If you’ve wondered what all the commotion at the site of the old Lorton Prison off of Route 123-South is, please read Bob Cosgiff’s page 8 article. Next month, Bob reprises his fine series of articles on our local history.

Curious about your recently revised property tax assessment, or just want to see how much your rich cousin’s house is worth? On page 4, you can learn how to access that information on the Internet.

Please mark the afternoon of May 4 on your calendar for our annual Spring Fling. See the attached flyer on page 11.

If you have a pressing neighborhood issue, please contact one of Board of Directors members. He will bring your issue to one of their monthly meetings. You can also attend a Board meeting, if you wish.

This month, we’re starting a monthly “Transitions” feature where we highlight resident weddings, new neighbors, births, and HS & college graduations.

After many years of trash collection service by a single company, residents now have an opportunity to be served by a competitor. We have an update on page 6.
Please volunteer for this important neighborhood activity – all it takes is one 3-4 hour Friday or Saturday evening every four months, or so. Neighborhood Watch is proven to cut crime. It's a great way to meet your neighbors. Dave Dempster 703-503-0561 dhokies@cox.net

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<th>Day</th>
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<td>April 4</td>
<td>Bob Montgomery</td>
<td>George Rosenkranz</td>
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<td>Mike Martin</td>
<td>Scott Buchanan</td>
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<td>Pete Scala</td>
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<td>Dave Dempster</td>
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<td>April 26</td>
<td>Stefan Schwarz</td>
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<td>May 3</td>
<td>Ron Cruz</td>
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<td>Jaime Gutierrez</td>
<td>Ed Wagner</td>
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<td>Sat</td>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>Harry Herchert</td>
<td>Ginny Herchert</td>
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Would You Be Our New Neighborhood Watch Leader?

After three years as our Neighborhood Watch coordinator, Dave Dempster is stepping down. NW is the "homeland security" at the neighborhood level. Every Friday and Saturday night, pairs of residents patrol our streets for a few hours and call the police when they see anything suspicious. The NW program is so well oiled that it nearly runs itself! Dave’s replacement as NW coordinator will prepare watch schedules (see an example above), occasionally recruit new members, and infrequently replace equipment in the watch bag. The coordinator's time investment is only about 1-2 hours a month. Interested in stepping into Dave’s shoes? Please call Dave at 703-503-0561 (ddhokies@cox.net) to learn more. Thanks!

Transitions

Send items concerning Hickory Farms resident weddings, new neighbors, births, and HS & college graduations to kirk_randall@hotmail.com (1-4-7-10)

Greg Gillette and Clair Hill, both of Cotton Farm, have joined the Hickory Farms Architecture Control Committee (ACC). The ACC evaluates proposed changes to the exterior of our homes and property (remodelings, siding and door replacements, fences, etc.) to ensure that they are consistent with the character of the HF community. Maintaining community standards is one reason Hickory Farms is such a desirable place to live. Welcome aboard, Clair and Greg.

Rebekah Moore and Wesley Moore, of Farm House, have stepped down as co-chairs of the Architecture Control Committee. Thanks for leading the ACC the past several years, Rebekah and Wesley.

Bilal Sayyed, of Wheatfield, is our new HF Secretary, replacing Dave Dempster, who has retired from that position. Thanks, Bilal and Dave.

Gypsy Moth Spraying This Spring

Fairfax County will be spraying for Gypsy Moths during April or May. A few homes on Still Meadow, Wheatfield, and Country Squire that are next to the black path, and Country Squire next to the woods, are to be sprayed, and have been alerted by Fairfax County. Some nearby homes were also notified that they are adjacent to spray areas, and could get overspray. To see our spray area, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/sprayblock.htm and click area #15. Fairfax County will mail a spray schedule in April. For more information, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/gypsyffx.htm or call 703-324-5304.

