



Published by
Brandermill Community Association



SPECIAL HOME IMPROVEMENT SECTION

Save this section and refer to it all year long.

Starts on page 7.

HELPING THE HOMELESS



Thanks to the kind hearts of Brandermill residents, the homeless receive hot meals.

See page 4.

DISTRICT CHAMPS



See CHHS wrestlers on page 13.

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Midlothian, VA 23112

March 10, 1997
Vol. 23, No. 3

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Residents want more information on pool acquisition issue

By Wendy Parker
Managing Editor

Residents turned out for two special meetings regarding the possible acquisition by the BCA of three country club pools: St. Ledger's, Harbour Pointe and North Beach. The first meeting, held February 10 at The Brandermill Church, drew approximately 200 people. Second Vice President Charles Macfarlane conducted the meeting. The second meeting on February 18, attended by 130 interested parties, was conducted by Director John Hughes. A show of hands at the two meetings, indicated the majority of those in attendance were members of Brandermill Country Club

(BCC).

Earlier, it had been announced that the issue of acquiring the pools would appear on the April ballot. However, it was the consensus of board members, that more time was needed to discuss the pool situation before it could be voted on by the membership.

During the two meetings, the directors, who stressed that the board has not taken a position on the purchase of the pools, addressed the BCA's goal "to ensure the continued availability of all three pools and pool facilities for use by Brandermill residents" by purchase or other means.

By the use of overhead projections, the directors presented information beginning with the purpose of the

meetings; to provide background information on the pool issue; review the BCA community's common interest and goal; review possible alternatives including probability and risk factors; review existing financial status of the pools; review possible financial obligation issues of the purchase option; and seek input from the community.

It was reiterated by both Macfarlane and Hughes that the information was incomplete and that a considerable number of assumptions had been made to prepare that information. For instance, the accounting department had prepared a number of scenarios to illustrate some possible financial options. One scenario, the outright purchase of the pools with a con-

ventional mortgage (10-year maturity, payment amortized over 20 years at 8.7 percent) amounted to an assessment of \$1.66 a month per lot. The amount was based on the figure \$700,000 which included the price of the properties and repairs. Another scenario, purchasing the pools with a special assessment over 12 quarters, amounted to \$16.25 a quarter per lot. Under those two scenarios, the pools would become Brandermill amenities to which all residents and their guests would have access. The scenarios did not include assessments of commercial property owners or costs of operating the pools. Other possible alternatives besides purchasing the pools included: subsidizing pool operations

with BCC; leasing the pools; or doing nothing.

The directors also presented zoning information. The pool properties, currently are zoned for single-family residential development which includes churches, public schools and parks. The zoning could be amended to include private schools, recreational facilities or day care facilities.

Following the presentation of the information, residents asked questions. Most centered on the various options for purchasing the pools. Several questions focused on country club issues: what happens to the initiation fee club members have paid?; should club members escrow their dues?; can the club be forced to keep the pools?;

and why was General Manager Doug Wayne not in attendance? Other questions included: how are Brandermill Woods residents affected?; if the pools are sold, will swimming programs be resumed?; has East West Partners considered buying the pools?; how will the purchase improve Brandermill property values?; will BCA legal counsel help with input?; and will a position be taken by the BCA before the 1998 budget is prepared?

Some in attendance requested that the scenarios include the same operating costs for better comparisons.

Comments from the audience

See Pools on page 16.

Long range plan study is underway

By Harriet Coppins
Copy Editor

The work of the BCA Long Range Planning Committee chaired by Tom Hourin is now underway. In February, representatives of Robert Charles Lesser and Co., the consulting firm retained by the BCA Board, interviewed 175 residents by telephone.

The interviewers asked questions that dealt with community features such as Swift Creek Reservoir and various amenities. They also asked what the residents would like to see added to Brandermill. Three questions dealt with the issue of the pool complexes for sale by Brandermill Country Club by the BCA? The second question was, "If the BCA were to acquire the three pool complexes, should the BCA take over the swim program?" The third question was, "Enclosing a section of one of the pool complexes to create a year-round swim facility would require an increase in the home owners' assessment fees. Would you support the enclosing of one of the pools?"

Ken Wenhold of the consulting firm said that there will be a public meeting at Brandermill Country Club on March 20 at 7 p.m., at which time the results of the survey will be announced and feedback elicited from attending residents.

An analysis of all this information will be prepared and the consultants will draft "a universe of strategy options" to offer the Long Range Planning Committee. The committee is charged with selecting the options best suited to Brandermill. After this procedure is completed, a second public meeting will take place. The time and place will be announced. At the meeting, residents will be told which options have been selected and hear an analysis of the fiscal impacts of the strategic plan on Brandermill.

Brandermill welcomes Mike Divita



Photo by Wendy Parker

New Community Manager Mike Divita assumed his duties on February 17.

Two candidates run for two seats on BCA Board

By Harriet Coppins
Copy Editor

Two seats will be open on the BCA Board of Directors in April when the terms of President Jim Trent and Treasurer Kevin Healy will expire. Directors serve three-year terms. Two residents, Robert M. Herald and R. Thomas Hourin have declared their candidacy for the board.

