

December
2015

The Hickory Farms

Newsletter

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Vanessa Franck 483-0730

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Newsletter

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Community Yard Sale (Fall)

Pete Scala 764-0730

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Roethlisberger 426-9099

At Large – Mike Mehrman

323-0801

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Claire & Sean Coleman

Debby Buchanan

Get Email addresses at

www.hickoryfarms.org

All telephone area

codes are 703-

Hickory Farms Community Association

P.O. Box 2239, Fairfax VA 22031

www.hickoryfarms.org

**We held our annual meeting on October 20th.
Something new was added this year, a
drawing of members present for no Annual
Assessment charges for 2016 (\$150). It
proved to be quite popular in that it attracted
the largest Annual Meeting crowd in many
years.**

**You should have received a BRIGHT GREEN
Annual Assessment bill in the mail in recent
weeks. To avoid a late assessment fee,
please mail your \$150 check to the above
address no later than January 7**

**Please welcome aboard our new Webmaster,
Farm House resident Vincent Dasalla.**

**Speeding and not respecting stopped school
busses are dangerous issues in our
community. Please read the articles devoted
to those important topics.**

**With this issue, we kick off our 40th
anniversary celebration with the story
of Revolutionary War British General
Edward Braddock and the nearby road
that he never traversed but was,
nevertheless, named after him.**

Join the Hickory Farms email/listserv Group

- 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 in PDF format.

Visit <http://www.hickoryfarms.org/E-mail.htm> -- Click "Join Group"

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Annual Assessment Payments Must Be Made by January 7

The deadline for paying your \$150 Hickory Farms Annual Assessment is January 7. Please send your check to HFCA, P.O. Box 2239, Fairfax, Virginia 22031. Be sure to include on the check itself the house number and street name of the lot for whose Assessment you are paying. Checks that are not postmarked or in the physical possession of the Treasurer by January 7 will be considered late and will be charged a \$50 late assessment fee. Checks that are received late and do not include the \$50 fee will be returned for non-payment. On February 1, delinquent accounts will be turned over to the Association's attorneys for collection. At that point, the amount owed by a delinquent homeowner would be the \$200 plus attorney fees and court costs. These procedures are in accord with the Hickory Farms Bylaws, which have no provision for waiver. The Treasurer does not begin cashing checks until January 2nd.

(11-12-1)

The Next Board of Directors Meeting is January 13

Homeowners are welcome to attend any Board meeting. Please contact President Bruce Bernhardt at 703-989-0751 or email him at bnbnjb06@cox.net to make arrangements to attend or to pass on your concerns about community issues.

(1-5-9)

Didn't Attend the October Annual Meeting?

Please read the minutes at

www.hickoryfarms.org/Meeting%20Minutes%202015.htm

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Please Welcome Our New Webmaster

Please welcome aboard our new Webmaster, Farm House resident Vincent Dasalla. Vince, Agnel Berry's son, has generously volunteered to improve our web presence at www.HickoryFarms.org. He replaces Kirk Randall, who has been maintaining the site for more than a decade. Welcome aboard, Vince!

If You See Something ... Say Something

The recent terrorist attacks in Paris, France are a stark reminder of the times we live in. But, while terror attacks are horrifying, remember this guidance from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security: "It's not about paranoia or being afraid. It's about standing up and protecting our communities...one detail at a time because a lot of little details can become a pattern." "See Something, Say Something" is more than a catchphrase. If you see something you know shouldn't be there — or someone's behavior that doesn't seem quite right, say something. Because only you know what's supposed to be a regular part of your everyday routine. If you see something suspicious, call 911 if it's urgent or 703-681-2131 if not. (Department of Homeland Security)



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Neighborhood Snow Preparations

Most of us are not wishing for another 2010 “Snowmegeddon”, but if we get a couple of big snowfalls, there are a few things we can do to make life easier on all of us. First of all, it would be really great if everyone would get their cars off the street, so when the snowplows come through they can actually push the snow to the curb so we have wider passageways on the street. It would also reduce the amount of snow for each of us to shovel in order to get to our mailboxes so that mail can still be delivered. Also, if your cars are in your driveway, there’s less area you have to shovel when you move them onto the street. As for garage owners, if you park your cars in your driveway during a snowstorm, once it stops snowing, all you have to do is brush off the cars, drive them into your garage and you only have a fraction of the snow to shovel away on your driveway. Be sure you shovel around your cars and keep a passage way between the cars and garage door for easier movement. (12)

How Many Dogs May I Have Here in Hickory Farms?

