

Volume 11 – No. 3

April 2011

# ***The Hickory Farms Newsletter***

## **Board of Directors**

### **President**

John Kitzmiller 503-3443

### **Vice President**

Keith Ferguson 323-1067

### **Treasurer**

Dante Gilmer 978-0621

### **Secretary**

Jaime Gutierrez 425-7919

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

ACC (Building Design Approvals)

Kirk Randall 425-0210

At Large – Vacant

## **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 (Listserv)**

Heather Webb 425-1347

Ellie Coddington 426-4606

### **Social Committee**

Patty Dudley 503-2060

Dawn Dempster 503-0561

Lynn Welch 978-4113

### **Architectural Control Committee**

Keith Ferguson

Donna Garfield

Greg Gillette

Kirk Randall (Chairman)

Carole Rogers

Larry Rogers

*Email addresses are at*

[www.hickoryfarms.org](http://www.hickoryfarms.org)

All phone area codes are 703

***Hickory Farms Community Association***

***P.O. Box 2239, Fairfax VA 22031***

***www.hickoryfarms.org***

**Nearly 30 volunteers showed  
up last Saturday for our  
common area Cleanup Day.**

**We hauled out more than two  
pickup truck loads worth of  
debris. We got the common  
area cleaned up just in time for  
~~more snow~~ spring! Thanks to  
everyone who helped. Please  
see photo on page 4.**

**I look forward to seeing you  
at our May 15<sup>th</sup> "Spring Fling"  
in our tidy common areas!**

**Keith Ferguson**

## **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.



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### This Month's Home Maintenance Checklist

See the complete list at [www.hickoryfarms.org](http://www.hickoryfarms.org) → Home Maintenance and Appearance (All)

**Chimney & Fireplace Cleaning** – Have a chimney sweep check and clean the chimney – if you used the chimney during the winter.

**Furnace Humidifier Shutdown** – Drain and clean the humidifier water pan. Turn off the water supply valve. Work the float arm back and forth to dislodge crud. Scrape off mineral buildup.

**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.

**Check Smoke Alarms & Carbon Monoxide Detectors** – 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.

### **Limited DMV Services Available at Nearby 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 often get your business done in under 20 minutes! (4-10)

### **Architectural Control Committee Approvals**

4320 Farm House –Retaining walls  
10003 Cotton Farm – Sunroom addition  
4322 Farm House – Widen driveway

### **Got Moss, Algae, Lichens, or Fungus Growing on Your Roof?**

Moss, algae, lichens, and fungus all retain water and hasten the breakdown of roof shingles. To prevent new growth, nail or glue 2½” zinc strips ([www.zincshield.com](http://www.zincshield.com)) just below the peak of the roof, along the entire length of the roof. Note that the solid zinc lasts much longer than the cheaper zinc coated steel. The zinc reacts with rainwater to create a chemical which retards new growth. Since the zinc chemical is too weak to kill existing growth, you should also treat the roof with a product such as Roof-Be-Clean ([www.roofbeclean.com](http://www.roofbeclean.com)) or Moss Out! (from Home Depot) Do not use a power washer or stiff brush on the roof, because they will damage the shingles. And, the next time you reroof, consider specifying a shingle that contains a compound that helps prevent new growth. For more information, visit [www.inspect-ny.com/roof/ShingleMoss.htm](http://www.inspect-ny.com/roof/ShingleMoss.htm)

### **Great Article on Working With a Construction Contractor**

Want to know what goes inside the mind of a contractor? Last month's (March 2011) issue of *Washingtonian Magazine* had a great article on working with contractors. If you can't find this issue where magazines are sold, try the library.

