

Volume 06, Issue 2

February 2006

# The Hickory Farms Newsletter

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*Hickory Farms Community Association  
Fairfax County, Virginia*

## **Inside this issue:**

**President's Letter**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Community Notices**

**Neighborhood News**

**Neighborhood Watch**

**Homeowner Updates**

**Assessment Notice**

## **President's Letter**

Dear Neighbors,

It is with a touch of sadness that I write my last President's letter. I have accepted a new position with my company, and will be moving to New Jersey. Though my family won't be moving until after the school year, I will be traveling most weeks beginning this month, and will be unable to continue as HOA President. I will be submitting my formal resignation at the February Board meeting.

The Board is looking at several options, and will announce the new Board officers following next month's meeting.

I'll take this opportunity to harp on one of my favorite topics. Donna and I love this neighborhood, and it is bittersweet to leave such a wonderful community. The underlying strength of the community is its volunteerism.

Donna and I jumped at the opportunities the community presented, and this enabled us to build friendships with our neighbors that can't be properly valued. I encourage everyone to volunteer at something. New to the community, or founding homeowner. Young or old. Take the time to help out, and the rewards you will receive will be beyond anything that you give.

Thank you for being wonderful neighbors. I will miss you.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Altman

## **Join the Hickory Farms e-mail List**

If you were registered with the Hickory Farms e-mail group, you would have already received an electronic copy of this newsletter and received other information about our community! Visit [www.hickoryfarms.org](http://www.hickoryfarms.org) and click E-mail Service.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Jaime Gutierrez

As of January 24, we have received the dues from 66 homeowners. Again, keep in mind that dues are due between January 1<sup>st</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup> 2006. Enclosed with this newsletter is the THIRD reminder to pay your dues. Don't wait to the last day. Dues received or postmarked after March 31 will be subject to an additional \$25 late fee.

If you are planning to sell your home in the upcoming year, keep in mind that you will need to obtain a VPOAA package from the HFCA. The package is required by law, and is usually obtained by your realtor or title company. You may also request the VPOAA package directly if you wish.

The following are the steps for obtaining a VPOAA package:

1. Contact the Treasurer. Let him know when the package is needed and where it should be sent.
2. Draft a check for \$50, payable to the HFCA. The check can be mailed to HFCA, P.O. Box 2239, Fairfax, VA 22031-2239; or make other arrangements with the Treasurer as necessary.
3. Please allow 7-10 days from receipt of the check by the Treasurer to the date the VPOAA package can be released, as we must allow time for the check to clear. Should time be critical, cash payments can be accepted and a written receipt will be provided.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Defending the Caveman

The WT Woodson HS Band and Class of 2006 Drug and Alcohol Free Graduation Party are sponsoring a performance of "Defending the Caveman" on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM; a hilarious comedy about men and women. Donations are \$20 in Advance, \$25 at the door. A limited number of reserved block seating will be available for groups of 24 or more. For advance purchase, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope and a check payable to **WTW Band Patrons** to: "**Defending the Caveman**", 4810 King Solomon Drive, Annandale, VA 22003. For further information, call Tom Wells at 703 425-4863 [twells@verizon.net](mailto:twells@verizon.net)

### Will your child start school this September? Give us a call!

If you live in the Oak View school boundary area, please contact us, so we can give you information about our kindergarten program and registration process. You'll want to learn about our wonderful teachers, challenging programs and the special orientation we have planned for you on March 20. We will also hold informal meetings on February 23 and March 9. Call for more information.

Oak View Elementary  
703-764-7100  
[www.fcps.edu/OakViewES/](http://www.fcps.edu/OakViewES/)

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

### Mystery Newspaper?

Anyone else wondering why they suddenly started getting a newspaper every morning that they didn't order? Well I called The Examiner's publishers and it's a "free" subscription. BUT if you don't want the paper or think it's a nuisance you simply have to call the publisher at 1-800-531-1223 and tell the customer service representative (yes, a real person) that you do not want the paper and give them your address so they can alert the carriers to stop leaving a paper for you.

### Architectural Control Committee is seeking new members!

The Architectural Control Committee of the Hickory Farms Homeowners Association is actively seeking to add interested homeowners to the committee. The committee holds the absolute minimum number of meetings possible based on the volume of applications received from other homeowners. With the spring fast approaching and folks getting their plans in place for renovations the committee could use your help. No experience is necessary. Call Mike Martin at 703-323-3995 or e-mail at [xaviar13@yahoo.com](mailto:xaviar13@yahoo.com) to volunteer.

### Walkers Needed

Do you walk your dog? Are you a teenager looking to complete Community Service/Social Action hours? Do you like to take strolls around the neighborhood? If so, Hickory Farms is looking for you!! Volunteers are needed to help distribute the newsletter. We only need 20 minutes per month from you. If you are able to help, please email [jalt0629@hotmail.com](mailto:jalt0629@hotmail.com)

### Renting? Let us know!!

If you are renting your home, please let our Treasurer, Jamie Gutierrez, know where to find you. You can find Jamie at [jagutierrez1@cox.net](mailto:jagutierrez1@cox.net)

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The watch schedule for February and March is provided below. Contact Dave Dempster at 703-503-0561 ([ddhokies@cox.net](mailto:ddhokies@cox.net)) with any questions or to volunteer for this important neighborhood activity. Please note that that you can file a police report for minor neighborhood crimes on-line at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police).

