

Volume 04, Issue 9

November 2004

The Hickory Farms Newsletter

Who to contact

Jaime Gutierrez, President
703-425-7919
Jeff Altman, Vice President
703-978-0309
Bob Bentley, Treasurer
703-978-0373
Rob Mikula, Secretary
703-323-0917
Marc Fogleman,
Neighborhood Watch, 703-
764-0295
Angel Meza, Grounds
703-425-3862
Carole Rogers, Welcome
Wagon, 703-978-2965
Jennifer Maloney, Newsletter
jmaloney@gmu.edu

*Hickory Farms Community Association
Fairfax County, Virginia*

President's Letter

Dear Residents-

Hopefully, by the time you are reading this, the Presidential election will be settled.

Closer to home, the Community has had an exciting past month. Our annual meeting resulted in the following residents being elected to the Board: Jeff Altman, Marc Fogleman, Jaime Gutierrez, Michael Martin, Angel Meza and Rob Mikula. Special thanks to Bob Bentley for his wonderful service to the Community during the past several years. A special award was presented to Kirk Randall for his hard work on the siding and windows project this past year. Board officers will be voted upon at the November Board meeting.

More exciting, however, was Hickory Farms' first annual Halloween Parade. Over 50 kids participated and marched around the neighborhood. Based on its popularity, this event will take the place of the neighborhood's Fall Fling. Special thanks to Lynn Welch and Donna Altman for organizing this event, and to Rich and Patty Dudley for donating their backyard for the pizza party after the parade.

The New Year will be bringing more new changes to the Community, including the use of group email communication and a new website. Please contact any Board members with other changes you would like to see.

Inside this issue:

President's Letter

**Neighborhood
Watch Report**

**Home Improvement
Notices**

Community Info

**First Annual
Halloween Parade**

**Next issue:
December 2004**

Know Your Representatives

Chap Peterson, State Delegate, chap@fairfaxdelegate.com.

His constituent services director Bonnie Arbour, (703) 591-5133 or
bonnie@fairfaxdelegate.com.

Your School Board representative: Tessie Wilson, (703) 246-4781, Tessie.Wilson@fcps.edu.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Marc Fogleman

The month of October we filed reports to the police for the following:

Amplified music played outdoors after 11 p.m. Not only is this inconsiderate of your neighbors, it is also in violation of the Fairfax County noise ordinance.

Also reported to the police were three separate cases of vandalism/ trespassing/ petit larceny. In each case I was the victim. It is my right as a citizen to express my support for any cause, political or otherwise, without that right being stifled or otherwise infringed. Three different yard signs “disappeared” from my front yard- two in broad daylight. A week and a half later, two of them were found torn to pieces in each of my next-door neighbor’s yards-both of whom support the same candidate as I. The fact that the signs reappeared days later leads me to believe that someone in our community committed these crimes.

A primary reason many people move to this country is that we have the freedom to voice our opinion without fear of reprisals from our government or others. A special note to whomever took it upon themselves to uproot and destroy my signs: What do you think you would accomplish? I’ll still vote for that candidate as will many others. I’d be willing to bet that you would urge everybody to be tolerant of others. Why not hold yourself to that same standard? You should be ashamed of yourself.

If you have also had signs “disappear” from your property, please report it to the police and to Neighborhood Watch.

If anyone is interested in volunteering a few hours of their time in becoming a watch volunteer or as a substitute, please contact me at foglemarc@aol.com, or phone me at home in the evenings at 703.764.0295.

Below is the Watch List through the end of the year.

