

Volume 14 – No. 7

September 2014

The Hickory Farms Newsletter

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Mike Mehrman 323-0801

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Neighborhood Watch

PLEASE VOLUNTEER

Newsletter & Web Site

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Community Yard Sale (Fall)

Pete Scala 764-0730

Email ("Listserv")

Stefan Schwarz

Social Committee - Vacant

Architectural Reviews

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Garfield, Ed Kiechlin

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Get Email addresses at

www.hickoryfarms.org

Hickory Farms Community Association

P.O. Box 2239, Fairfax VA 22031

www.hickoryfarms.org

We want give a warm welcome to Brand Niemann and Brian Roethlisberger as the newest additions to the Board of Directors. Also, Ed Kiechlin and Stefan Schwarz are the newest members of the Architectural Control Committee, replacing long-time resident Yogi Gillette who recently moved with Kathy to the Shenandoah Valley.

We also need someone to replace Kathy as our Neighborhood Watch coordinator. Kathy has done such a good job whipping the program into shape that taking over should be a breeze.

Our Annual Meeting will be held October 21st at 8 PM in Room 111 at the Green Acres School/Center on Roberts Road.

Start accumulating your unneeded stuff to sell at the September 20th community yard sale.

Do you miss your Hickory Farms emails, including receiving your newsletter by email? Please read the enclosed message from Listserv Coordinator Stefan Schwarz about reestablishing this service.

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"

Remodeling Services by David Alvarado Cortez



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571-313-9550 Christopher120982@Hotmail.com

Are Your Inside and Outside Water Pipes Insured for Breakage?

Every few years, we have a rash of underground water pipe breakages. For some reason, our water pipes (the pipe that runs from the street to your home) seem to be prone to failure. When this pipe breaks, *you* pay as much as \$4,000 to have it repaired or replaced. Protect yourself with a water line insurance policy *before* the pipe breaks. Dominion Products and Services (a cousin of the electricity folks) offers water line insurance for only a few dollars per month (included with your electricity bill). You should especially consider insurance if your water line is particularly long.

Dominion also offers insurance for failures to your inside plumbing as well as sewer lines, water heater, and heating and air conditioning systems. (9)

Board of Directors Meetings Are Open to All Homeowners

The Board of Directors meets on an ad-hoc basis, usually on a Wednesday night every 2-3 months. If you would like to attend a meeting to raise a concern, or just to see how the Board works, please call the President (see front page for telephone number). (7)



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What About Inside Water Pipe Failures?

Speaking of water pipes, we recently suffered a water pipe failure that to fix involved tearing out part of the dining room ceiling to access the copper pipe, which had a pinhole in it. This seems highly unusual for pipes that are only 32 years old; let's hope that this is just a freak occurrence. If this has happened to you, please send an email to kirk_randall@hotmail.com and we'll tell you the results of this unscientific survey in a future issue.

The factors contributing to pinhole leaks are many, from manufacturing defects to bad electrical system grounding. In January 2014, most of the residents in Hickory Farms started receiving water service from Fairfax Water, replacing the City of Fairfax who served the community since the homes were built. Fairfax Water and the City of Fairfax use different chemicals and processes to treat their water. While the City did not did not inject a corrosion inhibitor water into our water, it cannot be conclusively determined that that was the reason for pinhole failures. Our new water provider, Fairfax Water, does use corrosion inhibitors in our water. This should provide some protection going forward as they slowly build up a protective coating inside the lines. Meanwhile, we strongly suggest you turn your water supply off when you leave the house for more than a few days.

Repairing Hickory Farms Sidewalks and Street Curbs

If the curbs on your street are damaged or the sidewalks crumbling or uneven, report them to VDOT. VDOT has been very responsive lately about making repairs quickly. To report a problem, call 800-367-7623 or visit www.virginiadot.org/travel/citizen.asp

(9)

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Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Needed – How About You?

Bruce Bernhardt, President

Can you contribute only about one hour a month to help keep our community safe? Hickory Farms needs a volunteer to take over as Neighborhood Watch Coordinator. Our current Coordinator, Kathy Gillette recently moved out of Hickory Farms. Thanks, Kathy, for all the volunteering you and husband Yogi have done over the many years!

NW participants patrol our neighborhood in pairs on Friday and Saturday evenings on the lookout for potential criminal or serious safety situations. They DO NOT engage anyone; they are observers only. They report to Fairfax Police (911) any suspicious activities.

The Coordinator position involves keeping the volunteer list and schedule of residents who patrol our neighborhood. Kathy is eager to meet with her successor to pass on the current member list and NW schedule and brief them on how easy the NW program is to manage.

One of the many things that make Hickory Farms the great place it is to live for all of us is the commitment of volunteer neighbors to staff the Neighborhood Watch.

