



# The Grove Miner



The Grove Homeowners Association  
www.TheGroveHOA.com

Volume 5, Issue 5  
October-November 2008

## Le Tour de WEB

www.TheGroveHOA.com



(see pages 8-9 for instructions and details on our new website!)

### It's your turn to serve on the Grove HOA!

Every year the entire board is up for re-election. If you would like to be nominated for the board, then please contact ACS West or a current board member so that your name can be placed on the ballot.

Nominations need to be received by October 10th to be included on the ballot that will be sent out the with the annual meeting notice.

Nominations from the floor are also accepted at the meeting.

Is this the year you get involved with the Grove?? We hope so!

### Grove HOA Elections & Annual Meeting

November 13, 2008  
6:30 PM  
Grove Clubhouse

*Please plan now to attend!*

Later in October, you will receive a ballot and information for this meeting.

**If you cannot attend,  
please return your proxy!**

**Just Say No  
to door-to-door sales**  
(see page 12)

### Sign up for News & Alerts

and website  
passwords  
at our  
new site!



[www.TheGroveHOA.com](http://www.TheGroveHOA.com)

### Grove Yard Sales



October 4th, 8am-Noon  
(rain date Oct. 11)

The Grove HOA will advertise and post signs at the entrances. You can put up signs to your home, but please remove them promptly afterwards.

## **President's Report**

**John Romano**



The election for the next Grove HOA Board of Directors will take place on Thursday, November 13. I encourage you to run for the board if you want a challenge and would like to participate in the decisions which affect The Grove. In the past few years, we have had six or fewer candidates run for the five open slots each year. (The specific positions are determined amongst the new board once elected.) There are also a number of committees on which you can serve.

If you cannot devote your time to any of the above opportunities, please at least take the time to vote for a candidate you feel will best serve our community.

I want to welcome Mrs. Marina Leneave of Kingham who volunteered to chair the Neighborhood Watch Program. She will need volunteers from each of the sections to act as area representatives. Please call her at 897.4627 if you are interested in this program.

## **Grove Homeowners Meetings:**

**Second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm**

unless otherwise posted at the entrances and/or on our website.

THE GHOA, THE GROVE MINER, & EDITOR ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY TYPES OR OMISSIONS, NOR DO WE NECESSARILY ENDORSE THE PRODUCTS, PEOPLE, ISSUES, AND/OR SERVICES OFFERED IN THE NEWSLETTER OR WEBSITE THROUGH ARTICLES, PAID ADS, OR FREE CLASSIFIEDS.

**For assessments, disclosure books, violations, board election information, contact:**

Robert Small (Grove Manager) , ACS West  
PO Box 11361, Richmond, VA 23230  
804.282.7451 804.282.9590 Fax robert@acswest.org

**Ads and submissions for the  
Dec-Jan. issue are due Nov. 15**

Submit all ads & articles to:  
Mike Burnette, Editor  
**newsletter@thegrovehoa.com**  
or call 804.897.0377

Make Checks to: **Grove HOA** and mail to:  
13600 Grove Pond Dr., Midlothian, VA 23114  
(note this address is for newsletter only)



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

### **RATES:**

Bus. Card size - \$25  
Quarter page - \$40  
Half page - \$70  
Full page - \$130  
Back cover - \$155

Advertiser provided insert  
\$100

10% off for 6 issues prepaid.  
(non-profits get 50% off  
if space permits)

Ad design: \$35+ if needed.

See website for more details

Want to place a free neighbor to neighbor classified ad? Email it to newsletter@thegrovehoa.com or post it on the website under "discuss a topic" at **www.thegrovehoa.com**.