### **Computer Repair**

I sometimes get questions from neighbors asking if my son still repairs computers. Unfortunately, he does not. But, the current *Washington Consumers' Checkbook* magazine gives its highest rating for both prices and quality to **The Computer Place**, 11266 James Swart Circle, right here in Fairfax. While I have never used them myself, you might consider them in your time of urgent need. 703-246-9188 [www.tcponline.com](http://www.tcponline.com)

## **Pilates...**

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



*Xavier Gilmer, Drew and Katie Meisenheimer, and Caitlin Ferguson at Saturday's common grounds' cleanup. Photo by Kathy Gillette.*

### **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 in Fairfax County, except under very limited circumstances

which require a special permit. To report a suspected illegal boarding house, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/striketeam](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/striketeam) or call 703-324-1300 (Fairfax County)

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### **Neighborhood Watch**

John Kitzmiller

***Please volunteer for this important neighborhood activity*** – all it takes is one three-hour Friday or Saturday evening every three 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

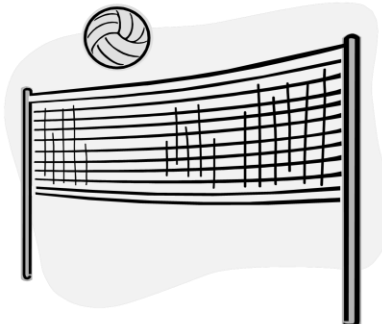
Fri	April 1	Mike Martin	Scott Buchanan
Sat	April 2	Pete Scala	Rose Scala
Fri	April 8	Stan Lee	Jim Marshall
Sat	April 9	Pam Barrett	Tom Barrett
Fri	April 15	John Verheul	Tammy Verheul
Sat	April 16	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Fri	April 22	Dave Maurer	Sanjeev Munjal
Sat	April 23	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg
Fri	April 29	Jaime Gutierrez	Ed Wagner
Sat	April 30	Dave Dempster	Dawn Dempster
Fri	May 6	Susan Mulliner	Brenton Mulliner
Sat	May 7	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters
Fri	May 13	Bob Cosgriff	Don Klingemann
Sat	May 14	Kirk Randall	Chris Woody
Fri	May 20	Jeff Lindsay	Larry Rogers
Sat	May 21	Angel Meza	Jason Meza
Fri	May 27	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay
Sat	May 28	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz



# PICNIC

**It's finally Spring, so come join our annual Fling!**

*Good food & friends abound, & lots of games around.*



We'll have Kickball, Baseball and Soccer to round out the day  
Or bring your own favorite game to play!

**May 15, 2011**

**Upper Common Area (Big Field Side)**

**4:30 pm - Sundown**

*(rain date - May 22)*

HFCA will provide paper goods, sodas, & entrées (burgers, dogs and fixin's)  
Please bring a dish to share - see your street's assignment:

- Appetizers - Country Squire, Wheatfield & Tumbleweed
- Side Dishes - Farm House & Harvester Farm
- Desserts - Cotton Farm, Still Meadow, Round Top & Spinning Wheel

*Don't forget your blankets and chairs!*

*Adults - BYOB*

**Please RSVP to [DudleyTrade@verizon.net](mailto:DudleyTrade@verizon.net) for food count!**



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- Sump Pumps
- Water Main Repair
- Gas Leaks
- Gas Repairs
- Toilet Repairs
- Bathroom Remodeling

### Hickory Farms Home Sales

Address	Model	Bed rooms	Baths	Listing Price	Sold Price	Seller Subsidy	Days on Market	Status / Date Sold
(1) 4332 Still Meadow Rd	Split Foyer	4	3	\$489,000			42	For Sale
4332 Still Meadow Rd	Split Foyer	4	3	\$2,850			42	For Rent
(2) 10005 Tumbleweed	Colonial	5	3.5	\$525,000			46	For Sale
(3) 10031 Wheatfield Ct	Colonial	4	2.5	\$545,000			55	For Sale
(4) 10002 Tumbleweed	Colonial	5	2.5	\$529,000			4	Under Contract settlement 4/30
(5) 4371 Farm House	Colonial	4	2.5	\$499,000	\$504,000	0	45	Sold 3/23/11

- (1) Many upgrades, hardwood floors, new A/C, fenced backyard, new paint, 2-car garage.
- (2) Upgraded kitchen and baths, ss appliances, granite, hardwood floors, new carpets, fenced backyard.
- (3) Tiled entry foyer, new HVAC system, 3-lvl deck newly painted, fully fenced level backyard, 2-car garage
- (4) Upgraded kitchen w/granite and ss appliances, remodeled baths, new paint, new windows, new siding and gutters, new HVAC system. Large deck.
- (5) Addition off fam rm, hardwood floors, upgraded baths and kitchen w/granite, fenced backyard.

