



HILLBROOK HILITES

Hillbrook Tall Oaks Civic Association Newsletter

Fall 2018

HALLOWEEN PARADE & OKTOBERFEST!

Date: Sunday, October 28 from 4-6 p.m.

Location: Colburn & Kingston

Join us for this spooktacular event when we transform our neighborhood into a Halloween party for kids *and* kids at heart and celebrate Oktoberfest with beers, brats, music, games and more.

It all starts at 3:45 p.m. with the annual **Halloween Parade**, which starts at the intersection of Kingston Drive and Silver Lane. Accompanied by parents or guardians, our parading ghosts, goblins and other assorted creatures will march their way along Kingston Drive toward the party. Please drive especially carefully on this day to avoid any trouble with our neighborhood witches and wizards...

The rest of the neighborhood will be getting the party started at **Oktoberfest**, which starts at 4 p.m. This year we're featuring brats, hot dogs, sauerkraut, pretzels, beer and soft drinks. We'll have a **Costume Contest** with prizes for kids AND adults, so come prepared! Who will top "The Royal Tenenbaums" family this year? Who's prepared to sting our adult-sized bumblebee winner of years past?

There is plenty to keep us all entertained this year, too, including **Games** such as "Guess the Pumpkin Weight" and "Guess the Candy Corns." We'll also have a local magician performing tricks and sleight of hand. Well-behaved pets are always welcome at our gatherings. Bonus points if they're in costume, too!

If you haven't yet gotten the chance to pay **your annual \$25 dues** online or in person, our Board will be on hand to collect your cash or check payable to HTOCA. We're looking forward to celebrating the witching season with you soon!

Please Drive 25 (A Gentle Reminder)

One of the lovely aspects of Hillbrook Tall Oaks is its walkability. On any given day (or night) we have LOTS of walkers, kids, bikers, scooters and dogs. Local student-athletes from TJ High School also use our streets for practice. That's why it's critical that we pay attention to all posted speed limit and stop signs posted throughout the neighborhood.

Please observe speed limit signs (25 mph) as well as the multiple stop signs posted throughout the neighborhood. Given that several of us also park along the street and that there are no sidewalks, please drive slowly. Park in the direction of traffic.

We love our neighbors, those who walk and run through our quiet and beautiful neighborhood, and we want all to be safe. **Just remember – Drive 25 (or slower!)**



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HTOCA

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KNOW THY NEIGHBOR: Meet the Martinez Family

If you've noticed this friendly family strolling the neighborhood,

Then you've met the Martinez family!

Alisha, Oscar and daughters Sofia and Isabella moved to Tall Oaks in April 2017 from The Pinecrest.

Residents of Winter Lane, they quickly made friends with their equally sociable neighbors while cementing their presence at their first-ever Halloween Party last year, taking top prize for an ingenious re-creation of "The Royal Tenenbaums" family of misfits

Here's some information about the Martinez family:

Prior to putting down roots in Annandale:

Alisa is a Boston native. Oscar, an Annandale resident since 2001, originally hails from El Salvador.

Daughters: Sofia, age 17, is a senior at Annandale High School. Isabella is two and a half.

Careers: Alisha is an educational researcher at K12 Insight. Oscar is a manager in the IT Risk and Assurance Office at the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association.

What they like most about living here: "We love our neighbors - our neighbors rock!" They also love the trees and wildlife, and going for walks as a family.

What else they enjoy:

Any and all Washington-based sports teams, including the Caps, the Nats and the Redskins (they're even season ticket holders this year).

Travel both locally and internationally: Some favorites have included Iceland, Japan and other parts of Asia, as well as Alisha and Oscar's respective hometowns.

Visiting local breweries and wineries - Oscar and Alisha even met at one! The rest is history...

Working on their lawn and garden, especially when Oscar can get on his tractor.

As somewhat newer residents, what advice would they give our newest neighbors?

1. "Make every opportunity to meet your neighbors - it's really a friendly, fun place to live."
2. "Attend the social events - there's a great mix of older and newer folks, people with and without kids, etc."

And perhaps related to the first two answers:

1. "Get a copy of the Neighborhood Directory. It'll be a lot easier to remember everyone's names!"

Just moved into the neighborhood? Know someone who has? Please contact the Welcome Committee hillbrooktalloaks@gmail.com so we can roll out the welcome mat (and get you that Neighborhood Directory!)



Back, left to right: Sofia (17), Oscar, Alisha. Front: Isabella (2 and a half)

Leaf Pickup - 'Tis Almost the Season

While it still looks pretty green out there, long-time Hillbrook Tall Oaks residents know that what grows up, must come down... and it comes down in droves here. **That means only one thing: It's almost leaf pickup time!**

As residents of Leaf Collection Pickup Zone 8, all neighborhood residents receive vacuum leaf collection services from Fairfax County three times per season at dates to be determined soon. Once dates are firm, Fairfax County will post yellow signs at entrances into and out of the neighborhood with estimated pickup dates so we can prepare to get those leaves out to the curb well in advance.

According to the website <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/leaf-collection-dates>, weather, rate of leaf drop and other various factors may affect our exact pickup dates, so please keep that in mind as we all prepare for "Leafapalooza 2018" this year.

As you prepare, please also remember that leaves blown into the street after crews or residents have cleared their yards can be a real hazard. Schoolchildren and our own walking neighbors must be careful when having to step into the middle to get around leaf piles. School buses and cars are reduced to one lane, creating another hazard. **Please be considerate and keep the leaf piles curbside, not in the street.**

Dominion Energy Repair Update

HTOCA Board representatives met with Dominion Energy earlier this year to resolve a rash of electrical outages affecting residents in our neighborhood, particularly on Kingston Drive. Dominion agreed to collaborate with us to resolve the issue and built a remediation plan. Nice job advocating on our neighbors' behalf, HTOCA Board!

Now that summer storms and outages are behind us, this **outage repair work is scheduled to begin in early November**, according to our contacts there. Watch this space for additional updates as we get them.

Don't Forget to VOTE! Tuesday, November 6

As residents of Voting District 8 here in the Poe Precinct, anyone who is age 18 or older, eligible AND registered to vote will have their opportunity on Tuesday, November 6. Included on the General Election ballot are candidates for U.S. Senate as well as the U.S. House of Representatives in our own Congressional 8th District.

Your voting location is Thomas Jefferson High School (6560 Braddock Road, Alexandria). Need to vote absentee? Tuesday, October 30 is the deadline to apply for an absentee ballot by mail, fax or online.

You may also vote in-person until Saturday, November 3 at Mason Governmental Center (6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale) on weekdays from 3-7 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For additional questions and the latest information on the November 6 general election, visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/>.

Contact Us

Questions? Want to Get Involved? Use the information below:

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