

July
2015

The Hickory Farms Newsletter

Board of Directors

President
Bruce Bernhardt 989-0751
Vice President
Chuck Stewart 425-7368
Treasurer
Dante Gilmer 978-0621
Asst Treasurer
Brand Niemann 503-8124
Secretary
Ed Wagner 425-7875
**Community Grounds, Paths
& Woods – Don & Sara
Lobeda 539-8472**
At Large – Brian
Roethlisberger 426-9099
Mike Mehrman 323-0801
Vanessa Franck Neighbor-
hood Watch 483-0730
Pete Scala Community
Yard Sale (Fall) 764-0730
Kirk Randall 425-0210

Other Volunteers

Newsletter & Web Site
Kirk Randall 425-0210
Email ("Listserv")
Stefan Schwarz
Social Committee – Vacant
Architectural Reviews
Keith Ferguson (Interim
Chairman - 323-1067
Donna Garfield, Ed
Kiechlin, Kirk Randall
Carole Rogers
Stefan Schwarz
**Newsletter Delivery – John
Kitzmiller, Heather Webb
Leslie Morrisette
Dante Gilmer, Sonda
Arnold, Ed Kiechlin
Claire & Sean Coleman
Debbi Buchanan**
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*

**Start organizing your unneeded stuff
to sell at this fall's yard sale.**

**Keith Ferguson is our new interim
Chairman of the Architectural Control
Committee. Please send your ACC
applications to Keith at 703-323-1067
or ktferguson@cox.net**

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

**Do you miss your Hickory Farms
emails, including receiving your
newsletter by email and learning when
the community yard sale is
scheduled? See how to get plugged in
at the bottom of this page.**

**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://www.hickoryfarms.org/E-mail.htm> -- Click "Join Group"



P.O. Box 2722
Fairfax, VA 22031-2722



Cell: 571-436-6551
Bus: 703-764-0199
adcpropertieservices@gmail.com

Family owned and operated business established since 2002.
Servicing Virginia and Maryland for all of your property management needs.
As residents of Hickory Farms, you can count on us to maintain our neighborhood integrity.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ✓ Evaluate Property | ✓ Detailed Documentation |
| ✓ Market Property | ✓ Accurate and Detailed |
| ✓ Tenant Screening | Accounting Reports |
| ✓ Rent Collection | ✓ Disbursement of Funds as |
| ✓ Periodic Inspections | Directed by Owner |
| ✓ Property Maintenance | ✓ Accurate Year End Statements |

ADC Property Services

Exceeding expectations for quality service—and by the way, we also help with buying and selling homes.

One of the reasons Hickory Farms is a great place to live is the unbroken line of volunteers who have stepped forward over the past 40 years in multiple volunteer capacities. Please consider volunteering for one of the open positions to continue that unbroken line of support! Our neighborhood is worth the effort to keep it a very special place to live and celebrate life every day! Thanks! President Bruce Bernhardt

New HFCA Treasurer Opportunity!

After over eight years of service as Hickory Farms Community Association (HFCA) Treasurer, Dante Gilmer has announced his decision to step down as Treasurer at the Annual Meeting in October 2015. As a community, we owe Dante thanks for his selfless service during his time on the HFCA Board in this position. This presents a great opportunity for another member of our community to step forward as our new Treasurer! **How about you? Can we count on you?** If you are a homeowner and would like more information on the position of Treasurer, or have any questions about serving in this position, please give President Bruce Bernhardt a call at 703-989-0751 or email bnbnjb06@cox.net or call any HFCA Board Member listed on page 1. Dante has agreed to remain on the Board and will provide an easy transition and support for the new Treasurer.

TOP 200 RATED EXTERIOR REMODELER IN THE NATION 5 YEARS IN A ROW!

Celebrating 20 Years In Business!

Windows/Doors

- Energy Efficient Replacement Windows & Doors

Decks/Porches

- Screened In Porches

Siding/Trim

- Insulated Siding
- Maintenance Free – Never Paint Again

Gutters & Leaf Protection

- Clog Free Gutters

Roofing

- Lifetime Warranties

Attic Insulation

- Blown In R-49



703-499-8654

Call Today for Your **FREE** Estimate!

