

Volume 8 – No. 10

December 2008

The Hickory Farms Newsletter

Board of Directors

President

John Kitzmiller 503-3443

Vice President

Rich Dudley 503-2060

Treasurer

Jaime Gutierrez 425-7919

Secretary

Bilal Sayyed 764-8716

Community Grounds, Paths & Woods

Rich Dudley 503-2060

Building Design Approvals (ACC)

Kirk Randall 425-0210

At Large – Dante Gilmer 978-0621

Barin Chakrabarti 426-1430

Other Volunteers

Neighborhood Watch

Dave Dempster 503-0561

Welcome New Neighbors

Nancy Bentley 978-0373

Newsletter & Web Site

Kirk Randall 425-0210

Community Yard Sale (Fall)

Pete Scala 764-0730

Email Coordinators

Heather Webb 425-1347

Ellie Coddling 426-4606

Social Committee

Patty Dudley 503-2060

Dawn Dempster 503-0561

Lynn Welch 978-4113

ACC Members

Barin Chakrabarti

Claire Coleman

Keith Ferguson

Donna Garfield

Greg Gillette

Clair Hill

Kirk Randall

Email addresses are at

www.hickoryfarms.org

All phone area codes are 703

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

Annual dues are due January 1. Your only notification that annual dues are due is through The Newsletter.

We do not mail bills for annual dues.

Renters – Please tell your landlord that Annual Dues are due soon.

At the November Annual Meeting, the homeowners recommended that the Board raise the dues to \$125, which the Board approved at its December meeting. The Board also amended the By-Laws to increase the late payment fee from \$25 to \$50. We encourage you to send your check to the above address as soon as possible.

**We hope you had a Happy Thanksgiving
and survived Black Friday!**

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" -- Be sure to click the "Individual Emails" option.

Neighborhood Watch Schedule – Neighborhood Security

Dave Dempster

Please volunteer for this important neighborhood activity – all it takes is one three-hour Friday or Saturday evening every four months, or so. Neighborhood Watch is proven to cut crime. It's a great way to meet your neighbors. Dave Dempster 703-503-0561 ddhokies@cox.net

Fri	December 5	Angel Meza	Jason Meza
Sat	December 6	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay
Fri	December 12	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz
Sat	December 13	Mike Martin	Scott Buchanan
Fri	December 19	Pete Scala	Rose Scala
Sat	December 20	Stan Lee	Jim Marshall
Fri	December 26	Pam Barrett	Tom Barrett
Sat	December 27	John Verheul	Tammy Verheul
Fri	January 2	Stefan Schwarz	Christine Schwarz
Sat	January 3	Ron Cruz	Louise Cruz
Fri	January 9	Jaime Gutierrez	Ed Wagner
Sat	January 10	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Fri	January 16	Pingjun Li	Wang Chan Cheng
Sat	January 17	Greg Gillette	Kathy Gillette
Fri	January 23	Dave Maurer	Sanjeev Munjal
Sat	January 24	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg
Fri	January 30	John Kitzmiller	Brand Niemann
Sat	January 31	Susan Mulliner	Brenton Mulliner

This Month's Home Maintenance Checklist

The complete list may be found on the [HF web site](#) under "Home Maintenance and Appearance"

(All)

Lawn Mower Shutdown – After cutting the lawn for the last time this season: Let the mower run out of gas (this keeps the gas from gumming up over the winter). Remove and clean the spark plug – don't replace it just yet. Change the oil. Replace the air filter. Remove and sharpen the blade. Scrape off grass clippings under the deck. Apply a light coating of oil to the underside of the deck. Squirt a spoonful of oil in the cylinder and pull the starter rope a few times to coat the cylinder wall. Replace the spark plug.

Heating & Cooling Duct Cleaning – Have a professional vacuum the accumulated dust out of the ductwork every ten years or so – *if needed*.

Gutter Cleaning – Clean out your gutters. Overflowing gutters lead to ground erosion and wet basements. If you are surrounded by trees, you may have to do this both Spring and Fall.

