



# HILLBROOK HILITES

Hillbrook Tall Oaks Civic Association (HTOCA) Newsletter

Summer 2019

## ICE CREAM SOCIAL THIS SUNDAY, JUNE 9 FROM 4-6 PM!

**The sticky days of summer have officially begun...** and it's about to get a lot stickier this weekend at our annual Ice Cream Social!

Join us as we celebrate the beginning of summer while enjoying a cone or a cup. This is a family- and dog-friendly event, so dust off the kids' scooters and bikes and join us. This year's Ice Cream Social will take place on Winter Lane's west end, which is the part of the street directly behind Poe Middle School's practice fields. The truck will be scooping from 4-6p, so be sure to come early to get your favorite flavors.

If you're new to the neighborhood, this is a great time to come out and meet your fellow neighbors. Based on the number of recently sold signs across the neighborhood, we know there must be! If you have a new neighbor who you're not sure is on this email list yet, please be sure to invite them to join us.

We're always looking for volunteers to help set up and take down, so if you're interested and available, please contact us at [hillbrooktalloaks@gmail.com](mailto:hillbrooktalloaks@gmail.com).

And if you haven't already, feel free to bring your annual \$25 dues, payable by check, cash or credit card to the address on the right, or PayPal us at [htoca22003.org](http://htoca22003.org) to pay online. Your support helps us continue providing a great experience for all of our neighbors. **Thank you to all who have paid your dues this year!**

## WELCOME COMMITTEE UPDATE: WE NEED YOUR HELP

Speaking of new neighbors: We have counted at least 15 new families in the Hillbrook-Tall Oaks neighborhood since this time last June. That's a lot of welcome mats to roll out!

Luckily the Welcome Committee has been up to the task. Members of this small but mighty group have been visiting new neighbors once they settle in to introduce themselves and answer any questions. They also provide a welcome packet with the neighborhood directory, a flyer with new neighbor questions and resources and a gift card to Meadows Farms Nursery. But we can't do all this without your help! Please reach out to [hillbrooktalloaks@gmail.com](mailto:hillbrooktalloaks@gmail.com) if you can help with home visits and packet drop-offs.

**Have a new neighbor move in recently?** Please let us know so we can schedule a visit. We can also drop off a welcome packet directly to you if you would like to coordinate a visit.

**Want to join our committee?** We're always looking for friendly folks who can spend approximately 1 hour per month visiting new neighbors. We're also looking for a new leader who has approximately 2 hours per month to coordinate visits and help ensure we're rolling out the welcome mat to all the new folks in our community.



## Also In This Issue...

- Know Thy Neighbor: Kids' Takeover Edition
- Women's Wellness/Fitness Group Update
- Summer Yardwork Reminders
- Civil War Skirmish
- Community Yard Sale
- Drive 25 Sign Volunteers

**HTOCA**

PO Box 1112

Annandale, VA

22003-9112

[hillbrooktalloaks@gmail.com](mailto:hillbrooktalloaks@gmail.com)

[www.HTOCA22003.org](http://www.HTOCA22003.org)

## KNOW THY NEIGHBOR(S): KIDS TAKE OVER!

The local kids are *more than a little excited* about their upcoming summertime and some time off from school. Especially if you happen to live with them...



We couldn't resist giving them one more assignment before the final bell rings: tell us what you're most looking forward to enjoying this summer, whether it's inside or outside the neighborhood.

Here's what the kids (and in some cases, their parents) are looking forward to this summer:

**"Jumping on my 'trunkoline' (trampoline)." - Isabella, age 3**

**"Playing with our new water table." - Lukas, age 9 mos.**  
*(courtesy of mom, Ashley)*

**"Visiting Colorado because it's a new place. And senior year volleyball season starting!" - Sofia, age 17**

**"Fun! And video games. And other stuff like that." - Walter, age 9**

**"I love to be outside! Working on my crawling so my doggy and kitty better watch out. And a trip to the beach so I can play in the sand and water." - Scotlyn, age 5 mos.**  
*(courtesy of mom, Paige)*

**"Swimming in my Auntie Lauren's pool." - Nina, age 5**

**"Hanging out with my friends and going to Kenwood (Summer Day Camp). Going to the library and checking out all the books." - Hannah, age 11**

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## DID YOU KNOW... (tree health edition)

... that if your neighbor's tree falls on your house or property, that you are liable for any damages? Yes, it's true (see [fairfaxcounty.gov](http://fairfaxcounty.gov)). It IS your neighbor's responsibility, however, to take care of any hanging or dead limbs, including ones that hang into your yard. As summer storms roll in, be sure to check your trees and limbs for any signs of decay.

For both you and your neighbors' sakes!

