



THE GROVE MINER



The Grove Homeowners Association
www.thegrovehoa.com

Volume 3, Issue 6
December 2006 - January 2007

Our New Family Tree



Jonathan Jackson
Treasurer
treasurer@thegrovehoa.com



Byron Foutch
Operations
operations@thegrovehoa.com



Rich Ramey
Secretary
secretary@thegrovehoa.com



Ben Owings
President
president@thegrovehoa.com



John Romano
Vice President
vicepresident@thegrovehoa.com

2007 Board of Directors !



OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with pride and sadness that I write this President's Message, my farewell message, to the residents and my fellow board members, whom I can not thank enough for their extremely hard work and dedication. It has been an honor to serve such great friends and neighbors for the past year. While I have the desire to continue to serve, work and other commitments make it impossible to do so and I am thankful for the opportunity I have had.

Though there have been some issues and trying times this past year, there were many more positives and good times. Mother Nature was very helpful by not hitting us with hurricanes or other severe weather as has happened in the past. I, along with my fellow board members did not always agree, but we agreed to disagree and were able to accomplish much.

Inspired by volunteers from Krim Point, who painted their sections of the fencing, we had the entire fence line painted, and I appreciate the many positive comments. We have begun extensive landscaping upgrades and we have landscape architects working on future plans and the intention is to keep our neighborhoods beautiful. Fishing from the gazebo has been a hot topic for several years. We have had the gazebo refurbished and painted, and to preserve it, a fishing platform was built next to the path by the pool so that residents can now enjoy both the gazebo and fishing. The numerous bridges along the walking paths were inspected, refurbished and stained and are now in good shape. Several violations of the covenants were corrected. There are still some outstanding but they are not forgotten as we have retained outside legal counsel so that they will be corrected legally without putting the Homeowner's Association at any financial risk. Damaged benches throughout the subdivision have been repaired or replaced and Hawkins Woods, you were not forgotten; we still owe you a bench, which I will take care of.

It was a positive year and I am happy to be able to go out on a positive note. While unforeseen circumstances can happen at any time, we haven't had any this past year and we are closing the year in a very strong financial position. We have increased the amounts of our reserve funds. The sidewalk reserve fund has a balance of \$25,000 and the general reserve fund has a balance of \$35,000, both of which should help offset unforeseen expenses.

I love this neighborhood too much to just go away so do not be surprised if you still see me at the majority of the meetings and neighborhood functions. I also intend to remain active and available to assist the new board in anyway I can. Again, thank you for your trust and confidence.

Don McHale

Thanks to the 2006 Board , Committee Chairs and Committee Members, and all volunteers for your year of dedicated service! 2006 Board: Don McHale, Byron Foutch, Jonathan Jackson, Ben Owings, and Sheldon Ross. 2006 Committee Chairs: Sue Allen, Leah DiPofi, Jim Collins, Lisa Kopecko, John Romano, Kristen Holland and Steve Kellner. To all volunteers, *Thank you!*

The Grove Miner is a publication of The Grove Homeowners Association of Midlothian, Va., Inc.

Deadline for ads and submissions for the February issue is January 15

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

See back cover for ad rates

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2007 Board of Directors

boardofdirectors@thegrovehoa.com

President

Ben Owings, 378.0067
president@thegrovehoa.com

Vice President

John Romano, 379.1238
vicepresident@thegrovehoa.com

Secretary

Rich Ramey, 379.7961
secretary@thegrovehoa.com

Treasurer

Jonathan Jackson, 794.7041
treasurer@thegrovehoa.com

Operations

Byron Foutch, 794.3148
operations@thegrovehoa.com

2007 GHOA Committee Chairs

Architectural Modifications

Steve Kellner, 594.2340

Grounds

OPEN now

Clubhouse

OPEN in 2007

Publicity

Mike Burnette, 897.0377
newsletter@thegrovehoa.com

Pool

Jim Collins, 513.7728
jimcollins1130@comcast.net

Social

OPEN in 2007

Gravity Hill Neighborhood Watch

Kristen Holland, 794.7256
hollandkma@yahoo.com

NEED A NEW YEARS RESOLUTION? Donate time to YOUR community!