Free Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs

While supplies last, Burgess Lighting, 10362 Fairfax Boulevard (Route 50), will swap up to four working standard 60W incandescent bulbs for four new compact fluorescent light bulbs. See www.burgesslighting.com/burgess/pages/bulbswap-ad.html
Your House’s Property Assessment Information Is Available Online

Curious about your recent property tax assessment, or just nosy about what your rich cousin's house is worth? Official tax assessment information on any property in Fairfax County is accessible through the Internet. Visit http://icare.fairfaxcounty.gov/Search/GenericSearch.aspx?mode=ADDRESS and enter the property address (If you list only the street name, without the house number, you should get all the properties on that street.). To view the property sales of the "comparable" properties that were used to calculate your property’s assessed value, click "Neighborhood Sales."

Hickory Farms hasn't escaped the real estate meltdown. Sales data of 13 HF home sales were used to calculate the assessment of my home. Of those, 3 (23%) were foreclosures. I'm still puzzled why Fairfax County thinks a home outside our neighborhood that sold for nearly $1 million last year is comparable to our more modest homes. Go figure!

This Month’s Home Maintenance Checklist

The complete list may be found on the HF web site under "Home Maintenance and Appearance" – "Home Maintenance Checklist."

| Air Conditioner & Heat Pump Spring Checkup | Schedule your spring checkup or do it yourself. Use a hose to spray debris off the outside compressor unit. |
| Smoke Alarms & Carbon Monoxide Detectors Check | Replace smoke detector batteries (don't wait for them to die). Press test buttons on carbon monoxide detectors. Open each unit and vacuum dust that could interfere with operation. Carbon monoxide detector batteries are usually not replaceable by the user; replace the unit when indicated on the unit's instructions. |
| Are Your Smoke Alarms & Carbon Monoxide Detectors Expired? | Check the date printed on the back of your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Smoke Alarms should be replaced every ten years. Either the Carbon Monoxide Detector sensor/battery pack or the entire detector should be replaced every five years. |

Hickory Farms Needs Your Help!

A home near to yours, whose appearance is markedly out of character with the rest of the neighborhood, could reduce the market value of your home. The Hickory Farms Architecture Control Committee (ACC) evaluates proposed changes to the exterior of our homes and property (additions, siding replacements, paint/siding colors, door replacements, etc.) to ensure that they are consistent with the character of the HF community. Most of our work is done via email, although we do meet face-to-face 4-5 times a year. Time investment is small (averaging about one hour per month), and the benefit to the community is large. Some of us are moving this summer, though, so we need your help to fill our ranks. You don't have to be an architect or remodeling contractor to be on the ACC; you just have to care about your community. Call one of us to learn more: Bob Ambrogi (703-764-0142), Claire Coleman (703-425-6059), Marc Fogleman (703-764-0295), Donna Garfield (703-425-9750), Maryle Mondschein (703-426-0403), or Kirk Randall (703-425-0210). Thanks! The ACC
Solid Waste Public Forum

On April 22 at 7 PM, Fairfax County is holding a public forum on the management of trash and recyclables in Fairfax County. It is being held in Conference Room 9/10 at the Governmental Center.

Are You Remodeling Your Home?

If you are changing the exterior appearance of your home or property, you may need the approval of the Architectural Control Committee. If in doubt, contact the chairperson of the ACC (see page 1 for contact information). See the Application for Architectural Review attached to this newsletter for important information on what kinds of projects require ACC approval. You might visit www.hickoryfarms.org and review How to Get ACC Approval for Your Renovation Project and Tips for Choosing a Contractor.

Youth Services

Youths who are residents of Hickory Farms may offer services to their neighbors. If you wish to offer services such as snow removal, raking leaves, lawn mowing, babysitting, general home maintenance, etc., your parent should e-mail or write (no phone calls, please) The Editor, Kirk_Randall@Hotmail.com, giving the youth's name/age, telephone number, and a list of services to be offered. The e-mail should also state that the youth has permission to be listed in the Newsletter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name/Age</th>
<th>Services Offered</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Hebeisen</td>
<td>Experienced babysitter of infants, toddlers, and school-aged children, weeknights to 10 PM and weekends to 1 AM. References available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corine Johnson</td>
<td>Experienced babysitter of all ages weekends until 1 AM. References available.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katherine Kitzmiller</td>
<td>Babysitting/mother's helper services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cari Moore</td>
<td>Babysitting/mother's helper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathy Moore</td>
<td>Babysitting/mother's helper, pet sitting, dog walking</td>
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If You Plan To Sell Your Home

If you are planning to sell your home in the upcoming year, keep in mind that you will need to obtain a VPOAA package from the HFCA. The package is required by law.

