



The Grove Homeowners Association www.TheGroveHOA.com

Volume 7, Issue 1 February—March 2010

# **Grove Resident Now Serving in Governor's Cabinet**



Eric Finkbeiner, a senior vice president and director of Virginia government relations at McGuireWoods Consulting and a partner in the McGuireWoods law firm, was recently named senior advisor for policy, a cabinet-level position, in the administration of Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell.

Congratulations, Eric!

Virginia Inaugurated its 71st Governor on Jan. 16, 2010



# Bob McDonnell Calls for a "Commonwealth of Opportunity"

Editorial by Mike Burnette

In his inauguration speech, Governor Bob McDonnell called for a "Commonwealth of Opportunity". Regardless of your political affiliation, what he said on that day, I hope, was an inspiration to all of us.

"It was in seizing the opportunity of equality and education that a courageous 16 year-old girl named Barbara Johns, memorialized behind this majestic Capitol at the Virginia Civil Rights Memorial, stood up and walked out of Moton High School in Farmville 59 years ago this spring...Barbara Johns was willing to risk everything for the simple opportunity of a good education. Surely, 60 years later, we can work together to provide that opportunity to all Virginia children.

As Virginians, we believe that government must help foster a society in which all our people can use their God-given talents in liberty to pursue the American Dream. Where opportunity is absent, we must create it. Where opportunity is limited, we must expand it. Where opportunity is unequal, we must make it open to everyone."

(continued on page 11)

# Ladies Night Out



Feb. 27
RSVP by Feb. 20

(See page 9 for details.)

# The Grove Community Yard Sale

# **April 17, 2010** 8am-Noon

The HOA will place an ad in the newspaper, and put signs at the entrances. You can put signs up from Grove Hill Rd. to your residence. Please remove signs on Saturday afternoon.

# GROVE RESIDENTS FREE NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR CLASSIFIEDS

**Babysitter:** Responsible 7<sup>th</sup> grader, Red Cross certified. Call Emily at 972.0362 or email: 813egg@gmail.com.

Any keyboard players in The Grove? If there is anyone in The Grove who plays keyboards or knows someone who does? We have some folks (guitar, bass, drums, singer) in our Gravity Hill section that get together every now and then for a low-key, fun jam and we'd love to find someone who can play some keyboards. If interested in jamming with us, please contact Bob Walsh at (cell) 503.6216 or email z9rjw0@yahoo.com.

**Snow removal:** Looking for youth in The Grove to be on call for the next storm to help your neighbors out for a reasonable fee. If you would like to be on list, call Byron Foutch at 794.3148. You can also call Byron if you want the list once it is compiled.

Want to place a free neighbor-to-neighbor classified ad?
Email it to newsletter@thegrovehoa.com
Another option for classifieds: Post them on the website under
"discuss a topic" at www.TheGroveHOA.com

# **Grove Homeowners Meetings**

The February Meeting will be Feb. 11 (Second Thursday)
The March Meeting will be Mar. 18 (Third Thursday)
Normally meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

# Uh—Oh!

The Grove HOA dues are now past due! Call Community Group immediately to make payment arrangements! As of Feb. 1, there is a late fee of \$35. So you now owe \$420 (\$385 + \$35 late fee)

(See page 3 for policy change on past due fees.)

# www.thegrovehoa.com

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# Ads and submissions for the April - May issue are due Mar. 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.)



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

## **NEW 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.

### 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

as of Jan. 1, 2010

Elizabeth Northcraft Community Group 4222 Cox Road, #110 Glen Allen, VA 23060 270.1800 email@communitygroup.com www.communitygroup.com

For neighborhood violations, repairs, assessments, vendor management, etc.

# **GHOA Committee Chairs**

### **Architectural Modifications**

Steve Kellner, 594.2340 mskellner@verizon.net

### Clubhouse

Terry Cullen, 379.4710 clubhouse@thegrovehoa.com

### **Publicity & Newsletter**

Mike Burnette, 897.0377 newsletter@thegrovehoa.com

### Pool

Volunteer needed!

### 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

# Things you need to know in The Grove

# Are you missing important Grove news?

Many communications go out throughout the year through The Grove's email listserve.