If you would like to donate time to YOUR community,
please consider one of these positions in 2007:

Clubhouse Chairperson: Coordinates clubhouse rentals through reservations, key distribution and close-out inspections.

Grounds Committee Chairperson: Coordinates grounds issues and keeps the Grove looking good!

Social Committee Chairperson and Members: Helps design and implement socials for the Grove Community. Each year the HOA budgets for socials.

Sandwich Board Coordinator – We need a volunteer to act as the point person for the sandwich boards. This includes, posting announcements for Homeowners Association events and Board meetings at the entrances. It also includes, making them available to those who want to post non-related HOA events.

Website Coordinators – Helps keep the website updated and helps obtain advertisers.

Newsletter Delivery – Commits to delivering 6 issues of The Grove Miner to THEIR subdivision in 2007. Takes approx 45 minutes to 1 hour each delivery.

Welcome Baskets – Delivers welcome baskets to new neighbors in The Grove.

The Grove Miner Newsletter – We need people to help Mike Burnette produce the newsletter by submitting articles that relate to our community and people within The Grove. Also help with Ads.

The Grove Community Phone Book Coordinator – Works with Phillips Directories to get book produced.

If you are interested in any of the above, please contact
secretary@thegrovehoa.com, 379.7961
or publicity@thegrovehoa.com, 897.0377

The Grove Homeowners Meetings:

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How to sign-up for a website password for thegrovehoa.com

By Mike Soden, Web Team , thegrovehoa.com

There are two login and passwords required for full use of the "The Grove HOA Website". Most of the website is available to all users worldwide. A residential login is required to reserve/rent the Club-house or apply for an Architectural Modification. Should the user be a committee chair or board member they will have access to additional areas of the website that will allow them to fulfill the requirements of their position.

The other area of the website which requires a different login is "discuss a topic". A user can view all posting, but may not add to a posting without out being logged in to the bulletin board. This requirement allows the webmaster to review who has been posting and delete any questionable postings as seen in the past.

How do I request logins and passwords?

The Grove website is open to all grove residents. You simply send a request to Webmaster@thegrovehoa.com and you will receive your information within 48 hours. Please be sure to include name, address, phone number, and email address.

"Discuss a topic" requests are done online. Click on discuss a topic. At the opening page, look for the register link in the "welcome to discuss a topic" area. Click on the link and follow the instructions. It's that simple.

Should you any questions, please feel free to send an email to Webmaster@thegrovehoa.com.

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The Grove's Publicity Committee Really... what do they do?

By Lisa Kopecko, Coalbrook Resident and Member of The Grove's Publicity Committee since 2004

I have thoroughly enjoyed acting as the Publicity Chairperson in 2005 & 2006. It has allowed me to be connected with my community, and make some great friends. In 2007, I will step down as chairperson and I want to give a big "SHOUT OUT" to those who have been active member of the committee and made my job so easy:

Susan Austin – Organizing the distribution of The Grove Miner Newsletters and creating and distributing the welcome baskets to new homeowners.

Mike Burnette – 2006 Editor of The Grove Miner Newsletter and maintains sandwich boards.
(Mike will assume the role of Publicity Chair Position in 2007 as well as point of contact for newsletter advertisers and will continue as Editor of the newsletter.)

Carol Gottschalk – Created and maintains The Grove's website, writes articles for the newsletter, handles newsletter advertisers, and produced the community phone book.

Mike Soden – Created and maintains The Grove's website and helps distribute the newsletter.

Beverly Walters – Creates and delivers welcome baskets to new homeowners, distributes newsletters and nudges people to get their community news in to the newsletter editor.

Thank you for all you do for our community!

Our committee is responsible for producing and distributing **The Grove Miner Newsletter**, maintaining and updating **The Grove's website**: www.thegrovehoa.com, creating and distributing **Welcome Baskets** to new residence, and posting **sandwich board announcements**.