If you would like to be our next NW Coordinator, (or become a Neighborhood Watch volunteer), please contact Kathy (703-503-3158) or Bruce Bernhardt (703-989-0751).

From famous quote department: “if not you, then who? If not now, then when?” Help us keep Hickory Farms the great place it is to live, meet new friends, and raise families!

ADC Property Services

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Why You Should Join the Hickory Farms Listserv Email Service

Stefan Schwarz – Listserv Coordinator

Every homeowner/resident should join the Hickory Farms Listserv email service to receive copies of this newsletter and other announcements helpful to the community. To learn more about this service, visit www.hickoryfarms.org/E-mail.htm .

However, over the years the list of members has become bloated with folks who have left the neighborhood or whose email addresses changed.

The only way to correct this was to delete all email addresses from the group and ask folks to re-register. Unfortunately, it seems that a number of people failed to re-register.

So, if you have not re-registered in the last month or two, please do so ASAP. Just email your name, email address, telephone number, and Hickory Farms street address to sschwarz13@gmail.com.

Architectural Control Committee Approvals

4354 Farm House - Front Door
4333 Farm House - Three Seasons Porch Conversion
4367 Farm House - Patio Doors
4306 Burke Station - Doors

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Your Exterior Remodeling Project May Need Approval

If you are changing the exterior appearance of your home (siding, windows, additions, etc.) or property (fences, sheds, etc.) you might need the approval of the Architectural Control Committee. You must get ACC approval before you begin the project. If you are in doubt as to whether approval is required for your particular project (and some do not require approval), please read [Application for Architectural Review](#) and [Approval of Your Exterior Renovation Project – How to Get It](#) at www.hickoryfarms.org. You may also find [Tips for Choosing a Contractor](#) helpful. If you do not have internet access, please call the chairperson of the Architectural Control Committee.

(1-5-9)

Please Clean Up After Your Dog

Please show consideration to your neighbors by cleaning up after your dog! Whether it's in a neighbor's yard or our Common Areas, please use a plastic bag to clean up your dog's waste. Please **DO NOT** dispose of the bag in a storm drain, a neighbor's yard, a neighbor's trash can, or our common areas. Not only is disposing it in your own trash the neighborly thing to do, it is also required by law. Thank you for your consideration!

(3-9)

**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!

Sat	Aug 30	Pete Scala	Rose Scala
Fri	Sep 5	Stan Lee	Jim Marshall
Sat	Sep 6	Pam Barrett	Tom Barrett
Fri	Sep 12	Ed Wagner	Chuck Stewart
Sat	Sep 13	Stefan Schwarz	Christine Schwarz
Fri	Sep 19	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg
Sat	Sep 20	Brian Roethlisberger	--
Fri	Sep 26		
Sat	Sep 27	Jason Zhao	Laura Feng
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	Nov 18	Dave Dempster	Dawn Dempster
Fri	Nov 24	Susan Mulliner	Brenton Mulliner
Sat	Nov 25	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters
Fri	Nov 31	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Sat	Dec 1		
Fri	Dec 7	Greg Gillette	Kathy Gillette
Sat	Dec 8	Rick Loranger	Judy Loranger
Fri	Dec 14	Jeff Lindsay	Larry Rogers
Sat	Dec 15	Angel Meza	Jason Meza
Fri	Dec 21	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay
Sat	Dec 22	Bob Montgomery	George Rosenkranz
Fri	Dec 28	John Coyne	Linda Coyne

Absentee Homeowners - Do We Have Your Contact Information?

If you are an absentee homeowner, the Board of Directors needs to know your permanent address, phone number, and email address so we can mail newsletters and dues bills to you. In the past, some absentee homeowners have complained about missed deadlines only to discover they never told the Board where they lived. (9)

Fairfax County Regulations for Parking on the Street

The Hickory Farms Community Association has certain restrictions regarding the parking of vehicles on our lots. The HFCA does not have authority to regulate parking on public streets; that authority rests with Fairfax County. If you have a street parking issue that cannot be amicably resolved, please call the police non-emergency number at 703-691-2131 or call Supervisor Cook's office at 703-425-9300 for assistance.

Commercial Vehicle Parking Restrictions

- Taxi and limousines are limited to one per house and must be registered in Virginia
- Commercial vehicles that exceed the following may not park on public streets:
 - More than 21 feet long
 - More than 8 feet high
 - More than 102 inches wide
 - A gross vehicle weight of 12,000 lbs. or more
 - Vehicles carrying commercial freight in plain view
 - Trailers or semitrailers – except camper, boat or single axle utility
 - Vehicles with 3 or more axles
- There are a few exceptions to these regulations:
 - Public service company vehicles
 - Watercraft or motor home
 - School buses in current use
 - Private vehicles with disability plates
 - Cable service vehicles
 - Rental/moving type vehicles within 48 hours of leasing
 - Propane gas service vehicles
- Vehicles parked on a public street must have both front and back license plates and display a current safety inspection sticker. (9)

How Many People Are Permitted to Live in a Hickory Farms House?