**2008 Board of Directors**  
**boardofdirectors@thegrovehoa.com**

### **President**

John Romano, 379.1238  
president@thegrovehoa.com

### **Vice President**

Ben Owings, 378.0067  
vicepresident@thegrovehoa.com

### **Secretary**

Gerry Mancuso, 897.0853  
secretary@thegrovehoa.com

### **Treasurer**

Kathy Toburen, 378.9142  
treasurer@thegrovehoa.com

### **Operations**

Frank DiPofi, 897.3916  
operations@thegrovehoa.com

### **Scotter Hills/Ridgemoor Manager**

Tracey Talbert, 273.1333  
Stellar Community Management

### **2008 GHOA Committee Chairs**

#### **Architectural Modifications**

Steve Kellner, 594.2340  
mskellner@comcast.net

#### **Clubhouse**

Debbie Goldberg, 794.3294  
clubhouse@thegrovehoa.com

#### **Publicity & Newsletter**

Mike Burnette, 897.0377  
newsletter@thegrovehoa.com

#### **Pool**

Gerry Mancuso, 897.0853  
secretary@thegrovehoa.com

#### **Grounds**

Susan Kiger, 794.3954  
kiger2obx@verizon.net

#### **Social**

Michelle Quiram 379.2325  
Julie Smith 379.3886  
socials@thegrovehoa.com

#### **Neighborhood Watch**

Marina Leneave, 897.4627

*Check out the Grove website for volunteer opportunities. It won't hurt, we promise!*

# Things Happening in the Grove

## Tacky Light Tour Dec 19



(see page 15 for RSVP and details)



## Halloween Parade

October 25 (Saturday) - The social committee will host a neighborhood Halloween parade for the kids. Meet at the clubhouse at 11am. We'll parade around the pond and pass out treats at the end. No need to RSVP, just show up!

## 5th Annual Coalbrook Crawl

**On Saturday, December 13th, at 6:00pm,** Coalbrook residents will meet at the first Coalbrook host house to eat, drink and be merry for 40 minutes, then move on to the next host house for 40 minutes, and so on. It's a great way for the adults to celebrate the holiday season with neighbors!

Volunteer to be a host house by opening your home and providing beverages and hors d'oeuvres for 40 minutes to your Coalbrook neighbors or HELP a host house out by providing beverages or food! Call to RSVP or Host:

Lisa Kopecko 357.1769 or

Maggie Lewis 378-9697

### Krim Point Residents:

The Annual Krim Point Barbecue is scheduled at the Grove Clubhouse on Saturday, October 18, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. R.S.V.P. by October 9th to Linda Hartz, 897.0764.

### Krim Point Homeowners:

The Annual Meeting of the Krim Point Homeowners' Association and election of the 2009 Krim Point Board will follow the barbecue.

## Scotter Hills/ Ridgemoor Annual Meeting

Oct 28 - 7pm at the Grove Clubhouse



## A Holiday Affair

WHAT MORE COULD YOU WANT...

MAKE-UP, JEWELRY, HAND BAGS,  
AND CUSTOM EMBROIDERED ITEMS OF ALL KINDS,  
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MARY KAY, PRETTY LITTLE THING JEWELRY,  
BEIJO BAGS, AND BELLA PETIT EMBROIDERY.

*Drop by the Open House on Sat., Nov. 1st  
Between 10am & 4pm.*

*At 1107 Hawkins Wood Circle  
Midlothian, 23114*

794-5219 KREAMS@MARYKAY.COM

*Refreshments will be Served and Door Prizes Awarded*



## SAVE THE DATE

**What:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tea & Shopping Event

**Where:** The Grove Clubhouse

**When:** SUNDAY – NOV 2

**Time:** 1 – 4

**Who:** EVERYONE IS INVITED



**Vendors:** Bella Petit, Cindy's Scarves, Mary Kay, Natures Creations, R-Ideas Jewelry, Stampin' Up and more... **Drop your name in our teapot for a chance to win the Grand Prize Basket!**



## Fall Scrapbooking Night



Sunday, October 5  
3:30-9:30 pm, at the clubhouse.

Bring a snack to share, Drinks provided.

Please RSVP by 10/4 to [pamelacconelly@verizon.net](mailto:pamelacconelly@verizon.net).



