

Volume 6 – No. 9

December 2006

The Hickory Farms *Newsletter*

Your Neighborhood Volunteers

President – Dante Gilmer
703-978-0621
Vice President – Vacant
Treasurer – Jaime Gutierrez
703-425-7919
Secretary – Dave Dempster
703-503-0561
Community Grounds, Paths &
Woods– Rich Dudley
703-503-2060
Welcome New Residents – Diane
Klingemann 703-978-6838
Newsletter & HF Web Site –
Kirk Randall 703-425-0210
Architecture Approvals –
Rebekah & Wesley Moore
703-286-7179
Neighborhood Watch – Dave
Dempster 703-503-0561

Hickory Farms Community Association
P.O. Box 2239, Fairfax VA 22031
www.hickoryfarms.org

Greetings All

I hope everyone is enjoying the holiday season and this mild weather we have been having. The neighborhood is really starting to look the part with all the beautiful decorations going up.

The new Officers of the Board of Directors were chosen at the November board meeting. Returning from last year is Jaime Gutierrez as Treasurer, Rich Dudley as Chairman of Grounds and Dave Dempster as Secretary and Night Watch Coordinator. Ellie Coding who was elected to the Board of Directors at the annual meeting will be a general board member. John Kitzmiller, who was a general board member last year, will be President next year. I will be a general board member in the coming year.

This is the last newsletter of the year, so I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year.

Lastly, I ask that if you believe in prayer, please say one for our troops overseas this holiday.

Dante Gilmer

Join the Hickory Farms e-mail 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 www.hickoryfarms.org and click e-mail service.

Neighborhood Watch Schedule – Neighborhood Security
Dave Dempster

Fri	December 1	Bob Bentley	Nancy Bentley
Sat	December 2	Ron Cruz	Louise Cruz
Fri	December 8	Jaime Gutierrez	Ed Wagner
Sat	December 9	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Fri	December 15	Pingjun Li	Wang Chan Cheng
Sat	December 16	Greg Gillette	Kathy Gillette
Fri	December 22	Dave Maurer	Sanjeev Munjal
Sat	December 23	Bob Sottile	Lee Sottile
Fri	December 29	John Kitzmiller	Brand Niemann
Sat	December 30	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg
Fri	January 5	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters
Sat	January 6	Kirk Randall	Mike Martin
Fri	January 12	Bob Cosgriff	Don Klingemann
Sat	January 13	Jeff Lindsay	Larry Rogers
Fri	January 19	Angel Meza	Jason Meza
Sat	January 20	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay
Fri	January 26	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz
Sat	January 27	Debbi Buchanan	Scott Buchanan

On November 18, six Hickory Farms mailboxes were vandalized. The police were called. They quickly caught the youths who had pulled mailboxes out of the ground. Other than this incident, the watch logs show it has been fairly quiet the past couple of months.

We need more homeowners to participate in the neighborhood watch program. ***Please volunteer.*** Your investment in the security of the community takes only 3-4 hours every three months. If you have any questions about how Neighborhood Watch works, visit www.hickoryfarms.org, or contact Dave Dempster at (703)503-0561 or email ddhokies@cox.net.

Disposing of Your Xmas Tree

Christmas Trees are picked up by your trash collection company on your normal yard debris pickup day, NOT trash collection day.

The Learning is Easy at Nearby “OLLI”

The editor had lived in Hickory Farms for many, many years before learning what that white building was at the intersection of Roberts and Still Meadow Roads. It's the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. OLLI, which is affiliated with George Mason

University, offers a number of courses for retirees. Students can participate in daytime academic classes (we're so close, we can walk to class), special events, and cultural activities. The courses are not for college credit. If you're an education junkie, OLLI is the place for you, as one price covers as many courses as you can take. Visit www.oli.gmu.edu or call 703-503-3384.

Advertise in the Hickory Farms Newsletter

Display ads are available to businesses offering services to Hickory Farms homeowners. The newsletter is delivered monthly (except during the summer) to 225 Hickory Farms residents and absentee homeowners. For more information, visit www.hickoryfarms.org – Newsletter

Free Home Security Inspection

The Fairfax County police offers free home security inspections. A qualified police officer will inspect the locks, doors, and windows of your home with you. Exterior lighting, landscaping and other factors affecting the protection of your home from burglary will also be reviewed. The officer will make recommendations for improving your home security. Call 703-644-5026

Youth Services

Youths who are residents of Hickory Farms may offer services to their neighbors. 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 youth's name/age, telephone number, and a list of services to be offered. The parent should also state that the youth has permission to be listed in the newsletter.

Name/Age	Services Offered	Telephone
Victoria Hebeisen (13)	Experienced babysitter of infants, toddlers, and school-aged children, weeknights to 10 PM and weekends to 1 AM. References available.	703-978-0045

Treasurer's Report

Jaime Gutierrez

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.

In this newsletter I have included the First Reminder to pay the \$100 annual dues for the calendar year 2007, which will be due to the HFCA beginning January 1, 2007. Dues received after March 31, 2007 will be subject to an additional \$25 late fee. Please note that this late fee is 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.

For those who are new homeowners, this is your reminder to pay the annual dues. We do not mail any bills to homeowners.

If You Plan To Sell Your Home

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:

- Contact the Treasurer. Let him know when the package is needed and where it should be sent.
- 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.

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.

