

Volume 06, Issue 1

January 2006
Happy New Year!

The Hickory Farms Newsletter

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Newsletter

*Hickory Farms Community Association
Fairfax County, Virginia*

President's Letter

Happy New Year to all Hickory Farms families. The cold weather ushered in December, giving winter (and snow) a push to arrive. As we enter 2006, I would like to take a moment and remind everybody how much kids love the snow. Please be careful out there. Roads may be slippery and the kids love playing in the snow. In addition, if the weather is inclement, be aware that kids may be out of school and around the neighborhood when you aren't expecting them. Reminder: 2006 Annual assessments are due by March 31st. Please see the enclosed form to pay. Please do not wait until the last minute. If the postmark is on or after April 1st, you will be charged a \$25 late fee. No fooling!

Finally, I encourage everybody to read the "Fairfax Connection" article inside about Tyler Bentley. Tyler grew up in Hickory Farms, still lived here, and his parents (Bob and Nancy) have been active members of the community over the past 20 years. Tragically, Tyler was killed in an automobile accident on Thanksgiving weekend.. Along with several other members of the community, I attended Tyler's memorial service and heard many happy memories about Tyler. I encourage you to read the enclosed article. It is a wonderful story about a neighbor taken before his time.

I wish you and your families a happy, healthy and safe New Year.

Jeff Altman, Hickory Farms HoA President

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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 and click E-mail Service.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jaime Gutierrez

At the end of 2005, we ended "in the black" as budgeted, however in the months of November and December we incurred additional legal expenses above what we had budgeted. The main causes for these expenses were due to legal advice sought by the Architectural Control Board and the Board of Director due to the hearing and appeal on the application to remodel and build an addition to the home on Country Squire; the other major cause was in filing in court a Warrant in Debt against a homeowner that for the last several years has refused to pay the annual assessment. Hopefully the courts will rule in our favor and part of the demand includes legal fees, therefore, money spent now will be recovered later.

As the above implies all but one homeowner paid their dues. Most of you paid on time, 12 homeowners did not and were assessed a \$25 late fee, that brought in \$300 more than budgeted. That helped offset some of the additional legal expenses incurred.

Please keep in mind that the annual dues (\$100) for the calendar year 2006 are due to the HFCA beginning January 1, 2006 and are due no later than March 31, 2006. **This does not mean that they are due on March 31, and after that you have a grace period. As it is presently you have a 3-month grace period to pay the dues.** Dues received after March 31 will be subject to an additional \$25 late fee. Don't delay, send your payment early. To remind you, we are including a second notice in this newsletter.

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. 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.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Subscribers to the Hickory Farms Yahoo news group received recent reports of entry into unlocked cars. Similar cases were reported over the summer. Many of the vehicles were parked in lighted carports and involved the thief stealing change from the glove box and console. It is believed these incidents occurred prior to midnight while residents were at home. The best way to prevent this type of crime is to lock your vehicle. In addition, there was an incident during December in which several mailboxes were smashed along Still Meadow Road. The Yahoo Group is a great way to inform neighbors of these types of crimes and remind us all to be vigilant. You can also file a police report on-line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police.

The watch schedule for January and February follows. Contact Dave Dempster 703-503-0561 (ddhokies@cox.net) with any questions or to volunteer for this important neighborhood activity.

Fri	Jan 6	John Kitzmiller	Brand Niemann
Sat	Jan 7	Bob Sottile	Lee Sottile
Fri	Jan 13	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters
Sat	Jan 14	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg
Fri	Jan 20	Bob Cosgriff	Don Klingemann
Sat	Jan 21	Kirk Randall	Mike Martin
Fri	Jan 27	Angel Meza	Jason Meza
Sat	Jan 28	Jeff Lindsay	Larry Rogers
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

'Once You Met Him ... He Was Your Friend'

By Lea Mae Rice, "The Fairfax Connection" November 30, 2005

(Reprinted with permission of The Fairfax Connection and the Bentley Family)

