



OUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER | **HICKORYFARMS.ORG** | P.O. BOX 2239, FAIRFAX, VA 22031

INSIDE THIS EDITION: **MAY 2017**

- Community Social Calendar (p.3)
- Corn Hole Tournament on 5/20 (p.3)
- Summer Block Party on 6/24 (p.5)
- ACC Update & Maintenance Checklist (p.7)
- Community Kudos (p.7)
- Update on Deed of Dedication Changes (p.9)
- Birds of Hickory Farms (p.9 & p.10)
- Neighborhood Watch Shifts (p.11)
- Newsletter contributors wanted (p.12)
- Abridged Board Meeting Minutes (p.13)

SPRING EGG HUNT!

Here are some photos from this year's egg hunt, which landed on a beautiful Saturday and was a ton of fun. Thank you social committee for planning, **Ellie** for excellent character acting, and all who stuffed and hid eggs. See p.3 for more on upcoming social events!

NEEDED: **TREASURER**

Good with numbers? Want to get involved in the community? HFCA needs a new treasurer! If you're interested, send us an email at **hfca@hickoryfarms.org** and let us know!

Many thanks to **Brenda Denny** for her service, and to **Dante Gilmer** for stepping in as acting treasurer!



Thank you Bruce Bernhardt, Bob Cosgriff, Melissa Stark, & Kendra Seymour for your newsletter contributions!

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COMMUNITY **SOCIAL** CALENDAR



SAVE THE DATES!

- **May 20:** Corn Hole Tournament
- **June 24:** Summer Kick-Off Block Party
- **Early September:** Family Movie Night
- **October 29:** Halloween Parade & Party

BUNCO NIGHT!

We have 12 regular players and meet the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. But when someone can't make it, we need a substitute. For questions or to be added to the sub list, email Krissy at **krissylunsford@gmail.com**.

JOIN OUR **LISTSERV**

There's no better way to stay in touch than through our Hickory Farms email listserv.

Visit **hickoryfarms.org**

Click "Hickory Farms Listserv" on left

Follow the instructions

Get the latest on neighborhood news and events; **ask the community for recommendations** on contractors, repairmen, and professional services; find a lost item or an item's owner; receive an **advance copy** of this newsletter; and much, much more!

Please Join us for Hickory Farms' 1ST ANNUAL CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT



Saturday, May 20

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Upper Commons Area



No prior playing experience needed. Please feel free to bring your own beverage!

For more information and to RSVP go to:

**[www.SignUpGenius.com/
go/20F0F48ACA62AABFC1-hickory2](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0F48ACA62AABFC1-hickory2)**

Please leave the kids and teenagers at home! This will be an event for the adults of the neighborhood.





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*Based on 3% commission

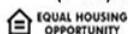
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Let me help you protect your family, your income and your future through comprehensive financial planning. Please contact my office if you would like more information about the products and services that we offer. **-Debbie Lewis (Your Hickory Farms Neighbor)**

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.

HICKORY FARMS

S U M M E R

BLOCK PARTY

Saturday, June 24th

kids' bike parade starts at 4:30

food served at 5:15

Upper Common Area

GAMES • BIKE PARADE • PIZZA
POT LUCK • MUSIC • OBSTACLE COURSE

Please RSVP at www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0F48ACA62AABFC1-hickory3

bike parade starts on the corner of Still Meadow & Cotton Farm

rain date: Sunday, June 25th

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ACC APPROVALS & DISAPPROVALS

Your monthly update on the changes and improvements to the neighborhood that have been submitted to the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) for review.

APPROVALS

- **4317 Farm House**, install deck
- **4326 Still Meadow**, replace patio
- **4357 Farm House**, replace siding & roof and paint shutters
- **4326 Still Meadow**, replace patio (revision)
- **4322 Still Meadow**, enclose carport
- **4352 Harvester Farm**, change front door color

DISAPPROVALS

- NONE

COMMUNITY KUDOS

Bob Cosgriff and his wife **Judy** have provided a spring update to both corners entering Hickory Farms, and they look great!