The following are the steps for obtaining a VPOAA package:

- Contact the Treasurer (see page 1 of this newsletter). Let the treasurer know when the package is needed and where it should be sent.
- Send a $50 check to HFCA, P.O. Box 2239, Fairfax, VA 22031-2239; or make other arrangements with the Treasurer as necessary.

Please allow 7-10 days from receipt of the check by the Treasurer to the date the VPOAA package can be released, as we must allow time for the check to clear. Should time be critical, cash payments are OK.

(3-7-11)

Trash Service – There’s a New Guy in Town
John Kitzmiller & Kirk Randall

American Disposal Services (703-368-0500), an established trash provider in Fairfax County, has been soliciting customers in Hickory Farms. They are offering a $69 per quarter rate, guaranteed for a year. This is 20% cheaper than the rate many residents are paying AAA. Several years ago, AAA offered a discounted group rate to all Hickory Farms homeowners. However, there is not now, nor has there ever been, a group rate or contract between HF and AAA. All agreements are individual contracts between the resident and the trash company. There has been a lively discussion of American vs AAA by the HF email group.

In response to this new competitor, AAA (703-818-8222) is offering to match American’s rates. If you negotiate a lower price with AAA, though, note for your records the name of the salesperson you spoke with, the date and time you spoke, as well the period of time for which the new price is guaranteed; better yet, get the offer in writing.

AAA is charging a $45 "equipment collection and reconditioning fee" if you discontinue their service. AAA says that this charge is for picking up and servicing their trash tote; Kirk believes it is more to discourage customers from switching to AAA’s competitors. You can save $25 of this fee by delivering the trash tote yourself to AAA (which is located near Costco). For Kirk, "servicing" involved crushing his AAA trash tote in their garbage truck! The $45 fee is reflected on their website. When Kirk questioned this fee, the AAA salesperson claimed that customers were notified about this by mail two years ago. Kirk asked that a copy of the letter be mailed to him. The salesperson said "OK," but never sent anything. John is unaware that AAA ever advised Hickory Farms households about this fee before they began losing customers to American. If you cancel, AAA should issue you a check for the unused portion of this quarter's prepaid service.

As part of its service, American will give each customer a trash tote that is about ¼ smaller than AAA’s tote. American gives customers an even smaller wheeled recycling tote. Recycling items do not need to be sorted if you use this tote. You can also continue to use smaller bins for recycling, if you wish.

After two weeks with American Disposal, Kirk and others are pleased with the quality of service. American’s trash pickup days are Tuesday and Friday, recycling is Tuesday, and yard debris is Wednesday. Several persons commented on the HF email discussion group that they are pleased to finally see competition in the trash hauling business, which can only lead to lower rates and better service for all customers. Remember, if you have problems with any service provider, including trash companies, contact the Fairfax County Office of Consumer Affairs at 703-222-8435 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/consumer/complaints.htm
Hickory Farm Phone & Address Book – Coming Soon

Debbi Buchanan has just about completed the new HFCA Directory. If you are new to the community or your information (family member names, phone numbers, and email addresses) has changed since last summer, please contact Debbi at 703-978-0045 or email debbibuchanan@yahoo.com.

Board Meetings
John Kitzmiller

The HFCA Board meets monthly to conduct the business of the Association. Please communicate any concerns you may have regarding Hickory Farms to any member of the Board and it will be addressed at the Board's next meeting.

Advertise in this Newsletter

Display ads are available to businesses offering services to Hickory Farms homeowners. The newsletter is delivered monthly (except June and August) to 225 Hickory Farms residents and absentee homeowners. For more information, visit www.hickoryfarms.org and click Newsletter.

Limited DMV Services Offered at Fairfax City Hall

Limited DMV services are available 8:30-4:30 weekdays at Fairfax City Hall on Armstrong Street. Services include license plates, handicapped permits, and title and registration transactions. This office does not issue drivers license or identification cards. You can usually get your business done in 15-30 minutes! Call 703-385-7880.

