



The Grove Miner



The Grove Homeowners Association
www.TheGroveHOA.com

Volume 6, Issue 2
April - May 2009



Celebrating 10 Years 1999-2009

10 YEARS OF THE GROVE By Karen Reams

Our family put a contract down on our house in Hawkins Wood in January 1999, a month after our twins were born. We never could have imagined the growth that has taken place surrounding the Grove since we moved here 10 years ago. Rt. 288 did not exist. Our 23114 zip code didn't even exist and most of the roads and homes in the neighborhood had not yet been built. We were "living in the woods".

The homes of The Grove fit our needs because we wanted a larger house for our growing family. We also liked that, though a little further out it was still a close enough daily commute for my husband. Another bonus was that the schools were rated #1 in at the time.



Looking at the Reams lot toward Gravity Hill

At the time we were planning our move to this community, I was also providing daycare for the Jarratts. They were living in Bon Air at the time and also wanted to move farther out in Chesterfield County. After they did their own housing search, they followed right behind us and built their home in Biggin Pond a month after we did.



Hilltop of Hawkins Woods where the Scotts house stands.

"It was May of 1999 and our new house was just completed," said Donna Jarratt. "When we moved into our new home in Biggin Pond, it was just our family and no one else. It was like living in the country in the city. The streets in our section were unpaved, there were no street lights, and all we could see around us were lots of trees. Also at that time, Grove Hill Road ended at the clubhouse and beyond that was just woods and no Woolridge Road (it was not built until 2003). In other sections of the Grove (Hawkins Wood and Gravity Hill), there were only three other families besides ours, the Hyatts, the Reams and the Colemans. That

(continued on page 11)

President's Report

Ben Owings



Welcome, spring! Hopefully we have all made it through the Winter and the late surprise snow, unscathed.

We are in the process of completing upgrades to the neighborhood irrigation. We should now have the grass green around the entire pond area and several other problem areas in the neighborhood. We will re-evaluate the situation later in the summer and see if any additions are needed. With the addition of the new irrigation system, we hope to do some landscaping. Any ideas or suggestions would be welcomed.

With spring's arrival, it is also time to get out and look at the condition of our properties. Mailboxes and shutters tend to fade with time, so take a look and see if a little touch up is in order. ACS West will be coming around in the next few weeks and those are some of the items they will be looking at on their tour of The Grove.

Also, we have had several complaints regarding kids riding ATVs and dirt bikes on the roads, paths and common areas of the neighborhood. This is both a safety issue and a property damage issue. If you see this, please call the county police. The HOA can do nothing about riding on the roads.

Some of you have not paid your HOA dues yet. We understand that everyone is struggling right now. We can work with you but you must contact ACS West to work out a payment plan.

Have a safe and happy spring!

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Ads and submissions for the June-July issue are due May 15

Submit all ads and 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)



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Advertiser provided insert
\$75 (800 copies needed)

10% off for 6 issues prepaid.

(non-profits get 50% off
if space permits)

Ad design: \$35+ if needed.

See website for more details

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Marina Leneave, 897.4627

Check out www.thegrovehoa.com

News from The Grove HOA

The Grove HOA Meetings

April's meeting will be on April 2

May's meeting will be on May 14

Normally meetings are on the Second Thursday of each month at 6:30pm at the Grove Clubhouse unless otherwise posted at the entrances and/or website.

The Grove Yard Sale April 25



April 25 is the next Grove community wide yard sale. The hours are 8am-noon which means early birds will show up as early as 6:30am. Seriously! So get your stuff ready! The Grove HOA will advertise in the newspaper and at the entrances. You just put up directional signs to your house from Grove Hill Road. (Please remember to remove your signs promptly.) RAIN DATE is May 2.

If you have things left over after the yard sale, consider dropping them off at Thrifty Quaker, 13567 Midlothian Turnpike, near Little Caesars and Hancock Fabrics.
www.thriftyquaker.com

The Grove Phone Books

The Grove phone book's information had some submission problems between vendors and some information may have been lost. Therefore, we want to make sure everyone is included in the phonebook. Everyone will be listed with the information on file at ACS West. If you **DO NOT** want included or you know your information on file is wrong, please email the board by April 6 at boardofdirectors@lists.thegrovehoa.com or call Gerry Mancuso, VP.

