



The Grove Homeowners Association
www.thegrovehoa.com

Volume 4, Issue 4
August - September 2007

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Helloooo Gerrrrrry !

Sounding like a "Newmanism" from an old Seinfeld episode, the editor just couldn't resist introducing our newest GHOA Board member in this manner.... HELLOOOO GERRRRY !!



Gerry Mancuso who lives in Coalbrook has stepped into the role of Secretary of the Grove HOA Board following a board vote at the June meeting. You may remember the past secretary stepped down mid-year and there was a special call for candidates. Gerry ran for the board on the platform of 'world peace' and 'car tax relief' and a few other political mumble jumbles. (another bad joke by the editor)

Seriously, Gerry moved here 3 years ago from New Jersey when Philip Morris moved their headquarters to Richmond. Gerry's husband Mike works there. Gerry and Mike have 2 children, Jessica - a sophomore at Midlothian HS and Michael - a 7th grader at Midlothian MS. Previously, Gerry was a kindergarten aide which she enjoyed immensely. She also was involved in her last community with both the pool and covenants committees. Earlier this year Gerry joined the pool committee and became chair. She had the very hard task of instituting the Grove pool passes for the very first time.

Gerry spends her spare time gardening, visiting the historical sights in the Richmond area and enjoying a neighborhood book club where she has met some wonderful friends.

Thanks Gerry for stepping up to the plate!

Take a lesson from Gerry and get involved in some way with the Grove!

You can reach Gerry by emailing her at secretary@thegrovehoa.com.



President's Message

August is upon us and it has been a fairly quiet summer here in the Grove.

We had a vacancy on the board. Fortunately, we had three people step up to the plate and volunteer. Unfortunately, we could only appoint one person to the position. We welcome Gerry Mancuso to the board. On that note, I would point out that elections for the next board are only a few months away. I would encourage you to consider running for the board or volunteering for a committee.

We are currently engaging a landscape architect to give us a plan for landscape improvements in the neighborhood. We have also been given a potential plan for new entrance signs. I am hopeful that new sign installation, especially at Coalfield Rd., can begin in the very near future.

The board placed liens on seven homes that did not pay their Grove 2006 assessments. We have reduced those liens to judgments. We will now begin steps to place liens on fifteen homes that have not yet paid the 2007 assessments.

Also, we recently sent our accounting books and laptop to an outside accountant for a full audit. We will let you know the results in an upcoming issue or GHOA meeting.

Have a happy and safe August and September!

Ben Owings

2007 Board of Directors

boardofdirectors@thegrovehoa.com
PO Box 72725, Richmond, VA 23235

President

Ben Owings, 378.0067
 president@thegrovehoa.com

Vice President

John Romano, 379.1238
 vicepresident@thegrovehoa.com

Secretary

Gerry Mancuso, 897.0853
 secretary@thegrovehoa.com

Treasurer

Jonathan Jackson, 794.7041
 treasurer@thegrovehoa.com

Operations

Byron Foutch, 794.3148
 operations@thegrovehoa.com

Grove Homeowners Meetings:

2nd Thursday of each month,
 6:30pm at the clubhouse.

2007 GHOA Committee Chairs

Architectural Modifications

Steve Kellner, 594.2340
 mskellner@comcast.net

Grounds

Dick Woodruff, 897.0290
 dicknpeg@verizon.net

Clubhouse

Anne Counoupas, 423.6596
 Pam Connelly, 897.5469
 clubhouse@thegrovehoa.com

Publicity

Mike Burnette, 897.0377
 publicity@thegrovehoa.com

Newsletter

Mike Burnette, 897.0377
 newsletter@thegrovehoa.com

Pool

Gerry Mancuso, 897.0853
 gerrybean1@msn.com

Social

OPEN (Please contact Board if interested)

Covenant Enforcement

Now Forming (Please contact Board if interested)

Deadline for ads and submissions
 for the Oct / Nov. issue is Sept. 14

Submit all ads & articles to:
 Mike Burnette, Editor
 newsletter@thegrovehoa.com
 or 897.0377

Checks are made payable to: Grove HOA

Bus. Card size - \$20,
 Quarter page - \$35
 Half page - \$65,
 Full page - \$125
 Back cover - \$150
 Advertiser provided insert
 \$150
 (10% off for 6 issues prepaid)
 (non-profits get 50% off!)
 Ad design: \$35 if needed.
 Website - \$80 per mth.