Do We Have Your Contact Information?

If you are a new homeowner or you rent out your home, please give the Treasurer your address, phone number, and e-mail address.

If you are a tenant, please give the homeowner a heads up that they are responsible for giving the Treasurer this information. The Board can then mail the newsletter and annual dues bills to the homeowner.

Some homeowners have argued that they weren’t aware of the HFCA dues billing procedures and protested paying late fees. Ignorance of when annual dues are due is no excuse. HFCA has even had to resort to placing liens on homeowner properties for nonpayment of dues (A lien will block the sale of the home until the dues and penalties have been paid). So, please provide the Board with your contact information. E-mail the information to the Treasurer at jagutierrez1@cos.net or send it to HFCA, PO Box 2239, Fairfax VA 22031.
If You Haven't Yet Paid Your 2008 Annual Dues …
Jaime Gutierrez

As of March 26, there are 26 homeowners who have not paid their $110 Annual Dues. I am hopeful that everyone has paid by the time you read this (The deadline was the 31st). However, each year about a dozen or so homeowners miss this deadline. If you are one of those 12, I will soon send you a letter informing you of the $25 late payment fee. You will then have until May 1 to pay $135. If the homeowner misses that deadline, we will turn the collection over to our attorneys, the cost of which is borne by the homeowner. Last year’s collection fees were about $280 per home, and this year’s will probably be more. So, please pay HFCA $135 right now ($110 for the Annual Dues plus the $25 late fee). After May 1, the charge will be at least $405. Continued nonpayment could mean that a lien will be placed on your house, thereby blocking any future sale. Even more legal fees will be assessed to have the lien removed. Thankfully, we have only had to do this once in recent years.

Delivery Problems With Your Hickory Farms Newsletter?
John Kitzmiller

A few residents have complained that they do not regularly receive their printed newsletter. This could have been caused by recent heavy winds blowing the newsletters off front doors. (It is, unfortunately, illegal for us to place the printed newsletter inside the US Postal Service mailbox). However, if you join the Hickory Farms email group, in addition to your printed copy delivered to your residence, you will also receive the monthly newsletter electronically. You can join by visiting http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HickoryFarms/ and clicking "Join this Group."

Trash – Not Flush

Fairfax County says "Don't flush unused medicines down the toilet," after recent news about trace amounts of medicines showing up in our Nation's drinking water. **Throw unneeded over-the-counter AND prescription medicines in the trash.** Flush medicines only when specifically instructed by the label. Fairfax County endorses the American Pharmacists Association's recommendations for safely disposing of pills and liquids. To prevent their misuse or accidental ingestion by children or pets,

- Keep the medicines in their original container. This will help identify the contents if they are accidentally ingested.
- Cross out your name and prescription number for safety.
- For pills: add some salt water to start dissolving them. For liquids: add something inedible like cat litter, dirt, or ash.
- Seal the container with tape.
- Put the container in the trash as close to pickup time as possible. Do not put it in the recycle bin.

Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/dontflush](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/dontflush)
Laurel Hill Update
Bob Cosgriff

Since there are many new residents in Hickory Farms, it is a good time to provide an update of developments at Laurel Hill, the site of the former District of Columbia Correctional Facility usually referred to as Lorton Prison. It’s important to understand the size of the project and know the general chronology, so here are some key facts (full details can be found on the Fairfax County website at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/laurelhill/).

In 2002, Fairfax County received title from the Federal government to over 3000 acres of land that housed the District’s prison facilities at Lorton. Here’s a quick breakdown on how the land was apportioned (figures approximate):

- 1,400 acres to the Fairfax County Park Authority
- 503 acres housing the I-95 Resource Reclamation Facility and landfill
- 430 acres to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority to expand the Occoquan Regional Park
- 300 acres to a developer in return to rights to 800 acres on Mason Neck (now the site of Bureau of Land Management’s Meadowood Park)
- 200+ acres to Fairfax Water, which constructed a state-of-the-art water treatment facility just west of Route 123
- 116 acres for a new middle school and high school
- 150+ acres (former Occoquan and Reformatory/Penitentiary areas) for adaptive reuse, discussed in more detail below.