If you are not subscribed, you are missing important news, alerts and community information. Go to www.thegrovehoa.com and click on the SUBSCRIBE button on the upper left corner of the website under NEWS AND ALERTS.

## **Mailbox Repair Information**

Biggin Pond Resident **Dale Murphy** (379.7691) has located and purchased a case of replacement numbers for our mailboxes. If you need new numbers (or need your mailbox repaired or want a vinyl replacement mailbox), he can help you. Prices vary depending on what needs to be done.



Please remember that mailboxes in disrepair are considered a violation and you can be fined. Please take the time to fix up your box or call a repairman of your choice to help.

# New Change in Effect for The Grove HOA Dues

Everyone was notified in December by mail with a dues notice for \$385.

Due to an increasing number of homeowners not paying their dues on time, and increasing collection costs, The Grove HOA board adapted new policies at the January 2010 Board meeting.

If your dues are not paid by January 31, you will be assessed a \$35 late fee. If you are 45 days late, the second notice will add an additional \$10 notice fee. If you are 60 days late, a final notice will be sent with an additional \$15 administrative fee due. If you do not pay within 2 weeks of the final notice, a \$25 attorney transfer fee will be charged and the board has the right to place a lien on the property. Of course, any attorney fees and court costs will be charged to the delinquent homeowner as well.

This new policy will ensure that the HOA and other property owners do not absorb the fees incurred for collecting delinquencies.

# Clubhouse Changes

Effective Jan. 1, 2010 clubhouse rate changes are in effect.

### Resident Rental:

Remains \$100 (6-hour block) plus security deposit is required.

### Non-Profit Rentals:

Only Scouts or similar type youth groups will be charged \$15 per rental (6-hour block), plus security deposit is required. All other non-profit groups will be charged \$50 (6-hour block), plus deposit is required.

### Free Rentals:

Free rentals are granted for events open to all neighbors of the Grove or specific Grove neighborhoods. Attendees must be Grove residents only.

### Cancellations:

50% of the rental fee will be returned for cancellations prior to 7 days of rental date. Cancellations within 7 days of rental date will forfeit entire rental fee unless cancellation is due to severe weather (board approval required for refund).

thegrovehoa.com/clubhouse

# **Covenant Reminder**

As spring begins, many of us will begin to think about home improvements and new landscaping ideas. All modifications to the exterior of the home and to the property itself must go through Architectural Review.

## thegrovehoa.com/covenants-by-laws

Even planting new trees, where no tree has been in the past, requires approval. For your sake, please do not assume a small project does not need approval.

Soon we will have a new online system through our management company, Community Group, to submit all modification applications. Our website will indicate this change once in place.

## Changes in the Newsletter

Starting with this issue, we have stopped printing the front cover in color. The Grove HOA is doing everything we can to manage expenses to make your HOA dues reasonable. Many expenses are increasing, but this is one area that we could cut at this time.

# Information from Chesterfield Code Compliance

The Chesterfield County Code Compliance Office desires the assistance of county residents who can report violations. The information that residents provide is kept confidential. It is excluded from the Freedom of Information Act, and it is county policy not to reveal the identity of a complainant. Complaints may be lodged by phone weekdays, 8:30 am - 5 pm, at 748.1500. Complaints also may be submitted online on the Chesterfield County Web site at chesterfield.gov

Some examples of code compliance violations include: more than two dogs (over four months old); illegal fences; unlicensed or inoperable vehicles; recreational vehicles and equipment; trucks parking in residential areas; discarded materials; building setbacks; illegal home occupations; signs; and grass and weeds. Many other violations are against The Grove's HOA covenants and can be reported to our community manager at Community Group (See page 2 for contact information).



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### Walton Park

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

Our Olympic-sized pool features:
Enjoyable pool side, tiered sun deck
Beach entry baby pool
Covered patio with ceiling fans
Snack bar and regularly scheduled family
events

Walton Park is also home to the Waves swim team which takes an "every kid swims" approach. Come see why our swim team is the best part of summer!

Must be a pool member to be on the swim team.

Contact us at 379-0540 or
Creamer6@verizon.net
(Sign up early & save \$\$ Family rate is \$400 - Couples/Single rate \$250
before March 15)



# The Grove Pool PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH THE POOL

This committee currently does not have anyone on it, and we really need your help.