Meet the Candidates Night, sponsored by the Neighborhood Representative Council, will take place in the Ivy Room at Brandermill Woods on March 11 at 7 p.m. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served.

The BCA annual meeting and election of directors is scheduled for April 18 at 7:30 p.m. at The Brandermill Church. At that time the polls will be declared closed.

The meeting will reconvene at the same location and time on Monday, April 21 to conduct necessary business and announce election results.

Robert M. Herald has been a resident of Brandermill since 1993 and has been an attorney for the Medical Protective Company for the past four years. He had previously been a vice president for strategic planning for the Society National Bank for 10 years.

Herald graduated from Ohio State University with a bachelor of science degree in business administration. He earned a master's degree in business administration from Case Western Reserve University in 1985, and a juris doctorate from the University of Akron in 1990.

Herald is president of Swift Creek Athletic Association and coaches football, baseball and basketball in the youth division. He and his wife Gerianne and their four children live in Cove Ridge.

Herald said, "As a business man with planning, marketing and bottom-line responsibilities, I would like to bring more of a business focus to the board. My legal background will be extremely valuable as well as my extensive connections throughout the community. I wish to serve the community as a BCA Board director because I believe the leadership and direction provided by the board for our community has been less than effective. I want to work to enhance Brandermill's reputation and attractiveness to both current and prospective residents. My major areas of community interest are youth sports, recreational activities and exercise—golf, running, weightlifting, and most other sports. I am also interested in the land development and road development which will affect our future."

R. Thomas Hourin has lived in Brandermill since 1994. He has been vice president at Signet Bank for eight years. He was formerly a vice president at First Nationwide Bank for a year and at Great Western Bank for a year. He worked as a loan officer for the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for a year

and was a director of economic development in Port Chester, N. Y. for four years.

Hourin is a 1972 graduate of Georgetown University where he earned a bachelor of arts degree in government. He took courses in architecture at Vassar College and attended the Real Estate Institute at New York University.

He is a baseball coach with Swift Creek Athletic Association and serves on the board of directors of Interfaith Housing Corporation. He lives with his wife Kate and their three children in Chimney House.

Hourin said, "Expertise in financial analysis, appraisals, site planning, community organization, master planning and zoning are areas which I feel qualify me for directorship. I wish to serve the community as a BCA Board director because Brandermill as a 25-year-old community has new challenges to its prominent position as a master planned community.

"I hope that my background as a real estate banker and city planner can help in the effort to ensure that we remain competitive and enhance our reputation. My major areas of community interest are supporting a strong community manager and staff in the daily administration of Brandermill business while refocusing board effort on policy issues. I am also interested in executing and institutionalizing the planning process with the planning committee."



Tom Hourin



Bob Herald

BCC offers reward for info on vandals

By Wendy Parker
Managing Editor

A \$500 reward is being offered for information leading to the identification of parties responsible for vandalism of Brandermill Country Club property.

According to General Manager Doug Wayne, in the very early hours of February 22, vandals played

"bumper cars" with eight golf carts resulting in extensive damage to the carts and minor damage to some of the greens. In addition, club house patio furniture was thrown into one of the ponds and several tee signs were destroyed. The estimated cost of damage was between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

Wayne said he is offering the substantial reward because, "It's time we

did something about the vandalism." Wayne, suspecting juveniles, said he appeals to parents who "may have noticed excessively muddy clothes on the morning of February 22, to, if not turn in their children, at least speak to them."

Wayne said confidential calls may be made to him at 744-1185 or the Chesterfield County Police at 748-1358.

Easter egg hunt is March 22 in Sunday Park

By Wendy Parker
Managing Editor

Brandermill youngsters of all ages should get out their Easter baskets and bonnets and get ready for the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 22 in Sunday Park. The event, sponsored by Brandermill Community Association and Swift Creek Junior Women's Club, will be held on the Sunday Park Peninsula from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Children will enjoy an exciting egg hunt in a maze, face painting, a cupcake walk, and pictures taken with the Easter Bunny. In addition, there will be a raffle with proceeds going to support Camp Easter Seals East.

Other sponsors of the event include: Hannaford's, Richmond Camera and Southwest Printing. For info, please call Ruth Davis at 639-5838.

Protecting Swift Creek Reservoir

By Tom Pakurar, Co-chairman
Hands Across the Lake

The Chesterfield County Planning Commission held a second work session Wednesday, February 13, to discuss the more stringent phosphorus control measures for the Swift Creek Reservoir that were recommended by the county Watershed Management Committee.

Discussion focused on understanding the issues and the cost of compliance. Several independent cost estimates suggest the increased cost would be less than 0.15 percent of a \$200,000 home (\$300 per new home).

A third work session is scheduled for mid-April in which county staff will present additional costing information. According to Joan Salvati, water quality administrator for the

county, several members of the development community and environmental/civic organizations may be invited to answer questions from the commission. In a planning commission meeting February 18, the commission approved the rezoning request of Malbone Associates for their 500-acre property being developed at the

See Reservoir on page 16.

