saturday, October 5, 9 a.m. to noon

(see page 8 for details)

HFCA Annual Meeting

Wednesday, October 30, 7:30 p.m.

(see page 5 for details)



Planning to Sell Your Home? Don't Forget the VPOAA

Selling your house? You will need to get a VPOAA package from HFCA. It is required by state law. Normally your realtor or title company will get it for you. Whether you request it yourself, or have them do it for you, here's the procedure:

1. Contact the Treasurer (Lorna Cooke—703-426-5164). Tell her when you need the package and where to send it.
2. Send (or have sent by your agent) a \$50 check made out to HFCA. It should be mailed to P.O. Box 2239, Fairfax, VA 22031-2239, attn: Treasurer.
3. The package must contain ACC clearance of your property, certification that your annual dues are paid (these will be prorated between buyer and seller at closing for the current year), our budget, by-laws and covenants.

Each package requires a personalized letter for your property, signed by the Treasurer. For this reason, the package cannot normally be provided overnight. You should provide 10 working days notice, although in many cases it can be done more quickly.

Please notify your realtor of these requirements. This will save steps for everyone involved.

Hickory Farms Community Association Board

President	Bob Cosgriff	703-764-0720
Vice-President	Ginny Herchert	703-978-0783
Secretary	Rita Mullin	703-323-6904
Treasurer	Lorna Cooke	703-426-5164
Grounds	Richard Dudley	703-503-2060
Architectural Review	Robert Cooke	703-426-5164
Neighborhood Watch	Ken Danger	703-323-1628
At-Large	Brand Niemann	703-503-8124

- sponsibilities to advance or support Countywide environmental initiatives or programs.
- The nominee served as a model for individuals, groups or communities to follow in similar endeavors in advancing or supporting County environmental goals, initiatives, or programs.
 - The nominee displayed effort above and beyond normal expectations in commitment to the betterment of the environment in Fairfax County.
 - The achievement must have occurred during the period of eligibility or over a period of years including at least a part of the period of eligibility. It may be for a specific service, accomplishment or for an accumulation of accomplishments over the years.

Our nomination highlighted several factors:

- Our restored natural meadow in the lower common ground, which has provided habitat and food for wildlife and birds, has enabled the reappearance of some wildflowers and which has eliminated hillside erosion and sediment runoff into the storm water system
- The bluebird trail, with several recorded successful nestings of the Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), as well as other species.
- The preservation of the boxwood and cedar grove in the upper common grounds.
- The documentation of sightings of 89 species of birds in Hickory Farms, as well as numerous animals, reptiles, amphibians and other fauna.
- Environmental preservation efforts in the flood plain and Environmental Quality Zone (EQZ) along Rabbit Run, including an Eagle Scout project by Jerry Bernhardt (Still Meadow Lane).
- The community participation in twice-yearly cleanups, flower plantings, etc.
- The commitment of boards and residents over the years to keep the open space exactly that, open and as natural as possible, for passive recreational use and aesthetic enjoyment.
- Our commitment to 'preserve, protect and, where appropriate, enhance the common grounds,' as stated in our "Mission, Vision and Goals" statement.

The award (a plaque and a citation) will be presented at a Board of Supervisors meeting in October. The spokesman told me that the panel was impressed that a homeowners' association had done all the things we have done over the years and that it was definitely unique. There were several other submissions in our category.

