

Volume 9 – No. 1

January 2009

The Hickory Farms Newsletter

Board of Directors

President

John Kitzmiller 503-3443

Vice President

Rich Dudley 503-2060

Treasurer

Jaime Gutierrez 425-7919

Secretary

Bilal Sayyed 764-8716

Community Grounds, Paths & Woods

Rich Dudley 503-2060

Building Design Approvals (ACC)

Kirk Randall 425-0210

At Large – Dante Gilmer 978-0621

Barin Chakrabarti 426-1430

Other Volunteers

Neighborhood Watch

Dave Dempster 503-0561

Welcome New Neighbors

Nancy Bentley 978-0373

Newsletter & Web Site

Kirk Randall 425-0210

Community Yard Sale (Fall)

Pete Scala 764-0730

Email Coordinators

Heather Webb 425-1347

Ellie Coddling 426-4606

Social Committee

Patty Dudley 503-2060

Dawn Dempster 503-0561

Lynn Welch 978-4113

ACC Members

Barin Chakrabarti

Claire Coleman

Keith Ferguson

Donna Garfield

Greg Gillette

Clair Hill

Kirk Randall

Email addresses are at

www.hickoryfarms.org

All phone area codes are 703

Hickory Farms Community Association

P.O. Box 2239, Fairfax VA 22031

www.hickoryfarms.org

We hope you had a wonderful holiday period and are looking forward to a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Annual dues of \$125 are due January 1. Your only notification that annual dues are due is through The Newsletter.

We do not mail bills for annual dues.

Renters – Please tell your landlord that Annual Dues are now due.

Join the Hickory Farms email 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 <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HickoryFarms/> -- Click "Join this Group" -- Be sure to click the "Individual Emails" option.

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. It's a great way to meet your neighbors. Dave Dempster 703-503-0561 ddhokies@cox.net

Fri	January 2	Stefan Schwarz	Christine Schwarz
Sat	January 3	Dave Dempster	Dawn Dempster
Fri	January 9	Jaime Gutierrez	Ed Wagner
Sat	January 10	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Fri	January 16	Pingjun Li	Wang Chan Cheng
Sat	January 17	Greg Gillette	Kathy Gillette
Fri	January 23	Dave Maurer	Sanjeev Munjal
Sat	January 24	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg
Fri	January 30	John Kitzmiller	Brand Niemann
Sat	January 31	Susan Mulliner	Brenton Mulliner
Fri	February 6	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters
Sat	February 7	Kirk Randall	Chris Woody
Fri	February 13	Bob Cosgriff	Don Klingemann
Sat	February 14	Jeff Lindsay	Larry Rogers
Fri	February 20	Angel Meza	Jason Meza
Sat	February 21	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay
Fri	February 27	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz
Sat	February 28	Mike Martin	Scott Buchanan

This Month's Home Maintenance Checklist

The complete list may be found on the [HF web site](#) →home Maintenance and Appearance (All)

Lawn Mower Shutdown – After cutting the lawn for the last time this season: Let the mower run out of gas (this keeps the gas from gumming up over the winter). Remove and clean the spark plug – don't replace it just yet. Change the oil. Replace the air filter. Remove and sharpen the blade. Scrape off grass clippings under the deck. Apply a light coating of oil to the underside of the deck. Squirt a spoonful of oil in the cylinder and pull the starter rope a few times to coat the cylinder wall. Replace the spark plug.

Heating & Cooling Duct Cleaning – Have a professional vacuum the accumulated dust out of the ductwork every ten years or so – *if needed*.

Gutter Cleaning – Clean out your gutters. Overflowing gutters lead to ground erosion and wet basements. If you are surrounded by trees, you may have to do this both Spring and Fall.

Furnace Humidifier Setup – If you have a furnace humidifier, make sure it is plugged in and set properly. Turn on the water supply valve. If you did not do so in the spring, scrape off mineral buildup in the water pan and replace the filter – if needed. Work the float arm back and forth to dislodge mineral deposits.

[Scenic Remodeling Ad Here]

Can You Volunteer Just an Hour a Month?