SEE PAGE 2 FOR HOW YOU CAN HELP THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE IN 2007!

The next Publicity Meeting is on December 4th, 5:30pm at the Clubhouse. Join us!

GOALLLLL !!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Grove will soon have
soccer goals in the field across
Grove Hill Rd. from the Pool

**Please enjoy and take care of our
newest asset!**



**Don't forget to
winterize your
irrigation
system!**

Meet Your Neighbors, The Reams

Boy, where does the time fly? Seven and a half years ago we moved into The Grove with nothing around but two houses and lots of trees...and deer...and dirt roads...and nails in our tires (can't remember how many times).

We are the Reams family and we moved into The Grove on April 23, 1999. We were the first family to put a contract down to build a house but the 2nd to move in. Our family had grown from 3 to 5 in a matter of a day and our former house off of Old Buckingham Rd. was just "not cutting it" to hold our expanding family. So we finally decided to build a new home in the Hawkins Wood section of The Grove.

Our friends Carlton & Donna Jarratt (who I was doing daycare for) also decided to move to The Grove. They also had a growing family and they were looking for a place further out from their current Bon Air location. So upon our decision to build here, the Jarratts did a lot of investigation and decided to do the same. They moved into Biggin Pond a month later. Thus was the beginning of a soon to be larger neighborhood.

Donna and I decided to get to know our new neighbors better and formed a Welcome Committee comprised of Donna, myself and Melanie Hyatt, who was the first family that moved in. We delivered baskets with homemade items that we personally baked along with items from local businesses. It was a GREAT way to get to know our new neighbors and personally introduce ourselves. We initially funded this ourselves until it became a little overwhelming with the growth number of homes. We finally asked Realty Ventures if they would help fund this endeavor. They graciously agreed.

Much has grown over the past 7 ½ years. First, we were literally IN THE WOODS and could hear owls and see many a deer and wildlife around. We "knew" it would grow into a bigger neighborhood but never fathomed HOW big that would be. It was a gradual but wonderful process.

Our older 3 boys now attend Watkins Elementary and are excelling in school. Our oldest, Nicholas (10), won Student of the Year 2 years ago and our twins, Phillip & Daniel, are now in 2nd grade. We have since had another boy upon moving here (beware of the water!) and Ian is 3-years-old and attending Winfree Memorial Preschool at the corner of Coalfield and Midlothian.

Several years ago I met another neighbor in Biggin Pond and we shared the common bond of having home-based businesses. I had a home daycare and had just begun a venture into Mary Kay Cosmetics. Marian Kuhn, in turn, had just moved here from Idaho and was venturing into her own home-based business of Close To My Heart Scrapbooking and Stamping. We hit it off and have become best of friends. Marian and I put our heads together to create a holiday shopping event that we have now held for the past 4 years. We used to call it The Holiday Home Show at the clubhouse but because of our busy schedules were unable to put it together this year and another wonderful neighbor, Shelley Neofotistos, took it upon herself to do it and called it Tea and Shopping. It has been a well-received event and this was probably the best year ever with many of The Grove residents, with home-based businesses, contributing.



This neighborhood has been wonderful in SO MANY ways. We have met many great friends and I now have many Mary Kay customers because of The Grove. I thank you for that. Our boys can play with children their same age. When my eldest first went to kindergarten there was only one school bus for The Grove. Now, there are 3 elementary school buses because of the number of children that live here.

If you are new or "old" to this neighborhood, we hope you enjoy it as much as we do. It's funny about this neighborhood, too, that many people love this neighborhood so much that they move from a smaller house to another section within The Grove to get a larger house. I won't mention names but some of our great neighbors even built a house right across the street from their old one just to get the same floor plan they LOVE plus a basement!!! Just to stay in our neighborhood. Don't you love it?



Recycling Truths & Myths: The Tour Story

By Mike Burnette

Last month, I participated in what some would call a very “geeky” thing to do. I took a tour of our local recycling plant in Chester to see if everything that goes into my little green bin really does get recycled.