QuickTakes

No homework excuses.



Ed Menster developed an on-line homework hotline for students and parents. See details on page 14.

What's cookin'?

Chef Tyrone at Surf Rider Grill prepares a tasty grouper dish. See recipe on page 5.





BCA Board of Directors

Jim Trent, President
Charles Macfarlane, 1st VP
John Hughes, 2nd VP
Kevin Healy, Treasurer
Jim Bolton
Laurie Newill
Jo Owens

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS

- BARNE'S SPRING
Clarence Roney, Sr.
- BIRNAM WOODS
James & Marie Turner, III
- DEER MEADOW
Paul & Lise Kosakowski
- Audrey Ross
- GARRISON PLACE
Fred & Kim Cifelli
- Greg & Katherine Laidig
- Robert & Patty O'Mara
- HUNTSBRIDGE
Roger McIntyre
- L. Quist
- LONG SHADOW
J. Livingston
- MUIRFIELD GREEN
John & Melody Mason
- NUTTREE WOODS
Bonnie Davies
- OLD FOX TRAIL
Frances Fullerton
- James & Jean Hall
- PLANTER'S WOOD
Thomas & Patricia Spain
- PROMONTORY POINTE
Billy & Connie Catron
- ROCKPORT LANDING
William & Jeannie Langnau
- SAGEWOOD
Martha Escobar
- Joe & Linda Patrick
- WOODBIDGE CROSSING
Steve Turnbull

ARB APPROVALS

Fox Chase - Storage addition
 Harbour Ridge - Driveway pad
 Ridge Creek - Deck and hot tub
 Rockport Landing - Driveway
 Sagewood - Hot tub

ARB GUIDELINES

New guidelines are available at the BCA office.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT SCHEDULE

For the processing of reported violations:

Week of March 17

Court Ridge
 Harbour Hill
 Litchfield Bluff
 Long Shadow
 Planter's Wood
 Promontory Pointe
 Spinnaker Cove
 Thornridge

Week of March 31

Bayport Landing
 East Bluff
 Harbour Bluff
 Harbour Ridge
 Harbourwood
 Lands End
 North Point
 Rockport Landing
 Watch Harbour

UPCOMING EVENTS

BCA Board Meeting

Oscar's
 March 17, 7 p.m.

Meet the Candidates Night

Ivy Room, Brandermill Woods
 March 11, 7 p.m.

Strategic Plan

Public Meeting
 Brandermill Country Club
 March 20, 7 p.m.

BCA Annual Meeting

The Brandermill Church
 April 18 & 21, 7:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kate Hourin was elected Public Relations Committee chairman. Volunteers are needed for the Social Recreation Committee. Join the fun in planning upcoming events. Call Renee Bishop at 744-1035

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE:

What would you like to say to your new community manager?



"Mike, welcome to the community. I hope you love it here as much as I do. I'm a Chesterfield County native and I moved here two years ago, not knowing if I would like it or not and I absolutely love it. I like the bike trails, especially leading to the tennis courts and back."
Gale Rogers
 Court Ridge



"I'd like to see some improvement in Market Square. I like the post office being here but I really miss having Safeway or something comparable and I'd like to see something done about that."
Marcia Lawton
 Sagewood



"Welcome and I hope that you're able to keep the nice, small town atmosphere that's here."
Loretta Miller
 Heritage Woods



"Welcome and I wish you good luck. There are lots of families with kids and they need some recreational activities. They need a place to ride their bicycles, and do tricks, not only the bike paths but some other designated area where they won't disturb anyone."
Shani Gunay
 Seven Oaks



"What's really nice about Brandermill is the overall sense of community. The concern that I have is that I want us to continue the close-knit feeling so we will continue to have good neighborhoods, free of quirk vandalism."
Lois Todd
 Birnam Woods

BCA forms committee to mediate BCC issues

The regularly scheduled meeting of the BCA Board of Directors was held on February 17 in the meeting room of Oscar's. Present were Directors Charles Macfarlane, John Hughes, Kevin Healy, Jim Bolton and Jo Owens. Also present was Community Manager Mike Divita. Absent were Directors Trent and Newill.

Treasurer's Report

A motion was made and carried to accept and file for audit the January financials.

A motion was made and carried to suspend the rules of order and address the 1997 election notice with legal counsel.

A motion was made and carried to approve the form of notice, proxy ballot instructions, and cover letter for the 1997 annual meeting; appoint Schutrumpf & Associates, P.C. as the corporation's executor of the election for the 1997; declare that members entitled to vote at the annual meeting are those whose names are recorded by March 1, 1997, except for those members in default of any obligation including failure to pay any assessment, if such default has continued uncured for a period of 10 days after written notice. However, if such default is cured before the 1997 annual meeting, such member's vote shall be restored.

A motion was made and carried to

adjourn to executive session for the purpose of discussing legal issues.

A motion was made and carried to return to open session.