20% OFF all Hickory Farms projects!

www.SunshineContractingCorp.com

Senior, Military, Government, Police & Firefighter Discounts Available

•Family Owned & Operated
•Lifetime Warranties
•In-House Crews
•0% Financing Available

SEPA (Siding, Eaves, Porch, Attic) (703-499-8654)

BBB A+ RATING

ENERGY STAR PARTNER

Architecture Control Committee Chairperson Also Needs a Volunteer!

Hickory Farms is also seeking a volunteer to assume the position of Architecture Control Committee (ACC) Chairperson. Kirk Randall, after many years of volunteer service, recently passed the leadership of this key committee to Keith Ferguson on an interim basis as we search for a permanent replacement. Our thanks go to Keith for keeping us going on in the near term but we need a longer term replacement for this position. **How about you?** If you have an interest in keeping our 198 homeowner lots attractive and increasing in value, please give President Bruce Bernhardt a call at 703-989-0751 or email bnbnjb06@cox.net or call any HFCA Board Member listed on page 1. Kirk continues to serve on the ACC and has agreed to provide an easy transition and support for the new Chairperson.

Garden Club About to Break Ground!

Three volunteers have come forward to recommend improvements to our two Hickory Farms entrances. Joyce McIntyre, Rose Scala and Nancy Bernhardt will consider options to improve the appearance of the Roberts Road/Still Meadow Road entrance and Burke Station Road/Cotton Farm Road entrance. This is going to be a really fun, exciting, and short term project and additional volunteers are warmly invited to participate. If you have ideas for making our community look even better, please give President Bruce Bernhardt a call at 703-989-0751 or email him at bnbnjb06@cox.net

- ✓ Exceptional Personal Service
- ✓ Reliability You Can Count On
- ✓ Experience and Foresight
- ✓ **Hickory Farms Resident and Homeowner!**

Call Today!
Get Your **Free**, No Obligation
Market Analysis and
Consultation on
Buying or Selling Your Home



Lisa Marfori

Real Estate Agent
LisaMarfori@gmail.com
Direct: 703-774-6680
Office: 540-931-0144
Fax: 206-339-7759



Northern Virginia Team | Main Office Address: 640 Warrior Drive #105 Stephens City, VA 22665

Sidewalk, Gutters, and Street Maintenance

If you see a broken sidewalk or curb or any problem with the streets, contact VDOT at 800-367-ROAD (7623) or visit <http://www.virginiadot.org/travel/citizen.asp> VDOT will add the item to its database and, if there are enough problems in our community that have been reported and VDOT has the money, they will fix the problem. They have been quick to respond in recent years.

Are You a Former ACC Chairman or ACC Member?

The Board of Directors is gathering historical records to comply with the records retention provisions in recently enacted Virginia statutes. Although we have thousands of pages of Architectural Control Committee documents from years past, there are still many missing eras, such as 1975-1989 and 2004-2009. Please keep us in mind should a box or two of Hickory Farms files show up in your basement. Got records? Please call Board/ACC member Kirk Randall at 703-425-0210 or email kirk_randall@hotmail.com.



Deborah L. Lewis, CFP®, ChFC®, MBA, CPA
Agent, New York Life Insurance Company
3605-D Chain Bridge Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
(703) 352-8983
dllewis@ft.newyorklife.com
www.deborahllewis.com

Let me help you protect your family, your income and your future through comprehensive financial planning. Please contact my office if you would like more information about the products and services that we offer. **-Debbie Lewis (Your Hickory Farms Neighbor)**

Deborah L. Lewis, Financial Adviser, offering investment and advisory services through Eagle Strategies LLC, a Registered Investment Adviser. Registered Representative, offering securities through NYLIFE Securities LLC (member FINRA/SIPC), A Licensed Insurance Agency.

Still Meadow Road is a Residential Street, Not a Racetrack!

A number of residents on Still Meadow (in the area around the bend) have complained about speeding and reckless driving and asked the Board of Directors to take action. Unfortunately, since the Hickory Farms Community Association does not own the roads in our community, the Board has no authority to police the streets. But, here are a few suggestions.

If you spot a vehicle that frequently speeds or drives recklessly, note the license plate, vehicle description, and time of the day this usually occurs and report it to the Fairfax County Police at their non-emergency number 703-691-2131. However, if they are driving in a manner that could cause injury to others, immediately call 911.