Furnace Humidifier Setup – If you have a furnace humidifier, make sure it is plugged in and set properly. Turn on the water supply valve. If you did not do so in the spring, scrape off mineral buildup in the water pan and replace the filter – if needed. Work the float arm back and forth to dislodge mineral deposits.

President's Letter
John Kitzmiller

I want to thank the members of the HFCA Board who have served with me over the past year -- Dante Gilmer, Rich Dudley, Jaime Gutierrez, Barin Chakrabarti, and Bilal Sayyed. And, thanks and congratulations go to our new HFCA Board members -- Keith Ferguson and Kirk Randall.

The HFCA community owes a debt of gratitude to Rich Dudley, who is retiring from the Board after having served three years as coordinator of our common ground. Not only did Rich do a fantastic job maintaining our common grounds, he also served as our Vice President.

Thanks also go to Jaime Gutierrez who is stepping down from the position of Treasurer after serving in that capacity for several years. Jaime has agreed to continue on the Board as an At Large member, and will show the new Treasurer the ropes. And, thanks go to Kirk Randall for editing the newsletter these past two years. Kirk plans to continue until someone else steps forward or his keyboard wears out.

At the next meeting of the Board, the members will arm wrestle to determine who assumes what position on the Board; those positions will be announced in the January newsletter.

Although the Board is now up to full strength, there is room in other groups that need your help. The Neighborhood Watch is always looking for new members, because the more members there are, the fewer times per year each member has to do a tour through the neighborhood. The Welcome Wagon can use new hands and faces. Contact Dave Dempster for information on the Neighborhood Watch and John Kitzmiller for information on the Welcome Wagon.

Please note that annual dues have been raised from \$110 per year to \$125. Annual dues are due on January 1. Checks payable to HFCA can be mailed to: HFCA, PO Box 2239, Fairfax, VA 22031-2239. The penalty for late payment has been increased by the Board from \$25 to \$50.

In addition to a dues increase of \$10 to cover increasing costs, an additional \$5 assessment will go into reserves to help pay for major projects such as re-paving the walking paths. In this way, we hope to avoid a special assessment when large capital projects are paid for. It is hoped that by building these reserves beforehand, we won't require a special assessment.

If snow is creating hazardous driving conditions, please call the Virginia Department of Transportation at 703-383-8368, as they are the party responsible for plowing the streets in Hickory Farms. Please don't call Board members; they will likely be shoveling their own driveways at the time!

Thanks to everyone in the community for your contributions to making our neighborhood as wonderful a place to live as it is.

Finally, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Recent Architectural Control Committee (ACC) Actions

These applications were recently approved by the ACC, unless otherwise noted. (All)

10000 Cotton Farm – Addition, porch, garage

(Scenic Remodeling Ad Here)

Transitions

Rich Dudley (Farm House) is stepping down from the Board of Directors on. Rich has served as Vice President and Coordinator of our Common Grounds for a number of years – jobs which he has done in magnificent fashion. We will sorely miss his leadership in our community. Thanks, Rich!

Keith Ferguson (Harvester Farm), who is already a member of the Architectural Control Committee, was elected to the Board at the November Annual Meeting and will assume his new duties on January 1.

Send news regarding Hickory Farms *resident* weddings, new neighbors, births, HS & college graduations, birthdays (80, 85, 90, etc), and wedding anniversaries (55, 60, 65, etc.) to kirk_randall@hotmail.com. Be sure to name the street the honoree lives on. (All)