Anyone else wishing to help out with keeping the Hickory Farm entrance corners in top shape all year long should send an email to hfca@hickoryfarms.org and we will get back to you asap! Thank you in advance!



HOME MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

- ☑ **Gutter Cleaning:** clean out your gutters! Overflowing gutters lead to ground erosion and wet basements.
- ☑ **Deck Cleaning:** clean and seal your wooden deck, if needed.
- ☑ **Termite Inspection:** houses the age of Hickory Farms will have been attacked by termites by now. If your home has never been treated, get it inspected! Many pest control companies will inspect for free; termite inspections are recommended every three years.
- ☑ **Dehumidifier Setup:** set up your dehumidifier for the summer (if you use one)!
- ☑ **Chimney & Fireplace Cleaning:** have a chimney sweep check and clean the chimney – if you used the chimney during the winter.
- ☑ **Schedule your spring checkup** for your air conditioner and heat pump, and **test smoke alarms & carbon monoxide detectors!**

Join Your Hickory Farms Neighbors for Summer Fun at Fairfax Swimming Pool!



Fairfax Swimming Pool is Filling Up! We now have a waitlist. But you can still join and enjoy everything the pool has to offer this summer. Our New Family Wait List with Access Privileges membership includes full access to the pool and its programs. Join now and your family will still be able to enjoy all the fun at the Pool this summer! Children may also join our Fairfax Frogs Swim and Dive Teams, Tadpoles and group swimming lessons programs. Seasonal Memberships also still available for Singles, Couples and Students.

Already a Member? Refer a New Member and Get a Bonus!

Everyone is Welcome at Our Open House!
Saturday, May 27 and Sunday, May 28, 12-4 p.m.

Learn More and Join Today! www.fairfaxpool.com
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UPDATE ON HFCA DEED OF DEDICATION CHANGES

By Bruce Bernhardt, President, HFCA | At the Hickory Farms Community Association (HFCA) last October, the need for changes to the Deed of Dedication and Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions, which applies to every individual property in HFCA, was identified. Since the Annual Meeting, we have received an Opinion Letter from our attorney confirming the need to change our Deed of Dedication based on recent Virginia court decisions. We have also received draft language for the change to our Deed of Dedication.

At the Annual Meeting, a small group of property owners signed up to assist with this effort. It is now time to begin the process. An email was

sent in early April to the eight volunteers from the Annual Meeting. **For those homeowners who did not attend the Annual Meeting but who would like to assist with this effort, please send me an email addressed to hfca@hickoryfarms.org** providing your name and contact information (phone number and email address).

We will hold an initial meeting soon to develop a plan for visiting and obtaining signatures from at least 149 out of 198 homeowners.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the **hfca@hickoryfarms.org** email address.

BIRDS OF HICKORY FARMS, PT. 1

By Bob Cosgriff | No sooner had I submitted last month's article to the newsletter editor when we added another new bird to our year yard list on 26 March: Purple Finch. These beautiful birds are not to be confused with the more common (and similar) House Finch that is here year-round. Purple Finch males are described as having been dipped bodily in cranberry juice, which makes them look dark purple all over. Male House Finches, by comparison, show more of an orange-red color on the head, throat and above the tail. The Purple Finch females do not show any color, but are nonetheless very attractive with bold brown striping on their breast and flanks, and a pronounced white "eyebrow." These "winter finches" are here only in migration to and from breeding grounds in Canada. This year, they have lingered at our sunflower seed feeders and were still here on April 27, making this the most prolonged stay we've ever had in our yard.

Shortly after the finches showed up, so did a pert, little Chipping Sparrow, a true harbinger of spring. That gave us a total of four new species

for March. There was a lull in the action until mid-April, when House Wren, Myrtle ("Yellow-rumped") Warbler and Gray Catbird showed up within one week of each other. As this article goes to the editor, we have seen a total of 38 different species of birds in our yard so far in 2017. In terms of the average number of birds per day, April stands at 16 species (for 26 observation days) with the one-day high being 24 and the one-day low being 11. Our four-month total daily average is also 16 species. Just which birds show up each day is what makes observing birds so interesting.