The Grove Miner is a bi-monthly publication of
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 ISSUES, AND/OR SERVICES OFFERED IN THE NEWSLETTER OR WEBSITE THROUGH
 ARTICLES, PAID ADS, OR FREE CLASSIFIEDS.

SUMMER SCRAPBOOKING NIGHT

When: Sunday, **July 29, 2007**

Time: 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Where: Grove Clubhouse

What: A Night of Scrapbooking

Cost: Free

What to Bring: A SNACK to share and your current SCRAPBOOKING project!



Drinks provided.
Please contact Pam Connelly at
pamelaconnelly@verizon.net
to reserve your spot, space is limited.

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

Jean Willis - Krim Point
Forrest & Donna Carter - Coalbrook
Paul & Rachel Dement - Coalbrook
Karen & Robert Tignor - Hawkins Wood
Christopher & Laura Stevenson - Hawkins Wood
Jeremy & Amy McKittrick - Hawkins Wood
James Carps - Hawkins Wood
John & Melanie Suddreth - Kingham
Sean & Rebecca Rogers - Kingham
Joseph & Jill Klaiber - Mitford

Just moved in and not listed?
Email us at: grovewelcome@comcast.net
We want to welcome you with a gift bag!

Verizon FIOS Installation Repairs



You might remember a few months ago when all the digging occurred. If you see that due to this installation, the roads or your yard/driveway now need repair, please call the Verizon contractor Ivy Smith at 800-403-1406.

FIOS is now available! Go to verizon.com/FIOS.
Note: You have to get FIOS internet in order to get FIOS TV.

Look for the menu insert within this newsletter for a
\$5.00 Spinnaker's Gift Certificate!

Kindergarten Ice Cream Social

for rising kindergarteners in The Grove



Sunday,
August 26
3:00 pm
at the Clubhouse

RSVP by August 23
to Angela Castillo, 897-6939
or angelacastillo@comcast.net

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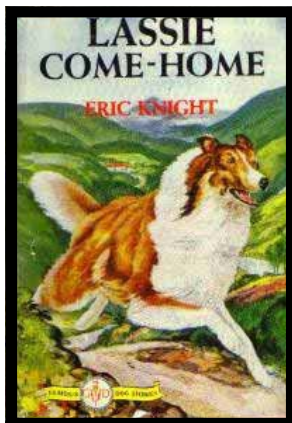
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Meet Your Neighbors - The Ronnau's of Gravity Hill



A True Lassie Come-Home Story

by Mike Burnette

Vikki and Bub Ronnau along with their kids (Jerry, William, Amber & Max), have lived in the Grove since 1999 along with their dog Scout. The way they introduce themselves to others in the Grove is "We live in Gravity Hill. We have the big collie in the brick house on the corner." Scout had been the constant corner icon of Goswick Lane and Goswick Ridge Road for eight years until June 5th, 2007.

On June 5, it was like any other normal day except the fact that a rare severe thunderstorm had moved through Midlothian. The Ronnau's went through their morning routine, one item of which is saying good morning to Scout. However this day, Scout wasn't there. He was gone, missing, no where to be found. He had never, in his 11 years, left the yard, except an occasional wander

if he heard his family at the neighbor's house. The Ronnau's believe the storm must have been a factor in his disappearance.

