

April
2015

The Hickory Farms

Newsletter

Board of Directors

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Asst Treasurer

Brand Niemann 503-8124

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Community Grounds, Paths & Woods – Don & Sara

Lobeda 539-8472

Architectural Control

Committee

Kirk Randall 425-0210

At Large – Brian

Roethlisberger 426-9099

Mike Mehrman 323-0801

Vanessa Franck Neighbor-
hood Watch 483-0730

Pete Scala Community
Yard Sale (Fall) 764-0730

Other Volunteers

Newsletter & Web Site

Kirk Randall 425-0210

Email ("Listserv")

Stefan Schwarz

Social Committee - Vacant

Architectural Reviews

Keith Ferguson, Donna

Garfield, Ed Kiechlin

Kirk Randall (Chairman)

Carole Rogers

Stefan Schwarz

Newsletter Delivery – John

Kitzmiller, Heather Webb

Leslie Morrisette

Dante Gilmer, Sondra

Arnold, Ed Kiechlin

Claire & Sean Coleman

Debbi Buchanan

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

Please welcome the newest members of the Hickory Farms Board of Directors, Vanessa Franck (Cotton Farm) and Pete Scala (Still Meadow).

Final Notice to 15 homeowners – Your dues are delinquent. Pay them immediately. See page 9.

On May 1st, after seven years of serving as the Chairman of the Architectural Control Committee, Kirk Randall is stepping down. Will you step up? You can help keep our community one of the most visually desirable in the area. Your investment in time? No more than 30 minutes a month. Really!

Termites are swarming this time of the year. Learn about what to look for.

Fairfax County Police are monitoring our streets after receiving many complaints about speeding and reckless driving.

The warmer spring weather brings out the door-to-door solicitors. Be wary. Read the helpful tips about how to deal with them.

Hickory Farms will be turning forty this year. If you moved into Hickory Farms during 1975-1990, send your name, address, and year you moved into Hickory Farms to Kirk_Randall@Hotmail.com or call 703-425-0210

Join the Hickory Farms email Group

- 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://www.hickoryfarms.org/E-mail.htm> -- Click "Join Group"

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- ✓ **Hickory Farms Resident and Homeowner!**

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Northern Virginia Team | Main Office Address: 640 Warrior Drive #105 Stephens City, VA 22665

When Coyotes Move In, Foxes Move Out

A coyote was spotted on the North Black Path a few weeks ago. She entered from the woods, trotted up the path about two hundred feet, wandered through the back yards of our City neighbors on the other side of the path, trotted back into the woods and then continued back into the woods. Coyotes have been seen in the City of Fairfax in recent years. See <http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Fairfax-Warns-Residents-About-Coyotes-164492896.html> While they hunt small animals, dogs, and foxes, coyotes are probably more afraid of you than you are of them. And, like most deer and foxes, coyotes tend to follow streams, like Rabbit Run that flows behind Cotton Farm, Country Squire and Harvester Farm and then crosses under Cotton Farm.

Speaking of wildlife, Spinning Wheel resident Bob Sottile saw a family of deer in the Upper Common Area (see photo). I also spotted a family that included two bucks, a doe, and two fawns, on the North Black Path.



Architectural Control Committee Approvals

4356 Harvester Farm - Replacement Windows

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Final Notice to 15 Homeowners – Pay Your Annual Dues Immediately

Please send your check for \$200 (\$150 Hickory Farms Annual Assessment + \$50 late fee) IMMEDIATELY to HFCA, P.O. Box 2239, Fairfax, Virginia 22031.

Checks that are not postmarked or in the physical possession of the Treasurer by January 7 are considered late and have been assessed a \$50 late fee. Checks that are received beyond January 7 and do not include the late fee will be returned for non-payment.

In a few days, delinquent accounts will be turned over to the Association's attorneys for collection. At that point, the amount owed by a delinquent homeowner would be the \$150 dues, the \$50 late fee, and attorney fees (which are a minimum of \$140). If the funds are not given to the attorneys within a timely manner they may place a lien on your property. These procedures are in accord with the Hickory Farms Bylaws, which have no provision for waiver.

Peddlers and Door-to-Door Solicitors – Be Suspicious

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

First of all, remember that if you sign a contract for services at your home, Virginia law gives you a three day "cooling off period during which you may cancel the contract."



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Let me help you protect your family, your income and your future through comprehensive financial planning. Please contact my office if you would like more information about the products and services that we offer. **-Debbie Lewis (Your Hickory Farms Neighbor)**

Deborah L. Lewis, Financial Adviser, offering investment and advisory services through Eagle Strategies LLC, a Registered Investment Adviser. Registered Representative, offering securities through NYLIFE Securities LLC (member FINRA/SIPC), A Licensed Insurance Agency.

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. Peddlers or solicitors must show their license upon request and must leave immediately if 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 Fairfax County. Persons distributing advertising flyers – but are 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 dollars for a band fund raiser, for example.

Be especially careful of persons driving vehicles with out-of-state license tags, including "summer transient travelers" from Florida and South Carolina, who may scam you on repair work or walk right into your house while you're doing yard work, and take 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. (4)

Moving anytime soon? Call me today!

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Is Your Sewer the Next to Go?

Given the high failure rate of the outside water supply lines here in Hickory Farms, I have been encouraging folks to take out an insurance plan to cover the repair. Indeed, a few years ago I was able to save the over \$7,000+/- it would have cost to replace my broken water pipe. It now seems that sewer lines are starting to fail. Dominion (our electric company) offers water and sewer pipe insurance, as well as coverage on plumbing, electric lines, heating and cooling systems, and others. Visit them at www.dominionenergy.com/en/home-protection.

