

Volume 05, Issue 10

December 2005
Season's Greetings

The Hickory Farms Newsletter

Who to contact

Jeff Altman, President
703-978-0309
Dante Gilmer, Vice
President
703-978-0621
Jaime Gutierrez,
Treasurer
703-425-7919
Dave Dempster,
Secretary,
and Neighborhood Watch,
703-503-0561
Angel Meza, Grounds
703-425-3862
Diane Klingemann,
Welcome Wagon, 703-
978-6838
Jennifer Maloney,
Newsletter

*Hickory Farms Community Association
Fairfax County, Virginia*

President's Letter



Dear Neighbors,

I hope you had a great Thanksgiving.

Your new Board officers were elected at last month's Board meeting. I'll remain President. Vice President will be Dante Gilmer, returning as Treasurer will be Jamie Gutierrez, and Secretary will be Dave Dempster. Mike Martin will take over as chair of the ACC, Dave will continue to chair Neighborhood Watch, and Angel Meza remains as chair of the Grounds committee.

I'd like to take this time to thank Rob Mikula for all his work with the community over the past couple years. After several years on the Board, as Secretary and chair of the ACC, Rob is taking a well deserved break. Thanks, Rob!

Thanks are also in order to Jennifer Maloney for her continued work as newsletter editor; Lynn Welch, Dawn Dempster, Patty Dudley and Donna Altman for co-chairing the Social Committee; Kirk Randall for maintaining the web site; Donna Altman for maintaining the list server; Dianne Klingemann for chairing the Welcome Wagon; and the countless Neighborhood Watch and ACC participants.

I hope I didn't miss anyone. My apologies if I did. Thanks to all for your help in making this Association a community we can all be proud of.

I wish you and your families a happy and healthy holiday season.

Jeff Altman

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Join the Hickory Farms e-mail List

If you were registered with the Hickory Farms e-mail group, you would have already received an electronic copy of this newsletter and received other information about our community! Visit www.hickoryfarms.org and click E-mail Service.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Season's Greetings! As we approach this season of good will and giving, please keep in mind that the annual dues (\$100) for the calendar year 2006 will be payable to the HFCA beginning January 1, 2006 and are due no later than March 31, 2006. Dues received after March 31 will be subject to an additional \$25 late fee. Please note that this late fee mandated by the Hickory Farms Community Association BY-Laws and as such cannot be waived by the board. In previous years when late payers have requested the Board to waive this fee, the request has been denied.

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. The package is required by law.

The following are the steps for obtaining a VPOAA package:

1. Contact the Treasurer. Let him know when the package is needed and where it should be sent.
2. Draft a check for \$50, payable to the HFCA. The check can be mailed to HFCA, P.O. Box 2239, Fairfax, VA 22031-2239; or make other arrangements with the Treasurer as necessary.
3. 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 can be accepted and a written receipt will be provided.

I want to thank all of the homeowners who have helped to make my job as the Treasurer for the past year successful and enjoyable.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Below is the watch schedule for December and January. Please contact Dave Dempster at 703-503-0561 (ddhokies@cox.net) with any questions or to volunteer for this important neighborhood activity.

Fri	Dec 9	Larry Russe	Chris Russe
Sat	Dec 10	Jaime Gutierrez	Ed Wagner
Fri	Dec 16	Bill Galinis	Diana Galinis
Sat	Dec 17	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Fri	Dec 23	Pingjun Li	Wang Chan Cheng
Fri	Dec 30	Dave Maurer	Sanjeev Munjal
Fri	Jan 6	John Kitzmiller	Brand Niemann
Sat	Jan 7	Bob Sottile	Lee Sottile
Fri	Jan 13	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters
Sat	Jan 14	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg
Fri	Jan 20	Bob Cosgriff	Don Klingemann
Sat	Jan 21	Kirk Randall	Mike Martin
Fri	Jan 27	Angel Meza	Jason Meza
Sat	Jan 28	Jeff Lindsay	Larry Rogers

COMMUNITY NEWS

Upcoming ESOL Classes

Registration for the next session of ESOL classes at Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Rd. (corner of Olley Lane and Braddock) in Burke, will be held: Tuesday, Jan. 10 and Wednesday, Jan. 11 from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Classes will begin Tuesday, Jan. 24 and end Thursday, Apr.20. Day classes will meet from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Night classes will meet from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Tuition is \$50 for the session. Please note that child care will not be provided and children may not be left unattended at any time.