ACS WEST, INC  
P.O. Box 11361, Richmond, VA 23230  
(804) 282-7451



### *Message from our Manager, Robert Small*

November is election month. Not just for the nation, but also for the Grove HOA. The Grove's annual meeting will be held at 6:30pm on November 13, 2008 at the clubhouse. Mark your calendar and be sure to attend this important meeting. At the annual meeting, the association will be electing five people to the board of directors. Every year the entire board is up for re-election. If you would like to be nominated for the board, then you need to contact me or a current board member so that your name can be put on the ballot. Board members are responsible for meeting once per month to handle the affairs of the association. Some of the decisions that the board makes include setting the annual dues, choosing contractors, imposing penalties for violations and anticipating future expenses. The board is currently working on the Reserve Study. This is a comprehensive study of all of the association's assets and amenities. The study is designed to project the amount of money needed to be deposited annually in your association's reserve account.

In addition to a board of directors, the association needs committee volunteers. The following is a list of committees that we need volunteers for: grounds, pool, social, welcome, publicity, crime watch, and other positions. *(Check out the website and click on volunteer on the bottom right side of the page.)* We are looking for people interested in volunteering just a couple of hours per month. These committee volunteers do not have to attend meetings, but we do ask that they stay connected through e-mail or phone calls. Volunteers are the driving force behind every association and associations are only as good as their volunteers. I hope to see everyone at the annual meeting.

Thanks to all of the owners who took the time to repair their mailboxes. Over 200 owners painted, repaired, or replaced their mailboxes and posts. The Board appreciates your cooperation. The next round of inspections are coming. This time we will be checking for peeling paint, faded shutters, piles of yard waste and trashcans that are not in enclosures. Please take some time to inspect your home. There is not a lot of paint on the homes in the Grove, however we did see paint peeling on front steps and on some shutters. The shutters are all vinyl and should either be replaced or painted when they show signs of fading. Yard waste should not be piled on your property. Most of the trash contractors in The Grove will pick up yard waste if it is bagged. Please make an effort to remove all yard waste from your property. Finally, trash, garbage and other waste shall be kept in sanitary containers located and screened so as to be concealed from view of the neighboring lots and the street. Thanks for your cooperation in complying with the governing documents.

**Robert Small, CMCA®, AMS® 282-7451**

## **GROVE RESIDENTS FREE NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR CLASSIFIEDS**

**LIVE TROPICAL PLANTS:** 10 ft. tall Norfolk pines, Lrg. Asparagus fern, several lrg. schefflera plants. \$15 each. Call Susan Austin, 378-8004.

**LOST CAT NAMED HARLEY:** Calico cat (orange/black and white belly) Fluffy, but thin 7-8 pound cat. Very shy indoor cat that got out. She has an Avid Chip. VERY MISSED BY THE FAMILY. Missing: since 9-3-08 from 807 Biggin Pond Road. If you see her, please hold her and call us. 893-3313, 412-915-9482.



**Wanted: Double Umbrella Stroller** (side by side), in good condition. Call Pam: 897-5469.



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Website: johnbaughnrealtor.com



## WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

### Scotter Hills

Kyong Soon Kang  
539 Lawford Lane

### Coalbrook

Steven & Karen Bazemore  
907 Roll Drive

Jong & Mi Ok Choi  
949 Roll Drive

Benjamin & Elizabeth Van Tassel  
13619 Grove Pond Drive

### Krim Point

Nancy Ring  
901 Krim Point Lane

### Biggin Pond

Cinda McHewitt  
918 Biggin Pond Road

Just moved in and not listed?  
***We want to welcome you with a Grove Gift Bag!***

Email us at: [grovewelcome@thegrovehoa.com](mailto:grovewelcome@thegrovehoa.com)  
Call Lisa Harp 379-3910 or  
Judi Ryan-Phillips 379-1066.

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**Thomas Olivero, D.D.S.**

112 Walton Park Lane

**804.794.2802**



**Editor's Note:** The YMCA has vowed to be a good neighbor to the Grove and notify us when outdoor events are occurring. This event below will occur on October 12th on the soccer fields, but the music will face away from the Grove and will conclude by 5pm. Please check the Grove website for additional updates as we receive them.

