

May
2015

The Hickory Farms Newsletter

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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")

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Architectural Reviews

Keith Ferguson (Interim

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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

Keith Ferguson (Harvester Farm) has volunteered to serve as interim Chairman of the Architectural Control Committee until a permanent Chairman is named. Please send your ACC applications to Keith at ktferguson@cox.net or call 703-323-1067 - Thanks, Keith!

If you notice damaged sidewalk or street curbs anywhere in Hickory Farms, call 800-367-7623 or visit <http://virginiadot.org/travel/citizen.asp>

Only 12% of Hickory Farms homes participate in Neighborhood Watch. NW helps keep our community safe. It only takes four hours of your time every 2-3 months. Please call Vanessa Franck at 703-483-0730 to join.

There will be no June 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"

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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.

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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.

New Stores for Home Renovators and Decorators

Construction is slated to begin this summer on the new Lowes store at the site of the old Kmart. The site is across the street from the Lee Highway Walmart. Also, the Habitat for Humanity Restore has moved just a few blocks to 4311 Walney Road in Chantilly. In addition to new and used building materials, Restore offers furniture and office equipment for sale at low prices that help finance the good deeds of Habitat for Humanity (the folks who build homes for the less fortunate)

**Join Your Hickory Farms Neighbors for Summer Fun
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- Pool features dedicated lap lane, shallow end and deep end with diving boards. ADA Compliant.
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- Social events for all ages throughout the season.
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 Saturday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24, 12-4 p.m.

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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.

Lower Water Rates Coming Soon

The Fairfax Water Board of Directors is scheduled to approve on May 21st a significant reduction in water rates for those Hickory Farms residents who used to purchase water from the City of Fairfax. This includes everyone except residents on Harvester Farm, Tumbleweed, Burke Station, and two homes on Cotton Farm who have been paying the lower Fairfax Water rates since their homes were built. Rate reductions are scheduled to begin in July. Yours truly has participated as a civic activist in the “Northern Virginia Water Wars” since 2009 and is pleased that we can soon enjoy lower water rates for years to come.

Are You an Original Hickory Farms Homeowner?

Our community is nearly 40 years old. Hickory Farms was incorporated in 1975 and our homes were constructed 1976-83. It appears that Dennis Faust (Farm House) is the oldest original homeowner still living in our community, having moved into the community in late summer of 1976, John & Kathryn Cotner (also Farm House) moved in just a few months later. 4306 Burke Station was the last home built in 1983. If you are an original owner, we'd like to hear from you. Send your name, address, phone number, and month/year you moved into Hickory Farms to Kirk_Randall@Hotmail.com or call 703-425-0210.

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“Green Thumbs” Needed to Improve Hickory Farms’ Entrances! President Bruce Bernhardt

At last year’s Annual Meeting in October, interest was expressed to dress up our Roberts Road and Burke Station Road entrances. We are in need of a few volunteers to form a **Garden Group** to come up with ideas to transform our community entrances into welcoming gateways to our neighborhood. There are two corners with Hickory Farms stone and brick entrance markers. We can start with those two. The idea is to come up with a plan to design and place attractive, sustainable plants and small bushes. Also, we need to improve safety by increasing driver visibility when entering or exiting the neighborhood. The corner properties include some county right of way space and some resident property. All plans impacting personal property will be reviewed and approved by impacted property owners before any improvements are made.

Residents with experience in selecting and designing attractive, sustainable plants and small bushes – WE NEED YOU! This is expected to be a very short duration effort and complete activities by September. Please call Bruce Bernhardt at 703-989-0751 and a kick-off meeting will be scheduled in May to get started! Hopefully, by late spring, we will have a **plan** to dress up those entrances we pass every day in and out of our community!

May I Store My Boat or Trailer in My Driveway ?

Not if it sits forward of the house for more than seven consecutive days. The Hickory Farms Restrictive Covenants (Our "Constitution") state: "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)

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Common Area Courtesies

Dumping of Yard Debris - The Common Areas are part of everyone's back yard. However, yard debris such as grass clippings and branches are being dumped in several spots. PLEASE do not dump debris in the Common Areas. For one thing, it is a violation of our Rules and Regulations. Besides being unsightly, these dumping areas attract rats and other wild animals. Your trash service will pick up yard debris separately for recycling from spring through fall, and it will pick up yard 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, meaning the clippings and branches you dump in the Common Areas overloads the area's ability to decompose the material.

