



The Grove Miner



The Grove Homeowners Association
www.TheGroveHOA.com

Volume 6, Issue 1
February - March 2009

2008 The Good, The Bad, The Ugly.....

Opinion By Mike Burnette

How do we sum up the last 12 months? We have been on an emotional rollercoaster with foreclosures, with politics, and with our life's savings.

There was much bad about 2008. Government bailouts reached billions of dollars. It appeared that many banks or industries were needing dollars to sustain themselves. Our neighbors were losing their jobs and having to move away to find employment. Some of our friends even lost their homes to foreclosure. Foreclosures in Richmond increased over 84% in the first 11 months of 2008 compared to all of 2007. The good news is that from January 2007 to August 2008 our area census tract had only 1 in 334 homes with a notice of foreclosure, despite the fact that some areas in Richmond had a 1 in 20 ratio. That is good news for us.

There is good in America. Regardless of your political affiliation, we witnessed history in the November elections. We, of course, witnessed the first African-American to be President. You can see by the chart on page 14 that our voting district clearly did not vote in the majority for the new President. But this election was so much more than Democrats vs. Republicans. It was the fact that an entire group of people who were never engaged in the political process finally were excited. We saw this by the record voter registrations and the crowd in D.C. on January 20 for the Inauguration. So instead of thinking in political terms this year, perhaps for a moment we can at least see the historical significance and know that a huge group of people are indeed happy for now.

PS: Don't even open your statement for your 401K and 403B!



Only 96 people have signed up to receive HOA emails and to use the discussion boards on the website.

Go now and see what you are missing!

www.TheGroveHOA.com

*So put down this newsletter for just a minute and go to our website and click on 'subscribe'!
One user i.d. and password allows you to do it all! So go now...stop reading...go now!*



President's Report

Ben Owings



I would like to start off by thanking the outgoing board members for their service in 2008. I think it was a great year for the association and very successful. I hope that 2009 will carry on where we left off.

We continue to try and make improvements in the neighborhood as needed. We began some irrigation projects in 2008 and hope to continue more in 2009. I would like to ask that if you have any ideas for improving or beautifying the neighborhood that you let the board know. If feasible, it may be something we can do this year.

I look forward to serving on the board again this year.

Sincerely,

Ben Owings

Grove Homeowners Meetings

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

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Ads and submissions for the April-May issue are due March 13

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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RATES:

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

Advertiser provided insert
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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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vicepresident@thegrovehoa.com

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secretary@thegrovehoa.com

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PO Box 11361, Richmond, VA 23230
282.7451 282.9590 Fax
robert@acswest.org

Scotter Hills/Ridgemoor Manager

Tracey Talbert, 273.1333
Stellar Community Management

2008 GHOA Committee Chairs

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mskellner@comcast.net

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clubhouse@thegrovehoa.com

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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!

News from The Grove HOA

The Grove-Wide Neighborhood Watch

Have you had vandalism occur on your street or to your house (like beverages stolen from your garage or small pranks) and didn't feel it was a big enough incident to file a police report? If so, please contact Marina Leneave at 897.4627 with details on the incidents. As our Neighborhood Watch team leader, she is gathering data to show patterns and to see what The Grove as a whole could possibly do to make our community safe and vandal-free!

The Grove HOA Assessments

If it is February 1 or later, you have missed the deadline for your Grove HOA dues. A late fee has now been assessed. Please make arrangements to pay the \$350 + \$35 late fee right away. (Total = \$385)

Any questions, call Robert Small, our community manager at ACS West, at 282.7451 or e-mail him at robert@acswest.org

The Grove Phone Books

Are you included? You will be if you mailed back your form with your HOA dues. If you failed to mail it in and wish to be included, please go to our website at www.thegrovehoa.com and download a form from our homepage and fax it immediately to ACS WEST at 804.282.9590. We will do our best to get you included if you return it in the first few days of February. Barring any printing problems, the phone books should be ready for delivery with the April 1 newsletter.



