



The Grove Homeowners Association
www.TheGroveHOA.com

Volume 8, Issue 1
February-March 2011

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Board Appoints New Director

Gary Zyla has resigned due to company relocation and we thank him for his service to the community. The board has appointed Scotter Hills resident Kathy Morris to serve the remainder of Gary's term. Kathy also serves on the townhouse board. To contact Kathy, email director@thegrovehoa.com or phone 543-4249.

By Gerry Mancuso
HOA President

Board Term Limit Change

The Grove Board of Directors approved amending the bylaws to change Board term limitations at the HOA meeting in January. With a quorum of proxy ballots cast, the special meeting recessed in May was continued. An overwhelming majority of homeowners voted in favor of term increase. Effective with the November 2011 election, the top 2 directors getting the most votes will serve for two years. The other 3 directors will serve terms for one year.

Change To GHOA Meetings

Also at January's HOA meeting, the Board approved decreasing the frequency of Grove Homeowners meetings from monthly to bi-monthly. They are now scheduled for January, March, May, July, September, with the Annual HOA meeting and board election occurring every November, and board meeting in December. The date will still fall on the 2nd Thursday at 6:30 pm at the Clubhouse, unless otherwise posted.

The next GHOA meeting is

March 10, 2011

2010-2011 Board of Directors

boardofdirectors@lists.thegrovehoa.com

Gerry Mancuso, 897-0853
president@thegrovehoa.com

Steve Judd, 379-9197
vicepresident@thegrovehoa.com

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

Maria Collins, 240-7939
treasurer@thegrovehoa.com

Kathy Morris, 543-4249
director@thegrovehoa.com

The Grove's Full Service Community Manager

Community Group
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

Carolyn Grimes
270-1800

Clubhouse

Terry Cullen, 379-4710
clubhouse@thegrovehoa.com

Newsletter

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 Safety

Marina Leneave, 897-4627

HOA Connection

Holiday Lights

If your home exterior is still lit up like Santa's runway, he won't be back until December! All decorations & lights must be taken down within 20 days following the holiday, counting from New Years Day.



Homeowner Assessments

As of January 31st, the \$35 late fee applies to any outstanding GHOA 2011 assessments, increasing the amount due to \$420.00. Please contact Community Group right away at 270-1800 regarding any payment issues.

DISCLOSURE BOOKS

If you are selling a home in The Grove, you must purchase a NEW disclosure package for the buyer during the contract period. New homeowners have the right to cancel a contract if they do not receive a current package. To order a disclosure package, go to www.communitygroup.com and click on the "Selling & Refinancing" tab and "Place Order Here" tab. If you have any questions or need help, please contact Community Group, Owner Services 270-1800.

Sellers of properties in Krim Point, Ridgemoor, and Scotter Hills must purchase a disclosure package from their neighborhood HOA in addition to The Grove disclosure package.

For more details see Grove HOA web site under the "Contact Us" tab.

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 Apr. - May issue are due Mar. 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 of Midlothian, VA, Inc.

RATES FOR 2011

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.

Crime Hits Too Close to Home

On November 29, 2010, a home in Mitford was burglarized. The thieves methodically went through every closet and drawer, taking only small pocket items. This incident as well as an influx of crimes in our community has prompted the need to re-establish a Neighborhood Safety Awareness Committee. The group

will share strategies on theft prevention and security tips, not patrol the streets with nightsticks. In response, the Board wants to book an informational meeting with Chesterfield County Police open to all of us, in the near future at the Clubhouse.

Please, let's watch out for one another and keep our community safe! To join the "fight against crime," contact our Neighborhood Safety Chair Marina Leneave at 897-4627 or mleneave@verizon.net, or Gerry Mancuso at president@thegrovehoa.com.



Krim Point Fence Update

Approved repairs to the Krim Point Fence bordering the YMCA property have been delayed due to soggy ground conditions. Repairs to correct the erosion problem as well as restore the fence will continue once weather permits.

Spring Forward!
March 13th



Neighborhood Yard Sale

April 2, 2011

8 am to 12 pm

(Rain Date April 9th)



Stay TUNED for details...

