



The Grove Homeowners Association
www.TheGroveHOA.com

Volume 20, Issue 4
November 2023 - January 2024

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SAVE TREES! SAVE COSTS: OPT FOR PAPERLESS BY NOV 30TH!

Sign up for e-statements to reduce printing and mailing costs for the annual HOA assessment statements. Less paper, less waste!

Owners can find the form on the TownSq Forms tab, or register and logon their account to receive statements electronically at <https://communitygroup.opt-e-mail.com/signup>

Verify Your Property Account: Providing your Account ID and Street Number allows for verification of your property account information for registration.

Account Info: Create your E-Statements account with your email address and by creating a password. The email address is where your statements will be sent. The password allows you to manage your account.

Add the @opt-e-mail.com Domain to Your Safe Senders List, to ensure all activation and e-statement emails are successfully delivered. Below is a list of a few popular email providers and how to add the domain. The process is generally the same for most e-mail providers.

If you don't see an email from communitygroup@estatement.opt-e-mail.com in your inbox:

Hotmail: Check your junk mail folder, open the email and click "Save Address" in the tool bar, verify the email and click "OK".

Yahoo: Check your junk mail folder open the email and click "Add to Address Book".

Outlook 2000+: Click on the "Actions" menu at the top of the main window, and select "Junk E-Mail". Click on Junk E-mail Options Select the "Safe Senders" tab and click the "Add" button. Enter communitygroup@estatement.opt-e-mail.com and click the "OK" button.

Gmail: Add communitygroup@estatement.opt-e-mail.com to your contacts list.

The deadline to opt for a paperless statement for the 2024 HOA Assessment is November 30th. If you don't sign up by then, you will get a paper statement for 2024. If you sign up after November 30th, you will get a paperless statement for 2025 and thereafter.

Next HOA Meetings

December 14th

6:30pm@ The Clubhouse

(2nd Thurs bi-monthly)

HOA ASSESSMENTS DUE BEFORE JANUARY 30, 2024

Assessment PAYMENTS must be **received and posted to your account by** Associa/Community Group by January 30, 2024, to avoid penalties. **Please remit promptly, and allow enough time for your payment to be mailed/received, processed and posted to individual accounts.** This applies whether you receive statements electronically or by mail. Payments received after January 30th are subject to a late fee. Note: Homeowners in **Krim Point, Ridgemoor, and Scotter Hills** must pay assessments to their individual HOA as well as assessments to The Grove.

The Grove 2023-2024 Board of Directors

boardofdirectors@thegrovehoa.com

Matt Chafin
president@thegrovehoa.com

Amy Vincent
vicepresident@thegrovehoa.com

Jay Scheer
secretary@thegrovehoa.com

Eric Drum
treasurer@thegrovehoa.com

Phillip Greer
director@thegrovehoa.com

The Grove's Full Service Community Manager is **COMMUNITY GROUP** (Covering Biggin Pond, Coalbrook, Gravity Hill, Hawkins Woods, Kingham, Krim Point, Mitford)

Jo Mendoza, COMMUNITY GROUP,
3901 Westerre Pkwy, # 100,
Richmond, VA 23233
804-270-1800

email@communitygroup.com
www.communitygroup.com

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

Scotter Hills/Ridgemoor Full Service Community Manager

Lesley Reed, 804-273-1333
Stellar Community Management, LLC.
lreed@stellarcommunitymanagementllc.com
Emergency After Hours 804-929-3355
Board of Directors: See Page 3

Grove Contacts

Architectural Modifications
Jo Mendoza, 804-270-1800
email@communitygroup.com

Clubhouse (see page 3)
Ashley Kundu
clubhouse@thegrovehoa.com

Newsletter
Cathy Allen, Editor
newsletter@thegrovehoa.com

Pool
Phillip Greer, phillipagreer@gmail.com

Social
Ashley Kundu
Grove Social Committee Facebook Page,
thegrovesocials@gmail.com

Neighborhood Watch
OPEN, president@thegrovehoa.com

Krim Point Board President
(See Page 3)

HOA Connection

Holiday Lights & Architectural Review Rules: Please remove all holiday exterior décor and illumination by January 20, 2024, as per HOA covenants. Year-Round: Any modifications to your home or landscaping need prior ARC approval. Major additions must be staked for visual reference to assess impact to adjoining properties. Scotter Hills and Ridgemoor residents must apply ONLY to The Grove ARC. The HOA has 30 days to review submissions to ARC. For details see www.thegrovehoa.com Covenants & Bylaws tab. Homeowners whose property backs up to the walking paths should check their shrubbery and trees for overhanging branches inhibiting people's progress on the paths. Trim bushes or trees that obstruct visibility of stop or street signs.