This material is provided quarterly by your Hickory Farms neighbor Arlene Da Cruz. Realtor Arlene is associated with Weichert Realtors ([www.arlenedacruz.com](http://www.arlenedacruz.com)), She assists both home buyers and sellers and also manages rental properties. 571-436-6551 - [arlenemyrealtor@gmail.com](mailto:arlenemyrealtor@gmail.com) (1-4-7-10)

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### Have You Met Our Coyote Neighbors?

Our common grounds, particularly the Rabbit Run area that passes behind Cotton Farm/Country Squire/Harvester Farm and crosses Cotton Farm, is teeming with wildlife. A few coyotes were recently seen in the Rabbit Run area. These animals should normally scurry away as you approach and are more afraid of you than you are of them. They hunt small animals such as mice, rats, small deer, squirrels, foxes, rabbits, small dogs and cats. According to a recent article in the Fairfax Times, eastern coyotes are larger than their western brethren; eastern coyotes can weigh 30-50 pounds and up to five feet in length. Here is some useful information about coyotes, provided by the City of Fairfax. Next month, we'll answer some questions about foxes.

1. *Are there coyotes in the City of Fairfax?* Yes. Coyotes were first sighted around the tank farm and Daniels Run in 2001. They have gradually migrated and are now being reported throughout the entire City and nearby County.

2. *Are they a danger?* Coyotes are only a danger to humans in the rare cases where one is rabid or if they are cornered or threatened. Coyotes will however, eat cats, small dogs, and other small pets. Coyotes do most of their hunting at night. Cats and small pets should be kept indoors, especially at night. Dogs should not be left outdoors unattended.

3. *Can't anything be done to remove them?* Not safely. They are very elusive and are difficult to trap humanely or safely. Even if they could be safely captured and removed, as long as the environmental conditions exist to support their survival in the area others will quickly move in behind any that are removed.

4. *What should I do if I spot a coyote?* Nothing. We know that they are here. You don't need to do anything more than you would if you saw a squirrel or raccoon. If you see one that is acting sick or aggressive, contact Animal Control at 703-830-1100.
5. *Can coyotes be scared off?* Yes. They are generally non-confrontational and can easily be scared off by yelling or making other loud noises.
6. *Are there any benefits to having coyotes in the area?* Yes. Coyotes help to normalize other wild life populations that have become overgrown such as Canadian geese and rats.

Save The Date  
The 4th annual  
Tyler B's  
"Life is Grand "  
Golf Outing  
Saturday September 17th 2011  
1:30 (Shotgun Start)  
Westfields Golf Club, Clifton, Virginia  
For more information contact  
Nancy or Bob Bentley at  
703-978-0373 or  
email: tylersgolf@verizon.net

### **Sidewalks**

The Virginia Department of Transportation (703-383-8368) owns the streets, sidewalks, curbs, and the grassy "parkway" or "utility strip" 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 must have a VDOT permit to plant a tree on the grassy area between the sidewalk and the curb.

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### **Peddlers and Door-to-Door Solicitors – Be Cautious!**

With the warm weather approaching, door-to-door solicitors start to make their rounds through the neighborhood.