Once printed, will you volunteer to help deliver these books? This is a one time project. If so, please contact Susan Austin at 378.8004 or susanh1225@hotmail.com.

The Grove publicity also has other opportunities to help. Email newsletter@thegrovehoa.com for more information.



May is the official USPS Mailbox Improvement Month

.....But don't wait that long!

Below are two residents of The Grove willing to help you now.

Dale Murphy (Biggin Pond Resident) offers repair, painting or vinyl replacement. Price is based on the custom services needed.
405.1023.

John Romano (Hawkins Wood Resident) offers replacing wood to vinyl for \$135.
379.1238.

Need a new green mailbox? Search for item # E1600G00 at www.homedepot.com. They are not available at Home Depot stores. The price is \$20 plus tax/shipping.

Need new numbers? The original installer is Ray Hite at Olde Towne Construction. They have the replacement house numbers if you cannot find them locally. 434.480.9986.

The Grove-Wide Neighborhood Watch

Marina Leneave is compiling information on both minor and major incidents within The Grove. This will help police see patterns for possible prosecution. If you have vandalism, theft or damaging pranks done to your property, contact Marina at 897.4627 with details on the incidents.

Everyone Poops!

Now that spring is upon us, the dogs and geese will once again be littering the trails with their 'poop'! Please do your part and clean up after your pet. The Grove HOA is working on services to help control the goose population.

Soon they will be a knocking!

Door to door salesman will soon be out-and-about again now that the weather is warmer.

For many reasons, you should not respond to someone who comes to your door. Fake charities, business scammers and preying thieves all will attempt to sell you something or rip you off.



Just say NO! Use your Grove no solicitation sticker to ward them off! Don't have a sticker? Call 897.0377 or email newsletter@thegrovehoa.com for a replacement. If you have a sticker on your door and they still knock or ring your bell, they have broken the law. PLEASE call the Chesterfield police non-emergency number at **748.1251** to have an officer deal with the situation. Don't assume your neighbor will call. The more calls they receive, the faster they will escalate their response.

Emily Jones Casey Fundraiser May 16th, 2009

5K, kids run, carnival and bands

Register at: www.ejc5k.com

The Midlothian Community is having a 5K fundraiser to benefit Emily Jones Casey, a former Midlothian High School student, who recently has been treated for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. Emily was denied health insurance at the time of her diagnosis. She owes over \$150,000 in medical bills. Emily attended JB Watkins, Midlothian Middle and Midlothian High. Emily Jones married her Midlothian HS sweetheart Jimmy Casey, who is currently in his second year of medical school at the University of Virginia. Her whole family has lived in Midlothian for a long time, contributing to Midlothian through the volunteer coalition and many other groups for decades. Much of what we enjoy about Midlothian can be traced back to their efforts. Sycamore Woman's Club, Winfree Memorial Baptist Church. Midlothian Ruritans and the faculty and students at Midlothian High School are contributing in many ways to help make this fundraiser a success.

On Saturday, May 16, Midlothian High School will host a combination 5K run/walk, kid run, carnival and band

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

Redouane Goulmamine

513 Heth Court

Damon & Deanne Watson

13613 Grove Pond Drive

Just moved in and not listed?
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Or call Lisa Harp 379.3910 or
Judi Ryan-Phillips 379.1066.

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**Sign up for Grove emails at
www.thegrovehoa.com**

(only 146 of you have signed up, so please take a minute so you don't miss important information)

festival, which will have a "fun field day" atmosphere. This is also a great opportunity to bring together our schools and community. Please join in for a day of celebration of Emily and our community of Midlothian. Go to www.ejc5k.com to register early for the run/walk for \$20 or \$25 after May 10, which includes admission to the carnival and bandfest. Admission to the carnival/ bandfest only is \$10.

It is our community's turn to give back to the family that gives so much to Midlothian.

Help Local Schools for Free

In these trying economic times, our local schools need our help more than ever. Even if you don't have kids in school, here are free ways to help out.



Box Tops for Education

See boxtops4education.com for products.