Obviously, a tip of the hat goes to past presidents and grounds committee chairs. These would include past presidents Ron Cruz, Larry Russe, Pam Barrett, Harry Herchert, Pete Scala; and past grounds chairs including John Stanley (moved), Joe Shea (moved), Tom Johnson (moved), John Morrison, Larry Rogers, Bill Galinis and incumbent Richard Dudley. Also, a tip of the hat to Jerry Bernhardt (Eagle Scout project) and Ron Arnold (who years ago initiated the trail improvements along the Rabbit Run path, including the foot bridges). We should also recognize Craig Betts, owner of the Wild Bird Center in Burke Center, who has given us discounts on the bluebird boxes and poles over the years, and to Dan Barnes of Service for Seniors, who has materially improved the appearance of our common grounds over the last few years. And last but not least, thanks to all the neighbors who have come out over the years to clean and care for

continued on page 6

Welcome Wagon

by Ginny Herchert

Welcome Wagon extends a warm welcome to:

- Karl Weller and 11-year-old son Cody and daughter, Jazz, age 10. The Wellers had previously lived in nearby Mantua. They've moved into 4321 Farm House Lane.
- The Won Family—Sung Il, Hyun-Soon, Hung-Suk, and Ji-Won at 4374 Farm House lane. The Wons have been in the area for four years, most recently in Fairfax City.
- Deepa Rastogi and sons Aseem and Akhil, who have been living at 10120 Spinning Wheel Court for about four months.

Please make an effort to make all the new residents feel welcome to Hickory Farms.

Community News

by Bob Cosgriff

Congratulations to Larry and Carole Rogers (Harvester Farm Road) who completed their first race, the Norfolk "Rock and Roll Half-Marathon," on 1 September. Carole finished in 1:57 minutes, 2103 out of a finishing pack of 10,000+. Larry finished in 2:07, in 3517 place.

Thanks go to Jeff Lindsay for cutting back some of the growth that was taking over the path along the easement going up towards the black path at the northern end of the community. That trail is used by a lot of people, and this will make it safer and more comfortable.

Good luck to all our new college students and also our other young people who have started back for another year of learning in various schools.

Community Yard Sale

by Pete Scala

We had good weather for the fourth annual HFCA Community Yard Sale. Once again it was a successful day for almost everyone. We didn't have the turnout of shoppers that we normally enjoy, perhaps only 150 to 200 people (it's hard to tell, since many people didn't take fliers); normally we get twice that many. We had 28 households that actually participated. 27 signed up, 4 dropped out, 5 joined up at the last minute (and paid the fee when I collected). The \$10 fee collected paid for advertising, fliers, trash dump fees, and volunteer kids.

We were able to hold our Community Yard Sale because of a great team:

Many thanks go to our volunteer flier distributors, Stephen Maloney, Sarah Osman, Kareem Osman, Madeline Breeland, Sarah Maurer, and Peter Maurer, who handed out fliers from 7 a.m. till noon! And thanks to Jennifer Maloney, who got them all to volunteer!

Kirk Randall made and put out signs the night before the sale on Burke Station Rd, Braddock Rd, and Roberts Rd, as well as inside the neighborhood. Thanks, Kirk! And thanks to whoever put up the signs on Round Top – got a lot of business that way.

Neighborhood Watch

by Ken Danger

The Neighborhood Watch schedule for the remainder of the year has been distributed to Neighborhood Watch volunteers. Please consider adding your name to the Watch list. You'll be assigned only 2 to 3 times per year for a Friday or Saturday evening. If you don't have a partner, don't let that stop you. We'll happily pair you with someone else. Call Ken Danger at 703-323-1628 or e-mail him at Kenneth.Danger@usdoj.gov to find out more or to volunteer.

Neighborhood Watch Schedule

Day	Watch Date	Watch Partner	Watch Partner
Fri.	Sep 26	Robert Cooke	Lorna Cooke
Sat.	Sep 27	Bruce Berhardt	Nancy Bernhardt
Fri.	Oct 4	John Verheul	John Cotner
Sat.	Oct 5	Alfonso Acosta	Marie Acosta
Fri.	Oct 11	Ron Cruz	Louise Cruz
Sat.	Oct 12	Rob Mikula	Sharon Mikula
Fri.	Oct 18	Jaime Gutierrez	Ed Wagner
Sat.	Oct 19	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Fri.	Oct 25	Bob Bentley	Nancy Bentley
Sat.	Oct 26	Larry Russe	Chris Russe

Annual Meeting

by Rita Mullin

The Hickory Farms Community Association annual meeting will take place Wednesday, October 30, at 7:30 p.m. Our by-laws require a quorum of the homeowners to be present or to have sent proxies in order for us to conduct business, including approval of the 2003 budget and to elect next year's Board.

