

Volume 10 – No. 4

May 2010

# The Hickory Farms Newsletter

## Board of Directors

President

John Kitzmiller 503-3443

Vice President

Keith Ferguson 703-323-1067

Treasurer

Dante Gilmer 978-0621

Secretary (Vacant)

Community Grounds, Paths

& Woods - Keith Ferguson

703-323-1067

ACC (Building Design Approvals)

Kirk Randall 425-0210

At Large

Jaime Gutierrez 425-7919

## Other Volunteers

Neighborhood Watch

John Kitzmiller 503-3443

Welcome New Neighbors

Joyce Kitzmiller 503-3443

Newsletter & Web Site

Kirk Randall 425-0210

Community Yard Sale (Fall)

Pete Scala 764-0730

Email (Listserv)

Heather Webb 425-1347

Ellie Coddling 426-4606

Social Committee

Patty Dudley 503-2060

Dawn Dempster 503-0561

Lynn Welch 978-4113

Architectural Control Committee

Keith Ferguson

Donna Garfield

Greg Gillette

Kirk Randall

Carole Rogers

Larry Rogers

*Email addresses are at*

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

All phone area codes are 703

**Hickory Farms Community Association**

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

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

## **Important Neighborhood Watch Changes**

The Neighborhood Watch schedule has been revised. If you are a member of Neighborhood Watch, please review the enclosed schedule and advise John Kitzmiller if you detect any problems.

If you are not a member of the Neighborhood Watch but would like to get involved, please call John. You will drive through the neighborhood for several hours one night every 2-3 months, just observing, and calling the police if you see something suspicious. The Neighborhood Watch watches, that's all. We are not the police, and we do not enforce the law. You need not leave the comfort of your vehicle. And the more members we have, the less frequently each of us will need to go out."

**The next issue of the Newsletter  
is July**

### **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.

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### Neighborhood Watch Schedule - REVISED

John Kitzmiller

***Please volunteer for this important neighborhood activity*** – all it takes is one three-hour Friday or Saturday evening every three months, or so. Neighborhood Watch is proven to cut crime! It's also a great way to meet your neighbors. John Kitzmiller 703-503-3443

Sat	May 1	John Kitzmiller	Brand Niemann
Fri	May 7	Jaime Gutierrez	Ed Wagner
Sat	May 8	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Fri	May 14	Dave Maurer	Sanjeev Munjal
Sat	May 15	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg
Fri	May 21	John Kitzmiller	Brand Niemann
Sat	May 22	Greg Gillette	Kathy Gillette
Fri	May 28	Susan Mulliner	Brenton Mulliner
Fri	June 4	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters
Sat	June 5	Bob Cosgriff	Don Klingemann
Fri	June 11	Kirk Randall	Chris Woody
Sat	June 12	Jeff Lindsay	Larry Rogers
Fri	June 18	Angel Meza	Jason Meza
Sat	June 19	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay
Fri	June 25	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz
Sat	June 26	Mike Martin	Scott Buchanan
Fri	July 2	Pete Scala	Rose Scala
Sat	July 3	Pam Barrett	Tom Barrett

## Hickory Farms Special - On All Windows, Siding, Roofing, Decking or Fencing Projects:



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### Babysitter or Daycare Assistance Available

Soon-to-be high school graduate available for babysitting and daycare. Experienced. Reasonable rates. Call Katherine at 703-503-3443.

### This Month's Home Maintenance Checklist

See the complete list at [www.hickoryfarms.org](http://www.hickoryfarms.org) → Home Maintenance and Appearance (All)

<b>Gutter Cleaning</b> – Clean out your gutters. Overflowing gutters lead to ground erosion and wet basements.
<b>Deck Cleaning</b> – Clean and seal your wood deck, if needed
<b>Termites and Insects</b> – Have your home inspected by a professional. Most pest control companies will inspect for free. Termite inspections recommended every 3 years.
<b>Dehumidifier Setup</b> – Set up your dehumidifier for the humid summer – if you use one.
<b>Furnace &amp; Heat Pump Filter Change</b> – Replace paper/fiberglass filters. Vacuum or wash electronic filter elements. A dirty filter makes your fan work harder, using more electricity.

