



HILLBROOK HILITES

Hillbrook Tall Oaks Civic Association (HTOCA) Newsletter

Winter 2019

HTOCA IN ACTION:

ELECTRIC POWER SERVICE RELIABILITY TO IMPROVE

Thanks to the grit and determination of two HTOCA Board members and Dominion Resources, Hillbrook-Tall Oaks should experience fewer power outages in the future.

Two different electrical substations have served different parts of the neighborhood for years. Portions of the neighborhood connected to the substation near Pinecrest have experienced a significantly greater number and duration of outages than portions connected to the substation in Springfield. Dominion noted that this was because of collisions with utility poles along Little River Turnpike as well as falling trees and branches.

HTOCA board members **Doug Birnie and Al Sample** requested that Dominion discuss possible solutions to this problem starting last March. After several discussions and reviews, Dominion agreed that the best course of action was to disconnect from Pinecrest substation and connect the entire neighborhood to Springfield's substation.

Dominion technicians completed this work in early December, just in time for the cold, snow and ice we've already experienced this winter. Hopefully we will continue to experience fewer outages and interruptions in electrical power throughout the year.

Special thanks also to **Michael Teferra**, Distribution System Reliability Engineer for Dominion Resources, for his commitment to resolving this for our community.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT: PLEASE JOIN HTOCA TODAY!

As the story above shows, our neighborhood civic association and its band of volunteers work hard to make our community a great place to live. Many of us enjoy the multiple complimentary social activities HTOCA hosts throughout the year, including the Ice Cream Social, Block Party and Halloween/Oktoberfest. These events cost time and most importantly, money, to make them enjoyable for our fellow neighbors.

There are also less visible - but equally critical - activities our volunteers participate in on our behalf, including Neighborhood Watch, zoning enforcement, interaction with county planning offices regarding local development, communications and more.

If you haven't already, please send your annual \$25 dues, payable by check, cash or credit card to the address on the right, or PayPal us at htoca22003.org to pay online. We need your support to continue providing a great experience for all of our neighbors.



Photo Credit: Suzanne Elera

In This Issue...

- Your HTOCA in Action: Power Outages Resolved
- Know Thy Neighbor: Meet Al & Dory Sample
- Wellness/Fitness Group for Women
- Seeking Donations for Our Elderly Community
- Recycling Do's & Don'ts

HTOCA

PO Box 1112
Annandale, VA
22003-9112

hillbrooktalloaks@gmail.com
www.HTOCA22003.org

KNOW THY NEIGHBOR: MEET AL & DORY SAMPLE

How long have you lived in Hillbrook-Tall Oaks?

We came to the neighborhood in March of 1990. Even after all these years, some of **our neighbors still refer to our house as "Trent Lott's house."** We've lived here longer, but we're not as famous.



Photo Courtesy of Al & Dory Sample

Where are you originally from?

We both grew up in New England, and came here by way of Connecticut, Montana, Minnesota and Germany. **We're fans of our local teams** but will always have a warm spot in our hearts for the Red Sox.

Any interesting memories living here?

We moved here when our two daughters were just starting public school, and it has been great to watch one generation of neighborhood kids grow up here and see new young families gradually arrive with the next generation of kids. They say "It takes a village to raise a child," and **all our neighborhood kids certainly benefited from the love and support they enjoyed growing up here.** It's nice to see that tradition being carried forward.

One of our favorite traditions is hosting Halloween in our driveway. Neighbors come and join us around a bonfire in the driveway, and kids can come and get their treats in one central location!

What's your favorite part about living in Tall Oaks?

Our neighborhood feels like one big extended family. We celebrate holidays together and are there for one another through all our important life events. The ladies seem bound together by a common affinity for champagne, conversation and water aerobics, and the guys by an affection for our kids, grandkids and the oldest single-malt scotch we can afford. But those are all just means to another end - getting together whenever we can, and enjoying one another's company.

What advice do you have for our newer residents?

Don't miss the occasional neighborhood events: Oktoberfest in fall, the Ice Cream Social in spring, and especially the Block Party in the closing days of summer. They are **great opportunities to meet new friends** from all over the neighborhood.

"Get outside. Go for a walk. Enjoy the beautiful trees and abundant wild-life, and getting to know your neighbors young and old." - The Samples

DID YOU KNOW... (LIBRARY EDITION)

... that the George Mason Regional Library (yes, our neighborhood library) is the only Fairfax County Library that allows account holders to check out wall art for two weeks?

