

Volume 8 – No. 1

January 2008

The Hickory Farms Newsletter

Board of Directors

President – John Kitzmiller
703-503-3443
Vice President – Rich Dudley
703-503-2060
Treasurer – Jaime Gutierrez
703-425-7919
Secretary –
Community Grounds, Paths
& Woods – Rich Dudley
703-503-2060
Neighborhood Watch –
Building Approvals
(ACC) – Rebekah & Wesley
Moore 703-286-7179
Members at Large –
Dante Gilmer 703-978-0621
Barin Chakrabarti –
703-426-1430
Bilal Sayeed – 703-764-8716

Neighborhood Volunteers

Welcome New Neighbors –
Claire Coleman 703-425-6059 &
Nancy Bentley 703-978-0373
Newsletter & Web Site –
Kirk Randall 703-425-0210
Annual Community Yard Sale –
Pete Scala 703-764-0730
e-mail Coordinators –
Heather Webb 703-425-1347
Ellie Codding 703-426-4606
Social Committee –
Patty Dudley 703-503-2060
Dawn Dempster 703-503-0561
Lynn Welch 703-978-4113
ACC Members – Bob Ambrogio,
Claire Coleman, Marc Fogleman,
Donna Garfield, Maryle
Mondschein & Kirk Randall

Hickory Farms Community Association
P.O. Box 2239, Fairfax VA 22031
www.hickoryfarms.org

Happy New Year to one and all. I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season.

Please note that annual dues of \$110 are now due.

We have dodged the snow so far; however, it is that time of year, and we can likely expect snow this month. Please remember that you are required to clear the sidewalks adjoining your property. If fallen snow has created hazardous driving conditions, call the Virginia Dept. of Transportation at 703-383-8368.

The new Board of Directors will elect a new roster of officers in January. Meanwhile, Board members can be contacted via phone or e-mail at the Hickory Farms website, www.hickoryfarms.org. (Please note the .org suffix, not .com. Someone who didn't make that distinction threatened me last month with a lawsuit because of something they bought at the Hickory Farms store!)

(Continued on Page 3)

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

To subscribe, send a blank e-mail to
HickoryFarms-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Neighborhood Watch Schedule – Neighborhood Security

Dave Dempster

Please volunteer for this important neighborhood activity – all it takes is one three hour Friday or Saturday evening every four months, or so. Neighborhood Watch is proven to cut crime in neighborhoods that have this program. It's also a great way to meet your neighbors. Dave Dempster 703-503-0561 (ddhokies@cox.net)

Fri	January 4	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz
Sat	January 5	Mike Martin	Scott Buchanan
Fri	January 11	Pete Scala	Rose Scala
Sat	January 12	Stan Lee	Jim Marshall
Fri	January 18	Pam Barrett	Tom Barrett
Sat	January 19	John Verheul	Tammy Verheul
Fri	January 25	Bob Bentley	Nancy Bentley
Sat	January 26	Ron Cruz	Louise Cruz
Fri	February 1	Dave Dempster	Dawn Dempster
Sat	February 2	Stefan Schwarz	Christine Schwarz
Fri	February 8	Jaime Gutierrez	Ed Wagner
Sat	February 9	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Fri	February 15	Pingjun Li	Wang Chan Cheng
Sat	February 16	Greg Gillette	Kathy Gillette
Fri	February 22	Dave Maurer	Sanjeev Munjal
Sat	February 23	Bob Sottile	Lee Sottile
Fri	February 29	John Kitzmiller	Brand Niemann
Sat	March 1	Susan Mulliner	Brenton Mulliner

Scenic Remodeling Ad Here

President's Message (Continued)

Some concern had been expressed regarding foxes in Hickory Farms. As discussed in an lengthy exchange in the e-mail group, HFCA has no more liability with regard to the foxes than we do for the deer in the area. We maintain common grounds that include tree, shrubs, and undergrowth. Wild animals find those grounds as attractive as we do. The only way to get rid of animals entirely would be to clear the common areas and pave them over.

