

Volume 9 – No. 3

April 2009

The Hickory Farms Newsletter

Board of Directors

President

John Kitzmiller 503-3443

Vice President

Keith Ferguson 703-323-1067

Treasurer

Dante Gilmer 978-0621

Secretary

Bilal Sayyed 764-8716

Community Grounds, Paths
& Woods - Keith Ferguson
703-323-1067

ACC (Building Design Approvals)

Kirk Randall 425-0210

At Large

Jaime Gutierrez 425-7919

Other Volunteers

Neighborhood Watch

John Kitzmiller 503-3443

Welcome New Neighbors

Joyce Kitzmiller 503-3443

Newsletter & Web Site

Kirk Randall 425-0210

Community Yard Sale (Fall)

Pete Scala 764-0730

Email Coordinators (Listserv)

Heather Webb 425-1347

Ellie Codding 426-4606

Social Committee

Patty Dudley 503-2060

Dawn Dempster 503-0561

Lynn Welch 978-4113

ACC Members

Claire Coleman

Keith Ferguson

Donna Garfield

Greg Gillette

Kirk Randall

Carole Rogers

Larry Rogers

Email addresses are at

www.hickoryfarms.org

All phone area codes are 703

*Hickory Farms Community Association
P.O. Box 2239, Fairfax VA 22031
www.hickoryfarms.org*

After several months of dreary weather, Spring just can't come too soon. Our lawns are greening up and the fruit trees are blossoming. The next few weeks are the prettiest of all for our community.

With warmer weather, thoughts naturally turn to frozen treats. Our neighbor, Woody's Ice Cream, opened April 1. Drop by soon and give Woody a warm welcome back! Woody's is located on Stonewall Avenue ½ block from Main Street – next to Carlos O'Kelly's. Hours are 2-9 Tuesday – Saturday. Unfortunately, Woody's is closed on Sundays.

Barin Chakrabarti and family (Harvester Farm) have moved to a home in nearby Fairfax. Both the Board of Directors and the Architectural Control Committee will miss Barin, who has been a member of both groups for nearly two years.

The Editor

Join the Hickory Farms email List

- Get up-to-the-minute news on neighborhood happenings
- Ask your neighbors to recommend a contractor/repairman
- Locate a lost and found item
- Get an advance copy of this newsletter

Visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HickoryFarms/> -- Click "Join this Group" -- Be sure to click the "Individual Emails" option.

Neighborhood Watch Schedule – Neighborhood Security
John Kitzmiller

Please volunteer for this important neighborhood activity – all it takes is one three-hour Friday or Saturday evening every four months, or so. Neighborhood Watch is proven to cut crime! It's also a great way to meet your neighbors. John Kitzmiller 703-503-3443

Fri	April 3	Pingjun Li	Wang Chan Cheng
Sat	April 4	Greg Gillette	Kathy Gillette
Fri	April 10	Dave Maurer	Sanjeev Munjal
Sat	April 11	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg
Fri	April 17	John Kitzmiller	Brand Niemann
Sat	April 18	Bob Sottile	Lee Sottile
Fri	April 24	Susan Mulliner	Brenton Mulliner
Sat	April 25	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters
Fri	May 1	Bob Cosgriff	Don Klingemann
Sat	May 2	Kirk Randall	Chris Woody
Fri	May 8	Jeff Lindsay	Larry Rogers
Sat	May 9	Angel Meza	Jason Meza
Fri	May 15	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay
Sat	May 16	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz
Fri	May 22	Mike Martin	Scott Buchanan
Sat	May 23	Pete Scala	Rose Scala
Fri	May 29	Stan Lee	Jim Marshall
Sat	May 30	Pam Barrett	Tom Barrett
Fri	June 5	John Verheul	Tammy Verheul
Sat	June 6	Bob Bentley	Nancy Bentley
Fri	June 12	Ron Cruz	Louise Cruz
Sat	June 13	Dave Dempster	Dawn Dempster
Fri	June 19	Stefan Schwarz	Christine Schwarz
Sat	June 20	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Fri	June 26	Jaime Gutierrez	Ed Wagner
Sat	June 27	Pingjun Li	Wang Chan Cheng

Home Assessed Values Drop

Most Hickory Farms homes dropped by 10.6% in value this past year, based on the new assessments distributed in late February; that is, unless you have made significant improvements to your home that were picked up by the County (like yours truly), in which case your assessment didn't drop as much. The assessment for Fairfax County single-family detached homes dropped an average of 11.3%, so our homes held their value just a little better than average. Some homes in nearby Annandale, where the foreclosure crisis is in full force, dropped 40% or more.