Committee Reports

NRC

The NRC is in the process of a by-law change affecting the term of officers—using the calendar year rather than June to June. This change will be presented to the NRC at its April meeting. The NRC budget allowance is to be \$1,000 not \$750. Second Vice President Hughes asked that NRC meeting notices be placed on reader boards monthly. The March 11 NRC meeting will be Meet the Candidates Night.

Teen Center

A new teen center supervisor, Kathleen McIntyre of the Chesterfield County Department of Parks and Recreation, has been hired. The Teen Center continues to function on Friday evenings and this summer will participate in the county program, operating out of the Swift Creek Middle School. The county has awarded Clover Hill Area Teen Center \$7,700.

Public Relations

The Public Relations Committee has a new chair, Kate Hourin. The 25th Anniversary Committee will be an ad hoc committee reporting to the

BCA Board of Directors rather than a sub-committee of PR. Director Owens and Community Manager Divita will formulate a charge of the committee and present it at the March work session. There is also a need to revise the PR charge in connection with the newly formed Social Recreation Committee.

Legislative

There are two volunteers. The committee will be discussed at the March work session; Community Manager Divita will organize the committee.

Social/Recreation

Renee Bishop will supply volunteer names for Social Recreation and Fourth of July Committees.

Long Range Plan

The strategic planning process has begun. The first round of the interview process is in progress; approximately 30 persons will be interviewed. When the process is completed, 150 to 200 people will have been contacted. The committee will conduct an open forum on March 20 at Brandermill Country Club. Focus groups are being formed and Community Manager Divita was asked to formulate a letter inviting Brandermill clubs and organizations.

Properties

Increasing committee membership will be discussed at the work session.

Unfinished Business

New manager advocates communication

I want to take this opportunity to say that I am delighted to be in Brandermill. For the past 11 years I served as the executive director for the Radisson Community Association which is located just outside of Syracuse, N.Y.

My wife, Bev, and I are originally from West Virginia and we have three children. My family will join me sometime this summer after my son graduates from high school.

Like Brandermill, Radisson is a large-scale community association and is about the same age. I have always been struck with the fact that Brandermill and Radisson were similar in char-

acter, quality and architectural design.

Having completed my second week here, I have learned that many of the issues and problems facing Brandermill are very similar to those in Radisson. Maybe there is some small degree of comfort in knowing that you are not alone. Having only one BCA Board meeting under my belt, I will reserve some of my thoughts about what changes are needed to make this community stand head and shoulders above others. However, there is work to be done and I intend to do my very best toward making the necessary improvements to get us there. I have been particularly impressed by the dedication and professionalism of the BCA staff.

It is my hope that you will find me to be accessible, responsive, open, and decisive. I am a strong believer in getting the job done and done right the first time. Further, I am an advo-

cate of communicating with residents and listening to their concerns. At the same time, I do not pretend or promise that we can solve every problem or be all things to all people. The association's job is diverse and is representative of you. It is truly a democracy of competing ideas and interests. However, the accomplishment of ideas is either permitted or limited by law, clear community goals and available resources. As property owners and residents, you have a vital stake in the success of the community. Your active participation is essential. Even if you find your time limited by work, family or health, I encourage you to stay informed about what is going on in the community through The Village Mill.

I look forward to working with the board, committees, residents and commercial members in the coming days and hope to meet many of you as time goes by. Please feel free to call or visit me at the BCA office anytime.

Set realistic improvement goals

It's beginning to show signs of settling. Certain sections have begun to sink or sag. The exterior has a few cracks or is lined from age and colors may need to be added to regain a fresher appearance. Finally, certain adornments that looked fabulous 20 years ago now look ridiculous. Your house? I was talking about my body, but the same holds true for your home.

It's an undeniable and cruel truth: neither your body nor your home have the same appearance that they did 15 years ago. One day it may strike you that your house is in dire need of painting. You even may have received a letter from this office pointing out the obvious. I received similar notice from my brother who actually said, "You've chunked up a bit, haven't you?"

Our properties and our bodies reflect the care and work we bestow upon them. Granted, some individuals are

blessed with good genes and some homes require less maintenance than others. The vast majority of us, however, need to expend some sweat equity to achieve the desired results, such as washboard abs or a perfectly landscaped lawn.

One major difference, though, is that when we moved into Brandermill, we did not enter into an agreement to keep our bodies in good shape. Conversely, Brandermill property owners agree to maintain their homes and yards in accordance with the covenants. This agreement probably did not seem so daunting a few years ago. But since then many residents have gone through day care, orthodontics, college tuition, unplanned job changes and care of aging parents. All of a sudden, a few hundred dollars for landscaping or thousands for a new roof or repainting seems extravagant. The solution may lie in setting realistic goals.

With spring just around the corner, you could begin home improvement or clean-up projects in addition to your diets or exercise regimes. (See Home Improvement on page 7.) Again, keep the goals realistic—it is

not realistic to paint an entire house in a day, just as it is not realistic for me to run five miles after years of doing absolutely nothing. It is realistic to rake a yard and dispose of the branches in a weekend; to take an hour or less and give the mailbox a fresh coat of paint; or to set time aside to paint the shutters and trim or finish the fence or deck project started last fall.

