

Volume 12 – No. 3

April 2012

The Hickory Farms Newsletter

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Heather Webb, Dante

Gilmer, Sondra Arnold,

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Get Email addresses at

www.hickoryfarms.org

All telephone area

codes are 703-

Hickory Farms Community Association

P.O. Box 2239, Fairfax VA 22031

www.hickoryfarms.org

We are preparing a new Neighborhood Directory. Please send your contact information to Dante Gilmer at dantegilmer@hotmail.com or 703-978-0621

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator John Kitzmiller has some important thoughts on the program, in the aftermath of the tragedy in Florida. See p. 3.

Spring is here and the local real estate market is heating up. See recent sales activity on p. 6.

Master Gardener Kathy Gillette has some useful gardening tips on p. 7.

Have you noticed clouds of small flying insects around your house? It could be termites, which swarm this time of the year. See p. 8.

You'll notice some empty spots in this month's Neighborhood Watch schedule. That's because we are losing volunteers faster than folks are stepping up to help the community. Please volunteer for Neighborhood Watch. All it takes is three hours on a Friday or Saturday or evening - once every 2½ months. Call John Kitzmiller at 503-3443 to discuss joining.

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"



Spring 1992
aerial view of
cemetery,
Cotton Farm,
Harvester
Farm, and
Tumbleweed.

Photo
courtesy of
Bob Cosgriff
& Louise Cruz

Do You Have Old Photos of Hickory Farms?

A number of residents have asked what Hickory Farms looked like “in the old days.” Do you have photos of early the Hickory Farms area and neighborhood evens (1970s or early 1980s), or even before the community existed and this land was a farm? Got a photo of the kids playing in front of the house during those early years? If so, Kirk Randall would like to borrow them for a few hours to copy for publication or posting on the web page. Please email kirk_randall@hotmail.com (underscore between first and last name) or call 703-425-0210.

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 or call 703-324-1300 (Fairfax County) (4)

Architectural Control Committee Approvals

4372 Harvester Farm - Fence
10112 Round Top –Fence Staining & Shed

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What Neighborhood Watch Is – And Isn't

The tragic killing of a young man in Florida casts a spotlight on the Neighborhood Watch program, which is used by thousands of communities across the nation to reduce crime.

As you know, we have a Neighborhood Watch program here in Hickory Farms. We have been instructed by Fairfax County's Crime Prevention Officers to patrol by car only and in pairs, carry no weapons, report suspicious activity by calling 911, and never confront a suspicious person.

This activity is called Neighborhood "Watch" because patrols are supposed to watch and report, not confront. Hopefully, this tragedy will encourage communities that engage in unsanctioned patrols to coordinate with their local police to ensure that their volunteers help prevent crime, not cause it.

Our Neighborhood Watch program is a success because of the dozens of residents who participate. If you are not yet participating, please call me at 703-503-3443. I can explain to you how the program works and get you onto the roster.

John Kitzmiller
Neighborhood Watch Coordinator / President

PS – Speaking of crime, a Farm House resident had some electronic equipment stolen from their carport, recently. So, be careful about storing valuables in carports and don't leave your garage door open.



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This Month's Home Maintenance Checklist

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.

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- Water Main Repair

- Gas Leaks
- Gas Repairs
- Toilet Repairs
- Bathroom Remodeling

Student Yellow Pages

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 information shown in the table. (1-4-7-10)

Jonathan Nuckolls (13) 703-425-3251	Yard chores, including leaf raking, lawn mowing, snow removal, etc.
Tim Froberg (15) 703-978-5465	Pet sitting, dog walking (available during the day), babysitting, snow shoveling, raking, lawn mowing
Zachary Buchanan (13) 703-978-0045	Leaf raking, snow removal, etc.
Brittany Patterson (16) 571-643-1739	Babysitting

We Need Your Contact Information for the New Neighborhood Directory

The Board of Directors is working on an updated neighborhood directory (the last one was in 2008). Please send your name(s), address, phone number(s), and email address(es) to Dante Gilmer at dantegilmer@hotmail.com or 703-978-0621. Children's names are optional and their ages will not be included in the directory. The directory will be distributed only to Hickory Farms homeowners and residents.

Neighborhood Watch

John Kitzmiller

Please volunteer for this important activity!! It only takes one three hour shift every three months on a Friday or Saturday evening. Neighborhood Watch has been proven to cut crime! It's also a great way to meet your neighbors! Contact: John Kitzmiller 703-503-3443

Fri	Apr. 6		
Sat	Apr. 7	Greg Gillette	Kathy Gillette
Fri	Apr. 13		
Sat	Apr. 14	Kirk Randall	Chris Woody
Fri	Apr. 20	Jeff Lindsay	Larry Rogers
Sat	Apr. 21	Angel Meza	Jason Meza
Fri	Apr. 27	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay
Sat	Apr. 28	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz
Fri	May 4	Mike Martin	John Kitzmiller
Sat	May 5	Pete Scala	Rose Scala
Fri	May 11	Stan Lee	Jim Marshall
Sat	May 12	Pam Barrett	Tom Barrett
Fri	May 18	John Verheul	Tammy Verheul
Sat	May 19	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Fri	May 25	Dave Maurer	Sanjeev Munjal
Sat	May 26	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg

Hickory Farms Real Estate Activity

Arlene Da Cruz

Address	Model	Bed rooms	Baths	Listing Price	Sold Price	Seller Subsidy	Days on Market	Status / Date Sold
(1) 4340 Still Meadow	Split Level	4	2	\$2,395	\$2,300	0	123	Rented – 2/1/12
(2) 4291 Country Squire	Split Level	4	2.5	\$424,900	\$424,000	0	85	Sold – 2/10/12
(3) 4296 Country Squire	Split Level	5	4	\$3,200	\$3,200	0	35	Rented – 1/20/12
4352 Harvester Farm	Colonial	5	2.5	\$459,998	\$450,000	\$8,000	181	Sold – 1/6/12
(4) 4331 Farm House	Colonial	4	2.5	\$2,200			8	Rental Applicatn Registered

- (1) New kitchen appliances, bathrooms, neutral paint and carpet.
- (2) Hardwood flooring, freshly painted. Foreclosure.
- (3) Largest home in HF. Corner lot, Corian counters, hardwood floors, huge deck, storage galore, new roof, siding, heat controlled windows.
- (4) Large deck, three finished levels, carport and front porch.

Information provided by Arlene Da Cruz and Dominic Da Cruz – Da Cruz Real Estate Group - full service Realtors and Hickory Farms residents. Arlene and Dominic are associated with Weichert Realtors (www.arlenedacruz.com) and are also sole proprietors of ADC Property Services, a family owned Property Management business managing rental properties. 571-436-6551 - arlenemyrealtor@gmail.com (1-4-7-10)



Learn Tai Chi

Classes are taught by Hickory Farms
resident Dante Gilmer.

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and improving balance, coordination,
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11:15am Sundays & 11:10/12:10 Wednesdays

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Farms at 11226 Waples Mill Road
(at the intersection just before Fair Oaks Mall)

703.862.2192 www.stillwatertaichi.com

The Garden Corner - Japanese Stiltgrass

Kathy Gillette

Do you have woods or shady areas in your yard? If so you may have noticed that you also have an invasive species of grass in your woods or shady yard called Japanese Stiltgrass or Napalese Browntop. I have noticed that it becomes prevalent in our shade garden in our backyard around mid-July to August. Japanese Stiltgrass is well adapted to shady areas. It spreads and forms large patches. Stiltgrass displaces native species because they can't compete with it. The best way to deal with Japanese Stiltgrass is to manually remove it during the growing season, particularly before it goes to seed. (Each plant produces 100-1,000 seeds.) Interestingly, Japanese Stiltgrass was first found in the U.S. in Tennessee in 1919, when it accidentally escaped as a result of use as a packing material for porcelain. Check out the article below to see pictures and get familiar with this nasty pest of an invasive plant. The article recommends use of Roundup on Stiltgrass. I don't recommend use of Roundup for this plant. It's easy to pull up and not worth the negative aftereffects of using a pesticide, particularly since we are so close to the Potomac watershed, being right next to Pohick Creek. Use of Roundup should be very limited.

<http://fairfaxmastergardeners.org/Attachments/JapaneseStiltGrass.pdf>

Gardeners, please send your articles to the Editor.

Vehicle Registration Services Available 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 often get your business done in less than 20 minutes!

(4-10)

Sidewalk Maintenance

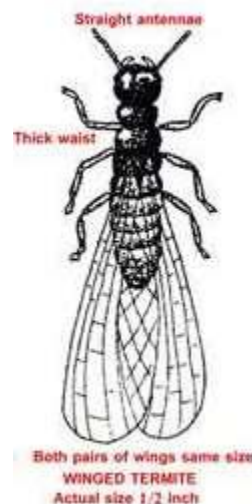
The Virginia Department of Transportation (703-383-8368) owns the streets, sidewalks, curbs, and the grassy “parkway” or “utility strip” areas in between. VDOT relies on us to keep the sidewalks free of mud, snow, bushes, and low-hanging tree branches, and to maintain the grassy area between the street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

(4)

Have You Seen Me Recently?

During April and May, you may see vast quantities of ½ inch termites swarming around your house, particularly near outside doors. The termite protection that may have been done during construction over 30 years ago is long gone and the termites are now ready to invade your home again. It would be unusual for homes our age to not have been invaded by termites. Evidence of termite treatment for our homes should be considered a positive factor. Consult Washington Consumers Checkbook magazine – available at the library – to get the names of top rated pest control firms. (The Editor has used Ward - 703-248-3631 – and was very satisfied with their service).



(4)

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 (4)

Pressure Washing Group Purchase Extended

Got dirty siding? Rob Banks of Northern Virginia Pressure Washing Service (703-536-8449) is extending last year's prices (\$180 for the smaller homes up to \$220 for the larger homes) to Hickory Farms residents.

The Newsletter is published early January, March-May, July, and September-December. E-mail submissions to the Editor by the 25th of the prior month. For past issues and information for advertisers, see www.hickoryfarms.org --> Newsletters. The Editor, subject to review by the Board of Directors, may reject or edit any submission. Advertisers in this newsletter are not endorsed by the HFCA. The editor is Kirk Randall 703-425-0210 – kirk_randall@hotmail.com