Fri	Feb 3	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz
Sat	Feb 4	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay
Fri	Feb 10	Pete Scala	Rose Scala
Sat	Feb 11	Rich Pernicano	Steve Mathews
Fri	Feb 17	Pam Barrett	Tom Barrett
Sat	Feb 18	Stan Lee	Jim Marshall
Fri	Feb 24	Stefan Schwarz	Christine Schwarz
Sat	Feb 25	John Verheul	John Cotner
Fri	Mar 3	Bob Bentley	Nancy Bentley
Sat	Mar 4	Ron Cruz	Louise Cruz
Fri	Mar 10	Larry Russe	Chris Russe
Sat	Mar 11	Jaime Gutierrez	Ed Wagner
Fri	Mar 17	Debbi Buchanan	Scott Buchanan
Sat	Mar 18	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Fri	Mar 24	Pingjun Li	Wang Chan Cheng
Sat	Mar 25	Greg Gillette	Kathy Gillette
Fri	Mar 31	Dave Maurer	Sanjeev Munjal
Sat	April 1	Bob Sottile	Lee Sottile

## **R U Getting Your e-mailed Newsletter?**

If you've signed up for the Hickory Farms e-mail list, but are not getting your monthly newsletter, your e-mail system may be treating the newsletter as SPAM. Check with your e-mail provider on how to configure your e-mail account to receive the newsletter. For example, you might be able to program your e-mail account to allow all incoming e-mails with the words "Hickory Farms" in the subject line.

## **Heating and Air Conditioning Group Buy for Hickory Farms Homeowners – LIMITED OFFER**

Last year's group purchase of heating and air conditioning items was so successful that we have arranged for a repeat deal with A-1 Heating and Air Conditioning. You can get good deals on heat pumps, air conditioners, gas furnaces, water heaters, humidifiers, and air cleaners.

Hickory Farms homeowners get a 20% discount from A-1's regular prices. You get an additional 3% discount if you pay by check.

A-1 offers American Standard (makers of Trane equipment) and Carrier furnaces, heat pumps, and air conditioners, Maytag and other quality water heaters, and Aprilaire humidifiers.

March and April are traditionally slow months for heating contractors; that's why A-1 is willing to cut Hickory Farms homeowners a deal. This offer expires March 31, 2006 and may not be combined with other discounts or coupons. Hickory Farms homeowners are eligible for zero down payment (full payment due upon completion). A-1 guarantees your complete satisfaction.

American Standard products are rated highest for reliability by Consumer Reports. A-1 is rated very high by Consumer Checkbook Magazine for both quality and pricing. A-1 is also rated well by the Better

Business Bureau and the Fairfax County Office of Consumer Affairs.

The average life of an air conditioner is about 15 years (heat pumps are even less) and about ten years for a water heater. If you have an original air conditioner or heat pump, it's living on borrowed time. If you still have your original heat pump, consider yourself blessed; some of your neighbors are on their third! The newer heat pumps are much more efficient and supply air that is considerably warmer than the older ones.

To participate in this group purchase, call A-1 at 703-451-1100 and say you are with the Hickory Farms group deal. Kirk Randall

## **Do you Need Tree Work Done?**

Mike Martin is repeating last year's successful group purchase of tree work (removing and trimming trees) this February. If you are interested, please e-mail Mike at [xaviar13@yahoo.com](mailto:xaviar13@yahoo.com) (703-323-3995) or Kirk at [kirk\\_randall@hotmail.com](mailto:kirk_randall@hotmail.com). Describe what type of work you want done with enough specificity so that an estimator can find the tree and know exactly what you want done. Include your name, e-mail address, and phone number. As with last year, each homeowner would sign an individual contract with the tree company and is, of course, not obliged to go with the company selected. The chosen contractor will be licensed and insured. If you're interested, please respond ASAP. We want to move quickly as tree contractors are eager for work this time of the year.

## **Prevent Cold Weather Pipe Breaks**

Every year, the fire department responds to hundreds of minor water pipe breaks. Although generally not a real danger, water freezing in cold and hot water pipes can cause serious problems. While the freezing takes place, the pipe begins to swell and may burst. In most cases, the actual break doesn't appear until the water begins to

thaw. The following tips may help prevent frozen pipes in your home:

- Shut off water to unheated areas of your home and to outdoor faucets. Don't forget to drain these pipes. Open cabinet doors and service access ways so heat can get into these otherwise hidden areas where pipes are located.
- Leaving a faucet on with a slow trickle may or may not keep the pipe from freezing – you can't count on this method. There are some specially designed, UL-approved heat tapes that can be used in unheated areas, but, you need to be cautious. If these are used, be sure to follow the directions exactly; a slight variation could cause a fire.
- Locate the shut off valves for both the hot and cold water, and the power shut off for the hot water heater. If a pipe freezes, first shut off the water valve to that pipe (and the water heater if it's the hot water pipe). Then slowly thaw it out. Never use a torch; it thaws the water too quickly and weakens the pipe, almost always guaranteeing the pipe will break. Room temperature heat and careful use of a hair dryer are good methods.

- If the pipe breaks, quickly shut off the water valve. Call a plumber to fix the break correctly. At this time you may consider having the pipe or pipes rerouted through less vulnerable areas.
- When should you call the fire department? Call if the water gets in or near electrical outlets or panels, or if the water threatens a pilot light or power to a water heater or furnace.

If you have any further questions, please contact your local fire and rescue station, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Public Information and Life Safety Education Section at 703-246-3801, or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire). (From Fairfax County January 2006)

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Graduations, births, anniversaries, other special announcements to share? Newsletter items are due the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month. Send in a Word attachment to [jmaloney@gmu.edu](mailto:jmaloney@gmu.edu).

# THIRD NOTICE

## Hickory Farms Community Association 2006 Assessment Notice

**Please pay by March 31, 2006**

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 January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006**

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.

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### HFCA 2006 ANNUAL ASSESSMENT

The Assessment of **\$100** is payable by **March 31, 2006**.

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

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

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Lot Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_