

Volume 05, Issue 2

February 2005

The Hickory Farms Newsletter

Who to contact

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Mike Martin, Vice President
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703-323-0917
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*Hickory Farms Community Association
Fairfax County, Virginia*

President's Letter

Dear Homeowners:

Winter has finally arrived over the past couple of weeks, complete with colder temperatures and snow. Seventy degrees in January was bound to end. A quick reminder regarding the clearing of snow: when you are out clearing your driveway, please also clear off the sidewalks in front of your house.

Several homeowners have questioned the recent AAA increase in the cost of trash collection. The new \$22 monthly charge is quite a jump from our previous amount. AAA has stated that the increase is due to higher dump charges by Fairfax County, higher gas prices, and increased insurance costs. The dump charge for the Country to collect our trash is \$20 per household month; thus, AAA's charge of \$22 per month isn't overly exorbitant. That being said, the Board is taking a look at other options. Keep your eyes on the next newsletter for further updates.

One other note: the Association is looking for a new Neighborhood Watch chairperson. Marc Fogleman, the previous chairman, recently has had to step down due to personal reasons. On behalf of the Board and his neighbors, I thank Marc for his commitment over the past several years and wish him the best. Please consider volunteering your time for this important neighborhood committee. If you interested in taking this position or have questions about it, please contact me.

Stay warm, and don't hesitate to contact either me or another Board member with any neighborhood questions or concerns.

Jeff Altman HF HOA President

Inside this issue:

President's Letter

**Neighborhood
Watch Schedule**

**Neighborhood Speed
Bumps?**

Spring Yard Sale

**Home Improvement
Projects/Information**

Assessment Notice

REMINDER: Hickory Farms HOA annual dues are due by March 31. Dues are \$100. Late fees are \$25, and are charged based on postmark date. If you have any questions, please contact Hickory Farms' Treasurer, Jamie Gutierrez, at jagutierrez1@cox.net.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Below is the Watch List for February.

Fri	Feb 4	Rob Mikula	Sharon Mikula
Sat	Feb 5	Ron Cruz	Louise Cruz
Fri	Feb 11	Jaime Gutierrez	Ed Wagner
Sat	Feb 12	Stefan Schwarz	Christine Schwarz
Fri	Feb 18	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Sat	Feb 19	Bob Bentley	Nancy Bentley
Fri	Feb 25	Bill Galinis	Diana Galinis
Sat	Feb 26	Larry Russe	Chris Russe

Volunteers Needed!!

A Neighborhood Watch Committee chairperson (or co-chairs) is needed. Thanks to Marc Fogleman for all his work over the past couple years, and thanks also to Bob Cosgriff for stepping in & helping out in the interim until a new Chair is found. Please let Jeff Altman know if you are interested. He can be reached at either 703-978-0309 or jalt0629@hotmail.com.

Also, **volunteers are needed for the Architecture Control Committee (ACC).** If interested in participating in this committee, please contact the ACC Chair, Rob Mikula, at rmikula2000@yahoo.com

Neighborhood Speed Bump? Your Opinion Matters!

What would you think of a single speed bump installed on the portion of Still Meadow Road that slopes down from its intersection with Roberts Road? This is not only a particularly steep hill, but also has a substantial curve that limits the sight distance of drivers coming down it. Several young children live at the bottom of the hill, and residents have seen near misses where a child was running down the driveway into the street at the bottom of the hill while a vehicle made swift progress down the hill. A traffic-calming measure such as a single bump could do much in the way of slowing traffic coming around this bend, not to mention calming the anxieties of parents in the area. The Board wants your opinion! Please email them to Jeff Altman at jalt0629@hotmail.com.

Spring Yard Sale



Hickory Farms will be having a Neighborhood Yard sale in the Spring. It will be in either April or May (date is still TBD). Be on the lookout over the next couple months for more information.

Attention – Sunshine / Alside Products Purchasers

In 2004, a number of Hickory Farms homeowners purchased Alside brand siding and windows from Sunshine Contracting. Several folks have asked about warranty information. The information package we received early on in the project contained siding and window warranty information. If you can't locate it, you may drop by my home at 4279 Country Squire Lane and get copies. The information is in a bag on my front stoop. Unfortunately, I only have limited quantities of some material. However, I have placed printable copies of the documents on the Hickory Farms web page at www.hickoryfarms.org (From the home page, click Home Maintenance and Appearance.) In addition to window and siding warranties, I have brochures on controlling household condensation and the operation and maintenance of your windows.

The siding warranty needs to be completed by you, signed by Sunshine, and returned to Alside. I presume that since each window has a coded UPC label, the information is already on file with Alside and they don't need to be separately registered. While you do not need to return the window warranty to Alside, you should retain a copy of the warranty document for your records.

Place the following in an envelope: completed siding warranty registration card and a stamped envelope addressed to Alside, Siding Warranty Registration Department, P.O. Box 2010, Akron OH 44398-9946.