Meanwhile, on the bluebird trail, the five eggs previously reported hatched right on time in mid-April. These nestlings should fledge in early May. So far this year, we have encountered only a few House Sparrow nests in our boxes, and are hopeful for more bluebirds to nest in May. At press time, there were no other active nests in our boxes. However, on 23 April, we did see two

(Continued on page 12)

BIRDS OF HICKORY FARMS, PT. 2

By Bob Cosgriff | As you read this article, the bluebird nesting season is just getting under-way. There was a complete nest (no eggs) in one box in the lower common grounds noted on March 24th. In the September, 2016 newsletter, I promised to pass on any information from the Virginia Bluebird Society about results for Fairfax County and the state as a whole for 2016 compared to 2015. Here is a summary of the data:

- Overall, bluebird numbers increased slightly in 2016, which is good news, since there was a sharp falloff in 2015 compared to the two previous years
- Fairfax County had 721 boxes with 413 taken by bluebirds
- The bluebird success rate (successful fledgings/eggs laid) was 74% for Fairfax County
- Hickory Farms had two successful Eastern Bluebird broods (10 eggs/8 successful fledgings) and two unsuccessful attempts (5 eggs/0 fledgings) for a success rate of 53%.
- Statewide, Tree Swallow nestings and success rates remained relatively stable. We had no Tree Swallow attempts
- Other cavity-nesting species noted statewide were Carolina Chickadee and House Wren. We had two successful wren attempts and no chickadee attempts.
- All our successes (bluebirds and house wrens) were in boxes in the lower common grounds
- The VBS report stated that overall numbers for all species statewide might possibly been higher overall in 2016, except for a cold snap last April at the start of nesting and a very hot August at the end of the season that might have killed some eggs/young

This year, we will be looking for the following on our trail:

- Higher success rate overall for bluebirds
- Higher success rate in the upper common grounds, which prior to 2016 was roughly comparable to the lower common grounds



- Return of Tree Swallows to Hickory Farms
- Fewer House Sparrow attempts

Finally, as an update on our ongoing backyard bird census. For 24 observation days, we averaged 17 species/day. Our running three-month average is 16/day. New birds for March were Common Grackle and Northern Mockingbird, bringing our yard total to 34 species to date. A March highlight was a Fox Sparrow that visited for fourteen consecutive days (11-24 March). This is the longest stayover by this species that we have recorded. (Another Fox Sparrow visited in February for one day.)

Beginning in early- to mid- April, more species will start to show up in Hickory Farms: Chipping Sparrow, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow and others. You will begin to hear much more bird song in the morning and throughout the day as males establish territories and try to attract females. You can never tell where or when a given species will appear—perhaps in your backyard! The peak migration will be in early May as warblers and other colorful neo-tropical migrants such as Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager and Baltimore Oriole move through our area in numbers. So keep your eyes and ears open for the next month or so as this annual cycle begins anew. Happy Springtime!