Taking these tiny steps of home maintenance throughout the spring and early summer result in a fabulous home by fall. Addressing projects around the property also wards off covenant violation notices. I do not enjoy sending them any more than I enjoy my brother's observations about my weight. I have taken the first step, though. I have entered a 300 mile bike-a-thon for late June. Between now and then I will be forced to train regularly and extend my physical capabilities bit by bit. I expect a fair amount of pain to be involved, but I know reaching my goal will make the effort very satisfying. I challenge you, Brandermill property owners, to set a home improvement goal. The standard is already set by the covenants; the hard work must be done by you.

NRC Minutes

The NRC meeting was held February 11 at The Brandermill Church.

Member Voice

Chairman Tom di Stefano pointed out that for the past several weeks, the community reader board near Oscar's has read "POO MEETINGS" instead of "POOL MEETINGS." Tom said he feels this is an unfortunate but obvious example of the lack of attention to detail displayed by BCA personnel. He said the reader boards, like the open spaces, need to be checked regularly by the maintenance crew.

Community manager's note: An inspection of the marquee revealed that the letter "L" had somehow shifted to where it appeared to be missing. Residents are encouraged to call the BCA office when they notice areas that need repairs or extra attention. Thanks.

Membership Report

Membership reported 12 neighborhoods represented.

Secretary's Report

Karen di Stefano mailed December and January minutes to all reps.

Treasurer's Report

The total in the savings account as of December 31 is \$646.94. The fourth quarter report from the BCA showed the NRC \$329 under budget for the year. The area of postage and delivery was over budget. A larger amount has been requested for this year.

BCA Liaison Report

Interim Community Manager VonHatten is cross-training BCA employees. The BCA will scan the paper files to computer CDs that will be stored offsite.

At the board meeting, Second Vice President John Hughes pointed out that the BCA is \$90,000 over budget in maintenance. He said he'd like to see the BCA address this monthly rather than in three to six months in order to control the spending. He reminded the board that outsourcing was intended to reduce maintenance costs.

Old Business

di Stefano reported that the 288 FREEWAY committee is asking supporters to write letters to the editor and noted that he has bumper stickers for anyone who wants to show support.

Jenny Jones said about 200 people attended the first pool meeting. She learned that the country club will run the pools this year.

In a letter, Reginald Tuck, minister of The Brandermill Church, thanked the NRC for its gift of an overhead projector and screen.

A copy of a resolution for the amendment to the NRC bylaws was distributed. Passage of the resolution will mean that NRC officers will be elected in January of each year, rather than in June. The representatives will vote on it at the April 8 meeting.

The Brandermill Community Association
 and
 The Swift Creek Junior Woman's Club
 present
The 2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt
 at the
Sunday Park Peninsula
Saturday, March 22 • 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 also
 Egg Hunt • Face Painting • Cake Walk • Raffle
 Pictures Taken with the Easter Bunny

Also sponsored by:
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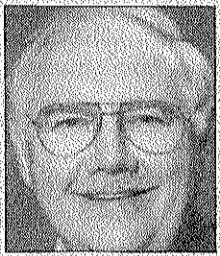
The Village Mill is a monthly newsletter for Brandermill Community Association. It is printed 80% of the time on recycled paper. Contributions and letters should be sent to the editor at the above address.

Dr. Boshers presents school budget

By Janet Joyce
Staff Writer

Clover Hill Supervisor Art Warren combined his monthly community meeting with the Clover Hill/Midlothian Districts Communication Network meeting.

More than 50 area citizens and school administrators were present at Midlothian High School on February 18 to hear Chesterfield County Public School Superintendent Dr. William C. Boshers Jr. discuss his proposed \$297.3 million budget for the 1997-1998 academic year. The budget represents a less than 1 percent increase from that of the current academic year.



William Boshers

New expenses include additional staff at the elementary level to guarantee daily planning time and duty-free lunch periods for teachers; teacher salary increases; an employee assistance program in conjunction with Chesterfield County; the addition of a third elementary center-based gifted program; and additional school nursing services. The budget also calls for the elimination of the instructional materials fee which will result in a \$1.2 million reduction in revenue.

Boshers plans to balance the budget by deferring the replacement of buses and other vehicles, reorganizing the central office and reducing the need for classroom trailers. Clover Hill School Board Representative Dianne Pettit expressed her satisfaction with the budget Boshers presented. "I've very excited about this budget. We have a new superintendent and yet he was able to maintain and improve programs and eliminate the materials fee while keeping the overall budget close to last year's," she said.

Another issue addressed by Boshers was a proposed change in school schedules.

He said his main concern is to compress school opening times and he recognizes that a side-effect would probably be a significant savings in transportation costs. "The main problem is that the high schools open at 7:20 a.m. which is too early and consequently the students get out of school too early. I still feel there's some merit to compressing the school schedules but right now we couldn't answer all the questions," Boshers said.