The homeowners who have expressed an interest in serving on next year's Board include Bob Cosgriff, Ginny Herchert and Rich Dudley, returning from the current Board, as well as Greg Gillette. We need three or four more volunteers to fill all the spots. Please speak with a current Board member to find out more about what's involved. It's not nearly as time consuming as many other activities. It's a great way to get to know your neighbors and to learn more about the community at large.

Please see **page 9** for the official announcement of the meeting and a Proxy form. If you will be unable to attend, please mail your signed proxy form to the HFCA mailbox or give it to any member of the current Board.

We look forward to seeing you there. Braddock District Supervisor Sharon Bulova and State Delegate Chap Peterson will be discussing several issues of importance to our community, including upcoming referenda on taxation ability for Northern Virginia and the higher education bond.

the common grounds during the Spring and Fall clean-ups. If we missed any names, please let me know and we will put them into the next newsletter.

We can all be very proud of this honor, especially since it is the second time this year that Hickory Farms has been singled out for a County-level award. I refer to the naming of Bob and Lee Sottile as the Braddock District Council Citizens of the Year – 2002 back in June. I guess we have to think of something for a ‘three-peat.’ In the meantime, I invite everyone to go out and enjoy our award-winning common area. It is, next to our residents, Hickory Farms’ greatest asset.

New Board members needed: This newsletter contains the names of nominees for next year’s board (see “Annual Meeting” on page 5). You will notice that there are some returning members (thanks, Ginny and Rich) and some new folks (thanks, Rob and Greg). However, you will notice that there are several vacancies. These need to be filled. It is both a legal and practical requirement to have a Board. As a registered non-profit corporation, we must have both directors and officers and report same to the State Corporation Commission annually. We fall under the purview of the Virginia Property Owners and Associations Act (VPOAA). We are a member of the Braddock District Council of civic and homeowners’ associations. We really have to function.

With the number of households in the community, if each owner served on the Board one year, he or she wouldn’t have to do it again for about 28 years. That doesn’t sound so bad now, does it? So why not get it over with and take your turn in the barrel during 2003? If you talk to anyone who has ever served on the HFCA Board, you will hear that it is a rewarding, even fun, experience. You meet more neighbors, you’re more tuned into community and county happenings and you get to participate at a very basic level in the democratic process. To be honest, it also takes a little time, effort and commitment. And the pay stinks. But basically, there are rewards. You exert an active influence on your neighborhood’s quality of life. You get free chow twice a year at the picnics. We have new procedures to reduce time spent at meetings. You get a good turnover with the outgoing board member (the election is in October, there is a joint working/social meeting in December and you really don’t get going until January). So, what are you waiting for? Contact any board member to throw your hat in the ring. Don’t be like the 19th century politician being touted for the presidency who said: “If nominated I will not run. If elected, I will not serve.” Give it a try. You might like it!

A special thanks to Pete Scala for once again volunteering to run the annual community yard sale. This year’s event was successful and enjoyable for all. Please see page 4 for Pete’s summary of the event and thanks to all who assisted this year.

Fall Clean-Up

by Richard Dudley

Autumn is upon us and plans are underway for our annual Fall Clean-Up. We have all received some benefit from our 17 acres of common grounds and now is an opportunity for us to give something back to the community so we can continue taking advantage of this valuable asset. Our grounds are in reasonable shape but still need a thorough cleaning and cutting back of invasive limbs and vines. Please don't leave this work to just a few – involve yourself and your family in a couple hours meeting neighbors and making a difference to the neighborhood we call home.