This Month's Home Maintenance Checklist

See the complete list at www.hickoryfarms.org → Home Maintenance and Appearance (All)

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.

Fairfax County Police Newsletter

The West Springfield police district (which we are in) publishes an occasional newsletter that gives safety tips as well as in-depth reports on crimes committed in the area. This month's newsletter, available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/newsletter/wsp/march2009.pdf, includes a discussion of the multiple stabbing homicides in Ravensworth Farm a few months ago. To subscribe, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/newsletter/> .

[Scenic Remodeling Ad Here]

Recent Architectural Control Committee (ACC) Approvals

(All)

10114 Spinning Wheel - Deck expansion
4381 Harvester Farm - Retaining wall
10114 Spinning Wheel - Brick walkways

How Many Unrelated People May Live in a House?

If more than four unrelated individuals live in a house, it is considered a boarding house. It is illegal to operate a boarding/rooming house, except under very limited circumstances requiring a special permit. To report a suspected illegal boarding house, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/striketeam or call 703-324-1300 (Fairfax County)

(4)

Babysitters and Other 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. This list is published January, April, July, and October. (1-4-7-10)

Victoria Hebeisen (15) 703-978-0045	Experienced babysitter of infants, toddlers, and school-aged children, weeknights to 10 PM and weekends to 1 AM. References available.
Corine Johnson (14) 703-272-3302	Experienced babysitter of all ages weekends until 1 AM. References available.
Cari Moore (12) 703-323-3699	Babysitting/mother's helper.
Cathy Moore (14) 703-323-3699	Babysitting/mother's helper, pet sitting, dog walking.

Woody's Ice Cream Opens April 1

Woody's Ice Cream is a Hickory Farms favorite. Visit Woody's on Stonewall Avenue ½ block from Main Street – next to Carlos O'Kelly's. Hours are 2-9 Tuesday – Saturday. Unfortunately, Woody's is always closed on Sundays. (4)

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 licenses or identification cards. You can usually get your business done in under 20 minutes! (4-10)

[Order Out of Chaos Ad Here]

Sidewalks

The Virginia Department of Transportation (703-383-8368) owns the streets, sidewalks, the curbs, and the grassy areas in between. VDOT relies on us to keep the sidewalks free of mud, snow, bushes, and low-hanging tree branches, and to maintain the grassy area between the street and sidewalk.

- If a neighbor has shrubbery or branches that obstruct the sidewalk for more than a reasonable period of time and the homeowner doesn't respond to a polite request, call VDOT.
- If you see a broken sidewalk, call VDOT. VDOT will inspect the problem and fix it, if necessary, at some time in the *distant* future.
- You need a VDOT permit to plant a tree on the grassy area between the sidewalk and the curb. (4)

Are You New to Hickory Farms ?

(4-10)

Please call me to welcome you to our neighborhood.

Joyce Kitzmiller 703-503-3443

(PS - I'm your neighbor on Harvester Farm – not a salesperson!)

Please Clean Up After Your Dog

Please be considerate of your neighbors by cleaning up after your dog. Use a plastic bag to clean up your dog droppings, whether they are in a neighbor's yard or our common grounds. Then, please dispose of your bag with your trash, not in a storm drain, someone's yard, or common area. Not only is this the neighborly thing to do, but it is required by Fairfax County law, which states that “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 places.” (3-9)

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. ***This 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)

Transitions

Barin Chakrabarti and family (Harvester Farm) have moved to a home in nearby Fairfax. Both the Board of Directors and the Architectural Control Committee will miss Barin, who has been a member of both groups for nearly two years.

