

Volume 14 – No. 8

October 2014

The Hickory Farms Newsletter

Board of Directors

President

Bruce Bernhardt 426-9446

Vice President

Chuck Stewart 425-7368

Treasurer

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

PLEASE VOLUNTEER

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

Kitzmiller, 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 urgently need someone to replace Kathy Gillette as our Neighborhood Watch coordinator. Kathy did such a good job of whipping the program into shape that taking over should be a breeze.

The Editor really messed up the Neighborhood Watch schedule in the last newsletter. If you participate, please double check the schedule in this issue.

Kiddies will love the Hickory Farms Halloween Parade on October 31st. Thank you Heather Webb and others for organizing this.

Our Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday October 21st at 8 PM in Room 111 at the Green Acres Center on Sideburn Road (not Roberts as incorrectly stated in the last newsletter). If you cannot attend the Annual Meeting in person, please complete a proxy (paper or email) so that someone may vote on your behalf. We need you to attend in person or your proxy to have a quorum. You can now email your proxy.

Thank you Pete Scala for organizing this year's community yard sale. It was a great success.

Please welcome our newest advertiser Lisa Marfori, Country Squire Lane resident and Coldwell Banker real estate agent.

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.

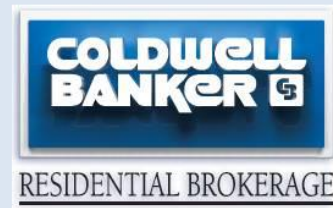
Visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HickoryFarms/> -- Click "Join this Group"

Moving?
Contact me for a
Free Comparative Market Analysis!

For unmatched customer service and a team who is top 1% nationwide, contact me to help you get what your house is worth!
Know someone who is moving? I can help find that perfect house!



Lisa Marfori
(703) 774-6680 Direct
(703) 938-5600 Main Office
465 Maple Avenue West
Vienna, VA 22180
LisaMarfori@gmail.com



**Convenient Vehicle Registration Services
Available at Fairfax City Hall**

Limited DMV services are available 8:30-4:30 weekdays at Fairfax City Hall on Armstrong Street. Services include license plates, handicapped permits, and title and registration transactions. This office does not issue drivers licenses or identification cards. You can often get your business done in less than 20 minutes!

(4-10)

Could This Be Your Fence?



Under Section 1.3 of the [Hickory Farms Rules and Regulations](#), homeowners aren't required to own fences. However, if they do have a fence, it must be kept in good repair. So, if your fence is starting to look like the one to the left, please either fix it or have it removed.



THE COMPANY YOU KEEP®

Deborah L. Lewis, CFP®, ChFC®, MBA, CPA
Agent, New York Life Insurance Company
3605-D Chain Bridge Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
(703) 352-8983
dllewis@ft.newyorklife.com
www.deborahllewis.com

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, Country Squire Lane*

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.

Directions to Annual Meeting October 21st at 8PM Green Acres Center

From Still Meadow Road, turn right on Roberts Road. At the stop sign, turn left onto Forest Avenue and then turn left onto Sideburn Road. Green Acres Center is two blocks down on the left. (10)

Parking Your Boat or Trailer in Your Driveway – For *Short Term ONLY*

Article VII, Number 11 of the Hickory Farms Covenants (our “constitution”) states: No boats, trailers, tents or any structure of a portable nature, or portable vehicle other than automobiles shall stay parked forward of any dwelling for a period exceeding seven days. (10)

Report Burned Out Streetlights

Burned out streetlights make for an unsafe neighborhood. If you spot one (or one where the bulb doesn't turn off during daytime), please call 1-888-667-3000. You'll need to give Dominion Virginia Power the address of the home nearest the streetlight as well as the number off the streetlight pole (for example, C-415 W096). (10)

TOP 200 RATED EXTERIOR REMODELER IN THE NATION 5 YEARS IN A ROW!

Celebrating 20 Years In Business!



Windows/Doors

- Energy Efficient Replacement Windows & Doors



Decks/Porches

- Screened In Porches



Siding/Trim

- Insulated Siding
- Maintenance Free – Never Paint Again



Gutters & Leaf Protection

- Clog Free Gutters



Attic Insulation

- Blown In R49



703-499-8654

Call Today for Your **FREE** Estimate!