To quote from Fairfax County: Many people are frightened by foxes and other wildlife. Be their advocate – gently encourage your neighbors and friends to tolerate these beneficial predators that eat small rodents like mice and rats. For further information, see www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/downloads/FoxCard.pdf.

Concern has also been expressed regarding fallen trees. Please let Rich Dudley know if you see any common area trees that fall. He can be reached at 703-503-2060 or at dudley_richard@bah.com.

Finally, thanks to Dave Dempster and Ellie Coddling, outgoing Board members for their hard work, and thanks to the 2008 Board members for volunteering their time to make our community better.

John Kitzmiller – President

Ice Damming – or, What is All That Water Doing in My Kitchen ?!

If you had icicles hanging from your gutters or actual water leakage into your house in past winters, you probably have experienced ice damming. Ice damming happens when snow on the roof melts and the water makes its way into your attic. It will then stain walls, ceilings, and floors. One winter many years ago, I experienced ice damming and suffered considerable damage. You can read an article I wrote about how to prevent ice damming on your house (*Colonials* are especially susceptible) at www.hickoryfarms.org – click Home Maintenance and Appearance. – The Editor (1)

Get Yourself Published !

If you have an idea for an article for this newsletter, run your thoughts by The Editor (Kirk Randall at 703-425-0210 or kirk_randall@hotmail.com) Your articles are welcome! (1-7)

Disposing of Your Xmas Tree

AAA schedules special pickups for your Christmas tree on the first and second Wednesdays in January – January 2 and 9 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.* (1-12)

Best Buy Coming to Fairfax City

Best Buy has received Fairfax City approval to locate a store at the Fair City Mall where Ross is currently located.

Winter Birds of Hickory Farms

Bob Cosgriff

While you might think that the winter time is not a good time to see birds in our neighborhood, the opposite is actually true. This is due to several factors. First, without leaves on the trees, it is much easier to see birds than in the spring and summer. Second, although many familiar birds of the warmer seasons do migrate south from here, we are “south” to many northern birds and therefore enjoy an influx of “snowbirds” that we can see only during the winter months. In some years, conditions far to the north often cause what scientists call “irruptions” of certain species. According to one report that I have read, this may be one of those years. Thirdly, birds have to eat during the winter, so human-provided seed can augment naturally-occurring sources of food, so backyard birding can be quite rewarding.

So what are the species we might expect to see in HF over the winter? Here’s a list:

Woodpeckers: Downy (very common), Red-bellied (very common), Flicker (less common), Downy (less common), Pileated (this impressive crow-sized bird is occasional, although one has been visiting my suet feeder almost daily in December), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (probably the least common, but still around here). These birds love suet, peanuts and will also take sunflower seeds.

Sparrows: White-throated (very attractive), Song (common), American Tree (less common) (Note: the so-called “English” or House Sparrow, a non-native bird, is not a true sparrow, but is very common around here and is generally what people think of when you say ‘sparrow’). These birds prefer to feed on the ground on millet, safflower, etc.

Hawks: Cooper’s, Sharp-shinned, Red-shouldered, Red-tailed. The first two are the most likely to be seen, as they are bird-eating hawks and therefore will swoop in and out of backyards in search of food. The latter two are much larger and primarily prey on mice and squirrels.

Other birds: White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Goldfinch, Mourning Dove, Blue Jay, American Crow, Northern Cardinal (very common), Slate-colored Junco, and Mockingbird. That's a total of 25 birds, but there are others that could be seen. In fact, already this year, we have added a new bird to our neighborhood list, which now stands at 98 species! The latest addition to the list is the Red-bellied Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*), which visited my feeder on 12/10/07 and is still hanging around. This is one of those northern birds that we might expect when conditions are severe up north. It is not as common as its slightly larger cousin, the White-breasted Nuthatch. Other birds that might be part of any irruption this year include Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak. Winter Wrens might also be in the neighborhood. I'll report on any sightings.

So how do you tell one bird from the other? The best way is to get a good field guide: Peterson's, Sibley's, National Audubon and the National Geographic (4th edition) field guides are the most widely used, but there are others available at bird stores, bookstores and online. A good pair of binoculars is also helpful to see details of the birds. Then just go out into our common grounds and look. Write down your list and watch it grow.

