

Volume 14 – No. 9

November 2014

The Hickory Farms Newsletter

Board of Directors

President

Bruce Bernhardt 426-9446

Vice President

Chuck Stewart 425-7368

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Dante Gilmer 978-0621

Asst Treasurer

Brand Niemann 503-8124

Secretary

Ed Wagner 425-7875

Community Grounds, Paths

& Woods – Don & Sara
Lobeda 539-8472

Architectural Control

Committee

Kirk Randall 425-0210

At Large – Brian

Roethlisberger 426-9099

Mike Mehrman 323-0801

Other Volunteers

Neighborhood Watch

Vanessa Franck 483-0730

Newsletter & Web Site

Kirk Randall 425-0210

Community Yard Sale (Fall)

Pete Scala 764-0730

Email ("Listserv")

Stefan Schwarz

Social Committee - Vacant

Architectural Reviews

Keith Ferguson, Donna

Garfield, Ed Kiechlin

Kirk Randall (Chairman)

Carole Rogers

Stefan Schwarz

Newsletter Delivery – John

Kitzmler, Heather Webb

Leslie Morrisette

Dante Gilmer, Sondra

Arnold, Ed Kiechlin

Claire & Sean Coleman

Get Email addresses at

www.hickoryfarms.org

Hickory Farms Community Association

P.O. Box 2239, Fairfax VA 22031

www.hickoryfarms.org

We held our annual meeting on October 21st. Dante Gilmer, Ed Wagner, Don/Sara Lobeda, Kirk Randall, Chuck Stewart, and Bruce Bernhardt agreed to serve another year on the Board and were, accordingly, elected to the Board for another year along with new members Brian Roethlisberger, Brand Niemann, and Mike Mehrman.

To avoid a late charge, please mail your \$150 Annual Dues check to the above address no later than January 7. You should also receive a U.S. mailed bill in the coming weeks.

Please welcome our new Neighborhood Watch coordinator Vanessa Franck. Vanessa and Matt recently purchased Kathy and Yogi Gillette's home on Cotton Farm. Kathy, you will recall, was our prior NW Coordinator, so we know that the program is still in good hands. Welcome aboard, Vanessa! Please call her at 703-483-0730 if you wish join the growing community of volunteers who help keep Hickory Farms safe and secure.

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://groups.yahoo.com/group/HickoryFarms/> -- Click "Join this Group"

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Annual Assessment (Dues) Payments Are Due No Later Than January 7

The deadline for paying your \$150 Hickory Farms Annual Assessment is January 7.

Please send your check to HFCA, P.O. Box 2239, Fairfax, Virginia 22031

Checks that are not postmarked or in the physical possession of the Treasurer by January 7 will be considered late and will be assessed a \$50 late fee. Checks that are received late and do not include the late fee will be returned for non-payment. On February 1, delinquent accounts will be turned over to the Association's attorneys for collection. At that point, the amount owed by a delinquent homeowner would be the \$150 dues, the late fee, and attorney fees. These procedures are in accord with the Hickory Farms Bylaws, which have no provision for waiver.

Please note that the Treasurer does not begin cashing checks until January 2, and it may be as late as February for your check to clear because our bank limits the number of checks we can process in one month.

(11-12-1)

Your Neighbor's Trash Can is for Their Trash – Not Your Dog's Poop

Several residents have complained that some dog walkers are dumping their dog's droppings (feces) into their trash cans, rather than taking them home and using their own trash cans. The complainers are then left to deal with a messy, smelly trash can. Please respect your neighbors and put your dog's poop into your trash can.

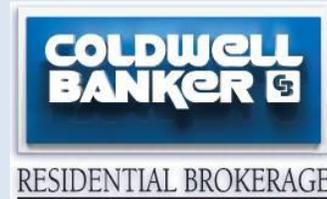


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Our Annual Meeting Was Held October 21st
President Bruce Bernhardt