Believe it or not, at least one of the offenders is a Fairfax County School Bus. If you spot a school bus speeding or driving recklessly, note the bus number and time of day and report it to the Team 26 Transportation Supervisor at 703-446-2050.

Speeders don't seem to be paying attention to the signs that have been posted along Still Meadow Road. If you want to get the Fairfax County government involved, please call our representative on the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor John Cook, at 703-425-9300. You can also send Supr. Cook an email at braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov. John's political career began as President of the nearby Kings Park neighborhood, a community that has had a lot of experience with speeding and cut-through traffic.

Lawn Mowing + Landscape Maintenance specialists

- Lawn Mowing
- Spring cleanups and Mulching
- Lawn Fertilizing + Weed control
- Lawn Aerating + Seeding
- Bed Weeding + Shrub Pruning
- Fall Leaf Cleanups

Also available: Complete Landscape Installations, renovations and creations, Complete Tree Services including pruning, removals and planting. See our website for more information.

Professional Property Maintenance Inc.

Since 1991 703-273-9626

www.ppmlandscapes.com



Try our services for **FREE!**
Sign up for Lawn mowing services
and get 1 visit free.



When Family Pets and Wild Animals Meet, the Wild Animals Usually Win Bob Cosgriff

Although it is located in the middle of a densely populated suburban county, Hickory Farms is home to a variety of wildlife, ranging from small invertebrates to reptiles and amphibians to birds to small mammals and to larger creatures as well. It is also home to family pets in the form of dogs and cats. Just as animals and humans can have unfortunate encounters, so too can family pets and wildlife. Since wildlife by definition is 'wild,' the responsibility for preventing problems rests with the human owners of family pets.

So just what are the dangers? First, there is the risk of rabies or distemper or other communicable disease if your dog or cat is bitten by an infected animal such as a raccoon, skunk, squirrel, or fox. Keeping rabies inoculations up-to-date is one way to guard against the rabies danger. However, any wild animal bite is a serious matter and typically involves expensive veterinary care. So a better preventive measure is to keep family pets from an encounter in the first place. With dogs, this is somewhat easier, since all dogs in Fairfax County must be on a leash or contained inside a fence; in other words, they are not permitted by law to roam freely. However, wild animals can get into fenced-in yards, so there is still a danger to a pet dog left outside. With cats that are allowed to roam, there is a greater danger of an encounter that might not go well. The best preventive measure here is to convert tabby to an indoor cat. Contrary to folk wisdom, cats do not need to roam to be happy. All they need is a territory; this can be your home's interior. It's a jungle out there, but your cat is not a tiger or a jaguar!

Moving anytime soon? Call me today!

I can help you sell your house **QUICKLY** and at **TOP DOLLAR**.
You can count on **PERSONAL ATTENTION** and **EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE**.

Free Market Analysis!



Linda Min

703-655-3597 (direct)
703 535-3610 (office)
703 831-8813 (fax)
lindamin@kw.com



607 S. Washington St. Alexandria, VA 22314 | www.fairfaxhomesexpert.com

A more serious threat is that posed by foxes and coyotes which move through the county and occasionally come into Hickory Farms. Both of these predators are more than capable of taking a cat for a meal, and coyotes can take out most any family pet dog except the very largest breeds. You see signs for missing cats here and there around our area. Most likely, they have been dinner for a fox or coyote.

A simple precaution to keep wild animals away from your property is to not put food dishes for your pet outside. These will attract wild animals who are looking for a "free lunch." If your pet happens to be there when a scavenging animal shows up, there's a problem!

A final consideration concerning wild animals: there have been at least two recent reports of raccoons attacking humans, one on a trail in South Run District Park and one in a yard in the King's Park subdivision on Braddock Road. The raccoons were thought to be rabid. If you should see a raccoon or fox in your yard, do not approach it. If the animal appears aggressive, disoriented, or unhealthy (e.g., mangy, bleeding, vomiting, etc.), call Animal Control at the Fairfax County Police non-emergency number at 703-691-2131.