Under [Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance Section 2-512](#), most homes in Hickory Farms may have no more than two dogs. If you have a complaint about a resident keeping too many dogs under this ordinance, call the Fairfax County Zoning Department at 703-324-1300. (12)



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Student Yellow Pages

If you wish to offer services such as snow removal, raking leaves, lawn mowing, babysitting, general home maintenance, etc., **your parent** should contact the Editor at 703-424-0210 or Kirk_Randall@Hotmail.com, giving the information shown in the table. (12-5-9)

Zach Buchanan (17) 703-307-7323.	Install your outside holiday decorations Shovel snow
Cody Dempster (14) 703-503-0561	Yard work like raking leaves and mowing lawns Shovel snow, housework
Erika Maaseide (13) 703 865-4469	Babysitting

Hickory Farms History – Street by Street

Bob Cosgriff – Cotton Farm

There were four phases to the construction of our neighborhood: Phase I (1975, with occupancy in late summer 1976) was Farm House Lane, Still Meadow Road and Cotton Farm Road west of the creek. Phase II was Cotton Farm Road east of the creek, Harvester Farm Lane and Tumbleweed Court. Phase III, started in 1981,

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consisted of Country Squire Lane and Wheatfield Court (where the small farm house was). Phase IV was one property at 4306 Burke Station Road. Anecdotally, that was where the eastern entrance to Hickory Farms was supposed to be. Since the proposed entrance was too close to the curve on Burke Station Road, the entrance was moved to hence Cotton Farm Road.

Architectural Control Committee Approvals

4349 Farm House Lane – Shutter Replacement
 10007 Cotton Farm Road – Retaining Wall and Privacy Fence

Protecting Menorahs, Twinkle Lights & Rudolph Vanessa Franck (Cotton Farm)

A friendly reminder that while decorating for the Winter Holidays you may want to take extra precautions to protect your decorations. Many residents of Hickory Farms reported that their Autumn/Halloween decorations went missing or were damaged in October.

To prevent a similar fate for any of your Winter Holiday decorations please consider having motion sensor lights wherever you have decorations outside of your house. If you have an item that has sentimental value or that is valuable in another way you may want to consider displaying it from inside your house. And, finally, please keep an eye out for each other and report any issues to the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator or via email to the Neighborhood ListServ.

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Speeders in Hickory Farms Rose Scala – Still Meadow

There are frequent speeders on Cotton Farm, Farm House and Still Meadow. There have even been crashes on Still Meadow when drivers lost control of their vehicles. Adults, children, and our personal property (including parked cars) are all at risk. We must stop speeding in our community before someone is seriously injured or killed. Unless speeding is stopped, many homeowners will petition governmental authorities to implement #3 and #4.:

1. Speed monitoring with electronic signs that tell you how fast you are going.
2. Have police set up speed traps. This can be successful in the short term, but isn't a long term solution. And, as the police point out, the people caught speeding are usually the residents of the community itself, not vehicles that are passing through. That was determined before the installation of all-way stop signs years ago throughout the community to slow down traffic.
3. Traffic calming techniques. This includes speed monitoring signs, traffic enforcement, and further measures.
4. Speed bumps, redirected traffic lanes, more stop signs, etc. If you want to see a community that has adopted extensive traffic calming approaches, visit Supervisor Cook's

(our elected District Supervisor) home community of Kings Park, on the east side of Braddock



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Road half-way between our community and the Beltway.