Cartridges for Kids

toner & ink cartridges & old cell phones



Aluminum cans and newspapers



Campbell's Soup Labels

This is just a partial list from JB Watkins Elementary. In a future issue, we will have more opportunities to donate and volunteer to all of the public schools which serve The Grove. You may drop off the first four items listed above to the school office or at 13600 Grove Pond Dr. (Mrs. Burnette's house). The cans and papers can be dropped on the left side of the school outside in the properly marked receptacles.

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2009 Pool Pass Validation Times

Location: The Grove Clubhouse

POOL PASS VALIDATION DATES

Sat. 5/16 10am-noon, Tues. 5/19 7-9 pm,

Thurs. 5/21 7-9 pm, Wed. 5/27 7-9 pm, & Mon. 6/1 7-9 pm



This year ALL residents will need to sign a new waiver form. This is in addition to the registration form you may or may not already have on file.

Bring your passes to be validated.

You must be a resident in good standing, so be sure you have paid your HOA dues, fines and/or late fees.

If you are a NEW HOMEOWNER...

You will need to fill out the registration form and the waiver. Please bring a copy of your closing statement and **PHOTO ID**. Go to www.thegrovehoa.com to download registration form.

If you are a NEW RENTER...

You will need to fill out the registration form and the waiver. Please bring a copy of your lease and **PHOTO ID**. In addition, HOA dues need to be up to date. Please check with your landlord to make sure they have been paid prior to your arrival. Go to www.thegrovehoa.com to download registration form.

If you are a RETURNING GROVE RESIDENT,

You do need to sign the new waiver form but you DO NOT need to fill out a new registration form (unless your information on file has changed), but please make sure telephone numbers and family member names on file are current. If not, please fill out a new form. **Bring your passes to be validated. If you have lost your passes, you will need to pay \$2 per pass to replace them. Please checks payable to GHOA as no cash will be accepted.**



2009 Pool Hours

May 23, 2009 to June 13, 2009

Sunday through Thursday 2pm to 7pm (due to limited staff)

Friday and Saturday 10am to 9pm

Memorial Day 10am to 8pm

June 15, 2009 to August 15, 2009

Sunday through Thursday 10am to 8pm

Friday and Saturday 10am to 9pm

Fourth of July 10am to 9pm

August 16, 2009 to September 7, 2009

Everyday (including Labor Day) 10am-8pm

VOLUNTEERS ARE ESSENTIAL to having a smooth validation process. Please give back to the community by signing up for a shift. Email mancusox@yahoo.com to volunteer. Please consider volunteering for the pool committee also. We need your eyes and ears to make it a successful AND safe season for all residents.

As an amenity of your paid Grove HOA dues, the pool is free to use for all Grove residents. However, our pool is not available for private parties or rentals.

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Kindergarten Registration

What is the date, time and location of registration?

Thursday, April 16, from 9am to 7pm, JB Watkins, 501 Coalfield Rd.

What are the age requirements for school entry?

Children must be five years old on or before September 30, 2009.

For information on what to bring, visit the county site <http://chesterfield.k12.va.us> and click on 'Kindergarten Registration' under the upcoming events section, or contact J.B. Watkins Elementary at 378.2530.

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Third Annual Walton Park Craft & Trade Show



**Saturday, April 25
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Walton Park Clubhouse
530 Walton Park Road
Midlothian, VA 23114**

(Rain date: Saturday, May 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

**FREE to the public!
More than 60 participating vendors/crafters!
\$5 per person beer garden (must be 21 years or older)
Kids activities and more...**

**Buy a gift for Mother's Day or any special occasion;
add a little color to your hair; buy wedding invitations, jewelry,
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It will be fun for the whole family!**

For more information, visit www.waltonparkonline.com.

Arborists from around the nation converge on the Grove

By Mike Burnette

--A Grove Miner exclusive--

After Hurricane Isabel came through Virginia, The Grove's namesake has been kind of a joke around here. Many of us now say we live on a prairie instead of in a 'grove' of trees. Little did we know, our trees would soon become the discussion of arborists, government agencies and paper companies throughout the country and the world!

On the morning of March 11, Grove Resident Angela Castillo (Biggin Pond) was taking her morning walk around the neighborhood when she ventured off the paths behind Krim Point and Coalbrook. What she discovered would soon be a phenomenon that hasn't been seen in the world since 1957 in Scotland, according to BBC reports.



