

Volume 7 – No. 5

May 2007

# The Hickory Farms Newsletter

## Your HF Board of Directors

President – John Kitzmiller  
703-503-3443

Vice President – Rich Dudley  
703-503-2060

Treasurer – Jaime Gutierrez  
703-425-7919

Secretary – Dave Dempster  
703-503-0561

Community Grounds, Paths &  
Woods – Rich Dudley  
703-503-2060

Neighborhood Watch –  
Dave Dempster 703-503-0561

Building Approvals (ACC  
Chairmen)

Rebekah & Wesley Moore  
703-286-7179

Board Members at Large –  
Dante Gilmer 703-978-0621  
Ellie Codding 703-426-4606

## Other HF Volunteers

Welcome New Residents –

Claire Coleman 703-425-6059 &  
Nancy Bentley 703-978-0373

Newsletter & Web Site –

Kirk Randall 703-425-0210

Community Yard Sale –

Pete Scala 703-764-0730

e-mail coordinator –

Rebekah Moore 703-286-7179

Social Committee – Patty Dudley

703-503-2060 & Dawn Dempster

703-503-0561 & Lynn Welch

703-978-4113

ACC Members – Donna Garfield,

Marc Fogleman, Kirk Randall,

Claire Coleman, Bob Ambrogi,

Maryle Mondschein

**Hickory Farms Community Association**

**P.O. Box 2239, Fairfax VA 22031**

**[www.hickoryfarms.org](http://www.hickoryfarms.org)**

Warm weather finally seems to be upon us. I had to turn on the air conditioning the other day, the fans just weren't enough.

It's a pleasure to walk around the neighborhood and see how people are caring for their yards. It makes for a more pleasant environment for all and of course helps to maintain property values. During the course of summer, if you note that someone has let their lawn go to the point that grass is more than a foot tall, they can be required by Fairfax County to either cut the grass or pay the County for cutting it. I hope that won't be necessary.

Please keep in mind that there is a leash law in Fairfax County, and all dogs must be restrained. In addition, Fairfax County code stipulates that the owner or custodian of any dog must immediately clean up any dog droppings on the property of another, including public areas such as our common areas.

I hope to see everyone at the Spring Fling on May 6. Be sure to RSVP to [DudleyTrade@cox.net](mailto:DudleyTrade@cox.net) for a food count.

John Kitzmiller – President

## **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@yahogroups.com](mailto:HickoryFarms-subscribe@yahogroups.com)

## Neighborhood Watch Schedule – Neighborhood Security

Dave Dempster

Contact Dave Dempster at 703-503-0561 (ddhokies@cox.net) with any questions, or to volunteer for this important neighborhood activity. You can file a police report for minor (non emergency) neighborhood crimes at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police).

Fri	May 4	Pam Barrett	Tom Barrett
Sat	May 5	John Verheul	Tammy Verheul
Fri	May 11	Dave Dempster	Dawn Dempster
Sat	May 12	Stefan Schwarz	Christine Schwarz
Fri	May 18	Bob Bentley	Nancy Bentley
Sat	May 19	Ron Cruz	Louise Cruz
Fri	May 25	Jaime Gutierrez	Ed Wagner
Sat	May 26	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Fri	June 1	Pingjun Li	Wang Chan Cheng
Sat	June 2	Greg Gillette	Kathy Gillette
Fri	June 8	Dave Maurer	Sanjeev Munjal
Sat	June 9	Bob Sottile	Lee Sottile
Fri	June 15	John Kitzmiller	Brand Niemann
Sat	June 16	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg
Fri	June 22	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters
Sat	June 23	Kirk Randall	Mike Martin
Fri	June 29	Bob Cosgriff	Don Klingemann
Sat	June 30	Jeff Lindsay	Larry Rogers
Fri	July 6	Angel Meza	Jason Meza
Sat	July 7	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay
Fri	July 13	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz
Sat	July 14	Debbi Buchanan	Scott Buchanan
Fri	July 20	Pete Scala	Rose Scala
Sat	July 21	Stan Lee	Jim Marshall
Fri	July 27	Pam Barrett	Tom Barrett
Sat	July 28	John Verheul	Tammy Verheul
Fri	August 3	Dave Dempster	Dawn Dempster
Sat	August 4	Stefan Schwarz	Christine Schwarz
Fri	August 10	Bob Bentley	Nancy Bentley
Sat	August 11	Ron Cruz	Louise Cruz
Fri	August 17	Jaime Gutierrez	Ed Wagner
Sat	August 18	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Fri	August 24	Pingjun Li	Wang Chan Cheng
Sat	August 25	Greg Gillette	Kathy Gillette
Fri	August 31	Dave Maurer	Sanjeev Munjal
Sat	September 1	Bob Sottile	Lee Sottile
Fri	September 7	John Kitzmiller	Brand Niemann
Sat	September 8	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg
Fri	September 14	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters
Sat	September 15	Kirk Randall	Mike Martin