After several years of delivering newsletters to homes on Still Meadow, **Rich Dudley** (Farm House) is passing his newsletter bag on to **Dante Gilmer** (Farm House).

Folks on Spinning Wheel and parts of Still Meadow will also notice a change in their newsletter delivery person. **Heather Webb** (Spinning Wheel) is taking over from **Rob Mikula** (Still Meadow).

Send news regarding Hickory Farms *resident* weddings, new neighbors, births, HS & college graduations, birthdays (80, 85, 90, etc), and wedding anniversaries (55, 60, 65, etc.) to kirk_randall@hotmail.com. Be sure to name the street the honoree lives on. (All)

The Birds of Hickory Farms

Bob Cosgriff

One of the primary features of our neighborhood is the 17-plus acres of common ground, comprising the two large upper and lower areas, a small parcel along the creek south of Cotton Farm Road and the larger, wooded section along Rabbit Run that runs to the north end of the subdivision. This much open space is a great asset, and provides HF residents with a park-like setting for a variety of recreational activities.

In 2003, Hickory Farms was awarded the Fairfax County Environmental Excellence Award for our stewardship of natural resources within our neighborhood. The award was based on our project of successional restoration of trees in the lower common ground and our maintenance of a "bluebird trail" in both common ground areas. The bluebird trail, presently comprising 10 nesting boxes, was started with two boxes in 1991. There was no nesting that year, but starting in 1992, the bluebirds discovered the boxes and began to nest that year. There were subsequent nestings in 1994, 1997 and 2000, not all of them successful due to predation. Starting in 2002, with additional boxes having been added, there were more successful nestings, including the first one in the upper common ground in 2004. Since then, except for 2006, there have been multiple nestings.

In 2001, we had our first Tree Swallow nesting. However, the birds abandoned the nest in the lower common ground after laying two eggs. For several years, we did not see Tree Swallows here, but in 2007 and 2008, they returned, including one pair in both common ground areas in 2008.

These are the two most likely birds to use our boxes, but they have competition from House Finches, Chickadees, Tufted Titmouse, House Wrens, and English Sparrows. These birds are more aggressive than the gentle bluebirds and often evict them, even destroying their eggs or attacking their young in the box. The number of boxes in our trail helps to reduce the pressure of competition by offering sites for bluebirds and the other species.

Over the years, 99 different species of birds have been confirmed by sighting in Hickory Farms. The most recent addition to this list was Palm Warbler on 15 April, 2008. Our total is a pretty impressive number for a suburban subdivision and speaks to the natural balance of our common areas, which offer a variety of habitat. Individual homeowners can enhance their own yards by offering three things: water, and cover. Food can be store-bought seeds and suet and/or natural vegetation that produces berries, nuts, or seeds, etc.). Cover can be provided by offering thickets, bushes, evergreens, etc. Water can be provided by a birdbath. A fourth component is "space," to provide separate areas for all three of the essential components. Space is both horizontal and vertical; a yard with low shrubs and grass, somewhat taller deciduous and evergreen under-story, and tall shade trees will attract the largest number of bird species, and you might even get some to nest in your yard. There are numerous places you can go to find out about 'naturalizing' your yard to attract birds, including online. For example, the National Wildlife Federation has a program leading to a certified backyard habitat. By careful plantings, you can add beauty to your yard and gain the enjoyment of birds (and also butterflies).

Now that spring is coming, it's a good time to go out and see what you can see in our

common ground. Bluebirds have already been sighted scouting out our boxes. Early warblers will soon arrive, along with the Tree Swallows. House Wrens arrive in late April to early May. Maybe we'll get bird #100 for the Hickory Farm list in 2009!

The Hickory Farms Newsletter is published monthly, except February, 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 --> 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 that 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.

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 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 (Mailing could delay delivery to the ACC by several days). Electronic versions of photos and plans, attached to your email, are preferred, but please use the lowest resolution when scanning to conserve precious disk space. Please read [How to Get ACC Approval for Your Renovation Project](#) at www.hickoryfarms.org before submission. You do *not* need to submit the "Architectural Review Guidelines" part with your application.

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 unsure whether your project needs review, please contact any ACC member.