Angela Castillo holds the leaf from the tree she discovered

The Chesterfield Extension Office quickly called in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, which determined that what Angela discovered is called the Samarka tree. This paper tree, as it referred to, is unique in that its leaves have almost perfect paper like qualities. The leaves are nearly square shaped and were used in early Korea as paper long before China later discovered that wood pulp made much higher yields of paper and it became much more in demand.

According to tradition, a Korean monk named Don-cho first discovered this tree in AD 610 and it eventually migrated across Asia and Europe from AD 650 – 1300. It was commonly used to record historical documentation and was used to record Holy Scriptures.

Over the years, the tree eventually headed towards extinction because more traditional methods of paper-making prevailed. The Turkestan beetle then destroyed the majority of the surviving trees in the early 1300s. Some 200 years later, researchers from England rediscovered the tree in plant form in the 1950s on remote Scottish islands.

What does this mean for the Grove?

It could mean everything from a new historical landmark site to a small research facility within the walls of our neighborhood. You may have noticed the fenced-off area between the YMCA construction and the Grove foot paths. This is where DNA arborists are digging soil samples and studying surrounding vegetation. Local historians think this tree somehow made its way to the U.S. with European immigrant coal miners in the 1800s.

A final note: This is now the third annual April Fool's edition article written as a joke by the editor. There is no paper tree and no discovery was made in the Grove. Sorry, Angela, your 15 minutes of fame in the world historical documents is now just a fairy tale and the Grove is still safe from the Turkestan beetle. Hope you enjoyed this article and perhaps you will be better prepared for next year's article.

The 'Blizzard' of March 2009

Thanks to the many replies to The Grove email alert that went out in March for pictures of the March snow. Due to overwhelming response, we created a slideshow of all the pictures submitted. Just go to www.thegrovehoa.com and click on March Snow 2009. Plus, you can see them in color! Below is just a sample of the pictures submitted. Thanks, everyone!



See these and many more color pictures at www.thegrovehoa.com



Midlothian YMCA Update:

From the recent sounds and vibrations of jack hammers and heavy construction equipment, the Midlothian Family YMCA expansion is starting to take shape! The footprint of the building is coming alive as contractors begin erection of cinder block and cast-in-place exterior walls. These perimeter walls now allow you to visualize the location of the new childcare classrooms and gym. Newly installed drain piping and drains unveil the layout for the family locker room showers and lower floor bathrooms. The new parking lot addition has also taken shape; curbs, islands and gravel have been installed. Over the next few weeks you should expect to see structural steel being erected, as well as continued progress on the building shell.

The expansion has proceeded with little disruption to the programs. The YMCA thanks its Grove neighbors and members for their patience, understanding and support as it expands. If you have any questions, please call Scott Williams at 379-5668.



(The Grove 10 Years - Continued from the front cover)

changed very quickly in the coming months. Within the next year, 20 more families had joined us."

"In the early days of our subdivision it was very easy to get to know everyone. Melanie Hyatt, Karen Reams, and I formed a Welcome Committee and delivered baskets to all the new residents of the Grove," said Donna Jarratt said. "We quickly developed close relationships with the new families that moved in and we had many good times with those families in the early years of our subdivision."

In the past 10 years, the initial three families and ours have seen more than 700 more families join us in The Grove. People have come and gone, but there is still a core group of first families who are still here and remain good friends. Our initial babies and/or kids are now in elementary school, middle school, high school, college or even married (That one makes me feel old).

The Grove has become a great subdivision, and we are very glad we decided to live here.



Front entrance of The Grove at Coalfield.



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Message from our Manager, Robert Small



ACS WEST, INC, robert@acswest.org (804) 282-7451

I hope everyone could enjoy the snow and had a day or two off. The snow was gone almost as fast as it came. Hopefully that will be the end of the severe cold weather and snow this year. As much as I love the snow, it can have some very damaging effects on your home. Paint and wood can suffer the most. Thankfully, the homes in The Grove are mostly vinyl or brick, and there are not many painted surfaces on the homes. The areas that do have paint are steps, columns, window trim, front doors, garage doors, porch ceilings, and **mailbox posts**. After a severely cold winter and a heavy snow with multiple freezes, paint can begin to chip and flake. Inspect your home and make plans to restore the paint if it is dingy or peeling. If you receive a letter to paint, please contact us and keep us informed of your plans. Don't forget **May is Mailbox Month**. There are plenty of mailbox posts that need to be scraped, primed and painted. Last year owners grouped together as volunteers and painted posts on their streets. Consider asking neighbors to split supplies and labor. May will be here before you know it. (See page 3 for possible people to help you.)