Mail the card and envelope Sunshine so that they may sign the card and forward it to Alside. Sunshine's address is: Sunshine Contracting, Attn: John Enos, 12741 Darby Brooke Ct., Suite 201, Woodbridge VA 22192

Also, you might keep the following contact information in your records (as well as the Sunshine contract as your proof of purchase): Sunshine Contracting, 703-499-8654, Ryan Sabo (Owner), 12741 Darby Brooke Ct., Suite 201, Woodbridge VA 22192. Contact information for the local Alside Supply Center is 8397 Terminal Road, Lorton VA, 703-550-0895, Daniel Thompson (Technical Services Representative (Cell 571-437-4259). Alside's Akron, Ohio Corporate Headquarters 877-872-4369 & 800-922-6009 – www.alside.com Kirk Randall

Group Purchase of Tree Trimming / Removal

Have you signed up yet? Over 25 homeowners are already participating. A contractor will be selected by the first week of February and work should be completed in February. The estimates received so far have been at rock bottom prices because of the large number of households participating – significantly lower than you've probably ever seen, and may never see again! If you have not done so already, contact me by e-mail at xaviar13@yahoo.com (preferred) or call 703-323-3995 and describe the kind of work you want done.

For everyone who has already signed up for tree work, I will be sending a group e-mail once the final contractor has been selected.

Michael Martin (Hickory Farms Board Member and Tree Trimming Project Coordinator)

The Hickory Farms Web Page is Now Online at

www.hickoryfarms.org.

Check it out!

Flooring, Tile, & Carpet Contractor Chosen – Ready to Go!

A group discount is now available to Hickory Farms homeowners and residents for hardwood and tile flooring, carpeting, countertops, and banisters. The company is Chase Floors and Tile in Fairfax. 703-385-8112. www.chasefloorsandtile.com. Chase has been in Fairfax for close to 10 years. Their showroom is at 11114 Lee Highway, very close to the Borders bookstore. The installers are employees of Chase and are bonded and insured. A BBB search shows no pending issues, and 1 resolved incident over the past 3 years. They said they have had only 1 incident over 8 years, but I haven't independently confirmed this.

Workmanship – Lifetime warranty on the installation

Discounts – \$1.00 off per square foot of hardwood material – 15% off complete carpet purchase – 15% off tile (material only)

Price Match Offer – Chase will match prices of competitors if it is an apples-to-apples comparison. That is, if the product is installed with a lifetime warranty.

Availability of Service – Immediate. Ask for Sami or Mike at 703-385-8112 and say you're with the Hickory Farms group purchase. January is a slower time of year, so work could be scheduled relatively quickly. At this time there is no deadline to act, but the firm may cut the deal at any time.

Additional Services – Countertops, banisters, and other flooring materials available.

Contacts – Contracts will be done individually, similar to the siding purchase. Experiences both positive and negative are encouraged to be shared. Please contact me at rmikula2000@yahoo.com or 703-323-0917.

If you are seriously interested in hardwood flooring, Kirk Randall (703-425-0210) has extra copies of consumer information on the subject.

If you have not done so already, please contact me to let me know you're interested as I want to track the number of folks who are participating.

For those who may wish to use an alternative vendor, I've heard recommendations for Clawes Carpet in the Twinbrook Shopping Center. I did contact them, but did not hear a follow-up in a timely manner.

Robert Mikula (project coordinator)

The Capitol Steps are a professional musical political satire group, offering a great evening of comedy. They will be appearing at Woodson High School on Sunday, March 6th at 7:30 pm, in the auditorium. Normal performances are \$34, but for the March 6th performance, donations are \$22 in advance, \$27 at the door. The WT Woodson Band and the Class of 2005 Drug and Alcohol Free Graduation Celebration benefit from your donation. A limited number of reserved, block seating will be available for groups of 24 or more. For advance purchases, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope and check payable to 'WTW Band Patrons' to: Capitol Steps, 9318 Tovito Dr, Fairfax, VA 22031. Call 703-385-4827 for info.

To Hickory Farm Residents

Re: Gas Installation

Dear Neighbors,

For some time now I have been thinking of canvassing to see if there would be any interest in having gas installed in those areas of the neighborhood which do not have gas.

Louise Cruz of Harvester Farm has agreed to assist me with this and we are willing to research the costs and conditions for this project. We are fully aware that most of us have expended a tremendous amount of money over the past two years with the community projects of repaving driveways, as well as the recent window replacement and siding project. However, we do not anticipate this to be an immediate project. It will most likely take several months to get off the ground.

Initial discussion with Washington Gas has indicated that gas may be brought to the household at no cost to the homeowner, provided that each homeowner subscribes to a minimum of two gas services. At this very early stage however, we simply would like to have an idea of how many households would be interested in a joint venture of gas installation. This will give us an idea of where we should start with this, and how best to proceed as far as numbers interested and timing for the start of the project.

Please either complete the form below and return to either Louise or myself just to indicate your initial interest, if any. Please remember that this is simply to test the water to see whether or not this is a worthwhile project for the neighborhood.

Thanks for taking the time to consider this issue and for your prompt response.

Sincerely,
Arlene Da Cruz

I would be interested in having gas installed at my home. Please investigate this further and let me know.

I already have gas installed in my home. Thanks for asking.

I am not interested in having gas installed in my home. Thanks for asking.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please complete the above and return either to Louise Cruz at 4381 Harvester Farm Lane or Arlene Da Cruz at 10007 Tumbleweed Court. Thanks.

Hickory Farms Community Association 2005 Assessment Notice

Please pay by March 31, 2005

The 2005 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 March 31, 2005

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 2005 ANNUAL ASSESSMENT

The Assessment of **\$100** is payable by **March 31, 2005**.

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

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

Your name: _____

Lot Number: _____

Address: _____