If you can help next season, please email president@thegrovehoa.com

# WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

Just moved in?

We want to welcome you with a Grove Gift Bag!

Email us at: grovewelcome@thegrovehoa.com or call Judi Ryan-Phillips, 594.2655.

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# Is your house suffering growing pains?

By John Baughn, Grove Resident and REALTOR®

The old saying "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" can easily be applied to the care and maintenance of your home. Small areas of concern can easily morph into major headaches if they go unnoticed, and early detection can save you hundreds of dollars in repair bills down the road.



# Give your home a quick inspection now for peace of mind.

Here are several areas to review:

- Check the exterior for loose or missing siding, trim, shutters and downspouts. Replace or secure as necessary. Be sure any exposed wood is properly painted, sealed, or caulked to prevent water decay this is critical around garage door openings and side entrance doors.
- If you haven't power washed your home in the last three years, consider having it done in late spring. This removes dirt and mold which could eventually find its way into your home.
- Check your deck secure loose or bowed boards (tripping hazards). Power wash and seal it to preserve its life span.
- Look at your garage door be sure the bolts are tight and the rollers are lubricated. Review your owner's manual for regular inspection guidelines or consider purchasing an annual maintenance contract.
- Take a close look at your water heater any signs of corrosion around the pipe joints could indicate a leak. Have a plumber check it out.
- Check your washing machine hoses for tightness consider replacing the original hoses with burst proof stainless steel versions.
- Patch cracks and seal your driveway this will add years to its life.
- Remove leaves and other debris from around your HVAC compressors and hose off the coils to remove dirt. Have your HVAC system professionally inspected and consider an annual maintenance contract.
- If you haven't had a termite inspection, get one now. Call a pest control company today. Termites can create a great deal of damage in a short period of time don't give this one a second thought.

Be sure to contact the appropriate professionals for repairs which are dangerous or exceed your level of expertise! This list is not all inclusive. Consult a professional home inspection company for a detailed examination. You may also want to consider home warranty companies for protection insurance.







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# Upcoming Winter Workshops

SENSUAL BELLY DANCE WITH VEILS FOR BEGINNERS

February 7-28, 2010 \$50 (4 Week Session)

COUPLES YOGA -VALENTINE'S WEEKEND

February 13, 2010 \$45 per Couple (2hr Session)

MOMMY & ME

(AGES INFANT TO 4 YEARS)

February 16 - March 23, 2010 \$75 (6 Week Session)

RESTORATIVE YOGA FOR STRESS

February 20, 2010

\$40 (2.5hr Session)

YOGA FOR BACKPAIN February 27, 2010

\$35 (1.5hr Session)

MIDDLE EASTERN BELLY DANCE FOR BEGINNERS

March 7 - April 11, 2010 \$75 (6 Week Session) The 2010 Census Safety Tips. (Keep this sheet handy by your front door!)

The census is coming! The census is coming! Every 10 years, the US Census Bureau conducts a count of everyone living in the United States. You are legally obliged to answer these questions.

Your census form will be mailed in March. If you return it promptly, no census taker should come to your door. Census takers will not begin appearing in person until May. But with the census come scammers.

Please read these tips to protect you and your family.

- You will NEVER be asked to divulge your Social Security number or any other confidential, personal information like your bank account and/or credit card numbers.
- You will NEVER be asked for money or told that you owe money.
- The Census Bureau will not collect data by email or through online websites. It will not ask you to click a link or attachment.
- All census workers will carry official identification, a confidentiality notice and, more often than not, handheld computer.
- No census worker will ask to come into your home, nor should you ever invite them to do so.

If you have questions or expect fraud, call the Regional Census Center at 704.936.5300.

# Ladies Night Out

(Hors D'oeuvres by White House Catering)
Feb. 27
7 pm until?

Come join your girlfriends for Ladies Night Out at the Grove Clubhouse.

Non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. Bring your own alcoholic beverages if desired.

Please RSVP with \$10 payment and form below by Feb. 20. (Space is limited.)