Just how dangerous is speeding in our community? When I go out to get my mail, I step away from the curb if a car is coming, because, living on the outside of the Still Meadow curve, I'm afraid the driver will lose control and hit me.

To learn more about traffic calming, please read the Va. Dept. of Transportation's Traffic Calming Guide at www.virginiadot.org/business/resources/TrafficCalmingGuideOct2002.pdf

Editor's note (Kirk Randall) – Our community association does not have jurisdiction over the roads in our community; that is the job of the Virginia Department of Transportation and Fairfax County. I strongly encourage interested residents to engage our elected Braddock District Supervisor John C. Cook regarding traffic issues in our community. You can visit him or his staff personally at his office in the library at 9002 Burke Lake Road, by calling 703-425-9300, or emailing him at braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov Remember, it's the squeaky wheel that gets the grease.

What Was That Shriek I Heard in the Middle of the Night?

Several neighbors living near the woods have been startled by what they describe as "blood-curdling shrieks" in the middle of the night. Our local wildlife expert Bob Cosgriff says the most likely candidate is a red fox. A coyote can't be ruled out, but foxes are more plentiful

here. The sound is not that of a fox killing something (like a mouse, squirrel, rabbit or cat), but more likely a vocalization to mark territory or confront a potential rival. Also, Bob says it's probably not a mating call since that usually takes place in January or February.

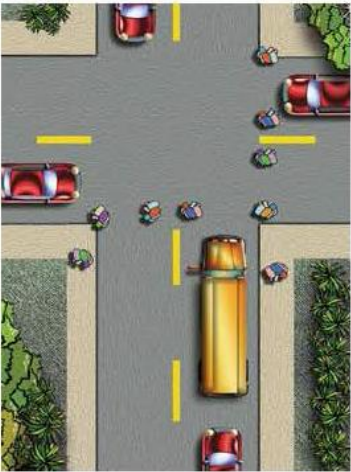
Save a Child’s Life - When a School Bus Stops, So Should You

It’s bad enough that many drivers don’t stop at stop signs in our neighborhood, but now there are numerous drivers who don’t even stop for school buses that are loading and unloading

children. The most popular spot that drivers violate the law is at the intersection of Cotton Farm and Farm House when the school bus is stopped at the stop sign on Farm House. Apparently, many drivers on Cotton Farm assume they don’t have to stop and wait for the bus before they move through the intersection.

Stopping for School Buses

In the following pictures, the red vehicles must stop and remain stopped until all children are clear of the roadway and the bus moves again.



- ▶ You must stop for stopped school buses with flashing red lights and an extended stop sign when you approach from any direction on a highway, private road or school driveway. Stop and remain stopped until all persons are clear and the bus moves again.
- ▶ You must also stop if the bus is loading or unloading passengers and the signals are not on.

It would appear that these drivers don’t know that the law requires **EVERYONE** at the intersection to wait for the school bus to turn off its red flashing lights before they enter the intersection. Please look at this page from the Virginia driver’s manual. **ALL** vehicles must stop and wait for the bus to turn off its red lights. If you are anywhere near a stopped school bus and are in doubt as to whether you

should stop, then do so out of an abundance of caution. The safety of our neighborhood children is in your hands.

This Month’s Home Maintenance Checklist

Lawn Mower Shutdown – After cutting the lawn for the last time this season: Add a bit of gas stabilizer to the fuel. 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.
Clean out 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.

How to Show Your Commitment as a Homeowner in Hickory Farms

Fairfax County Office of Consumer Affairs

Read and comply with the community's governing documents. You should have received a package of documents well before you closed on your home. If you didn't, check the association's website or ask a member of the board for copies. Make sure you understand what's included in them, particularly the rules about pets, parking, your home's exterior maintenance, architectural guidelines and when you must pay association assessments.

Provide current contact information to association board members. Make sure they know how to reach you in case of an emergency, and ask them to notify you of association meetings and other important events. If you rent out your home, provide contact information for your tenants also for use in an emergency.