Hickory Farms Home Sales
Arlene Da Cruz

Address	Model	BR	BA	List Price	Sold Price	Seller Subsidy	Days on Market	Date Sold	Notes
4322 Still Meadow Rd	Split Foyer	4	3	434,900	425,000	0	81	15-Feb	New windows, siding and carpet.
4283 Country Squire Lane	Colonial	4	3.5	539,900	500,000	10,000	62	4-Apr	Updated, new kitchen, granite, hdwd flrs, updated baths
4341 Farm House Lane	Split Level	5	2.5	554,888	533,000	5,435	53	30-Apr	Gourmet kitchen, updated baths, windows, siding & roof
10028 Wheatfield Ct	Split Level	4	2.5	459,900	453,000	500	74	20-Jun	Updated kitchen w/corrian, pergo floors
4333 Still Meadow Rd	Colonial	5	3.5	499,888	465,000	6,000	154	20-Jun	Updated kitchen & baths. Gorgeous florida rm addition.
10023 Cotton Farm Rd	Split Level	4	2.5	535,000	525,000	0	23	16-Jul	Updated baths & kitchen, new windows, electric awning
4351 Farm House Lane	Split Level	4	2.5	469,000	440,000	0	263	15-Aug	4 level split, hdwd flrs on main lvl, sunroom addition.
10116 Roundtop Ct	Colonial	5	3.5	479,900	479,900	0	21	28-Oct	Remodeled kitchen w/maple & granite, fin lower level.
10029 Wheatfield Ct	Split Foyer	4	3	498,888	475,000	0	10	20-Nov	Updated kitchen w/granite, hdwd main level, new driveway.

No homes are for sale at this time.

Material provided by Arlene Da Cruz -- a full service Realtor and Tumbleweed Ct resident. Arlene is associated with Weichert Realtors (www.arlenedacruz.com), She assists both home buyers and sellers, as well as manages rental properties for homeowners. Call 571-436-6551 or email arlenemyrealtor@gmail.com (1-4-7-10)

Do You Need Tree Work Done?

I will be organizing a group purchase of tree trimming and removal services in December or January, when prices are usually lower. If interested, please email me with your contact information at kirk_randall@hotmail.com or call 703-425-0210.

The Hickory Farms Email Service – Not a “Chat Room” or Source of Spam

If you have hesitated about joining the HF email service -- thinking it is a “chat room” -- not to worry. It most definitely is not. Members usually get at most 2-3 emails a month from their neighbors, most relating to recommendations for reputable contractors and announcements of HF activities, such as the spring picnic and Annual Meeting. The monthly newsletter is also distributed via email (in addition to your delivered paper copy). Moreover, the email service is not a source of “spam.” Only residents of Hickory Farms may send emails through the service, and all messages must be approved by coordinators Ellie Coddington and Heather Webb. Emails not related to life in our community is prohibited. To join, please visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HickoryFarms/> -- Click "Join this Group" -- Be sure to click the “Individual Emails” option.

Woodson Tunes for Tots Holiday Concert

On Wednesday, December 3rd and Thursday, December 4th at 10 am, the Woodson High School Symphonic Band will present a concert of holiday music geared especially for children ages 3 – 7. Last year, Bob the Builder and Dora the Explorer narrated the show, along with audience visits by Rudolph, Frosty the Snowman, and a certain gentleman dressed in red. And who could resist giggling at the band members dancing around a giant dreidel? This year’s narrators are a surprise, so come see which fun characters will host the concert!

Although the school is under renovation, great care and planning is being taken to ensure the safety of our guests.

Tickets cost only \$3.00 per person. If you would like to bring a group of 10 or more, please mail reservation requests to Mrs. Lynn Hill, 3507 Alba Place, Fairfax, VA 22031, or you may call/email her at (703) 385-5561 or lynnhill@yahoo.com.

Fairfax County News

Search Fairfax County’s database of unclaimed money that could be waiting for you:
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/finance/unclaimedmoney

Fairfax County has launched a presence on YouTube, Facebook, and MySpace. Watch videos or join the County's groups: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/getfairfax

Donate used cell phones for victims of domestic violence (abused spouses, etc):
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/news_press_releases/20081027a.htm

Renters whose landlords are facing foreclosure should know their rights:
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2008/110.htm

Free Home Security Inspections

The Fairfax County Police Department offers free home security inspections. A trained officer will inspect the locks, doors, and windows of your home and make recommendations for improvement. Outdoor lighting, landscaping, and other factors affecting the protection of your home from burglary also will be reviewed. Call the West Springfield District crime prevention officer at 703-644-7377. (12)

Woodson HS Band Winter Concert December 15

The W.T. Woodson Band will present its Winter Concert at 7:30 p.m. Monday, December 15. **Admission is free** and the Woodson community is cordially invited to come hear the award-winning Symphonic and Concert II Bands.