On Monday, Nov. 28, the day that would have been Jonathan Tyler Bentley's 19th birthday, family members remembered his kind heart and generous smile, and shared stories about the W.T. Woodson graduate's mischievous sense of humor and genuine friendliness. "Once you met him, he was your friend," said Bob Bentley, Tyler's father. Bentley, who went by the name Tyler, died in the early morning hours Thursday, Nov. 24, when a 1998 Chevrolet pickup truck struck the rear end of the 1993 Honda Accord Bentley was riding in with two friends, according to Fairfax County police reports. At 12:18 a.m., the Honda was stopped at a red light on eastbound Arlington Boulevard and Annandale Road when the truck, driven by Pablo Cruz, 31, of the 3600 block of 16th St. in Washington, D.C., struck the car, killing Bentley instantly and injuring the two other passengers. Cruz was driving under the influence of alcohol, said Officer Courtney Young, a Fairfax County Police public information officer. A Fairfax County Police officer, who was also at the red light and saw the entire incident, arrested Cruz on the spot for aggravated involuntary manslaughter and driving while intoxicated, said Officer Bud Walker, a police spokesperson. Cruz and the other two passengers in the Honda went to Inova Fairfax Hospital for non-life-threatening injuries, said Walker, and Cruz is now being held at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. Tyler Bentley's death makes it even more necessary for young people to be aware of the dangers of drunk driving, said his father. "Young people must use their voices in changing laws and doing whatever they need to do to make it as hard as possible for [drunk drivers]," said Bob Bentley.

Tyler Bentley, who graduated from Woodson last June and was studying at Northern Virginia Community College, left a lasting impression on everyone he met with his sharp sense of humor and large smile, said mother Nancy Bentley. He met someone once and became permanent friends, she said, keeping in touch with everyone from friends he met years ago on an Alaska cruise to teachers from Olde Creek Elementary School. Tyler's Instant Messenger list must have had over 200 names on it, said Bob Bentley. "I couldn't even begin to guess how many kids knew him," he said. Although Tyler Bentley ran cross-country while at Woodson, his deep love for sports began when he was a child. His athletic prowess extended from rock climbing to baseball to basketball, said Bob

Bentley. He and his father golfed and bowled together as well; Tyler proving to be an exceptionally skilled golfer whose score was in the 90s. "He was starting to beat me," said Bob Bentley. "It was tough to take, but you know. It was all right." Tyler Bentley was a fearless athlete who, on a whitewater rafting trip a decade ago, braved a Class 5 rapid and managed to stay in the raft with his father even when everyone else, including the guide, fell out. "Tyler had five surgeries before he was 2 1/2 years old," said Bob Bentley. "He had some health problems, but he never let it get him down ... he was a little daredevil." Tyler Bentley also shared a love of roller coasters with his father and older brother Jason, 29. When he was 7, the whole family went to Disney World and got on the Splash Mountain ride. Bob Bentley encouraged his youngest son to try and put one hand in the air during the steep drop, he said, but the photos taken during the ride revealed young Tyler flinging both hands in the air as the roller coaster car plummeted downward.

Aside from sports, traveling was another favorite activity of Tyler Bentley's, said his mother. "He would tell us, 'Pull over, look at the scenery, isn't that neat?'" said Nancy Bentley, describing a vacation that took the family out West several years ago. "It wasn't, 'Are we there yet?' ... He was interested in everything around him." But family remained the most important thing to Tyler, said his parents. Bobbie Long, Nancy Bentley's mother and Tyler's grandmother, remembered an essay he wrote while a sophomore in high school. "He brought me a copy," said Long, who lives in Bedford, Pa. "I thought it showed Tyler's feeling about family. He felt so safe when he came to my house. He enjoyed himself with his family." Tyler also enjoyed a close relationship with Jason Bentley's son, Brandon. The 2-year-old was like the younger brother Tyler never had, said his parents. No matter how old Tyler and his cousins were, said Long, they always got along, occasionally causing trouble. In a 1997 occurrence remembered notoriously by family members as "the watermelon incident," Tyler and his cousins were swimming in a river during a family picnic when they spotted a watermelon floating in the water, said aunt Ellen Berez. They proceeded to smash the watermelon against a rock, she said, prompting an outcry from the fruit's rightful owners, who were picnicking nearby. Jason Bentley recalled how he would call home and Tyler would pretend to be his father, answering the phone the same way as Bob Bentley. "He would play along with it so well," said Jason Bentley. "And then he would start to laugh, and I would be like, 'You little stinker.'"