First the facts: 24 trucks patrol Central VA each day and bring back 150-190 tons of recycling EACH DAY! 240,000 homes are picked up each month.



The Process: The trucks empty their load into a covered dumping area. Front-end loaders then scoop the items onto a conveyor belt. Workers first hand pull out trash and non-recyclables, then cardboard and brown paper. Mechanical machines then blow out paper into one stack. Strong magnets then pull out all steel. Employees then manually pull out all plastic bottles. Milk jugs, clear, and colored all are picked out separately for separate recycling purposes. Aluminum cans are then sorted using a highly innovative technique using a spinning rare-earth metal to create an electric field that repels the cans into a bin. Glass falls down due to its weight on an incline and is crushed. Balers then pack up most materials and send them off to facilities that will use them.



The myths:

Your recycling does not go to the landfill! The only items that do are those not listed as a recyclable item that they collect. You do not have to sort your items in your bin. It all goes onto one conveyor belt when it gets to the facility. You do not have to remove lids from plastic containers (but they prefer you do for compacting reasons). Window envelopes are ok.

Where does it go then?

1. All cardboard is shipped to China or India (where there are little trees) to be remade into more boxes.
2. Newspaper & Paper is shipped to a facility in Alabama to make more newspaper.
3. Milk Jugs are recycled into more milk jugs.
4. Aluminum cans get shipped to Anheuser-Busch to make new cans.
5. Other plastic is made into more plastic products such as laundry detergent jugs and new plastic decking.
6. Glass is currently stored in warehouses for future recycling needs.
7. Steel is sent to make more steel containers.

QUICK TIPS:

Yes to #1 & #2 plastics—no other types

No to paper or cardboard with food residue

No to plastic bags (Anything that is put in a plastic bag. Plastic bags jam the equipment, so any plastic bag or plastic bags full of recycled materials are immediately pitched. The line workers do not have time to open plastic bags.)

No to aluminum foil or aluminum pans or plates—**ONLY CANS!**

No to wax coated paper and photo paper.

Yes to magazines, cardboard, junk mail, newspaper

No juice boxes or milk or juice cartons (just jugs)

Yes to milk jugs

No shredded paper (it just jams the machines)

No Styrofoam



Photos Courtesy of CVWMA

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Grass Roots

By Susan Kiger - Master Gardener and Grove Resident 423.6307

Personalized lawn management plans are again being offered in 2007 by Chesterfield County Cooperative Extension. The program which is called Grass Roots, provides participating homeowners with fertilizer management plans tailored specifically to their lawns' needs. While attracting homeowners with the opportunity for a better lawn, another goal of the program is to reduce pesticide and nutrient runoff.



A homeowner registers for the Grass Roots program, gets a visit from a Chesterfield County master gardener, who measures the size of the lawn and takes soil samples for laboratory testing. An Extension technician then devises a management plan, based on the type of grass being grown, results of the soil test and the size of the lawn.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST? Last year it cost initially \$20 which included one soil sample. \$9 more for each additional sample taken.

HOW DO I GET ON THE LIST FOR NEXT YEAR? Grass Roots begins again next April. To register, call the Extension office at 751-4401. Don't wait until March or Early April, the lists gets very long and only 400 people are accepted in the program.

If you have any questions about the program or your lawn and plants, give me a call, I will try to answer them or put you on the right track for an answer.

GROVE PHONE BOOK ADDITIONS

We welcome and ask all new residents to please submit your information to the Board so we may include you in our permanent files.

Email: treasurer@thegrovehoa.com

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS!

Hawkins Woods
William and Nicole Mason

Krim Point
Kay Elscott
Karen & Mike Anthony

Coalbrook
Juergen, Angelica, Olivia, Raphaela, & Camilla Spykman

New and not listed? Email: GroveWelcome@comcast.net



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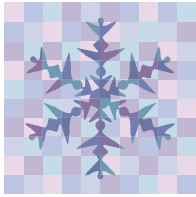
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The Grove's October Potluck Supper



Coalbrook's Halloween Parade



Calling all Coalbrook neighbors to the

3RD ANNUAL COALBROOK HOLIDAY CRAWL!

