

2004

Hickory Farms

Newsletter Archive

Includes the following newsletters:

- March 2004
- April 2004

The Hickory Farms Newsletter

Hickory Farms Community Association
Fairfax County, Virginia

Who's Who

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President's Letter

Although the groundhog saw his shadow and predicted another seven weeks of winter, it seems that Mother Nature did not pay too much attention to him and we have had a milder winter than last year. The weather forecast for the beginning of March indicates that it will come in as a lamb, let us hope that it also ends as a lamb, so that we can put away the snow shovels and bring out the rakes. Very soon we will be able to walk around the neighborhood, in particular the common areas and begin assessing the damages caused by the winter and repairs to be made.

As many of you are aware, for those that use AAA for trash service, your bill for the first quarter increased from \$16.25 to \$17.46, an increase of \$1.41. After many calls and speaking with several representatives of AAA, I finally spoke with Yvonne Montgomery. She is in charge of the homeowner's association group contracts and here is the scoop.

Hickory Farms four years ago negotiated a contract with AAA after receiving proposals from different companies. The rates that were agreed upon were for three years and in fact they were supposed to have been raised at the beginning of 2003. They never did and we continued a fourth year at the same rate. Now in 2004 they have raised it as indicated in their billing. When I indicated to Ms. Montgomery that we were not informed of the increase or need to renegotiate, she indicated that Hickory Farms had a "non participating agreement";

(continued next page)

President's Letter (continued)

meaning that Hickory Farms Homeowners Association did not sign a contract with AAA, the Association does not pay for their services, that each homeowner is not obligated to contract individually with AAA and for that reasons no one at the association level is notified.

Ms. Montgomery did agree to honor last years rate, \$16.25 per month or \$48.75 per quarter, throughout this year, with the understanding that for next year a rate increase will occur. This will be something that the board will look into, either renegotiate with AAA or get proposals from other companies.

As far as what you need to do to get this corrected, those homeowners that have service with AAA, you have to call 703-818-8222 and speak with someone in the billing department and tell them that you live in Hickory Farms and that the rate is as indicated above as agreed by Ms. Montgomery. If you have already paid the first quarter, request a credit for the next billing. If you have not paid, put a note on the invoice when paying and you must also make the call to the billing department. Ms. Montgomery indicated that just writing something in the payment voucher would not get the account corrected.

Hickory Farms Homeowners Association can not get the individual account corrected, as stated above we, as an association, do not have a contract with them, nor do we know who uses AAA for their trash pick up services.

Treasurer's Update – February 2004 Bob Bentley

Through February 21, 77 homeowners, or 39% of our 198 homeowners, have paid their annual assessments. Thanks to all who have paid so far. Just a reminder that the annual assessments are due by March 31. Please keep in mind that if your dues payments are not postmarked by March 31, a late fee of \$25 will be assessed. I would also like to request of all homeowners who have not yet paid their assessments to note your lot number on your check payment in addition to noting it on the form, which is included in this newsletter. Having this number makes it easier and faster for me to record your payment in the records. You can determine your lot number by referring to the Hickory Farms directory.

Home Repair for the Elderly

Fairfax County has a program offering home repair/renovation assistance to older residents in the county, known as "Home Repair for the Elderly". For information, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/rha/homerepairforelderlyfactsheet-5-02.pdf>.

Neighborhood News

We have had continued sightings of the suspicious vehicle profiled in last month's newsletter, to recap: Light Blue, 4 door Toyota (Corolla-sized vehicle), Virginia License 284ABB. It may have a GMU sticker in the back window as well as an alumni sticker from another university. If anyone sees this vehicle in the neighborhood, please inform the police. We suspect that the individual is up to no good and must be made aware that they are not welcome here.

We have also received a report of a vehicle joyriding on some lawns at the upper end of Still Meadow. Although the driver managed to avoid hitting parked cars, they seemed to have deliberately taken out a tree and some landscaping, as well as imprinting tire tracks in no fewer than four of our neighbors' lawns. We have a Case #04037000511 with the Fairfax County Police department.

Many of us are looking forward to the warmer weather, which March typically delivers. Many people leave their homes for well-deserved spring break. If you know that a neighbor is away, even if you don't know them personally, keep a casual watch on their home. If you notice newspapers collecting at the end of their driveway, or packages left at their door for more than a day, please take it upon yourself to take them in until your neighbor's return. They would appreciate it as you would appreciate it if one of your neighbors did likewise in your absence. There's nothing more enticing to a home burglar than an open invitation to a vacant home. Just remember that warm weather also brings out the mischief-makers. It is incumbent on each of us to be aware and take notice of our surroundings. If you see something out of the ordinary, something suspicious, please don't be afraid to call the police and report it.

