

Volume 14 – No. 6

July 2014

The Hickory Farms Newsletter

Board of Directors

President

Bruce Bernhardt 426-9446

Vice President

Chuck Stewart 425-7368

Treasurer

Dante Gilmer 978-0621

Secretary

Ed Wagner 425-7875

Community Grounds, Paths & Woods – Don & Sara

Lobeda 539-8472

Architectural Control Committee

Kirk Randall 425-0210

At Large

Mike Mehrman 323-0801

Other Volunteers

Neighborhood Watch

Kathy Gillette 503-3158

Newsletter & Web Site

Kirk Randall 425-0210

Community Yard Sale (Fall)

Pete Scala 764-0730

Email ("Listserv")

Stefan Schwarz

Social Committee - Vacant

Architectural Reviews

Keith Ferguson, Donna

Garfield, Ed Kiechlin

Kirk Randall (Chairman)

Carole Rogers

Stefan Schwarz

Newsletter Delivery – John

Kitzmiller, Heather Webb

Leslie Morrisette

Dante Gilmer, Sondra

Arnold, Ed Kiechlin

Claire & Sean Coleman

Get Email addresses at

www.hickoryfarms.org

All telephone area
codes are 703-

Hickory Farms Community Association

P.O. Box 2239, Fairfax VA 22031

www.hickoryfarms.org

Personnel changes are coming to the Architectural Control Committee, which reviews applications to change the exterior appearance of our homes. Greg "Yogi" Gillette will soon be leaving the community and Stefan Schwarz and Ed Kiechlin have generously stepped forward to fill Yogi's shoes. Thanks to all three of you!

Start accumulating your unneeded stuff to sell at this fall's community yard sale.

If you see storm damage on our Common Areas, please contact Common Area coordinators Don and Sara Lobeda at 703-539-8472.

Do you miss your Hickory Farms emails, including receiving your newsletter by email?

Please read the enclosed message from Listserv Coordinator Stefan Schwarz about reestablishing this service.

There will be no August Newsletter

Join the Hickory Farms email Group

- 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 in PDF format.

Visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HickoryFarms/> -- Click "Join this Group"



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Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Needed – How About You?

Bruce Bernhardt, President

Can you contribute only 1-2 hours a month to maintaining the safety of our community?

Hickory Farms needs a volunteer to take over as Neighborhood Watch Coordinator. Our current Coordinator, Kathy Gillette is moving from Hickory Farms in the very near future. Thanks, Kathy, for all the volunteering you and husband Yogi have done over the many years.

NW participants patrol our neighborhood in pairs on Friday and Saturday evenings on the lookout for potential criminal or serious safety situations. They DO NOT engage anyone; they are observers only. They report to Fairfax Police (911) any suspicious activities.

The Coordinator position involves keeping the volunteer list and schedule of residents who patrol our neighborhood. Kathy is eager to meet with her successor to pass on the current member list and NW schedule and brief them on how easy the NW program is to manage.

One of the many things that make Hickory Farms the great place it is to live for all of us is the commitment of volunteer neighbors to staff the Neighborhood Watch.

If you would like to be out next NW Coordinator, (or become a Neighborhood Watch volunteer), please contact Kathy (703-503-3158) or Bruce Bernhardt (703-989-0751).

From famous quote department: "if not you, then who? If not now, then when?" Help us keep Hickory Farms the great place it is to live, meet new friends, and raise families!

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You Should Join the Hickory Farms Listserv Email Service

Stefan Schwarz – Listserv Coordinator

Every homeowner/resident should join the Hickory Farms Listserv email service to receive copies of this newsletter and other announcements helpful to the community. To learn more about this service, visit www.hickoryfarms.org/E-mail.htm.

However, over the years the list of members has become bloated with folks who have left the neighborhood or whose email addresses changed.

The only way to correct this was to delete all email addresses from the group and ask folks to re-register. Unfortunately, it seems that a number of people failed to re-register.

So, if you have not re-registered in the last month or two, please do so ASAP. Just email your name, email address, telephone number, and Hickory Farms street address to sschwarz13@gmail.com.

Do you need tree work done?

Kirk Randall is organizing one of his periodic group purchases of tree work, such as removing trees, pruning, and stump grinding. Once we have your job requirements, the tree company will provide a no-obligation estimate. Email a description of your job requirements, address, and telephone number to Kirk_Randall@hotmail.com or call 703-425-0210



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Architectural Control Committee Approvals

4360 Harvester Farm - Gutters
4333 Still Meadow – Shed
4356 Harvester Farm - ACC Application - Porch Enclosure
4344 Farm House Lane - Roof

PLEASE READ THIS If You Plan To Sell Your Home Soon

When you sell your home, you will need to give the purchaser a copy of the Hickory Farms Virginia Property Owners' Association Act (VPOAA) Disclosure Packet. This is required by Virginia state law. ***If you do not give a copy of this document to the purchaser, they could delay closing or even cancel the sale.***

The Disclosure Packet comes in two parts, and both parts must be given to the purchaser. You or your agent should contact the Treasurer (preferably by email) to arrange for the delivery of the Disclosure Packet. Please request the Disclosure Packet three weeks prior to closing in order to give the Treasurer time to respond. As a word of advice, however, do not request it too early. Should it take a long time to sell your house, the information could become outdated. We recommend that you request the Disclosure Packet when you have a signed contract in hand.