It's that time of year, to get out and celebrate the holidays with your neighbors! Time to dress in your holiday haberdashery, meet at the Lindgren's, then carouse Coalbrook from there, host house to host house, celebrating with libations and appetizers at each home.

This year it is **December 16th**, starting at **6:30 sharp** at **613 Coalbrook**.

RSVP to get onto the party list, by December 5th, as the itinerary goes out on Dec. 9th.

You WANT to be there and join in on the fun!

RSVP: Lisa Kopecko 379-2700 or lisa@familyelectric.net



The mailboxes are looking great!

If you have not yet spruced up your box, please take a few hours to fix it up or simply call one of those below that have offered their services for a very reasonable fee.

Dale Murphy (Biggin Pond Resident) 379.7691

Robert Nunnally (Son of Krim Point Resident) 794.1645

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Clubhouse Rentals

Contact Sue Allen thru 12/31: 897.6820 or sueallen101@comcast.net

Fee: \$50 for first 4 hours, \$5 for each hour outside the 4 hours.

Exceptions:

GROVE FUNCTIONS: If there is an event that is open to the entire Grove (i.e. Social Committee functions) - there is no charge.

FUNCTIONS IN EACH SUBDIVISION OF THE GROVE:

(i.e. if Gravity Hill has a function that is open for every resident in Gravity Hill than there is no charge.)

Cleaning Fee/Deposit: There will be a \$75 fee if the clubhouse needs cleaned after your function. We used to pre-collect this fee. However, it is now just collected if the clubhouse is not left clean.

Bunco, Poker, birthday parties, graduation parties ---- all need to pay the rental fee unless everyone in The Grove is invited to EVERY function that meets at the clubhouse.

You can make your clubhouse reservation online at www.thegrovehoa.com.

If you are interested in helping to coordinate the clubhouse rentals for 2007, please contact the Board.



Editorial: Why do we need our HOA?

by Mike Burnette, newsletter@thegrovehoa.com, 897.0377

Up until the election of our new HOA Board, we only had 4 people on the ballot. All 4 had been on the board in the past and were returning out of concern for our community. Rich Ramey then stepped up to take that 5th slot. Thanks Rich! In addition, we only received 94 ballots out of 750 homes. We are now going into 2007 with a board that has already put in a lot of hours to the community in the past, so they need OUR help to make their VOLUNTEER job easier. We have many committee chair and member positions open (see page 2) such as Clubhouse, Social, and Publicity. There are also many things behind the scenes that the board could use your expertise, such as getting quotes, working with vendors, etc.

We all need to take a turn in volunteering to help keep our community vibrant. Please plug in for a one-time project or a year on a committee. We need constant turnover of positions to keep our volunteers fresh so they don't get burned-out and therefore never return to help again.

Let me give you an example of a Chesterfield newer community that is struggling with the same problems we have with volunteerism. Residents recently received a letter stating that no one agreed to be a board member, so the court was going to have to take over and a judge would appoint a company to run the association. Therefore, everyone's dues are going up to absorb the increased cost of having this company run their HOA as a legal entity and not much money would be left for anything else.

Here are some scenarios that are close to happening to them and could very easily happen to us in the near future if we do not stay a vibrant and active volunteer-based organization.

1. The pool and clubhouse would be padlocked and boarded up or sold off as a community asset.
2. A neighbor decides to build a barn style shed in his side yard, or a metal fence or carport...You would learn to live with the view as no one would be around to enforce covenants.
3. The trees die, no flowers are planted, and the community grass is never mowed. Sorry, no money for that anymore.
4. Oh, and your property value plummets since you now live in an area that has been run down due to lack of community interest or upkeep.

Now, if you think these scenarios couldn't happen to The Grove and you do not have time to help your community, Think again! Everyone has families, jobs, other volunteer work, and the same hectic schedule you do. Instead of just showing up to an occasional board meeting and complaining about what is not getting done, consider pitching in and doing it to preserve your community. Thank you!



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Happy
New Year