

Volume 6 – No. 8

November 2006

# *The Hickory Farms* *Newsletter*

## Your Neighborhood Volunteers

President – Dante Gilmer  
703-978-0621  
Vice President – Vacant  
Treasurer – Jaime Gutierrez  
703-425-7919  
Secretary – Dave Dempster  
703-503-0561  
Community Grounds, Paths &  
Woods– Rich Dudley  
703-503-2060  
Welcome New Residents – Diane  
Klingemann 703-978-6838  
Newsletter & HF Web Site –  
Kirk Randall 703-425-0210  
Architecture Approvals –  
Rebekah & Wesley Moore  
703-286-7179  
Neighborhood Watch – Dave  
Dempster 703-503-0561

**Hickory Farms Community Association**  
**Fairfax County, Virginia**  
**[www.hickoryfarms.org](http://www.hickoryfarms.org)**

Greetings All,

It's hard to believe that the holiday season is upon us already. It's weird to see Christmas decorations in Costco in Mid-October.

I hope everyone had a fun and safe Halloween. This year's Halloween parade was fun. We couldn't have asked for a more gorgeous day. Thanks to the social committee – Patty Dudley, Dawn Dempster and Lynn Welch – for organizing and taking care of the details.

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, we had our Hickory Farms Community Association meeting. The 2007 budget was approved, and you can see it below. A proposal was made to hire a management company to outsource certain Board of Directors tasks. After open discussion, the association voted against hiring a management company, mainly because the group did not feel that there was a substantial benefit based on the cost – meaning the more tasks we delegate to an outside firm, the higher our annual dues will be. And, although some tasks would shift to a management company, that doesn't necessarily equate to less work for the Board because the Board would still have to oversee the management company. Also, we felt that the hiring of a management company, perhaps more efficient in some ways, is a step toward making the community less neighborly.

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### **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

Visit [www.hickoryfarms.org](http://www.hickoryfarms.org) and click e-mail service.

## Neighborhood Watch Schedule

Fri	November 3	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz
Sat	November 4	Debbi Buchanan	Scott Buchanan
Fri	November 10	Pete Scala	Rose Scala
Sat	November 11	Stan Lee	Jim Marshall
Fri	November 17	Pam Barrett	Tom Barrett
Sat	November 18	John Verheul	John Cotner
Fri	November 24	Dave Dempster	Dawn Dempster
Sat	November 25	Stefan Schwarz	Christine Schwarz
Fri	December 1	Bob Bentley	Nancy Bentley
Sat	December 2	Ron Cruz	Louise Cruz
Fri	December 8	Jaime Gutierrez	Ed Wagner
Sat	December 9	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Fri	December 15	Pingjun Li	Wang Chan Cheng
Sat	December 16	Greg Gillette	Kathy Gillette
Fri	December 22	Dave Maurer	Sanjeev Munjal
Sat	December 23	Bob Sottile	Lee Sottile
Fri	December 29	John Kitzmiller	Brand Niemann
Sat	December 30	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg

[Ad for Scenic Remodeling removed for on-line version]

### President's Message (continued)

At the annual meeting, there was a proposal to have a play area built by the association in one of the common areas. Because there are many things to consider before we can commit to do that (such as cost of construction and liability for injuries), a committee was formed of four residents to research the issue and report back to the Board.

Also, there was motion to raise the annual dues. The association voted against this action for now, because after discussion, the association felt there is enough money in the contingency fund and reserve fund which is meant to take care of our pathways and common area.

The new Board of Directors was elected at the meeting. New officers will be elected by the Board. Most of the existing Board members will stay over the next year. The new members will take their places on the Board on January 1.

Lastly, I just want everyone to consider what it is they like about living in Hickory Farms. A comment was made at the annual meeting that if every house volunteered one hour a year to the community, that would be almost two hundred hours of volunteer time for the

year. What kind of community would we have if we had half that number of volunteer hours? Please contact a Board member to volunteer. Their names are listed on the first page of this newsletter. Your contribution makes a huge difference.

Dante Gilmer  
President

### **Please Keep Your Carport/Parking Area Neat and Tidy**

Some of our carports detract from the appearance of the neighborhood. A cluttered carport is as visible to your neighbors as not mowing your lawn. And, items left in your carport are vulnerable to being stolen or damaged by the weather. So, with winter approaching, now is a good time to clean out your carport. Only leave in your carport those things you think you'll actually need. As a general rule of thumb, if you can't park your car in your carport, then you have too much "stuff" there; please consider removing or relocating some of the items. – The Architectural Control Committee (ACC)

### **Woodson High School Holiday Happening Craft Show November 11, 2006 10 am – 4 pm**

The 14th annual Woodson "Holiday Happenings" Craft Show is Saturday, November 11 from 10 – 4 in the gym. Admission is free.

The craft show is sponsored by PTSA and is one of its biggest fundraisers.

More than 100 crafters will be selling their handmade wares, everything from jewelry, ornaments, clothing to paintings, accessories and many other delights!

Plenty of parking and entrance are on the east side of the school at Whitacre Road.

Snacks for shoppers and lunch for the crafters will be sold by WTW Crew.

### **Dumping on Common Grounds – Please Don't !**

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.