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| ✓ Rent Collection | ✓ Disbursement of Funds as |
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Part 1 contains specific information about your property. You or your agent may request either a paper copy or electronic version (email is preferred, though), for which there is no charge. Please note that before Part 1 is sent to you, your property will be inspected by a member of the Board of Directors or Architectural Control Committee to determine compliance with the Hickory Farms [Rules & Regulations](#) and [Restrictive Covenants](#) (See Article VII). If not, the letter will alert the purchaser that you, the seller, need to bring the property into compliance before closing. If you do not do so, the purchaser could delay or even cancel the sale. The Board or ACC member may arrive unannounced and knock on your door to see if anyone is home before inspecting the property. If someone is home, the Board or ACC member will introduce themselves; if no one is at home, they will do a quick walk around the property. If you do not want the Board or ACC member to enter your back yard unattended (if, say, you have a dog), you must tell the Treasurer to arrange a meeting time. Do this when you make your request for your Disclosure Packet.

Part 2 contains general information applicable to all homes in Hickory Farms. This 45+ page document is available for free download by [clicking this link](#). If you want a printed copy mailed to you, personally deliver a \$10 check (made out to HFCA) to the Treasurer. Please allow ten business days from when the check is received by the Treasurer to the date Part 1 can be released, as we must allow time for your check to clear.

(3-7-11)

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Why We Should Use Native Plants

Ashley Schreiber (Tumbleweed)

You don't really see that many native plants in people's yards. Instead, most people would rather use the pretty, decorative plants that you commonly see. Most are not invasive, but they still are harming our ecosystem. Instead, use native plants.

Native plants are very important in any ecosystem, and for many reasons. It also makes biodiversity of plants and animals by providing their food and shelter. Since native plants are so used to our living conditions, they have no need for pesticides, irrigation, or fertilizer. No irrigation equals less waste of water! Native plants are also very low maintenance. If you aren't using the mower every day or the weed whacker, you are also reducing pollution. Native plants are also very cheap.

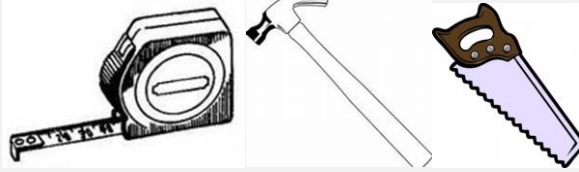
So go buy some native plants. Make a change in the world. Save the environment, as well as your time and money!

Should You Power Wash Your Sidewalk, Patio, or Driveway?

Only if you are very, very careful. Power washers – especially gas powered ones - deliver enormous water pressure to the concrete, powerful enough to actually dig out the rock aggregate which is part of the concrete mix. Once that begins, the concrete will begin to crumble, a process called spalling. However, if you really want to clean your concrete using a power washer, use it at the lowest power setting and keep the wand at least 1½ feet from the concrete. Better yet, use a concrete cleaning product available from a home center or hardware store such as Ace Hardware on Main Street.

(7)

Remodeling Services by David Alvarado Cortez



Bathroom & Kitchen Remodels – Decks

Ceramic Tile – Painting

Hardwood Floors – Drywall – Carpentry

Replacement Windows & Doors – Trim

General Handyman Services – Pressure Washing

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Hickory Farms References Available – Low Prices

571-313-9550 Christopher120982@Hotmail.com

Quiet Hours – The Fairfax County Noise Ordinance

The Fairfax County noise ordinance generally implements quiet hours between 9PM and 7AM. However, trash and recycling may be picked up as early as 6AM. Construction or demolition equipment also may not be used outside before 9AM on Sundays and federal holidays. Trucks may not be loaded or unloaded outside within 100 yards of a home between 9PM and 6AM. If you are being disturbed, please first speak with your neighbor. If that doesn't work, call the Fairfax Police non-emergency number at 702-691-2131. See www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code/noise/

(7)

Changes to Hickory Farms By-Laws to Be Considered

Laws affecting homeowner associations such as ours were enacted during recent sessions in the House of Delegates and Senate. The Board of Directors would like to review our By-Laws to determine whether changes may need to be made at the October Annual Meeting. If you would like to participate in the review team, or would like to suggest changes, please contact President Bruce Bernhardt at 703-426-9446. To view the By-Laws, visit www.hickoryfarms.org and click Laws, Rules, and Regulations That Apply to Hickory to Hickory Farms Residents.