COMMUNITY GROUP AFTER HOURS COVERAGE

To report urgent or life threatening issues after normal business hours (after 5 p.m. and before 9:00 a.m.), please contact Community Group, 804-270-1800 and follow the prompts for the 24 hour On Call Manager. Please DO NOT call Board members or leave messages on the regular Community Group inbox – those calls are not returned until the following business day. The On Call Manager can handle any urgent request immediately. Items needing immediate attention are: Irrigation zones running for extended periods of time, broken irrigation heads, fire or damage to the Clubhouse or common areas, etc. **COMMUNITY GROUP NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS COVERAGE: CONTACT OWNER SERVICES AT email@communitygroup.com or 804-270-1800 EXT. 1.**

Home Sales in The Grove Require Disclosure Packages

Residents selling their home must purchase an updated disclosure book from the HOA to give to their buyer (for the Grove book contact Community Group 804-270-1800, Krim Point and Scotter Hills/Ridgemoor request those additional books from your HOA). Your buyer has 3 days to review the documents once in hand. The Virginia Statutes allows up to 14 calendar days for processing the disclosure book request. If a book is needed sooner, an additional rush fee of \$70.66 is required. The rush timeframe takes 3-5 business days. The emailed disclosure package costs \$317.95, or a hardcover package costs \$347.29. These books do include an inspection report to the exterior of the home to ensure that architectural guidelines set in place by the association are in compliance. In addition, there is a post-closing fee of \$70.66 that is charged at every sale to the buyer. It is an administrative fee to remove the previous owner from the address account and set up the new buyer account. Any major additions to the exterior of your home or landscaping should have been approved by the Architectural Review Committee (ARC). Failure to do so may hold up closing if the buyer balks at violations/non-compliance issues. Call Community Group to make sure any additions, such as a fence, shed, patio, swing set, satellite dish, etc. made by the previous owner of your home was approved by ARC.

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
Feb - April issue are due Jan 15th

Submit all ads and articles to:
Cathy Allen, Editor
newsletter@thegrovehoa.com
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 quarterly
publication of The Grove
Homeowners Association
of Midlothian, VA, Inc.

RATES FOR 2024

TO BE DETERMINED

Ad design: \$40/hr. See website
for details: thegrovehoa.com



Mailbox Improvement

If the post and wooden paper box is in good condition, apply a new coat of paint, but if deteriorated, replace it. Approved dark hunter green boxes (item #E1600G00) can be purchased in-store through Pleasants Hardware/Midlothian Station Shopping Center, or ordered online (not in stores) at www.homedepot.com. If your mailbox numbers need replacement visit Pleasant Hardware/Midlothian. Product is Hy-Ko 3 1/2" Black Hammered numbers. They must be painted in dark hunter green gloss to match mailbox. The mailbox numbers as seen in the photo may be purchased only at Pleasants. **Mailbox can be repainted using Rustoleum Dark Hunter Green gloss protection enamel spray paint.** You can find this at Lowe's as well as other hardware supply stores. Mailbox flags should be **Krylon Colormaxx gloss BANNER RED**. Many home repair companies offer mailbox refurbishing services, but make sure they adhere to bylaw standards. Grove resident John Romano provides repairs and replacements to mailboxes and posts (see page 4).



Grove Clubhouse INFO

The Clubhouse is OPEN and taking reservations! Book it online at thegrovehoa.com/clubhouse/ Book the Clubhouse. For any questions, email our Clubhouse Coordinator, Ashley Kundu at clubhouse@thegrovehoa.com.

Krim Point Exterior Colors/Board Member Contact

For Krim Point Residents needing to know the color names of their exterior paint, it has been posted on The Grove HOA's website under Krim Point's documents: https://thegrovehoa.com/krim-point-neighborhood-association-documents/?et_fb=1&PageSpeed=off. Or, you can access it through thegrovehoa.com, click on the Covenants & Bylaws link, then go to Krim Point Neighborhood Documents. There is a picture of the color information. The paint is available through the Sherwin-Williams Paint Store.