Kathleen McEntyre is new supervisor at Clover Hill Area Teen Center

By Janet Joyce
Staff Writer

Kathleen McEntyre has been hired as the new supervisor of the Clover Hill Area Teen Center.

McEntyre worked at the teen center at Market Square during the spring and summer of 1996, but left when the center moved to the Brandermill Community Center and reduced its hours of operation. However, she kept in touch with Jerome Levisy, the community relations manager for Chesterfield County Department of Parks and Recreation who coordinates the county's teen center programs. When the opportunity to come back presented itself, McEntyre jumped at the chance. "I missed being with the kids, having fun with them, hanging out and listening to them," she said.

McEntyre had been a student at John Tyler Community College but took this year off and is working full-time for Environmental Hazard Services in addition to her responsibilities at the teen center. She hopes to go back to school and major in management at VCU next fall.

While living in New Jersey,



Kathleen McEntyre

Photo by Janet Joyce

McEntyre worked as a counselor at a teen center that was owned by a hospital system. "They had different workshops on different nights, such as a creative writing group, an Al-

teen group and a self-esteem group. I would love to see something like that develop in Chesterfield County. I think it would be a very positive force here." "If we had more fun activities, I think

Pollution affects reservoir water quality

By Tom Pakurar, HAL Co-chairman
Guest Correspondent

This is the first in a series of articles to educate residents about the water quality issues directly affecting Swift Creek Reservoir and the property values in the surrounding developments. The information was developed by the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System.

What is nonpoint source pollution? Nonpoint source pollution is a fancy term for polluted runoff that makes its way to our reservoir without any direct source. In this region, phosphorus is the limiting nutrient affecting the reservoir. Much of the phosphorus comes in the air from factory stacks and farm dust. Water washing over the

land, whether from rain, car washing or the watering of crops or lawns, picks up the phosphorus and other contaminants including oil and sand from roadways, agricultural chemicals from farmland and nutrients and toxic materials from urban and suburban areas. This runoff from the 65 square mile drainage basin around the reservoir will eventually find its way into the reservoir.

The term nonpoint is used to distinguish this type of pollution from

point source pollution, which comes from specific sources such as a sewage treatment plant or industrial facilities.

Scientific evidence shows that although huge strides have been made in cleaning up major point sources, our precious water resources are still threatened by the effects of polluted runoff. In fact, the Environmental Protection Agency has estimated that this type of pollution is now the single largest cause of the deterioration of our nation's water quality.

The problem Chesterfield County is dealing with is the same problem affecting the rest of the country.

In the next issue, I will discuss some of the causes for polluted runoff and possible solutions.



Tom Pakurar

Brandermill is site for youth survey

By Wendy Parker
Youth Services Citizens Board

During the week of spring break, March 31 through April 4, residents may find a young adult or teen on their doorsteps. No, they will not be selling candy for a fund-raiser. Instead they will be conducting a survey for the Richmond Area Community Collaborative for Youth (CCFY).

Brandermill is one of seven neighborhoods in the Richmond area in which the survey will be conducted. Other neighborhoods include: Bens-

ley, East End, Crestview, West End, Carver, and Bainbridge/Blackwell.

Richmond, Henrico and Chesterfield County area youth will be paired with college students, community residents and staff from Virginia Commonwealth University's Survey Research Lab to conduct the survey. They will identify themselves as trainees of the Community Collaborative for Youth.

The survey is designed to collect data to better understand the types of community resources available to youth that promote health and safety.

Prior to the door-to-door campaign, a drive-through survey will be conducted by trained raters who will catalog the physical characteristics of the neighborhoods such as the types of houses, the number of parks, playgrounds, schools, and businesses. Also noted will be the social life of the neighborhoods: whether youngsters are hanging out; if adults are around; and if police are visible in the area.

The results of the survey will be tabulated by the VCU research lab.

In addition, the CCFY is conducting a community meeting on March 12 at Clover Hill High School. Residents who wish to give input on youth issues should call 783-9352 to register.

Sample BCA Ballot

All Brandermill Community Association members are reminded to cast their votes in the upcoming election for the BCA Board of Directors prior to April 18, 1997.

Auditor Tom Koren of Schutrumpf and Koren, P.C., says that each year many ballots are deemed invalid because they are unsigned and more votes are cast than the voter is entitled to cast.

Koren reminds the homeowner who resides in the home that no more than two votes may be cast for a candidate.

This year there are two seats open on the board. Ballots must be signed to be valid.

This year all ballots will be pre-printed with a resident's name, property identification number, address and the number of votes to which he or she is entitled. If the ballot is missing, a reprinted ballot must be obtained at the BCA office. Commercial members, owners of more than one property and tenants having differing numbers of votes. Ballots may be mailed to Schutrumpf and Koren, P.C. or dropped off at the BCA.

Tenants who registered with the BCA prior to the March 1 deadline will receive ballots indicating the number of votes to which they are entitled.

BRANDERMILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.
PROXY/BALLOT FOR ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS
FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 1997

NOTE: FAILURE TO VOTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW MAY VOID THIS PROXY/BALLOT.