### **Fruit Sale by the Woodson Bands**

Juicy navel oranges, plump grapefruit, tangy tangelos or tangerines, and crunchy apples: all are perfect for fall snacks or recipes! Through November 13, 2006, the W. T. Woodson Bands will hold their 2006 Florida Citrus Fundraiser. This year we are using a new supplier, Florida Indian River Groves. FIRG ships its fruit shortly after harvesting and guarantees freshness.

Customers have three options for purchasing fruit: 1) directly from a student band member, 2) using a downloadable form found on the band website and 3) new this year, secure online ordering. A link placed on the Woodson Band website, [www.woodsonband.org](http://www.woodsonband.org), connects you to a special webpage hosted for Woodson Band by Florida Indian River Groves. This website gives you details on the many fruit options available this year. Your purchase will be credited to the band member you identify when you place your order. Delivery will take place in late November or early December. Please visit our website or order directly from your favorite student band member. Questions can be directed to Don Eboch at (703) 591-2779. Thank you for your continued support of the Woodson Band Program!

### **Protect Your Underground Water Pipe**

Every few years, we seem to have a rash of water pipe breakages. For some reason, some of our water pipes (the pipe that runs from the street to your home) are prone to failure. When this pipe breaks, *you* pay to have it fixed, and it could cost thousands of dollars. Protect yourself with a water line insurance policy *before* the pipe breaks. Dominion Products (a cousin of the electricity folks) offers an inexpensive water line insurance program for which most Hickory Farms residents would pay no more than \$60 per year; I'm sure there are other companies that offer similar insurance. Call them toll free at 1-866-545-9810 or visit [http://retail.dom.com/products/warranty/va\\_waterline.jsp](http://retail.dom.com/products/warranty/va_waterline.jsp) Insurance could be especially helpful if your water line is particularly long (like mine!). Dominion also insures gas, sewer, and electric lines. The Editor

### **Holiday Tunes for Tots November 29 & 30**

Searching for a kid-friendly holiday concert? Merry dancing around a giant dreidel, marching wooden soldiers, and friendly visits from Frosty, Rudolph, and a certain

gentleman clad in red are just some of the highlights of the Tiny Tots concert presented by the W. T. Woodson Symphonic Band. Familiar tunes will be played by some of Northern Virginia's most accomplished high school musicians in a relaxed family atmosphere. Bring your children, bring your grandchildren, or just bring yourself if you feel young at heart!

Wednesday, November 29 and Thursday, November 30, 2006 at 10:00am.  
W. T. Woodson High School Auditorium  
9525 Main Street, Fairfax, Virginia

Tickets are \$3.00 per person. Reservations requested.  
Contact Barb Hinton 703-385-0682 or [chevalmom@hotmail.com](mailto:chevalmom@hotmail.com)

### **What's So Special About 30 Days?**

The Hickory Farms Architecture Control Committee has up to 30 days to review your application for construction that affects the exterior appearance of your home. The 30 days begins from when the ACC actually receives the application. Since it could take up to a week for the ACC to receive an application that is mailed to the Hickory Farms post office box, the ACC suggests you deliver the application to the ACC Chairperson, in person. Hints on how to prepare your application can be found at [www.hickoryfarms.org](http://www.hickoryfarms.org).

And, to save yourself time, it's never too early to submit your application. Approved projects do not expire. You could submit an application right now for a project that you don't intend to start until next summer.

**2007 Budget Approved at October 23, 2006 Annual Meeting**

	FY 2006 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY 2006 BUDGET (Projected)	FY 2007 PROPOSED BUDGET
<b>INCOME</b>			
Annual dues	\$19,800.00	\$19,800.00	\$19,800.00
Interest - Checking	\$15.00	\$13.43	\$15.00
Interest - CDs	\$200.00	\$550.85	\$600.00
VPOAA Packages	\$500.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Prior Year Dues	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Late Fees	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00
Legal Costs/Fees	\$0.00	\$422.58	\$0.00
Advertising	\$0.00	\$70.00	\$140.00
Other	\$0.00	\$124.50	\$0.00
Total Income	\$20,515.00	\$21,581.36	\$20,855.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Tax Preparation/Audit	\$255.00	\$260.00	\$265.00
Bank Charges	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Director's Insurance	\$1,290.00	\$1,290.00	\$1,300.00
Liability Insurance	\$300.00	\$289.00	\$300.00
Surety Insurance	\$900.00	\$862.00	\$900.00
Legal Fees	\$500.00	\$2,512.32	\$500.00
Landscape/Maintenance	\$15,000.00	\$15,428.00	\$16,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Social	\$400.00	\$382.72	\$400.00
Neighborhood Watch	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Newsletter Printing	\$1,000.00	\$1,068.77	\$1,000.00
Taxes/Fees	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
VPOAA Packages	\$80.00	\$69.61	\$0.00
Postage	\$200.00	\$157.58	\$160.00
Total Expenses	\$20,375.00	\$22,470.00	\$20,975.00
Budget Surplus (Deficit)	\$140.00	-\$888.64	-\$120.00
Cash on hand end of FY 2006			\$4,290.00
Amount in CD's			\$21,700.00