Carolyn Grimes, cgrimes1349@gmail.com, is the Krim Point HOA President.



News from Scotter Hills/Ridgemoor

By Kathy Morris

The annual HOA meeting for Scotter Hills/Ridgemoor will be held on Monday, November 27 at 6:00 pm via Zoom. If you are interested in joining our board

please submit the information requested in the mailing sent in October to Lesley Reed at Stellar Community Management.

There has been a vicious dog attack in Ridgemoor. Please keep your dog on a leash when walking in our neighborhood. There was also an incident in Scotter Hills Court in which four teenage boys were kicking on the front doors. The Chesterfield County Police have been notified of both incidents.

There has been an increase in cars parking illegally on the yellow lines. Please park in driveways or the other designated areas. Vehicles will be towed as necessary. Please do not drive across Scotter Hills Drive to enter Lawford Lane. We are supposed to continue around the circle on Scotter Hills Drive to turning right into Lawford Lane for safety reasons.

Please continue to place your garbage containers out of sight following garbage pickup and the same for your recyclable bins after they are emptied. For those who are using basketball goals in their driveways please remember to place them in your garages when not in use.

Thank you to all the homeowners who are turning on an outside light at night. If you have questions about our homeowner rules and regulations contact either Lesley Reed at Stellar Community Management or our HOA Board members. If you are renting please request a copy of our HOA rules and regulations from your landlord. A pdf file can be obtained from Stellar Community Management.

Luminaries are scheduled for December 2, 2023 in Scotter Hills and Ridgemoor. For details please contact Sylvia Warner.

Thank you for continuing to contact Lesley Reed with requests for maintenance of your townhome. The Scotter Hills/Ridgemoor Board wishes everyone a healthy and happy holiday season!

2023 HOA Board

President: Kathy Morris, kcmorris12@hotmail.com,
804-543-4249

Vice President: Lyle Sutherland

Secretary: Sandy Sneade

Treasurer: Sylvia Warner

Director: Alvin Tinsley

Community Group Business Hours Contact INFO

To report any emergencies such as burst pipes to Community Group during normal business hours 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday, call 804-270-1800. Do not report via Facebook, TownSq, or any other social media, as this is not consistently monitored by HOA Board Members.



Stay Connected On TownSq & Grove FB Page

TownSq is the official means of communicating messages from the Board and Community Group about issues in our subdivision. It is a great way to get news about Social Events, HOA meetings, and other special announcements. TownSq is useful for participating in chat forums, messaging our Board of Directors and Community Group management, and paying HOA assessments (fee applies for payment through TownSq). Currently you can access HOA documents and forms such as By Laws & Covenants and ARC applications using our website www.thegrovehoa.com. To join TownSq: Go to www.townsq.io (or download the FREE mobile app by searching for "TownSq"). Register using your assessment account number (which is on the welcome letter for new neighbors, or your assessment notice) and The Grove's zip code (23114). If you need your assessment account number, email Jo Mendoza at jmendoza@communitygroup.com. Need Help? You can call 1-844-281-1728 or email support@townsq.io.

To join the Grove Residents Facebook page, you will need to get approved by the Facebook administrator Mike Burnette. Once he approves your request, you can post on either the Residents page or the Buy/Sell "Classified" type page. The Grove Residents page is not the official means of communication from the HOA Board or Management Company Community Group.

ARC Submission Tips

When you submit a request for exterior modifications to the ARC, please include pictures. This prevents unnecessary delays in processing your application for any projects. For tree removals and replacement, the ARC needs a photo of the tree to be removed. If you are submitting a landscaping plan, please include a rendering of the plan, as well as pictures or a list of the new plant material that you want to install. The rendering can be done either by you, or by the landscaping company you are using.



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

Mailbox Repair/Home Services

Hawkins Wood resident **John Romano** offers vinyl mailbox post replacement to Grove home owners. Wood is good but vinyl is final. John also installs wall safes. Call John at 804-379-1238.

Pet Care Services

Pet Sitting - Retired Krim Point resident is available to do pet sitting. Call **LoisLynn** at 804-301-9696.