The family immediately jumped in their cars and searched for hours. They stopped and talked to the neighbors out on their morning walks. A few sightings were reported, but nothing concrete could pinpoint his location. A Grove neighbor made 1700 fliers for them. This is in addition to the ones the Ronnau's had already printed at work and home. Volunteers rallied at the Ronnau's home and then went into action. William and Max Ronnau rode around putting fliers in Hawkins Woods and Queensmill. Amber and Jerry Ronnau delivered to Krim Point and Coalbrook and Vikki delivered to Kingham and Walton Park. Brenda, Drew and Jaimie Martin put fliers in Gravity Hill and Biggin Pond. Email forwards were quickly dispersed to Grove friends and neighbors. An emergency announcement was even posted on the Grove website. Posters were put up at Walgreen's and Dairy Queen. They called their Midlothian Animal Clinic. Dr. Rhoades recommended calling all the other local Vets, animal shelters and rescue leagues, since Collies are rare these days. Midlothian Middle School Principal, Dr. Stansfield, allowed them to put signs up on all the doors of the school. He suggested they pass them out to the bus drivers. They quickly had over 30 responses from many people in the Grove and neighboring communities.

A big break finally came from five boys who had been shown the flier by their bus driver on the Charter Colony route. They had recognized the collie from early that morning. When they arrived home, they went out to search. The boys called the Ronnau's at 6 pm that evening saying they had located a collie and thought it had to be Scout. The family raced over to the Charter Colony and there he was.....one very tired Scout! Scout was taken to the vet and received a clean bill of health.

**"It does
confirm
my faith in
caring people."**

-Vikki Ronnau



11 year old collie "Scout" - An icon of Gravity Hill

The Ronnau's are grateful to all the neighbors who were out looking for him. A special thank you to Sara Keith who pushed her 2 children in the stroller for while looking for Scout. In addition to all those mentioned above, thanks to Susan Austin, Susan Gillis, Beverley Walters, Robin Davis, and Carol Gottschalk and many many others. Reflecting on this experience, Vikki said, "It does confirm my faith in caring people."



Do you have a neighbor or family member with a story to tell?

Recommend them for an upcoming issue of "Meet Your Neighbor". Email us at newsletter@thegrovehoa.com or call 897.0377

Did you know the Grove Clubhouse just switched over to Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs ?

Why You Should Use Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs) according to www.energystar.gov



Switching from traditional light bulbs to CFLs is an effective, accessible change every American can make right now to reduce energy use at home and prevent greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change. Lighting accounts for close to 20 percent of the average home's electric bill. Changing to CFLs costs little upfront and provides a quick return on investment. If every home in America replaced just one incandescent light bulb with an ENERGY STAR qualified CFL, it would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of more than 800,000 cars annually.

Editors Note: I personally have tried several brands because I just wasn't happy with that bright fluorescent look. I found that the 40 watt soft white "N:Vision" brand at Home Depot has the most natural looking light of the 3-4 brands I tested. Also, they now have CFL's that can work on a dimmer switch. And as you can see from the picture above, not all have that typical curled bulb look anymore. Many have cases to resemble your typical spot lights, vanity bulbs and even candelabra bulbs.

PS: As of press time, Al Gore had not yet returned my calls to comment on the above statements. So, please note this only has the comments of me (Mike from Midlothian) and not the inventor of the internet.

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Clubhouse Volunteers Needed

Anne and Pam have graciously agreed to stay on a little longer to volunteer and help with the clubhouse reservations. However, they need some help! They need a few more hands willing to help hand out keys and help with "inspections".

So, would you be willing to donate your time to help THE GROVE?"

Without volunteers, the clubhouse would not be accessible to residents to rent.

Bonus: If you help volunteer with the clubhouse, you can get a free 4-hour rental after only four months of service!

Contact information:

Anne Counoupas 423.6596 or

Pam Connolly 897.5469

clubhouse@thegrovehoa.com

Remember: You can check the availability of the clubhouse and make a reservation request with no password needed on our website at www.thegrovehoa.com

Destruction is cheap ...but restoration and repair are expensive!