Fairfax County requires that peddlers and solicitors receive a photo ID license **before** they solicit door-to-door. This includes firewood sellers, tree workers, home remodeling outfits, magazine subscriptions, etc. They may solicit only between 9 AM and 8 PM, and may not solicit at a residence which posts a "No Peddlers or Solicitors" sign. A peddler or solicitor must show his or her license upon request and must leave immediately you ask them. "My boss has it" or "It's in the car" are not valid excuses for not having a license. Peddler and Solicitor Licenses are issued by the Fairfax County Department of Cable and Consumer Services. Persons distributing advertising flyers – but not approaching residents – are not required to have a license.

If you encounter an unlicensed peddler or solicitor, you may report them to the Police non-emergency number at 703-691-2131.

Solicitors, especially magazine sellers, frequently employ out-of-town school-age children to solicit door-to-door. Don't confuse them with your local high school student who is collecting a few bucks for a band fund raiser, for example.

Be especially careful of persons driving vehicles with out-of-state license tags, including

"summer transient travelers" (or the non-PC obsolete term, "gypsies") – frequently from Florida and South Carolina, who may try to scam you on repair work or brazenly walk into your house while you're doing yard work, and taking whatever they can get their hands on. So, keep your doors locked while working in the back yard.

If you feel threatened by or suspicious of any peddler, solicitor, or flyer distribution person, or it just doesn't feel right, call 911 and try to get a vehicle license number to report.

More information: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2010/door-to-door-solicitors.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2010/door-to-door-solicitors.htm)

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### **Get Your Neighborhood News at the Speed of Light**

.... by joining the Hickory Farms email service. The service, technically called a "list server" or "listserv," is hosted by Yahoo Groups.

Many Fairfax County communities use a listserv to communicate information that is useful to their homeowners and residents. Hickory Farms homeowners and residents may use this service to send an e-mail to others who have joined the group.

The e-mail group is moderated by a coordinator appointed by the Board of Directors. Once you join, you should start receiving your monthly newsletter through e-mail (don't worry, you'll still receive your hand-delivered copy). The coordinator will also preview all messages before they are distributed to the members. Moreover, the e-mails that are sent only have one name on them – yours – so the other folks in the group cannot harvest the e-mail addresses to send spam. So, don't worry – we won't let anyone clog your inbox with spam!

#### **To join the Hickory Farms e-mail group**

Visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HickoryFarms/> Click "Join this Group"

Be sure to click the "Individual Email" option rather than the "Daily Digest" option

(If you choose Daily Digest, you will not receive the monthly newsletters. Newsletters are in PDF format and are attached to the email).

#### **Replies to e-mails**

If you reply to an email that comes from someone in the Hickory Farms group, that reply will also be circulated to everyone in the group. So, please be careful what you say, as it will be read by everyone. If you want to reply just to the sender alone, you will have to copy that person's email address into your email's "To:" field.

#### **To send an e-mail to your Hickory Farms Homeowners**

Once registered, you may send an e-mail to Hickory Farms homeowners and residents by addressing the message to [HickoryFarms@yahoogroups.com](mailto:HickoryFarms@yahoogroups.com) However, before your e-mail is delivered, it will be screened by the e-mail coordinator, who is identified on the [Hickory Farms Home Page](#). Once the e-mail coordinator determines that your e-mail meets the criteria listed below, it will be forwarded to the Hickory Farms group.

When sending an e-mail message, be sure to include a descriptive subject line – say "Street Repairs Aug 25-26." When the e-mail is sent to your neighbors, "[Hickory Farms]" is automatically included as the first part of the subject line, with your e-mail's subject text

immediately following. The group would receive "[Hickory Farms] Street Repairs Aug 25-26.'

### **To quit the Hickory Farms group**

Send a blank e-mail to [HickoryFarms-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:HickoryFarms-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com)

### **To change your e-mail address**

From the OLD email address, send an email to [HickoryFarms-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:HickoryFarms-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com)

This removes your old address from the list server.

From the NEW email address, send an email to [HickoryFarms-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:HickoryFarms-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

This adds your new address to the list server. You will receive an email from Yahoo!Groups asking you to confirm the addition of this address to the list server.

Both of these emails can be completely blank – no subject, no text.