For more information, please contact Roberta Lindsay, Church of the Good Shepherd, ESOL program, at 703-425-1315

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Board of Supervisors Approves Tax Relief Increase

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors recently approved an increase to the amount of net assets that seniors and people with disabilities may have from \$240,000 to the state maximum of \$340,000 (not including the value of the home, its furnishings and up to one acre of land). The income limit was increased from \$52,000 to the fixed state maximum of \$72,000. The real estate tax relief changes are retroactive to all of tax year 2005, and the board also extended the deadline to apply for 2005 until Dec. 31, 2006, for first-time filers and cases of hardship.

Seniors 65 years and older and those who are permanently and totally disabled who owned and occupied their residences in Fairfax County as of Dec. 31 of the preceding year may qualify for real estate tax relief from the county if they meet income and financial qualifications. Applications and information can be obtained weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. by calling 703-222-8234, TTY 703-222-7594, or online any time at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/pdf_files/2005TaxRelief.pdf.

Please Don't Rake Your Leaves Into the Street!

Fall is leaf raking time. If we lived in Fairfax City, we could just rake them into the street and city workers would vacuum them up. But, alas, we live in Fairfax County. So, here's the skinny on disposing of your leaves (and other yard debris) in our community.

- Under Fairfax County ordinance, the trash collector has to pick up 1-6 bags of leaves on a yard debris pickup day. If you put out more than six, the extras may not be taken.
- If the trash collector doesn't take all of your leaves on your yard debris pickup day, please don't just leave them in the street or the parkway (that strip of grass between the street and sidewalk) for the next week's pickup. The bags kill the grass if left on the parkway, or block the mailman if left on the street. Bring the bags back to your house.
- Please don't put your trash, recycling, or yard debris out several days before pickup; it detracts from the nice appearance of our neighborhood. Under our Rules and Regulations, refuse should be put out on the collection day or the prior evening.
- Speaking of pickups, trash collections may not occur before 6 AM. If you're being awakened by the sound of trash trucks before 6 AM, please first call the trash company to report the problem. If they don't comply with your request, you may report them to the Fairfax County Zoning Enforcement office at 703-324-1300 between 8 AM and 4:30 PM.
- Under Fairfax County Ordinance, **you may not use black plastic bags for yard debris such as leaves.** You must use clear plastic bags. The trash collector may refuse to take black bags because the workers can't tell whether you left garbage or yard debris (leaves) in the bags.
- Trigs and branches. Either place them in a trash can or cut them to approx. 4' length and bundle them using twine. The trash collectors may not take them if they are not bundled.

Please do not dump leaves, tree branches, and grass clippings in nearby common areas or woods. Not only is it against our [Rules and Regulations](#), but it creates a tremendous burden on the ecosystem. Wooded areas are ecologically balanced; they can decompose just about as much organic matter as the trees themselves produce. When you add your leaves, branches, or grass clippings, it overloads the ecosystem and they don't decompose. The result is a wooded area that looks and smells like a dump. Help keep our common grounds and woods beautiful by not dumping leaves, tree branches, and grass clippings there. (Hickory Farms Web Page – November 2004)

Graduations, births, anniversaries, other special announcements to share? Newsletter items are due the 25th of the month. Please send in a Word attachment to jmaloney@gmu.edu.

FIRST NOTICE

Hickory Farms Community Association 2005 Assessment Notice

Please pay by March 31, 2006

The 2005 Hickory Farms Community Association (HFCA) annual assessment is \$100. The assessment is used for maintenance of the common grounds; insurance for the association and Board members; semi-annual neighborhood picnics; the Neighborhood Watch program; and, the costs of managing and operating your Association.

You can help conserve your Association's financial resources—and your own—by submitting your payment in a timely manner. Payments postmarked after the due date will be considered late and will be charged an additional \$25 late fee. In the event an owner's check is returned, the owner will reimburse HFCA for any expenses incurred for the returned check.

This year's assessment of \$100 is due March 31, 2006

The HFCA is committed to maintaining and improving the equality of life in Hickory Farms, to maintaining our property values and to resolving issues of concern to our neighbors. Assessments (and late fees) are collected in accordance with your By-laws to cover Association expenses, which are outlined and approved by the homeowners at each Annual Meeting. If you are not a property owner and are not responsible for paying the assessment, please forward this notice to the property owner promptly.

Please complete the coupon below, detach and mail it with your check to the address on the coupon.

HFCA 2005 ANNUAL ASSESSMENT

The Assessment of **\$100** is payable by **March 31, 2006**.

Please make your check payable to **HFCA** and mail to:

HFCA
P.O. Box 2239
Fairfax, VA 22031-2239

Your name: _____

Lot Number: _____

Address: _____