The **Fall Clean-Up date is Saturday, October 5, from 9:00 a.m. until noon.** If that time and/or day is inconvenient, please contact me and we can arrange a secondary clean-up opportunity that you can sign up for on **Sunday, October 6.** We will meet in the upper common area. Please bring gas-powered grass trimmers, pruning shears, hand clippers, and work gloves. Trash bags will be provided. We will focus on cleaning up trash/debris, cutting back obtrusive trees/brush in the upper and lower common areas, and working along the paths adjacent to the north end of the neighborhood and Rabbit Run. We may also undertake planting of bulbs and/or fall flowers at our neighborhood entrances. If anyone with a "green thumb" has good suggestions and wants to volunteer for the job please let me know. For those of you who cannot make the official clean-up, please consider spending a little extra effort cleaning up around your own homes. Fall is an excellent time to fertilize and seed your yard to prepare for a thick lawn next year!

Please let me know if you plan to attend, what equipment you can provide to the effort, and any special projects you care to undertake. If you forget to RSVP, come out anyway – we can use the help.

Hickory Farms Fall Clean-Up Sign-Up Form

Name: _____

Job/Activity: _____

Equipment Provided: _____

Preferred Clean-Up Date: _____

If you have suggestions, please let me know and they will be included on our work list. Please return this form to Rich Dudley, 4358 Farm House Lane, or call me at 703-503-2060.

AAA Trash Disposal

by Bob Cosgriff

Our two-year agreement with AAA Trash expires in October. As you know, AAA has raised its prices more than once during this period, but these prices have not been passed on to us, because of our agreement. In our negotiations with AAA, the company cited higher costs (fuel, labor, County tipping fees at the Transfer Station) and proposed a one-year fee increase of \$2.50/month to a total of \$18.75/month (or \$67.00/quarter). This would cover twice-per-week pickup of trash, once-per-week pickup of yard debris (April through November) and recyclables (year-round), and free pickup of large (but burnable) items (the same service we have at present). Since we expected that they would propose an increase, we wanted to be sure that our service level didn't diminish and that we could get a two-year lock-in.

To review our plan, we started in 1998 at \$16/month. At renewal time in 2000, this went up to only \$16.25/month. The proposed increase to \$18.75/month represents a 15.4% increase over the 2000 rates. If amortized over the two years coming up, this is a 7.8% average yearly rise. But if you consider that in six years (2000 – 2004), our fees will have risen only \$2.75 above the initial rate of \$16.00, this is an average annual increase over this total time of only 2.8% which is just around the rate of inflation itself.

The AAA spokesperson with whom we spoke said that a stand-alone new customer would be quoted a rate of \$30/month and that their other negotiated rates run in the neighborhood of \$24.50/month. However, they didn't think that an approximately \$8.00/month increase would be fair to us in order to bring our rates up to this level.

We asked for a two-year lock-in at \$18.75 and they agreed. So the Board has voted to continue with AAA for another two years at \$18.75 per month, as being in the best interest of those in the community who are availing themselves of this arrangement.

AAA said the bills that you will receive in October, for the three-month period November – January, will reflect the new rate.

Notice of Annual Meeting

Wednesday, October 30, 2002

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 **Wednesday, October 30, 2002, at 7:30** in the meeting room of the Braddock District Office, 9002 Burke Lake Road (next to the Kings Park Library).

Items to be considered at the meeting:

1. Remarks by Braddock District Supervisor Sharon Bulova and State Delegate Chap Peterson on County and State issues of concern to Hickory Farms residents.
2. Approval of minutes of 2001 Annual Meeting
3. Board reports on 2002 activities
4. Approval of 2003 Operating Budget.
5. Nominations from the floor and election of 2003 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, 2002, or at any adjournment meeting thereof

(Signature) _____

Lot # _____

Address: _____

The Future of Lorton Prison

by Bob Cosgriff

As you may know, the former Lorton Correctional Facility has been turned over from the control of the D.C. Department of Corrections to Fairfax County. This marks the end of over 90 years of operation of prison facilities on the over-2000 acre site. The Lorton site is important in history and development of criminal justice in the United States. It also played a major role in our political history, when it was the place where women suffragettes were imprisoned in 1917 during the First World War for picketing outside the White House. When the reasons for their incarceration, to say nothing of the shocking violations of their legal rights and the norms of common decency in their treatment became known, there was a tremendous outcry of protest. Historians consider this incident to be a key turning point leading to the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920, giving the vote to women.