Sweetheart 8K Race

This 6th annual race will be held on Feb. 14 at 8:30 am. The Grove will once again host this event. Participants will receive a technical long-sleeved t-shirt, and many door prizes will be given away, including two pairs of New Balance running shoes. Prizes will go to top female, top male and top couple. Registration is \$10 for Richmond Road Runner Club members and \$15 for non-members. You can register online at rrrc.org. Come out and run or volunteer to cheer on fellow neighbors. For more information, contact race director Jen Brumfield at 787.4508 or jen7779@hotmail.com.



This event continues to be an excellent opportunity to showcase our beautiful community and neighborhoods.

Traffic Alert: The middle section of Grove Hill Road will be closed from approximately 7:30-10:30 am on race day.

Come Run..... Come Cheer.....Come Volunteer

- Save the Date - The Grove Yard Sales

The next date for the Grove-wide community yard sale will be April 25, 2009.

Come join your fellow neighbors for a
*It's too cold to have a picnic
so we'll have an*
Adult Neighborhood Potluck Dinner

Saturday, February 21

6:30 pm

The Grove Clubhouse

The Social Committee will provide the meat. Please bring your own drinks and something to share depending on your last name:

A-H appetizer, I-P side dish or salad,
and Q-Z dessert.

Space is limited. RSVP by February 18 to socials@thegrovehoa.com.

Hope to see you there!

Walton Park

invites our neighbors in The Grove
To join our pool this summer!

Our Olympic-Sized Pool Features:

New pool side, tiered sun deck
New beach entry baby pool.
Covered patio with ceiling fans
Snack bar with Sunday night cookouts

Walton Park is also home to the
Waves swim team which takes an "every kid
swims" approach. Come see why our swim
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Contact us at 378-8210 or
vagoin@hotmail.com

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GROVE RESIDENTS FREE NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR CLASSIFIEDS

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Brian 379-4297.

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.

REMINDERS

Holiday Lights.

Thanks for your prompt removal of your holiday decorations. Only 30 residents did not remove them in the required 20 day period following the holiday and were issued an enforcement letter.

What is Recycle Bin Etiquette?

We are grateful that everyone is recycling to help our landfills and our environment. But please be courteous to your neighbors and pick up your empty bins in a timely manner. Leaving bins on the curb a couple of days shouldn't be something our HOA should have to police. On windy days, please take a moment to pick up blown recyclables from the street, from your yard...heck even your neighbor's yard!

One Grove...Three Associations.

The Grove has three associations operating in our community.

The Grove HOA is the parent association that manages the pool, the common property, and the overall management and violation enforcement of the entire neighborhood. ACS West and the members of The Grove HOA Board run that entity. Everyone in the neighborhood is bound by The Grove HOA's covenants and assessments. Monthly meetings are held every second Thursday of each month unless otherwise posted.

The second association is Scotter/Ridgemoor Association. They, too, hold monthly meetings at the clubhouse and everyone in Scotter Hills and Ridgemoor is required to pay dues and abide by separate covenants and bylaws. Only those in those two areas apply. This association is managed by its own board and Stellar Community Management.

The third association is the Krim Point HOA. This HOA is self-managed and applies only to residents in Krim Point. They, too, have their own dues to pay for trash and lawn service. It has its own board and meets each fall and as-needed.

If you have any questions please visit www.theGroveHOA.com and click on "contact us". There you will find information about each association and contact information.

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

James & Sandra Martin
548 Coalbrook Drive

Robert Gannett
913 Rise Shaft Road

Micheal Boero & Jennifer King
907 Rise Shaft Road

Chris, Jennifer, Jordan & Julia Clark
931 Roll Drive

Gomez Family
1024 Kingham Drive

Una Kim
13537 Ridgemoor Drive

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

E-mail us at:
grovewelcome@thegrovehoa.com
Call Lisa Harp 379.3910 or
Judi Ryan-Phillips 379.1066.

Newsletter Delivery

We are once again needing some help with delivering the newsletter. It takes less than one hour every other month. We especially need help in Kingham/Mitford. Can you help? Call Susan Austin at 378.8004.

For assessments, disclosure books, violations, 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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Buying a home, moving or changing jobs can make your tax return more complicated than usual. You may have deductible settlement expenses or moving expenses this year, or you might be unsure whether you qualify to exclude the gain on your house sale. Perhaps you sold securities and must cope with the capital-gains tax rules. You might even have part-year or non-resident state issues to consider.

As an established tax professional, I would be glad to assist you with your return this year. Along with a prepared return, you will receive a complimentary, personalized 1040 analysis based on your tax return, containing tax saving and planning ideas that could be worth thousands of dollars to you.

This tax season, choose a tax professional who can provide you with more than just a 1040. I specialize in not only helping you reduce the tax you owe – but through strategic investment planning techniques based on your tax return – potentially increasing the earnings you keep. Call me at (804) 763-3710 to schedule your appointment today.

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Things to do right here in.....

Castlewood

The Chesterfield Historical Society is headquartered at Castlewood, an 1817 plantation house located at the corner of Krause and Iron Bridge roads. Castlewood has a five-part building plan that bears no likeness to any other recorded dwelling in Virginia. Its unique place in the county's architectural history makes it a fitting home for the Historical Society, whose offices and research library are located on the first floor. The home's builder, Parke Poindexter, served as clerk of Chesterfield County Court from 1812 until his death in 1847. 777.9663.



Magnolia Grange

Magnolia Grange is a Federal-style plantation house built in 1822 by William Winfree. The building was named for the circle of magnolia trees that once graced its front lawn. Its distinctive architectural features include elaborate ceiling medallions and intricate carvings on mantels, doorways and window frames. Today, Magnolia Grange is a house museum that interprets life at a 19th-century country plantation and is home to the Chesterfield Historical Society's gift shop. 796.1479.



Eppington

Eppington was built about 1770 by Francis Eppes VI. Thomas Jefferson, Eppes' brother-in-law, was a frequent visitor. Jefferson called Eppes the "nation's first horticulturalist" and praised Eppes' scientific farming techniques, including cultivating tobacco. Monticello slaves such as Sally Hemings worked and lived at Eppington while Jefferson was minister to France. Later, it was at Eppington that Jefferson received President George Washington's invitation to become the nation's first secretary of state. Eppington is on the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places. It reflects the earliest American formal architectural style. Eppington's original fabrics, painted surfaces, carved metals and wainscoting are studied today. Eppington is an African American Heritage Trails site. It is open to small tour groups by reservation only.



Museum and Old Jail

The Chesterfield County Museum is the place to begin your journey through Chesterfield County's rich history. Built as a replica of the county's 1750 courthouse, the county museum is located directly behind the historic 1917 Courthouse. Its new exhibits depict Virginia Indian culture, early settlement of the area, the Revolutionary and Civil wars, and the first ironworks and coal mines in America. The museum exhibits not only explore the county's history but its current culture as well. The Old Jail, adjacent to the museum, was built in 1892 and housed prisoners for 70 years. The second floor features original iron-barred cells that are virtually unchanged since the last prisoners occupied them in 1962. Historical exhibits from the county's Police Department are displayed on the first floor. 796.1479



Chesterfield County has played a vital role in the development of Virginia and the United States. From the founding of an English colony in 1607 to the winning of our freedom during the American Revolution and the great struggle of the American Civil War, Chesterfield County has been in the center of the storm.



For more places to go visit: www.chesterfieldtourism.com

For more Chesterfield history visit: www.chesterfieldhistory.com



.....Chesterfield !

Henricus

Today, Henricus Historical Park in Chester is re-creating the second successful English settlement in the New World.

Sir Thomas Dale, founder of the 1611 Citie of Henricus, instituted the revolutionary, but practical, concept of private land ownership. That, along with the introduction of a commercially successful strain of tobacco introduced by John Rolfe, influenced the course of American history.

The development of the first hospital, the chartering of the first college in the New World and other important events that occurred at Henricus contributed to the significant roles this settlement played in the creation of a way of life and a nation. Henricus also was the English home of Pocahontas.

At Henricus, historical interpretation and re-enactments pay tribute to Virginia Indians and the English settlers who carved a nation out of what was then Virginia's western frontier. Though work at the site is ongoing, Henricus is open to visitors. A re-created settlement provides dynamic learning opportunities for all visitors.

Continue on your historic journey through the 810-acre Dutch Gap Conservation Area, the site of Revolutionary War and Civil War action. With the James River as a backdrop, Dutch Gap is considered one of the best birding sites on the East Coast and boasts a bounty of woodlands, wildlife and waterways, plus fishing spots and six miles of trails for hiking.

The 1611 Citie of Henricus, Henricus Historical Park and the museum store are open Tuesday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The Dutch Gap Conservation Area is open everyday 8 am-8:30 pm, except during winter when the hours are 8 am-5:30 pm.

There is a small admission fee for Henricus Historical Park, but there is no admission fee for the Dutch Gap Conservation Area. For information about events and tour programs, please call 748.1613 or visit the Web at www.henricus.org



Events in Chesterfield:

(For many more, visit www.chesterfieldtourism.com/calendar.shtml)

Saturday, March 21, 12 -4 pm—Falling Creek Iron Works Archaeology Tour Falling Creek Iron Works Park, 6407 Jefferson Davis Highway. Come out for an exciting exploration of America's first iron foundry, the 1619 ironworks on Falling Creek. Tour guides will lead visitors through the archaeological remains of the original and colonial ironworks. This event is free and is open to the public. Details: 751.4946.

Saturday, March 21, 10 am-5 pm—Colonial Crafts and Games Henricus Historical Park, 251 Henricus Park Road
Watch demonstrators make a variety of colonial crafts, and learn to play colonial games. Children will be able to make crafts to take home for an additional fee. Admission is \$7 for adults, and \$5 for children ages 3-12. Details: 748.1613 or www.henricus.org.

Saturday, March 28, 9 am-2 pm—Chesterfield Historical Society and Chester Lions Club Antiques Evaluation "Roadshow"
Chester Christian Church, 4330 Curtis St., Chester VA. Have you wondered if the teapot Aunt Margaret left you is merely a dust collector, or could help pay for that boat you've had your eye on? Find out at the Antiques Evaluation "Roadshow." The fee to have one item evaluated is \$10, or three items for \$25. This event is not affiliated with the PBS television program. Details: 796.7121.

Tired of the Digital TV Conversion Hype?

By Mike Burnette



If you are like most, you are tired of hearing the DTV commercials every five minutes. Since you have cable or FIOS, or if you bought a TV with a digital tuner, you really don't need to worry about it....or do you?

I realized after hearing the commercials for the billionth time that my TV in my garage wasn't hooked up to cable nor was a little 5" one I had on my office desk. So I went to www.dtv2009.gov to order some of those certificates. As of press time, the \$40 certificates were not available as the government funding source had dried up. As people do not redeem these certificates by the expiration date, more certificates will become available. But that is like winning the lottery at this point.

So, I headed out to buy some cable wire and figured I would wire the garage so I will have uninterrupted service by the time the Daytona 500 rolls around. We'll see if I actually get to that project before the conversion date.

Why are we switching to DTV?

An important benefit of the switch to all-digital broadcasting is that it will free up parts of the valuable broadcast spectrum for public safety communications (such as police, fire departments, and rescue squads). Also, some of the spectrum will be auctioned to companies that will be able to provide consumers with more advanced wireless services (such as wireless broadband).

Consumers also benefit because digital broadcasting allows stations to offer improved picture and sound quality, and digital is much more efficient than analog. For example, rather than being limited to providing one analog program, a broadcaster is able to offer a super sharp high definition (HD) digital program or multiple standard definition (SD) digital programs simultaneously through a process called multicasting. Multicasting allows broadcast stations to offer several channels of digital programming at the same time, using the same amount of spectrum required for one analog program. So, for example, while a station broadcasting in analog on channel 7 is only able to offer viewers one program, a station broadcasting in digital on channel 7 can offer viewers one digital program on channel 7-1, a second digital program on channel 7-2, a third digital program on channel 7-3, and so on. This means more programming choices for viewers.

You can order your certificates at: www.dtv2009.gov
If you have a converter box and need help troubleshooting it,
go to www.dtv.gov

TV HISTORY

1927

In 1927, Philo Farnsworth was the first inventor to transmit a television image comprised of 60 horizontal lines. The image transmitted was a dollar sign. Farnsworth developed the dissector tube, the basis of all current electronic televisions. He filed for his first television patent in 1927 (#1,773,980).



1943

5000 TVs existed in the U.S.

1947

First Commercial TV station in Virginia

1950

CBS starts broadcasting in color.

1953

Cable TV

1956

The first remote control called Lazy Bones

1964

Plasma TV Prototype

1976-77

Sony Sells the Betamax.
RCA sells the VHS VCR.
Cost \$1300

1980

CNN & MTV
Closed-Captioning

1996

18" satellite dishes become the hottest selling electronic item.

1997

TIVO
DVD Test Marketing Began.

2009

DTV



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Tacky Light Tour

On Friday, December 19, about 45 Grove adults boarded a coach bus at the clubhouse and set out on a tacky light tour. The tour began downtown at the James Center and then moved on to various West End homes. The lights were great! Truly tacky! Participants brought along snacks and drinks to enjoy on board. It was a pleasure not to have to maneuver through traffic and to be able to sit back, relax and partake of the refreshments and to get in the holiday spirit. At various points along the trip, many were inspired to belt out Christmas carols. A fun time was had by all.

Hopefully more can attend next year!





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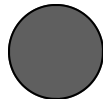
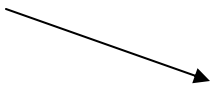
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What would you think if there was just a blank spot in our newsletter.....probably nothing.



But you can help....submit a story idea,
send pictures of life in The Grove,
suggest a neighbor to spotlight,
or just give some feedback to:

newsletter@thegrovehoa.com

Were you one of the first to live in the Grove?

We are writing a 10th anniversary edition for the next newsletter and want your input and photos!

We are particularly looking for those residents that moved-in between April and June of 1999.

Please contact Karen Reams by the end of February.
thxmarykay@comcast.net
794.5219

Coalbrook Crawl Dec. 2008 Pics



Beth Marshall, Lisa Kopecko,
Kimberly Morgan, Maggi Lewis



Troy Rysendorph, Ed Von Hoene,
Juergen Spykman, Dave Anderson

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of rebuilding our children's playing fields at Watkins Annex.

Our community has the chance to upgrade this area to once again be a village park and play ground for children of all ages. Your support keeps the ball moving!

We invite you to attend **The Midlothian Field of Dreams Gala** on Saturday, March 14, 2009, from 6:30 to 11:00 pm at The Salisbury Country Club. Cocktails, Hors d'oeuvres, Dinner & Silent Auction. Live Auction Featuring a Classic 1965 Mustang. Music by Flat Elvis

Call or email co-chair Lisa Kopecko
(your Grove Neighbor)
by March 4th
at 784.0012
or lisa@lanebuilt.com

\$100 for first guest and
\$75 for each additional guest



www.bethwilliamsfoundation.com

www.midlothianva.org

(Continued from front cover)

PRECINCT	CANDIDATE	VOTE	VOTE %
514 - WATKINS (District 07)	<i>Democrat</i> Barack Obama and Joe Biden	953	35.96%
	<i>Republican</i> John McCain and Sarah Palin	1,677	63.28%
	<i>Independent Green</i> Chuck Baldwin and Darrell L. Castle	3	0.11%
	<i>Libertarian</i> Bob Barr and Wayne A. Root	6	0.22%
	<i>Green</i> Cynthia McKinney and Rosa Clemente	0	0%
	<i>Independent</i> Ralph Nader and Matt Gonzalez	7	0.26%
	<i>Write In</i>	4	0.15%

www.voterinfo.sbe.virginia.gov

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