Fri	September 21	Bob Cosgriff	Don Klingemann
Sat	September 22	Jeff Lindsay	Larry Rogers
Fri	September 28	Angel Meza	Jason Meza
Sat	September 29	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay

### Neighborhood Picnic Sunday May 6

Yes, it's finally Spring, so come join our annual Fling! Good food & friends abound, and lots of games around. We'll have Volleyball, Baseball, Soccer, and Croquet. Or, bring your own favorite game to play!

Sunday May 6, 2007  
 Upper Common Area (Big Field Side)  
 4:30 pm – Sundown

HFCA will provide paper goods, sodas, & entrées (burgers, dogs and fixin's). Please bring a dish to share – see your street's assignment:

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

Don't forget your blankets and chairs!

Adults – BYOB

***Please RSVP to DudleyTrade@cox.net for food count!***

#### **Are you a new resident – homeowner or renter ?**

Please contact one of our Welcome Wagon representatives.  
 They want to welcome you to Hickory Farms  
 (They have been known to bring snacks!)  
 Claire Coleman 703-425-6059  
 Nancy Bentley 703-978-0373

**From the Hickory Farms Treasurer**  
Jaime Gutierrez

As of March 31, there were 16 homeowners that had not sent their payment for the annual dues. Letters were sent to them indicating that they must send their payment by May 1. As of April 25, only five out of the 16 have sent their annual payment and late fee. If payments are not received by May 1, we will proceed with the association lawyers to perfect liens against 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 perfected 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.

**Best Advice When Encountering Fawns – Hands Off**

White-tailed deer give birth April through July, with most births in June. Though dependent on their mothers' milk for the first two to four weeks of their lives, from birth, fawns are routinely left by themselves while their mothers leave to find food. Fawns can stand within one hour of birth, blend into their environments and within one month, can outrun most predators.

So in spring, it's possible to encounter fawns that are all alone, lying quietly in the woods or other area. Good Samaritans conclude their mothers have abandoned the fawns and attempt a "rescue." But experts advise against this: "If you find a fawn alone, don't assume it's orphaned," says Earl Hodnett, Wildlife Biologist for Fairfax County. The mother will likely return later on and fawns that have been raised by people rarely make a successful transition back to the wild."

In most cases, the best advice to would-be rescuers of wildlife animals is to leave them alone. According to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, "more than 75 percent of such orphans "rescued" every spring should have been left alone. Most wild animals are dedicated parents and will not abandon their young, but they do leave them alone for long periods of time while looking for food."

If you come across a fawn, and it is clearly injured or there's evidence the mother is dead, or you are still unconvinced the fawn is okay, call the Wildlife Rescue League Hotline at 703-440-0800 before making any attempts at "rescue."

Web sites for more information on orphaned or injured wildlife:

[www.wildliferescueleague.org/](http://www.wildliferescueleague.org/)  
[www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/injured.html](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/injured.html)

### 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](mailto:Kirk_Randall@Hotmail.com), giving the youth's name/age, telephone number, and a list of services to be offered. The parent should also state that the youth has permission to be listed in the newsletter.

Name/Age	Services Offered
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.

### Concrete Group Purchase – Not This Year

Mel Yudkin of MY Construction says that there is not been enough interest to offer homeowners an extra special deal on concrete work this year.

### Springtime in Hickory Farms

Spring is here, and that means that Hickory Farms is already sporting its visible signs: early flowers, budding trees and birds. We are very lucky to have the natural setting that attracts songbirds to our neighborhood: fields, trees, and the stream habitat all invite different birds. Over the years, 97 species have been seen in, or flying over, Hickory Farms. Over the years, HFCA has taken many steps to improve our natural habitat, and in 2003 was recognized by being awarded the Fairfax County Environmental Excellence Award.

As many of you know, but new arrivals may not realize, we have had a bluebird trail for seventeen years now, and have enjoyed several successful nestings – no small feat for a suburban setting. The boxes are up again (five in the lower common ground and two in the upper). We ask that watch from a distance and remind your children to look at, but don't disturb the nest boxes. You and they will be rewarded by seeing these beautiful and beneficial birds. Nesting usually begins in late April or early May, but the birds scout the locations even earlier. We do have nesting bluebirds already this year.