Vandalism and Crime

Several communities in the Midlothian area have recently been plagued by nighttime vandals who search unlocked cars and garages for money, valuables, alcohol and weapons. Remember to roll up your car windows and to lock doors when leaving vehicles unattended. Also remember to keep your garage doors closed and locked. Items such as golf clubs, tools and beer are easy targets for theft. Exterior lighting is another powerful deterrent to crime.

Away from home, prevent the opportunity and stop the crime. Here are a few tips to help avoid being a victim.

- Try to park in well-lighted areas with good visibility and close to walkways, stores, and people.

- Always lock your car, even if it's in your own driveway.
- Never leave your motor running.
- Don't leave valuables in view in the car. Leave them in the trunk or, better yet, take them home immediately.
- Don't use your "clicker" to open your car doors until you reach the side of your vehicle.

We have also recently experienced some graffiti on the playground equipment at the clubhouse and reports of drinking and other suspicious activities in the gazebos at the lake. Please report suspicious activity to Chesterfield Police non-emergency 748-1251.

Carolyn Grimes
Community Manager

Backflow Preventer Thefts

The GHOA needs your eyes and ears to prevent the possible theft of irrigation backflow preventers in our common areas. A number of communities in the local area have reported the loss of common area backflow preventers. They are being stolen and sold for brass and copper scrap. Please be on the lookout for unknown vehicles cruising the

neighborhood. It is believed the backflow preventers are being cut off with saws although some have been removed by causing significant damage to the surrounding area. Please call the police should you notice anything suspicious.

By Gerry Mancuso
President

Stay OFF the ICE!

Please discuss with your children the dangers associated with the pond in The Grove during the winter. Explain to them the possibility of falling through the surface of the pond on ice that appears to be frozen. Our pond is quite deep in some areas, and although it may look frozen on the edges, in all likelihood it is not.

By Carolyn Grimes
Community Manager



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Pool Pass Volunteers Needed

SUMMER will be here before we know it. Please volunteer to distribute pool passes this May. To sign up email Gerry Mancuso at: president@thegrovehoa.com

LAWN & GARDEN QUESTIONS?

Ask the master gardeners
at
Chesterfield Co. Extension:

<http://offices.ext.vt.edu/chesterfield/>

Architectural Review Committee Pointers

Before tackling that “honey-do” list, **please check the architectural guidelines** & apply at <http://thegrovehoa.com/covenants-by-laws>. Any changes to landscape, like planting and removing trees, shrubs, and flowers requires ARC approval. Other projects needing an ARC OK are new driveways & sidewalks, irrigation, decks, additions, sheds, play equipment, swing sets, and changing paint colors. ARC reviews and decides most homeowner requests within a week of submission.

Get involved! The ARC is currently seeking volunteers. All work is accomplished online and is not time-intensive. To sign-up please contact Carolyn Grimes at cgrimes@communitygroup.com.



Dominion VA Power Removes Trees In Electric Transmission Easement (Right of Way)

Due to the invasive nature of certain trees in areas bordering the electric transmission easement, Dominion Power has conducted several homeowners in The Grove notifying them of the intent to remove these trees. Most of these species have been planted by individual land owners on their own land as well as on Homeowners Associations properties. Dominion will

remove all fast growing species from the transmission right of way including but not limited to; Leyland Cypress, Cryptomeria, Weeping Willow, and Maple.

Dominion VA Power must maintain the vegetation at safe clearances as required by recently imposed federal standards. These trees require immediate action to avoid a violation of those standards to avoid significant fines. The easement which is attached to homeowners' properties gives Dominion the right to keep the right of way clear of trees.

For any questions, please contact Peter Donovan, Dominion VA Power, at 257-4937 or Peter.M.Donovan@dom.com.

Playground Update

Progress is being made in overhauling The Grove playgrounds. Improvements include new swing sets and six new benches. Also installed was certified playground mulch and a board retainer to prevent loss of mulch.



Phone Directory

The deadline to change your information listed in Grove neighborhood directory has now passed. Its anticipated publication date is sometime this Spring or Summer. For more details contact the Directory Coordinator Diana Garbera at garbera2@comcast.net.



