

Volume 13 – No. 3

April 2013

The Hickory Farms Newsletter

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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

Only 1 out of 9 Hickory Farms homes (12%) participate in Neighborhood Watch. That is barely enough to sustain the program. Neighborhood Watch helps keep our community safe. It only takes three hours of your time every 2-3 months.

Please call John Kitzmiller at 703-503-3443 to join.

Mark April 13 on your calendar for you and your children to help clean up the Common Areas. See page 2.

Join the Hickory Farms email "Listserv"

- 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 in PDF format.

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

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Everyone's Help Needed for Common Area Cleanup April 13
Don & Sara Lobeda – Common Area Coordinators

A green revolution is in the air. Nasty creeping weeds are beginning their seasonal assault on the trees and grassy areas in our beloved common areas. We need to do something to combat the various vines and noxious bushes that choke out desirable vegetation in the Common Areas. To this end a clean-up effort will be mounted from 9 am to 12 pm on April 13th.

The Commons Area Coordinator has identified a couple of specific areas to cut back the noxious growth that is choking out trees and encroaching on lawn areas. The goal is to destroy the vines and weeds in a couple of specific areas so that the lawn service can then keep it cut back. It is a small start, but a start.

Please meet at 9 am at the boxwood grove in the upper Common Area with Farm House Lane as its border. The homeowners association will provide bags and will coordinate for an area to place the bagged debris. Volunteers should bring work gloves and appropriate tools, such as pruning shears, powerful weed whackers, rakes, and machetes.

Everyone is encouraged to contribute some of their time for the collective good. Our homeowners' fees are really low. Keeping the Common Areas under control and looking good requires contributions of time.

Your school age children could earn community service credits for helping out.

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Free Firewood

A tree went down on a neighbor's yard at the east end of the North black path (behind 4279 Country Squire). It looks like poplar, maybe oak, but definitely not pine. It is cut up but would need to be split. I can loan you a wheelbarrow to transport the wood across my yard to your vehicle. 703-425-0210 Kirk R

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 the early days of the Hickory Farms area and neighborhood evens (1970s or early 1980s), or even before the community existed and this land was a farm? Maybe a photo of the children 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 contact: kirk_randall@hotmail.com or 703-425-0210 (4-10)

Convenient 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)

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)

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)

Sidewalk Maintenance

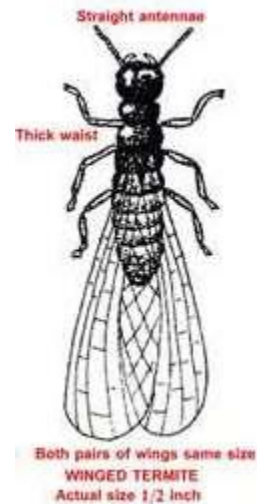
The Virginia Department of Transportation owns the streets, sidewalks, curbs, and the grassy “parkway” or “utility strip” areas in between. VDOT relies on us to keep the sidewalks free of mud, snow, bushes, and low-hanging tree branches, and to maintain the grassy area between the street and sidewalk.

- 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 or curb, contact VDOT at 800-367-ROAD (7623) or www.virginiadot.org/travel/citizen.asp. VDOT will add the item to its database and, if there are enough problems in our community that have been reported and VDOT has the money, they may inspect the problem and fix it at some time in the future. Please don't hold your breath, as this kind of maintenance can sometimes take years to happen.
- 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).



Architectural Control Committee Approvals

None

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. 5	---	---
Sat	Apr. 6	Pete Scala	Rose Scala
Fri	Apr. 12	Stan Lee	Jim Marshall
Sat	Apr. 13	Pam Barrett	Tom Barrett
Fri	Apr. 19	John Verheul	Tammy Verheul
Sat	Apr. 20	---	---
Fri	Apr. 26	Dave Maurer	Sanjeev Munjal
Sat	Apr. 27	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg
Fri	May 3	Jaime Gutierrez	Ed Wagner
Sat	May 4	Dave Dempster	Dawn Dempster
Fri	May 10	Susan Mulliner	Brenton Mulliner
Sat	May 11	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters
Fri	May 17	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Sat	May 18	Angela Woody	Chris Woody
Fri	May 24	Jeff Lindsay	Larry Rogers
Sat	May 25	Angel Meza	Jason Meza
Fri	May 31	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay

Home Maintenance To-Do's

<p>Chimney & Fireplace Cleaning – Have a chimney sweep check and clean the chimney – if you used the chimney during the winter.</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>Air Conditioner & Heat Pump Spring Checkup – Schedule your spring checkup. Use a hose to spray debris off the outside compressor unit.</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>

Impatiens – Flowers for the Spring and Summer

Kathy Gillette – Hickory Farms' Gardening Guru

Many gardeners in our neighborhood plant impatiens for annual summer color in shady spaces in the yard. This year, no impatiens! Impatiens downy mildew (*Plasmopara obducens*) was seen in greenhouses as early as 2004. This year, this mildew caused total plant collapse for impatiens in nearly every state. The mildew causes stippling and yellowing of leaves, and leaves also curl downward. The coating of white spores on the undersurface of the leaves is a "dead" giveaway. The leaves then drop, and stems and flowers collapse. Most reputable nurseries will not be selling impatiens this year, and that includes all seeds and plants any of the *Impatiens walleriana* hybrids (includes balsam impatiens). It is highly recommended that you don't plant impatiens this year. (If you do, definitely plant in a different area than you normally plant impatiens because the spores overwinter.) There will likely be a 3-5 year period before the disease runs its course, so don't be impatient for impatiens. There will be impatiens in our future!

There are other alternatives available, such as new guinea impatiens and *Torenia*, also known as wishbone flower. Wishbone flower has become very popular in recent years, and apparently it is the flower that keeps on giving! It starts flowering early in the season and will keep producing flowers through the fall. I'm definitely going to try wishbone flower this year!

The HF Newsletter is published 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