You can also make your own yard a bird "destination" by doing a few simple things. Birds have four basic requirements: food, shelter, water and space.

1. Food can easily be provided by seed in suitable feeders. You must make your feeders squirrel-proof to get the most out of backyard birding. You must put your feeder at least 12 feet horizontally from anything a squirrel could jump from, and at least five to six feet vertically above the ground. The best measure is to install a cylindrical baffle on the pole with the bottom at about 4 feet from the ground. If you scatter seed on the ground, you cannot deter squirrels, although they do not like safflower seeds. There are also some seeds that are treated with pepper, which birds don't mind, but deters squirrels. The three best attractors are suet, peanuts (pieces or in the shell) and black-oil sunflower seed. Goldfinches (and Pine Siskins) love thistle (also called nyger). Many mixes sold in supermarkets are high in millet and milo seed, and therefore are not very attractive to the widest variety of birds. It is better to go to a specialty store to get the proper type of food and feeders, as well as good advice.
2. Shelter: trees, especially conifers like hemlock and Virginia Cedar, provide birds with protection from both the elements and predators. Other sheltering areas include evergreen varieties like azaleas, boxwood and holly. You can also construct small brush piles with small branches that fall in your yard or that you trim from trees and shrubs. A discarded Christmas tree makes a great shelter for birds in the winter. Even woodpiles qualify as shelter.
3. Water: a shallow birdbath or other vessel will provide birds with much-needed moisture in the winter. About 2"-3" of water is all you need. Of course, it has to be kept ice-free. There are birdbath heaters available to ensure that birds can always

get water in the winter. Even in the winter, you should replace the water and clean the birdbath periodically.

4. **Space:** by this, we don't mean you have to have a huge yard. It means providing both vertical and horizontal room for birds. Food, water and shelter should be separated one from the other. Feeders should be placed so that discarded hulls don't fall into the water. You should present food both on the ground and at a height (on a feeder, or even smearing suet on a tree trunk). Keep thistle (nyger) feeders away from others, as goldfinches are easily intimidated by bigger birds. Ideally, birds should have a place to fly from to get to the seeds/water and then a place to fly back to for protection if needed.

Hopefully, these simple hints will help you start to enjoy the birds that are all around us. With our 17 acres of common ground, we are lucky, because birds already have a good habitat. By expanding that habitat to include your backyard, you will reward both the birds and yourself with a closer look at the birds of Hickory Farms.

AAA Yard Debris Pick Ups Cancelled Until March

AAA does not have Wednesday yard debris pickups during January and February. Pickups resume in March. Until then, place your yard debris, including leaves, grass clippings, and tree branches with your regular trash. (1)

Treasure's Report Jaime Gutierrez

Please keep in mind that the annual dues (\$110) for the calendar year 2008 are due to the HFCA beginning January 1, 2008 and are due no later than March 31, 2008. **This does not mean that they are due on March 31, and after that you have a grace period. As it is, from January 1 to March 31 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.

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.

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. (1)

Your *Exterior* Remodeling Project *May* Need Approval

If you are changing the exterior appearance of your home, you may need Architectural Control Committee approval. Please don't run the risk of holding up the start of your project awaiting ACC approval; submit your proposal to the ACC as early as possible. You *must* have ACC approval before you begin the project. If you are in doubt as to whether approval is required for your particular project (and some don't require approval), please read the *Application for Architectural Review*. If you're still doubtful, call the chairperson of the ACC (see page 1 of this newsletter for contact information). You might also log into our community web page – www.hickoryfarms.org – to read the following helpful documents: [How to Get ACC Approval for Your Renovation Project](#) and [Tips for Choosing a Contractor](#) . The official *Application for Architectural Review* is attached to this newsletter, and may also be [viewed on the web in PDF format](#) .