The Fairfax County [zoning ordinance](#) limits how many people can live in a single residence such as we have here in Hickory Farms (see www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code/property/overcrowding.htm). In general:

- No more than one family, plus two renters, may live in one house.
- No more than four unrelated people may live in one house.

However, the rules define that more than one person can live in a residence:

- One family, which may consist of one person or two or more persons related by blood or marriage with any number of natural children, foster children, step children or adopted children and with not to exceed two roomers or boarders.

- Two single parents or guardians with not more than a total of six of their dependent children, including natural children, foster children, step children or adopted children, functioning as a single housekeeping unit.
- A group of not more than four persons not necessarily related by blood or marriage functioning as a single housekeeping unit.
- One person or two persons one of whom shall be elderly and/or disabled, and one or both of whom own the dwelling unit, plus one family, which may consist of one person or two or more persons related by blood or marriage, and with any number of natural children, foster children, step children or adopted children.

The Hickory Farms Community Association is not empowered to address overcrowding issues. If you have any questions or complaints, call Zoning Enforcement at 703-324-1300 or file a complaint online at http://fido.fairfaxcounty.gov/DP1/Metroplex/FairfaxCounty/customerservice/WIZ_CSR.asp.⁽⁹⁾

Cluttered Carport?

We sometimes accumulate just too much stuff. That stuff frequently finds its way into our carports, overburdening them with clutter and creating an unsightly appearance in the community. Our Rules and Regulations clearly state that “carports shall not be used for storage in a manner that creates an unsightly appearance.” If your stuff is nonessential, donate it to Goodwill or sell it at a yard sale or using Craigslist on the internet. Or, if it is really needed, please consider moving it to a back yard shed or your basement. Thank you for your cooperation and consideration for your neighbors.⁽⁹⁾

This Month’s Home Maintenance Checklist

Siding Cleaning – Pressure wash the vinyl/aluminum siding every 3-5 years. Frequent pressure washing can strip the paint off aluminum siding down to the bare metal, so don’t do this too often.

Washing Machine Hose Check – Check hot and cold water hoses for cracks and replace, if needed. Better yet, replace them with metal reinforced hoses

Hickory Farms Community Yard Sale

September 20th (8 AM – Noon)

HFCA will arrange advertising and will provide maps showing participating yards sales. *The fee (approx. \$10) will be collected on sale day.* We need students to distribute community maps at the neighborhood entrances. They will be paid. Contact Pete Scala at 703-764-0730 or email him at scalapr@verizon.net to participate.⁽⁹⁾

Replace Your Heat Pump – Get a \$250 Rebate

Dominion Virginia Power is offering you up to \$250 to replace your heat pump. To learn more, visit <http://dom-vendor.com/upgrade> or speak with your heating and air conditioning contractor.

The Gillettes – An Appreciation Bob Cosgriff (Cotton Farm Road)

While “For Sale” signs are not as numerous in our neighborhood as they were five or six years ago, Hickory Farms does continue to experience turnover. Long-time Hickory Farm residents Greg (“Yogi”) and Kathy Gillette (Cotton Farm Road) moved at the end of July to Harrisonburg to be closer to family. Their departure, it seems to me, warrants some sort of recognition in the pages of the newsletter.

Quite simply put, Yogi and Kathy exemplified the kind of neighbors that make Hickory Farms a special place to live. They were active on the HFCA Board of Directors in various capacities, including the ACC, several times in the 22 years they lived here. They were always more than willing to lend a hand at neighborhood cleanups and took part in many of the annual HFCA yard sales. They were also faithful members of the Neighborhood Watch. Most recently, Kathy was the Watch coordinator and took the initiative to get police coverage in an attempt to cut down on rolling stops at our intersections and speeding on our streets.

Kathy, as many of you know, was a Master Gardener, and their yard showed her expertise, front and back. And everyone, it seems, knew their dog, Aly. Certainly, any number of neighborhood dogs out for a walk always welcomed a chance to stop off at the Gillette’s house and play with her, and they all seem a little sadder now that she has moved away!

Living immediately next door to them, Judy and I could not have asked for better neighbors these last 22 years: warm-hearted, friendly, considerate, in a word, “neighborly, as I’m sure others at our end of the neighborhood on Cotton Farm Road, Harvester Farm Lane, and Tumbleweed Court would agree.

It has always been the people who live here who have made our neighborhood special. Every departure brings a new arrival. So at the same time as we say “Bon Voyage” to Yogi and Kathy, we are very happy to welcome new neighbors Matt and Vanessa Franck to Hickory Farms.

