



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

April 2023 Edition



HICKORYFARMS.ORG

P.O. BOX 2239, FAIRFAX VA 22031

HFCA BOARD & VOLUNTEERS

- President: *Vacant*
- Vice President: Telah Jackson
- Secretary: Ben Noviello
- Treasurer: Ken Sorg
- Assistant Treasurer: Tad Weed
- Common Areas: Melissa Stark
- Webmaster: Bryan Crabtree
- Neighborhood Watch: *Vacant*
- At Large: *Vacant*
- Architectural Reviews: Donna Garfield, Justin Mensen, and Bob Sottile
- Common Areas Committee: Bob and Judy Cosgriff, Rich Dudley, Larry Rogers, 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: *Vacant*

IN THIS EDITION

2022 Annual Review of the Books and Accounting Practices	2
2022 End of Fiscal Year Report	3
Urgent Need for Volunteers for our Community	4
HFCA Board Meeting Notice	4
Lamb Mowers Coming to Hickory Farms!	5
Resident Information Needed for Rental Properties	5
The Birds of Hickory Farms	6
Newsletter Item Deadline and Distribution	7
Phase-Out Sought of Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers	8
Join the Listserv	9
Student Yellow Pages	9
Support our Advertisers!	10

HOW TO CONTACT ...

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



Hickory Farms Community Association

Memorandum for Hickory Farms Board of Directors

Subject: 2022 Annual Review of the Books and Accounting Practices

Date: March 26, 2023

On March 26, 2023, the HFCA Treasurer, Kenneth Sorg, lead a team of community volunteers in an annual review of the 2022 HFCA books and accounting practices. The volunteer residents consisted of Jim Bever and Tad Weed. The meeting took place using MS Teams from 7:30 – 8:30pm.

The review included detailed analysis of the accounting practices, financial statement with all income and expenses, receipts/invoices, deposits, and banking statements to include checking and money market accounts. This review is done under the authority and oversight of the HFCA board and in lieu of an audit by CPA firm which would cost the community \$4,000-\$6,000 a year.


All records and statements are in good order with no concerns. The use of “Slack” (web-based platform) along with electronic banking provided increased transparency and efficiency for accounting transactions. To avoid a significant increase in costs to use Slack, we transitioned in November from Slack to Microsoft Teams to maintain document continuity. Common practice includes every invoice being scrutinized for accuracy, then double reviewed prior to payment being authorized.

2022 Financial Statement Summary

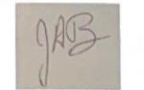
Total Income:	\$53,490.06
Total Expense:	\$53,090.59
Net:	\$ 409.47

Two deposits from the checking account to the Capital Reserve Fund (money market) were made; the first was the budgeted \$7,528.00 and the second was the year-end surplus of \$4,510.71 bringing the 12/31/2022 Capital Reserve Fund balance to \$64,572.20. The Capital Reserve Fund provides resources for repair/replacement of capital items and serves to protect HF residents from additional financial assessments if emergency repairs/replacements are needed that exceed operating funds.

In summary, the 2022 HFCA fiscal year reflected accurate accounting and sound business practices. Therefore, we the undersigned, offer this annual report with no concerns of the book keeping practices, documents and statements for the 2022 fiscal year.


Kenneth Sorg
Treasurer

****Signature on file****
Tad Weed
Asst. Treasurer


Jim Bever
Home Owner

HICKORY FARMS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION		
2022 End of Fiscal Year Report		
INCOME	2022 Budget	2022 Actual
Starting cash from prior year	0	121
Assessments	51,678	51,712
Assessments - Late Fees	0	0
Assessments - Prepayment		261
Interest	0	0
Advertising	550	130
Legal Fees Recovered		90
VPOAA Disclosure Fees	875	1,176
TOTAL INCOME	\$53,103	\$53,490
EXPENSES		
Common Area Maintenance	25,130	21,260
Common Area Improvement	3,000	2,157
Common Area Remediation	5,500	7,020
Insurance - Director's Liability & Surety	2,600	2,150
Insurance - Commercial Crime Insurance	832	727
Insurance - General Liability	321	260
Legal Fees	2,142	2,302
Postage	250	381
Neighborhood Watch	184	0
Printing	1,560	1,387
Social Activities	1,500	970
Tax Preparation	348	350
Taxes & Government Charges/Fees	257	393
Capital Reserve Deposits	7,528	12,039
Administrative Fees	857	1,020
Strategic Projects	1,040	0
Bank Charges	54	666
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$53,103	\$53,081
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$0	\$409
CAPITAL FUND		
Withdraws from the year	\$ -	\$ -
Deposits from the year	\$ 7,528	\$ 12,044
Balance at year end	\$ 60,056	\$ 64,572

URGENT NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

By Ben Noviello

In order to maintain our common areas, support community-wide activities that enrich our lives, keep our development safe, and be responsive to the concerns of homeowners, Hickory Farms needs volunteers. We need people to join the board of the Homeowners Association, serve as block captains, participate in the social committee, and become members of the Architectural Control Committee.