A citizen task force comprised of representatives from all the magisterial districts met for two years to develop a vision and set of recommendations for future adaptive reuse of uses of 150-acre Occoquan and Reformatory/Penitentiary sites. The Laurel Hill Task Force delivered its report to the Board of Supervisors in December 2004 and in February 2005 the Board unanimously adopted the report and recommendations, including the development of the Lorton Arts Foundation’s proposal for the Workhouse at Occoquan arts facility. Finally, the Board appointed a three-member Citizens Project Advisory Committee to provide a conduit for citizen input as planning and development continued for the adaptive reuse areas (the Fairfax County Park Authority conducted its own planning process for park land included in the transfer).

A lot has happened at Laurel Hill since February 2005:

- The new high school (South County) has opened.
- The Laurel Hill Golf Course has opened (for you golfers, you’ve got to get out there and play on this spectacular public course!).
- Pulte has built a vibrant 700-plus home community (named Laurel Hills, what else?) on Silverbrook Road.
- An equally vibrant 55-and-over community, Spring Hill, is also filling up on the west side of Silverbrook across from Laurel Hill.
- As noted, Fairfax Water has completed its facility on Route 123.
- Work is continuing at the Lorton Arts Foundation site in preparation for a September 19-27, 2008 grand opening. Ten buildings are nearly complete and are almost fully
leased out to artists. The Workhouse at Occoquan facility will house artists-in-residence, and provide performing arts practice and performance facilities, galleries, classes and special events. LAF recently received a major gift to rehabilitate an old prison barn to serve as a Wolf Trap-like performing arts structure.

- An elementary school will soon be under construction on the Pulte Laurel Hill community site.
- VDOT is in the planning and initial construction phases of widening Lorton Road, Hoos Road and Furnace Road.
- Planning is underway for a Cold War museum on the site of the Nike missile facility that was located at Lorton.
- FCPA has opened the Giles Run Meadow portion of the Laurel Hill Park, which includes a tournament-grade disk golf course and some wonderful natural-surface hiking trails along Giles Run. An additional paved trail in the South Run stream valley (accessible off Pohick Road or via the Laurel Hill community) ties the Cross-County Connector trail into the planned 18 miles of trails at Laurel Hill. Giles Run Meadow can be accessed from Lorton Road, just west of Silverbrook Road.

As far as the Reformatory/Penitentiary site goes, this has proven to be a bit more challenging than the Workhouse at Occoquan. The age and design of the buildings—including the Penitentiary wall and brick guard towers—pose many challenges, especially in light of historic preservation requirements. The County is currently in the processing of selecting a master developer to guide efforts to achieve the recommendations of the Laurel Hill Task Force.

As the old saying goes, “Rome wasn’t built in a day.” Like Rome, Laurel Hills will not be built in a day, or even a year or two. Planning for the site has gone on for ten years at this point and work will be underway there for probably that much longer as the FCPA works on its master plan and the adaptive reuse sites are rehabilitated to new uses.

I urge you to drive down to Laurel Hills. This is not just a park for the residents of the so-called “South County,” but rather the gem of Fairfax County parks, even in its incomplete stages. It belongs to all of us. There is already a bright, new look to an area which was once an eyesore and an irritant to Fairfax County residents. The site has an intriguing and significant history, and promises to be an asset that will extend beyond Fairfax to the metro-D.C. region and the entire Commonwealth of Virginia. Hike the Giles Run Park trails, play the golf course, visit LAF’s Workhouse when open. Visit the County website and find out more about what’s happening at Laurel Hills.

Bob, who lives on Cotton Farm Road, is a past President of our community. Bob was Supervisor Sharon Bulova’s appointee to the Laurel Hill Task Force, serving as Vice-Chair from 2002-2004, and has served since 2005 as a member the three-person Laurel Hill Citizen Project Advisory Committee which reports to the Board of Supervisors.