Angel Wing" in Ducks and Geese

Written By: Rachel Howard



"Angel wing" is a phenomenon that occurs in geese and ducks, both wild and domestic. The last joint of the wing becomes twisted and the wing points out. This renders the bird unable to fly and quite often it dies early particularly in wild birds. There is no conclusive research that I can find on the cause of angel wing, but it is widely known that it occurs exclusively in birds that are fed by humans. The two major theories are:

- (1) the diet consists of too much protein (14 – 16 % is advised) or
- (2) too many sugars usually due to the well meaning bread feeders at parks and recreational areas.

It is my concern that parks and recreation areas where it is likely that people will feed the wild and domestic ducks and geese bread, crackers and even

popcorn, the signs saying **Please Do Not Feed The Waterfowl** are simply not enough to deter well meaning people. The public needs more information. Also, feed stores are often not well educated in what to offer the waterfowl. I found recently that the duck and goose food I was using to feed the local birds was much too high in protein.

This causes a much faster growth than the wings can bear. It's not the best idea to feed wild ducks and geese, but if they have taken up residence in an urban water habitat, or they have been bred by humans and released there (for various reasons) proper food is better than bread. Look for a balanced nutritional commercial feed for wild waterfowl, or run a search on the internet for a mix that can be made at home. PLEASE, No bread, No seeds, No popcorn, No potato chips. Again, if using a commercial wild waterfowl feed, no more than 16% protein.

This photo above shows a few of the pekins that I have been feeding. The one on the right has "angel wing". I have named him Angel. See the wings? They do not lay back against the body.

When waterfowl are fed bread the food turns into fat literally drowning the tissues of the bird, eventually resulting in death even though they appear healthy. The duck or goose is not hungry and will not forage for the good food which is his staple diet. Waterfowl become bread dependent. They become more aggressive as well. It is important to educate the public. Children need to understand as well.

From The National Wildlife Humane Society

<http://www.humanewildlife.org/news.html?blogentryid=4533635>



OTHER GEESE FACTS

- Geese mate in February and March and resident geese are in pairs, not in flocks
- Nest in late March-May - geese and ganders become very aggressive at this time to protect their nests. If you see a lone gander "patrolling" a certain area, that means that there are nests nearby.
- Discourage homeowners from feeding geese/goslings May-July - if there is no food, they will look for somewhere else to forage.

From: GeesePeace

<http://www.geesepeace.org/>

Carbon Monoxide and Fire Safety Guard

When was the last time you thought about your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors? If the answer is "I don't remember," **NOW** is the time to replace the batteries in your smoke alarms and put in new carbon monoxide detectors. Cooler evenings and longer nights means using your gas fireplaces more and running the heating systems in your house longer. Carefully check and be sure the pilot lights are working and the gas jets are not clogged with spider webs and debris from the

summer. This will **SAVE YOU MONEY** and could also **SAVE YOUR LIFE**. CARBON MONOXIDE IS A SILENT KILLER. It results from poorly burning gas jets. Gas leaks will also change the quality of your household air. Because there is **NO** odor and because it results in a change of consciousness, there is **NO WARNING** of **IMPENDING TROUBLE**. FIRE from sparks from the fireplace and clogged or dirty chimneys are leading causes of major disasters.

By Carolyn Grimes, Community Manager

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Chesterfield County holds Health Programs

Get your "ticker" in tune this year with 2 extension programs offered through Chesterfield County. *Heart Smart* is a 2 part workshop teaching heart healthy lifestyle practices. It will be held February 10 and 17 available at two time frames, either 9:30 a.m. - noon or 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. This FREE workshop will be held at the Chesterfield County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension, 6807 Mimms Loop.

Fit Extension challenges families and friends to get fit by exercising more and eating lots of fruits and veggies. Participants form into teams of 5 to 6 people and select a captain to track weekly progress, with leaderboard results posted on the extension's web. The program kicks off March 11, 2011 at Chesterfield County Virginia Co-op Extension office from 1 to 5 pm, and runs March 20th through May 14th. The cost is only \$20.00 per team.