LATEST NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH SCHEDULE

Fri	May 19	John Coyne	Linda Coyne
Sat	May 20	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Fri	May 26	Brian Roethlisberger	Rob Mikula
Sat	May 27	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters
Fri	June 2	Sanjeev Munjal	VOLUNTEER NEEDED!
Sat	June 3	Dave Dempster	Dawn Dempster
Fri	June 9	Susan Mulliner	Brenton Mulliner
Sat	June 10	Debbi Buchanan	VOLUNTEER NEEDED!
Fri	June 16	David Froberg	Beverly Froberg
Sat	June 17	Wendy Chen	Tony Dong
Fri	June 23	Will Lunsford	VOLUNTEER NEEDED!
Sat	June 24	Jason Zhao	Laura Feng
Fri	June 30	John Kitzmiller	VOLUNTEER NEEDED!
Sat	July 1	Pam Barrett	Tom Barrett
Fri	July 7	Jaime Gutierrez	Ed Wagner
Sat	July 8	Jim Marshall	Carol Marshall
Fri	July 14	Eric Maribojoc	Clarisa Dacanay
Sat	July 15	Pete Scala	Rose Scala
Fri	July 21	David Cain	VOLUNTEER NEEDED!
Sat	July 22	George Rosenkranz	Bob Montgomery
Fri	July 28	Larry Rogers	VOLUNTEER NEEDED!
Sat	July 29	VOLUNTEER NEEDED!	VOLUNTEER NEEDED!
Fri	Aug 4	John Coyne	Linda Coyne
Sat	Aug 5	Rick Loranger	Judy Loranger
Fri	Aug 11	Harry Herchert	Ginny Herchert
Sat	Aug 12	Will Lunsford	VOLUNTEER NEEDED!
Fri	Aug 18	Brian Roethlisberger	Rob Mikula
Sat	Aug 19	Ron Arnold	Charles Walters
Fri	Aug 25	David Cain	VOLUNTEER NEEDED!
Sat	Aug 26	Rick Loranger	Judy Loranger

**THANK YOU TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD
WATCH VOLUNTEERS!**

HOW TO **SIGN UP** FOR HICKORY FARMS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Email our Neighborhood Watch coordinator, Debbi Buchanan, at **simplydebbi1@gmail.com** if you'd like to volunteer or need more information! We need all the help we can get!

VOLUNTEER FOR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Have you emailed Debbi Buchanan (**simplydebbi1@gmail.com**) about volunteering for Neighborhood Watch yet? If not, send her a note now. And join our listserv (see page 3) for the latest shift updates.

(Continued from page 9, "Birds of Hickory Farms, Pt. 1")

Tree Swallows flying above the upper common grounds where they have nested before, so perhaps in May we will see them begin to nest.

This article is going to press just before the expected big influx of warblers and other neo-tropical migrants. We'll cover the results in the next newsletter, so enjoy the beautiful springtime weather in Hickory Farms and stay tuned for further developments in the world of birds.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS WANTED!

Do you like writing? Taking photos? Have an idea for an article or feature you'd like to share with your neighbors? Want to contribute a little something extra to this amazing community we call home?

If you answered "yes" — or even just nodded slightly—to any of these questions, then email me at **donseymour@gmail.com**, and let me know. I'd love your help as I work to carry on and build upon the strong traditions of our community newsletter.

NEIGHBOR APPOINTED TO COUNTY COMMITTEE

Hickory Farms resident **Bob Cosgriff** has been appointed by Braddock District Supervisor John Cook to serve a two-year term on the Trails and Sidewalks Committee, effective March 1. This advisory board was established in 1978 to develop a plan for a "non-motorized transportation system" by developing a comprehensive county-wide route network for pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians. This system serves both recreational needs and contributes to reducing congestion and pollution by providing alternative means of moving about the county.

If you have any comments or suggestions on the topic of trails and sidewalks, please contact **Bob** at **(703) 764-0720** or **bandjcoz@gmail.com**.

DID YOU SIGN UP FOR CORNHOLE?

I'm originally from the Midwest where cornhole is basically an Olympic sport. So I hope to see you in the upper commons area on Saturday, May 20, for our **first annual cornhole tournament**:

- sign up online (see page 3 for details)
- leave the kids at home on 5/20 at 6 PM
- bring the beverage of your choice
- prepare to have more fun than people should be allowed while tossing small bean bags at wooden boards

HFCA BOARD

Members & Officers

President: **Bruce Bernhardt**

Vice President: **Chuck Stewart**

Treasurer: **Dante Gilmer** (Acting)

Secretary: **Melissa Stark**

Common Areas: **Don Lobeda**

Neighborhood Watch: **Debbi Buchanan**

Newsletter Editor: **Don Seymour**

Community Yard Sale: **Pete Scala**

Architectural Control Committee (ACC): **Brian Roethlisberger**

At Large:

Dante Gilmer

John Kitzmiller

Kirk Randall

Webmaster: **Bryan Crabtree**

Valued Volunteers

HFCA Email (Listserv): **Stefan Schwarz**

Social Committee: **Kendra Seymour**

Architectural Reviews (ACC):

Brian Roethlisberger (Chair)

Debbi Buchanan

Keith Ferguson

Donna Garfield

Ed Kiechlin

Kirk Randall

Josef Gasimov

Newsletter Delivery: **John Kitzmiller, Heather Webb, Leslie Morrisette, Dante Gilmer, Sondra Arnold, Ed Kiechlin, Claire & Sean Coleman, Debbi Buchanan**

Homeowners are welcome to attend any Board meeting. Email us at **hfca@hickoryfarms.org** for more info.

HFCA EMAIL

There's a new way to reach the HFCA Board of Directors: **hfca@hickoryfarms.org**. Any questions, recommendations, concerns — email us and we'll get back to you asap!

ABRIDGED MINUTES: 4/4/17 BOARD MTG

The following is an abridged / sample version of the meeting minutes from the last HFCA Board of Directors meeting on April 4, 2017. Read the full minutes on **hickoryfarms.org**.

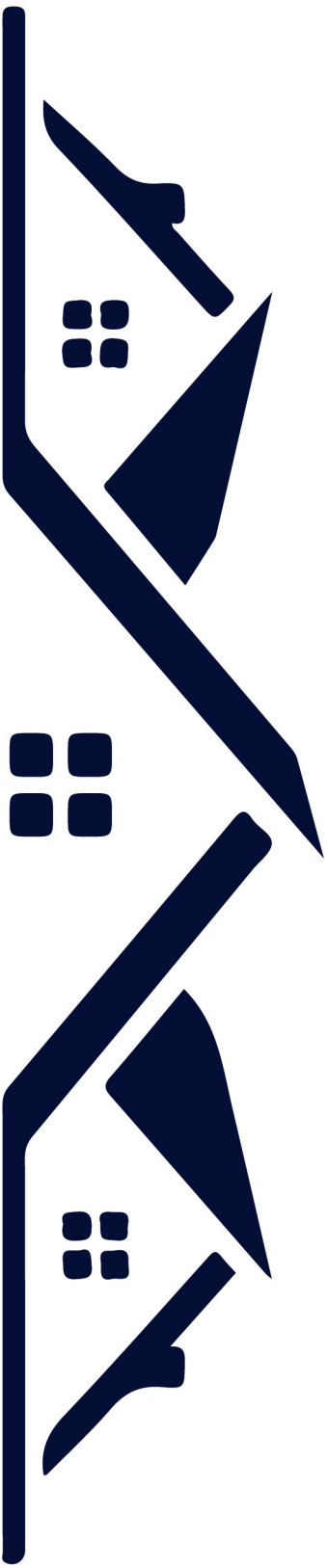
Water Runoff on Northern Path: Fairfax City residents have an open pipe that drains by the northern path in Hickory Farms, causing water to drift towards and over the northern path black asphalt. **Bruce** raised the issue with Fairfax County, and will update the board.

Common Grounds: This year's Green Leaf agreement is the same price as the past two years. **Don L.** is allocating money saved by the garden club cleaning the front signage area toward cleaning up debris in the commons areas.

Signage Wording for the Northern Path/Rabbit Run/Fairfax City Entrance: There has been a lot of activity along our paths; Hickory Farms signs will be put up along these entrances, and we will add a sign indicating that there is no dumping or trespassing.

Common Grounds Health Check: **Melissa** requested considering a 5 year plan for clearing common grounds of invasive plants. The board agreed a plan and cost analysis should be prepared before next annual meeting; **Melissa** will work with vendors and put together a proposal.

READ THE FULL MEETING MINUTES ONLINE @ **HICKORYFARMS.ORG**



HICKORY FARMS
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