After several years of service, Dave Dempster is stepping down as neighborhood watch coordinator. Could you step into his shoes? It takes very little of your time, and helps keep our neighborhood safe and secure. Please call Dave at 703-503-0561 ddhokies@cox.net

Special Fairfax County Election to be Held February 3

Now that Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Gerry Connolly has been elected to US Congress, his seat is vacant. A special election to name a new Chairman will be held February 3. If you are not already registered, you must register by Wednesday, January 21.

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. This list is published January, April, July, and October. (1-4-7-10)

Corine Johnson (14) 703-272-3302	Experienced babysitter of all ages weekends until 1 AM. References available.
Victoria Hebeisen (15) 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 (14) 703-323-3699	Babysitting/mother's helper, pet sitting, dog walking.
Cari Moore (12) 703-323-3699	Babysitting/mother's helper.

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 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 → Home Maintenance and Appearance. – The Editor (1)

What To Do With Your Old TV & Electronic Equipment ?

Take your old TVs, computers, and other electronic equipment to the free recycling event Sunday Jan 11, Sunday Feb 8, and Sunday Mar 8. The event is at the transfer station on West Ox Road, right across from Costco.

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)

Yard Debris Pick Ups Cancelled Until March

Most refuse companies do not pick up yard debris 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)

GMU Constructing Faculty/Staff Housing on Roberts Road

The construction on Roberts Road is for 155 rental units for GMU faculty and staff. There will be an entrance from Roberts Road, approximately halfway between Still Meadow and Glenmere Roads. A stoplight is also planned for the intersection of Roberts Road and Shenandoah Lane. Construction is expected to be completed in the fall. For more information, see www.gmu.edu/mlfacstaff/facultyAndStaffHousing.pdf.

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 that cul-de-sacs have the lowest priority.

To give yourself a better chance at getting your street plowed, park your cars in driveways before the snow begins. Shovel your snow to the right (when facing the road), so the plow won't push your own snow back in your driveway. And remember, *you* are responsible for shoveling the sidewalk in front of your house.

If the wait for the snow plow is too long, call VDOT at 1-800-367-ROAD (1)

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)

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](#).

(1-5-9)

Last Call for Tree Work Group Purchase

I will be organizing a group purchase of tree trimming and removal services in January (after the surge of work caused by the New Year's Eve winds are over. If interested, please email me with your contact information at kirk_randall@hotmail.com or call 703-425-0210. Please describe the work you need done with enough detail that the estimator can enter your yard and prepare a proposal. If you have already responded but have not provided me with the description of the work done, please do so ASAP.

The Hickory Farms Newsletter is published every month, 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.

Your only notification that Annual Dues are due is through The Newsletter.

We do not mail bills for annual dues.

**Hickory Farms Community Association
Annual Dues Notice**

The \$125 annual dues assessment is due starting January 1, 2009.

Payments received after March 31, 2009 will be assessed a \$50 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 \$50 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 quality 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: _____

Hickory Farms Community Association Application for Architectural Review

Emailing your application (cut and paste this into your email message) to the Chairman of the Architectural Control Committee (Kirk_Randall@Hotmail.com is the Acting Chairman) is preferred. You may also hand deliver your completed application to any member of the ACC or mail it to PO Box 2239, Fairfax, VA 22031 (Mailing could delay delivery to the ACC by several days). Electronic versions of photos and plans, attached to your email, are preferred, but please use the lowest resolution when scanning to conserve precious disk space. Please read [How to Get ACC Approval for Your Renovation Project](http://www.hickoryfarms.org) at www.hickoryfarms.org before submission. You do *not* need to submit the "Architectural Review Guidelines" part with your application.

Today's Date :

Name :

Phone :

Address :

Email Address :

Proposed Start Date (Must be at least 30 days past the date received by the ACC) :

Expected Completion Date :

Project Description :

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.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Ensure project complies with all Fairfax County residential building codes and Hickory Farms Community Association (HFCA) covenants. The 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.

Architectural Review Guidelines

Projects that do not alter the outward appearance of structures on your property DO NOT require review by the Architectural Control Committee, 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.

Examples of alterations or repairs that alter the outward appearance of structures on your property including, and DO require review by the Architectural Control Committee, include:

- 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 whether your project needs review, please contact any ACC member.