Neighborhood Watch

Thank you to the following neighbors for your support of our Neighborhood Watch program. Below is the patrol schedule for March and April. Questions or concerns regarding the Neighborhood Watch are welcome. Contact Marc Fogleman at (703) 764-0295, 2004 HFCA Neighborhood Watch Coordinator.

Fri	Mar 5	Pingjun Li	Jin Wang
Sat	Mar 6	Jay Kistler	John Morrison
Fri	Mar 12	Dave Maurer	Sanjeev Munjal
Sat	Mar 13	Bob Sottile	Lee Sottile
Fri	Mar 19	Kirk Randall	Jerry Tumelty
Sat	Mar 20	Angel Meza	Jason Meza
Fri	Mar 26	Bob Cosgriff	Don Klingemann
Sat	Mar 27	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg
Fri	Apr 2	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters
Sat	Apr 3	Jeff Lindsay	Larry Rogers
Fri	Apr 9	John Kitzmiller	Brand Niemann
Sat	Apr 10	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay
Fri	Apr 16	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz
Sat	Apr 17	Rich Pernicano	Steve Mathews
Fri	Apr 23	Pete Scala	Rose Scala
Sat	Apr 24	Stan Lee	Jim Marshall
Fri	Apr 30	Pam Barrett	Tom Barrett

Braddock District Doings by Bob Cosgriff

Here are some highlights from Supervisor Bulova's office:

Budget, Gangs, Libraries, new development and road improvements on Zion Drive, design of a parking garage at the Burke Centre VRE Station. Our Braddock District plate is pretty full during the months ahead.

Our March BDC meeting has traditionally served as our official Braddock District Community briefing on the **County Executive's Recommended Budget**. Anyone with an interest in hearing firsthand about the fiscal year 2005 Advertised Budget is welcome to attend the BDC meeting at **7:30 PM, on March 9th**. The budget presentation will take place in Braddock Hall, adjacent to the Kings Park Library on Burke Lake Road in Burke.

County Executive Tony Griffin is proposing a **\$1.7 billion budget**, based on our current tax rate of \$1.16 per \$100 of assessed value, an increase of 4.47% over the current year budget. Under the proposed budget, the School Transfer is an increase of 6.57% - or \$81.5 million - bringing the total County portion of the School budget to \$1.3 billion. Our Transfer to the Schools represents 53% of total County General Fund Disbursements.

FY 05 Direct Expenditures (non school spending) totals \$1 billion, an increase of \$24 million (or 2.5%) over our current FY 04 budget.

Some features of this budget include:

A new athletic services application fee of \$3.00 per hour to partially offset cost of scheduling and coordinating community use of athletic facilities.

Positions and equipment to support a new Fairfax Center Fire Station, which will open in Spring 2005 at a cost of \$1.7 million.

Funding to support the first year of a multi-year plan to address staffing issues at the Public Safety Communications Center - \$4.3 million.

An increase in the maximum level of assets allowed for Real Estate tax relief eligibility for senior citizens from the current \$190,000 asset level to the State maximum of \$240,000.

More information about the Advertised Budget can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb> or contact Supervisor Bulova's office at (703) 425-9300 for a copy of the "Citizen's Guide to the Fiscal Year 2005 Budget." Public Hearings are scheduled for March 29th, 30th, and 31st. The County Executive's Budget is scheduled to be "marked-up" and adopted by the Board of Supervisors on April 19th. To testify, call the Clerk to the Board's Office at (703) 324-3151 or by e-mailing clerktothebos@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Our **Braddock District Community Dialog on Gangs & Revitalization** is underway. Our first meeting on February 11th defined the problem and was attended by about 200 people. **Our next meeting on March 10th** will deal with "What's Being Done About Gangs"? The Dialog will end on June 9th.

My Spring Town Meeting on June 23rd will feature the Community Dialog process and final recommendations. You can follow the progress of our Community Dialog via meeting summaries posted on our [web page](http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/government/board), www.co.fairfax.va.us/government/board and clicking on Braddock District.

On February 24th, residents of the Burke Centre area commented on the layout and artist renderings for a new **Burke Centre Library** to be built on a 7.35-acre site at the intersection of Burke Centre Parkway and Freds Oak Road. With the passage of a Bond Referendum for Libraries this November, construction on the 17,000 square feet library could begin in 2006 and be completed by fall of 2007.