Please note that due to renovation of Woodson's auditorium, **the concert will be held at Fairfax High School**, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax.

The bands will be playing selections from band standards like "La Belle Helene" by Jacques Offenbach, "Occident et Orient" by Camille Saint-Saens, "Walking Tune" by Percy Grainger, "Dance of the Jesters" by P.I. Tchaikovsky, "Slavonic Rhapsody" by Antonin Dvorak and "Sleigh Ride" by Leroy Anderson. The Symphonic Band will feature guest flute soloist Betsy Hill from the President's Own, the United States Marine Band, playing "Concertino" by Cecile Chaminade.

Blenheim Site & Civil War Interpretive Center Opens in Fairfax City

The newly opened 12-acre City of Fairfax Civil War Interpretive Center features a museum building, pre-Civil War era historic buildings, and a beautiful vista that transports visitors to Fairfax of yesteryear. The site's centerpiece is Blenheim, a central-hall plan brick farmhouse built in 1859, which was used as a hospital by occupying Union soldiers. Blenheim is historically significant for the more than 100 signatures, art, poetry, and other "doodles" written on its walls by Union soldiers during their occupation in 1862-63. The house contains one of the most voluminous and best-preserved examples of Civil War inscriptions in the nation, a "diary on walls" providing insight into typical soldier life during the Civil War. House inscriptions and pictographs are discussed and illustrated in detail in full-scale images in the museum. The Center is located at 3610 Old Lee Highway (Between St. Leo's and Fairfax High School), and is open 12-4 pm Tuesday through Saturday. *Free* 75-90 minute tours of Blenheim building and grounds begin at 1 pm.

Fairfax Memorial Park

In last month's story on Fairfax Memorial Park, we listed a number of notables interred in the cemetery. Since then, we have learned of a few more. If you know of others, please email their names to Kirk.Randall@hotmail.com and we'll update the list for the web page version of this article, and for the next time this article appears in The Newsletter.

- Arthur Morrisette founder of Interstate Van Lines
- Charlie Wise husband of Janis Wise -- Still Meadow
- Jack Herrity former Fairfax County Board Chairman
- Jerry Pressler husband of Joan Pressler – Harvester Farm
- Kennedy Buchanan husband of Mary Buchanan -- Harvester Farm
- Kenneth Ritenour husband of Mary Ritenour – Cotton Farm

Out and About Hickory Farms George Mason University

Hickory Farms' biggest and most notable neighbor is nearby George Mason University. Looking at today's Mason, one of Virginia's largest higher educational institutions with over 35,000 students, faculty, and staff, it is difficult to believe that it began in a humble eight-room elementary school with only 17 students in 1957.

The story of GMU begins in 1949, when Colgate W. Darden Jr., President of the University of Virginia, organized a committee of local citizens to find support for higher education in Northern Va. Responding to that need, the General Assembly established a two-year branch of UVa in northern Virginia in 1956. The newly christened University College of the University of Virginia then began a search for a permanent location.

With classes slated to begin in the fall of 1957, the new school leased an old elementary school building at Bailey's Crossroads. Classes began that fall with an initial enrollment of 17. The old school building served as the home for University College for the next seven years.

In 1959, a permanent location was chosen for a two year UVa extension school, to be known as the George Mason College of the University of Virginia (GMC). The Town of Fairfax donated a large parcel of land to the new college. In 1963, after six years of branch status and classes at Bailey's Crossroads, GMC broke ground at the site of the new Fairfax Campus. By August 1964, the new Fairfax campus was nearly complete and students and faculty assisted the movers in the transfer of material and equipment from Bailey's Crossroads. In September 1963, the Fairfax Campus opened to an enrollment of 356 students.