Social Events This Quarter/Babysitter Directory

By Ashley Kundu, thegrovesocials@gmail.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

***For more details go to the Events tab on Facebook & TownSq.
NOVEMBER:***

11/3 **Game Night**

11/5 **Craft Show & Sale** (hosted by Carolyn Grimes)

11/8 **Book Talk & Trade** (hosted by Barbara Back)

11/15 **Social Committee Meeting**

11/19 **Blood Drive - APPT ONLY** (hosted by Jeanne Hicks Jordan)

DECEMBER:

12/1 **Game Night**

12/2 **Luminary Celebration** (in Scotter Hills)

12/9 **Breakfast with Santa**

12/20 ?? **Holiday Cookie Exchange ??** Please let us know if you plan to participate. There's not enough interest yet!



SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING: Wednesday 11/15 @ 6:00

p.m. Please consider attending a Social Committee Meeting to meet neighbors and discuss upcoming events! We always welcome new members!

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS!

Jennifer Thigpen 530 Coalbrook Drive

NEW NEIGHBORS CAN REACH OUT TO

The Grove Welcome Committee Chair

Carolyn Morrison at grovewelcome@thegrovehoa.com

Street Light & Road Repair UPDATED:

Street names signage goes to Chesterfield County, the department of Environmental Engineering. Stop signs that are not mounted on a street name sign would be VDOT. To report a downed or damaged street name sign, please call 804-751-4627, or email napiert@chesterfield.gov. If at all possible please report: the names of both streets at the intersection affected by the damaged or downed street sign, and the regulatory or warning sign on the same pole (if applicable). To report a downed or damaged regulatory, warning or guide signs contact the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) by calling 800-367-7623. Report street light outages to Dominion Energy on the web dominionenergy.com/virginia/report-outage-or-emergency/streetlight-outages or call 866-366-4357. Note the pole number and the nearest street address.



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Based on average median home price from 2016-2020. Data is subject to change. Source: Zillow. Data is not intended to be used for investment purposes. Data is not a guarantee of future performance.

Curious what your home could sell for in today's market? Give me a call!



MARY SELF

YOUR GROVE NEIGHBOR & LOCAL REAL ESTATE EXPERT

📞 804.304.6466 (cell)

✉ mary@dillongroupe.com

🌐 www.dillongroupe.com

☎ (804) 353-0009 (office)





OP ED

By Cathy Allen

As a longtime resident of The Grove, I appreciate its many amenities that are not found anywhere else. We basically live in a park, with walking trails, trees, beautiful landscaping, an outdoor pool, and other perks like the playground at Biggin Pond. No one can build a strip mall in our subdivision! The “city” of Midlothian may be growing, with more restaurants and things to do, but we must address traffic concerns and keeping our schools at an optimum size for learning. I’m grateful for what we have, though. Our grandson Will loves our morning walks, as well as excursions to the playground with its 2 slides, rock climbing wall, ship’s wheel, drum set, and the “wall of gears”. He always finds friendly kids to play with, and enjoys talking with folks of all ages. He’s over 2 years old now, and it’s been a great experience for him here.

That’s why we’ve lived in The Grove for over 21 years!



HEALTHY SNACKING FROM MYPLATE.GOV

Healthy eating is important at every age. Eat a variety of fruits, vegetables, grains, protein foods, and dairy or fortified soy alternatives. When deciding on a snack, choose options that are full of nutrients and limited in added sugars, saturated fat, and sodium. Start with these tips:

Build your own: Make your own snack mix with unsalted nuts and add-ins such as seeds, unsweetened cereal, raisins or other dried fruit, and plain popcorn.

Prep ahead: Wash and cut up fresh vegetables and portion them into reusable containers so they're ready to grab-and-go. Many veggies can be prepped like this.

Make it a combo: Combine food groups to build satisfying snacks: yogurt and berries, apple with nut butter, or whole grain crackers with turkey and avocado. Be creative!

Choose vibrant vegetables: Colorful and crunchy raw vegetables are a healthy choice. Try dipping broccoli, zucchini sticks, or baby carrots in hummus, guacamole, or a low-fat yogurt sauce.

Wash and enjoy: Fresh fruit makes a great go-to snack when you are looking for a quick sweet treat. Apples, pears, grapes, and bananas are always easy and fast.

