

Volume 7 – No. 1

January 2007

# The Hickory Farms Newsletter

## Your HF Board of Directors

President – John Kitzmiller 703-503-3443

Vice President – Vacant

Treasurer – Jaime Gutierrez  
703-425-7919

Secretary – Dave Dempster  
703-503-0561

Community Grounds, Paths &  
Woods – Rich Dudley  
703-503-2060

Neighborhood Watch – Dave  
Dempster 703-503-0561

Board Member – Dante Gilmer  
703-978-0621

Board Member – Ellie Codding  
703-426-4606

## Other HF Volunteers

Welcome New Residents – Claire  
Coleman 703-425-6059 & Nancy  
Bentley 703-978-0373

Newsletter & Web Site –  
Kirk Randall 703-425-0210

Building Approvals –  
Rebekah & Wesley Moore  
703-286-7179

Community Yard Sale –  
Pete Scala 703-764-0730  
e-mail list – Rebekah Moore  
703-286-7179

Social Committee – Patty Dudley  
703-503-2060 & Dawn Dempster  
703-503-0561 & Lynn Welch 703-  
978-4113

**Hickory Farms Community Association**  
**P.O. Box 2239, Fairfax VA 22031**  
**[www.hickoryfarms.org](http://www.hickoryfarms.org)**

On behalf of my fellow Board members, I'd like to wish you and your family a happy and healthy New Year. I encourage you to get involved with the activities in Hickory Farms this year. Please review the list to the left and contact the Board members or committee chairmen heading up the activities in which you may have an interest. In particular, I would draw your attention in particular to the Neighborhood Watch program. This is an activity of value to all residents of our community, and if every household participated, would require not more than one weekend evening per year. Isn't the security and safety of your neighbors and neighborhood worth that? Please call Dave Dempster and volunteer!

Please don't forget that your annual Hickory Farms Community Association fee of \$100 is now due. The fee, which has not increased since last year, provides the funds to upkeep our common areas and support our community events.

Please feel free to contact me or any other Board members with any questions or concerns you may have about the community.

John Kitzmiller

**Your 2007 dues (\$100)  
are due *now*.**

**Please see last page.**

## **Join the Hickory Farms e-mail 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 [www.hickoryfarms.org](http://www.hickoryfarms.org) and click e-mail service.

**Neighborhood Security – Neighborhood Watch Schedule**  
Dave Dempster

Fri	January 5	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters
Sat	January 6	Kirk Randall	Mike Martin
Fri	January 12	Bob Cosgriff	Don Klingemann
Sat	January 13	Jeff Lindsay	Larry Rogers
Fri	January 19	Angel Meza	Jason Meza
Sat	January 20	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay
Fri	January 26	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz
Sat	January 27	Debbi Buchanan	Scott Buchanan
Fri	February 2	Pete Scala	Rose Scala
Sat	February 3	Stan Lee	Jim Marshall
Fri	February 9	Pam Barrett	Tom Barrett
Sat	February 10	John Verheul	John Cotner
Fri	February 16	Dave Dempster	Dawn Dempster
Sat	February 17	Stefan Schwarz	Christine Schwarz
Fri	February 23	Bob Bentley	Nancy Bentley
Sat	February 24	Ron Cruz	Louise Cruz

## **Disposing of Your Xmas Tree**

AAA schedules special pickups for your Christmas tree on the first and second Wednesdays in January – January 3 and 10 this year. Beginning with the third week of January, put your tree out with your regular trash. *AAA will not pick up your tree if it is in a plastic bag.*

## **Do You Need Concrete Work Done?**

Nearly four years ago, nearly 20 homeowners participated in a group purchase of concrete work – sidewalks, patios, and driveways. The prices were good, as was the quality of work. Some folks have asked The Editor if a concrete group purchase will be repeated. If you're interested, send an e-mail to [Kirk\\_Randall@hotmail.com](mailto:Kirk_Randall@hotmail.com) or call 703-425-0210 giving your particulars. If the contractor is interested, we'll try for something in the Spring.