Grounds

Rich Dudley

The state of our common areas remains good. Recent activities to improve our grounds have included:

- Keith Ferguson organized a work session to replace the bridges crossing Rabbit Run after they were washed away in summer floods. Thanks to Keith and crew for their effort!
- The growing pot hole in the asphalt walkway in the Lower Common Area was repaired with a temporary patch. We will look at longer-term solutions to deal with similar asphalt problems and see whether it is prudent to engage a contractor in making more substantial repairs.
- We made some progress in removing vines from trees in one part of the Upper Common Area. The affected trees have been on the decline for several years so the improvement should make a difference to the longevity of the trees. Lots more work remains but we're making progress.

Our 17 acres of common areas are one of the greatest assets of the neighborhood. Please help us maintain them by volunteering an hour of your time to help us with projects. Contact Rich Dudley (dudley_richard@bah.com or at 703-503-2060) if you would like to volunteer for a project. A few of our more pressing needs include:

- We need volunteers to help cut back brush and low-hanging trees from the Lower Common Area's sledding hill before we have our first snow.
- The Upper Common Area needs a thorough trash pick up now that leaves have fallen from trees and bushes to reveal trash that had been previously hidden.

On a closing note, please do not place your yard debris and leaves in the Common Areas. In addition to being against our neighborhood association rules, such piles of debris can be unsightly and take a long time to decompose.

Free Equipment to Maintain Your Yard

Eric Mondschein and Rich Dudley have offered to lend out their lawn equipment for use within the neighborhood at NO charge – FREE !!!!

If lack of equipment is holding you back from keeping up with Mother Nature, contact Eric or Rich for: Lawn Mowers – Lawn Trimmers – Lawn Edger (For clean crisp curb appeal) – Tree Trimmers/Loppers (Cut those limbs blocking the sidewalk) – Shovels –

Leaf Blower – Ladders

Do you need advice on what needs to be done to your yard? Call Eric or Rich!

Eric - 4341 Farm House Ln – 703-426-0403

Rich - 4358 Farm House Ln – 703-503-2060

Driving on Common Grounds – Don't

The common areas (the woods, walking paths, and upper and lower grounds) are for the enjoyment of all Hickory Farms homeowners and their guests. This does NOT include, however, the use of motorized vehicles like mopeds and motor scooters. Our insurance doesn't cover them and they tear up the grounds and grass. Our rules don't allow them. So, if you ride one of these vehicles, please find somewhere else where it is legal to ride them.

Do You Need Tree Work Done ?

Note: *This group buy will **not** happen unless someone volunteers to coordinate.*

Our attempt to get discounted tree work done in February fell flat with the snowstorm that downed a lot of trees in the area. Tree companies had plenty of full price work and weren't interested in cutting us a deal. Well, some folks still need to have tree work done, myself included. However, we need a coordinator who will 1) get bids from 2-3 contractors to compare prices (we already have a list of names, including the 2005 contractors), 2) select a contractor, 3) contact HF homeowners to find out who's interested, and 4) pass that info on to the selected contractor. ***We can't move forward without a coordinator.*** If you could put in just a few hours on an endeavor that could save you and your neighbors some money, please contact kirk_randall@hotmail.com or call 703-425-0210. Work is usually done in February or March – the (usual) slow season for tree contractors – so contractor selection and contacting homeowners should be done in January.

Disposing of Your Leaves and Yard Debris

Fall is leaf raking time. If we lived just a few blocks north in Fairfax City, we could just rake our leaves into the street and city workers would vacuum them up. But, alas, we live in Fairfax County, so ***please don't rake your leaves into the street!*** Here's the skinny on disposing of your leaves (and other yard debris) in our community.

- Under Fairfax County ordinance, the trash collector is supposed to remove up to six bags of leaves on a yard debris pickup day. If you put out more than six, the extras may or may not be taken. To its credit, however, AAA almost always picks up everything you leave out.

- 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 near the mailbox.
- 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 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 should not use black plastic bags for yard debris such as leaves***. You are supposed to use clear plastic bags. The trash collector may refuse to take black bags because its workers can't tell whether you put garbage or yard debris such as leaves in the bags.
- Place twigs and branches in a trash can or cut them to approximately four feet in length and bundle them using twine. The trash collectors may refuse to 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. (From Hickory Farms Web Site)

Be Considerate of Your Mailman

The mailman can deliver our mail more quickly if he/she doesn't have to leave the truck to walk around trash cans. Help the mailman by placing your trash cans at least 12 feet away from your mailbox.

Hearing Impaired Smoke Alarm Program

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department offers a program to provide fire safety for the hearing impaired in our community. The Visual Smoke Alarm Loan Program offers a special device to alarm deaf/hard of hearing occupants when smoke or fire is detected. The alarm will produce an increased audible alert and emit a strobe light when activated.

Residents and visitors to Fairfax County can obtain one of these "loaner-for-life" alarms by contacting the Public Information and Life Safety Education Section at 703-246-3801. You may retain the alarm for as long as you reside in Fairfax County.

Additional information and resources on hearing impairment programs and materials can be found at the Northern Virginia Resource Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing website: www.nvrc.org.

The tiny print disclaimer – The Editor wrote most of the contents of this newsletter; the major exceptions are advertisements, community service type announcements, articles with a byline, and articles which have been obviously been otherwise contributed by others. So, if you have a gripe with the accuracy or tone of this newsletter, take it up with The Editor !

FIRST NOTICE
Hickory Farms Community Association
2007 Assessment Notice

The 2007 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 no later than March 31, 2007

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 2007 ANNUAL ASSESSMENT

The Assessment of **\$100** is due starting January 1, 2007.
Payment received after **March 31, 2007** will be subject to a \$25.00 late fee.

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

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

Your name: _____

Lot Number: _____

Address: _____