Keep healthy options handy: Keep nutritious snack options, such as fruits and vegetables, visible and within reach in the fridge or on the counter for a convenient anytime snack.

The benefits of healthy eating add up over time, bite by bite.

(From <https://www.myplate.gov/tip-sheet/healthy-snacking-myplate>)

How to Protect Pipes From Freezing

Drain water from swimming pool and water sprinkler supply lines following manufacturer's or installer's directions. Do not put antifreeze in these lines unless directed. Antifreeze is environmentally harmful, and is dangerous to humans, pets, wildlife, and landscaping. Remove, drain, and store hoses used outdoors. Close inside valves supplying outdoor hose bibs. Open the outside hose bibs to allow water to drain. Keep the outside valve open so that any water remaining in the pipe can expand without causing the pipe to break. Add insulation to attics, basements and crawl spaces. Insulation will maintain higher temperatures in these areas. Check around the home for other areas where water supply lines are located in unheated areas. Look in the garage, and under kitchen and bathroom cabinets. Both hot and cold water pipes in these areas should be insulated. Consider installing specific products made to insulate water pipes like a "pipe sleeve" or installing UL-listed "heat tape," "heat cable," or similar materials on exposed water pipes. Newspaper can provide some degree of insulation and protection to exposed pipes – even ¼" of newspaper can provide significant protection in areas that usually do not have frequent or prolonged temperatures below freezing. Consider relocating exposed pipes to provide increased protection from freezing.

How to Prevent Frozen Pipes

Keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage. Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals up out of the reach of children. When the weather is very cold outside, let the cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe - even at a trickle - helps prevent pipes from freezing. Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature both during the day and at night. By temporarily suspending the use of lower nighttime temperatures, you may incur a higher heating bill, but you can prevent a much more costly repair job if pipes freeze and burst. If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55° F.

How to Thaw Frozen Pipes

If you turn on a faucet and only a trickle comes out, suspect a frozen pipe. Likely places for frozen pipes include against exterior walls or where your water service enters your home through the foundation. Keep the faucet open. As you treat the frozen pipe and the frozen area begins to melt, water will begin to flow through the frozen area. Running water through the pipe will help melt ice in the pipe. Apply heat to the section of pipe using an electric heating pad wrapped around the pipe, an electric hair dryer, a portable space heater (kept away from flammable materials), or by wrapping pipes with towels soaked in hot water. Do not use a blowtorch, kerosene or propane heater, charcoal stove, or other open flame device. Apply heat until full water pressure is restored. If you are unable to locate the frozen area, if the frozen area is not accessible, or if you can not thaw the pipe, call a licensed plumber. Check all other faucets in your home to find out if you have additional frozen pipes. If one pipe freezes, others may freeze, too.

(redcross.org)