In 1966, the General Assembly authorized GMC to become a four-year degree-granting college. Over the next year the student population increased to 1,128 with a faculty of 83. GMC granted its first bachelor's degrees in 1968 to a graduating class of 52 students. The next year, Governor Godwin signed a deed conveying to GMC 415 additional acres of land, expanding the school to its existing Fairfax boundaries. In 1972, the Virginia General Assembly enacted legislation which separated GMC from the University of Virginia. George Mason University, with a student enrollment of 4,166, had become independent of UVa.

During the next five years, George Mason's history is characterized by the expansion of the brand-new university's academic programs, physical plant, and infrastructure. Buildings critical to the growth of academics and student life at Mason, such as Student Union I and the Fenwick Library Tower (1974), Robinson Hall (1975), and the first student housing on

campus (1977) began to sprout up. Even with the new buildings, George Mason was short of classrooms and had to use other facilities, such as the old Fairfax High School, the current home of St. Paul VI High School (The author attended graduate business school in that building during 1976-78).

During George Johnson's tenure as president (1978-1996), GMU greatly increased its stature. Enrollment climbed from 9,600 to 23,000. The University merged with the International School of Law in Arlington to form the George Mason University School of Law in 1979. The School of Information Technology and Engineering, the first of its kind in the Nation, was formed in 1985. Professor James Buchanan won the Nobel Prize for Economics in 1986. The Krasnow Institute for Advanced Study was launched in 1991, and the Center for History and New Media in 1994.

Mason continues to build a national and international reputation. Since 1996, enrollment has jumped from 23,000 to over 30,000 (4,700 of whom live on campus). The Prince William campus was opened. In 2001, Mason started the National Biodefense Center at the Prince William campus, and professor Vernon L. Smith won the Nobel Prize for Economics the following year. The astonishing Men's Basketball team made a history making run to the 2006 NCAA Final Four, only losing in the tournament to the national champion, the University of Florida. And, the Ras al Khaimah Campus in the United Arab Emirates, conceived in 2005, has become the University's newest campus. With students from over 140 countries, Mason is one of the most diverse institutions of higher learning in the US.

Mason has indeed come a long way in a short 51 years - from a tiny branch college of the University of Virginia to a major nationally recognized university. We are proud to have it as our neighbor.

Adapted from www.gmu.edu/library/specialcollections/gmdcs_3.html.
Kirk Randall - Mason MBA '78

The Hickory Farms Newsletter is published every month, except for June and August. You may e-mail submissions to The Editor by the 25th of the prior month. Submissions and advertisements *must* be in Microsoft Word format. Advertisements *must* be prepaid. Past issues and information for advertisers may be found at www.hickoryfarms.org – click Newsletters.

The Editor is responsible for most of the contents of this newsletter; the exceptions are advertisements, submitted community service type announcements, articles with a byline, and other articles which have been obviously contributed by others. The Editor reserves the right to edit submissions for space or writing style. The Editor, subject to review by the Board of Directors, may reject any submission.

Your only notification that Annual Dues are due is through The Newsletter.

We do not mail bills for annual dues.

**Hickory Farms Community Association
Annual Dues Notice**

The \$125 annual dues assessment is due starting January 1, 2009.

Payments received after March 31, 2009 will be assessed a \$50 late fee.

Dues are used to maintain the common grounds, insure the association and Board members, hold neighborhood picnics, support Neighborhood Watch, and fund all other expenses 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 a \$50 late fee. If a check is returned for insufficient funds, the homeowner must reimburse any expenses incurred by the HFCA.

The HFCA is committed to maintaining and improving the quality 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 the Association's By-laws to cover HFCA, which are outlined and approved by the homeowners at each Annual Meeting.

If you are not a property owner, you are not responsible for paying the assessment; please forward this notice to the property owner.

Please return the completed coupon below with your check.

HFCA ANNUAL DUES

Make your check payable to **HFCA** and send it to:

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

Name: _____

Lot Number: _____

Street Address: _____

(1-2-3-12)