Fri	Nov 5	Bruce Bernhardt	Nancy Bernhardt
Sat	Nov 6	John Verheul	John Cotner
Fri	Nov 12	Stefan Schwarz	Christine Schwarz
Sat	Nov 13	Ron Cruz	Louise Cruz
Fri	Nov 19	Rob Mikula	Sharon Mikula
Sat	Nov 20	Jaime Gutierrez	Ed Wagner
Fri	Nov 26	Bob Bentley	Nancy Bentley
Sat	Nov 27	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Fri	Dec 3	Larry Russe	Chris Russe
Sat	Dec 4	Greg Gillette	Kathy Gillette
Fri	Dec 10	Bill Galinis	Diana Galinis
Sat	Dec 11	Jay Kistler	John Morrison
Fri	Dec 17	Pingjun Li	Jin Wang
Sat	Dec 18	Bob Sottile	Lee Sottile
Fri	Dec 24	Dave Maurer	Sanjeev Munjal
Sat	Dec 25	Kirk Randall	Jerry Tumelty
Fri	Dec 31	Bill Galinis	Diana Galinis
Sat	Jan 1	Jay Kistler	John Morrison

Fencing Group Purchase Ready to Go!

Hickory Farms resident Patricia Fettmann is organizing a **fencing group purchase**. The more folks who sign on, the better the price Patricia can negotiate on your behalf. If you may be interested, contact her by e-mail at patricia.fettmann@gmail.com (preferred) or call 703-425-8209. If you are merely replacing an existing fence with the same kind, Architectural Control Committee approval is probably not needed. However, if you are adding a new fence or changing the appearance of an existing fence, ACC approval is required. You can download an approval form at <http://members.cox.net/krandall/HF/Application%20for%20Architectural%20Review.pdf>. Submit it to ACC honcho Bob Sottile for approval, which generally takes 2-3 weeks. If you are proposing to change fence style, a photo of the new style would be helpful to the ACC.

Do You Know a Good Fencing Contractor?

Patricia Fettmann is organizing a fencing group purchase (see above). If you have had a good experience with a fencing contractor, please contact her by e-mail at patricia.fettmann@gmail.com or call 703-425-8209. Briefly describe your experience with the contractor (quality and pricing).



Disposing of Your Leaves

Fall is leaf-raking time. If we lived in Fairfax City, we could just rake them into the street and city workers would vacuum them up. But, alas, we live in Fairfax County. So, here's the skinny on disposing of your leaves in our community.

Under Fairfax County ordinance, the trash collector has to pick up 1-6 bags of leaves on a yard debris pickup day. If you put out more than six, the extras may not be taken. AAA Recycling (which picks up leaves and other yard debris on Wednesdays) recently sent out a very confusing letter on this topic. To clarify, they are required to pick up 1-6 bags at a time. To their credit, however, they almost always pick up everything you leave out.

If the trash collector doesn't take all of your leaves on your yard debris pickup day, please don't just leave them in the street or the parkway (that strip of grass between the street and sidewalk) for the next week's pickup. The bags kill the grass if left on the parkway, or block the mailman if left on the street. Bring the bags back to your house.

Please don't put your trash, recycling, or yard debris out several days before pickup; it detracts from the nice appearance of our neighborhood. Under our Rules and Regulations, refuse should be put out on the collection day or the prior evening.

Speaking of pickups, trash collections may not occur before 6 AM. If you're being awakened by the sound of trash trucks before 6 AM, please first call the trash company to report the problem. If they don't comply with your request, you may report them to the Fairfax County Zoning Enforcement office at 703-324-1300 between 8 AM and 4:30 PM.

Under Fairfax County Ordinance, **you may not use black plastic bags for yard debris such as leaves.** You must use

clear plastic bags. The trash collector may refuse to take black bags because the workers can't tell whether you left garbage or yard debris (leaves) in the bags.

