

Volume 11 – No. 9

December 2011

The Hickory Farms Newsletter

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Welcome New Neighbors

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Community Yard Sale (Fall)

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Schwarz, John Kitzmiller

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Sondra Arnold, Carole Rogers

Claire/Sean Coleman

Get Email addresses at

www.hickoryfarms.org

All telephone area

Hickory Farms Community Association

P.O. Box 2239, Fairfax VA 22031

www.hickoryfarms.org

**2012 annual dues of \$150
must be paid no later than
January 7. Avoid the \$50 late
payment fine. Mail your check
to the above address ASAP.**

**Welcome new Board members
Don & Sara Lobeda (Wheatfield)
and Ed Wagner (Harvester Farm)**

**Need help with babysitting
or chores? See our
Student Yellow Pages.**

Check out our new advertisers!

Happy Holidays!

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"

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The Hickory Farms Email Service – Not a “Chat Room” or 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 (e.g. the spring picnic and Annual Meeting). In addition to your delivered hard copy, the monthly newsletter is also distributed via email. The email service, however, is not a source of “spam.” Only adult residents of Hickory Farms may send emails through the service and all messages must be approved by coordinators working under the Board of Directors. Email unrelated to life in our community is prohibited. To join, please visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HickoryFarms/> -- Click "Join this Group" (12)

Last Call - Tree Work Group Purchase

Kirk Randall is organizing his biennial tree work group purchase for later this month, when rates are significantly lower than other seasons. If interested, please email your name, phone number, and street address to kirk_randall@hotmail.com (that’s an underscore between names) or call 703-425-0210. Please describe in detail the work to be done so the company representative can swing by and make an estimate. If the work is complicated, please say so and Kirk will ask the estimator to meet with you personally. Of course, you are not obliged to have your work done by this company; you may go with another company if you please.

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Architectural Control Committee Approvals

4356 Farm House - Fence
 10005 Cotton Farm – Doors & Shutters


Got a Concern About George Mason University or GMU Students?

Call Traci Claar, GMU Director of Community Relations at 703-993-8846

Shooting Air Rifles in Hickory Farms – Correction

In last month's Newsletter, we said that discharging BB guns, air rifles, and paint ball guns are not permitted in Hickory Farms. Oops! Just a few months ago, the Fairfax County ordinance was changed to permit these items to be used on the homeowner's property. However, if the projectile could potentially land on another person's property, the owner of that property must first give their permission. You can safely assume that the Board of Directors will not give permission for anyone to shoot projectiles that could potentially land on Common Area property. Children under the age of 16 using a BB gun, air rifle, or paint ball gun must be supervised by a parent, guardian, or other adult supervisor approved by the child's parent or guardian. Toy bows are not subject to these restrictions. Regardless of the law changes, if you see any person shooting in such a manner that could endanger other people, please call Fairfax County Police immediately.

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- Bathroom Remodeling

Are Your Window Shutters Faded?

Many Hickory Farms homeowners had their window shutters replaced about seven years ago during the siding/windows/roofing group purchase. Some folks have noticed that their shutters have prematurely faded. Kathy Gillette (Cotton Farm) has learned that [Mid-America Siding Components](#) (29797 Beck Road, Woxom, MI 48393 - part of Tapco Group), will replace the shutters under their lifetime warranty. If you would like to submit a claim, call 800-521-8486 and explain your fading problem. Mid-America will send you a claim form through the mail. Return the completed form along with 3-4 close-up pictures of shutters, one picture of the entire home, and your receipt from the installation contractor. The replacement shutters will then be shipped directly to you. A quick scan of the neighborhood indicates that the raised panel shutters are fading faster than the louvered shutters. If you are making a claim for faded raised panel shutters, you may ask for louvered shutters as replacements. Mid-American's warranty is for the shutters only; you will have to reinstall them yourself or hire a contractor to do the work (probably a few hundred dollars).

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)

Winter Sidewalk & Driveway Care

Never - ever - use salt on the driveway or sidewalk to melt ice or snow. Salt eats away concrete in the blink of an eye. Although using salt to melt snow and ice is convenient in the short run, you'll pay for it when you spend thousands of dollars for a new driveway. If you feel that you must use an ice or snow melting chemical, please ensure that the package says it will not damage concrete.



