

Volume 9 – No. 9

December 2009

The Hickory Farms Newsletter

Board of Directors

President

John Kitzmiller 503-3443

Vice President

Keith Ferguson 703-323-1067

Treasurer

Dante Gilmer 978-0621

Secretary (Vacant)

Community Grounds, Paths
& Woods - Keith Ferguson
703-323-1067

ACC (Building Design Approvals)

Kirk Randall 425-0210

At Large

Jaime Gutierrez 425-7919

Other Volunteers

Neighborhood Watch

John Kitzmiller 503-3443

Welcome New Neighbors

Joyce Kitzmiller 503-3443

Newsletter & Web Site

Kirk Randall 425-0210

Community Yard Sale (Fall)

Pete Scala 764-0730

Email (Listserv)

Heather Webb 425-1347

Ellie Coddling 426-4606

Social Committee

Patty Dudley 503-2060

Dawn Dempster 503-0561

Lynn Welch 978-4113

Architectural Control Committee

Keith Ferguson

Donna Garfield

Greg Gillette

Kirk Randall

Carole Rogers

Larry Rogers

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*

***Neighborhood Watch Folks – Please note
schedule changes on p. 2***

***\$125 Annual Dues are due soon. Pay
ASAP to avoid the \$50 late fee.***

We do not mail bills for Annual Dues.

***Your only notification is through this
newsletter. Please see p. 7.***

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

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

John Kitzmiller

Please volunteer for this important neighborhood activity – all it takes is one three-hour Friday or Saturday evening every three months, or so. Neighborhood Watch is proven to cut crime! It's also a great way to meet your neighbors. John Kitzmiller 703-503-3443

Fri	December 4	John Kitzmiller	
Sat	December 5	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Fri	December 11	Dave Maurer	Sanjeev Munjal
Sat	December 12	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg
Fri	December 18		Brand Niemann
Sat	December 19	Bob Sottile	Lee Sottile
Fri	December 25	Susan Mulliner	Brenton Mulliner
Sat	December 26	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters
Fri	January 1	Bob Cosgriff	Don Klingemann
Sat	January 2	Kirk Randall	Chris Woody
Fri	January 8	Jeff Lindsay	Larry Rogers
Sat	January 9	Angel Meza	Jason Meza
Fri	January 15	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay
Sat	January 16	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz
Fri	January 22	Mike Martin	Scott Buchanan
Sat	January 23	Pete Scala	Rose Scala
Fri	January 29	Stan Lee	Jim Marshall
Sat	January 30	Pam Barrett	Tom Barrett

Recent Architectural Control Committee (ACC) Approvals

(All)

10007 Tumbleweed – Deck, Front Door, and Portico

Do You Need Tree Work Done?

I will be organizing a group purchase of tree trimming and removal services in January, when prices are usually lower. Last year, our group purchase contractor saved us one third to one half the cost of the other bidders. If interested, please send your contact information and a detailed description of the work you want done to kirk_randall@hotmail.com or call 703-425-0210.

Parking of Commercial Vehicles on Our Streets

As noted last month, the Board of Supervisors is considering restrictions on the parking of

certain kinds of *commercial* vehicles in neighborhoods such as Hickory Farms. Supervisor John Cook's view is: "I believe we should regulate commercial parking on a street or neighborhood basis in those areas where there are serious concerns. I am concerned, however, that a county-wide approach seems too broad. Some businesses will incur thousands of dollars in expenses under this broad restriction and I worry that a one-size-fits-all, county-wide approach to what is a problem in only parts of the County may impose an expensive, unnecessary burden on homeowners and business people." There will be a hearing on this matter on December 7 at 4:40 PM. If you would like to attend or testify, call 703-324-3151. If you can't testify but have an opinion on this proposal – either pro or con – contact our Supervisor Cook, at 703-425-9300 or braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Note: The proposed regulation does not affect campers. RVs, boats, or trailers parked in residential neighborhoods. One way to restrict the parking of such vehicles is through the creation of a Community Parking District (CPD). See next article.,

Parking of Boats, Trailers, and RVs on Our Streets Should Hickory Farms Create a Community Parking District?

The Hickory Farms Board of Directors frequently receives complaints about boats, trailers, and recreational vehicles (RVs) parked in our community. Our Restrictive Covenants - our "Constitution" - state: "No boats, trailers, tent, or any structure of a temporary character, or portable vehicle other than automobiles shall stay parked forward of any dwelling for a period exceeding 7 calendar days." So, boats, trailers, and RVs may not be parked long term in the front yard or driveway.