## WELLNESS/FITNESS GROUP FOR WOMEN IS THRIVING

Just eight sessions in, we are happy to report that the fitness/wellness group for women has been, well, crushing it!

A handful of women from the community meet every Saturday morning for a quick, social 30-minute workout before starting a relaxing weekend. It's another great opportunity to meet your neighbors .

Join them behind Poe Middle School at the basketball courts every Saturday morning at 9 a.m. All ages and ability levels are welcome.



*Photo courtesy of Alisha Martinez*

Just bring a yoga mat and a water bottle. **Reach out to Alisha Martinez if you have any questions: (617) 290-0728 or [alishakmartinez@gmail.com](mailto:alishakmartinez@gmail.com).**

## SUMMER YARDWORK REMINDERS

Many of us love living in our community because of both the natural landscapes and beautifully maintained yards we all work hard on throughout the year. All this beauty, all within the Beltway!

That beauty sometimes comes at a cost, though, as the noisy sound of gas blowers and mowers interrupts our peace. This feels especially true for those of us trying to work from home, keep a baby asleep at naptime, or catch up on our own zzz's on the weekends.

Let's face it: Our community can get loud at times. So please keep these Fairfax County regulations in mind for you and your crews:

- **Know the acceptable hours:** Fairfax noise ordinance allows for 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekends
- **Know the grass limits:** Keep your grass or lawn areas trimmed so they are less than 12 inches in height/length

Thanks in advance for being a wonderful neighbor and for following these simple but critical county regulations during lawn and garden season.

Questions?

Need to Pay Your Dues?

Want to Get Involved?

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## ACTION AT ANNANDALE: CIVIL WAR SKIRMISH



"Surprised at Anandale (sp), Virginia, by Confederate forces." - *The Illustrated London News*, January 18, 1862

Many of us have seen the marker in front of George Mason Regional Library indicating that a Civil War battle took place very close to our neighborhood.

So what exactly took place here?

**Our community was the scene of a December 1861 battle between Union and Confederate forces** around Little River Turnpike, which hosted encampments and skirmishes throughout the war.

Detachments from two New York regiments were on picket duty on December 2 at the intersection of the unfinished Manassas Gap railroad roadbed and the turnpike. At approximately 1 p.m., the pickets observed 200 cavalymen approaching and unleashing a volley of fire.

With reinforcements, the New Yorkers eventually repelled the attack and the Confederates retreated toward Centreville. Union cavalry pursued the southerners for several miles. A New York trooper wrote:

**"We were stationed in the woods, behind Annandale Church, and hearing the long roll beat, immediately formed in line outside of the woods, and opened a heavy fire on them, and charged."**

He continued, "They retreated in all directions, we pursuing them and taking two prisoners and some horses, sabres and revolvers. The effect of our fire was not ascertained. We had 25 men and the enemy numbered over 150."

Union Brigadier General Louis Blenker reported that two Confederates were captured and at least two were killed while only one Union soldier was reported killed. **Blenker also noted that a local farmer was arrested on suspicion of providing the Confederates with intelligence on the Union position at Annandale and signal had allegedly been seen emanating at night from his farm house.** There was not enough evidence to hold the secessionist farmer, so he released him and his two sons.

Full article, as well as an old map of the area between Little River Turnpike, Braddock Road and what's now Backlick Road, at: <http://civilwarwashingtondc1861-1865.blogspot.com/2011/06/action-at-annandale-december-2-1861.html>.

You can also search online for keywords "Action at Annandale" to find the link.



## COMMUNITY YARD SALE: WHO'S IN?

Several neighbors have recently **expressed interest in jointly hosting a community-wide yard sale**, where multiple families throughout Hillbrook-Tall Oaks would hold a yard sale in their driveways or on their blocks.

This could give us all that excuse we need to clean out the attic, basement or garage while also attracting weekenders to one organized, community-wide event.

**Are you interested in organizing this event?** HTOCA can provide signs, send out an email, post on Nextdoor and get the word out. Interested in participating? Let us know that, too, at [hillbrooktalloaks@gmail.com](mailto:hillbrooktalloaks@gmail.com).

## YARD VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR SIGNS

We can't do enough to remind our neighbors and visitors to drive safely, follow the speed limit and closely observe all posted signs, including the many neighborhood stop signs.

Unfortunately we have seen far too many personal and commercial vehicles racing through the neighborhood recently, some even running the stop signs. With our outdoor kids, walkers, joggers and animals in mind:

**We need volunteers who can post our "Slow Down - Drive 25" signs** in their front yards as a continued reminder to the drivers in our community.

Please let us know if you're interested by emailing [hillbrooktalloaks@gmail.com](mailto:hillbrooktalloaks@gmail.com).



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