20% OFF all Hickory Farms projects!

www.SunshineContractingCorp.com



Roofing

- Lifetime Warranties



- Family Owned & Operated
- Lifetime Warranties
- In-House Crews
- 0% Financing Available



SENIOR, MILITARY, GOVERNMENT, POLICE & FIREFIGHTER DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

This Month's Home Maintenance Checklist

Test Smoke Alarms & Carbon Monoxide Detectors – We recommend that you replace smoke detector batteries and don't wait for them to die. Press test buttons on carbon monoxide detectors. Open each unit and vacuum dust that could interfere with operation. Carbon monoxide detector batteries are usually not replaceable by the user; replace the unit when indicated on the unit's instructions. Check the date on each alarm. Most older smoke and carbon monoxide alarms should be replaced after seven years. Replace them with alarms that are guaranteed for ten years.

Water Heater Flushing – Drain the hot water heater to remove sediment that makes it run inefficiently. If gas operated: Turn the gas valve to the "pilot" setting. If electric: Turn off the circuit breaker. Shut off the cold water supply valve. Connect a hose from the water heater drain valve to the nearby floor drain or outdoors. Open a nearby hot water faucet to help the water drain freely. Open the water heater drain valve. When the water starts running cold, close the heater drain valve and remove the hose. Open the cold water supply valve. When water flows freely from the open sink faucet, turn off the faucet. Turn the gas control back to the "on" setting, or the electric circuit breaker back on.

Furnace & Heat Pump Fall Checkup – Schedule a fall service checkup.

Dehumidifier Shutdown – Clean out the dehumidifier bucket and vacuum the coils.

Test Water Overflow Alarms – Avoid floods by placing water overflow alarms next to your washing machine, hot water heater, etc.



P.O. Box 2722
Fairfax, VA 22031-2722



Cell: 571-436-6551
Bus: 703-764-0199
adcpropertyservices@gmail.com

***Family owned and operated business established since 2002.
Servicing Virginia and Maryland for all of your property management needs.
As residents of Hickory Farms, you can count on us to maintain our neighborhood integrity.***

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ✓ Evaluate Property | ✓ Detailed Documentation |
| ✓ Market Property | ✓ Accurate and Detailed |
| ✓ Tenant Screening | Accounting Reports |
| ✓ Rent Collection | ✓ Disbursement of Funds as |
| ✓ Periodic Inspections | Directed by Owner |
| ✓ Property Maintenance | ✓ Accurate Year End Statements |

ADC Property Services

Exceeding expectations for quality service—and by the way, we also help with buying and selling homes.

How is Your Property's "Curb Appeal"?

HFCA President Bruce Bernhardt

October is the time - before the potential harsh winter weather sets in - for your final lawn cutting. If you want to be pleased with your external property appearance every time you enter or leave your home until next spring, make sure you include edging your curb and sidewalk as part of your final lawn cut activities. To really know how your property looks, go across the street or down the driveway from your lot and take a look. If you have grass or weeds growing in the street gutter or over your curb, now is the time to act! When walking on your sidewalk, can you see the edge between your cement sidewalk and lawn or has your lawn overgrown your sidewalk edges? And finally, check sidewalk walking clearances. Do you have bushes that extend over and into the sidewalk or tree branches that hang down over the sidewalk? If you need help with lawn cutting and edging, check with your neighbors for the names of neighborhood students who you can engage to assist you.

Then, take a look at your neighbor's lot. If they have overgrown grass edges, bushes or tree branches, do they need your help? If your neighbor is unable to maintain their lot or experiencing a temporary health issue, when you do your edging, do theirs also! It only takes a few extra minutes and it is a great feeling to help out a neighbor! Discussing "lawn care" is also a friendly topic to meet and become friends with your neighbors, whether they are new or have been here for many years. If you want great ideas for your property, just take a walk around our neighborhood! You will have an opportunity to meet more of your neighbors and observe many different lawn, garden, landscaping and tree arrangements to possibly improve your own lot.