In any event, that is past and prologue. Now Fairfax County must decide what to do with this major parcel of open space, which also contains significant environmentally important areas along the Occoquan River and South Run and Pohick Creeks. To assist appropriate County staff planners in putting this incomparable piece of real estate to the best use for all the citizens of Fairfax, and indeed Northern Virginia, the Board of Supervisors has established the Laurel Hill Adaptive Re-use Citizens' Advisory Committee (Laurel Hill is the name of the home, built in 1766, by Major William Lindsay, hero of the Revolutionary War and Aide to Gen. Washington). Each magisterial district has one appointee (Mt. Vernon District has two, since the site lies therein), and there are two at-large representatives. This committee will meet bimonthly to review proposals for adaptive re-use. The first major proposal is for a 40 acre "arts" campus on the site, utilizing restored former prison buildings visible from Route 123. This site will serve as a magnet for the visual and performing arts. This would involve educational programs from elementary to the college level, musical and theatrical performances by amateur and professional groups, workshops (similar to the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria), and museums to interpret the social, cultural and political/military history of Fairfax and Northern Virginia from the time of the Native Americans through the colonial and Civil War periods to the present.

Sharon Bulova has nominated me to be the Braddock District representative on this committee and I am looking forward to the chance to help influence the future of the Lorton site. Since this is a citizen's committee, I solicit your input on ideas for Lorton. As I find out what decisions have been made, or are in the making, I will let you know via this newsletter. I do know that substantial parts of the site will be protected parkland, and some will be used for recreational facilities such as soccer and softball fields. There will be some residential and light mixed-use development on a small portion as the result of a land swap to protect 800 acres on Mason Neck. But I don't have any details yet. Our first meeting will be probably in October, when all the committee members will have been confirmed by the Board of Supervisors. I'll keep you posted.



Hickory Farms News

Hickory Farms Community Association

P.O. Box 2239

Fairfax, VA 22031-2239

October 2002

Message from the President

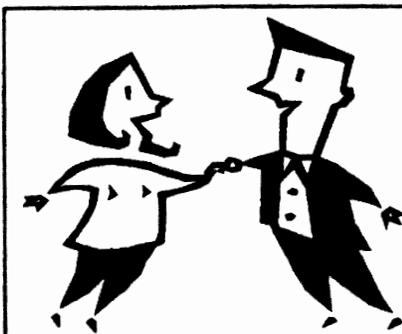
by Bob Cosgriff

Here it is October already. With the HFCA Annual Meeting approaching on 30 October, and the General Election scheduled for 5 November, this is an appropriate time to talk about voting.

First of all, by being members of an HOA that falls under the Virginia Property Owners' Association Act (VPOAA), you have the opportunity in taking part in what I like to think of as the most "grassroots" of all politics: your neighbor association. Because Virginia has a statute covering what an association can and cannot do, we are what is termed a "quasi-governmental" body. After all, we have an annual budget, we can levy an assessment (the annual dues), compel adherence to certain architectural and behavioral standards (restrictive covenants), are required to hold open meetings, communicate effectively with our 'constituents' (monthly newsletter and e-mail to those who have it), and hold annual elections for Board members to represent you and carry out the business of the association. We are a non-stock, not-for-profit association registered with the State Corporation Commission. Therefore, we must have officers and must file an annual report to the SCC.