Last year at this time I wrote over 70 letters to owners who were not screening their trashcans from view. Thank you to the owners who comply with this rule and thank you to all of the owners who complied after last year's notice. Recently, I have been monitoring this situation. We are now down to 30 owners who are not screening their trash cans in compliance with the covenants. Please take this time to inspect your property. *"No lot shall be used or maintained as a dumping ground for rubbish. Trash, garbage, or other waste shall be kept in sanitary containers located or screened so as to be concealed from view of the neighboring lots and the street."* *"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. A screening enclosure for trash is required on all lots and shall be built to match the condenser screening enclosure. It shall be located at the back side or rear of the house to screen the container from the street and neighboring lots. It must be the same height as the sanitary container."*

The Grove Board has made some significant improvements to the irrigation system over the winter. Residents in Tipple Point, Krim Point and Hawkins Wood finally got the irrigation they have been request-ing. Irrigation has also been expanded at the clubhouse, pond area and entrances. Thanks to the board for approving these improvements and thanks to John Romano for supervising the contract. Our irrigation contractor is Carter Irrigation, and it will be servicing the system throughout the year. If you would like to assist in selecting landscaping for these improved areas, contact the board through the website or call my office. There are other areas where the board is considering installing irrigation. The two islands in Scotter Hills and the "bowl" in Krim Point are possible areas to install irrigation systems next winter.

-Robert Small

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

Robert Small (Grove Manager) , ACS West
PO Box 11361, Richmond, VA 23230
804.282.7451 282.9590 Fax robert@acswest.org

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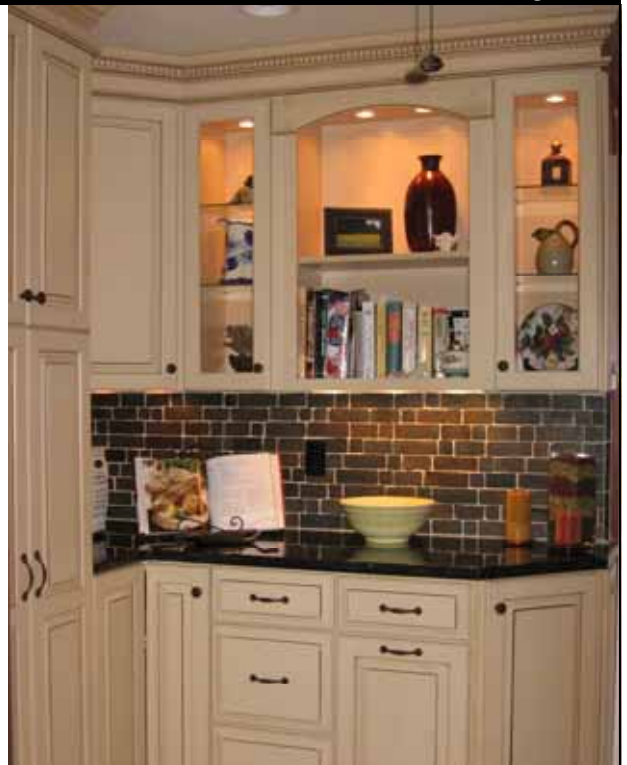
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GROVE RESIDENTS FREE NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR CLASSIFIEDS

2 PALI cribs: One white and one natural, both in excellent condition (mattresses included if desired). Call Susan or Brad 794.4603.

2 Strollers: Double side by side Peg Perego stroller - \$150. Also have a single Martinelli stroller that is new in box. Call Susan or Brad 794.4603.

Nanny Services: My name is Katie Kenney and I am a current freshman at Elon University as well as a Grove resident (Kingham). I am looking for a full-time summer position as a daytime nanny. I have seven years' babysitting experience, two summers' lifeguarding experience, and am Red Cross certified for babysitting. I can be reached at my e-mail, katiekenney@hotmail.com, or by phone at 804.836.9328.

