



# THE GROVE MINER



The Grove Homeowners Association  
www.thegrovehoa.com

Volume 4, Issue 5  
October - November 2007

## Inside.....

President's message p. 2  
Grove contact info p. 2  
Welcome new neighbors p. 3  
Phonebooks p. 3  
Fall scrapbooking night p. 3  
GHOA elections p. 3  
Dead tree liability p. 4  
Covenant enforcement p. 5  
Trick or treat p.5  
Cell phone ban p. 5  
Kindergarten social recap p. 6  
Local happenings p. 6  
Candidate forums p. 6  
Mother load p. 6  
Political signs p. 6  
Low maintenance homes p. 7  
Mid-Lothian Mines p. 8  
Krim Point BBQ p. 8  
Chesterfield Chamber Run p. 9  
Neighborhood watch p. 10  
Litter p. 10  
Mailboxes (again) p. 10  
Fire Blight p. 11

### Please support our advertisers

Need to shop? p. 3  
Need home maintenance? p. 4  
Need remodeling? p. 5  
Need an electrician? p. 6  
Need drywall work? p. 7  
Need women's activities? p. 7  
Need stamp sets? p. 7  
Need custom embroidery p. 8  
Need a dentist? p. 9  
Need a Realtor? p. 9  
Need insurance? P. 9  
Need financial planning? p. 10  
Need a Realtor? P. 10  
Need a pet? p. 11  
Need insurance? p. 11  
Need a candidate? P. 12

## Coming Soon to a neighborhood very near you: "New Enchanting Entrances"



**Starring:**  
*2 new stone pillar signs at both  
Coalfield Rd. and N. Woolridge Rd. entrances.*

This is the beginning of many updates to occur on a long-term multi-year landscaping enhancement project throughout the Grove. In addition to the new signs this fall, we will have trees planted in the median of Grove Hill Rd. near the N. Woolridge Rd. entrance. Timmons Group was hired by the GHOA to offer a step-by-step improvement plan as funds allow. Stay tuned for the next stages of improvements to come.

## Grove Homeowners Association Elections

Board Applications Due Oct. 19  
Annual Meeting & Elections Nov. 8  
(see page 3 for more details)





## President's Message

It has been a busy two months since the last newsletter. I am happy to report that after much discussion the board has approved new entrance signs. We will keep the same Grove sign as we currently have at the N. Woolridge Road entrance, but replace the wooden post with a stone pillar so that the sign ties into the stone walls. An identical sign at the Coalfield Road entrance will also be installed. Some additional landscaping is planned for the N. Woolridge Road entrance and perhaps along N. Woolridge Road. Bids are being sought for other landscape improvements in the neighborhood, including the hillside behind Scotter Hills. In addition, we are obtaining quotes for installation of additional irrigation in areas of the Grove where we currently have none. Not all of this may be done, but we hope to at least have the ground work so improvements can continue to be made.

Enforcement of covenants and restrictions continues to be an issue. Recently, letters were issued regarding trash cans being stored in driveways. Article 9 of the Covenants and Restrictions, as well as Section 2.4 of the Architectural Guidelines require trash cans, when stored outdoors, to be screened from view of the street. We understand that some builders neglected to build an enclosure when homes were built. My own house is that way and I admit to having been an offender of this rule in the past. While this may not seem like that big of an issue, it does become an issue if the HOA enforces some restrictions but not others. The covenants and restrictions were put in place to try and ensure that we remain a first class neighborhood. We are simply trying to make sure it remains that way.

To that end, we are also looking at amending the architectural guidelines. We are hoping to clarify exactly what is expected and required. We are looking to specify exactly where structures may be located on the lots, better define what is, or is not, an acceptable level of deterioration of mailboxes, and what care and upkeep of landscaping is expected. We would welcome your input on these topics. Proposed changes will be posted to the website. Please e-mail the board with any proposals or comments. We look forward to your help in keeping the Grove a first class community for years to come.

**Ben Owings**

### Deadline for ads and submissions for the Dec. 07 - Jan.08 issue is Nov. 15

Submit all ads & articles to:

Mike Burnette, Editor

[newsletter@thegrovehoa.com](mailto:newsletter@thegrovehoa.com)

or 897.0377

Make Checks to: **Grove HOA** and mail to:  
13600 Grove Pond Dr., Midlothian, VA 23114

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

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.