## FREE Family Concert

**Sunday, October 12 from 2-5PM**  
**@ Midlothian Family YMCA**  
 737 Coalfield Rd. Midlothian, VA 23114 • 804-379-5668



**GAMES & FUN**



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**Midlothian Family YMCA**

## Kindergarten Ice Cream Social

Approximately 45 children attended. Thanks to Kristen Holland, the Cox Family (Liza, Preston and Lily) and Diane Ruotolo for their help with this event.



## Labor Day Picnic



Approximately 200 people attended. We enjoyed BBQ sandwiches, hot dogs and many yummy side dishes and desserts that families brought to share. Thanks to Michelle Quiram, Gerry & Mike Mancuso, Pam Connelly, Kathy & Mike Toburen, and Juliane Steenkamer for helping make this event



## 25<sup>th</sup> Annual National Night Out

35 families (125+ people) participated in National Night Out.



PS: Food Donations went to Central VA Food Bank. Thank you!





Yes, finally the new website has launched!!! The team of Mike Soden and Mike Burnette has spent months of volunteer hours building our new site. A special thanks also to board member Frank Dipofi for compiling many hours of documents for this site too. The new site is built on the Plone-Content Management System platform allowing for easy management of our site. We have tried to gather all the information you may need as a homeowner from contact numbers to plat maps. We still have more features to add and more tweaks to make, but check it out and explore all the site has to offer! **Here's a quick tour:**

Contact Numbers for Grove Mgmt. Co., Board and committee members, Krim Point and Scotter Hills/Ridgemoor association contacts and more!

Information about the Grove, a map, volunteer opportunities, and community links.

Information about pool passes, pool hours, pool rules, and pool registration form.

Probably the nicest new feature of the site. This is where you can sign up for Grove email news and alerts. This is where you also sign up to get your NEW user id/password for the website's Discuss-A-Topic forum and also to book the clubhouse online. A volunteer confirms your residency in the Grove and then sends you an email within a day or two.

This is where you will find general news and information about the Grove. We will try not to abuse the email alert system. So check out this area for ongoing news.

This is the neighborhood watch section. We will post information here as well as send it out through the alert email system. If you need an urgent watch posted email both [webmaster@thegrovehoa.com](mailto:webmaster@thegrovehoa.com) and [newsletter@thegrovehoa.com](mailto:newsletter@thegrovehoa.com) and we'll try to get it posted as soon as we can. Please remember this entire site is run by volunteers, not paid staff!

This area is for local news RSS feeds. This allows you to get a glance of local news and will be good for those moving to Midlothian to check out the flavor of the area.

This will give you a quick glance at the most recent postings on the Discuss-A-Topic forum.

Grove volunteer opportunities will be posted here. Some are ongoing and some are one-time events. Check it often to help out!

The screenshot shows the homepage of the The Grove HOA website. The header includes a navigation bar with links: Home, Contact Us, Our Community, Pool, Clubhouse, Covenants & Bylaws, Events, Newsletter, Discuss a Topic, and Log in. Below the navigation bar is a large banner image of a park with a pond and a tree. The main content area is titled 'Welcome to The Grove, Midlothian, VA' and features a large image of a stone pillar with the Grove logo. To the left of the main content is a sidebar with sections: News and Alerts, News, Neighborhood Watch, LOST CAT, Chesterfield Observer, Legals, Businesses are going to the dogs, County watches revenue carefully, Breaking bread, and Comprehensive plan for county is moving forward. To the right of the main content is another sidebar with sections: Search, Upcoming Events, Recent messages, Volunteer, and Join the Community. The footer includes copyright information and design credits.

Here is where you log in to the site once you have received your new password. Go to the left side of the page and sign up in order to get your ID & password information.