Unlike many developments, Hickory Farms relies on volunteers. **Without volunteers, we could be forced to hire an outside management service. Not only would this bring in people from outside our community who might not fully appreciate what makes Hickory Farms a special place, it could also double, or even triple, our annual fees.**

Volunteering doesn't need to take much time. You would be assisted and supported by an experienced group of motivated people. **Much of the work can be done virtually.**

If you are interested in volunteering, and by doing so help keep the Hickory Farms development a wonderful place to live, **please contact the board by emailing hfca@hickoryfarms.org.**



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.

LAMB MOWERS COMING TO HICKORY FARMS!
A NON-HERBICIDE WEEDING ALTERNATIVE FOR OUR COMMON AREAS

By Melissa Stark

The Common Areas Committee (CAC) is always looking for natural alternatives to help keep our Commons Area beautiful, cut down hand weeding and herbicide application, as well as encourage community engagement. This March, the HFCA Board of Directors approved a “pilot program” through the end of May to allow Lamb Mowers to tackle heavily weeded areas in our commons. If the program is successful, we will continue it through the year.

Lamb Mowers (<https://www.lambmowers.com/>) is a licensed and insured business that brings a small to medium size flock of sheep to the property to eat any weeds and can also imperfectly trim grass. Temporary fencing will be used to contain the sheep in select locations of our commons. A Shepherd will be onsite to not only watch over the sheep, but assist in removing any invasives that his sheep will not eat during the 2-hour visit timeframe.

On April 19th at 9 AM, Lamb Mowers will be here for a 2-hour sheep visit in our Upper Commons Area by our Boxwood Grove and Main Island areas. Please feel free to stop by to visit and meet the flock!



RESIDENT INFORMATION NEEDED FOR RENTAL PROPERTIES

The HFCA Board of Directors is making sure our records are up to date for all Hickory Farms properties. For those properties who are renting out their homes, please email your renters contact information (name, phone number and email) to hfca@hickoryfarms.org.

THE BIRDS OF HICKORY FARMS

By Bob Cosgriff

March brings in variable weather, the first signs of spring, and also the chance for a few new birds. We added Fox Sparrow to our yard list on 2 March, bringing us to 32 species. This beautiful bird gets its name from its plumage, which resembles the colors of foxes, being mostly shades of gray and red. A key field mark is its red tail. Like most sparrows, it spends most of its time on the ground, scratching in the leaf litter for seeds and insects. Of all the common sparrows here, the Fox Sparrow is the most energetic forager, vigorously kicking up leaves like a feathered excavator! Look for them in tangles of undergrowth in wooded areas.

On 5 March, Jarrett and Melissa Stark assisted Judy and me in putting pine needles into the Purple Martin gourds and raising the array to the full-up position, as if to advertise “Ready for Occupancy!” The birds typically arrive here by the end of March, but can straggle in as late as early June. Hopefully, birds will find our colony and move in this spring. We have ordered a predator guard and a lock for the winch to prevent unauthorized use and tampering. We also took advantage of the beautiful weather on 5 March to clean out our 10 bluebird houses. Many boxes were used over the winter by various species to keep warm on cold nights, leaving waste that had to be removed to prevent bacterial growth that could harm nesting birds. Bluebirds typically start building their nests here in mid- to late March. First eggs are usually noted from 25 March to 4 April or thereabouts. We will start our weekly census on 1 April. As a means of deterring House Sparrows from preying on nesting bluebirds, Jarrett Stark is fabricating some translucent plastic panels to be placed over 2.5” holes drilled in the roofs of our boxes. Apparently, sparrows do not like light coming in from the top over their nests, but bluebirds don’t care if they have a skylight. So, we are running an experiment to see if this method actually works.



Getting ready for occupancy!