1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.

- * There are 2 directors positions to be filled.
- * You may spread your votes among more than 2 candidates, but NO one candidate may be allocated more than 2 votes.
- * Please record the number of votes you wish to cast for the following candidates below: (USE NUMBERS ONLY, NO X's, CHECKS, OR OTHER MARKS).

_____ Robert M. Herold _____ R. Thomas Hourin _____
Write in _____

2. AMENDMENT TO DECLARATION.

Cast your votes for or against the following proposed amendment to the BCA Declaration: (An X, check or other mark will be counted as a vote of the total number of votes to which you are entitled).

Article V, Section 10, paragraph (a) of the BCA Declaration shall be amended as set forth in the Notice of this Annual Meeting so as to eliminate the exemption from assessment of all non-profit, charitable or governmental institutions, other than those set out in the Declaration.

For _____ Against _____

-----DO NOT TEAR AT PERFORATION-----

PROPERTY ID #XXXXXXXXXX

Signature _____ Date: _____

The above signed hereby appoints Schutrumpf & Koren, P.C., Certified Public Accountants, the attorneys and proxies of the above signed to vote in the manner indicated above and in their discretion, on all matters properly coming before the meeting of the members of the Brandermill Community Association, Inc., on Friday, April 18, 1997, at the Brandermill Church and any adjournment of such meeting, and hereby revokes any proxy heretofore given.

The proxy ballot must be signed. Only one person needs to sign the proxy. An unsigned proxy will void the entire proxy/ballot.

The number of votes to which you are entitled has been validated for you based on the property of proprietor you owned as of March 31, 1997.

Please mail your proxy in the blue envelope provided or deliver your proxy to Brandermill Community Association, 2001 East Boundary Terrace, Middleton, Virginia 22112, no later than 2:00 p.m. on April 18, 1997. The proxy will be closed during the Annual Meeting on April 18, 1997. NO proxy/ballots will be accepted after that time.

PLEASE MAIL OR DELIVER YOUR PROXY WHETHER OR NOT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING.

Appearing on the ballot this year is an amendment to the BCA declaration to eliminate non-profit, charitable or governmental institutions from exemption from as-

essment. Exempt properties will be "all lands, designated, intended or actually used, for outdoor recreation facilities; operating farms and/or animal pastures; woodlands, marsh or

swamp conservancies; places of worship; community, civic and cultural clubs; libraries; and nursery or other schools and instructional centers."

we'd have more teens participating," she said.

Her plans include more structured events such as band nights, and perhaps a karate night and/or lock-in. "I think Brandermill teens need a place to vent and have a good time and not worry about doing their homework or cleaning their rooms. They just want a place that doesn't cost a lot of money to hang out and be with their friends," McEntyre said.

"We're planning now for summer," said Jo Owens, the BCA Board

liaison, "but we need to have parents involved. They can call the center on Friday evenings at 744-4122 for more information," she said.

"We're listening to our teen members and incorporating their ideas into the program," said Linda Young, teen center president. "They're asking for field trips this summer so we're planning to go to King's Dominion and perhaps a Braves baseball game," Young said.

The teen center is open at the Brandermill Community Center on Friday nights from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m.

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Residents help feed the homeless



Photo by Kris Risendal

Shirley Moody and Erna van den Nieuwenhuizen serve a hot meal to the homeless.

By Kris Risendal
Staff Writer

When the odds are against you, helping hands can mean the difference between believing in yourself and losing faith. Three Brandermill residents, Erna van den Nieuwenhuizen of Commodore Point, Shirley Moody of Heathbrook and Mary Brown of Old Fox Trail, give their time and energy to ensure that people less fortunate than they receive a hot meal and a friendly word. For the last several years, three days a week, they have delivered food and served lunch to needy people at the 31st Street Baptist Church in the Church Hill

neighborhood of Richmond. Working with The Brandermill Church outreach program, van den Nieuwenhuizen, Moody and Brown deliver food donated by Winn-Dixie at Waterford each Monday, Wednesday and Friday to Larry Kearney at the 31st Street Baptist Church. As chef, Kearney manages the church's nutrition program, cooking lunch five days a week, Monday through Friday. "We usually serve between 120 and 200 people, depending on what day of the month it is," explains van den Nieuwenhuizen. "When welfare checks run out or bills become due, we see larger numbers of people

needing meals."

According to Kearney, anyone is welcome to eat lunch at the church. Guests sign in and receive a ticket, which they may then use to receive a drink, soup, hot lunch and dessert. On a typical weekday, many of the people eating lunch live or work near the church and are from the area. "If something tastes exceptionally good, word-of-mouth usually spreads the news throughout the neighborhood," said Moody. One woman walks seven miles every day to eat lunch at the church.

Lunchtime is orderly, with each person patiently waiting his or her turn to be served. Smiles are abundant, as are "thank you's." The volunteers help fill the plates with food, pausing only to wash a dish or refill an empty tray.