## 2007 Board of Directors

[boardofdirectors@thegrovehoa.com](mailto:boardofdirectors@thegrovehoa.com)  
PO Box 72725, Richmond, VA 23235

### President

Ben Owings, 378.0067  
[president@thegrovehoa.com](mailto:president@thegrovehoa.com)

### Vice President

John Romano, 379.1238  
[vicepresident@thegrovehoa.com](mailto:vicepresident@thegrovehoa.com)

### Secretary

Gerry Mancuso, 897.0853  
[secretary@thegrovehoa.com](mailto:secretary@thegrovehoa.com)

### Treasurer

Jonathan Jackson, 794.7041  
[treasurer@thegrovehoa.com](mailto:treasurer@thegrovehoa.com)

### Operations

Byron Foutch, 794.3148  
[operations@thegrovehoa.com](mailto: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](mailto:mskellner@comcast.net)

### Grounds

Dick Woodruff, 897.0290  
[dicknpeg@verizon.net](mailto:dicknpeg@verizon.net)

### Clubhouse

Anne Counoupas, 423.6596  
Pam Connelly, 897.5469  
[clubhouse@thegrovehoa.com](mailto:clubhouse@thegrovehoa.com)

### Publicity

Mike Burnette, 897.0377  
[publicity@thegrovehoa.com](mailto:publicity@thegrovehoa.com)

### Pool

Gerry Mancuso, 897.0853  
[gerrybean1@msn.com](mailto:gerrybean1@msn.com)

### Social

OPEN (Please contact Board if interested)

### Covenant Enforcement

Now Forming! (see p. 5)



## WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

### Kingham

Lawrence & Nikole McWright

### Scotter Hills

Gratia Hamilton

### Krim Point

Jim & Eileen Nyholm

### Coalbrook

Jon & Cherri Freeman  
Robert & Rachel George  
Robert & Carol Kauffman  
Anthony & LaTonya Humphrey

### Hawkins Wood

James Carps & Karen Buck

Just moved in and not listed?

Email us at: [grovewelcome@comcast.net](mailto:grovewelcome@comcast.net)

*We want to welcome you with a Grove Gift Bag!*

## GROVE PHONEBOOK NOTICE!

### Good News/Bad News

The bad news is that there has been a delay in the production of the Grove Community Phonebook. The good news is that if you have just moved here this summer you can still get a listing in the Grove Phonebook!! Just email us your names, address, and phone number by **Oct 10th** to: [publicity@thegrovehoa.com](mailto:publicity@thegrovehoa.com).

## Fall Scrapbooking Night

When: Sunday, October 14th

Where: Grove Clubhouse

Time: 4:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Cost: Free

What to Bring: A snack to share and your current scrapbooking/stamping project!



We will provide drinks and work space!  
E-mail ([pamelaconnelly@verizon.net](mailto:pamelaconnelly@verizon.net) or [annealair@comcast.net](mailto:annealair@comcast.net)) to reserve a spot today - space filled on a first come basis!

## Grove Homeowners Association Elections

Now is the time for YOU to consider running for the Grove Homeowners Association's Board of Directors for a one year term.

Once elected, the board decides amongst themselves who will serve in each position (president, vice president, operations, secretary, and treasurer).

To get your board application form, contact the board (see page 2 for contact info) or simply email: [boardofdirectors@thegrovehoa.com](mailto:boardofdirectors@thegrovehoa.com)

Applications should be received by: **October 19**.

All homeowners will receive a ballot prior to elections.

The Annual Meeting and Elections will be held on **November 8** at the Grove Clubhouse.

If questions, please contact any member of the board.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Tea and Shopping"

**When:** Sunday, November 4

**Where:** The Grove Clubhouse

**Time:** 1:00 – 4:00

Join us for a *relaxing* Sunday afternoon, sip a cup of tea and find a few gifts for the holidays. Grab a cookie and visit friends from:

- Bella Petit
- Cindy's Scarves
- Close to My Heart
- Mary Kay
- Natures Creations
- Oodles of Doodles
- R-Ideas Jewelry
- Stampin' Up
- Tastefully Simple
- Usborne Books



Put your name in the teapot for a chance to win our **Grand Prize Basket!**



# One Big Reason to Remove those Dead Trees from Your Yard!

Sources: WashingtonPost.com and volokh.com

On Sept 14, 2007, the Virginia Supreme Court ruled that property owners who have trees on their property that cause damage to neighboring properties can now be liable.

Now, neighbors can sue to force a neighbor to cut trees, branches, or roots if they pose of risk of "actual harm" or "imminent danger".