To participate in either program, please pre-register by contacting family & consumer agent Linda Jackson Cole at 804.751.4401 or licole2@vt.edu. For further details visit <http://offices.ext.vt.edu/chesterfield/> and click on "Nutrition and Fitness."



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Brandermill Office
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804.608.3200 | 804.608.3201 - Fax

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April 9th
10 AM—5 PM*

*For more details
See <http://www.jtcc.edu/foolforart/>*



The 8K Sweetheart Race

Traffic alert: The Annual 8K Sweetheart Race runs right through the “heart” of The Grove and Mid-Lothian Mines Park each Valentine’s Day weekend. This year’s race starts at the Clubhouse and winds along neighborhood roads and trails on Sunday, February 13, 2011 from approximately 7:30 AM to Noon. Traffic may be disrupted with runners traversing subdivision streets. Race details will be posted on the sandwich boards before the event.

For further information on the Sweetheart 8K contact its organizer Jen Brumfield at 787-4508 or jen7779@hotmail.com or visit Richmond Road Runners at <http://www.rrrc.org/events/sweetheart-8k>.



***Free Neighbor-to-Neighbor
Classified Ads
(For Grove Residents Only)***

Mailbox Repair

Mailbox 911 - Biggin Pond resident Dale Murphy offers mailbox repair or replacement services to Grove neighbors. Post repair available in wood or vinyl. Call Dale at 405-1023.

Hawkins Wood resident **John Romano** offers vinyl mail box replacement to Grove home owners. Wood is nice but vinyl is final. Call John at 379-1238.

Child Care Services

Babysitter - Thirteen year-old eighth grader provides babysitting services. Coalbrook resident with lots of experience with children ages two through nine. Call Sami at 897-9375.

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

See the "**Band From The Grove**" at Diamond Billiards Saturday March 5th @ 8:30PM playing tunes from the 60's to the 90's, a little bit of country, blues and current songs. Bring family, friends, and kids (age 8 or older, with parent supervision). Atmosphere is family-friendly, smoke free, with good food & low cost pool.

Chris Veach - Vocals (Coalbrook)

Bob Walsh - Guitars/Vocals (Gravity Hill)

Bill Coleman - Guitars (Gravity Hill)

Tom Arnold - Bass (Gravity Hill)

Brian Legere - Drums (Gravity Hill)

Pet Care Services

Pet Sitting - Retired Krim Point resident is available to do pet sitting. Call Linda at 897-0764.

Furniture

POOL TABLE...BRUNSWICK 8 FT MISSION TABLE in Cherry Finish plus extras. Selling for \$2500 (original price \$5400) and will include the fitted heavy duty cover, rack, balls, specially designed wooden insert that converts this pool table to play ping-pong and hockey. Table is in excellent condition, well cared for and covered when not in use. If interested please contact Dennis Walters, in Gravity Hill, at 804-378-9384, for additional information or details.

WELCOME TO THE GROVE!

Jeremy T. Beauchamp, 13300 Railey Hill Dr.

Jiaying & Frederick Mallon, 606 Ridgemoor Ct.

Phil, Lisa, Ethan, Ella, & Holden Rossi, 955 Roll Dr.

Greg, Sara & Henry Sitkiewicz, 900 Railey Hill Ct.

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Mid-Lothian Mines Park Announces New Website and Newsletter

December's launch of the new website for Mid-Lothian Mines Park brings forth a new free email newsletter with timely information for history fans, runners and walkers, neighbors of the park, those interested in the new amphitheater, nature lovers and everyone who enjoys or is interested in the Midlothian park. To discover the history of America's first coal miners, please sign up for the free newsletter at <http://www.midlomines.org/> under "News."

By Charles Batchelor
Midlothian Communications Committee

The Grove Miner and HOA website is always looking for local stories and pics to publish. Please send your ideas, articles, and photos to newsletter@thegrovehoa.com for both the newsletter and the website. Thanks!





Burning ants with a magnifying glass does not prevent summer learning loss.