Vehicles - The Common Areas (woods, fields, and walking paths) are for the enjoyment of all Hickory Farms residents 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). If you see anyone driving on the Common Areas, please call 911. (5)

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Hickory Farms Real Estate Activity
 Arlene Da Cruz

Address	Model	Bed rooms	Baths	Listing Price	Sold Price	Seller Subsidy	Days on Market	Status / Date Sold
(1) 10111 Round Top	Split Foyer	4	3	\$534,888	\$534,888	\$450	8	Sold - 1/16/15
(2) 4336 Still Meadow	Split Level	4	2.5	\$585,000			4	Under contract

- (1) High end kitchen remodel. Backs onto common land, located on cul de sac, large deck, mudroom with kitchenette, hardwood floors on main level.
- (2) Spectacular home with pool, hot tub and views over common area. Freshly repainted throughout. Spacious open floor plan. Renovated kitchen and baths. Hardwood floors throughout. New HVAC systems.

Information provided by Arlene Da Cruz and Dominic Da Cruz – Da Cruz Real Estate Group - full service Realtors and Hickory Farms residents. Arlene and Dominic are associated with Weichert Realtors (www.arlenedacruz.com) and are also sole proprietors of ADC Property Services, a family owned Property Management business managing rental properties. 571-436-6551 - arlenemyrealtor@gmail.com (1-4-7-10) (1-5-9)

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It's About Time for an Updated 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.

Architectural Control Committee Approvals

4372 Harvester Farm – Deck & Shed
4353 Harvester Farm – Driveway
10116 Spinning Wheel - Roof
4317 Still Meadow - Storm Doors & Fence
4315 Still Meadow Fence
4343 Farm House – Roof

If You Notice Something Suspicious in our Common Areas

Folks from outside our neighborhood frequently 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 911. While our Neighborhood Watch patrols our streets on Friday and Saturday nights, we sometimes find groups of people using our Common Areas on weeknights for drinking, drug use, or other inappropriate purposes. Our Common Areas are private property and are for resident and use only. Guests must be accompanied by a resident at all times . (5)

This Month's Home Maintenance Checklist

Gutter Cleaning – Clean out your gutters! Overflowing gutters lead to ground erosion and wet basements.
Deck Cleaning – Clean and seal your wooden deck, if needed
Termite Inspection – Houses the age of Hickory Farms will have been attacked by termites by now. If your home has never been treated, get it inspected! Many pest control companies will inspect for free; termite inspections are recommended every three years.
Dehumidifier Setup – Set up your dehumidifier for the summer (if you use one)!

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	May 8	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay
Sat	May 9	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz
Fri	May 15	John Coyne	Linda Coyne
Sat	May 16	Pete Scala	Rose Scala
Fri	May 22		
Sat	May 23		
Fri	May 29	Debbi Buchanan	
Sat	May 30		
Fri	Jun 5	Stan Lee	Jim Marshall
Sat	Jun 6	Pam Barrett	Tom Barrett
Fri	Jun 12	Ed Wagner	
Sat	Jun 13	Stefan Schwarz	Christine Schwarz
Fri	Jun 19	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg

Sat	Jun 20	Brian Roethlisberger	
Fri	Jun 26		
Sat	Jun 27	Jason Zhao	Laura Feng
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		
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

Slow down! You Live Here. We Live Here

Speeding is a major issue in our neighborhood.

80 percent of recent survey respondents believe speeding is a problem.

On some roads, 82 percent of motorists travelled 10+ mph over the posted limit.

What if children, pets or bicyclists suddenly dart in your path?

Slow down! You live here. We live here.

Do You Have Old Photos of Hickory Farms (1970s & 1980s)?

If you lived in Hickory Farms during the early years, 1970s and 1980s, and have some photos you'd like to share, please contact Kirk at Kirk_Randall@Hotmail.com or call 703-425-0210 and he'll borrow them for a few days to scan into his computer, for later posting on our web page. Especially cherished are photos of homes under construction, pre-HF landscapes and pre-HF buildings (i.e., the farms), aerial photos, and photos of children engaged in community activities.