Rules and Regulations/Bylaws Changes Contemplated

Laws affecting homeowner associations such as Hickory Farms were enacted during the recent sessions in the House of Delegates and Senate. The Board of Directors would like to review our Rules and Regulations and Bylaws to determine whether changes may need to be made. If you would like to participate in the review team, or would like to suggest changes to either of these documents, please contact Pres. Bruce Bernhardt at 703-426-9446. (4)

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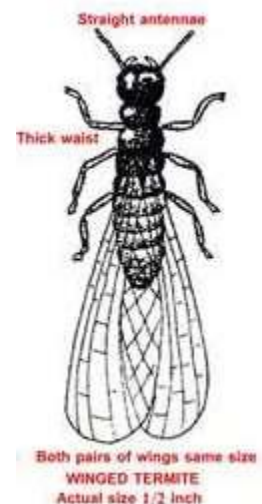
How Many Unrelated People May Live in a House in Hickory Farms?

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, you can call 703-324-1300 or visit

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code/property/overcrowding.htm> Click *Submit Complaint* -> *Submit Complaint to Department of Code Compliance*. The complaint is confidential. (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. Consult [Washington Consumers Checkbook](#) magazine (it's a nonprofit organization) – 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)



ADC Property Services
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ADC Property Services

Exceeding expectations for quality service—and by the way, we also help with buying and selling homes.

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 and scrape off any mineral buildup.
Air Conditioner & Heat Pump Spring Checkup – Schedule your spring checkup. Use a hose to spray debris off the outside compressor unit.
Test Smoke Alarms & Carbon Monoxide Detectors – We recommend that you replace smoke detector batteries and 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. Check the date on each alarm. Most older smoke and carbon monoxide alarms should be replaced after seven years. Replace them with alarms that are guaranteed for ten years.

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)

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Braddock Road Commuter Survey

Fairfax County is working with the community to evaluate improvements for the Braddock Road corridor, between Guinea Road and I-495. To help them better understand your interests and priorities, please take a few moments to complete the [Braddock Road Commuter Attitude Survey](#). Be sure to also take a look at the [Braddock Road Commuter Fact Sheet](#), where you can find the latest updates concerning the project. Also, if you would like to submit any general comments, please use the form at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/braddockroadmmstudy/.

Join Your Hickory Farms Neighbors for Summer Fun at Fairfax Swimming Pool!



- Pool features dedicated lap lane, shallow end and deep end with diving boards. ADA Compliant.
- Enclosed wading pool with beach entry and water features for the little ones.
- Kids can join NVSL Fairfax Frogs Swim and Dive teams or Tadpoles. Pool also sponsors life guard-led swim lessons for kids.
- Social events for all ages throughout the season.
- Membership options for families, couples, singles and students.
- **Already a Member?** Refer a New Member and Get a Bonus!

Everyone is Welcome at Our Open House!
Saturday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24, 12-4 p.m.

Learn More and Join Today! www.fairfaxpool.com

Fairfax Swimming Pool • 4200 Roberts Road • Fairfax, VA 22032

Neighborhood Watch Schedule

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! Call Vanessa Franck at 703-483-0730.

Fri	Mar 27	Matt Franck	Vanessa Franck
Sat	Mar 28	Jason Zhao	Laura Feng
Fri	Apr 3	John Verheul	Tami Verheul
Sat	Apr 4	Dave Maurer	Sanjeev Munjal
Fri	Apr 10	Jamie Gutierrez	
Sat	Apr 11	Dave Dempster	Dawn Dempster
Fri	Apr 17	Susan Mulliner	Brenton Mulliner
Sat	Apr 18	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters
Fri	Apr 24	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Sat	Apr 25	Rick Loranger	Judy Loranger
Fri	May 1	Jeff Lindsay	Larry Rogers
Sat	May 2	Angel Meza	Jason Meza
Fri	May 8	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay
Sat	May 9	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz
Fri	May 15	John Coyne	Linda Coyne
Sat	May 16	Pete Scala	Rose Scala
Fri	May 22		
Sat	May 23		
Fri	May 29	Debbi Buchanan	
Sat	May 30		
Fri	Jun 5	Stan Lee	Jim Marshall
Sat	Jun 6	Pam Barrett	Tom Barrett
Fri	Jun 12	Ed Wagner	
Sat	Jun 13	Stefan Schwarz	Christine Schwarz
Fri	Jun 19	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg
Sat	Jun 20	Brian Roethlisberger	
Fri	Jun 26	Jason Zhao	Laura Feng

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 will fix the problem. They have been quick to respond in recent years.
- You must have a VDOT permit to plant a tree on the grassy area between the sidewalk and the curb.

(4)

Fairfax County May Abolish Its Grass Height Ordinance

Fairfax County has a 30 year old ordinance that provides that if grass height exceeds 12 inches, a neighbor can complain to the County who will then hire a contractor to mow the lawn and assess the homeowner as much as \$165. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is considering doing away with the ordinance. The argument is that it is costly to implement. This issue was addressed in a February 19th Washington Post article:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/in-wealthy-fairfax-county-tidy-lawns-may-be-a-budget-luxury-worth-cutting/2015/02/19/b5fe9788-b7a1-11e4-a200-c008a01a6692_story.html

According to the Braddock District Council (a group which liaisons between Supervisor Cook and homeowner associations such as ours), Supervisor Cook, as well as a number of community associations, want to keep the County ordinance intact. Supervisor Cook would like to hear our opinions, both pro and con. You can contact him at 703-425-9300 or braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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. Advertising in this newsletter does not constitute endorsement. The editor is Kirk Randall 703-425-0210 – kirk_randall@hotmail.com