The gazebo has once again been heavily damaged. A bench that was bolted down was torn off and thrown into the pond and the sign was torn off and stolen. Both side railings are now having to be refurbished, too. This malicious vandalism will no longer be tolerated. Regardless of your age, you will be prosecuted if caught. Neighbors, please keep a vigilant eye on Grove property and call police if you see any vandalism occurring. Soon, a street light will be installed to help light up this problem spot. Hopefully, this will help deter any future occurrences.



Covenant Enforcement Committee *Now Forming !*

When you moved to The Grove, you were handed a big book of HOA regulations and guidelines. You knew you were entering a community that had covenants. Now, you see your neighbors not following those rules.

You can do something about it!

Join the NEW Covenant Enforcement Committee. The Architectural Review Committee is there to approve plans that are submitted. However, the new committee will help enforce violations throughout the Grove by reporting them to the Board.

Email or call the Board President (see page 2 for contact info) if you would like to make sure The Grove stays nice for years to come.

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Grove Yard Sales

September 8
8am-Noon



The Grove HOA will advertise the event in newspapers and at the entrances. You just put your directional signs up. Please be prompt in removing your signs as soon as the yard sales are over.
(The rain date will be Sept. 15)

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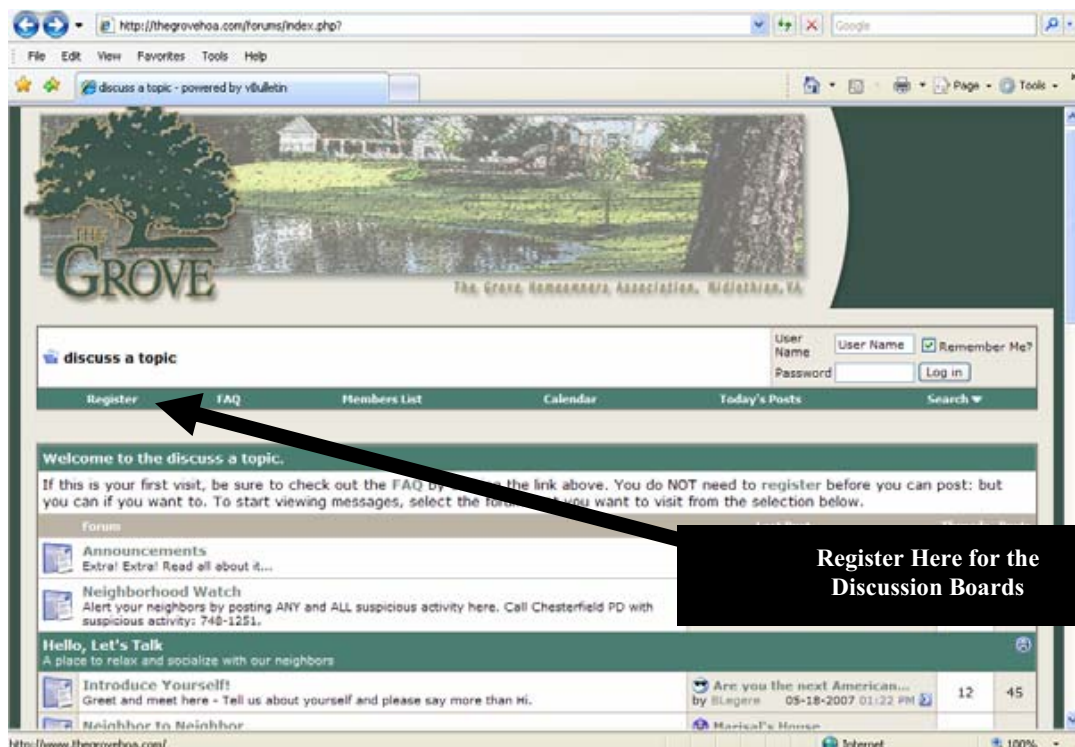
Harbour Pointe

13644 Hull Street Rd
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Sycamore Square

13700 Midlothian Turnpike
594-0118





In the next few months, the Grove website will begin to become more user friendly with info you need to know! But, we need your suggestions! What would be helpful to have on our website? Email us at: publicity@thegrovehoa.com.

