



HILLBROOK HILITES

Hillbrook Tall Oaks Civic Association Newsletter

September 2017

HTOCA Directory - Last Call!!

Thank you to everyone who has supplied us with your updated contact information for inclusion in the updated HTOCA directory! We could not have done it without your input.

Please consider this your LAST CALL to submit updated contact information or to place an ad for a good/service in the HTOCA directory! We are quickly moving towards publication and would like to have as much information as possible. Please email the Board at hillbrooktalloaks@gmail.com to provide information. For ad sales, visit our website for pricing information: www.HTOCA22003.org

Block Party to be Held on Sunday, September 10!

Mark your calendars! Our annual **Block Party will be held on Sunday, September 10 from 4-6pm outside Helen Winter's home at the corner of Kingston Drive and Silver Lane.**

This is a Potluck event and we ask that you bring a dish large enough to feed 10-12 people. Come with your recipe as we will vote to determine everyone's favorite dish! We also plan on posting the recipes for the other favorite dishes in the upcoming newsletters...so let the battle of the chefs begin!

There will be games for children and adults alike!

Please bring chairs, blankets, etc. to sit on as seating will not be provided.

Beverages will be provided (adult versions, too!)

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Friendly Reminder

DUES

If you haven't paid your annual dues—payments can be made online at: www.htoca22003.org

Or by sending a check made payable to HTOCA to:

**HTOCA
PO BOX 1112
Annandale, VA 22003**

Neighborhood Updates

HTOCA Bylaws Have Been Finalized!

We held our annual meeting and ice cream social on June 25th. Members voted on a ballot containing nominated Civic Association Board members, as well as updated by-laws. We are happy to announce that both ballot items were voted 96% in favor to 4% against. You'll find the new board & new bylaws on our website.

Oaks and Acorns Upcoming Event and Request for Babysitters!

Neighborhood Walk – Saturday, September 16, 2017 @ 10 AM. Join us for a walk around the neighborhood – a great opportunity to meet parents and their children. **Please RSVP to Katie Clary and Joanna Edie at hto.oaksnacorns@gmail.com.**

Know of Any Babysitters? After many inquiries, we are compiling a list of babysitters. If you know of anyone please email Joanna and Katie above. For safety reasons, we will not post any of the babysitters names in the newsletter or online, but a list will be available upon request.

Speed Signs

You may have noticed several homes in our neighborhood with blue and white yard signs urging drivers to slow down. We recently had an additional batch of these signs printed and are available to any dues paying member. If you'd like to have one in your yard, please send us an email and we will deliver one!

New Neighborhood Groups

Would you like to start , or become part of, a specific neighborhood group? Possibilities are endless...a group for your kids that are similar ages? A stay at home mom's group? A car, or cigar, aficionado group?

If you have suggestions or ideas for new groups, let us know and we'll help you get them off the ground!

Fall Yard Care Tips

Don't neglect your yard just because Summer is winding down! Follow These Six Tips for a Good Head Start for Spring!

1. Keep mowing! Continue to cut and water through fall. Lower the blade on the lawnmower to its lowest settings for the last two mows of the year to ensure the sun can reach the grass.
2. Aerate the soil. This helps oxygen, water and fertilizer reach the grass more easily.
3. Rake the leaves. Leaf disposal is certainly not fun, but if you wait until all of the leaves have fallen, the grass can suffocate and could also result in fungal diseases.
4. Fertilize. Experts recommend to fertilize in the fall as grass grows more slowly in the cooler temperatures. The nutrients from the fertilizer will allow for the grass to grow deeper roots and will help ensure a good start for the spring growing season.

Fall Yard Care Tips, cont'd...

5. Fill in bald spots. Purchase an all-in-one lawn repair mixture. Rake the soil loose in the bald spots and spread a thick layer over the spot. Pack it down and water, and continue to water every other day for two weeks.
6. Weed control. Apply a weed killer in early to mid Autumn when the daytime temperatures are consistently in the 60s.

Herbivore Alert!

We have been watching these three since they had speckles on their backs, and they've morphed into fine young bucks.

"Look out Hostas—they're coming to get you!"



Fairfax County Information

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to be Relocated to Springfield

The General Services Administration (GSA) has decided to build a new headquarters for the TSA to be located at 6595 Springfield Center Drive, close to the Springfield Town Center, the Springfield-Franconia Metro Station, and I-95. This relocation is expected to bring more than 3,000 jobs to the area, according to the Annandale blog.

DaVita Dialysis Center to Open by the End of 2017

The DaVita Dialysis Center is currently under construction in the Annandale Shopping Center and is expected to open on December 17. The Center will have 18 dialysis stations for those who need it. Dialysis entails removing waste, salt and extra water from the body via a filter and pumps blood back into the body.

Upcoming Community Events

Green Spring Gardens - Fall Plant Sale

Green Spring Gardens is a slice of heaven only minutes away. Lush lawns and gardens full of native plants, a children's garden and a pond beckon master and amateur gardeners, artists, and wanderers. It is located at 4633 Green Spring Road and the phone number is (703-642-5173).