Please note that Animal Control will respond to reports of sick or injured wildlife or human exposure/encounters with potentially rabid wildlife meeting the following one of the following conditions:

Solutions

*Serving the
Northern Virginia area
since 2001*

Give Solutions a Call Today for Your Answer to:

Interior Remodeling
Bathrooms ▪ Basements ▪ Kitchens
Drywall Repair & Painting ▪ ADA Compliance ▪ And More

Exterior Remodeling
Roofing ▪ Windows ▪ Siding ▪ Trim Cladding
Rotted Wood ▪ Repairs ▪ And More

703-906-6525
solutionsofva@gmail.com
Alex Hamilton, Owner
Class A License & Insured

Quality
Craftsmanship
♦
5-Year Warranty
♦
Outstanding
Service

- In a home or business that poses a threat to humans or pets
- Between humans or domestic animals that could result in rabies exposure
- When wildlife shows signs and symptoms of rabies
- When wildlife poses a threat to humans or pets
- When wildlife appear sick or injured

Animal Control will not respond to calls reporting wildlife nuisances (e.g., deer eating your plants or living under your deck) or when wildlife poses no real threat to humans or pets (merely seen in a yard or common area).

Hopefully, the above information will assist in keeping your favorite house pet(s) (and yourself) safe from “close encounters of the wrong kind” with the wildlife in our neighborhood.

• (4)

New Red Light Camera Coming to Fairfax City

By the time you read this, a new photo red light enforcement camera will be put in place monitoring eastbound Fairfax Boulevard at Plantation Parkway. A 30-day grace period will be given with enforcement to begin after that. Exact dates are to be determined and another community bulletin will be released by the City prior to the warning period.

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. 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.

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)

Architectural Control Committee Approvals

4314 Farm House – Paint deck
10114 Spinning Wheel – Patio
4363 Harvester Farm – Deck
4356 Harvester Farm – Shed

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)

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)

Community Yard Sale Coming in September/October

Pete Scala

It's early yet . . . but not too early to start thinking about what you want to sell! Get together with your neighbors to have a fun morning! This is a good deal for you!

We're going to conduct a Community Yard Sale again this year. Pete Scala will run it, and we plan to hold it on a Saturday from 8:00 – 12:00 late in September or early in October. The most likely date will be September 19th.

As in past years, HFCA does the advertising, posts signs, and distributes maps showing yard sale locations (but not names). Because we usually have many families participating, we always get a much better customer turnout than single family or 2 or 3 family yard sales.

In order to cover costs, a nominal charge is required for people participating. We will provide signup instructions in the September newsletter.

It's Time to Update the Community Directory

President Bruce Bernhardt

Our last HFCA Directory was published in 2008 and is now 7 years old! Having a map of the community, including lot numbers plus street listings and alphabetical name listings is a very useful addition to your "key contacts" information. It is time for a revised Directory. As with most great ideas, **we just need a few volunteers** to step forward and take on the task!

How about you? We need a small group of volunteers to contact our 198 homeowners/-renters, obtain current name, address, telephone and optional email address information (we already have most of this information on file in an Excel database) and solicit potential sponsors to cover the cost of the Directory. A web based version is under consideration, but securing the information on-line is still being discussed. We may just produce a paper copy and distribute one copy to each residence in our neighborhood. This is an excellent way to get to know not only your immediate neighbors, but also many more of our Hickory Farms community members. With any luck, we may be able to produce a revised Directory by the October 2015 annual meeting. If interested, please call Bruce Bernhardt at 703-989-0751 or email him at bnbnjb06@cox.net

The Hickory Farms Storm Drainage System

Chuck Stewart, Member Board of Directors

When your cable goes on the blink, you call the cable company. When you have issues with the electric power or gas, you call the company that is responsible. The Hickory Farms drainage system runs through and under homeowner yards, Common Areas and streets just as cable, electric power and water systems do. When there is a storm drainage problem, who do you call?

Fairfax County and VDOT jointly maintain the Hickory Farms storm drainage system. VDOT maintains the drainage components, pipes, and storm drains in the street as well as the bridge over Rabbit Run. Fairfax County maintains everything else. A portion of your property taxes goes to storm drain maintenance. Both VDOT and Fairfax County have the funds, engineering and construction skills to analyze and repair drainage systems. Fairfax County repaired a portion of the drainage system last year in response to a homeowner experiencing drainage issues.

What are you, the homeowner, responsible for? Homeowners are obligated to keep drains and settling ponds clear of bush and debris.