## **Where Was That Article ?**

Much of the content of the Hickory Farms Newsletter comes from the Hickory Farms web site – [www.hickoryfarms.org](http://www.hickoryfarms.org). If you can't remember where that article came from, try the newsletter archives on the web site. There are also numerous subject areas, loaded with information for homeowners and residents. Some of them are:

- Approval of Your Renovation Project – How to Get it
- Common Grounds
- Dogs, Cats and Other Animals
- E-mail Service – Receive the monthly newsletter and important info. Send an e-mail to your neighbors.
- Neighborhood Concerns & County Services – A Guide to Fairfax County Services
- New Residents Guide
- Good Neighbor Relations – Zoning Issues
- History, Maps, Newsletters & Other Information
- Home Maintenance and Appearance
- Contractors Who Have Provided Services to Residents
- How to Get ACC Approval for Your Renovation Project
- Laws, Rules and Regulations
- Neighborhood Watch
- Safety in the Home and Community
- Streets, Sidewalks and Streetlights
- Utilities & Services
- Vehicles and Parking
- When You Sell Your Home
- Yard Maintenance and Appearance
- Your Responsibilities as a Landlord or Tenant

## Are You a New Resident?

Please call the *Welcome New Residents* contact persons. They are listed on the front page of this newsletter. They'll give you a great introduction to our fine neighborhood. Also, please visit [www.hickoryfarms.org](http://www.hickoryfarms.org), where you can learn all you'll need to know about Hickory Farms!

## Do You Need Tree Work Done ?

**Note:** *This group buy will **not** happen unless someone volunteers to coordinate. Will you?*

Our attempt to get discounted tree work done in February fell flat with the snowstorm that downed a lot of trees in the area. Tree companies had plenty of full price work and weren't interested in cutting us a deal. Well, some folks still need to have tree work done, myself included. However, we need a coordinator who will 1) get bids from 2-3 contractors to compare prices (we already have a list of names, including the 2005 contractors), 2) select a contractor, 3) contact HF homeowners to find out who's interested, and 4) pass that info on to the selected contractor. **We can't move forward without a coordinator.** If you could put in just a few hours on an endeavor that could save you and your neighbors some money, please contact [kirk\\_randall@hotmail.com](mailto:kirk_randall@hotmail.com) or call 703-425-0210. Work is usually done in February or March – the (usual) slow season for tree contractors – so contractor selection and contacting homeowners should be done in January.

## Treasure's Report January 2007

Jaime Gutierrez

Please keep in mind that the annual dues (\$100) for the calendar year 2007 are due to the HFCA beginning January 1, 2007 and are due no later than March 31, 2007. **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 you 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.

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 Paths**

There are a number of community-owned paths in Hickory Farms, some of them made of concrete, some asphalt, and some “invisible.” You may live next to a community-owned path and not even know it! First, a big “thank you” to those folks living adjacent to the paths who have helped maintain them over the years. Your hard work maintaining the paths benefits all of us by adding to the beauty of our community. If you are unsure where a path is located, consult your property survey or visit the GIS Mapping Office at the Fairfax County Governmental Center to view their records. If you are aware of any inaccuracies in the following information, please contact the Editor.

**North black path** – Community property is 10' wide from 4279 Country Squire to 10035 Wheatfield Court. The community property then widens to 20' where it continues to Roberts Road.

**Cotton Farm** – Unmarked path between 10019 & 10021 – 20'

**Country Squire** – Black path between 4278 & 4280 – 8'

Concrete path between 4285 & 4289 – 10'

**Cotton Farm & Farm House** – Black path between 10007 Cotton Farm & 4314 Farm House – 20'

**Farm House** – Concrete path between 4339 & 4341 – 12' (In the community survey, the path is described as an easement on the property at 4339 Farm House Lane, and not owned by Hickory Farms (like the others).)

**Harvester Farm** – Unmarked path between 4356 & 4358 – 10'

**Still Meadow** – Concrete Path between 4337 & 4339 – 30'

Concrete path between 4328 & 4330 – 12'

**Wheatfield** – Black path between 10034 & 10035 – 8'

### **Sidewalk & Driveway Maintenance Tips**

*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 over time. If you must use an ice or snow melting chemical, make sure the package says it will not damage concrete.