## Driving on Common Grounds – Please Don't

The common areas (woods, walking paths, and upper and lower grounds) are for the enjoyment of all Hickory Farms homeowners and their guests. This 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 grounds and grass. *Our rules do not allow driving on common grounds.* (5)

## Got a Lawnmower – Want \$35?

There is a class action lawsuit concerning lawnmower advertised horsepower. If you purchased a lawnmower after 1994, you may be able to get a \$35 refund. You need your lawnmower name and model number and lawnmower engine brand and model number. You do not need proof of purchase. See <https://lawnmowerclass.com/>

## Please Don't Dump on Common Grounds

The common grounds are part of everyone's back yard. However, in several areas, yard debris such as grass clippings and branches are being dumped. PLEASE do not dump debris in the common areas. Besides being unsightly, these dumping areas draw rodents and other wild animals into our neighborhood. Your trash service will pick up yard debris separately for recycling from spring through fall. It will even pick up 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. Although it may be wooded area, the woods can't decompose more debris than it generates itself. In other words, the clippings and branches you dump in the common area overloads the area's ability to decompose the material. (5)

## If You See Something Suspicious in 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 the Fairfax County Police immediately. While our Neighborhood Watch patrols our streets on Friday and Saturday nights, we sometimes find groups of people using our commons on weeknights for drinking, drug use, or other purposes. ***Our common areas are private property and are not to be used by non-HFCA residents, unless they are accompanied by and guests of a resident.*** (5)

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### Recent Architectural Control Committee (ACC) Approvals

(All)

4352 Farm House – Rear Fence & window

4358 Harvester Farm – Front and side entry doors & storm doors; stone wall

### ALERT for Our Dog Walkers

If you have been tossing your dog's droppings down storm drains ("sewers"), then please read this. **According to the Fairfax County Health Department, putting dog poop in storm drains is illegal.** Our neighbors in nearby Aspen Grove townhouses on Roberts Road (about a block south of the swimming pool) have alerted us that dog poop is again appearing in their neighborhood. Our storm sewers run under Roberts Road and then spill onto Aspen Grove's common areas. Unfortunately, it's not just rainwater that gets dumped on Aspen Grove; it's also plastic bags filled with dog poop. So, rather than tossing your bags into the nearest storm sewer once you've cleaned up after your dog, please use a trash can. Our Aspen Grove neighbors thank you.

(5)

## **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 do not require approval), please read the *Application for Architectural Review*. If you are 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](http://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)

## **Isn't It Worth 4 Hours Every 4 Months to Help Keep Hickory Farms Safe?**

Hickory Farms is a Neighborhood Watch community. Every Friday and Saturday night, two volunteers slowly drive through Hickory Farms and look for suspicious activity. The car is marked with bright "Neighborhood Watch" signs. When the volunteers see something suspicious, they call 9-1-1 (This hardly ever happens). Volunteers are to *never* get involved with troublemakers. Neighborhood Watch helps keep Hickory Farms a safe and secure place to live. Police studies have shown that communities with Neighborhood Watch have less crime than those that do not.

While everyone in Hickory Farms benefits from Neighborhood Watch, not everyone participates. Won't you please join the Neighborhood Watch patrol? The more neighbors who join, the less often each of us needs to patrol. Four hours every four months is all it takes to make the program work. Husbands and wives frequently patrol as a team to get a few hours of quality time together. Sometimes, a parent and his or her high school age student will volunteer. And, if your significant other can't volunteer, you'll be paired with a similarly situated neighbor.

To volunteer for Neighborhood Watch, please contact the Neighborhood Watch coordinator listed on page 1.

(5)

## **Will Your Child Start Public School in the Fall?**

Oak View Elementary serves Hickory Farms. Call 703-764-7100 to make arrangements for your child to attend.

(5)

## Fairfax Swimming Pool Opens Memorial Day Weekend

Join the Fairfax Swimming Pool (home of the Fairfax Frogs Swim and Dive Teams)! This is our closest public swimming pool and is only a block or so away on Roberts Road. See the sign in front of the pool for membership information or visit [www.fairfaxpool.com](http://www.fairfaxpool.com) . (5)

## Can I Store My Boat or Trailer in My Driveway ?

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

This newsletter is published monthly except February, June, and August. E-mail submissions to The Editor by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the prior month. For past issues and information for advertisers, see [www.hickoryfarms.org](http://www.hickoryfarms.org) --> 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 that 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. Advertisers are not endorsed by the HFCA.

## Application for Architectural Review

Email your application (cut and paste this into your email message) to the Chairman of the Architectural Control Committee ([Kirk\\_Randall@Hotmail.com](mailto:Kirk_Randall@Hotmail.com) is the current Chairman) . You may also mail it to PO Box 2239, Fairfax, VA 22031 (Mailing could delay delivery to the ACC by a week or more). Electronic versions of photos and plans, attached to your email, are preferred, but please use the lowest resolution when scanning. Read [How to Get ACC Approval for Your Renovation Project](#) at [www.hickoryfarms.org](http://www.hickoryfarms.org) before submission. You do *not* need to submit the "Architectural Review Guidelines" part (below) 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 lights)
- 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