Ultimately, it was Tyler Bentley's caring heart that defined him, said Nancy Bentley. Once, when Tyler was a seventh-grader at Frost Middle School, he went sledding and came across a girl who was stuck in a briar patch. He immediately went over to her and helped her out of the briars, she said. "He had such a nice disposition," said Lila Bentley, Tyler's paternal grandmother, who lives in Connecticut. "He never said a mean word to anybody." Long, who has difficulty balancing, said her grandson would always offer a shoulder to help her. "It amazed you, some of the things he would pick up on," she said. Following the death of Tyler Bentley's uncle, she said, Tyler was the first one to ask his aunt to dance at a wedding. For his language requirement in high school, said his mother, Tyler learned sign language for no other reason than to be able to communicate with his friends who were deaf. "We liked him as a person," said Nancy Bentley. "Of course, we loved him as a son, but he was a very nice person." Tyler Bentley's memorial service took place Tuesday, Nov. 29 at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Upcoming ESOL Classes

Registration for the next session of ESOL classes at Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Rd. (corner of Olley Lane and Braddock) in Burke, will be held: Tuesday, Jan. 10 and Wednesday, Jan. 11 from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Classes will begin Tuesday, Jan. 24 and end Thursday, Apr.20. Day classes will meet from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Night classes will meet from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Tuition is \$50 for the session. Please note that childcare will not be provided and children may not be left unattended at any time.

For more information, please contact Roberta Lindsay, Church of the Good Shepherd, ESOL program, at 703-425-1315

Join the Hickory Farms e-mail List

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Wait! There's More News

Not all the news about Hickory Farms makes it into the monthly newsletter. Your neighbors are sharing late breaking news with one another through the Hickory Farms e-mail group. For example, had you been a member of the e-mail group, you would have been warned about some recent vandalism incidents in December. Keeping up to date is simple. Just visit www.hickoryfarms.org, click E-

mail Service, and join the Hickory Farms e-mail group.

Customer Service Standards for Waste Collection Established

AAA, nine other private residential waste collection companies, and Fairfax County's Division of Solid Waste Collection and Recycling have launched a new customer service program to better serve their customers. To help address issues concerning poor service delivery, the group developed a list of ten priorities for the Quality Customer Service Standards program. The companies will actively notify their customers of the new standards. The Quality Customer Service Standards County Chamber of Commerce, the Solid Waste Task Force and the county's Solid Waste Management Program.

Quality Customer Service Standards A Commitment to Residential Solid Waste & Recycling Customers

You are important to us as a customer. We understand that reliable service is as important as the price you pay for that service. We want your experience with our company to be positive. We want you to know what services you can expect for the price you are paying, and we want you to be satisfied with the services you are receiving. Therefore, we commit to the following basic principles:

1. We will provide separate collection for trash and recycling as agreed.
2. We welcome your feedback about our services and will maintain a customer service telephone line (and website) to receive your comments, answer your questions and address your concerns.
3. We will diligently address your customer service inquiry within one business day of being notified.
4. We will operate safely in your neighborhood and use employees trained for the job.
5. We will use environmentally friendly products when we can.

6. We will not collect in your neighborhood before 6:00 a.m.

7. When it is necessary to increase your base rate, we will notify you of the amount of the increase at least 30 days before it takes effect.

8. If you require services in addition to those covered by your base rate, we will either provide those services for an additional charge or let you know where you might obtain such services if we are unable to provide them.

9. We will distribute information to every new customer regarding our policies and procedures, including acceptable materials for curbside recycling and collection, and will update that information as changes occur.

10. We will provide refunds to customers who cancel service in accordance with our policies.

See www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/trash/disphaulers.htm

Dogs

Some dog owners do not observe two Fairfax County ordinances. These are the "leash law" that requires all dogs to be leashed (when not confined by fences in a yard), and the "pooper scooper" law that requires owners to pick up dog droppings from streets, sidewalks, yards, *and even common grounds*. The plastic bag that your daily newspaper comes in is an excellent collection container. Dog poop is unsightly and unsanitary. We've had reports of the dreaded double whammy: an unleashed dog, defecating on neighbor yards. The rules apply to all dogs, large or small, and to all dog owners. Thanks for your cooperation.

Dogs over four months old must be licensed annually by the [Fairfax County Department of Tax Administration](#) and vaccinated against rabies. A dog license can only be obtained after proof of inoculation by a licensed veterinarian. Dog licenses cost \$5 per year for spayed/neutered animals and \$10 for fertile animals. All dogs must have the license tag securely attached to a collar and it must be worn whenever the dog is off the owner's property. An identification tag worn on a collar is recommended. (From the Hickory Farms Web Page)

Cats

Cats are not required to be licensed; however, they must be inoculated against rabies annually if they are over four months old. An identification tag worn on a collar is recommended. (From the Hickory Farms Web Page)

Graduations, births, anniversaries, other special announcements to share? Newsletter items are due the 25th of the month. Please send in a Word attachment to imloney@amu.edu

SECOND NOTICE

Hickory Farms Community Association 2005 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 March 31, 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.

HFCA 2005 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: _____