Do not pressure wash your concrete. The high pressure water will wear away the surface of the concrete, exposing the rock aggregate. Once the aggregate is exposed, the concrete will begin to break up. If you must clean your concrete, do it the old

fashioned way -- with a stiff brush and detergent. (From HF Website)

### **Fairfax County Residents Can Recycle More and More**

Fairfax County is expanding opportunities for recycling for those residents who receive curbside collection of refuse and recyclables. All Fairfax County residents will now be able to place the following items at the curb for recycling:

- Mixed paper, which is all clean paper without food residue such as newspapers and inserts, magazines and catalogues, envelopes, office paper, junk mail, food boxes such as cereal and cracker boxes, household product boxes, paperback books and phone books.
- All plastic containers with necks that are smaller than the body of the bottle.
- Flattened cardboard – cardboard must be flattened in order for it to be recycled.

### **Yard Debris Pick Ups Cancelled Until April**

AAA does not have Wednesday yard debris pickups during January, February, and March. Pickups resume in April. Until then, place your yard debris, including leaves, grass clippings, and tree branches with your regular trash.

### **Snow Removal from Streets, Driveways, and Sidewalks**

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has 7,000 miles of road to clear in Fairfax County, and 900 workers and many fewer pieces of equipment to clear the roads.

VDOT's goal is to clear roads within 24 hours after snow stops falling. Interstates and major primary roads are cleared first. Secondary roads with high volume also receive early attention. After the snow crew has cleared the highly traveled roads and emergency routes, they begin working on less-traveled routes. Note to cul-de-sacs residents – cul-de-sacs have the lowest priority.

To give yourself a better chance at getting your street plowed, when it snows, **park your cars in driveways, not in the street.** As far as shoveling your driveway goes, we all know that as soon as you're done, the plow will come. Bearing that in mind, shovel your snow to the right (when facing the road), so the plow won't push your own snow back in your driveway. One more item. VDOT wants us to remind everyone – **YOU are responsible for shoveling the sidewalk in front of your house** and keeping it clear.

If you have questions about road conditions, call 703-383-VDOT for the Northern

Virginia area and 1-800-367-ROAD for other areas of the state (TTY 1-800-432-1843). If you have questions or complaints, call a Board member and he or she will direct you the appropriate person.

If you have a medical emergency, call 911 even if the roads haven't been plowed. VDOT will work with emergency people to get to you. (Pete Scala 1996 & Kirk Randall October 2004)

### **Do You Currently Use a Lawn Service (or Plan to) ?**

I have noticed that many families in the neighborhood have lawn services. There is a possibility of getting a group rate for lawn service if enough families are interested. I am willing to explore options and send requests for proposals out to various lawn services.

What the lawn services will be interested in is how many families would be interested in a group rate. They will make money by better grouping of jobs so their crews are doing more yards per day vice running over Northern Virginia tackling one job here and the next two or three miles away. If you are interested, please email me at [colemaninn@msn.com](mailto:colemaninn@msn.com) or call 703-425-6059. Give me your name, address and the contact information for the lawn service you currently use, the level of service, (just lawn cutting or do you get additional add on services like fertilizer, aeration, ...) and whether you liked their service this past year. If you do not like them tell me why and if enough people are unsatisfied with a specific company we will not ask them to bid. **I need your response by January 20.**

This project will be similar to other group projects undertaken by families in the community. I will contact the lawn services and get their bids and then we will select the most competitive bid. Since lawn services offer tiered pricing we will evaluate bids based on the various tiers of service. I will get bids for each level Each family will individually contract with the lawn service so the HFHOA does not have any liability.

Sean Coleman

The Hickory Farms Newsletter is published monthly, except June, July, and August. To submit material for publication, e-mail it to The Editor by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the previous month – Microsoft Word format, please. Past issues of this newsletter and information for advertisers may be found at [www.hickoryfarms.org](http://www.hickoryfarms.org) – click Newsletters.

The tiny print disclaimer – The Editor wrote most of the contents of this newsletter; the major exceptions are advertisements, community service type announcements, articles with a byline, and articles which have been obviously otherwise contributed by others. So, if you have a gripe with the accuracy or tone of this newsletter, take it up with The Editor !

**Second NOTICE**  
**Hickory Farms Community Association**  
**2007 Assessment Notice**

The 2007 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 no later than March 31, 2007**

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 2007 ANNUAL ASSESSMENT**

The Assessment of **\$100** is due starting January 1, 2007.  
Payment received after **March 31, 2007** will be subject to a \$25.00 late fee.

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

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

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

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

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