The Burke Centre VRE Station Parking Facility Task Force concluded its fine work on February 18th. The unanimously adopted recommendations for Design, Operation, and Pedestrian Enhancement considerations were submitted to my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors on Monday, February 23rd, with instructions that the work of the Task Force be used as guidance to County staff and the architect chosen to begin design on the parking facility. The Task Force will convene at least one more time this fall, to see and discuss progress on the architect's design. Construction of the parking facility could begin by spring of 2006, with completion scheduled for fall of 2007. Meeting summaries from Task Force meetings can be viewed on our Braddock web page (address above).

On **Wednesday, March 24th**, my office will be hosting a **"Pardon Our Dust" community meeting** to share information about the impending development of 58 new homes on the north and south side of Zion Drive. The developer of the homes, Stanley Martin, has agreed to construct major improvements to Zion Dr., as well as some significant storm drainage improvements. The meeting will deal chiefly with the **Zion Drive road improvements**. I hope you will be able to join me for this briefing, which will be held at Bonnie Brae Elementary School, beginning at 7:30 PM.

Lastly, it's time to nominate individuals and organizations who have made a difference for one of the several **Best of Braddock (BOB)** awards. **BOB** winners will be acknowledged at our June 8th Braddock District Council picnic, along with the Braddock District Council Citizen of the Year. This is your chance to thank an individual or organization that has gone out of their way to make Braddock the wonderful place it is to live and play and raise our families. **The deadline for BOB nominations is May 28th. Deadline for COY is 31 March 2004.** If you have any questions, contact Supervisor Bulova's office (number above) or Bob Cosgriff, Chair, Braddock District Council (number below in Laurel Hill article)

Laurel Hill Update

By the time this newsletter comes out, the Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Citizen Task Force will have held three citizen meetings to air its draft concepts for the Central/Maximum site on Silverbrook Road. The proposals as presented were for A) mixed residential/retail and B) residential/retail with an education component. In March, the Task Force plans to hold an educational panel comprising representatives from numerous Virginia and area colleges to gain insights into possible educational concepts. This panel would be similar to the earlier one conducted with the Urban Land Institute. Following these meetings, the Task Force will review all the data to date and work on refining—and voting on—a recommendation package to go to the Board. This will probably take place in April/May.

It is probably important to clarify a common misconception: it is not the Task Force that will determine the merits of any given idea or proposal put forth by an individual or organization. These items help us “think up” to concepts that we can study and then transmit to the Board of Supervisors on what is both desirable and workable to make Laurel Hill a “world-class” asset for the County, without costing us, the taxpayers, money. At the same time, we have to preserve as many of the National Register-eligible buildings as possible. As you might expect, the previous tenants didn’t exactly take very good care of the property, so it will be costly to adaptively reuse the property. The fundamental issue is, once we have the concept(s), “who will write the check?”

Once the recommendation package goes to the Board of Supervisors, the next likely step is for the County to issue a Request of Qualifications/Request for Proposal to attract a master developer with experience in reviving historic sites, using the TF recommendations as the basic conceptual framework. The responses to the RFP might well include potential uses not envisioned by the Task Force. Regardless of whatever concept or proposal is ultimately selected, there will be extensive public hearings via a number of bodies, including the Planning Commission, the Architectural Review Board and, of course, the Board of Supervisors. There will likely have to be some modifications to the Comprehensive Plan, and perhaps even some changes to the Memorandum of Agreement between the Federal government and County signatories to the land transfer in 2002. Bottom line: Rome was not built in a day, and neither will be Laurel Hill. However, it is very important to keep the momentum moving forward to attract a suitable developer, because the buildings are costing the County money right now, and they will continue to deteriorate with time, making deferred development even more costly, even prohibitively so.

You can get more information on Laurel Hill by going to the Fairfax County website (www.fairfaxcounty.gov) and searching on “Laurel Hill Task Force” (you will be directed to the additional address: [/cex/adaptivereuse.htm](http://cex/adaptivereuse.htm), which is our home page). You can also call me at (703) 764-0720 or e-mail me at: bandjcoz@cavtel.net.

Hickory Farms Community Association

2004 Assessment Notice

Please pay by March 31, 2004

The 2004 Hickory Farms Community Association (HFCA) annual assessment is \$100. The assessment is used for maintenance of the common grounds; insurance for the association and Board members; semi-annual neighborhood picnics; the Neighborhood Watch program; and, the costs of managing and operating your Association.