In the past, most states used the "Massachusetts rule," which held that if a tree grew on your property but the branches hung into your neighbor's yard, that neighbor could cut them back as far as the property line. If the roots cracked the neighbor's patio or if the branches ripped their siding, it was their problem. And if the neighbors' pruning killed your tree, you could sue them for damages.

Virginia's 1939 previous law, which was overturned in September, said a landowner could sue a neighboring tree-owner only if the tree was "noxious" and caused "sensible injury." A big problem, however, was that no one ever defined a "noxious tree." You may remember during Hurricane Isabel, that most insurance companies paid for damage on your property even if it was caused by your neighbor's tree.

Don't let your dead trees or dangling limbs cause discord among you and your neighbor, please take steps to remove dead trees and keep trees trimmed to help protect your home and your neighbor's home and property.





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## Trick or Treating Oct. 31



Please keep your front porch light on if you choose to participate. It typically starts at dusk but note younger children may begin a little earlier while it is still daylight.

## Covenant Enforcement Committee

The new CEC will have its first meeting soon.

If you want to be a part, please contact Gerry Mancuso at [secretary@thegrovehoa.com](mailto:secretary@thegrovehoa.com) or 897.0853.



## No More Using Cell Phones for Drivers under Age 18

As of July 1, 2007, Virginia drivers younger than 18 years of age may not operate a motor vehicle in Virginia while using a cellular telephone or other wireless communications devices. The new law prohibits the use of cell phones, even if they are considered to be hands-free. It also prohibits text-messaging while driving.

Except in a driver emergency or when the vehicle is lawfully parked or stopped, drivers 18 years and younger may not use a cellular telephone or other wireless telecommunications device. All Virginia drivers under the age of 18 are issued provisional driver's licenses. A provisional license carries other limitations as well, such as restrictions on the number of passengers and driver curfews. The ban on cell-phone usage while driving is considered a secondary violation, similar in Virginia to safety belt laws.



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### Kindergarten Ice Cream Social

A big thanks to Angela Castillo,  
Shelley Neofotistos, Suzi Deas and Sarah Albro  
for planning and implementing this event!  
32 upcoming Grove kindergarteners attended!

## Revive a room. Add lighting.



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## Political Sign Reminder:

*With elections upon us again, please  
remember the Grove does not allow  
political signs in your yard. Thanks!*

### Local Happenings:

- Chesterfield Regional Air Show**  
Oct. 20-21, 743.0771 or [chesterfield.gov](http://chesterfield.gov)
- Midlothian Village Day Festival & Parade**  
Oct. 20, 10am-3pm, [www.parade.sojj.org](http://www.parade.sojj.org)
- Things That Go Bump in the Night**  
Oct. 26-27, 6-8pm, Henricus Historical Park  
706.1340
- The People of Pocahontas**  
Nov. 3, 12-5pm, Henricus Historical Park  
706.1340
- Magnolia Grange Christmas Open House**  
Dec. 1, 1-4pm, 777.9663, [chesterfieldhistory.com](http://chesterfieldhistory.com)
- Magnolia Grange Christmas Tea**  
Dec. 5, 2pm, 777.9663, [chesterfieldhistory.com](http://chesterfieldhistory.com)

## Midlothian Candidate Forums

All Midlothian voters are invited to attend two candidate forums. Candidates for School Board and Board of Supervisors will be attending both sessions.

- 1) Host: Salisbury Homeowners Association  
Date: October 1st, 7pm  
Location: Salisbury Presbyterian Church
- 2) Host: PTA County Council  
Date: November 1st, 7pm  
Location: Midlothian High School



## Mother Load !

A few months ago, you saw a picture of the big catch by Nick Porter.

Not to be outdone, Nick's mom Deb Porter reels in this 10 lb. - 30 inch catfish from the Grove's pond! Way to go mom!



— Editorial by Mike Burnette —

## Your home may now be asking, *“What have you done for me lately?”*

### A low-maintenance home does not mean no maintenance

Many of us moved to the Grove because it was a new and fresh subdivision, homes were low-maintenance, and it had covenants to maintain a well-kept community. Like me, you might have said to yourself, “ahhh a new home, I won't have to do a thing for 20 years”, right??

Though many of us still feel like we just moved into this 'brand new' subdivision, The Grove is now aging. Weeds are popping up in street cracks, mailboxes are leaning, shutters and doors on houses are beginning to fade.

The newer construction homes in Charter Colony north of Woolridge Rd. look like new toys to home buyers and in many cases they are purchasing them instead of ours.