However, it is untested whether our Restrictive Covenants can restrict parking of these vehicles on streets, which are owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia and policed by Fairfax County.

The Virginia General Assembly has given Fairfax County the power to establish Community Parking Districts (CPDs) for neighborhoods such as Hickory Farms where on-street parking by certain kinds of vehicles are prohibited. Enforcement in the CPD is done by Fairfax County police.

The Board of Directors wants to know whether there is enough support in the community to establish a CPD. At least 120 of the homeowners would have to agree to the arrangement.

Before we pursue a CPD in Hickory Farms, the Board wants to hear from you. Do you favor such an approach, or not? Are there other ways of discouraging on-street parking by these kinds of vehicles? You can submit your comments online at the Hickory Farms email listserv (see p.1 on how to join), or speak with John Kitzmiller at 703-503-3443

The Details of a CPD

Under a CPD, parking of the following would be prohibited on public streets in residentially zoned areas:

- . watercraft

- . motor homes
- . campers
- . trailers
- . vehicles greater than or equal to 3 axles
- . vehicles with a GVWR greater than or equal to 12,000 lbs
- . vehicles transporting greater than or equal to 16 passengers (except school buses)

Exemptions to the parking prohibition include:

- . vehicles used by federal, state or local public agencies to provide services
- . commercial vehicles discharging passengers, performing work or providing services
- . vehicles temporarily parked, for up to 48 hours, for the purpose of loading, unloading or preparing for a trip.

The process for establishing a CPD is as follows:

1. A request is made to the district supervisor by an interested party such as a homeowners association like HFCA.
2. The district supervisor forwards the request to Fairfax County Department of Transportation.
3. FCDOT issues a petition and area maps, identifying the addresses to be canvassed in the petition and which would fall within the CPD.
4. The homeowners association gathers signatures of at least 60 percent of homeowners in the affected area that support the proposed CPD. In addition, there must be support along each block of at least 50 percent.
5. The district supervisor forwards the petitions to FCDOT.
6. The Board of Supervisors conducts a public hearing to consider the proposed CPD.
7. FCDOT installs "Community Parking District" signs in the neighborhood.
8. There is a one-time fee of \$1,980 that would be paid to Fairfax County using Hickory Farms funds.

[Scenic Remodeling Ad Here]

This Month's Home Maintenance Checklist

See the complete list at www.hickoryfarms.org → Home Maintenance and Appearance (All)

Bathroom Check – Check faucets and showers for leaks. Test toilets for leakage by placing a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Wait a few hours. If you see coloring in the bowl, you need to have your tank flapper replaced. Check caulking around

bathtubs and showers for areas where water may leak and cause damage. Check for leaks under toilet and sink. Locate the Ground Fault Interrupter (usually in the electrical outlet in one of the bathrooms); press the test/reset buttons.

Outside Water Faucet Shutdown – Turn off outside water faucets using the inside shutoff valves. Open the faucets to drain remaining water. Drain water hoses before storage.

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)

Property Repairs

John Kitzmiller

Members of the Board and the ACC have walked through the neighborhood and noted apparent violations of the Restrictive Covenants and of Rules and Regulations relating to homeowners keeping their property in a proper state of repair. With winter just around the corner, it is hardly time to be running around the house painting, replacing shutters, or fixing shingles. However, there will be an effort in the spring to encourage everyone to keep their property shipshape.

Your neighbors would be grateful if you would take a walk around your home to identify possible problem areas and correct them when the weather begins to warm up again.

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. Email 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. (12)

“Junk” Cars

Under Chapter 110 of the Fairfax County Code, junk cars can be kept on your property only if they are completely screened or shielded from view. An “Inoperative Motor Vehicle” is any

motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer which:

- Is not capable of starting and moving under its own power; OR
- Does not display valid license plates; OR
- Does not display an inspection decal that is valid or displays an inspection decal that has been expired for more than sixty days.

To report an inoperative vehicle, call the Police Impound Section at 703-280-0716. Callers' names are not divulged. The Police can tow an inoperative vehicle if the owner does not get it in working order to remove it within ten days after receiving a violation notice. (12)

This newsletter is published monthly, except February, June, and August. 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 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 that 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.

This is Your Bill for Annual Dues

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.

Payments received after March 31 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)