You can help conserve your Association's financial resources—and your own—by submitting your payment in a timely manner. Payments postmarked after the due date will be considered late and will be charged an additional \$25 late fee. In the event an owner's check is returned, the owner will reimburse HFCA for any expenses incurred for the returned check.

This year's assessment of \$100 is due March 31, 2004

The HFCA is committed to maintaining and improving the equality of life in Hickory Farms, to maintaining our property values and to resolving issues of concern to our neighbors. Assessments (and late fees) are collected in accordance with your By-laws to cover Association expenses, which are outlined and approved by the homeowners at each Annual Meeting.

If you are not a property owner and are not responsible for paying the assessment, please forward this notice to the property owner promptly.

Please complete the coupon below, detach and mail it with your check to the address on the coupon.

HFCA 2004 ANNUAL ASSESSMENT

The Assessment of **\$100** is payable by **March 31, 2004**.

Please make your check payable to HFCA and mail to:

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

Your name: _____

Lot Number: _____

Address: _____

**Hickory Farms Community Association
Fairfax County, Virginia**

President's Letter

As the days start to get longer and the warmer temperature invites us to get out of our homes, you begin to see more and more of our neighbors working in the yard, flower beds and fixing up around the house. A considerable number of our residents have decided to get the siding replaced and the work has started in earnest. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Kirk Randall for the fantastic job he has done coordinating this effort, from canvassing the neighborhood, getting bids and negotiating with the successful siding company. I understand that more than 60 residents have expressed interest, in fact I got a call from Hawaii from a homeowner that owns a rental home here, who is interested in residing his house. It is incredible how the news travels.

The next major events on our community calendar are the Spring Clean-Up and Spring Fling, scheduled for May 15 and May 22, respectively. Please keep these days open and plan to participate. For those who are new to Hickory Farms, on Spring Clean-Up day residents are invited to come out and work along side their neighbors to help clean up the damage winter has done to the common areas, and weed and plant new flowers in the beds at the Burke Station and Roberts Roads entrances. It is a chance to get together with your neighbors and help the community. The Spring Fling is a time to get together with your fellow residents, meet new ones and share some food, beverages and ethnic dishes. In the next month's newsletter we will provide more information, locations and times.

Inside this issue:

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Roofing Opportunity

**Neighborhood
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Braddock Doings

**2004 Assessment
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**Application for
Architectural Review**

TREASURER'S UPDATE

Bob Bentley

Through March 17, 135 homeowners, or 68% of the 198 homeowners, have paid their annual assessments. Don't forget that the annual assessments are due by March 31. Please keep in mind that if your payments are not postmarked by March 31, a late fee of \$25 will be assessed. When making your payment please note your lot number on your check in addition to noting it on the form, which is included in this newsletter.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!!

Hickory Farms congratulates the following graduates:

Sarah Gillette, with a BS in Environmental Science and **Patrick Klingemann**, with a BS in Computer Engineering, both from Virginia Tech University;

Michael Mullin, with a BA in History and English Literature from Christopher Newport University;

Damian DaCruz, with a Masters degree in Criminal Psychology from Manchester University in England;

Matthew Mullin, from Woodson High School, who is considering offers from the University of Pittsburgh and Christopher Newport University, among others.

Good luck and best wishes on your future endeavors!

MORE GOOD NEWS

Congratulations to Tim and Lynn Walsh of Country Squire Lane on the birth of their son, Daniel, in December, and to Don and Diane Klingemann, who became proud grandparents of Grayson Klingemann in February!

If you have good news to share like the above, please send it along to jmaloney@gmu.edu.

GET IN THE SWIM! POOL MEMBERSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!

Summer is just around the corner and that means it will be time to relax and enjoy the water. The Fairfax Pool on Roberts Road has memberships available. The pool offers swim and dive teams for ages up to 18 and always welcomes new members. If you are interested in learning more about a pool membership, come to the pool's open house on May 29 and 30 from noon to 5 pm. One-day passes are also available. For more information please contact Mike Maloney at 703 425-0752. Get ready! The pool season runs from Saturday, May 29 through Labor Day.

DEADLINE FOR HOME IMPROVEMENTS – JUNE 30

Our neighborhood beautification project is going well. Architectural Control Committee approvals are coming right along and the consensus seems to be that the project will increase both the attractiveness of our community and property values. Country Squire Lane resident Kirk Randall negotiated special prices, warranties, and installation provisions for replacement vinyl siding, replacement high efficient replacement windows, gutters/downspouts, trim (trim covers the exterior wood with vinyl covered aluminum so that you no longer have to paint it), and roofs.