Therefore, each resident must do their part to continually maintain and upgrade their property. The GHOA is doing its part to make sure common areas get attention such as adding new landscaping, enhancing our entrances, removing dead trees, adding or repairing mulch beds and grass areas, and exploring the installation of new sprinkler systems to keep trees and grass green.

The board is currently reviewing the architectural standards of the Grove and will make sure clearly defined standards are set and enforced. This is for the good of us all. Whether you plan to sell in a few years or plan to be here for 30 years, we ALL will benefit from a well maintained neighborhood.

So, fix that mailbox, seal that driveway, trim those hedges, fertilize and water the lawn, paint those porches, weed-wack those 'forests', power wash the vinyl siding and decks, paint those shutters & doors, and stain or clean the lattice work around your a/c units.

I know letters recently went out from the Board to about 4% of our neighborhood concerning your trash can screening. I am sure many of you said that you have had it that way for years. But, please remember, the Board has to start somewhere with covenant enforcement and this one was clearly defined in the book you received when you moved into your home.

I know that everyone's budgets are tight with these over inflated mortgage payments and just living our lives, but together we can fix up the little things in order to keep the Grove a first class community and maintain the value of our homes.

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to benefit charity on Nov. 28

For more information, please call  
Grove Resident  
Susan Austin 378.8004

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# US History: Just Next Door (*literally*)

Mid-Lothian Mines and Rail

from ChesterfieldTourism.com



The first commercially mined coal in America came from Midlothian, where it was discovered near the French Huguenot settlement on the James River about 1701. Although used locally for many years, it was first commercially mined in the 1730s. During the 18th century, "Mid-Lothian" coal was used to support the Revolutionary War in making American cannons at Westham.

Commercial mining in Chesterfield County did not expand until the 1800s due to competition from foreign mines and the reliance on wood for home heating. Thomas Jefferson, in his "Notes on Virginia," stated that the quality of coal in Chesterfield County was excellent. Eventually, mine workers settled in the vicinity of Midlothian, responding to the opportunity for employment in Chesterfield County's coal pits.

The earliest mining techniques involved digging open trenches or shallow pits. Later developments would involve digging well-like shafts 100 to 700 feet down to the coal seams, which averaged a thickness of 36 feet.

In 1835, the heirs of William Wooldridge chartered the Mid-Lothian Coal Mining Company. The company sank several 11-foot-wide shafts on its 404 acres of property, the deepest being 722 feet. Their investments included steam engines, stone buildings, railroads above as well as inside the mines and a coal yard. They employed 150 men and boys and expected them, with the aid of 25 mules, to raise one million bushels of coal per year.

In 1855, a serious explosion in the pump shaft killed 55 men. Another explosion on Feb. 3, 1882, took the lives of 32 day-shift miners in the Mid-Lothian Grove Shaft, leaving 109 fatherless children and 26 widows and mothers.

Coal mining in the Midlothian region declined after the Civil War due to a loss of slave labor as well as improved production in the Appalachian mountains. Most of the mines were abandoned in the 1920s. During the 1930s, the state allowed citizens to carry away free coal to heat their homes. The last mine operating in Chesterfield County was in Salisbury as late as November 1942.

Visit [chesterfieldtourism.com](http://chesterfieldtourism.com) for more Chesterfield history.

## ***Have your strolled Mid-Lothian Mines Park next door?***

*You can enter the trails either through the path at Scotter Hills or the path in Kingham. The Scotter Hills path also takes you to the tunnel under N. Woolridge Rd to the lake and paths across the street. Explore the paved and unpaved paths as well as the relics in the woods of our coalmine history.*



### **Krim Point Residents:**

The annual Krim Point Barbecue will be held at the Grove Clubhouse on Saturday, October 20, 2007, at 6:00 P.M. More detailed information will be delivered to your paper box. R.S.V.P. by October 15th to Linda at 897.0764.

## Bella Petit Custom Embroidery

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Grove Resident Since 2002



## Happy Thanksgiving

Take the time to  
be thankful for friends,  
family and the things that  
make life good

### 3rd Annual Chesterfield Chamber 5K Run/Walk

The Chesterfield County Chamber of Commerce and Village Bank are proud to present the annual Chesterfield Chamber 5K Run/Walk and Children's 1 Mile Run on Saturday, October 27. Proceeds will benefit the Chesterfield Police Foundation and the Chesterfield/Colonial Heights Crime Solvers.