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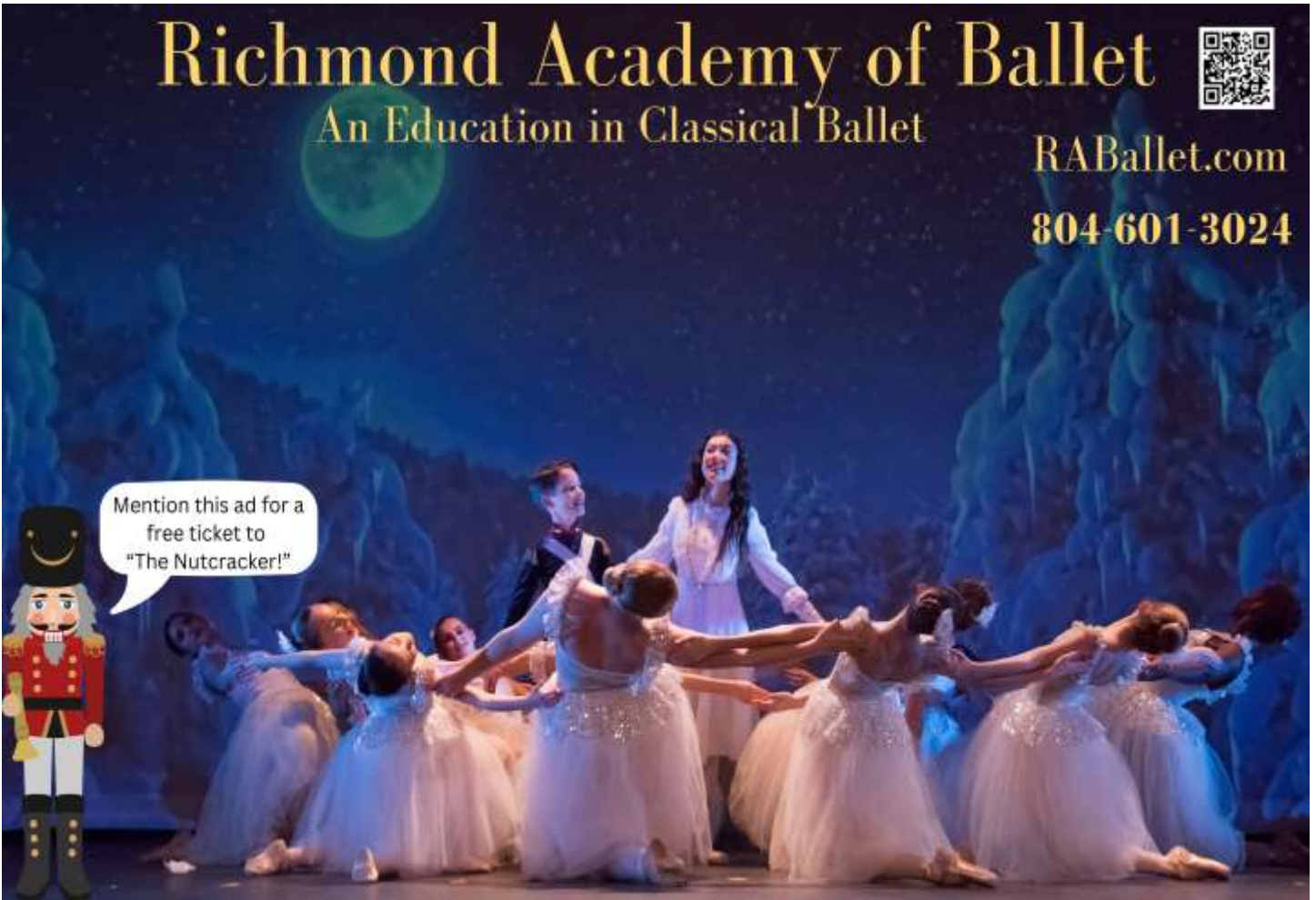
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ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER?

It is hard to predict how the climate phenomenon El Niño will impact Central Virginia. Will it be colder? Will we have snow? It's best to be prepared in case of inclement weather.

Stock up now on foods and supplies for your freezer and pantry. Have meats and vegetables on hand to make soups and stews to freeze ahead of time. Have plenty of paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, and antibacterial wipes on hand.

Prepare for the possibility of a extended cold and flu season. With cold weather comes the potential for illness, so review your medicine cabinets for items that will help get you through a typical winter illness. Make sure you have some soup and caffeine-free drinks ready to help ease the rampage of germs you may encounter this season.

Make or review your family emergency plan so you and your family will be prepared in the event of inclement weather or sudden storms that may arise and disrupt your daily routine. Update emergency phone numbers or contact information, and make sure your children know what they are supposed to do in case of early school closings or other events that may occur.

Fall is also a good time to change the batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors, to keep them functioning correctly. Check that your light bulbs are in good working condition. There is less natural lighting available during the winter months, so making sure all your bulbs are operating at an optimal level is important to the safety of your family and your home.

Don't forget to check your vehicles tires, brakes, and alignment. This is crucial to keeping your family safe on wet, slippery roads during the winter months ahead.

Another important thing to remember with the time change is that children may be getting on or getting off of the bus in the dark. Watch for children walking to and from bus stops. Also, remind children which side of the road they should walk on to be seen by oncoming traffic. If feasible, have your child carry some sort of light they can use to be seen by oncoming vehicles.

(Source: Chesterfield County Police Department)

Edward Jones > edwardjones.com | Member SIPC



When life happens, will you be prepared with a personalized financial strategy?

Let's get together and talk about what's most important to you.

On your corner, in your corner. Come say hello.



Sean Danowski
Financial Advisor
336 Browns Hill Court
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Little Library at The Clubhouse

"Take a book, leave a book" at this book exchange in The Grove!