This Discussion Board is run much differently than our last site. Everyone needs a user ID and password in order to post. As many of you know, we had a tremendous amount of vulgar spam on our last site due to the lack of password security. We do not want outsiders invading our site again! Note: when you do post, everyone's name will show as 'resident'. So, we ask that you please put your name with your post. If you can't use your name with the words you use on the post, then please don't post it. There will be volunteer moderators to still check the site, but remember this isn't a pre-approval post process. Check out the forums or start a new one yourself!

The current issue of the newsletter and all the past issues are here! You also can get advertising information and newsletter contact information.

Here you can find all the upcoming events in the Grove. Have an event to post? Send it to us!

This is probably the most in-depth section. You will find extensive information on all the covenants, bylaws, articles of incorporation, architectural design standards and all the plat maps. Architectural review information and modification forms can also be found here.

Clubhouse reservations can be taken online. You just use your new web-site user ID and password and enter your information. A volunteer will respond to confirm your online reservation. Clubhouse rates and rules are also here.

Enjoy the new site and please email us if you have questions or have suggestions. We hope this site will be your one-stop shopping for Grove news and information.

You can contact us:  
Mike Burnette, 897.0377, [newsletter@thegrovehoa.com](mailto:newsletter@thegrovehoa.com) or  
Mike Soden, [webmaster@thegrovehoa.com](mailto:webmaster@thegrovehoa.com).

Happy Surfing !





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## NEIGHBORHOOD FUN THIS SUMMER

The Reams family in Hawkins Wood had a Backyard Bible Club at their home the week of July 28-Aug. 1, put on through [www.relaxedchurch.com](http://www.relaxedchurch.com). Invites were sent out and they averaged 13-14 kids every day of the week. The focus was God's Big Backyard and included singing, backyard games, and messy games day (which involved an egg toss, a slime pool, applesauce Twister and water balloon toss). That was probably the highlight of the week!

The older children took on the fun game of “Ring & Run” which included decorating lunch bags, filling them with candy and a nice saying and ringing the neighbors' doorbells, leaving the bag, and running. Lots of fun! The younger group made their own bags and took them home to “Ring & Run” with their parents.

The service project for the week was collecting food for the Central VA Food Bank. One of the children attending, Stephen Tignor, along with his mother, took it upon themselves to make more fliers and pass them throughout the whole Grove. You probably received one. Thanks to these children and their willingness to help. They collected bags and bags of food for the Food Bank (even boxes of Girl Scout cookies!), which is in dire need during the summer months to keep the pantries full.

After eating a picnic in the front yard., they ended the week by making ice cream. With a partner, they tossed the cream in bags filled with rock salt and ice. Once the cream was made, yummy sundaes were made, followed by a Silly String war. Thanks for all who came, helped pass out fliers, supplied food, etc. They believe all enjoyed this week of fun and service. – *By Karen Reams*



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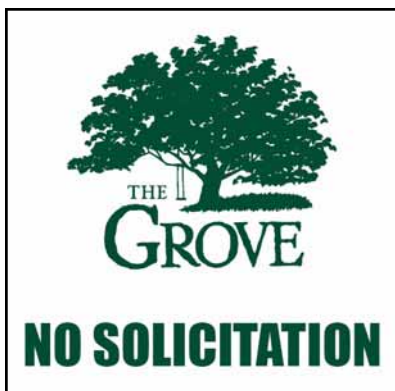
## When Solicitors Come Knocking.....

In response to what seems to be another recent rash of door-to-door solicitations, The Grove is re-issuing the No-Solicitation Stickers. Why do you need them? Despite the fact that our neighborhood entrances have no-solicitation signs, these are not enforceable under Chesterfield County Law. According to Sec. 15-164 of the code, you must have the sign on your individual residence, then it is very enforceable. The stickers are completely optional but are provided as a tool to help you protect your safety and potentially your wallet! If you have the sticker on your house and a solicitor knocks, please tell them 'no thank you' and call the non-emergency number of the Chesterfield Police Department, **748-1251**. Please note that this is not intended for Grove kids selling for school or a club as non-profits, political campaigns and churches are exempt from this Chesterfield statute. However, if you ask them to leave, they must.

