

Volume 11 – No. 4

May 2011

# ***The Hickory Farms Newsletter***

## **Board of Directors**

### **President**

John Kitzmiller 503-3443

### **Vice President**

Keith Ferguson 323-1067

### **Treasurer**

Dante Gilmer 978-0621

### **Secretary**

Jaime Gutierrez 425-7919

Community Grounds, Paths  
& Woods - Keith Ferguson  
323-1067

ACC (Building Design Approvals)

Kirk Randall 425-0210

At Large – Vacant

## **Other Volunteers**

### **Neighborhood Watch**

John Kitzmiller 503-3443

### **Welcome New Neighbors**

Joyce Kitzmiller 503-3443

### **Newsletter & Web Site**

Kirk Randall 425-0210

Sarah Maurer

### **Community Yard Sale (Fall)**

Pete Scala 764-0730

### **Email (Listserv)**

Heather Webb 425-1347

Ellie Coddington 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 (Chairman)

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***

**The community picnic is  
May 15. Pray for good  
weather! Please see p. 7.**

**The Newsletter has a new  
Associate Editor - Sarah  
Maurer. Please see p. 5.**

**The next Newsletter  
is in 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.

## Lawn Mowing + Landscape Maintenance specialists

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### 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 wooden deck, if needed   |
| <b>Termite Inspection</b> – Houses the age of Hickory Farms will have been attacked by termites by now. If your home has never been treated, get it inspected ASAP! Many pest control companies will inspect for free; termite inspections are recommended every 3 years. |
| <b>Dehumidifier Setup</b> – Now is the time to set up your dehumidifier for the summer.   |

### Architectural Control Committee Approvals

4324 Farm House - Deck

4372 Harvester Farm - Screened Porch

### Driving on Common Grounds – Don't Do It

The common areas (woods, walking paths, upper and lower grounds) are for the enjoyment of all Hickory Farms homeowners and 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). *Our rules prohibit driving on common grounds.* (5)

## Isn't It Worth 3 Hours Every 2½ Months to Help Keep Hickory Farms Safe?

Hickory Farms is a Neighborhood Watch community. Every Friday and Saturday night, two volunteers drive slowly through the neighborhood and look for suspicious activity. The car is marked with bright "Neighborhood Watch" signs. If the volunteers see something suspicious, they call 911 (this rarely happens). Volunteers **never** confront troublemakers and should **never** leave their car. Neighborhood Watch helps keep our neighborhood safe. Studies have shown that Neighborhood Watch communities have less crime than those that do not.

While everyone in Hickory Farms benefits from Neighborhood Watch, not everyone participates in it. The more neighbors who join Neighborhood Watch, the less frequently each person has to take a turn around the neighborhood. Three to four hours every 2½ 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 high school age child will volunteer as a team. If a family member can't volunteer, you'll be teamed with a neighbor.

Please call the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator listed on Page 1 to join.

(5)

|     |          |                 |                   |
|-----|----------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Sat | April 30 | Dave Dempster   | Dawn Dempster     |
| Fri | May 6    | Susan Mulliner  | Brenton Mulliner  |
| Sat | May 7    | Ron Arnold      | Charles Walters   |
| Fri | May 13   | Bob Cosgriff    | Don Klingemann    |
| Sat | May 14   | Kirk Randall    | Chris Woody       |
| Fri | May 20   | Jeff Lindsay    | Larry Rogers      |
| Sat | May 21   | Angel Meza      | Jason Meza        |
| Fri | May 27   | Eric Maribojoc  | Clarisa Dacanay   |
| Sat | May 28   | Bob Montgomery  | George Rosenkranz |
| Fri | June 3   | Mike Martin     |                   |
| Sat | June 4   | Pete Scala      | Rose Scala        |
| Fri | June 10  | Stan Lee        | Jim Marshall      |
| Sat | June 11  | Pam Barrett     | Tom Barrett       |
| Fri | June 17  | John Verheul    | Tammy Verheul     |
| Sat | June 18  | Harry Herchert  | Ginny Herchert    |
| Fri | June 24  | Dave Maurer     | Sanjeev Munjal    |
| Sat | June 25  | David Froberg   | Beverly Froberg   |
| Fri | July 1   | Jaime Gutierrez | Ed Wagner         |
| Sat | July 2   | Dave Dempster   | Dawn Dempster     |
| Fri | July 8   | Susan Mulliner  | Brenton Mulliner  |
| Sat | July 9   | Ron Arnold      | Charles Walters   |
| Fri | July 15  | Bob Cosgriff    | Don Klingemann    |
| Sat | July 16  | Kirk Randall    | Chris Woody       |
| Fri | July 22  | Jeff Lindsay    | Larry Rogers      |
| Sat | July 23  | Angel Meza      | Jason Meza        |
| Fri | July 29  | Eric Maribojoc  | Clarisa Dacanay   |
| Sat | July 30  | Bob Montgomery  | George Rosenkranz |

## **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. 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)

## **FREE ESTIMATES**

### **POWER WASHING**

Deck Cleaning  
Sealing & Staining  
Exterior House Wash  
Fence Washing  
Cement Washing

### **CARPET CLEANING**

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## **CALL 703.915.2402**

## **Have You Met Our Foxy Neighbors?**

Our common grounds, particularly the Rabbit Run area that passes behind Cotton Farm/Country Squire/Harvester Farm and crosses under Cotton Farm, is teeming with wildlife. Last month, we answered some questions about coyotes, which are becoming more prevalent in our area. Here is some useful information about foxes, courtesy of the City of Fairfax.