Our Annual Meeting was held at Green Acres Senior Center. There were 46 votes in attendance, including 17 members present and 29 proxy votes. A slate of nine Directors was elected for the 2015 HF Board of Directors. Annual dues will remain at \$150 per year for next year. We discussed concerns regarding excessive speeding within our neighborhood. A proposal was adopted to educate residents on the need to reduce speeding and maintain posted speed limits. Also discussed were Roberts Road/Still Meadow Road intersection safety, Northern Path water run-off challenges, Common Area undergrowth cut-backs, improvements to our two entrances at Roberts Road and Burke Station Road, and obtaining a volunteer for the vacant Neighborhood Watch Coordinator position. (Just after the meeting, Vanessa Franck volunteered as NW Coordinator. So let's all support her as she gets up to speed in that position.) With 198 units within our Association, having only 46 turn out for the Annual Meeting is low, but the rain may have been a factor. Next year, please consider either coming in person or sending in your proxy. Starting this year, you can submit your proxy by email! Thanks to Kirk Randall for developing this new email proxy process. For a more complete description of the meeting, please go to www.hickoryfarms.org, scroll down to Meeting Minutes, select 2014 and you will find the Minutes from the Annual Meeting. Thanks to Ed Wagner for recording the minutes as HF Secretary.



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President's Corner Bruce Bernhardt

As your President, I am continuously amazed and grateful for the number of volunteers that work behind the scenes to make and keep this as one of the best places to live in Northern Virginia. Thank you to all who provided time and talents in 2014! If you have never participated on a committee or in a volunteer position, please consider one of the following:

Neighborhood Watch: We patrol on Friday and Saturday evenings every weekend within our neighborhood boundaries. With a few more volunteers, we could space out the schedule to a single tour every four or five months! Contact Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Vanessa Franck at 703-483-0730 to join this group.

Welcome Committee: Meet and greet new members to our community. This is one of the fastest ways to meet people and make friends. You become a contact for new people and ease their transition into our community.

There are many more positions such as assistants to Board members, Newsletter article writers and distributors, website support, HFCA Directory data collectors, subcommittees such as Rules and Regulations/By-Law Review, etc. If you have any ideas for new positions we should have, bring them up to any Board member for discussion and potential approval! Contact information for all Board Members is on page 1. Needless to say, many hands make

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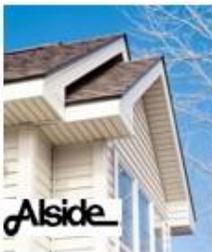
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light work. Please consider volunteering a few hours of your time to benefit all in our community.

Some of the issues the Board of Directors is working are the safety of Roberts Road/Still Meadow Road intersection, speeding vehicles in the neighborhood, and water run-off on the Northern Path. We are engaging Fairfax County and Fairfax City contacts to assist and will also engage our Braddock District Supervisor to help us with these challenges. On the speeding front, when tickets are issued, most of the tickets are written to residents and not cut-through drivers. Please SLOW DOWN when moving through the neighborhood. Even one accident involving a child, senior citizen or resident of our community is one too many. We have posted two SLOW DOWN signs on Country Farm and Still Meadow Roads to raise awareness and hopefully encourage drivers to slow down. If speeding continues we may ask VDOT to install speed bumps like you see on Burke Station Road.

If there are any questions you have concerning Hickory Farms, please don't hesitate to approach me or any Board Member to help resolve your question or issue. Thanks in advance for your continued support of our Community Association!

This Month's Home Maintenance Checklist

Outside Water Faucet Shutdown – Turn off outside water faucets using the inside shutoff valves. Open the faucets to drain remaining water. Drain water hoses before storage.

ADC Property Services

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Recent Work on the Dangerous Roberts Road / Still Meadow Road Intersection

We Hickory Farms residents all know about the blind spot when you're heading south on Roberts Road and turn left onto Still Meadow Road. You know, of course, that you must come to a complete stop before turning to make sure an approaching car is not in the blind spot and strikes your vehicle. But some folks don't know about that and begin their turn before checking for hidden oncoming traffic. When giving directions to my house, I NEVER direct folks to use Roberts Road – Burke Station Road only – because I want my guests to arrive alive. Unfortunately, the next victim will likely be one of the seniors who attend classes at OLLI. The OLLI parking lots fill up quickly and senior citizen students use our neighborhood for overflow parking. Being unfamiliar with the area, they are probably the most likely to get broadsided while turning onto Still Meadow Road.