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(Photo By Gerry Mancuso)

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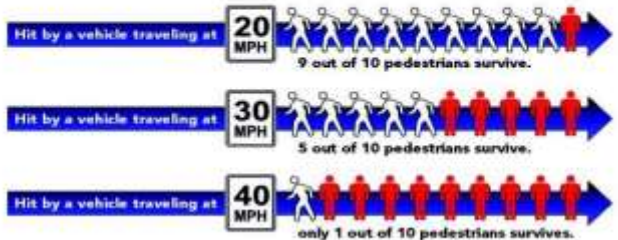
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SPEED LIMIT IN THE GROVE: 25 MPH!

STOP NEIGHBORHOOD SPEEDING

A little extra speed makes a big impact.



NOTARY DIRECTORY: (Compiled by Ashley Kundu)

Last Name	First Name
Conaty- Whiteley	Maureen
Farmer	Joshua
Milligan	Chrissy
Vincent	Amy

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Classic Beef Stew

Prep Time 20 minutes

Cook Time 2 Hours

Servings 10 at 1 cup each

All purpose white or whole wheat flour 2 tbsp.

Italian seasoning 1 tbsp.

Olive oil 3 tbsp.

Top round, cut into 3/4" cubes 2 lbs.

Cremini (baby bella mushrooms), cleaned, stemmed, and quartered, 1.5 lbs.

Low sodium, low fat chicken broth 4 cups

Large onion, coarsely chopped

Garlic, minced, 3 cloves

Large russet potatoes, peeled and cut into 3/4" pieces, 2

Medium carrots, peeled and cut into 1/2" pieces, 3

Frozen peas, 1 cup

Fresh thyme, minced, 1 tbsp.

Red wine vinegar, 1 tbsp.

Black pepper, freshly ground, to taste

Combine the all-purpose flour with Italian seasoning. Heat olive oil in a large Dutch oven over medium heat. Dredge beef cubes lightly in the flour mixture and add the beef, in batches to keep the beef in one layer, until well browned on each side.

Remove beef from the pan and deglaze pan with 1/4 cup chicken broth. Add in the mushrooms and sauté for about 4 minutes until well browned. Remove the mushrooms from the pan and deglaze with another 1/4 cup of the broth. Add the onions and garlic and sauté for 4 minutes. Return the beef to the pot, add the remaining chicken broth, and bring to a boil. Partially cover, lower the heat to simmer, and cook for 45 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Add the potatoes and carrots to the stew and continue to cook for another 45 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Add in the reserved mushrooms, peas, and thyme. Season with red wine vinegar and black pepper.

(from the American Diabetic Association website)



7 Energy Saving Tips From Dominion Energy

1. Lower Your Thermostat: Heating and cooling your home accounts for nearly 50% of your annual energy bill. **During colder months, setting your thermostat to 68 degrees or lower** can make a big difference. Each degree lower can significantly decrease your heating costs in the winter. A smart thermostat keeps your indoor temperature at a comfortable setting throughout the day and night. **IMPORTANT:** Make sure the thermostat is compatible with your HVAC system.

2. Check Air Filters Monthly and Change When Dirty: Leave interior doors open and don't close vents to allow adequate air flow through your HVAC system.

3. Periodically Check Your Ductwork for Leaks or Tears: Repair fallen or crushed ductwork and use mastic (a plaster-like substance found at your local hardware store) to help seal leaks.

4. Know Your Heating System and Get a Tune-up: Do you know what kind of heating system you have? It's important to know about the equipment and its maintenance. Fall is the perfect time to get a tune-up to avoid surprise problems when you first turn on the heat this winter.

5. Upgrade Your Attic Insulation: You can save a lot on your energy bills by adding attic insulation to a minimum of R-38 (12-14 inches). There are a variety of methods – some do-it-yourself, and others best installed by a professional.

6. Caulk, Seal and Weather-strip: Take the time to caulk, seal, and weather-strip around all seams, cracks and openings to protect against drafts. Pay special attention to windows and exterior doors.

7. Make the Switch to LED Bulbs: Because the days are getting shorter, now is a great time to replace standard incandescent light bulbs with ENERGY STAR® LEDs, which are 90 percent more efficient than incandescent bulbs.

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