To learn more, visit [www.chesterfieldchamber.com](http://www.chesterfieldchamber.com)



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## First Impressions Matter

In business or at a party, you always worry about making a positive first impression. Same should go with your gateway to your home. Your mail box is the first thing a person sees when pulling up to your house. Why not make it look like

the rest of your home! Please use gloss paints. Hunter green for the box and bright white for the post.



### Little known Litter Facts

VA spends \$25 million a year on litter cleanup

VA sees 16,000 pieces of litter each year on EACH mile of primary highway

One cubic foot of garbage is capable of generating 75,000 flies

Litter causes 2,500 accidents each year in VA

*Adopt-A-Spot program is similar to Adopt-A – Highway program but allows you to be in a more secure safer area than a highway such as a school, park, or parking lot. If interested, contact Chesterfield County at 748-1297 or cooperp@chesterfield.gov.*

Info from Chesterfield's Litter Program & image from VA DEQ

## 3rd Annual Neighborhood Watch Conference

**October 16th, 2007**

Chesterfield County has set the Neighborhood Watch Annual Chairmen's Conference for Tuesday, October 16th, 2007 from 6:00pm – 9:30pm. This year, the conference will again be held at Chesterfield County's Eanes-Pittman Public Safety Training Facility. October is National Crime Prevention Month. A variety of classes will be offered during the conference. If you are interested in attending call 674-7006 or email

[www.miltenbergerb@chesterfield.gov](mailto:www.miltenbergerb@chesterfield.gov). Remember space will be limited but you are encouraged you to bring a friend.

*If you have the passion to initiate the Grove Neighborhood Watch Program, you may want to attend this conference.*

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### **Fire Blight in Bradford and Cleveland Pear trees.** by Diana Garbera

This summer I noticed that one of my Bradford Pears had a lot of patches of brown leaves. I had it looked at by a couple of arborists and it turns out it is Fire Blight which is a bacterial disease that will eventually kill the tree if not treated. It is highly contagious and spreads to other pears and ornamentals via spores. It is prevalent in neighborhoods such as ours because builders have really over planted ornamental pears. On a recent walk through the neighborhood, I noticed a lot of other diseased pears in people's yards. So, take a look at your trees and begin the process of treatment since I was told that fall is the best time to cut away the diseased branches. See the linked article below for the very delicate process.

[www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/plantdiseases/450-610/450-610.html](http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/plantdiseases/450-610/450-610.html)

The required pruning is tedious and therefore expensive (if you can't do it yourself). After each cut, the tools must be wiped with alcohol so that the blight is not spread to the healthy parts of the tree. Once the diseased limbs are cut out of the tree, a preventive treatment is recommended in the spring, but the arborists say that there is no guarantee that it won't return particularly if there are other diseased trees nearby to spread their spores.



Hope this helps others!

*When you own a home...it's always something!*

**Exercise Democracy - Vote November 6th**

***Have you registered to vote?***

You can get a voter registration form at the library  
or download one at  
[www.sbe.virginia.gov](http://www.sbe.virginia.gov)

You must be registered within 29 days of the election.

**Want to stay informed, but can't make  
the Grove HOA Board Meetings??**

Review the minutes on our website at  
[www.thegrovehoa.com](http://www.thegrovehoa.com)

Click on 'hoa' then 'meeting minutes'



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# Attention Grove Neighbors

This election day, November 6<sup>th</sup>, we have the opportunity to elect one of our own Grove residents to the Chesterfield County School Board for the Midlothian District.

**Eric Finkbeiner** and his family have lived in *The Grove* since 2002. Eric and Michelle are both graduates of Chesterfield County Schools. Their son, Jack is a 2<sup>nd</sup> Grader at JB Watkins and their daughter, Megan, just started 6<sup>th</sup> Grade at Midlothian Middle.



Eric served for two years on *The Grove* Homeowners Association Board, he's been active at the Watkins PTA and just recently was appointed by the Virginia legislature to the Joint Commission on Open Education Resources – addressing ways to bring new technological innovations to our children's schools.

You can visit Eric's website to find out more information about his background and his ideas to improve our schools in Midlothian.

This election year only has local races on the ballot, so every vote will count – we have several hundred voters right here in *The Grove* that can put Eric over the top.

**Please make sure you are registered to vote and then go out  
and vote for Eric on election day!**

If you'd like to volunteer to work the polls, make phone calls or hand out literature, please contact Rachel Rysedorph at 897-8769 or [troyandrachel@rysedorph.com](mailto:troyandrachel@rysedorph.com).

For The Future Of Chesterfield's Children



Paid for and authorized by Finkbeiner for School Board