Check it out, literally!

COMING SOON: WELLNESS/FITNESS GROUP FOR WOMEN

Anyone else ready for balmy weather and more time outdoors? Here's something to look forward to: **Hillbrook-Tall Oaks' first-ever Wellness/Fitness group designed for women** of all ages and ability levels.

According to group leader and Tall Oaks resident **Alisha Martinez**, the goal is to plan regularly scheduled time to exercise, socialize and get healthier with her neighbors.

"We would love to create a sense of community by bringing women together for this," Martinez said. "We'll also exercise early enough in the day on Saturdays so you'll have the rest of the weekend to yourself."

These hourlong sessions will occur on Saturdays at 8 a.m. at Poe Middle School beginning this spring, weather permitting, and last until fall. The group will meet in either the Poe parking lot or back practice fields and can expect a mix of stretching, circuit training, Tabata exercises, walking and running.

Participants just need to bring a mat, water bottle and exercise band. To find out more or to sign up, **please contact Alisha at (617) 290-0728 or alishakmartinez@gmail.com**.



SEEKING FOOD DONATIONS FOR ELDERLY

With the season of giving behind us, the need to feed others continues to be an immense need, particularly within our community's elderly population. Resident **Chris White and family** have asked that we **consider donating any non-perishable food items** as, according to Chris, "they are an overlooked majority of the population in most need of basic nutrition." Suggested items include:

- Pasta
- Low-sodium tomato products (diced, paste, sauce)
- Low-sodium tuna
- Low-sodium beans
- Low-sodium soup
- Low-sugar cereal

Please make sure items are unopened, unexpired and unused. You may **drop off items or arrange a pickup by contacting 703-403-5363**.

UPDATED COUNTY RECYCLING RULES: 5 WAYS TO ADJUST

Did you know that **nearly 30 percent of "recyclable" material Fairfax County receives is actually trash**? Here are five ways Fairfax County recommends we stop practicing "wishful recycling" – placing items in the recycling bin because you think (or hope) they will be recycled.

1. Only place **empty, clean, dry, loose items** in your bin
2. Dump the Filthy Five!: **No plastic bags, shredded paper, tanglers (hoses/hangers/cords), Styrofoam containers, dirty diapers** in your bin
3. Purchase products made with **high recycled content**
4. When in doubt, **throw it out**
5. Make an effort to **reduce the amount of waste** you create; reuse what you can

Fairfax County collects trash and recycling from 44,000 customers living in sanitary districts, which includes Hillbrook-Tall Oaks. The other 90% of the county is served by

(see next page)

Questions?

Need to Pay Your Dues?

Want to Get Involved?

HTOCA
PO Box 1112
Annandale, VA

22003-9112


Email: hillbrooktalloaks@gmail.com

Visit our website:
www.HTOCA22003.org

ADJUSTING TO FAIRFAX RECYCLING REALITIES, *continued*

approximately 20 private collection companies. Until recently, the ultimate destination for most of our recyclables was China's manufacturing industry. China has enacted stricter standards on imported recyclables, however, and is accepting only a fraction of the volume it had in the past. Here are some helpful pointers that Fairfax County has posted online to help us all adjust to the new recycling realities. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-and-trash> for more information.

FAIRFAX COUNTY RECYCLES




Containers, Cans, Cardboard, & Paper
Single-stream recycling allows you to collect all of these things in a single bin.


Know the No's
Be careful! Certain items are not acceptable in your recycling bin. Don't be fooled by items that may be recycled elsewhere, just not at the curb (for example: plastic bags, phones, or clothes).


Clean & Empty
Drips that remain at the bottom of a soda can are OK. A half-full can of soda is not OK to place in your bin.


Un-bagged in the Bin
No need to collect your recyclables using plastic bags. This makes it harder to process. Let your recyclables run loose in the bin! Recycle plastic bags at the grocery store.

ALWAYS put these in your recycling bin


 Bottles, Jugs, & Cartons


 Cans


 Cardboard


 Paper


NEVER put these in your recycling bin


 Plastic Bags


 Phones


 Diapers

 Food

 Foam

 Clothes

 Cables/Lights

 Wrappers

Learn more about recycling at:
[fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling)