



The Grove Homeowners Association www.TheGroveHOA.com

Volume 7, Issue 4 August - September 2010

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National Night Out 2010



Turn On Your Light to Fight Crime!

On August 3rd, residents in neighborhoods throughout Chesterfield County and across the nation are asked to lock their TAKE A BITE OUT OF doors, turn on their outside lights and spend the evening outside with neighbors and police from 7 to 10 pm. Please join your Grove neighbors for an ice cream social from 7 to 8 pm at the clubhouse. Canine crime buster McGruff will make a special appearance.

As part of "America's Night Out Against Crime," we would also like to use this opportunity to collect donations for a local food pantry. Please bring any

canned or other non-perishable goods you can spare to the clubhouse.

Gerry Mancuso

Grove HOA President



Join Your Neighbors for the Annual Labor Day Picnic

When: Monday, September 6, 2010 Time: 4:00 - 6:00 pm Where: The Grove Clubhouse The HOA will provide the barbeque, rolls and condiments. Please bring a side or dessert to share. Also, bring your beverage of choice and chairs.

Please RSVP to socials@thegrovehoa.com by September 2. Hope to see you there!

Michelle Quiram Social Committee

2010 Board of Directors

boardofdirectors@lists.thegrovehoa.com Gerry Mancuso, 897-0853 president@thegrovehoa.com

Steve Judd, 379-9197 vicepresident@thegrovehoa.com

Gary Zyla, 897-5934 secretary@thegrovehoa.com

Maria Collins, 240-7939 treasurer@thegrovehoa.com

Gary Powers, Jr., 477-2102 operations@thegrovehoa.com

The Grove's Full Service **Community Manager**

Community Group NEW ADDRESS: 3901 Westerre Pkwy, Ste 100, Richmond, VA 23233

270-1800

email: cgrimes@communitygroup.com www.communitygroup.com For neighborhood violations, repairs, assessments, architectural modifications, vendor management, etc.

Grove Contacts

Architectural Modifications Carolvn Grimes 270-1800

Clubhouse Terry Cullen, 379-4710 clubhouse@thegrovehoa.com

Newsletter NEW Cathy Allen, 379-1862 newsletter@thegrovehoa.com

Pool president@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

HOA Connection

New Grove HOA Policy Concerning Portable Temporary Storage Units

The Board at the June HOA meeting approved the following addition to the Grove HOA covenants governing the use of portable temporary storage units:

Portable temporary storage units, such as PODs, Smart Boxes, or other similar containers for the storage of personal property will be permitted under the following conditions:

- 1. The temporary storage unit will be allowed within the community for 7 (seven) days.
- 2. Temporary storage units may only be placed in a resident's driveway. Only 1 storage unit per home will be permitted.
- 3. Homeowner is responsible for the cost and repair of any damage caused by the placement, storage and/or removal of such a unit to any common property and areas, which includes parking lots and/or homeowner property.
- 4. Homeowner is responsible for providing prior written notice to the Board of Directors via the management company by supplying the dates of the use of the storage unit.
- 5. The length of time needed for the portable storage unit may be extended through communication with the management company. Additional time may be granted for extenuating circumstances. The Board of Directors reserves the right to grant additional time as determined on a case-by-case basis.

THE GHOA, THE GROVE MINER AND EDITOR ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY TYPOS 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.

Ads and submissions for the Oct. - Nov. issue are due Sept. 15

Submit all ads and articles to: Cathy Allen, Editor newsletter@thegrovehoa.com or call 804-379-1862 Make checks to: Grove HOA and mail to: 13436 Mitford Dr., Midlothian, VA 23114 (Note: This address is for newsletter only.)



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

RATES FOR 2010

Bus. Card size - \$25 Quarter page - \$45 Half page - \$75 Full page - \$130 Back cover - \$155 (sold out)

10% off for six issues prepaid.

Advertiser provided insert \$80 (800 copies needed)

(Non-profits get 25% off) Ad design: \$40/hr if needed.

See website for details.

Why You Should Return the SPECIAL MEETING PROXY

On May 12, 2010 the Grove Homeowners Association held a special meeting for members to vote on the proposed bylaws amendment increasing term limits for Board of Directors from one year to two years. The required number of proxies to approve the amendment was not received; therefore the meeting will stay in recess until the majority of homeowners turn in their proxies.

Increasing the term of service for Board of Directors from one to two years allows them to gain momentum in office and concentrate on long-range goals for our neighborhood. Fewer turnovers on **the Board means there's more focus on the job at hand, instead of wasting time transitioning in and** out of office.

Please mark your vote on the proxy ballot, have all legal owners sign it, and return as soon as possible using one of three ways:

In Person:	Steve Judd (Grove Vice President), 1513 Hawkins Wood Circle	
	OR	
By Mail:	The Grove Homeowners Association	
	C/O Community Group	
	3901 Westerre Parkway, Suite 100	
	Richmond, VA 23233	
	OR	
By Fax:	The Community Group	
	346-8640	

For more information, email boardofdirectors@thegrovehoa.com or contact a current Board of Directors member.

You can also access further details and print proxy ballots at http://thegrovehoa.com/covenants-by -laws/bylaws-proxy-information-and-ballot.

Thank you in advance for voting. For those who have already turned in their ballots, we greatly appreciate your response.

Grove Homeowners Meetings

Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at the clubhouse unless otherwise posted.

Architectural Review

A reminder that the planting and removal of trees requires approval!

ARTICLE VII - ENVIRONMENTAL COVENANTS: In order to protect the natural beauty of the vegetation, topography or other natural features within the Subdivision, the following environmental controls are hereby established.

7.01. Trees. To the extent reasonably practical, the clearing of mature trees on Lots shall be limited to those areas required to accommodate the residence to be constructed thereon and its normal and customary accessories, open front yard areas and those areas required to permit utility services and driveways. No trees measuring six (6) inches in diameter at a point two (2) feet above ground level which are located more than twenty (20) feet away from the residence or structure constructed on the Lot, shall be removed without the prior written approval of the Architectural Control Committee.

Some other things that need ARC approval are: changing paint colors, additions, sheds, play equipment, swing sets, decks, landscaping changes, irrigation, new driveways and sidewalks, etc. Basically anything you do to alter the outside of your home including anything on your property.

HOW THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW PROCESS WORKS

In an effort to streamline the exterior modification application process, the Modifications Committee is now using a new web-based service to review modification requests. Requests are now loaded onto the web-based program, where committee members and the HOA board may review, discuss and decide on applications as they are received. Owners are then notified of decisions via email, so please be sure to include your email address on your application. This new system also provides for better record-keeping of approved requests.

Owners can download applications from the Grove website and then mail the application to:

The Grove Homeowners Association, c/o Community Group 3901 Westerre Pkwy, Ste 100, Richmond, VA 23233

For faster processing, owners may (and are encouraged to) scan and email their applications and supporting documentation directly to Carolyn Grimes at cgrimes@communitygroup.com. Photos may be emailed in any format. Faxed applications are also acceptable at 346-8640 but may be more difficult to read. **Please be sure to include The Grove's application along with any requested documentation.**

> Applications are available here: thegrovehoa.com/covenants-by-laws



Stories Needed! Some issues are harder to write than others. Please share your vacation adventures, family events, life stories, or achievements by email at: newsletter@thegrovehoa.com

and we'll find a home for them!

Spotlight on: Mike Burnette

A big "shout out" goes to Mike Burnette, for his four plus years tenure as Editor of The Grove Miner. Mike brought a new energy and look to the paper, with journalistic integrity, and informative, entertaining content. He



Thanks, Mike!

Stay Connected with THE GROVE WEBSITE & EMAIL LISTSERVE!

Get the latest neighborhood

news and alerts

via email and discussion boards

at www.thegrovehoa.com.

DISCLOSURE BOOKS \$250

If you are planning on selling your home, a NEW disclosure book is required to be purchased for the new homeowner during the contract period. The new homeowners do have a right to cancel a contract if they do not receive a current copy of The Grove Disclosure Book. They are available for a cost of \$250 from The Grove's Manager at The Community Group. Please call 270.1800.

2010 Pool Hours

Now - August 14 Sunday through Thursday 10am - 8pm Friday and Saturday 10am - 9pm

> August 15 - September 6 Everyday 10am - 8pm

New residents can get pool passes by emailing president@thegrovehoa.com.



Are you on Facebook? Join the

Grove Residents Group!

Please report any items that need attention by the HOA to the Grove property manager, Carolyn Grimes, at 270-1800. She will ensure reported items are addressed.



REPLACE STRESS WITH SUCCESS!

Parents of a High School Student

Worried about college?

Feeling overwhelmed?

I can help!!!!!

Contact: Linda Smith 379-9797 linda@collegeconnections.net



Kindergarten Ice Cream Social

We are planning the kindergarten ice cream social for Wednesday, *September 1st* at 7:00 pm at the clubhouse! Please RSVP to pamelaconnelly@verizon.net by *August 28th.* This event is for children going to kindergarten fall 2010.

Thank you, Pam Connelly 897-5469



Clubhouse Rental Policy

When reserving the clubhouse it is required that set up and clean up time be factored into the requested rental time period. The clubhouse key is made available approximately 1/2 hour prior to rental start time and is not issued earlier for residents to access the clubhouse for set up. If a key is requested earlier than the rental start time per the signed agreement the additional fee for this time period must be paid at the time of key pick up.

Clubhouse rental rates, rules, and reservations can be accessed at http:// thegrovehoa.com/clubhouse. To book online, you need to sign up for a user name and password. Just follow the links at http://thegrovehoa.com/clubhouse/clubhousereservation-and-pricing. For reservations or additional guidance, email clubhouse@thegrovehoa.com.



As of July 1, an annual fee of \$25 will be applied to each household to support this program. This fee will be included on the county's real estate tax bill, with \$12.50 charged in December and the other \$12.50 charged in June each year. Homes not currently on curbside recycling routes will be added to the schedule on or about **July 1, 2010**. If you would like to participate in the recycling program and have not received a bin, please contact CVWMA at 340-0900, to request a bin or

recycling sticker for containers you own. Residents wanting to opt out must do so by **Sept. 15** to avoid the first charge on their real estate tax bills,. There are two ways residents may opt-out of the program. The first option is to call our Customer Service Center at **804-748-1297**. The second method would be to complete the electronic form at the following link http://www.chesterfield.gov/webform.aspx?ekfrm=15232-Residential Curbside Recycling. (*Article on County website*)



Damon Omar Watson, DDS, MD Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon watson@oralfacialsurgery.com

Southside Office 11319 Polo Pl. 1 Midlothian, VA 23113 804 794 0794 1 804 379 2858 - Fax

Brandermill Office 6031 Harbaur Pork Dr. 1 Midlothian, VA 23112 804.608.3200 / 804.608.3201 - Fax

West End Office 7650 Parkam Rd., Suite 110 | Richmond, VA 23294 804.270.5028 | 804.747.3599 - Fax



Gayton Baptist Church Donates Picnic Tables to The Grove

Pack up your PB&J and head to the pool for lunch at the newly donated picnic tables, courtesy of Tom Kelly at Community Group, and Gayton Baptist **Church's youth group. The youth build tables as** part of their local mission outreach program. Tom Kelly directed construction, and delivered the tables to the Grove free of charge. We are also grateful to NB Goodwyn, who supplied materials at a discounted rate, making the donation possible.

Playground Repairs

The HOA plans to replace the swing sets at **two of the Grove's four playgrounds in early** September. Due to safety reasons, the deteriorating swing sets at Biggin Pond and Hawkins Wood were removed until new equipment can be installed. Improvements to the other playgrounds may include power washing and staining.

Sandwich Board Volunteer Found!

Three cheers to our new volunteer, *Patty Baggett*, who is keeping our news and events posted on the sandwich boards.

Thanks, Patty, for all your help!

Gazebo Revitalized

Now that the gazebo has been repainted and restored to its original beauty, let's keep it that way for all to enjoy.

To preserve its appearance, please do not fish from the gazebo. Fish hooks scratch the paint and gouge the wooden structure. Instead, fish from the pier, or the pond's edge.

For fire safety reasons, please do not smoke on the gazebo.



Back to School

First day of school Tuesday, September 7th

J B Watkins Elementary 378-2530

Open House for Grades 1 - 5: September 2nd Grade 1 10 am: Grades 2 – 5 10:30 am: Kindergarten Orientation, Friday Sept 3rd 10 am Back to School Night (All Grades): September 14th Two time slots: 6 – 7 pm or 7 – 8 pm

Midlothian Middle School

Open House Dates:		
Grade 6: August 31 st	3:30 – 6 pm	
Grade 7: September 1 st	3:30 – 6 pm	
Grade 8: September 2 nd	3:30 – 6 pm	
Back to School Night (All Grades): Se	eptember 23 rd	7 – 9:15 pm

378-2460

Note: only parents or legal guardians of students can pay fees and pick up schedules.

Open House Dates:		
Seniors: Augu	ıst 30 th	
A—L:	4 – 5 pm	
M—Z:	5:30 – 6:30 pm	
Juniors: Augu	st 31 st	
A—L:	4 – 5 pm	
M—Z:	5:30 – 6:30 pm	
Sophomores:	September 1 st	
A—L:	4 – 5 pm	
M—Z:	5:30 – 6:30 pm	
Freshmen Ori	entation: September 2 nd	1:30 – 4 pm
Makeup Date	(All Grades): September 3 rd	9 – 11 am
Senior Parent Night (He	erff Jones): September 22 nd	4 7 pm
	ll Grades): September 27 th	7:00 pm

August Sales Tax Holiday: School Supplies and Clothing

When: First full weekend of August (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) each http://www.tax.virginia.gov/site.cfm? year. The 2010 holiday will take place on August 6-8, 2010.

What's Exempt: During this three-day period, purchases of qualifying (Article from the Virginia Department of Taxation) school supplies selling for \$20 or less per item, and purchases of

qualifying clothing and footwear selling for \$100 or less per item will be exempt from sales tax. Retailers may also choose to absorb the tax on other items during the holiday period, but they are responsible for paying the tax on those items to the Department of Taxation.

alias=SchoolSuppliesandClothingHoliday



15100 Millwood School Lane, Midlothian VA 23112



Families who are ready recover faster

Although meteorologists can't predict exactly how tropical systems and hurricanes will affect Virginia this year, there is one prediction that will come true: *families who are ready will recover much better and faster than those who are not.*

Virginia Department of Emergency Management 72 hours after a storm hits. Every home should have at least four basic items:

- A family emergency plan
- Three days' of bottled water (one gallon per person per day)
- Three days' of non-perishable food

A hand-crank or battery-powered radio with extra batteries for listening to emergency information from local media and officials

Store these items in waterproof containers that have wheels or that you can lift easily in case you have to leave.

To see a short Ready Virginia video about getting ready for hurricane season and making a family emergency plan, go to http://www.youtube.com/vaemergency#p/u. You also can request a new publication, Virginia's Hurricane Evacuation Guide, by writing to pio@vdem.virginia.gov or calling 1-866-782-3470.

To learn more about getting ready for tropical storms, hurricanes and flooding, go to www.ReadyVirginia.gov. For information in Spanish, visit www.ListoVirginia.gov. While visiting those Web sites, take a quick survey to measure Virginia's overall preparedness for disasters and emergencies.

Getting ready for hurricane and flood season is everyone's responsibility. Make your plan now.



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Second Water Meters Save Money

Interested in reducing your water bill? Consider adding a second water meter, or residential companion meter, to your irrigation system. With one meter, water and sewer charges are combined, such that every time you water your lawn, the sewage portion of your bill increases. A second meter will measure outside water usage separately eliminating any additional sewage charges associated with irrigation.

To get a second water meter you must apply for a county plumbing permit for residential companion meter for irrigation service, which also covers backflow device installation, from the Building inspection department. To contact them call 748-1057. You must also apply for a water

connection from the new Construction Department at 748-1862.

The residential companion meter can be bought from Chesterfield County Utilities for \$420, and reduces energy costs over time. It is only for Chesterfield County residences not commercial properties.

For more information and guidelines, call Chesterfield County Utilities at 748-1271 or visit their website at:

http://www.chesterfield.gov/utilities.aspx?id=2752.

(Source from Chesterfield County Utilities)



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Som Patasomcit: Thirty Years of Freedom

By Cathy Allen

Every day is Independence Day for Grove Resident Som Patasomcit, as he proclaims, "thirty years of freedom, in the land of the free." Wearing nothing more than a shirt and pair of shorts, he and his Dad escaped Communist oppression and death threats, crossing countries and cultures on a long, hard journey to liberty.

As a child, before the soldiers in green uniforms arrived, nine year old Som thought life was good. He attended school, and played with friends. After school, he went to the home of his beloved grandmother (father's mother) until his father got off work. Then Som and his Dad would go to their own house. They lived in Dong Pai Nha, Laotian for "rice field village", near the Vientiane province and capital. Som compares his village to Smithfield or Farmville in their proximity to Richmond. The people of Dong Pai Nha were poor, yet selfsufficient and close-knit, with rural roots and values. They farmed and ran small businesses. Most owned homes. There was no indoor plumbing, only wellwater. Having no electricity, they used oil lamps. There were no cars to traverse dirt roads; villagers either walked, rode bikes, or mopeds. "But," Som shrugs, "everyone lived that way." Life was good, until the Communists took over.

One day, while Som played in the streets with his



Som at age 13



Som at a Monticello Celebration

friends, the Communist soldiers invaded Dong Pai Nha. At gunpoint they took the foreign compound adjoining the village. Som's fright turned to gratitude that no one died. Then, the soldiers commanded the village leaders to take all residents to the compound, where they saw a film describing and applauding the overthrow. Som stated, "The film said, we have a new boss, and flashed a picture of the leader in Communist China. We had a new flag, new currency, and new government." Shortly afterward, the new regime controlled all businesses, especially profitable ones. Free enterprise was gone. Soon, the Communists imprisoned those Laotians in intelligent professions such as teachers and policemen, because they perceived professionals as negatively influenced by foreigners (Americans). Anyone who worked or talked with foreigners was arrested and jailed in "re-education camps." According to Som, some survived, others did not. That's when Laotians began to flee the country.

Communist threats against foreign influence hit home. One night, while Som was sleeping, they took away his mother. Som would not see her for ten **years. Although Som's Dad now worked for the** Communist Government, seeds of doubt grew against him. The regime discovered his Dad had

Neighbor to Neighbor

served in the Laotian army, and suspected collusion with Americans. One night, he did not come home from work. Unknown to Som, Communist coworkers warned his Dad of the impending arrest, so he went into hiding.

A day later, while Som was outside with friends, a woman, a stranger, on bicycle approached him,



Som with Marilyn Breslow, his Sponsor

stating she was taking him to his Dad, who was alive but in hiding. Som was frightened, refusing to go. Finally she persuaded him to trust her, and she **brought him to his uncle's home. Terrified they'd be** caught, Som and his Dad rode a taxi, to the Mekong River. The boatmen knew border patrol movements and times to cross safely, but Som and his Dad still feared getting shot to death. It was a long, **harrowing crossing. Water rolled over the canoe's** top as it rocked sideways. Som grabbed its sides, fearing rumors of large eels that would eat him if he fell out.



Looking for consignors & shoppers for our fall sale Saturday, September 11th in Midlothian. Visit our web site for more information.

No Consignors Fee!

www.mondayschildconsignment.com

At the Nhong Kai Refugee camp, Som and his Dad felt safe, but conditions were insufferable. There was **no privacy. Each family lived in tiny 5'x10' areas,** partitioned by strands of thin, bamboo straws. With putrid food, and limited access to water, illness pervaded camp. But they survived it all, forming friendships, and starting a small business. There was no school for refugees, so Som mastered soccer. Som and his Dad could have immigrated with several European sponsors, but endured 2 years to go to America. Then they took a long bus ride to Bangkok, without food or water. But they were happy to be USA bound.

Marilyn Breslow of Refugee and Immigration Services helped Som and his Dad learn American life **and language. They were Marilyn's first resettlement.** Along with volunteers Roy and Anne Garrett, Marilyn assisted with green cards, housing, furniture, **clothing, and a job for Som's Dad. They shopped at** stores that were clean, organized, and loaded with **goods. "It was a dream come true," says Som.**

When asked why he became a U. S. citizen in 1989, Som answered, "No one influenced me. It was a rough adjustment, but once we settled, there was no going back." He saw quality in the American government and lifestyle, and would have more opportunity and benefits. He also wished to marry and have children. But his choice was not just about benefits; it felt right in his heart. "I decided this is going to be my home, my future."

Som now lives in Coalbrook with his wife, Bong, and their three sons: Shane (18), Jesse (16), and Grant (11), and their cat, Muffin.

Fish Tales

Daniel Klucker (14) of 13519 Grove Pond Drive caught a 6 lb. large mouth bass using a live minnow at the Grove fishing dock July 19th.

(Submitted by Bill Klucker)



Neighbor to Neighbor

WELCOME TO THE GROVE

Jonathan & Annette Gregori 1306 Gravity Hill Trail

> Tara Hatcher 517 Scotter Hills Lane

Rob & Georgia Parise 1431 Hawkins Wood Circle

Jeffrev & Nicole Waddill 1001 Goswick Ridge Road

Sue Webster 13908 Krim Point Trail

Kari and Skylar Zavsza 13414 Ridgemoor Drive

New to the Grove? The Welcome Committee has a smile and a gift bag just for you!

Contact us at grovewelcome@thegrovehoa.com or call Judi Ryan-Phillips at 594-2655.

Child Care Services

Mother's helper - I'll help you at home with your children. Eleven year-old Grove resident available to be a mother's helper. Call Kate at 897.2421.

Entertainment

Need musical entertainment for any private parties or functions in the Grove? We have a 5 person neighborhood band (2 guitars, bass, drums and vocals) with full PA/equipment that can provide a few hours of music for your party/event here in The Grove. We play musical styles ranging from 60's-70's Classic rock/blues (Elvis, Van Morrison, Doobie Brothers, The Band), the Big 80's (John Mellencamp, Georgia Satellites), 90's/current pop/ rock (John Mayer, Pink), some Country (Sugarland, Miranda Lambert) and a whole lot more. For inquiries, please e-mail Brian Legere at thelegeres@comcast.net.

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

Let us know what services you offer, items for sale or to buy, or want ads to post.

Email it to newsletter@thegrovehoa.com

This free service is provided to Grove residents only.



Neighborhood Yard Sale

Finally, a way to get rid of those parachute pants from the eighties! The Grove holds its fall yard sale on.

Saturday, October 2nd

8 am to 12 pm

(Rain date: October 9th)

The HOA will advertise and post signs at subdivision entrances. Homeowners can display signs to their house, but must remove them immediately following event.

Get HandsOn.

Volunteer.



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Home Improvements

- Decks
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