1. *If I see a fox out during the day time, doesn't that mean it's rabid?* No. Although foxes are considered to be nocturnal, they will frequently come out during the day to sun themselves and look for alternative food sources. Over the years foxes have been shifting their habits in order to not compete with the growing coyote population during their peak hunting hours.
2. *What if I see a fox that has little or no hair?* These foxes have mange mites. Normally these foxes are very thin, will have scabs or open sores, and scratch a lot. These foxes are even more likely to be seen out during the day as they are no longer able to hunt and do not have enough body fat to keep warm. They are frequently seen curled up in yards sunning themselves. They will also come out during the day to look for alternate food sources as the odor of their skin and their weak condition leave them unable to hunt or compete with healthy wildlife.
3. *Are these mangy foxes a danger?* No, they are more of a nuisance than a threat. They are not prone to attack and will normally scamper off if disturbed. Clapping your hands or stomping your feet is usually enough to get them to move along. If the fox does not leave, or is unable to leave, contact Animal Control. 703-830-1100

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4. *Can anything be done about mangy foxes?* Foxes are almost impossible to trap humanely and attempting to use tranquilizers is not safe in animals that are still able to move quickly. Contrary to common belief, tranquilizers do not take immediate effect and the animal could easily travel too far to be located by the time the drug takes effect. Mange is a treatable disease when Animal Control Officers are aware of feeding areas and are able to place medication. Once cured, these foxes will move out into areas further away from human homes. Most often these animals either starve or freeze to death before they can be captured or treated.

## **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 delaying 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 or not approval is required for your particular project (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 may 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 *Application for Architectural Review* is attached to this newsletter, and may also be [viewed on the web in PDF format](#) .

(1-5-9)

## **Please Welcome the New Associate Editor of The Newsletter**

We'd like to introduce a new addition to the Newsletter staff – Associate Editor Sarah Maurer. Sarah is a college student who lives with parents Kathy and Dave on Farm House Lane. Welcome aboard, Sarah!





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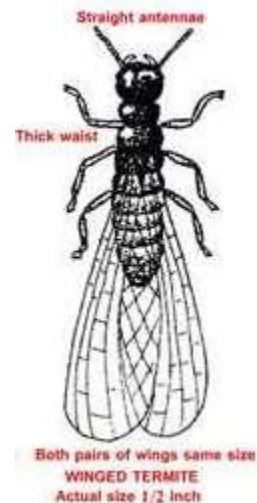
## Is Your Child Starting Public School in the Fall?

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

(5)

## Have You Seen Me Recently?

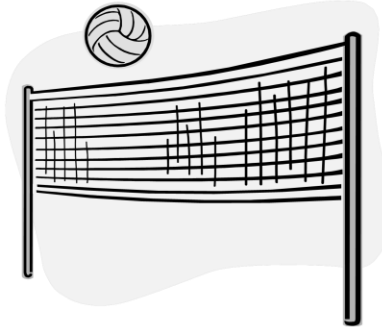
During April and May, you may see vast quantities of ½ inch termites swarming around your house, particularly near outside doors. The termite protection that may have been done during construction over 30 years ago is long gone and the termites are now ready to invade your home again. It would be unusual for homes our age to not have been invaded by termites. Evidence of termite treatment for our homes should be considered a positive factor. According to Washington Consumers Checkbook magazine, top rated pest control firms include A-1 Rid Exterminating, Bug Busters, Contractors Pest Control, Potomac Termite and Pest, and Ward Pest Control (The Editor has used Ward - 703-248-3631 – and was very satisfied with their service). (4)



# PICNIC

**It's finally Spring, so come join our annual Fling!**

*Good food & friends abound, & lots of games around.*



We'll have Kickball, Baseball and Soccer to round out the day  
Or bring your own favorite game to play!

**May 15, 2011**

**Upper Common Area (Big Field Side)**

**4:30 pm - Sundown**

*(rain date - May 22)*

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@verizon.net](mailto:DudleyTrade@verizon.net) for food count!**

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- Gas Repairs
- Toilet Repairs
- Bathroom Remodeling

### Fairfax Swimming Pool Opens Memorial Day Weekend

Join the Fairfax Swimming Pool (home of the Fairfax Frogs Swim and Dive Teams)! Less than a block away on Roberts Rd, this is the closest Community Swimming Pool to our neighborhood. See the sign in front of the pool for membership information or visit [www.fairfaxpool.com](http://www.fairfaxpool.com).

(5)

### 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 the nearby Aspen Grove townhouses on Roberts Road (about a block south of the swimming pool) have alerted us that dog poop frequently shows up 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 are grateful for your consideration.

(5)



### **May I Store My Boat or Trailer in My Driveway ?**

If it sits forward of the house for more than seven consecutive days.... No. The Restrictive Covenants (Our "Constitution") states: "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)

### **Did 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 the Fairfax County Police at 911 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 inappropriate purposes. Our common areas are private property and are for residents only. Non-resident guests must be accompanied by a resident at all times. (5)

The Hickory Farms Newsletter is published January, March-May, July, and September-December. 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 to the Chairman of the Architectural Control Committee ([Kirk\\_Randall@Hotmail.com](mailto:Kirk_Randall@Hotmail.com) is the current Chairman – that's an underline between Kirk and Randall). An electronic version of this application is available at [www.hickoryfarms.org](http://www.hickoryfarms.org). You may also mail your application to PO Box 2239, Fairfax, VA 22031 (Please Note: Mailing could delay delivery to the ACC by a week or more). Electronic versions of photos and plans, attached to your email, are preferred. Please 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