Of course, clogged storm drains do not cause all drainage issues. High rainfall, high water table, poorly draining soils and topography in general cause or contribute to drainage problems. The Northern Virginia Soil and the Water Conservation District and Fairfax County Maintenance & Storm Water Management Division may help the homeowner.

The Fairfax County website explains this in detail and provides phone numbers and email contact information. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/utilities/stormdrains.htm>

Please notify the Hickory Farms Board if you need to contact VDOT or Fairfax County about drainage issues, so the Board can track where drainage problems exist in Hickory Farms.

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)

George Mason University Recreation Memberships

It will soon be time for HFCA members to renew their memberships in Mason Recreation. New HFCA members are welcome to join. New and renewed memberships will be effective August 16, 2015.

HFCA has been a Mason Recreation corporate member for the past several years. Membership provides access to Mason recreation facilities on the Fairfax campus, including use of the pools and gyms, and access to most group fitness classes. Membership also includes a parking pass for general lot use when using the recreation facilities. Membership fees are:

Green— \$400 per membership for 10-25 memberships plus a \$500 tax deductible donation, or

Gold— \$350 per membership for 26 + memberships, plus a \$1000 tax deductible donation

HFCA currently has the Green level membership, meaning for the current year (August 16, 2014 to August 15, 2015), each HFCA member paid \$400 plus an equitable portion of the \$500 tax deductible donation.

Mason's corporate membership policy requires us to provide a roster with each member's full name, address, and date of birth. The HFCA Board of Directors also signs a letter attesting that the names and addresses we submit are residents of Hickory Farms.

If you wish to renew your membership or become a new member, please contact Jennifer Maloney at jmaloney57@gmail.com and provide the required information (full name, address, date of birth). Once our membership level is finalized, you will be contacted for check payment information. All checks will be due to her no later than July 31, 2015.

Birds of Hickory Farms Bob Cosgriff (Cotton Farm Road)

This article wraps up bird sightings for the first five months of 2015. Monthly average daily totals of bird species observed in our backyard are shown in the following table:

Month	Observation Days	Ave. Daily Species Count	Year birds
Jan	19	15	29
Feb	25	18	6
Mar	31	17	3
Apr	24	19	5
May	24	14	9 (52 total)

The highest daily count for the year was 26 species, achieved on 19 April. The low count was nine species, noted on 3 January and (surprisingly) on 11 May. A highlight this year was the two-week presence of a sizable flock of Purple Finches in our yard in April. These are not

to be confused with the more common, reddish-orange House Finch that readily comes to feeders all year long here. In the past, we have seen these beautiful Purple Finches, but usually in small numbers and for only a day or two. Pine Siskins were also a welcome return, after a several-year absence. They are related to goldfinches and push out (or “irrupt”) southward irregularly. We had two siskins visit us for two days in late April. Other notable birds this year were Fox Sparrow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and three raptors, namely, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered and Cooper’s hawks. The five-month total of 52 species seen in our backyard better the 2013 and 2014 totals of 42 and 39 species, respectively, for the same period.

Due to our being out of town (on a birding trip!) for the first eight days of May, we no doubt missed some neo-tropical migrants. However, we did manage to pick up a beautiful male Scarlet Tanager, and five warbler species: Chestnut-sided, Northern Parula, Black-throated Blue, Blackpoll, and Common Yellowthroat. Late May also yielded a new “neighborhood bird,” namely Acadian Flycatcher, calling in the woods along the creek north of Cotton Farm Road. I’m somewhat surprised I hadn’t seen/heard this bird before, since it is a relatively common breeding bird in our area. The wet, high-canopy wooded area along our creek provides the proper conditions for this bird. This raises our HFCA total to **114** species. Finally, I was able to confirm nesting for Eastern Towhee (adults with young feeding in our yard) and Pileated Woodpecker (feeding young in a nest in a dead tree along the path along the creek north of Cotton Farm Road). Not all birds on our HFCA list nest here, so it’s always nice to add to the breeding bird count as well, which now stands at 24, with several others probable, but just not confirmed through sightings of nests, egg fragments, or juvenile birds.