Questions: Please call Michelle Quiram at 379.2325 or Julie Smith at 379.3886

Name		Phone #
Email address for confirmation		
Number of people	\$	_ enclosed (\$10 per person)
Please pay by check and make payable to: GHOA  Please mail or deliver to the flier box of Michelle Quiram, 13330 Tipple Point Rd. (Kingham)		





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# The Grove Gone 4 Good Weight Loss Competition

Over 20 Grove Residents wrapped up a weight loss competition in December.

Kristen Holland and Mike Burnette on "Team Minus and Counting" came out as the winners (or actually the biggest losers) with a body weight average loss over 9%.

A big thanks to Donna Carter for organizing this program and giving many residents the motivation to be "losers"!





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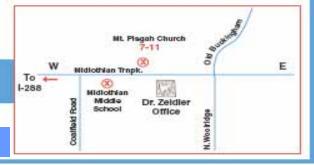


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Next to the New American Family Fitness





Continued from front cover

"Our administration will be dedicated to building 'A Commonwealth of Opportunity' for all Virginians.

And now it is here, in this place, that we pledge to work together to create 'A Commonwealth of Opportunity' ... for all Virginians and to add our steps to Virginia's journey. It is right to help one another. It is right to work together to get results and solve problems. It is right to provide opportunities for all. Let us...get to work for the good of the people of Virginia."

There is really nothing more I can add to his words. Well-said Governor. I hope four years from now, we are saying "well done, Governor".



Mike Burnette photo

"Where opportunity is absent, we must create it. Where opportunity is limited, we must expand it.
Where opportunity is unequal, we must make it open to everyone."

## The Farmer in the Grove

by Jamie Hubbard, Krim Point

Herb Dorn is a retired Lutheran pastor who resides with his wife, Marti, in Krim Point. As a young boy he grew up on a farm in Minnesota and you cannot take "the farm out of the man."

Herb has spent hours upon hours digging, planting, mowing, seeding, aerating and tending the entire landscape in the common area along the creek behind Krim Point Loop. He had a vision about the landscape: green fields, environmentally attractive plants and shrubs and a haven for the many species of birds, the squirrels, bunnies and deer who also live in The Grove. In addition to all the tender loving care that Herb and Marti give to The Grove, they are absolutely wonderful, loving neighbors.

If you take a walk on the path to the YMCA or walk the power line, enjoy the scenery that has been so unselfishly developed for all of us by our very own Farmer In The Grove and say thank you, Dorns!

# Grove Resident to host Gallery Walk at

# Virginia Historical Society



The Cold War Crisis: The U-2 Incident exhibition now on display is about the life of imprisoned spy Francis Gary Powers, Sr. (1929–1977). It is organized by The Cold War Museum, which was founded by Grove resident Francis Gary Powers, Jr. and son of the late Francis Gary Powers, Sr.

The exhibition features more than 50 items including a never-before-seen propaganda poster, photos, letters and Soviet artifacts collected by Powers, Jr.

Gary will give a gallery walk of the exhibition on Wednesday, March 10, at noon at the Virginia Historical Society.

Admission to the exhibition is free while it is on display at the Society through May 30.

Learn more at coldwar.org or vahistorical.org > exhibitions

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# Deck the Halls

Thanks to the Krim Point Ladies Exercise Group for once again transforming our clubhouse into a decorative display with colorful wreathes, a large tree and lights. It was truly a site filled with the spirit of the holidays for all to enjoy.

# Tacky Light Tour

2 dozen people enjoyed the tour of Richmond's "finest" decorations!





### Damon Omar Watson, DDS, MD

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Southside Office 11319 Polo Pl. I Midlothian, WA 23113 B04 794,0794 I B04 379 2858 – Fax

### Brandermill Office

6031 Harbour Park Dr. I Midlothian, VA 23112 804.608.3200 | 804.608.3201 - Fax

### West End Office

7650 Parham Rd., Suite 1101 Richmond, VA 23294 804.270.5028 | 804.747.3599 - Fax

## Sweetheart 8K Race

This 7th annual race will be held on Feb. 13 starting at 8:30 am at the Grove clubhouse.

Police will monitor traffic and access to all roads will be available. If anyone is interested in running the race please visit

www.rrrc.org.

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