Our Hickory Farms neighborhood of 198 homes continues to be a great place to live because of all the effort and contributions of our many neighbors. In order to keep our neighborhood a great place to live, we all need to do our part. Check out your property “curb appeal” and best wishes for a productive fall 2014!

HICKORY FARMS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION		
2015 BUDGET - Approved by Board 10/1/2014		
	2014 PROJECTED FINAL	APPROVED 2015 BUDGET
INCOME		
Annual dues	\$29,550	\$29,700
Late Fees	950	50
Prior Year's Dues	0	150
Legal Fees/Costs	0	60
Advertising	842	300
Interest CDs	21	22
Miscellaneous	179	0
Total Income	\$31,542	\$30,282
EXPENSES		
Tax Preparation/Audit	\$270	\$300
Director's Insurance	1,727	1,850
Liability Insurance	260	325
Surety Insurance	250	275
Bank Charges	19	20
Legal Fees	200	500
Landscape/Maintenance	17,650	20,000
Miscellaneous	855	100
Social	250	250
Newsletter Printing	1,700	1,800
Taxes/Fees	655	200
Postage/P.O. Box	225	250
Total Expenses	\$24,061	\$25,870
Budget - Surplus / (Deficit)	\$7,481	\$4,412
Budget overages are transferred to the HFCA capital maintenance and improvement fund, which is underfunded by approximately \$6,500.		
Annual Dues		\$150.00



**Calling All Hickory
Farms Residents!
Please Join Us!**

**Hickory Farms Community Association
Halloween Parade & Pizza Party
Friday, October 31, 4:45 PM
Parade: Corner of Cotton Farm & Still Meadow
Pizza Party following in Upper Commons
Please RSVP by Oct. 29 at:
<http://bit.ly/HFHalloween2014>
Cancel for Heavy Rain
Contact: Heather Webb at hkwebb527@yahoo.com**

Architectural Control Committee Approvals

4286 Country Squire - French Doors
4322 Still Meadow – Front Door

State of the Hickory Farms Community Association (HFCA)
HFCA President Bruce Bernhardt

As we approach the Annual Meeting on October 21st, I would like to summarize the state of our Hickory Farms Community Association (HFCA). Overall, our community is doing well, is financially solvent, has a core of enthusiastic volunteers and is meeting the needs of our lot owners, in compliance with the Covenants, Rules and Regulations and By-Laws of our Association. Currently, there are no serious threats or negative issues to report. On the plus side, two new volunteers have stepped forward to serve on the Architecture Control Committee and one as Assistant Treasurer. We recently had a successful Fall Yard Sale with 12 homeowner locations participating!

Our Annual Meeting of homeowners is scheduled for Tuesday, October 21st at 8 pm at Green Acres School. The HFCA Halloween Parade and Pizza Party are scheduled for Friday, October 31st at 5 pm.



Solutions

*Serving the
Northern Virginia area
since 2001*

Give Solutions a Call Today for Your Answer to:

Interior Remodeling
Bathrooms ▪ Basements ▪ Kitchens
Drywall Repair & Painting ▪ ADA Compliance ▪ And More

Exterior Remodeling
Roofing ▪ Windows ▪ Siding ▪ Trim Cladding
Rotted Wood ▪ Repairs ▪ And More

703-906-6525
solutionsofva@gmail.com
Alex Hamilton, Owner
Class A License & Insured

**Quality
Craftsmanship**
◆
5-Year Warranty
◆
**Outstanding
Service**

We are in dire need of a Neighborhood Watch Coordinator. This position is responsible for scheduling and coordinating the Friday and Saturday evening tours of volunteers who patrol our neighborhood and report any irregularities to the appropriate authorities. We do not engage anyone on Neighborhood Watch; we only observe and report. The NW Coordinator maintains a spreadsheet of volunteers, distributes the schedule to NW volunteers and is constantly on the lookout for additional NW volunteers.

One of our most attractive features as a community is our Common Areas. However, the Common Areas are beginning to show their age. The North Path along our border with Fairfax City is in need of clean-up, possible asphalt path repairs, and water runoff modifications. Our Upper Common Area has an ever growing bamboo forest that is in constant need of trimming (if left unattended, it may take over North America!) Our 2014 and 2015 budgets have been prepared with support of the Common Areas in mind.