Check out these old aerial photos of our region to see what it was like pre-Hickory Farms. Visit www.historicaerials.com and enter your street address, city, and state. Under the Overlays tab, click "all roads" and then select 1964, 1979, or 1988.

Crime Prevention and Awareness

Vanessa Franck

Do you ever wonder about the police officers you see on motorcycles and wonder if they always ride the motorcycles or if they ever get to ride in a police car? Did you know that there is an entire division devoted to search and rescue or that there is a police officer who is assigned as the Crime Prevention Officer for our area?

Several Hickory Farms residents attend periodic Citizens Action Committee meetings (on your behalf) where citizens from the West Springfield police district (our district) and police officers meet to discuss crimes in the area. Since the Board of Directors believes that information from these meetings may be useful to our residents, we plan to give you updates in the March, June, September, and December issues of this newsletter.

Please visit the CAC website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/stations/westspringfield/wir.htm Office J.T. Frey has been our Crime Prevention Officer for years and is very responsive to your crime prevention concerns. You can email him at wscacmailbox@gmail.com.

If you participate in Neighborhood Watch but haven't attended Neighborhood Watch training, please do so ASAP: Thursday, May 28th, beginning at 7 p.m., at the Pohick Library Conference Room. Training is not required to participate in Hickory Farms Neighborhood Watch but it is very, very useful.

Children's Car Seat Checks - May 14/21 and June 11/18 - 5-9 p.m. at the West Springfield Police Station at 6140 Rolling Road (near the post office and high school). By appointment only!. To schedule an appointment, please call 703-644-7377, TTY 711 and press 0 at the recording.

Crime Prevention Tips from the West Springfield Crime Prevention Officer

Vehicle Tips:

- Never leave a GPS device affixed to the windshield when not in use.
- Lock your vehicle, even when it is in the garage.
- Be familiar with your vehicle information (VIN, Registration #, Insurance carrier) should an incident occur.
- Never leave a spare key hidden inside the vehicle.

Home Security Tips:

- Change your alarm code every once in a while.
- Lock all interior doors leading to the main house. This includes basement and garage doors.
- Trim bushes around windows.
- Lock tool sheds (easy source of tools to gain entry to your home).
- Consider enhanced locking devices for sliding windows or patio doors ("pins" or "charley bars").
- If you think someone might be poking around your house, press the emergency button on your car's remote. The noise should scare them off. (3-6-9-12)

Birds of Hickory Farms

Bob Cosgriff

The exceptionally cold weather we encountered in January and February disturbed our ordinary routines of work and school and kept most people inside for days on end. But despite the snow, wind and below-freezing temperatures, Hickory Farms was full of birds. Starting on New Year's Day, I began my annual "Yard Year Count" and as of 24 February, a total of 35 species had visited or flown over my yard. The first bird of the year was the Slate-colored Junco. (In 2013 and 2014, the first birds were Downy Woodpecker and Carolina Wren, respectively.) The last to visit was a beautiful male Eastern Towhee (2/23). In total, 29 species were seen in January, and six additional species in February.

Most of this year's visitors are common year-round species, such as Northern Cardinal, Mourning Dove, Carolina Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Tufted Titmouse, Song Sparrow, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Downy, Hairy and Red-bellied woodpeckers. Winter-only visitors include Slate-colored Junco and White-throated Sparrow. Special sightings include American Goldfinch, Eastern Bluebird, Eastern Towhee, Hermit Thrush, Northern Flicker, Northern Mockingbird, Pileated Woodpecker and Yellow-rumped Warbler. A total of five of six possible woodpeckers were seen, along with three hawks—Red-shouldered, Red-tailed and Cooper's—and both Black and Turkey vultures.

In January, with 19 observation days (due to being out of town for 12 days), the daily average count was 15 species. In February, with 21 observation days (through 2/24), the daily average count was 18 species. This increase is not due to migration, but most likely to more species seeking out supplementary food and water due to the snowy weather.

By the time you read this article, spring be well on its way. That means that the wintry weather will be behind us and we can look forward to the impending arrival of migratory birds in April, peaking in early May. This will swell the count of backyard birds. Last year, I tallied 44 species, and I missed the peak in the first two weeks of May by being away on an extended birding trip. This year, I'm hoping for 50 or more species! Stay tuned for updates on the yard count and the Hickory Farms bluebird trail in subsequent newsletters!

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