Millwood School Summer Programs are back with a whole new set of fun and enriching experiences for rising preschoolers through 8th graders. And none involve burning live arthropods. Promise.

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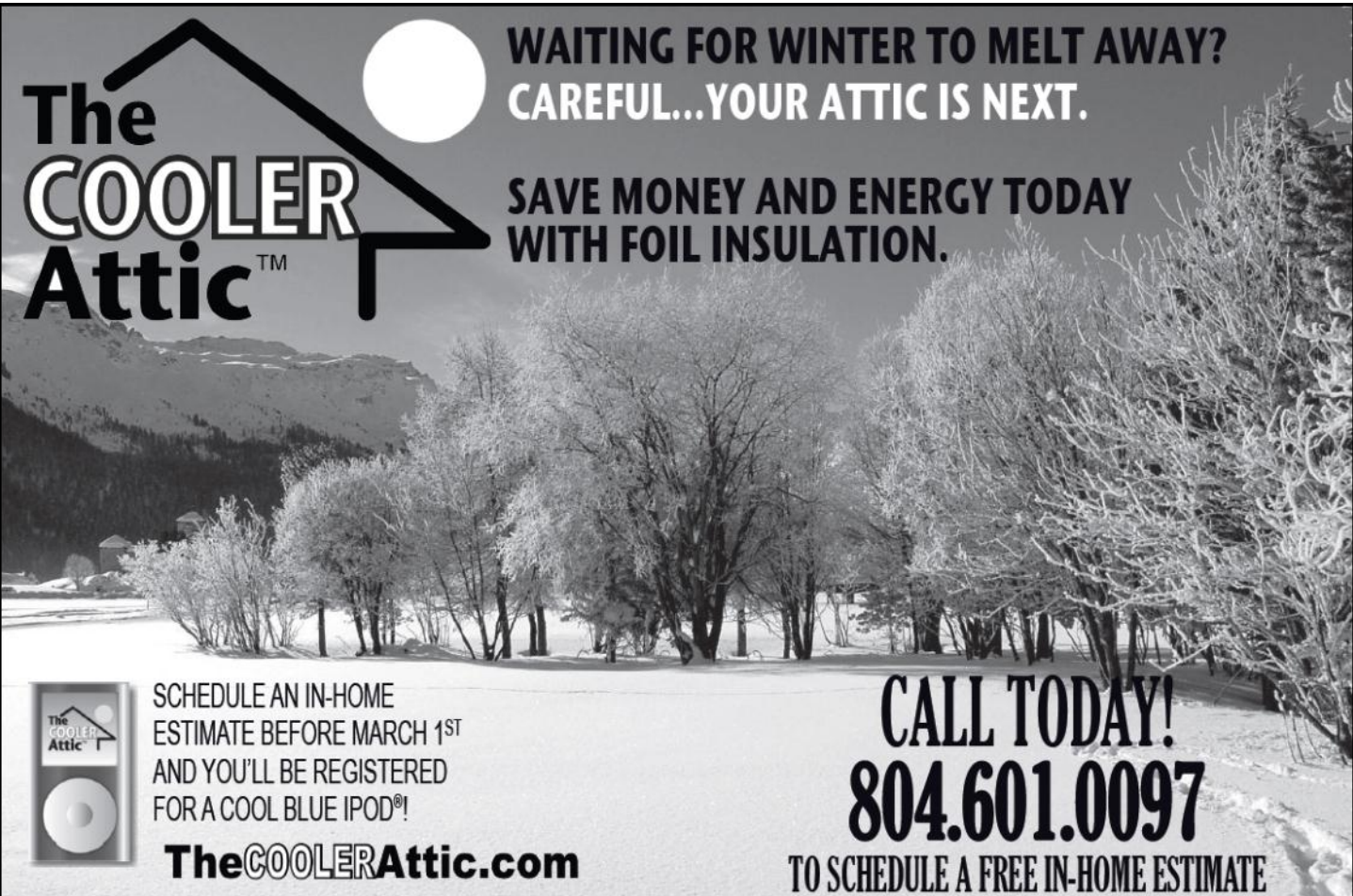
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