Attention All Landlords

Make sure the Treasurer (dantegilmer@hotmail.com) has your current contact information so you may receive newsletters and other information such as notices of annual dues. If your property is being managed by a real estate agent, please ensure the agent's contact information is also given to the Treasurer. (7)

Common Area Courtesies

Dumping of Yard Debris - The Common Areas are part of everyone's back yard. However, yard debris such as grass clippings and branches are being dumped in several spots. PLEASE do not dump debris in the Common Areas. For one thing, it is a violation of our Rules and Regulations. Besides being unsightly, these dumping areas attract rats and other wild animals. Your trash service will pick up yard debris separately for recycling from spring through fall, and it will pick up yard debris as part of your trash service during the winter. If you have been putting debris in the Common Areas, please move it out to the street on debris day or haul it to the Fairfax County dump on West Ox Road. The woods can't decompose more debris than it generates itself, meaning the clippings and branches you dump in the Common Areas overloads the area's ability to decompose the material.

Vehicles - The Common Areas (woods, fields, and walking paths) are for the enjoyment of all Hickory Farms residents their guests. This invitation does not include the use of motorized vehicles such as mopeds and motor scooters (our insurance doesn't cover them and they tear up the grass). If you see anyone driving on the Common Areas, please call 911. (5)

If You Notice Something Suspicious in our Common Areas

Folks from outside our neighborhood sometimes visit our Common Areas. If you notice situations that seem out of place, such as numerous cars parked next to the Common Areas with groups of people loitering or walking back to wooded areas, please call 911. While our Neighborhood Watch patrols our streets on Friday and Saturday nights, we sometimes find groups of people using our Common Areas on weeknights for drinking, drug use, or other inappropriate purposes. Our Common Areas are private property and are for resident use only. Guests must be accompanied by a resident at all times . (5)

May I Store My Boat or Trailer in My Driveway ?

Not if it sits forward of the house for more than seven consecutive days. The Hickory Farms Restrictive Covenants (Our "Constitution") state: "No boats, trailers, tents or any other structure of a portable nature, or portable vehicles other than automobiles shall stay parked forward of any dwelling for a period exceeding seven days." (5)

Sidewalk Repairs & Shrubbery Trimming

If you notice damaged sidewalks or curbs in the community, please report them to the Virginia Department of Transportation. Multiple reports for the same damage may move the item higher on their priority list. VDOT will also trim shrubbery on corner properties where they obstruct a driver's vision. www.virginiadot.org/travel/citizen.asp - 1-800-367-7623 (7)

Neighborhood Watch Schedule

Kathy Gillette

Please volunteer for this important activity!! It only takes one three hour shift every three months on a Friday or Saturday evening. Neighborhood Watch has been proven to cut crime! It's also a great way to meet your neighbors!

Fri	July 4	John Verheul	Tami Verheul
Sat	July 5	Zhong Cheng Wang	Tong Wang
Fri	July 11	Dave Maurer	Sanjeev Munjal
Sat	July 12		
Fri	July 18	Jaime Gutierrez	--
Sat	July 19	Dave Dempster	Dawn Dempster
Fri	July 25	Susan Mulliner	Brenton Mulliner
Sat	July 26	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters
Fri	Aug 1	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Sat	Aug 2		
Fri	Aug 8	Greg Gillette	Kathy Gillette
Sat	Aug 9	Rick Loranger	Judy Loranger
Fri	Aug 15	Jeff Lindsay	Larry Rogers
Sat	Aug 16	Angel Meza	Jason Meza
Fri	Aug 22	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay
Sat	Aug 23	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz
Fri	Aug 29	John Coyne	Linda Coyne
Sat	Aug 30	Pete Scala	Rose Scala
Fri	Sept 5	Stan Lee	Jim Marshall
Sat	Sept 6	Pam Barrett	Tom Barrett
Fri	Sept 12	Ed Wagner	--
Sat	Sept 13	Stefan Schwarz	Christine Schwarz
Fri	Sept 19	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg
Sat	Sept 20	Brian Roethlisberger	--
Fri	Sept 26		
Sat	Sept 27	Jason Zhao	Laura Feng

Updated Directory Coming Soon

The Board of Directors hasn't missed the fact that it's been more than six years since they published a community directory. We are double checking resident information so that the directory will be as up-to-date as possible. Lots of folks have abandoned their land lines for cell phones. If you are one of those, we are especially interested in learning your new phone number. You can help us by emailing us the following information to be included in the directory (and also used to accurately mail annual dues bills in November):

- Adult Resident Name(s)
- Street Address
- Primary Telephone
- Email Address

If you are not the property owner (i.e., a tenant), please ask your landlord to provide their information, too.

Send your information ASAP to kirk_randall@hotmail.com

Board of Directors Meetings Are Open to All Homeowners

The Board of Directors meets on an ad-hoc basis, usually on a Wednesday night every 2-3 months. Meetings last 1½ -2 hours. If you would like to attend a meeting to raise a concern, or just to see how the Board works, please call the President (see front page for telephone number). (7)

The HF Newsletter is published January, March-May, July, and September-December. E-mail submissions to the Editor by the 25th of the prior month. For past issues and information for advertisers, see www.hickoryfarms.org --> Newsletters. The Editor, subject to review by the Board of Directors, may reject or edit any submission. Advertising in this newsletter does not constitute endorsement. The editor is Kirk Randall 703-425-0210 – kirk_randall@hotmail.com