Our Common Grounds
Rich Dudley

Common Area Trees

Over Thanksgiving, we had high winds that knocked down a common area tree into a neighbor's yard. We've taken this opportunity to take out several other trees. Three large poplars and portions of an oak tree are lying in the woods along the hill in the Lower Common Area. If you're interested in carting away some free firewood, you can bring a saw and wheelbarrow and take what you need. But please use caution and understand that you are working at your own risk.

As we head into the heart of winter storminess and high winds, please let me know if you see any common area trees that fall or look like they are close to falling. I can be reached at 703-503-2060 or at dudley_richard@bah.com.

Dumping Yard Debris In Common Grounds is Prohibited

Please refrain from dumping yard debris into the common areas. I've noticed that a number of neighbors have been dumping leaves and grass clippings in the woods along the Lower Common Area. Besides being unsightly in some cases, this excess of yard debris puts a strain on the health of the trees. Our tree service noted that the thick piles of yard debris are keeping rainwater from effectively reaching the ground and being soaked into the roots of trees. After this year's drought, our trees especially need water or they may die. The debris can also invite pests and disease to the base of the trees and accelerate their decline. So, if you have existing yard debris behind your house that is choking out our trees, please do what you can to clean up the debris and remember that dumping in the common areas is prohibited.

Seeking Volunteers

I am always seeking volunteers to help clean up our common areas. If you have a child who needs community service hours for school or a scouting project, please direct them my way for projects that will help clean up and beautify our 17 acres of common ground.

A big "thank you" to Brittany Patterson (and her parents) who did several hours of work this fall to clean up the Upper Common Ground. And, Jeff Niemann is planning an Eagle Scout project along Rabbit Run where he intends to improve the foot path through the woods by cutting back encroaching brush, adding mulch, and constructing benches. Thanks to Brittany and Jeff for their commitment to improving the neighborhood! We need more help, so please let me know if you'd like to volunteer.

How to 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. (From Fairfax County) (1)

Advertise in this Newsletter

Display ads are available to businesses offering services to Hickory Farms homeowners. The newsletter is delivered monthly (except during the summer) to 220+ Hickory Farms residents and absentee homeowners. For more information, visit www.hickoryfarms.org and click Newsletter. (1-7)

Free Home Security Inspections

The Fairfax County Police Department offers free home security inspections. A trained officer will inspect the locks, doors, and windows of your home and make recommendations for improvement. Outdoor lighting, landscaping, and other factors affecting the protection of your home from burglary also will be reviewed. Call the West Springfield District crime prevention officer at 703-644-7377 (12)

Youth Services

Youths who are residents of Hickory Farms may offer services to their neighbors. If you wish to offer services such as snow removal, raking leaves, lawn mowing, babysitting, general home maintenance, etc., **your parent** should e-mail or write (no phone calls, please) The Editor, Kirk_Randall@Hotmail.com, giving the youth's name/age, telephone number, and a list of services to be offered. The e-mail should also state that the youth has permission to be listed in the newsletter. (1-4-7-10)

Name/Age	Services Offered
Corine Johnson Age 14 703-272-3302	Experienced babysitter of all ages weekends until 1 AM. References available.
Victoria Hebeisen Age 14 703-978-0045	Experienced babysitter of infants, toddlers, and school-aged children, weeknights to 10 PM and weekends to 1 AM. References available.
Cathy Moore Age 14 703-323-3699	Babysitting/mother's helper, pet sitting, dog walking
Cari Moore Age 12 703-323-3699	Babysitting/mother's helper

The Hickory Farms Newsletter is published monthly, except for June and August. You may e-mail submissions to The Editor by the 25th of the prior month. Submissions and advertisements **must** be in Microsoft Word format. Advertisements must be prepaid. Past issues and information for advertisers may be found at www.hickoryfarms.org – click Newsletters.

The Editor is responsible for most of the contents of this newsletter; the exceptions are advertisements, submitted community service type announcements, articles with a byline, and other articles which have been obviously contributed by others. The Editor reserves the right to edit submissions for space or writing style. The Editor, subject to review by the Board of Directors, may reject any submission.

**Hickory Farms Community Association
Annual Dues Notice**

The \$110 annual dues assessment is due starting January 1, 2008.