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## **Birds of Hickory Farms**

Bob Cosgriff

Hickory Farms hosts an impressive number of bird species. We have fields, woods and a creek, so we are definitely a bird-friendly neighborhood. In fact, we won the 2003 Fairfax County Environmental Excellence Award for our efforts to protect and improve our natural habitat. I have tallied 102 different species in the 26 years I've lived here. We have many nesting species, and many more transients who pass through in the spring and fall migration periods, but do not stay.

April marks the beginning of the arrival of migratory birds in our area. This provides an opportunity to experience one of the great natural cycles of life. Virginia sits on the Atlantic Coast flyway. With its diversity of habitat and geographical features, such as the nearby Chesapeake Bay, many large rivers penetrating into the interior, the Shenandoah Valley and the Blue Ridge and Appalachian Mountains, large numbers of birds nest in or pass through the state. Now is a good time to go outside, walk around the neighborhood and keep your eyes—and ears—open to the springtime wave of birds.

What should you look for as the winter gives way to the early spring? First, you will become aware of birdsong, as the species that stay over the winter respond to the longer days by preparing to breed. Robins, Carolina Wrens, Song Sparrows, Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Chickadees are very much in evidence from early March onward, some starting to sing even before the sun comes up! This singing will increase as birds begin to set up territories, find mates and breed in April into May.

Other visible (and audible) birds are the woodpeckers. Six of the seven eastern woodpeckers have been seen in Hickory Farms. They are: Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. The Pileated is unmistakable: crow-sized, it has a red crest and striking black-and-white plumage. Its call is loud and maniacal and said to be the inspiration for the famous 'voice' of Woody Woodpecker.

Among the first songbirds to look for, in addition to the ones mentioned above, is the Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*). Bluebirds are classified in the Thrush family and thus are 'cousins' to

the American Robin. Several years ago, HFCA started a bluebird trail to attract these beautiful and beneficial birds to our neighborhood. We have been successful. Our bluebird trail consists of five boxes in the lower common grounds and six in the upper common ground. Not every box is taken by Eastern Bluebirds. In a typical year, we might have two to three pairs of bluebirds, some with two broods. So what happens to the other boxes? They are taken by various species. We have been fortunate to attract other cavity nesters, including Tree Swallows, beautiful and graceful birds that consume large numbers of bugs, taken on the wing. House Wrens, Chickadees, and Tufted Titmouse also nest in these boxes, as do House Finches and House (or “English”) Sparrows. The latter are very aggressive and often take over bluebird nest boxes.

All the birds mentioned above, except the House Sparrow, are protected under Federal and state law. It is illegal to destroy bird nests or eggs, with the exception that House Sparrow nests may be removed to allow Bluebirds and other native species a chance to use the box. At the end of the season, boxes can be cleaned out and nests discarded, since breeding is over. This also prevents parasites from remaining in the boxes to infect birds in the following breeding season.

Other relatively early arrivals to look for in the springtime include: Eastern Towhee, White-throated Sparrow, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird and Eastern Phoebe. By the end of April and into the first two weeks of May, you are likely to see the most beautiful neo-tropical migrants, including Northern Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and of course, the warblers. Fourteen species of warblers have been recorded in Hickory Farms (this is about half of the total possible). Because warblers are small and most prefer to remain in the canopy, they can be hard to see, but they can be heard. It’s worth the effort to listen and look for these beautiful, tiny singers, many of which will move off-stage by the end of May.

There are many other birds that can be seen in Hickory Farms and in surrounding parks and nature preserves. We are fortunate to be in an area with so much natural diversity and great places to “get back to nature.” All you need is a field guide to birds, binoculars and time to go exploring. The best place to start is right here in Hickory Farms and the best time is right now!

The Hickory Farms Newsletter is published January, March-May, July, and September-December. E-mail submissions to The Editor by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the prior month. For past issues and information for advertisers, visit [www.hickoryfarms.org](http://www.hickoryfarms.org) --> Newsletters.

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