So what does this have to do with voting? Pretty much everything. Since we have a volunteer working Board (in other words, we do not hire a manager and staff to do what needs to be done), it is important that every year seven or eight residents step forward and volunteer to serve on the Board. It is important to get people with the right skills, interest, personality, and also time to do this important service to our community. While all the positions are important, three in particular take a bit more time than the others. These are the statutory officer positions of

continued on page 3



Be There or Be Square

HFCA

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, October 30, 7:30 p.m.

Braddock District Supervisor's Office

(see page 5 for details)



Planning to Sell Your Home? Don't Forget the VPOAA

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Hickory Farms Community Association Board

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Grounds	Richard Dudley	703-503-2060
Architectural Review	Robert Cooke	703-426-5164
Neighborhood Watch	Ken Danger	703-323-1628
At-Large	Brand Niemann	703-503-8124

President's Message (con't)

Secretary and Treasurer, and the job as Architectural Control Committee Chair. One Board member serves as Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, one as Grounds Chair, and another as Welcome Wagon representative. The membership (you) elect the Board. The Board selects its own officers, although in practice, the positions are agreed to in advance and often presented to the membership as the slate of nominees at the meeting. So far this year, we have the following candidates:

Bob Cosgriff—President
Ginny Herchert—Vice President/Welcome Wagon
Greg Gillette—Neighborhood Watch Co-Chair
Kathy Gillette—Neighborhood Watch Co-Chair
Missy Jackson—Treasurer
Richard Dudley—Grounds
Rob Mikula—At-large

Bob, Ginny and Richard are returning from this year's Board. Both Greg and Kathy have served on the Board in previous years. Missy has lived in Hickory Farms for about four years and Rob is a relatively new neighbor and is jumping right in.

So you can see that we still need a Secretary and ACC Chair (actually, this person doesn't have to be a Board member, but in practice it works well to have him or her be an elected Board member).

Having been on the Board several times, there are two things that I think are very important. They may seem contradictory, but actually are not. They are continuity and change. First, continuity: it is important that some Board members actually stay on for a second year (or even longer). This helps carry out plans that might take longer than one year to accomplish. It also means that all the learning that invariably happens in the first year on the Board can be put to good use the second year. Second, change: By this I mean new blood. It is important to get new people (particularly new residents) involved to ensure the greatest possible input of new ideas. It also brings different skills and talents to bear on issues. So we have the continuity factor pretty well covered for the 2003 Board. Now we need the new blood. Maybe that is YOU.

In any case, please come to the annual meeting on 30 October to vote for the new Board and the annual budget. You will also get to hear Delegate Chap Peterson and Supervisor Sharon Bulova discuss important local and state issues, including the upcoming election. For a preview of their comments, please see the separate article on election ballot questions—other things on which you have the right, privilege and duty to vote. Please see page 5 for details and a proxy form. Please sign and return it to one of the Board members. Without enough representation in person or by proxy we cannot conduct business.

AAA Rate Correction

In our article in last month's newsletter we incorrectly gave the quarterly cost for the service. The new rate is \$18.75/month, or \$56.25/quarter.

Don't Forget: General Election November 5

by Bob Cosgriff

This year, there are no key local or statewide offices being contested. However, there are several very important ballot questions. While the HFCA does not, as a matter of policy, take an official stand on issues, we do have the responsibility of letting you know what they are so you can make your own choice. This year's ballot questions are listed below:

FAIRFAX COUNTY REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

1. **Public Safety Bond.** Approval will permit the County to raise \$60 million dollars for public safety projects, including a new Public Safety Communications/Emergency Operations Center, fire station renovations and improvements, and construction of a HAZMAT Response Unit facility.
2. **Park Bond.** Approval will allow the County to borrow \$20 million for park projects (\$15 million for acquisition and \$5 million for improvements). One project close to home is the Wakefield Park Girls' Softball Complex.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA BOND REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

1. **Educational Facilities Bond.** This will provide for \$900,488, 645 dollars to fund capital projects at state-supported colleges and universities. This will help fund several projects at the NOVA Annandale Campus and at George Mason University.
2. **Parks and Recreation Recreational Facilities Bond.** This would authorize borrowing \$119,040,000 for capital projects throughout Virginia.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA SALES TAX QUESTION

