



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

December 2022 Edition



HICKORYFARMS.ORG P.O. BOX 2239, FAIRFAX VA 22031

HFCA BOARD & VOLUNTEERS

President: Jim Bever
 Vice President: Telah Jackson
 Secretary: Ben Noviello
 ACC: Pam Barrett
 Treasurer: Ken Sorg
 Assistant Treasurer: Tad Weed
 Common Areas: Melissa Stark
 Webmaster: Bryan Crabtree
 Neighborhood Watch: Christina Crockett
 At Large: Carlie Mensen

Architectural Reviews: Pam Barrett, Keith Ferguson, Donna Garfield, Josef Gasimov, Ed Kiechlin

Common Areas Committee: Bob and Judy Cosgriff, Rich Dudley, Theresa Perry, Larry Rogers, Barrett and Tracy Schloerke, Melissa and Jarrett Stark.

Neighborhood Block Reps:
 Jim Bever, Alyssa Eswood, Ellen Head, Jeannette Hough, Justin Mensen, Meredith Perkins, Lee Sottile, Jen Spencer

Newsletter Editor: Jennifer Maloney
 Social Committee: Meredith Perkins, Sarah Tropiano

IN THIS EDITION

President's Column	2
HFCA Board Meeting Notice	2
The Social Committee Needs You!	3
HFCA Holiday Decoration Competition	3
HFCA Annual Assessment	4
Student Yellow Pages	4
Join the Listserv	4
The Birds of Hickory Farms	5
Newsletter Item Deadline and Distribution	5
Animal Noise Violation Information	6

Board of Directors: hfca@hickoryfarms.org
 Architectural Control Committee:
acc@hickoryfarms.org
 President: president@hickoryfarms.org
 Treasurer: treasurer@hickoryfarms.org
 Common Areas: commonareas@hickoryfarms.org
 Webmaster: webmaster@hickoryfarms.org
 Newsletter: newsletter@hickoryfarms.org



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Jim Bever

I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving and is looking forward to the Holidays!

Please, do take care of yourselves this season. There are a lot of nasty viruses circulating here in our area, including the common cold, strep throat, the flu and of course, COVID. I know colleagues, friends, and family of all ages here who've caught one or more of these just in the past few weeks. Both the flu and COVID remain potentially injurious or even lethal, especially for our older residents and for anyone with reduced immune systems. So please do be careful and protect yourself!

A reminder please to rake up the leaves from your street curb and keep the curb clear of debris. Not only is this important for the appearance of our homes and community, but it is also important to allow your street's nearby storm sewer drain to work well when it rains or snows. Otherwise, dangerous ice dams form that can pose risk to you and neighbors and kids on your sidewalk or folks driving the street.

Similarly, please, no dumping of leaves and branches into any of our Commons Areas. This is a violation of our rules/covenants and can lead to unexpected extra costs charged against our budget by the company which maintains our Commons Areas woods and lawns. Please either mow the yard to mulch the leaves directly onto the soil or rake the leaves into large brown paper bags (available in most grocery and hardware stores) and place the bags on your curb. Students who live in Hickory Farms are available at a modest cost to help (see their contact info in this Newsletter).

Some neighbors this Fall have raised concerns with our Board about the reliability of the American Disposal Services Company, with which about 70 homeowners seem to have contracts. In the September Braddock District Council meeting Braddock District Supervisor James Walkinshaw, addressed the concerns many had expressed regarding American's service. He in turn met with the head of the Company. A heavy fine and a new memorandum of agreement for improved services resulted. Reliability seems to have improved. Some neighbors have successfully pursued modestly reduced monthly charges by American, by providing them with specific details of missed or excessively delayed pickups. If there are continuing concerns, please write directly (with specific details) to Supervisor Walkinshaw's assistant Sally Kidalov at sally.kidalov@fairfaxcounty.gov.

To keep you informed, we are following through with due process, notices and actions as may become appropriate vis a vis some homeowners who have not yet responded in a timely manner to repeated written notices from us to return their properties' exceptionally out-of-conformance external appearances back into compliance with our rules/covenants by certain dates.

Finally, by December 19th sunset, please join in the fun and decorate your homes for the upcoming Holiday Decorating Contest! Please let us know if you can help us with our Social Committee to keep such fun events continuing in the new year!

On behalf of all of us on your Board, we wish you all safe and Happy Holidays!

Jim (president@hickoryfarms.org and 571 405-0708 mobile)

HFCA BOARD MEETING NOTICE

HFCA Board Meetings continue to be held via Zoom. Unless otherwise notified or due to an unforeseen change, HFCA Board Meetings will be held the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. To join a Board meeting, contact any HFCA Board Member or send a request to join to hfca@hickoryfarms.org. You will be provided with the Zoom meeting URL, meeting number and passcode.



The Social Committee Needs YOU!

Attention Hickory Farms Residents! Do you like building community? Do you like parties and holiday-themed activities? Do you have around 1-3 hours a month to give? Then the Social Committee needs you! After many years at the reigns, Meredith and Sarah are ready to pass the torch on to other neighbors who will bring fresh perspectives and ideas to our community!

This role requires a small amount of time per month and is all about fostering FUN in the community. If you are interested, email Meredith and Sarah at social@hickoryfarms.org to learn more about the role you can play in all the Hickory Farms Fun in 2023!

Hickory Farms

2022 HOLIDAY DECORATION COMPETITION

Awards for:

Holiday Heavyweight

Most Holiday Spirit

Most Colorful

Most Classic

Neighborhood Voting Online: Dec. 19-21

Awards Presented: Thursday, December 22nd



HICKORY FARMS ANNUAL ASSESSMENT DUE JANUARY 31, 2023

By Ken Sorg, Treasurer

The amount of the Annual Assessment (dues) is set each year by the Board of Directors and affirmed by the homeowners. At the October 18, 2022 Annual Meeting the community voted to set the Annual Assessment to \$281. Annual assessments are used to cover the costs of operations and contribute to the reserve fund which is used for repairs and upgrades of HFCA assets.

Your \$281.00 Hickory Farms Annual Assessment is due by January 31st.

Detailed payment information will be included in the January newsletter and can always be found at:

<https://hickoryfarms.org/annual-assessment>

STUDENT YELLOW PAGES



Shannon Turner (17)	Angmturn@hotmail.com	Babysitting, Pet sitting
Nathan Turner (12)	Angmturn@hotmail.com	Dog walking, yard work and watering, leaf removal
Lilly Bucher (12)	Lrbucher4@gmail.com	Babysitting/mother's helper, Pet sitting
Kiera Stark (13)	commonareas@hickoryfarms.org	Pet sitting
Greysen Berg (15)	210-428-5535	Yard work, leaf raking
Cedar Baltz (17)	571-398-1467	Dog walking, Dog sitting

If you wish to be included in future listings, please email newsletter@hickoryfarms.org.

JOIN THE LISTSERV TO ACCESS NEWSLETTERS, NOTICES ABOUT EVENTS, AND MORE!

All are encouraged to connect with Hickory Farms by joining the Hickory Farms Listserv! Hickory Farms utilizes Google Groups to manager our listserv. If you don't have a Gmail account, you can sign up for one at <http://www.gmail.com>.

Once you have an account, visit <https://groups.google.com/my-groups> to sign into Google Groups. From there, you can go straight to <http://groups.google.com/g/hickory-farms-hoa/> and click the "Ask to Join." In the Reason for Joining, please include your address, phone number, and own/rent status to include in the neighborhood directory.

Once your membership is approved, you'll receive emails when they are sent to the listserv. You can adjust your membership settings - like changing single emails to a weekly digest - in your Google Groups Settings.

Please don't forget to review the guidelines on the Hickory Farms website here: <https://hickoryfarms.org/hickory-farms-listserv> . There's also information on how to post to the listserv, manage your account and more.

Finally, if you need basic Google Groups help, visit: <https://support.google.com/groups/answer/1067205?hl=en> . You can always contact the admins of the listserv for help or questions by emailing hickory-farms-hoa+managers@googlegroups.com.

THE BIRDS OF HICKORY FARMS

By Bob Cosgriff

Two species that migrate to Virginia in the winter have arrived, namely, the Slate-colored Junco and White-throated Sparrow. We saw our first junco on 6 November (coincidentally the same date as in 2021). Juncos are often called “Snowbirds” because it is a very common bird in the winter in states from New England and south. In fact, the scientific species name, *hyemalis*, derives from the Latin word meaning “pertaining to winter.” The birds we see here are most likely members of the *carolinensis* subspecies that nests in the Appalachian Mountains. They move down to the Piedmont and coastal areas in the winter in what is termed “vertical” migration since they are moving from a higher altitude to a lower altitude at the same latitude as opposed to performing long-distance migration from north to south. In any case, these attractive grey birds are very common in the winter in Virginia and come readily to feeders to eat seeds. Here is a link to information about this bird: [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Dark-eyed Junco/](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Dark-eyed_Junco/)

The White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) is a true long-distance migrant. They typically arrive here from their far northern breeding territory in Canada about 1 November. They are among the most beautiful of sparrows with their white throats, white stripes on the head, and yellow lores (the area between the beak and the eyes). Some birds are in what is called the “tan race”; their head stripes and throats are not as bright as the other form which gives the species its name. Their clear, whistled song, described as “Oh, sweet Canada, Canada, Canada,” is heard throughout the winter and always brightens up the grey, cold days.

The best seed to attract these two birds is white millet scattered on the ground. They will also eat safflower seeds. Both being in the sparrow family, they love to scratch around in the leaves for their food. While they do occasionally go to platform feeders, they prefer to stay low where they can scurry into cover if necessary.

A highlight for us was the appearance on 16 November of a Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*). Our records show that the last one we saw in our yard was in 2007 and the last one seen in Hickory Farms was 2008. They tend to be less common than their cousin, the Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*). The genus name, *Regulus*, means “little king.” Both species are often seen in the company of chickadees and titmice. Kinglets are tiny birds and very active, flitting about from branch to branch and flicking their wings. They tend to prefer conifers, although we first saw this particular bird moving about the bare branches of a Japanese Maple before it ducked into a Virginia Cedar and some holly bushes. This is species #65 for our backyard count this year.

The ‘crown’ of the Golden-crowned Kinglet is yellow bordered by black stripes above a white eye stripe. It is always visible, whereas the crown of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet is visible only when the bird is agitated. In any case, it is always a treat to see either one of these tiny birds, often described as “feather balls” for their somewhat rounded shapes. In honor of this backyard sighting, the Golden-crowned Kinglet is our Bird of the Month. Here is more information about it and its cousin: [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Golden-crowned Kinglet/photo-gallery/161342541](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Golden-crowned_Kinglet/photo-gallery/161342541) and [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Ruby-crowned Kinglet/photo-gallery/161342541](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Ruby-crowned_Kinglet/photo-gallery/161342541)

NEWSLETTER ITEM DEADLINE AND DISTRIBUTION NOTICE

Newsletter items are due the 25th of the month, for the next month’s issue. Please send submissions to newsletter@hickoryfarms.org.

Newsletters are distributed via the HFCA listserv and posted on the HFCA website. Paper versions of the newsletters are no longer delivered to households. All are encouraged to access the digital newsletter via the listserv or the HFCA website. See above for information on how to join the listserv. A limited number of hard copy newsletters will be available each month in the Little Free Libraries.



Animal Noise

When is Animal Noise a Violation of the County's Ordinance?

- Sect. 108.1-4-1 of the Fairfax County Code (Noise Ordinance) establishes limitations on any owner or person in control of any animal that allows or otherwise permits any such animal to bark, howl, bay, meow, squawk, quack, crow or make such sound.
- Noise from animals is prohibited that is plainly audible and discernable:
 - Between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. that is plainly audible in any other person's residential dwelling with doors and windows closed.
 - Between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. when the sound is plainly audible across real property boundaries or through partitions common to residential dwellings AND can be heard for more than 5 consecutive or nonconsecutive minutes in any 10 minute period.
- The provisions of this Ordinance shall not apply to any animal that, at the time of sound or sound generation, was responding to pain or injury or was protecting itself, its kennel, its offspring or a person from an actual threat. Additionally, it does not apply to police dogs that are engaged in the performance of its duties at the time of making the sound.
- Animals located in a dog park are not regulated between dusk and 7 a.m. Sunday through Thursday OR between dusk and 8 a.m. Friday, Saturday, and the day before a Federal Holiday.
- There may be additional Zoning regulations on the keeping of certain kinds of animals.

To report a possible violation OR for more information contact:



Fairfax County Department of Code Compliance
12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035
Phone: 703-324-1300, TTY 711
Web: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code



For after hours noise concerns, please call the Non-Emergency Police 703-691-2131

 To request this information in an alternate format, call the Department of Code Compliance.
This Fairfax County, Va. publication (July 2019) summarizes a few regulations. See relevant codes for specific requirements.



CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATE

- Mowing
- Landscaping
- Snow Removal
- Stone Work

(703) 899-5683
(703) 715-0285

Sunshine CONTRACTING

ATTIC INSULATION
TRIM
SIDING
ROOFING
GUTTERS/LEAF PROTECTION
WINDOWS
DOORS
DECKS/PORCHES

20% OFF
all Hickory Farms Projects!
**Must be presented at time of estimate*

Call Today for Your **FREE** Estimate!
(703)499-8654
www.SunshineContractingCorp.com

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

SENIOR, MILITARY, GOVERNMENT, POLICE & FIREFIGHTER DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

TOP 200 RATED EXTERIOR REMODELER IN THE NATION 6 YEARS IN A ROW!
Celebrating 23 Years In Business!