Speaking of nests, monitoring of the bluebird trail began on 16 April, and we had one successful Eastern Bluebird brood of five in the lower common grounds. At the present time, we have a second bluebird nest with five eggs in the lower common ground, and a tree swallow nest with four eggs in the upper common grounds. Otherwise, House (or “English”) Sparrows seem to be monopolizing the boxes and preventing more desirable native birds, such as Carolina Chickadee, House Wren, Eastern Bluebird, and Tree Swallow taking more of our boxes.

Since birds are still nesting, here’s a reminder: back in April, a resident living along the upper common grounds mentioned that she had observed children shaking some boxes. I also found a few box doors opened when we made our first survey. (I do lock them after nests are started so that eggs cannot be destroyed by human vandalism.) I ask all parents to please impress on your children three things about our bluebird trail. First, nature is to be respected, and our trail is a part of nature. Second, the boxes were donated by a local Girl Scout troop to HFCA, so their hard work and our community property are also to be respected. Finally, bluebirds, tree swallows, and all other songbirds are protected by state and Federal law. This legal protection extends to nests and eggs. Please do not disturb the boxes!

Finally, birds are subject to many natural predators and human-caused dangers, such as buildings, wind turbines, habitat destruction or fragmentation, and pesticides. However, overall, the greatest threat to birds (and other small creatures), is the common house cat, either by transmitting diseases to other wild animals, or through direct predation. This latter issue has been extensively studied for the last 50 years and the consistent conclusion of all the studies is that cats are a primary cause of death to staggering numbers of small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and especially birds. In fact, cats are the number one killer of

wild birds, more than building strikes, wind turbine collisions, poisoning, or other man-made causes. Attached are three links:

- A summary of various cat predation research studies:
www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/cats/materials/predation.pdf
- A peer-reviewed cat predation study in its entirety:
www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/cats/pdf/Loss_et_al_2013.pdf
- A New York Times article on wildlife mortality caused by both pet and feral cats: www.nytimes.com/2013/01/30/science/that-cuddly-kitty-of-yours-is-a-killer.html

As the American Bird Conservancy article concludes: “Ultimately, cats are not ultimately responsible for killing our native wildlife—people are. The only way to prevent domestic cat predation on wildlife is for owners to keep their cats indoors!”

While there is no way of knowing exactly how many birds or other animals are killed by house cats in Hickory Farms, it stands to reason that the number would be proportional to the mortality figures cited in studies. It might only be a small number, but as with other environmental issues, solutions start with small, individual actions for change.

In closing, as always, I encourage everyone to get out to enjoy the lovely common grounds of Hickory Farms, as well as any of the many nearby city, county, regional, state or Federal parks and refuges. Although the peak of the spring migration has passed, it is still a great time of year for adults and kids alike to be in the great outdoors and there are plenty of birds to see. If anyone has any questions about the HFCA bluebird trail, birds in general, or the best local places to go to see birds, feel free to ask me. Have a great summer!

Neighborhood Watch Schedule

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! Call Vanessa Franck at 703-483-0730.

Fri	Jul 3		
Sat	Jul 4		
Fri	Jul 10	John Verheul	Tami Verheul
Sat	Jul 11	Dave Dempster	Dawn Dempster
Fri	Jul 17	Dave Maurer	Sanjeev Munjal
Sat	Jul 18	Brian Roethlisberger	
Fri	Jul 24	Susan Mulliner	Brenton Mulliner
Sat	Jul 25	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters
Fri	Jul 31	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert

Sat	Aug 1	Rick Loranger	Judy Loranger
Fri	Aug 7	Jeff Lindsay	Larry Rogers
Sat	Aug 8	Angel Meza	Jason Meza
Fri	Aug 14	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay
Sat	Aug 15		
Fri	Aug 21	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz
Sat	Aug 22	John Coyne	Linda Coyne
Fri	Aug 28	Pete Scala	Rose Scala
Sat	Aug 29	Debbie Buchanan	
Fri	Sep 4		
Sat	Sep 5	Pam Barrett	Tom Barrett
Fri	Sep 11	Ed Wagner	
Sat	Sep 12	Stefan Schwarz	Christine Schwarz
Fri	Sep 18	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg
Sat	Sep 19	Matt Franck	Vanessa Franck
Fri	Sep 25		
Sat	Sep 26	Brian Roethlisberger	

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