Payments received after March 31, 2008 will be assessed a \$25.00 late fee.

Dues are used to maintain the common grounds, insure the association and Board members, hold neighborhood picnics, support Neighborhood Watch, and fund all other expenses 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 a \$25 late fee. If a check is returned for insufficient funds, the homeowner must reimburse any expenses incurred by the HFCA.

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 the Association's By-laws to cover HFCA, which are outlined and approved by the homeowners at each Annual Meeting.

If you are not a property owner, you are not responsible for paying the assessment; please forward this notice to the property owner.

Please return the completed coupon below with your check.

HFCA ANNUAL DUES

Make your check payable to **HFCA** and send it to:

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

Name: _____

Lot Number: _____

Street Address: _____

(1-2-3-12)

HFCA Action <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Disapproved Date: _____

HFCA Date Received: _____ By: _____
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**Hickory Farms Community Association
P. O. Box 2239
Fairfax, VA 22031**

Application for Architectural Review

Name: _____ Lot # _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Proposed Start Date: _____ Expected Completion Date: _____
(Must be at least 30 days past the date received by HFCA)

Project Proposal:

I understand that the HFCA has thirty (30) days to deny or request additional information on this application or, in accordance with the HFCA covenants, the application will be considered approved. I further understand that the thirty (30) day period will commence upon HFCA's receipt of this application or upon receipt of all additional information requested by the HFCA and that I may not start construction until approval is received.

(Signature of Property Owner)

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Ensure project complies with all Fairfax County residential building codes and Hickory Farms Community Association (HFCA) covenants. The HFCA Board of Directors cannot waive those requirements.
2. Prepare a specific description and/or sketch of the proposed improvement in sufficient detail (color, dimensions, materials, etc.). If a county permit is required, provide evidence of compliance.
3. Provide a site plan and indicate where the improvement is to be located on the property.
4. Deliver to Committee Chairperson.

Application for Architectural Review

The following provides maintenance required to your property that does NOT require review by the Architectural Control Committee.

Any repairs or upkeep that does not alter the outward appearance of structures on your property including:

Repainting your home the same color and shade.

Includes doors, storm doors, windows, storm windows, trim, gutters, and shutters.

Replacing your roof with the same type, style, color and shade of shingles.

Replacing your gutters with the same type, style, and color.

Replacing your driveway or sidewalk in the same size and material type.

Replacing your windows with the same color and shade and appearance and style. (i.e. six pane over six pane divided lites)

Replacing a door with the same type style, color and shade. (Includes a garage door)

Planting of flowers, shrubs, trees, or creating planting areas.

Replacing your fence with the same style, height, and color and shade.

Replacing a storage shed with the same type including size, materials, and color and shade.

Installing a television antenna or satellite dish on your roof.

The following provides some examples of improvements to your property that DOES require review by the Architectural Control committee.

Any alterations or repairs that alters the outward appearance of structures on your property including:

Repainting your home a different color or shade.

Includes doors, storm doors, windows, storm windows, trim, gutters, and shutters.

Replacing your roof with other than the same style, type, and color or shade of shingles.

Replacing your gutters with other than the same type, style, or color.

Replacing your driveway or sidewalk with materials different than the original.

Enlarging your driveway or sidewalk.

Replacing your windows with other than the same color or shade or appearance and style. (i.e. installing a bay window)

Replacing an entrance or garage door with other than the same size, type, color or shade. (i.e. steel with wood)

Installing or replacing a fence with other than the same style, height, or color or shade. Includes painting a previously approved fence that was left natural.

Constructing a storage shed, changing the color or shade of a previously approved shed, or painting a shed that was previously approved to be left natural.

Replacing the siding on your home.

Any additions to your home including room, garage, porch, or deck.

Completely or partially enclosing a carport.

Installing a permanent basketball hoop or any type of batting cage.

Installing a "pole" light fixture.

Installing storm windows or door.

Installing any type of swimming pool or water garden.

Installing a television antenna or satellite dish anywhere on your property other than on your roof.

If you are unsure if your alteration should be reviewed, please feel free to contact any member of the Architectural Control Committee