If you have a scout troop that would like to do a project, or get credit towards a merit badge, perhaps a bird project would be a good idea, even to donating a nest box or two to augment our

current number (we could probably support two or three more boxes). Often, Tree Swallows will take these boxes (we've had one such instance), as will House Wrens, Chickadees, Tufted Titmouse and, unfortunately, the ubiquitous English (or "House") Sparrow.

We'll keep you posted on any nesting or new sightings. So far this year, early arrivals include Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-eyed Vireo, House Wren, Eastern Bluebirds, American Goldfinch, and Tree Swallows (not sure they're nesting yet, but we'll keep watching). The warblers will be arriving by the first week of May.

So get out there and enjoy the coming of spring in Hickory Farms !

Bob Cosgriff (Cotton Farm Road)

### Group Purchase Contractors

Are you doing home improvements this summer? These contractors have participated in recent Hickory Farms group purchases. Most of the homeowners who participated in these group purchases were satisfied with their prices and workmanship. The references of these contractors were checked by the Group Buy Organizer and they had good records with the Better Business Bureau and Fairfax Office of Consumer Affairs at the time of the group purchase. They were licensed and insured at the time of the group purchase. Learn more about [choosing a contractor](#) at [www.hickoryfarms.org](http://www.hickoryfarms.org) . You should always get bids from more than one contractor and check out their references, as explained in the article.

Be sure to mention that you're from Hickory Farms when you call these contractors; they're eager to develop a long term relationship, including repeat business, with the Hickory Farms community. Finally, be aware that these contractors aren't necessarily the cheapest. If you look long and hard enough, you can always find someone cheaper. These contractors have provided quality service to Hickory Farms residents at fair prices and have stood behind their work. It goes without saying that you get what you pay for. Kirk

Concrete driveways, Patios, Brickwork	MY Construction, Inc. Mel Yudkin, <a href="http://www.myconstructioninc.com">www.myconstructioninc.com</a> , 703-207-9820
Vinyl siding, Vinyl replacement windows & doors, New roofs & decks, House additions, Decks	Scenic Remodeling Inc, John Enos, <a href="http://www.scenicremodeling.com">www.scenicremodeling.com</a> , 703-392-8391
Heat pumps, Furnaces, Air conditioners, Water heaters, Humidifiers	A-1 Heating & Cooling, Dan Clarke, 703-451-1100
Tree services (cutting down and trimming)	JL Tree Service, Steve Edwards, <a href="http://www.jltreeservice.com">www.jltreeservice.com</a> ,703-753-5001
Hardwood floors, Wall to wall carpet	Chase Floor and Tile, Sami & Mike, <a href="http://www.chasefloorsandtile.com">www.chasefloorsandtile.com</a> , 703-385-8112

### Why Mow Your Lawn?

Why keep your grass trimmed? Aside from the obvious benefit to neighborhood appearance

and property values, there are sound financial reasons. First, the Hickory Farms Community Association Rules and Regulations require it. Second, Fairfax County zoning regulations require it. In fact, the County may fine the homeowner, mow the lawn, and bill the homeowner for mowing the lawn. So, it's cheaper in the long run to mow your lawn or pay someone to do it!

So, keep everyone happy and trim your lawn. If your neighbor's grass is starting to look like a hay field, politely mention the fact to the neighbor. If the grass is over 12 inches high and he or she has not responded to a polite suggestion to mow the lawn, you can report the issue to the Fairfax County Division of Public Works and Environmental Services, Site Inspections Division at 703-324-1931. If you want to read up on this, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/neighborhood.htm>. (From the Hickory Farms Web Site)

### **Will Your Child Start Public School This Fall ?**

Hickory Farms is in the Oak View School Elementary School community. Please call the school at 703-764-7100 to let them know your child will be attending in the fall.

### **Fairfax County Now Offering Podcasts / Netcasts**

Fairfax County is now producing podcasts. Listen to them on your computer or subscribe and download them to your digital audio device such as an iPod or MP3 player. Podcasts include News to Use, Board of Supervisors Meeting Highlights and Health & Safety. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/podcasts](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/podcasts)

### **Carbon Monoxide Alarm Safety**

New technology has made it possible to produce a low-cost, reliable carbon monoxide (CO) alarm for the home. But why do we need a CO alarm? Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas. It causes about 300 accidental fatalities in homes each year; thousands more are treated in hospitals for CO poisoning. Carbon monoxide combines with hemoglobin in our blood and robs the blood of the oxygen our body needs. Early symptoms of exposure include headache, fatigue, nausea and confused thinking (so victims cannot think clearly enough to get assistance). Without treatment, the victim will lose consciousness, and if no help is given will lose their life.