The City of Fairfax, in cooperation with VDOT, has recently made a few improvements:

Southbound Roberts Road drivers turning left onto Still Meadow Road – The double yellow line on Roberts Road has been lengthened by about six feet. The purpose of this is to nudge southbound drivers a bit forward before turning left onto Still Meadow Road. Left-turning drivers should therefore get a better look at oncoming traffic that may be hidden in the dip. You will also notice that the Still Meadow Road stop sign island has been “extended” into Roberts Road using yellow paint. The purpose of that extension is to encourage Roberts Road drivers to make that left turn by avoiding the yellow markings. According to City officials, this should give the drivers more time to see oncoming traffic.

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Still Meadow Road drivers turning left onto Roberts Road – According to City officials, Still Meadow Road drivers may now stop at the end of the new yellow markings, not at the stop sign itself. This gives drivers a better view of Roberts Road traffic approaching from the left. Neighborhood volunteers have also trimmed the bushes at the southeast corner of the intersection to make it easier for both Still Meadow Road and Roberts Road drivers to see one another.

I want to commend the City of Fairfax - and in particular Wendy Block Sanford (the City owns that portion of Roberts Road where it intersects Still Meadow) - for focusing attention on this dangerous intersection. If you have suggestions on how to improve the safety of drivers or have observed near misses or collisions, please email your comments to Ms. Sanford at wendy.sanford@fairfaxva.gov and cc: kirk_randall@hotmail.com

Architectural Control Committee Approvals

4344 Farm House - Fence

Neighborhood Watch Schedule

Vanessa Franck – 703-483-0730

Please call Vanessa if you can work New Year's Eve

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!

Fri	Oct 31	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Sat	Nov 1		
Fri	Nov 7	Greg Gillette	Kathy Gillette
Sat	Nov 8	Rick Loranger	Judy Loranger
Fri	Nov 14	Jeff Lindsay	Larry Rogers
Sat	Nov 15	Angel Meza	Jason Meza
Fri	Nov 21	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay
Sat	Nov 22	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz
Fri	Nov 28	John Coyne	Linda Coyne
Sat	Nov 29	Pete Scala	Rose Scala
Fri	Dec 5	Stan Lee	Jim Marshall
Sat	Dec 6	Pam Barrett	Tom Barrett
Fri	Dec 12	Ed Wagner	Chuck Stewart
Sat	Dec 13	Stefan Schwarz	Christine Schwarz
Fri	Dec 19	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg
Sat	Dec 20	Brian Roethlisberger	--
Fri	Dec 26		
Sat	Dec 27	Jason Zhao	Laura Feng
Wed	Dec 31	Call Vanessa Franck at 703-483-0730 if you can work New Year's Eve	
Fri	Jan 3	John Verheul	Tami Verheul
Sat	Jan 4	Zhong Cheng Wang	Tong Wang
Fri	Jan 9	Dave Maurer	Sanjeev Munjal
Sat	Jan 10		
Fri	Jan 16	Jaime Gutierrez	--
Sat	Jan 17	Dave Dempster	Dawn Dempster
Fri	Jan 23	Susan Mulliner	Brenton Mulliner
Sat	Jan 24	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters

Northern Path Clean-up Project by the Boy Scouts

President Bruce Bernhardt

On Saturday, October 25th, Boy Scout Brandon Niemann (Wheatfield Court – standing in nearby photo) and a group of over 30 volunteers completed a clean-up and improvements to the Hickory Farms Community Association (HFCA) Northern Path. From our Roberts Road path entrance up to the path exiting into our Common Area, Brandon and his team removed downed tree branches, overgrown bushes, undergrowth, leaves and dirt that had accumulated along the path and in some places reduced the



almost 7 foot wide path to 3 feet! Two large trailer loads of materials were taken to the Fairfax Transfer Station for recycle. In addition to clean-up, the team also reinforced several sections of the asphalt path where water erosion had washed away dirt supporting the path.

Brandon approached the HF Board with a proposal to clean-up and improve the Northern Path as his Project to complete in order to achieve the Eagle Scout Rank. He planned the project, developed a budget, organized the volunteers, managed the event, directed project activities and ensured the return of all borrowed tools. He presented his proposal at the September Board of Directors meeting which approved his project and associated budget. Based on a walk down the Northern Path immediately after the clean-up, the project was a resounding success. If you have not had the opportunity recently to walk this valued portion of our Common Area, please do so in the near future.



Thanks to Brandon and his team of volunteers the path is now in great shape! Thanks also go to Don Lobeda (Grounds, Paths & Woods Coordinator) and Chuck Stewart (Vice President) for coordinating the project with Brandon and his team.

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