Don't miss the Fall Garden Day Plant Sale Saturday, September 9 from 9am – 3pm.

Taste of Annandale!

The third annual Taste of Annandale will be held on Tom Davis Drive on October 14. It is a family-friendly community event with the purpose of encouraging community engagement, celebrate our diversity, spotlight local businesses and restaurants and to raise money for a project developed by local youths. Last year over 3,000 people attended!

For additional information, click [here](#).

Fall Festivals, Apple Picking and Pumpkin Picking Events

[Homestead Farm](#) is located at 15604 Sugarland Road, Poolesville, MD

[Annual Fall Great Pumpkin Harvest Festival](#) at Great Country Farms in Bluemont, VA. You can also pick apples and greens!

[Butler's Orchard](#) is located at 22200 Davis Mill Road, Germantown, MD

Apple Picking: Marker-Miller Orchards in Winchester. Visit their website (<http://www.markermillerorchards.com>) to find out what you can expect to pick and when!

Do You have Black Stripes on Your Roof? Not a Fan of Racing Stripes on Your Home?

Does there seem to be a thin grey or black film turning your entire roof a shade or two darker? Or, perhaps you are seeing lichen and moss on your roof, too? Don't lichen it? Sorry, we couldn't resist! Joking aside, there is a way to get rid of this without having to replace the shingles on your roof. The solution is called "Wet & Forget". Here's what to do:

Mix one part Wet & Forget to five parts of water. The solution must be sprayed on with a pump hand sprayer (like what is used around your garden), or applied with a paint roller. Thoroughly cover discolored parts of the roof with the solution. Ensure the roof is dry before applying the solution and DO NOT RINSE THE ROOF!!

Then wait. You won't see significant change for three to six months. The solution is effective but works slowly. It will not harm your shingles. Where can I buy this miraculous product, you ask? ACE Hardware on Rt. 236 in East Fairfax has it in stock, and Walmart and Home Depot have it on their website for online purchase.

If you attempt to do this yourself please be very careful! We suggest hiring someone with roof navigating capabilities instead :)

If you do not want to wait for this slow restoration of your shingle color, try using bleach in a solution of one part bleach to four parts water.

Know Thy Neighbor

This is the second of what we hope will become a series of profiles featuring some of our neighbors, with the purpose of helping us get to know each other as well as celebrate the people who live here in Hillbrook-Tall Oaks. Too often, people don't have or take the opportunity to get to know their neighbors or the people who in passing you briefly hail. If there is someone that you would like to recognize and help the community get to know better, please prepare a piece that can be submitted to the newsletter committee, Mark Crawford, Paige Schlanger and Vicki O'Keefe.



When you see a silver Mercedes circling neighborhood streets sporting a "Neighborhood Watch" sign on its doors, you will be encountering the automobile belonging to one of Hillbrook- Tall Oak's most notable citizens and grand dame, Helen Winter. And, by the way, she will undoubtedly be pressing you to volunteer for one of her many environmental and Annandale clean up details. Generally speaking, there is no denying her enthusiastic entreaties, as many of us can readily attest. Helen, if nothing else, is the biggest booster of a better, cleaner and more beautiful Annandale.

Now ninety years old, Helen has lost none of her enthusiasm for public and community service. She is truly an iconic figure here. Her home on Kingston Drive has been the sight for our annual block party in September which is the community's biggest social gathering of the year. Her driveway is the welcome gathering place for the whole neighborhood, often attracting prominent local politicians who relish the chance to interact with the Hillbrook citizenry, often with much hand shaking and personal conversation. All Fairfax County politicians know and count Helen a friend and advocate of Annandale. She has been highly honored by having a street named after here in Annandale. And no, it is not Winter Lane right here in the neighborhood.

Helen and her husband, Bill, recently deceased, raised their family here. Her son Dann still lives here and looks after Helen, though I'm sure that she needs little monitoring. Over the years, Helen has been a devoted golfer and tennis player, spending some her winter time in Florida on the links and tennis course. Now she has had to defer these activities, but, if you attend the annual block party at her welcoming home, you will always find her monitoring during the party the US Open tennis tournament, with the help of a TV stationed outside or close by.

Helen continues to serve as an emeritus member of the HTOCA civic association board. She serves as a member of the Annandale business and civic planning board. Finally, as is typical of her sense of community, Helen is very active in reaching out and seeking the involvement of all Annandale community ethnic groups in an effort to make our town a greater and more diverse place to live.

We are honored to have this pillar of the community as our neighbor.

**Thank you, Doug Birnie, for this second
installation of Know Thy
Neighbor!**

HTOCA Board of Directors

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Contact Us

Questions? Want to Get Involved? Reach out to HTOCA using the information below:

Email:

hillbrooktalloaks@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at:

www.HTOCA22003.org

HTOCA Facebook Page

Search "Hillbrook-Tall Oaks Community" and request to join!!

Find us on the NextDoor app by downloading it from your app store!