Hickory Farms was incorporated in 1975 and has grown to 198 homes. There has always been turn-over of homeowners coming and going over the past 39 years. Whether you are an original homeowner or a newer arrival, this is a wonderful and beautiful place to live. Your assistance is needed to keep our neighborhood a great place to live. First, please come to the Annual Meeting or send a proxy so that your vote may be counted. Second, get to know your neighbors and get involved with the Community. Volunteer on one of the many existing committees or suggest we add a new one. We always need additional volunteers to keep things moving. Third, look out for your neighbors. If they need temporary help with lawn maintenance or rides due to a disabled car, help them out. Finally, watch out for your neighborhood. If you see anything that looks out of the ordinary, say something. We have a safe and enjoyable environment and would like to keep it going!

If I have not yet had the opportunity to speak with you individually, don't hesitate to give me or any HFCA Board Member a call. All of our contact numbers are on our HFCA website (www.hickoryfarms.org) and on the front page of this newsletter. There is also a wealth of additional information regarding Hickory Farms on the website, so check it out.

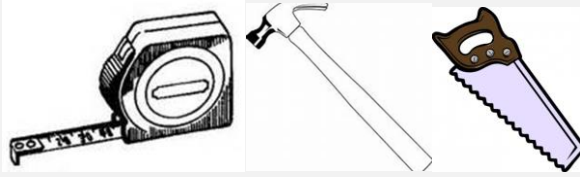
I hope to see everyone at the Annual Meeting, Green Acres School, on the 21st. Check in starts at 7:40 pm and meeting starts at 8 pm.

Neighborhood Watch Schedule **Coordinator Needed – Please Volunteer**

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 3	John Verheul	Tami Verheul
Sat	Oct 4	Zhong Cheng Wang	Tong Wang
Fri	Oct 10	Dave Maurer	Sanjeev Munjal
Sat	Oct 11		
Fri	Oct 17	Jaime Gutierrez	--
Sat	Oct 18	Dave Dempster	Dawn Dempster
Fri	Oct 24	Susan Mulliner	Brenton Mulliner
Sat	Oct 25	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters
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	<u>Dec 27</u>	Jason Zhao	Laura Feng

Remodeling Services by David Alvarado Cortez



Bathroom & Kitchen Remodels – Decks

Ceramic Tile – Painting

Hardwood Floors – Drywall – Carpentry

Replacement Windows & Doors – Trim

General Handyman Services – Pressure Washing

Five Years Serving Hickory Farms Homeowners

Hickory Farms References Available – Low Prices

571-313-9550 Christopher120982@Hotmail.com

Birds of Hickory Farms - Fall Migration

Bob Cosgriff

As mentioned in last month's column, the annual fall migration is now under way. In fact, many birds have already passed through our area, but don't worry—many more are coming.

In general, the fall migration is not as dramatic as the spring migration since many songbirds are not in their breeding plumage as they head south, nor are they singing much (a breeding and territorial behavior).

Nonetheless it is possible to enjoy the fall passage of migratory birds (which lasts longer than the spring version) if you go to the right places. In this area, this means the Potomac River, the Chesapeake Bay or the beaches of the Delmarva Peninsula or the Outer Banks.

The nearest good migratory "hotspot" is the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge in nearby Woodbridge: (http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Occoquan_Bay/visit/plan_your_visit.html).

There is a modest \$2/vehicle fee; it is well worth it in any season. There are very well-maintained, flat hiking trails, a variety of habitat, and perhaps most important, plenty of porta-potties and benches scattered around this 500-plus acre site. Bald eagles are a common occurrence (it would be unusual not to see one!). Warblers, bluebirds, various species of hawks, sparrows and woodpeckers also are in evidence in any season. You might see some shorebirds now, but a bit later in the fall (November onward), the big show is provided by ducks, geese and swans (with the occasional loon or grebe thrown in). If you don't want to

Lawn Mowing + Landscape Maintenance specialists

- Lawn Mowing
- Spring cleanups and Mulching
- Lawn Fertilizing + Weed control
- Lawn Aerating + Seeding
- Bed Weeding + Shrub Pruning
- Fall Leaf Cleanups

Also available: Complete Landscape Installations, renovations and creations, Complete Tree Services including pruning, removals and planting. See our website for more information.

Professional Property Maintenance Inc.

Since 1991 703-273-9626

www.ppmlandscapes.com

**Fast/
Free
Estimates**

Try our services for **FREE!**
Sign up for Lawn mowing services
and get 1 visit free.



walk the entire perimeter, just park and walk straight down the trail (Fox Road) leading east from the parking lot to Occoquan Bay, where there is a nice gazebo for viewing the water. Then turn left and head along the shoreline on Deephole Road to the next trail (Easy Road) which will lead you back to the parking lot past a beautiful wetland habitat. We've found that the best viewing is on this approximately one-mile circuit.

As for Hickory Farms, right after I submitted last month's article, Richard Dudley (Still Meadow) reported hearing an owl calling. The next day, I heard a Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) in the woods along the creek north of Cotton Farm Road, and a few days later heard it again in the Toole property adjacent to Hickory Farms off Glenmere Road. This is the first record I have of this species in the neighborhood since 2002! I suspect this is probably a hatch-year bird that has been pushed out and is trying to establish its own territory. I'm hopeful that it will find our woods congenial and will perhaps nest here next year. Other noteworthy birds I've seen in my backyard so far this fall are a male Common Yellow-throat (a warbler) and a Cooper's Hawk (a bird-eater) looking for dinner.

So keep your eyes open and perhaps try to visit a nearby park as the leaves turn and the birds pass through our area, reminding us that the seasons are changing yet again in their timeless cycle.

Long May It Wave—Proudly and Properly

Bob Cosgriff

Many people in Hickory Farms proudly fly the American flag in front of their homes, something that is certainly encouraged. Since September 2014 was the 200th anniversary of the writing of the "Star-Spangled Banner" in nearby Baltimore during the War of 1812, now is

perhaps an appropriate time to discuss how and when the beautiful “star-spangled” symbol of our country should be flown.

Rules for the proper display of our national flag are contained in “The National Flag Code” adopted by The National Flag Conference on Flag Day, June 14, 1923, then adopted as a Joint Resolution of Congress on June 22, 1942 and codified into law (36 U.S.C., §173-178) on December 22, 1942, in the midst of WWII. The pertinent sections cited above can be read at <http://www.usflag.org/us.code36.html#173>.

Here are a few easy-to-remember guidelines from the Flag Code:

1. The flag must be a “fitting emblem” of the country, which implies that it should be clean and in good condition (i.e., it should not be frayed, cut, faded, dirty, moldy, etc.). Flags that are past the point of being a “fitting emblem” should be destroyed with respect, preferably by burning. Veterans groups sometimes offer to do this for free.
2. The flag should be flown in daylight hours. If flown at night, it should have a dedicated light shining on it.
3. The flag should fly freely and not touch the ground or anything under or around it (e.g., tree branches, bushes, deck railings, tables, etc.).
4. It should fly to its right (the viewer’s left) of other flags. No other flag should fly above it.

There are a number of places where U.S. flags can be purchased. Be sure to look for one that is basically weather-proof if you plan to keep it flying every day. However, it is always a good idea to take the flag down in case of high winds and/or rain or snow to prevent damage to it or the flagpole. Be sure to buy a pole of the proper length to match the size of the flag. Most house flags are 3’x5’ and should go into a flagpole holder that is angled at 45 degrees. Be sure the holder is securely fastened into a stud or masonry because a blowing flag can, over time, loosen the screws and cause problems. The other option is a free-standing flagpole.

While the Flag Code encourages flying the flag every day, some people prefer to display it only on holidays. The Flag Code provides a suggested list of such days, to include all 10 national holidays as well as Inauguration Day, January 20 (every four years); Armed Forces Day, third Saturday in May; Flag Day, June 14; and Constitution Day, September 17.

It would be nice to see even more U.S. flags flying in Hickory Farms, especially at the present time as we embark on another effort to push back terrorists who would threaten us and the values that we cherish as a nation. Flying the flag would also show support for those Hickory Farms residents who are serving on active duty in the military, federal law enforcement or the State Department.

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