

Volume 05, Issue 5

May 2005

The Hickory Farms Newsletter

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*Hickory Farms Community Association
Fairfax County, Virginia*

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President's Letter

Dear Neighbors,

Spring has finally sprung, and Hickory Farms has an exciting upcoming month.

Our Social Committee has a Spring Fling planned for May 14th. I encourage everybody to come and have a good time with your neighbors. The following week is the neighborhood yard sale, coordinated by Pete Scala. Please see the enclosed articles about both of these exciting events.

Our regular Spring Clean-up is being displaced by a neighborhood-wide search for digger bees. These bees are relatively harmless and unaggressive, but nest in the ground and can cause lawn damage. Please be on the look-out in your yard for these digger bee "nests." As the board learns more, it will provide additional information about these bees and how to get rid of them.

Two neighborly reminders. With the nicer weather, more people are out and about. First, please remember to drive carefully through the neighborhood. Many neighborhood kids are playing on or around the streets, and as much as we parents direct them to be careful, they are occasionally negligent. Please drive slowly and carefully.

Second, as a reminder, Fairfax County laws require residents to walk their dogs on a leash and to pick up after them. In addition, please practice neighborly courtesy if your dog is outside and making a lot of noise. Barking dogs should be kept inside if at all possible.

Have a great spring, and I look forward to seeing y'all at the Spring Fling on the 14th!

Happy Spring,
Jeff Altman

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

New Phone Directory

The Community's phone directory is 3-years old. Since then, several dozen houses have turned over. The Board is looking for a few volunteers to organize the data collection for the new phone directory. If interested, please contact Jeff Altman at jalt0629@hotmail.com

Hickory Farms Annual Spring Fling Picnic!!!!

Spring is in the air, so get ready for the Hickory Farms Annual Spring Fling! This year we will have lots of games for the young and old – volleyball, baseball, croquet, soccer – or bring your own.

We will be gathering in the upper common area back in the big field, this is different from past years when we have gathered just up the small hill from Farm House Lane. Date is Sunday, May 14 from 4:30 pm – Sundown; rain date is Sunday, May 15 same time and place.

HFCA will provide the paper goods, sodas, & entrées (burgers, dogs and fixin's), you just need to bring a dish to share, blankets and chairs, and of course a friendly smile. Whatever you can manage is greatly appreciated and welcome (and no doubt will be eaten!), but this year we are asking that certain streets bring a specific type of dish so as not to overload everyone with brownies and chips.

- Appetizers – Country Squire, Wheatfield & Tumbleweed
- Side Dishes – Farm House & Harvester Farm
- Desserts – Cotton Farm, Still Meadow, Round Top & Spinning Wheel

Adults are welcome to responsibly BYOB, and insure its proper care and consumption. Please RSVP to HickoryFarmsSocialCommittee@yahoo.com so we can try to estimate the food count.

We can't wait to see are old friends and of course meet some new ones!

The Hickory Farms Social Committee
Donna Altman, Patty Dudley, Lynn Welch and Dawn Dempster.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jaime Gutierrez

As of March 31, 2005 we have received the annual dues from 185 out of 198 homeowners. The remaining 13 homeowners that did not pay on time are faced with an additional \$25.00 late fee fine. As of April 24th, seven of the 13 remaining homeowners paid their dues and late fee. If the remaining homeowners do not pay by May 1st, they will face the possibility of liens placed on their property.

It is unfortunate that a few homeowners have decided, willfully or not, not to pay their dues so far; however, sooner or later, the Association will collect the dues. If a lien is placed against the property, at the time the owner decides to sell, the lien will have to be removed to have a clear title. This will require paying the annual dues, late fee, legal fees, court fees and interest. It really does not make sense not to pay.

Some homeowners have complained about having to pay the late fee for not paying on time, but when you have an obligation to pay by a certain day, you are reminded at least four times via the newsletter in December, January, February and March, there is no reason why the payment should not be on time.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Forrest Mathews, son of Steve and Robin Mathews, will graduate from James Madison University on May 7, 2005 with a BA in History and a minor in Political Science.

POOL TIME IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Join the Fairfax Swimming Pool (home of the Fairfax Frogs Swim and Dive Teams)! This is our community pool and it's only a block or so away on Roberts Road. Memberships are available now for families and individuals. An open house will be held Memorial Day weekend. Watch for signs at the pool for details. For more information, contact Mike Maloney at 703-578-8844.

REMINDER—COMMUNITY YARD SALE!!!

DO YOUR SPRING CLEANING AND MAKE A PROFIT!

Contact Pete Scala at (703) 764-0730 or pscala@cox.net to sign up.

Cost to you is only \$10 for advertising. We typically get 400 to 500 shoppers.

The yard sale runs from 8 am to 12 am Saturday May 21st, with Sunday May 22nd as a rain day. Pete will collect the advertising fee the morning of the yard sale.

Pete's still looking for young volunteers (who will earn a nominal sum for their work) to hand out maps and flyers at the entrances to Hickory Farms, and volunteers to pick up leftovers for delivery to Goodwill/Salvation Army or the Dump.

To sign up, volunteer, or ask questions, call or write Pete per the above phone number or e-mail address



Saturday, May 21

8 AM to 12 Noon

Some keys to yard sale success

- 1. Select worthwhile items to sell.** You may have some true junk to sell; but your chances of selling it, or anything else; go up if you get people to look at your stuff by having good things out there.
- 2. Prepare your merchandise ahead of time.** Wash and press clothes, dust and polish furniture, paint and oil old bikes, etc. This can make your items more sellable.
- 3. Buy some change from the bank ahead of time.** You'll need bills and coins; how much depends on how many things you have for sale, and what prices you pick (if your stuff is all 5.99, 11.59, etc., you better have a lot of pennies).
- 4. Put prices on your sale items the night before; use large tags.** People will try to bargain you down, so take that into account when you pick your asking price.
- 5. Put out your sale items in an attractive display early on Saturday morning.** Aggressive yard sale shoppers start as early as 6:30 a.m., going from yard sale to yard sale. If you're out there, you can get their business.
- 6. Have a chair to sit on and a partner to work with.** The day will get long. You might have to take a break. You might want to make up some lemonade the day before, as well.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Following is the neighborhood assignment schedule for May and June. Please contact Dave Dempster at 703-503-0561 with any questions or to volunteer for this important neighborhood activity.

| | | | |
|-----|--------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Fri | May 6 | Stefan Schwarz | Christine Schwarz |
| Sat | May 7 | Robert Cooke | Lorna Cooke |
| Fri | May 13 | Rob Mikula | Sharon Mikula |
| Sat | May 14 | John Verheul | John Cotner |
| Fri | May 20 | Bob Bentley | Nancy Bentley |
| Sat | May 21 | Ron Cruz | Louise Cruz |
| Fri | May 27 | Larry Russe | Chris Russe |
| Sat | May 28 | Jaime Gutierrez | Ed Wagner |
| Fri | Jun 3 | Bill Galinis | Diana Galinis |
| Sat | Jun 4 | Harry Herchert | Ginny Herchert |
| Fri | Jun 10 | Pingjun Li | Jin Wang |
| Sat | Jun 11 | Greg Gillette | Kathy Gillette |
| Fri | Jun 17 | Dave Maurer | Sanjeev Munjal |
| Sat | Jun 18 | Jay Kistler | Mike Martin |
| Fri | Jun 24 | John Kitzmiller | Brand Niemann |
| Sat | Jun 25 | Bob Sottile | Lee Sottile |