Maintain your property according to established standards. The community's appearance can add value to all the homes within it-including yours-so it's important to keep landscaping neatly groomed and your home's exterior well-maintained.

Treat association leaders honestly and respectfully. Board members are homeowners-just like you-who have volunteered to give their time and energy freely to govern the community. While you should share your concerns about the community with them, do so in a way that's constructive, informative and helpful. Attend board meetings and vote in community elections. Board meetings are open to all who wish to sit in and keep up with issues under discussion. The association is a democracy, and your voice and vote can affect important issues.

Pay association assessments and other obligations on time. Your regular assessments pay for common-area maintenance, amenities and other shared expenses. If you don't pay on time, the burden for paying your portion of the association's bills falls on your neighbors. Contact a board member if you're having problems, to discuss alternative payment arrangements.

Ensure that tenants, visiting relatives and friends adhere to all rules and regulations. If you are leasing your home, you're liable for maintaining the condition of the home and for the behavior of those who live in it. Make sure to screen tenants thoroughly, and familiarize them with the community's rules.

In Commemoration of Hickory Farms' 40th Anniversary

Braddock Road - What's In a Name?

Bob Cosgriff (Cotton Farm Road)

An intriguing question concerning the Hickory Farms area is whether Braddock Road was actually traversed by British General Edward Braddock and his young colonial aide-de-camp, George Washington of Fairfax County. The latter was dispatched by Governor Dinwiddie in October 1753 to deliver a message to the French Commander on the Ohio. In Washington's own laconic style, he states that he "left Alexandria and went to Winchester," thus leaving us in doubt as to his actual route. However, the main "road" to Winchester from Alexandria

followed more or less what today is state route 7 (Leesburg Pike). A section of this route, called the "Vestal Gap Road" is still visible today in the Claude Moore Park in Sterling, Virginia (<http://www.hmdb.org/Marker.asp?Marker=20033>). It is documented that a young George Washington did use this route on his many trips between Alexandria-Winchester-Cumberland in the years preceding and during the French and Indian War.

Indeed, only a year after his unsuccessful "diplomatic" mission, he went back again to the Forks of the Ohio in 1754 with a small army of Virginians, but no mention again was made of any of the route until the force was near present day Cumberland, MD, nearer to the enemy. But it can be inferred that he used the existing and well-traveled Vestal Gap road. Southeast of present-day Pittsburgh, Washington ambushed a small French force, precipitating a retaliatory battle in which Washington's small force was defeated by the French and their Native American allies, resulting in Washington's surrender. He was paroled and returned to Alexandria. Surprisingly, he became somewhat of a hero for standing up to the French, even though he was defeated. One year later in 1755, he talked himself onto the staff of General Edward Braddock who had come to America with a larger force of regulars in a clear escalation of the situation, especially considering that England and France were at peace at this point.

Braddock's initial headquarters was in Alexandria. You can learn more on this important time in American colonial history by visiting the Carlyle House in Old Town Alexandria or take a virtual tour at www.nvrpa.org/park/carlyle_house_historic_park. His mission was to chastise the French and dislodge them from Fort Duquesne (present day Pittsburgh) to uphold British claims to the Ohio Valley. According to the diary of a participant, "one regiment and a portion of stores (was) to (go by way of) Winchester, Virginia, whence a new road was nearly completed to Fort Cumberland . . . on the 8th and 9th of April, the provincials and 6 companies of the 44th (regiment) under Colonel Sir Peter Halkett, set out for Winchester." Halkett's route followed what is now Route 7, although it could have started out on what is now Braddock Road in Alexandria, which basically parallels Leesburg Pike until it ends near the NVCC Alexandria Campus in the Skyline Drive area of Alexandria. There is no mention in any of the secondary sources I consulted that mention Halkett marching out through Fairfax County along what is now called Braddock Road in our area. This includes Thomas Crocker's comprehensive 2009 book, *Braddock's March*, which clearly traces Halkett's march up through the present-day Tysons Corner, then to Sterling and on through the Piedmont to Winchester. (Braddock crossed the Potomac to Georgetown and proceeded with the rest of his army west along what is now Wisconsin Avenue and River Road to follow a previously "engineered" road cut through to Cumberland, MD.)