Negotiated special prices and terms are for Hickory Farms residents only and apply to contracts signed by June 30, 2004. That deadline may be extended at Sunshine's option (depending upon how much higher profit business they have elsewhere), but don't count on it – so, act fast.

If you are interested in participating, contact BOTH Kirk at 703-425-0210 or kirk_randall@hotmail.com (underline between Kirk and Randall), giving your name, address, phone numbers, e-mail address, and what projects you would like to receive prices on, AND Sunshine at 703-499-8654. Product literature and sample colors for siding and shutters may be picked up at 4279 Country Squire Lane. Even if you receive a Sunshine bid proposal, you are under no obligation to sign the contract and have the work performed.

Architectural Control Committee approval for most projects is required BEFORE construction begins, and such approval could take as long as 30 days (although most approvals are received in 1-2 weeks). So, if you're seriously interested, submit your ACC request ASAP. Information on the ACC review process is available in the March 8 Internet document listed below.

Kirk has prepared information you may find useful while researching our remodeling projects. Included are the special contract provisions and information on prices that you should know before you sign your contract. Also included is important information on the ACC review process. You may read all of this on the Internet at:

<http://members.cox.net/midnightstangz/feb2&8e-mail.htm>

<http://members.cox.net/midnightstangz/feb17e-mail.htm>

<http://members.cox.net/midnightstangz/feb25e-mail.htm>

<http://members.cox.net/midnightstangz/mar8e-mail.htm>

<http://members.cox.net/midnightstangz/mar18e-mail.htm>

<http://members.cox.net/midnightstangz/aacapplication.pdf> -- Application for approval by the Architectural Control Committee – Adobe Acrobat required to open this document. If you do not have Internet access, you can pick up printed copies of this information from Kirk at 4279 Country Squire Lane.

Several homes have already been resided. If you're still considering types and colors of siding and shutters, check out these homes. However, please respect the homeowner's privacy and ask permission before you approach a home to inspect the work. Thus far, everyone seems very, very pleased with Sunshine's workmanship.

ROOF REPLACEMENTS FOR AS LITTLE AS \$2,160!

If your roof has never been replaced or the shingles are beginning to curl, you should seriously consider replacement. Kirk Randall, coordinator for the neighborhood group purchase of exterior upgrades including siding and replacement windows, has negotiated discounted prices for roof replacements with Sunshine Contracting. Following are Sunshine's estimates for the most common Hickory Farms house models. Prices are for a standard three-tab 25-year shingle. Your particular house may cost more or less, depending upon its dimensions.

5 Bedroom Colonial (house only) \$2,700	4 Bedroom Colonial (house only) \$ 2,160	Single car garage or carport – Add \$ 800
Split Foyer (house only) –\$ 2,710	Split Level (house only) –\$ 3,000	Double car garage or carport–Add \$1,480

These special prices and terms are for Hickory Farms residents only and apply to contracts signed by June 30, 2004. That deadline may be extended at Sunshine's option (depending upon how much higher profit business they have elsewhere), but don't count on it – so, act fast.

If you are interested in participating, contact BOTH Kirk at 703-425-0210 or kirk_randall@hotmail.com (that's an underline between Kirk and Randall), giving your name, address, phone numbers, and e-mail address, AND Sunshine at 703-499-8654. Even if you receive a Sunshine bid proposal, you are under no obligation to sign the contract and have the work performed. More detailed information on roof replacement and the Hickory Farms special deal may be found on the Internet at <http://members.cox.net/midnightstangz/mar18e-mail.htm>. If you do not have Internet access, contact Kirk and he will print a copy for you.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH SCHEDULE

Fri	Apr 2	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters
Sat	Apr 3	Jeff Lindsay	Larry Rogers
Fri	Apr 9	John Kitzmiller	Brand Niemann
Sat	Apr 10	Eric Maribojo	Clarisa Dacanay
Fri	Apr 16	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz
Sat	Apr 17	Rich Pernicano	Steve Mathews
Fri	Apr 23	Pete Scala	Rose Scala
Sat	Apr 24	Stan Lee	Jim Marshall
Fri	Apr 30	Pam Barrett	Tom Barrett
Sat	May 1	Robert Cooke	Lorna Cooke
Fri	May 7	Bruce Bernhardt	Nancy Bernhardt
Sat	May 8	John Verheul	John Cotner
Fri	May 14	Alfonso Acosta	Marie Acosta
Sat	May 15	Ron Cruz	Louise Cruz
Fri	May 21	Rob Mikula	Sharon Mikula
Sat	May 22	Jaime Gutierrez	Ed Wagner
Fri	May 28	Bob Bentley	Nancy Bentley
Sat	May 29	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert

**Braddock District Doings
Bob Cosgriff**

I'm sure you've read in the papers about the Supervisor Bulova's "Community Dialogue on Gang Activity and Revitalization in the Heritage/Annandale Area of Braddock District." Perhaps the title caused you to glance at the article and not really read it. After all, we are not in Annandale. We don't use Ossian Hall Park. It would be a mistake to think that this dialogue is about someone else, somewhere else. Although gang activity may not be an apparent problem in our immediate area, it is indeed a problem in Fairfax County, and one which the Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax County Police Department want to contain and eliminate. The dialogue began on February 11 and will continue until June 9 with a series of five informational meetings. Anyone may attend; however, to take part in drafting a set of recommendations, one must attend at least four of the five sessions. The dates, topics and places of the remaining meetings are:

- **April 14:** Dealing with Gangs in the Legal Arena
What Resources are Available to Families with a Gang-Related Child?
- **Late Apr/early May (TBD)** (Friday evening and all day Saturday):
Weekend Community Engagement
- **May 12:** Aging Neighborhoods and Commercial Areas – How Do We Ensure they Stay Vital, Safe and Desirable?

● **June 9:**Tackling Community Challenges at the Grass-Roots Level Community Discussion— Where Do We Go From Here?

● **June 23:**Spring Town Hall Mtg. Review of Recommendations

Braddock District is the first to engage this problem in such a comprehensive, community-based forum. Other districts are studying the method and awaiting the results. Much of what is recommended may well end up being applied county-wide.

At the March Braddock District Council meeting, we were briefed on the FY2005 County Budget as presented by the County Executive. The budget must undergo public hearings and approval by the Board of Supervisors. For the first time, the County has developed a strategic approach to budgeting that ties the budget to specific long-range initiatives and directions, and provides measurable performance indicators.

As you might expect, the budget is large in size. I can't even begin to condense it in this article, other than to say that General Fund receipts are expected to total \$2,740,650,049 (yes, that's 2 billion), while General Fund disbursements will be \$2,734,445,214. Of the receipts, over 60% comes from real estate taxes (despite holding the line on the tax rate, because of rising

assessment, your tax bill and mine will rise this year). On the spending side, 53% (or just over one billion dollars) goes to the school system. All this is set against the uncertainty with the state budget, which, as you know, has not been passed as of this writing. This will affect the County's final budget, due to state transfers of funds.

To stay informed on the budget, go to the Fairfax County website (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb). I have some informative handouts (including the strategic planning initiative) and even have a CD-ROM with the entire budget on it, if you would like to wade through it. Public hearings are in April, with adoption of budget in July. Again, check the website for exact dates/times/places.

Laurel Hill Task Force

We completed our round of three public informational meetings on 4 March. In April, we plan to conduct a panel of area higher educational leaders to develop concepts relating to possible educational uses on the Central/Maximum site. We will present an interim report to the BOS in May (tentatively). During the summer, we will complete our research and develop final proposals for submission probably in September, when the BOS returns from its recess. Again, the issue that is at the forefront is who will pay for the adaptive reuse? At present, the County is paying \$2

million annually to maintain the entire 2,000+ acres Laurel Hill site, including the many buildings at the Occoquan Workhouse (Route 123) and the Central/Maximum (Silverbrook Road) sites. Adaptive reuse is typically more expensive than building new buildings. Costs of asbestos abatement may run as high as \$9 million and necessary infrastructure at Central/Max alone may run to \$12 million. Due to historic preservation requirements, we must strive to protect as many of the buildings as possible, since the site is eligible for registration on the National Registry of Historic Places. The County does not have the money in its budget to pay for this, so it is essential to find a concept—and a master developer—to permit the best possible reuse of the site at the earliest possible time. Again, that concept has not been decided as yet.

I'll keep you posted as we go forward. For up-to-date information, you can go to the County website (see above), click on Planning and Zoning, and then find the Laurel Hill link. If you have any questions or ideas, you can also call me at (703) 764-0720 or by e-mail at bandjcoz@cavtel.net.

Hickory Farms Community Association 2004 Assessment Notice

Assessments are now overdue

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Please make your check payable to **HFCA** and mail to:

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

Your name: _____

Lot Number: _____

Address: _____