In the meantime, we have removed the need for passwords to log-in to the site in order to gain access to architectural modifications forms and clubhouse reservations. The only place you need a password now is on the discussion boards. For that section, you can get your password yourself. Just go to www.thegrovehoa.com and click on "discuss a topic". Then click on "register" (as shown in above graphic) and just follow the directions from there.

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CHESTERFIELD COUNTY BEGINS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM TO REMOVE ILLEGAL SIGNS

Chesterfield County recently instituted a volunteer program to remove illegal signs from roads and rights of way within the county.

State law prohibits advertising within the limits of any highway, which includes the roadway, shoulders, median strips and approximately 5 feet adjacent to the pavement. Penalties for placing such illegal signs can include the removal of the advertisement, a \$100 fine, and having to pay the costs of removal. Businesses that routinely place illegal signs in rights of way could be subject to injunction actions to prevent their continued placement of illegal signs.



Since roads in Chesterfield County are maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation, the county had to obtain permission from VDOT to police and remove the illegal signs. Once that agreement was executed, the county quickly created a program through which county residents can volunteer to assist in the cleanup efforts. Safety training is required for all volunteers. Citizens should not remove illegal signs except through this county sponsored program.

The first group of volunteers received training on June 5 and will begin to remove illegal signs soon. Volunteers will be working principally on roadsides and wearing bright-orange safety vests. Motorists should be careful and slow down when approaching or passing an area where the volunteers are working.

Anyone interested in assisting the county in its efforts to remove the illegal signs from the roadways should contact Chesterfield County Zoning Code Enforcement at 748-1500.

'nuff said ?



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Mailboxes

The time has come. The GHOA has been requesting for months that the mailboxes be painted green and the posts be painted white. Soon, you will be strongly encouraged to make it happen. Don't let yourself be in violation and receive a covenants enforcement letter.

If you are unable to paint yourself, Dale Murphy in Biggin Pond has agreed to help out at a very reasonable cost.
379.7691



GROVE HOA DUES

Just the Facts

Liens were filed this year on seven Grove homeowners who failed to pay their 2006 Grove HOA dues assessments that resulted in judgments.

There are now fifteen additional delinquencies for 2007.

Don't become a statistic.
Pay your dues and late payment fees now.

These mandatory GHOA dues are in addition to any dues you may pay to Krim Point, Scotter Hills or Ridgemoor.

Immediately contact the treasurer if you have not paid before 2007 liens are placed.
(contact info on page 2)



Girl Scout Troop 775 of the Grove donated \$200 to the Greater Richmond American Red Cross from their cookie sales money.

-submitted by Liza Cox

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GROVE PHONE BOOKS

The new 2007 Grove phone book should be ready in September. Depending on arrival time, they will be delivered in September or with the October 1st newsletter.



Lauren Rooney fishing for the king catfish!

Neighbor to Neighbor FREE Classifieds

Calling all Volunteers - The third annual Richmond Italian Festival will be held on Sept. 29 & 30 on historic Church Hill. We are looking for volunteers, especially those of you who are of Italian Heritage to work at the festival. Duties range from setting up, working at the gates, working the wine or beer booths, clean up, etc. We need many volunteers to make this annual event a success. Grove resident, Frank DiPofi, of Hawkins Wood is chairing this year's event. If you can donate four hours of your time on either day, it would be much appreciated.

Please e-mail him at dipofi@comcast.net and let him know that you are interested. Thanks!!!

Email your ad info to newsletter@thegrovehoa.com by Sept. 14 for the October/November issue.

Intended for Grove residents personal use only.



Share your summer pictures and stories with your neighbors

Email them to newsletter@thegrovehoa.com by Sept 14



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Just Visit: www.annualcreditreport.com

Editor's Note: I check mine every 4 months for free by only checking in one time per calendar year with each of the three reporting agencies. This allows you to monitor identity theft or reporting errors more frequently.

If you need help, email newsletter@thegrovehoa.com



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