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) 10014 Cotton Farm	Split Level	4	2	\$510,000	\$513,000	\$2000	22	Sold – April 8
(2) 4322 Still Meadow	Split Foyer	4	3	\$509,000	\$510,000	\$3000	1	Sold – April 20
(3) 4317 Still Meadow	Split Level	4	2.5	\$569,999	\$570,000	\$0	2	Sold – July 11
(4) 10005 Cotton Farm	Split Level	4	2.5	\$542,000	\$537,500	\$0	25	Sold – July 31

- (1) Upgraded master bath, new hardwood floors, new furnace, fully fenced backyard.
- (2) Hardwood flooring on main level, new carpet in lower level. Updated kitchen with granite counters and cherry cabinets. Updated bathrooms, fenced back yard.
- (3) Completely updated with new bathrooms, new kitchen, new paint, new carpet and landscaped front and back yards.
- (4) Hardwood flooring on main level, carpet on upper and lower levels. Updated kitchen, and bathrooms. Large deck.

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 (1-5-9)

The Birds of Hickory Farms—Fall, 2014
Bob Cosgriff (Cotton Farm Road)

Species	2013	2014
Eastern Bluebird	22	16
Tree Swallow	16	4
House Wren	8	4

The HFCA bluebird trail had a good year in 2014, although our overall results were down from the impressive 2013 totals, as shown in the table.

It is difficult to determine why our numbers, especially for the swallows (-12) and wrens (-4), were down. One possibility is the longer and harsher winter in 2013-2014, which appeared to delay the northbound migration and, consequently, egg-laying, by a couple of weeks. Also, compared to last year, in 2014 we had many more nesting attempts by House Sparrows, a non-native bird that tends to drive away the more desirable native species. The apparent increase in the sparrow population may have played some part, since we found a dead adult bluebird in one box and a dead tree swallow in another, evidence of probable predation by the more aggressive sparrows. In one box, the sparrows began to build a nest on top of the dead bluebird! Finally, the “carrying capacity” of our 10-box trail is finite given the amount of space each pair needs for its feeding territory, so the 2013 total probably represents an upper limit of what we can expect each year. But the sharp downturn in tree swallows was a bit surprising—and disappointing. Once all the other bluebird trail data are submitted to the Virginia Bluebird Society, perhaps we can learn if our results were similar to those elsewhere in Fairfax County and around the state.

We added three new species to our neighborhood list this year: Red-winged Blackbird (at my feeder on January 25th), Osprey (flying over the lower and upper common grounds on March 31st) and Mississippi Kite (August 13th). The latter hawk species noteworthy, since the Mississippi Kite is normally found farther south. It does seem to be expanding its range into our area. I have seen them in Fairfax on three occasions in the last few years and there was a confirmed nesting pair in Burke this year. The bird that overflowed the Burke Station Road end of our neighborhood is probably from this nest. Our neighborhood species total now stands at 113. Our yard year-list total reached 44 with the Mississippi Kite. We had a high of 24 species in one day on two occasions (25 February and 31 March), with an overall average of around 15 bird species a day overall from 1 January. We missed several warbler species in early May because we were on a 12-day birding trip to Ohio, Canada and Pennsylvania during the peak of the migration period.

One bird we have not seen or heard in Hickory Farms this year is the Wood Thrush. The absence of this bird, known for its haunting, flute-like song, is indicative of an overall decline in the populations of neo-tropical birds (including other thrushes, orioles, tanagers, and warblers). Scientists attribute this drop-off to many causes: habitat destruction at both ends of the migration routes, wide use of pesticides that kill off insect food sources, house cats (the #1 killer of backyard birds), and the dangers posed to birds by human structures (houses, high-rise office buildings, wind turbines). Therefore, it is important to do whatever we can to provide good habitats for both migrants and year-round resident birds. This includes setting up backyard feeders and providing water and cover (preferably using native plants and trees), keeping house cats indoors, and using non-harmful products on lawns, trees, shrubs and flowers. Every little bit helps to reverse the disturbing, negative trend in songbird populations.

Right now, we are in the late summer doldrums for birding, since our resident birds have pretty much finished up nesting and are just hanging around, fattening up for the coming cooler weather and for some, migration. Things will pick up soon, however. Shorebirds will begin moving south at the end of August and early September. So if you are going to the Delaware, Maryland or Virginia beaches at those times, you might well see large flocks of sandpipers and other shorebirds stopping over on their way to points south. Some songbirds have already begun moving, with September and October the peak months. They are followed by birds of prey and water birds (ducks and geese) in October and November. As we approach the autumnal equinox in late September, keep your eyes and ears open to watch nature's timekeepers pass through our area, our neighborhood, and even your own backyard!

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