For Sale: SchwinnFitness Model #202 Recumbent Exercise Bike

Very low mileage; purchased 1/08. Features include extra-wide padded ergonomic seat, padded hand grips, seat adjustment, on board computer, resistance control, transport wheels, fully shrouded flywheel and user manual. \$250 obo Call Melissa: 794.8629.

Calling all stay-at-home moms! If you have a baby or young toddler and would like to join a Friday morning playgroup in The Grove, call Cordia Hennaman at 464.1372. It's a great time for little ones to play and for moms to fellowship.

Pocket Knife Found: If you lost a pocket knife in Hawkins Wood, please call Steve Judd at 379.9197 or skjudd@yahoo.com.

Looking for a local Easter egg hunt?

My church, Winfree Memorial Baptist Church (at Coalfield and Midlothian) is having their annual Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday April 4 (rain date April 11) from 10am-noon. This year, in addition to the Easter Egg Hunt, Winfree will be partnering with the Week-day Preschool to include a Safety Fair. The fair will include our local police, fire dept. and EMS personnel to provide fingerprinting and child identification as well as teach about safety. Just wanted to let everyone know because my kids always enjoy it and thought yours may, too! -Amy Buttermore

Want to place a free neighbor-to-neighbor classified ad?

Email it to newsletter@thegrovehoa.com

Another option for classifieds: post it on the website under "discuss a topic" at www.TheGroveHOA.com.



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The Grove Has Gone Facebook Have You?

By Mike Burnette

So you are starting to read this article for one of two reasons. One, you have no idea what the heck 'Facebook' means or, two, you are already very addicted and want to know what The Grove has to say about Facebook. **Facebook** is a free social networking website that is operated and privately owned by Facebook, Inc. Users can join networks organized by city, workplace, school or even neighborhood (like The Grove) to connect and interact with other people. People can also add friends and send them messages and update their personal profiles to notify friends about themselves. The website's name refers to the paper facebooks depicting members of a campus community that some US colleges and preparatory schools give to incoming students, faculty and staff as a way to get to know other people on campus.



According to Farhad Manjoo's article on January 14, 2009, on **Slate.com**, "Facebook obeys classic network-effects laws: It gets better—more useful, more entertaining—as more people join it..." Manjoo quoted Mark Zuckerberg, the 24-year-old founder and CEO of Facebook, as saying "If Facebook were a country, it would be the eighth most populated in the world, just ahead of Japan,

Russia and Nigeria." Manjoo goes on to say that "like most communications networks, Facebook obeys classic network-effects laws: It gets better—more useful, more entertaining—as more people join it, which causes it to grow even faster still." Facebook is very close to having 200 million registered users as 374,000 new users register each day, according to the slate.com article.

The Grove launched its Facebook page on February 19, 2009, and within 24 hours had over 30 join The Grove group with little promotion other than one person emailing a handful of residents that it was there. As of mid-March, it had 94



members. Not bad for a neighborhood of 750. Hopefully, once you see this article, you will join us, by searching "The Grove Residents" once you have logged-on to Facebook. If you have old friends that have moved from The Grove, encourage them to join us as well. It is for those that live, have lived or want to live in The Grove.

Not on Facebook yet? It is easy. Just go to www.facebook.com. Once you register, join a few networks like your high school or college and I promise you that friends from years ago will find you within a few days. It is an addiction for awhile as the search for old friends, neighbors, etc., will keep you entertained for hours. Hours that none of us has time for but yet seem obsessed to find time for. You'll find yourself using it as your photo album and email system all in one.

Resistant to the openness of Facebook?

Manjoo summed it all up:

"It's time to drop the attitude: There is no longer any good reason to avoid Facebook. The site has crossed a threshold—it is now so widely trafficked that it's fast becoming a routine aid to social interaction, like email and antiperspirant."



Thanks to Farhad Manjoo, **Slate's** technology columnist and the author of True Enough: Learning To Live in a Post-Fact Society, for allowing us to quote his article and use it as reference. You can email him at farhad.manjoo@slate.com.



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