Learn Tai Chi

Classes are taught by Hickory Farms resident Dante Gilmer.

Tai Chi is great for relieving stress and improving balance, coordination, flexibility and focus.

10am Sundays & 11:10/12:10 Wednesdays

Our studio is just minutes from Hickory Farms at 11226 Waples Mill Road (at the intersection just before Fair Oaks Mall)

703.862.2192.

www.stillwatertaichi.com

This Month's Home Maintenance Checklist

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*.

Cleaning our Gutters – Overflowing gutters lead to ground erosion and wet basements. If you are surrounded by trees, you may have to do this 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.

Neighborhood Watch

John Kitzmiller

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! Contact: John Kitzmiller 703-503-3443

Fri	December 2	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay
Sat	December 3	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz
Fri	December 9	Mike Martin	Scott Buchanan
Sat	December 10	Pete Scala	Rose Scala
Fri	December 16	Stan Lee	Jim Marshall
Sat	December 17	Pam Barrett	Tom Barrett
Fri	December 23	-----	-----
Sat	December 24	-----	-----
Fri	December 30	-----	-----
Sat	December 31	-----	-----
Fri	Jan. 6	John Verheul	Tammy Verheul
Sat	Jan. 7	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Fri	Jan. 13	Dave Maurer	Sanjeev Munjal
Sat	Jan. 14	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg
Fri	Jan. 20	Jaime Gutierrez	Ed Wagner
Sat	Jan. 21	Dave Dempster	Dawn Dempster
Fri	Jan. 27	Susan Mulliner	Brenton Mulliner
Sat	Jan. 28	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters

Eagle Scout Candidate Jonah Basl & Friends Replace Common Grounds Bridges

You may recall that the bridges over Rabbit Run (which runs behind Country Squire, Cotton Farm and Harvester Farm) washed away during recent storms.

Jonah Basl (Wheatfield Court – 3rd from left in photo) volunteered to replace the bridges for his Boy Scout Eagle Project. With the help of several other scouts from Troop 1525, friends and neighbors, Jonah constructed and installed new bridges in early November.

“The project was to build bridges on the Rabbit’s Run nature trail. I built 4 bridges in total. There are two plank



bridges. The plank bridges are just like normal bridges except they are on the ground covering muddy areas. Also there are two new bridges that go over the creek in the trail. One is a flat bridge that was very unstable and too short to cover the gap, and the other is an arched bridge that replaced a low bridge. Now, when it rains we hope the rain will pass safely under the new arched bridge. Two other bridges that crossed the creek were very wobbly so I had the team dig them in so they are flush with the ground and stable. I hope that everyone will benefit from my project. I hope people will enjoy walking on the path now that there are sturdy bridges. I would like to thank Mr. Keith Ferguson for his guidance on the project as well as the Hickory Farms Community Association for sponsoring and funding the project.” - Jonah

Thank you, Jonah! On behalf of the residents of Hickory Farms, we wish you well in your Scouting endeavors.

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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. (1-4-7-10)

Zachary Buchanan (13) 703-978-0045	Leaf raking, snow removal, etc.
Brittany Patterson (16) 571-643-1739	Babysitting

Welcome New Board Members / Volunteers

Our request for additional help to deliver newsletters elicited six responses. It's wonderful that there are a lot of engaged and interested folks in our community willing to help out. Sondra Arnold (Round Top) beat everyone to the punch, so she'll be delivering newsletters along the western part of Still Meadow Road.

New Wheatfield homeowners Sara and Don Lobeda will be tag-teaming the care of our Common Grounds, taking over for Keith Ferguson, who has served us ably for several years.

And, Harvester Farm resident Ed Wagner is taking over Secretarial duties from long-term Board member Jaime Gutierrez.

Keith and Jaime will continue through the remainder of the year as At-Large Board members.

Please give all five incoming and outgoing Board members your sincere appreciation the next time you see them!

"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)

The Hickory Farms 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 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. Advertisers are not endorsed by the HFCA.