I mentioned that this is the time of year to see the first signs of spring, by which I mean the emergence of perennial plants and flowering trees. In July 2021 and June 2022, the HFCA Social Committee sponsored the first-ever Hickory Farms garden tours. This year, there will not be an official garden tour, but I encourage everyone to get out and about to see all the beautiful spring flowers and flowering trees that are visible from the sidewalk or in the common areas. The first bloomers are crocuses, hellebores (Lenten Rose), daffodils and the related jonquils. These are followed at the end of March and into April by yellow-flowered Marsh Marigold and Wood Poppy, which are joined by Virginia Bluebell (Mertensia). Dogwoods and Bradford Pear add white to the landscape, while Redbud adds its namesake color (actually, more of a pinkish-purple). There are several specimens of early-blooming plum and cherry tree varieties, as well as dramatic evergreen Magnolia and Camellia trees, in the neighborhood. Of course, the queen of spring in this area is the azalea, which comes in a dazzling variety of pink, red, purple, and white colors.



Many of the properties in Hickory Farms have beautiful plantings of azaleas, which are a sure sign that warm weather is here to stay. So make it a point to take an unofficial garden tour this spring, and while you're at it, keep your eyes open for the many beautiful birds of Hickory Farms.

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.

PHASE OUT SOUGHT OF GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS

Excerpted from <https://www.ffxnow.com/2021/11/15/fairfax-county-to-phase-out-use-of-dirty-and-noisy-gas-powered-leaf-blowers/> and <https://www.ffxnow.com/2021/09/17/fairfax-county-board-approves-first-ever-community-wide-climate-action-plan/>

“The use of gas-powered leaf blowers presents a number of problems,” said James Walkinshaw (Braddock District Supervisor) at a past Board of Supervisors meeting. “Most prominently, their extreme and penetrating noise levels and the highly toxic emissions from the out of date two stroke engines.” Walkinshaw noted that the blowers operate at a noise level that could **potentially cause hearing damage**. He also mentioned that they are inefficient in terms of its output and emit 23 times the amount of carbon dioxide **as a Ford pickup truck**.

The board matter additionally calls for contractors that work for the county to begin transitioning away from this type of equipment, encouraged by incentives from the county. (Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter L.) Alcron said he still hoped that this idea of banning gas blowers would be also adopted by the Virginia General Assembly, but stated that the county’s adoption was “clearly a step in the right direction.” (Board Chairman Jeffrey C.) McKay acknowledged converting to an entirely electric fleet of blowers could be very expensive for some contractors, but hopes that the county phasing out this type of equipment is “leading by example.”

BAN



LEAFBLOWERS

WARNING

LEAFBLOWERS CAUSE HAZARDOUS AIR, WATER, AND NOISE POLLUTION AND DEVASTATING ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE.

ONE HOUR OF USE PRODUCES:

- 26 X CARBON MONOXIDE OF A CAR AND AS MUCH SMOG AS 17 CARS
- 5 LBS OF PARTICULATE MATTER SUSPENDED IN THE AIR FOR DAYS, CONTAINING lead, carbon, carcinogens, arsenic, mercury, mold, pollen, pesticide, feces, viruses KILLING 22,000 A YEAR
- 17 MILLION GAL. OF SPILLED GAS WASHES INTO OUR WATER EACH YEAR
- 180 MPH BLASTS DESTROY PLANTS & ANIMALS, CAUSE EROSION, REMOVE SOIL NUTRIENTS, AND INHIBIT PLANT OXYGEN PRODUCTION
- DECIBEL LEVELS CAUSE HEARING AND INTERNAL DAMAGE

STUDIES PROVE RAKES AND BROOMS CLEAN AS FAST AND MORE EFFICIENTLY THAN BLOWERS

Ask your landscaper to offer a green alternative



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 manage 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.

STUDENT YELLOW PAGES



Shannon Turner (17)	Angmturn@hotmail.com	Babysitting, pet sitting
Nathan Turner (12)	Angmturn@hotmail.com	Dog walking, yard work, leaf removal
Lily 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 Batz (17)	571-398-1467	Dog walking, dog sitting

If you offer services such as those listed above, or others such as tutoring, etc., and wish to be included in future listings, please email the Newsletter Editor at newsletter@hickoryfarms.org.



WINDOWS/DOORS



SIDING/ TRIM



ROOFING/GUTTERS

SENIOR, MILITARY, GOVERNMENT, POLICE & FIREFIGHTER DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

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

15% OFF
all Hickory Farm
Projects!
**Must be presented at time of estimate*

Call Today For Your
FREE Estimate!

(703)499-8654

www.SunshineContractingCorp.com



Sunshine
CONTRACTING
SINCE 1993
"Exterior Experts for Everything Under the Sun"
Celebrating over 29 years in business!



CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATE

- **Mowing**
- **Landscaping**
- **Snow Removal**
- **Stone Work**

(703) 899-5683

(703) 715-0285