1. **Northern Virginia one-half cent Sales Tax Increase for Local Transportation Projects.** This is the one that is garnering a lot of press. It provides for authority to increase the state sales tax by ½-cent. It will not reduce the state's transfer of funds to Northern Virginia for transportation or school funding. 40% of the funds raised will be spent on transit (bus/rail) projects and 20% for HOV lanes and transit parking. Close to home these funds will provide money for widening Guinea Road to four lanes from Pommeroy Drive to New Guinea Road (south of Royal Lake), dual left-hand turn lanes on westbound Braddock to southbound Route 123. It will also buy new double-decker train cars for the VRE and provide funding for rail to Tysons, Dulles Corridor transit projects and the Fairfax County Parkway. Opponents say that the state's formula for allocating money should be changed before a new tax is levied.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

1. **Post-Conviction Claim of Actual Innocence.** This amends the State Constitution to permit the Virginia Supreme Court to hear, as part of its original jurisdiction, claims of actual innocence on the basis of DNA or new scientific evidence.
2. **Property Tax Exemption.** This amendment would let local governments give tax exemptions, by designation or classification, to certain property used for charitable or other purposes by local ordinance. Presently, the General Assembly must do this by ¾ vote in each house.

So there are the issues. Please take the time to inform yourself of the pro's and con's and then go cast your vote at the Woodson High School polling place on 5 November.

Neighborhood Watch

by Ken Danger

The Neighborhood Watch schedule for the remainder of the year has been distributed to Neighborhood Watch volunteers. Please consider adding your name to the Watch list. You'll be assigned only 2 to 3 times per year for a Friday or Saturday evening. If you don't have a partner, don't let that stop you. We'll happily pair you with someone else. Call Ken Danger at 703-323-1628 or e-mail him at Kenneth.Danger@usdoj.gov to find out more or to volunteer.

Neighborhood Watch Schedule

Day	Watch Date	Watch Partner	Watch Partner
Fri.	Oct 25	Bob Bentley	Nancy Bentley
Sat.	Oct 26	Larry Russe	Chris Russe
Fri.	Nov 1	Greg Gillette	Kathy Gillette
Sat.	Nov 2	Bill Galinis	Diana Galinis
Fri.	Nov 8	Jay Kistler	John Morrison
Sat.	Nov 9	Pingjun Li	Jin Wang
Fri.	Nov 15	Bob Sottile	Lee Sottile
Sat.	Nov 16	Dave Maurer	Sanjeev Munjal
Fri.	Nov 22	Kirk Randall	Jerry Tumelty
Sat.	Nov 23	Angel Meza	Jason Meza

Annual Meeting Wednesday, October 30

by Rita Mullin

The Hickory Farms Community Association annual meeting will take place Wednesday, October 30, at 7:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the Braddock District Office, 9002 Burke Lake Road (next to the Kings Park Library). Our by-laws require a quorum of the homeowners to be present or to have sent proxies in order for us to conduct business, including approval of the 2003 budget and Board election.

The homeowners who have expressed an interest in serving on next year's Board include Bob Cosgriff, Ginny Herchert and Rich Dudley, returning from the current Board, as well as Kathy and Greg Gillette, Missy Jackson and Rob Mikula. We need two more volunteers to fill the Secretary and ACC Chair spots. Please speak with a current Board member to find out more about what's involved. It's not nearly as time consuming as many other activities. It's a great way to get to know your neighbors and to learn more about the community at large.

Please see **page 6** for the official announcement of the meeting and a Proxy form. If you will be unable to attend, please mail your signed proxy form to the HFCA mailbox or give it to any Board member.

We look forward to seeing you there. Braddock District Supervisor Sharon Bulova and State Delegate Chap Peterson will be discussing several issues of importance to our community, including upcoming referenda on taxation ability for Northern Virginia and the higher education bond.