Please do not dump leaves, tree branches, and grass clippings in nearby common areas or woods. Not only is it against our Rules and Regulations, but also it creates a tremendous burden on the ecosystem. Wooded areas are ecologically balanced; they can decompose just about as much organic matter as the trees themselves produce. When you add your leaves, branches, or grass clippings, it overloads the ecosystem and they don't decompose. The result is a wooded area that looks and smells like a dump. Help keep our common grounds and woods beautiful by not dumping leaves, tree branches, and grass clippings there. (Kirk Randall November 2004)



Lots of Interest in Group Purchase of Tree Trimming / Removal

At the October Hickory Farms annual meeting, there was a lot of interest in working out a community group purchase of **tree trimming and removal services**. New Round Top Court resident (and 2005 Board member) Mike Martin has offered to coordinate the project. The more folks who sign on, the better the price Mike can negotiate on your behalf. If you may be interested, contact him by e-mail at xaviar13@yahoo.com (preferred) or call 703-323-3395. Describe the kind of work you have in mind. December thru February is the slack time for this kind of work and prices tend to be lowest, so respond ASAP.

Do You Know a Good Tree Trimming / Removal Contractor?

Mike Martin is organizing a tree trimming / removal group purchase (see above). If you had an experience (good or bad) with a LICENSED and INSURED contractor, please contact Mike by e-mail at xaviar13@yahoo.com (preferred) or call 703-323-3395. Briefly describe your experience (quality and pricing) with the contractor.

Interest Growing in Other Group Purchases of Services

About 100 Hickory Farms residents took advantage of the recent group purchase of siding, guttering, and roofing. After this success and the 2003 concrete group buy, several folks asked what we could do for an encore. A few group purchases that have been proposed are: **hardwood flooring, decks, and replacement garage doors**. The highest level of interest thus far has been for hardwood flooring. If you are interested in participating in a group purchase of one of these items or you have an idea for another, please e-mail Kirk_Randall@Hotmail.com (that's an underline between Kirk and Randall). E-

mail contact is preferred. If you don't have e-mail, leave a message at 703-425-0210. Contact Kirk even if you're remotely interested in any of these projects, so we can gauge the level of interest.

Cell Phone Coverage to Improve

For all of you folks who have experienced cell phone dropouts around the Woodson High School/Pickett Shopping Center area, The Fairfax County School Board has recently approved a cell phone tower to be installed at Woodson HS by Smartpole, Inc. See Washington Post 10/14/04, Fairfax Section. We don't know exactly when this will actually and which cell phone companies will participate. But, when it does, it will be a welcome relief to those of us who've experienced dropped phone calls when driving in the area, or difficulty contacting our children at Woodson/Frost.



Roberts Road Trail Enhancement Application

Jaime Gutierrez

Supervisor Bulova has asked me to contact you regarding a project in the George Mason University area. As you may know, Fairfax County is engineering a project to construct a right turn lane from southbound Roberts Road to westbound Braddock Road. In conjunction with this project (in order to further enhance safety for vehicles and pedestrians in this area) we are planning a trail on Roberts Road from Shenandoah Lane to Braddock Road, adjacent to the George Mason University campus. To help defray the costs of this project, Fairfax County is applying to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) for funding under the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) Enhancement Program.

Supervisor Bulova would like to have letters from the area homeowner associations, the university and student support organizations as a part of the application packet to the CTB for FY 2005 enhancement funding. Unfortunately, the application is due the first of November so we would need your letter of support for this project by Wednesday, October 27. If you could E-mail or fax us a letter supporting the approval of funding for the enhancement project it would really be appreciated.

First Annual Halloween Parade

Donna Altman

The first annual Hickory Farms Halloween Parade was a smashing success! Approximately 50 costumed marchers and their parents met on Halloween afternoon for a parade around the lower common area. Other Hickory Farms residents cheered the parade from neighborhood street corners and front lawns. After marching to the beat of some Halloween tunes, hungry participants gathered at the home of Patty and Rich Dudley to mingle and refuel with pizza and snacks. Thanks to the Dudley family for opening their backyard to the parade-goers.

It was a great parade and a wonderful neighborhood bonding experience as well. Thanks to everyone who turned out to support the parade. Thanks also to Lynn Welch and her gang of volunteers for organizing it all within a week's time! We look forward to the second annual Hickory Farms Halloween Parade next year!