The Hickory Farms Newsletter is published every month, except for June and August. You may e-mail submissions to The Editor by the 25th of the prior month. Submissions and advertisements must be in Microsoft Word format. Advertisements must be prepaid. Past issues and information for advertisers may be found at www.hickoryfarms.org – click Newsletters.

The Editor is responsible for most of the contents of this newsletter; the exceptions are advertisements, submitted community service type announcements, articles with a byline, and other articles which have been obviously contributed by others. The Editor reserves the right to edit submissions for space or writing style. The Editor, subject to review by the Board of Directors, may reject any submission.
May 4 Spring Fling Flyer here
Hickory Farms Community Association
Application for Architectural Review

Emailing your application (cut and paste this into your email message) to the Chairman of the Architectural Control Committee (Kirk_Randall@Hotmail.com is the Acting Chairman) is preferred. You may also hand deliver your completed application to any member of the ACC or mail it to PO Box 2239, Fairfax, VA 22031. Electronic versions of photos and plans, attached to your email, are preferred, but please use the lowest resolution to conserve precious disk space. Please read How to Get ACC Approval for Your Renovation Project at www.hickoryfarms.org before submission.

Today's Date :

Name :

Phone :

Address :

Email Address :

Proposed Start Date (Must be at least 30 days past the date received by the ACC) :

Expected Completion Date :

Project Description :

I understand that the HFCA has thirty (30) days to deny or request additional information on this application or, in accordance with the HFCA covenants, the application will be considered approved. I further understand that the thirty (30) day period will commence upon HFCA’s receipt of this application or upon receipt of all additional information requested by the HFCA and that I may not start construction until approval is received.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Ensure project complies with all Fairfax County residential building codes and Hickory Farms Community Association (HFCA) covenants. The Board of Directors cannot waive those requirements.

2. Prepare a specific description and/or sketch of the proposed improvement in sufficient detail (color, dimensions, materials, etc.). If a county permit is required, provide evidence of compliance.

3. Provide a site plan and indicate where the improvement is to be located on the property.

4. Deliver to Committee Chairperson.

Architectural Review Guidelines

Projects that do not alter the outward appearance of structures on your property DO NOT require review by the Architectural Control Committee, including:

- Repainting your home the same color and shade. Includes doors, storm doors, windows, storm windows, trim, gutters, and shutters.

- Replacing your roof with the same type, style, color and shade of shingles.
• Replacing your gutters with the same type, style, and color.
• Replacing your driveway or sidewalk in the same size and material type.
• Replacing your windows with the same color and shade and appearance and style. (i.e. six pane over six pane divided lites)
• Replacing a door with the same type style, color and shade. (Includes a garage door)
• Planting of flowers, shrubs, trees, or creating planting areas.
• Replacing your fence with the same style, height, and color and shade.
• Replacing a storage shed with the same type including size, materials, and color and shade.
• Installing a television antenna or satellite dish on your roof.

Examples of alterations or repairs that alter the outward appearance of structures on your property including, and DO require review by the Architectural Control Committee, include:

• Repainting your home a different color or shade.
• Includes doors, storm doors, windows, storm windows, trim, gutters, and shutters.
• Replacing your roof with other than the same style, type, and color or shade of shingles.
• Replacing your gutters with other than the same type, style, or color.
• Replacing your driveway or sidewalk with materials different than the original.
• Enlarging your driveway or sidewalk.
• Replacing your windows with other than the same color or shade or appearance and style. (i.e. installing a bay window)
• Replacing an entrance or garage door with other than the same size, type, color or shade. (i.e. steel with wood)
• Installing or replacing a fence with other than the same style, height, or color or shade. Includes painting a previously approved fence that was left natural.
• Constructing a storage shed, changing the color or shade of a previously approved shed, or painting a shed that was previously approved to be left natural.
• Replacing the siding on your home.
• Any additions to your home including room, garage, porch, or deck.
• Completely or partially enclosing a carport.
• Installing a permanent basketball hoop or any type of batting cage.
• Installing a “pole” light fixture.
• Installing storm windows or door.
• Installing any type of swimming pool or water garden.
• Installing a television antenna or satellite dish anywhere on your property other than on your roof.

If you are still unsure whether your project needs review, please contact an ACC member.