Notice of Annual Meeting

Wednesday, October 30, 2002

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 **Wednesday, October 30, 2002, at 7:30** in the meeting room of the Braddock District Office, 9002 Burke Lake Road (next to the Kings Park Library).

Items to be considered at the meeting:

1. Remarks by Braddock District Supervisor Sharon Bulova and State Delegate Chap Peterson on County and State issues of concern to Hickory Farms residents.
2. Approval of minutes of 2001 Annual Meeting
3. Board reports on 2002 activities
4. Approval of 2003 Operating Budget.
5. Nominations from the floor and election of 2003 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, 2002, or at any adjournment meeting thereof

(Signature) _____

Lot # _____

Address: _____

Fall Clean-Up a Success

by Richard Dudley

Thank you to all who participated in this year's Fall Clean-Up. We had a successful clean-up involving 20 neighbors. Our crews picked up trash and cut down obtrusive tree limbs and vines. Efforts were focused on the Upper and Lower Common Areas, the northern path, the nature trail along Rabbit Run, and the Roberts Road entrance. I'm pleased to report that our grounds were found to be in good shape.

The following people should be recognized for setting aside the time to help make our neighborhood a more beautiful place to live:

- Sondra Arnold and her children Brenda, Dennis, & Clay
- David Cain
- Bob Cosgriff
- Dave Dempster
- Rich Dudley
- Greg & Kathy Gillette

- Ginny Herchert
- Jeff Lindsay
- Brand Niemann
- Thanh & Hoa Pham and their children Jonathan, Harmony, & Hannah
- Bob Sottile
- Lynn Welch

I'd also like to thank all of you who used the nice weather to take on projects in your own yards.

Now that our official Fall Clean-Up has passed, I encourage each of you to help keep our common areas looking their best by spending the few extra moments it takes to pick up any bottles, cans, and papers that inevitably find their way into our grounds. Trash cans are located in both the Upper and Lower Common Areas for your convenience. Thanks again to all those who participated.

Pet Etiquette Reminder

The Board has received complaints of owners not cleaning up after their dogs. One "hot spot" seems to be the school bus stop at Country Squire Lane and Cotton Farm Road, where dog waste is found on the sidewalk or lawns on a daily basis (especially across from Country Squire on the Cotton Farm side). Just as a reminder, here is the official word from the Fairfax County website:

County Code concerning dog poop, pet waste, also known as the "pooper scooper" regulation:

"The owner or custodian of any dog shall be responsible for the removal of excreta deposited by such dog on the property of another, including public areas."

(County Code Section 41-1-2, Section 108-5-2 and Section 41-2-6)

It is only common courtesy to be sure that your pet doesn't leave an unsightly and unhealthy "calling card" on someone else's lawn, or on the common areas or public sidewalks. Please, when you go out with your dog, take a baggy to scoop up any waste.



Planning a Home Improvement? Don't Get Burned

The home improvement industry is regulated by state and local laws to protect the public from unsafe or inadequate work. The Fairfax County Consumer Protection Division cautions all consumers to take the following steps in hiring a contractor:

- Check to be sure that the contractor you hire has the required state or local contractor's license. Contact the Fairfax County Department of Environmental Management, Licensing Section, 703-324-1540 and the Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, Licensing Section 804-367-8511.
- Check the contractor's complaint record with the Consumer Protection Division, 703-222-8435. or visit the complaint history information page on the county website at:
http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dtcs/conserv/complaint_history_welcome.htm
- Obtain references from several past customers.
- Insist on a written fixed price contract to include the name and address of the contractor and license number, terms of payments, start and completion dates and warranty limitations.
- Check the need for a building permit. The contractor must obtain the permit in his name to assure that the contractor, not the homeowner is liable for any building code violations.
- Carefully read and agree with all contract terms before signing.

For more information call the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Division at 703-222-8435.