Carbon monoxide is produced by combustion. Common causes are:

1. Defective gas or oil furnaces and water heaters.
2. Cracked chimney flues.
3. Indoor use of charcoal grills.
4. Use of a gas oven or range to warm a room.
5. Running a car in an enclosed area.

6. Closing the fireplace damper before the fire is completely out.

Carbon monoxide accidents are preventable. Actions you should take to protect your family are:

- Every fall you should have a qualified technician inspect your gas furnace and appliances.
- Never allow your car to run in an enclosed area, especially if it is attached to your house.
- Make sure your fireplace is in good repair and do not close the damper before the fire is out.
- Install CO alarms to give your family a warning if CO is building up in your house.

Another very important point to remember is that you still need a working smoke alarm on every level of your home. The CO alarm does not sense smoke or fire. Smoke alarms are needed to give your family early warning if there is a fire or smoke in your home.

If you are concerned about whether your furnace and/or appliances are working properly, contact your contractor to have an inspection. If you have questions about your gas furnaces or appliance, contact your gas company. If your CO alarm activates, leave the residence and call 911 from a neighbor's house.

For more information about home safety, call the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Public Information and Life Safety Education Section at 703-246-3801, TTY 711.

### **Securing Your Home Before a Vacation**

When you are on vacation, your home is vulnerable to a break-in. Securing your house and giving it a lived-in look are important to prevent burglaries. Having someone check the house regularly is also a good idea. Here are some ideas for preventing break-ins while you are away.

- Check the neighborhood newsletter to see who has Neighborhood Watch while you are gone. Give them a call and inform them of when you'll be gone. They can keep an extra eye on your home.
- Make sure all doors and windows are locked. Don't forget about basement windows, garage windows, skylights, and pet entrances. Make a final check once everyone is out of the house.
- Remove ladders from sight so they cannot be used to gain entrance to the second floor windows.
- Leave outside lighting on to discourage prowlers.
- Set yard lighting on a timer so it will come on at night. Consider installing motion or heat-activated exterior lighting. (However, don't set the sensitivity level so low that it turns your security light on merely when a car passes the house).
- Set indoor lights and radios to come on at intervals to give the illusion the house is occupied.
- Turn your telephone down to its lowest level before you leave. The sound of an unanswered phone is an indication of an unoccupied house. Never leave a message telling callers you are away.



- Maintain a list with serial numbers of all the valuables on your property. Photograph or videotape the contents of each room. That way you will have an accurate record in case you need to file an insurance claim.
- Tell a trusted neighbor when you are leaving and when you plan to return. Leave your itinerary and phone numbers where you can be reached in an emergency.
- Ask your neighbors not to tell strangers you are away and extend the same courtesy to them when they are away.
- Arrange to stop delivery of mail and newspapers. (You can this online now. Go to [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com) and click Subscriber Services. Go to <http://usps.com> and click Receive Mail and Packages.)
- Arrange for regular lawn care and snow shoveling.
- Don't talk about your planned trip in stores or public places. Burglars pick up information this way.
- Don't hide a key outside. Burglars know where to look. (Greg Gillette August 2003)

## Our Community Common Grounds

Rich Dudley

The high winds we had in mid-April brought down several common area trees and brought out helpful neighbors to clean up some of the debris. A special thanks to Eric Mondschein who joined me in pulling large Bradford Pear tree limbs out of Cotton Farm Road, to Larry Rogers who cut up the limbs and removed some of them, and to Bob Cosgriff who removed the remaining debris. It's great to see volunteerism at work because it helps keep our neighborhood attractive and lowers our cost in hiring outside contractors. Unfortunately some of the trees that fell in April will require more chainsaw power than we have in the neighborhood. I am currently soliciting bids from several companies to remove a large Poplar tree in the Lower Common Area and some Locust trees in the Upper Common Area.

I still need help in clearing trash out of the common areas. This is a particularly good project for kids who need credit for their school community service or scouting projects. But I'm not picky and will take any help I can get before the weeds start growing again this spring. You can contact me at 703-503-2060 or at [dudley\\_richard@bah.com](mailto:dudley_richard@bah.com) (that's an underscore between dudley and richard).

The Hickory Farms Newsletter is published monthly, except June, July, and August. E-mail submissions to The Editor by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month. Ads **must** be in Microsoft Word format. Past issues of this newsletter and information for advertisers may be found at [www.hickoryfarms.org](http://www.hickoryfarms.org) – click Newsletters.

The Editor is responsible for most of the contents of this newsletter; the major exceptions are advertisements, community service type announcements, articles with a byline, and articles which have