Despite all their efforts in hacking through the rugged mountains of Maryland west of Cumberland, the British were ambushed and thoroughly defeated in the Battle of the Monongahela, July 9, 1755. Braddock was killed (as was Halkett and one of his sons). Washington - a volunteer aide-de-camp, a staff officer with no official rank or authority - being one of the few officers remaining, took the initiative to rally the survivors and got them back to Fort Cumberland safely. He paused on the retreat to bury General Braddock in the roadway and ordered the wagons and troops to pass over the grave to obliterate it. (This is a very interesting historical site to see near Uniontown, Pennsylvania if you take scenic Route 40 towards Pittsburgh.) If any road deserves to be called Braddock Road, it is this segment of historical roadway in Pennsylvania. The site of the battle lies within the present-day city of Braddock, PA. There is also a Braddock Heights on U.S. 40 outside of Frederick, Maryland,

which is on the route that Braddock himself took to his ill-fated end. So the poor General Braddock is well-memorialized, including by a road through the Braddock District of Fairfax County that, as far as is known, he never traversed!

Amended 2016 Budget

At its November 10th meeting, the Board of Directors amended the HFCA 2016 Budget from what they presented to the Members at the October 20th Annual Meeting. The Total Revenues, Total Expenses, and Net Income amounts remain the same, as does the 2016 Annual Assessment of \$150.

Hickory Farms Community Association		
	Yearend 2015 Projected Income & Expenses	2016 Budget Amended by the Board of Directors Nov 10
INCOME		
Annual Assessments	\$29,700	\$29,700
Interest – Checking & CDs	10	10
Prior Year Assessments	600	0
Late Assessment Charges	1,200	0
Recoupment of Legal Expenses	0	0
Advertising (Net)	1,600	1,450
Total Income	\$33,110	\$31,160
EXPENSES		
Tax Preparation/Audit	\$300	\$300
Bank Fees	20	20
Director's Insurance	1,850	2,000
Liability Insurance	325	400
Surety Insurance	275	350
Legal Fees	300	500
Common Areas Maintenance	20,000	32,000
Miscellaneous	300	300
Social	250	250
Neighborhood Watch	0	0
Printing	1,400	1,600
Taxes & Fees	250	300
Postage	100	100
Total Expenses	\$25,270	\$38,120
NET INCOME	\$7,840	\$-6,960
Annual Dues (Unchanged from 2015)		\$150

Neighborhood Watch Schedule

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! Call Vanessa Franck at 703-483-0730.

Sat	Nov 28	Debbi Buchanan	
Fri	Dec 4	John Kitzmiller	
Sat	Dec 5	Ed Wagner	
Fri	Dec 11	Pam Barrett	Tom Barrett
Sat	Dec 12	Stefan Schwarz	Christine Schwarz
Fri	Dec 18	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg
Sat	Dec 19	Jason Zhao	Laura Feng
Fri	Dec 25		
Sat	Dec 26	Wendy Chen	Tony Dong
Fri	Jan 1	John Verheul	Tami Verheul
Sat	Jan 2	Dave Dempster	Dawn Dempster
Fri	Jan 8	Dave Maurer	Sanjeev Munjal
Sat	Jan 9	Brian Roethlisberger	
Fri	Jan 15	Susan Mulliner	Brenton Mulliner
Sat	Jan 16		
Fri	Jan 22		
Sat	Jan 23	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters
Fri	Jan 29	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Sat	Jan 30	Rick Loranger	Judy Loranger

The HF 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, subject to review by the Board of Directors, may reject or edit any submission. Advertising in this newsletter does not constitute endorsement. The editor is Kirk Randall 703-425-0210 – kirk_randall@hotmail.com