Recently, an out-of-state home alarm company came through Krim Point. Several bought the product and hopefully they will get years of honest service. This example however raises attention to many factors. One, what if this company had been thieves just probing to see if you had an alarm? When you said no, they would come back later and rob your home. It has happened! In this case, this was a real company, but their sales tactics were less than credible and they had no Richmond office. They also knocked on homes that had 'no solicitation' stickers posted. They specifically said it didn't apply to them, because they were giving away free alarms. You just had to sign a multi-year contract at \$10 per week for the monitoring service. That is sales! I use this example to show you why the stickers are important. If just one person would have called the police, we could have had them arrested for violating the no-solicitation posting. But, no one called. Many turned them away, but no one called. Please help everyone, by putting the sticker on your door and calling the police the next time someone comes knocking! Or at the very least, don't let them pitch you!

We recently contacted a reputable alarm company, Brink's Home Security. We asked Ronald Jones (a 10th level honor consultant—Lic# DCJS11-1964) to give us some tips on door-to-door sales in general and in particular home alarm systems. He said the first thing you should always do is ask for their DCJS (Dept. of Criminal Justice Services) ID card. This is a state issued card with their photo, information, and VA state seal. The card verifies that the solicitor has had a criminal background check, fingerprints recorded, a drug test, and has continuing education classes every 2 years and is re-registered every 2 years. Everyone who sells home security must carry this card according to Jones. If you choose to entertain a salesperson's knock, then Jones says to never fall for a "once in a lifetime" urgent sale only available while they are there.

*In response to our request, Ronald Jones is offering a special deal for the first two weeks in October just for Grove residents. You can call him at 387-7346. This is not an endorsement of his services. You of course, need to ask him the same hard questions you would ask anyone else! His consultation is free, the hardware is free, but he doesn't hide the fact that there is a \$29.95 per month monitoring charge.*



You should have received this sticker with this newsletter, if you did not get one, contact [newsletter@thegrovehoa.com](mailto:newsletter@thegrovehoa.com) or 897.0377 to arrange to pick up one.



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## Goose and Duck Management

Ducks and geese are vegetarian grazers preferring short grasslands; sprouting seeds and mown lawns are their perfect habitat. These birds become a problem when they congregate in large numbers in areas people frequent. Their feces are unsightly and can contribute to high bacteria levels in the water. Geese can also become aggressive if they are used to being fed by people. Feeding makes them more prone to approach people, and try to steal food, bait, or other objects they mistake for food. While they aren't exactly well-equipped for a fight, their hissing and pecking can certainly ruin a trip to the park, and can frighten children. Bread, cereal, potato chips and hot dogs are also not natural foods for these birds, and can make them ill or cause malnutrition. For the protection of ducks and geese please do not feed wildlife in The Grove.



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## Signs in Grove

No signs are allowed in your yard except for one "For-Sale" sign in your front yard. Directional 'For Sale' (open house) signs are only allowed on weekends. Political signs, contractor signs, etc. are prohibited. Any questions, call ACS West.

Many have asked for political signs to be an exception. This would require a majority vote of the entire neighborhood.

Vote for  
*Barack  
McCain  
&  
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# Tacky Light Tour

December 19, 2008

7:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Throughout the Richmond area, during the holiday season, you can see a steady stream of cars each night roaming various neighborhoods. Why? Richmonders have been known to really get into the Christmas Spirit by putting up all kinds of lights and decorations. Equally impressive are the lights in downtown Richmond.

The GHOA is coordinating a bus trip to view these wonders. The cost to participate is \$10 per person. **ADULTS ONLY** Please return the form below WITH PAYMENT to reserve your seat. Pick up and drop off from the clubhouse. Space is limited. BYOB & snacks for the trip!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email address for confirmation: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed (\$10pp)  
cash/check payable GHOA

Return to:

Gerry Mancuso

13725 Grove Pond Drive

by Oct. 15, 2008





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