"I've been so fortunate in my life, it is just nice to do something for people not so lucky," van den Nieuwenhuizen explained. In April, van den Nieuwenhuizen will travel to Haiti with several members of The Brandermill Church on a medical outreach mission, and to Guatemala in August to help residents build new homes.

Volunteers at the 31st Street Baptist Church all seem to believe strongly in one of Kearney's favorite sayings, "I would rather see a good sermon than listen to one."

It's now Swift Creek Junior Women's Club

By Kris Risendal
Staff Writer

The Brandermill Junior Women's Club is changing its name to better reflect its membership. Now called the Swift Creek Junior Women's Club, the social and charitable organization invites women living in the Brandermill, Woodlake, Foxcroft and Deer Run areas to get involved with its group.

"We began this club almost two years ago and we want women to know that it is not just a Brandermill club," said membership committee chairman Caryl Quinn of Timber Ridge.

With 12 members, the Swift Creek Junior Women's Club is

quietly growing as it participates in many social and fund-raising events.

"We are very involved with Easter Seals and Pennies from Heaven, and we co-host the annual Easter Egg Hunt," Quinn said. This year, the Easter Egg Hunt will be held on March 22 at the Sunday Park Peninsula.

Women's clubs throughout the Richmond area also participate in a charity ball each September. One woman from each club is selected as a hostess contestant.

"We get together about once a month from March to September to get to know each other and discuss what each club is doing," said Kate Hourin, the 1997 Swift Creek Junior Women's Club hostess con-

testant.

"The Charity Ball in September is the culmination of the process," she said, when a winner is selected to serve as a spokesperson for Easter Seals and to participate in the Easter Seals telethon.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Swift Creek Junior Women's Club can call Caryl Quinn at 744-8863 or club President Christie Harrell at 744-7881.



Kate Hourin

Authors to speak at writers workshop

The Chesterfield County Library's first Writers Workshop will take place on Saturday, March 22 at the Central Library, 9501 Lori Road. Sponsored by the Library and Friends of the Library, it features local authors including Chimney House residents Brian Regrut and Cathy Maxwell. The workshop will be held from 9 a.m. until

3:15 p.m. Registration is required by March 15. The cost is \$9.25 which includes a box lunch.

The author of three romances with another due out this summer, Maxwell will present a session entitled, "Writing Romances." Regrut, the author of suspense novels including, "Stolen Identity," and "Vengeance is

Mine," will present a workshop on "Marketing and Selling Your Manuscripts."

Other session topics and authors include: "Making Your Dream Come True — Getting Started," Howard Owen, deputy managing editor of the

See Writers Workshop on page 16.

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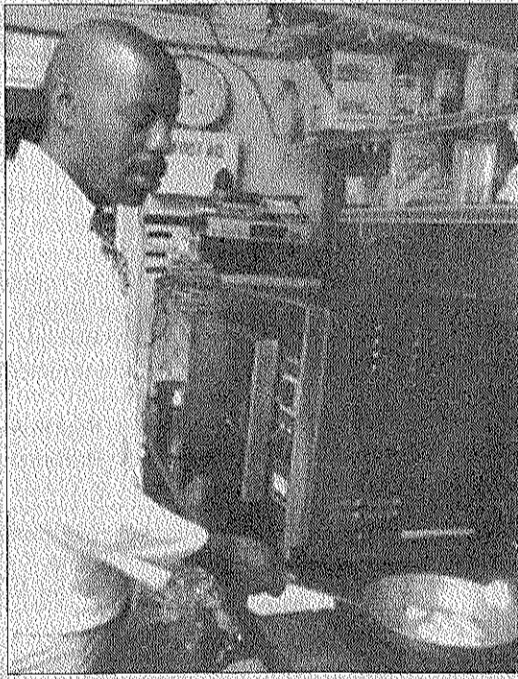
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CHEF'S PANTRY



Chef Tyrone Workman

Chef Tyrone Workman chose the horseradish crusted grouper because it is one of the most popular dinner meals at the Surf Rider Grill. Workman describes grouper

as mild but coarse-textured fish, similar to orange roughly. A chef for 18 years, Workman's first job in food preparation was as a dishwasher in a hospital kitchen.

Surf Rider Grill's Horseradish Crusted Grouper

- 2 8 oz grouper fillets
- 2 cups fresh grated bread crumbs
- 1/2 cup fresh coarsely-grated horseradish
- 1 Tbsp chopped rosemary
- 1 Tbsp chopped thyme
- 1 Tbsp chopped parsley
- Egg wash; 1 egg and 1 cup milk
- 1/2 cup flour for dredging
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 can cooked, diced tomato marinara sauce
- 2 Tbsp fresh chopped basil

A Richmond native, he says cooking was always very natural for him and remembers making his first cake at age 6. He worked for the Steak and Ale chain, as a dish-

- 2 tsp fresh chopped garlic
- 2 tsp sugar
- 1/2 tsp olive oil
- salt and pepper to taste

Sweet Basil Red Sauce
Sauté garlic and basil in olive oil on low heat. Add tomato sauce, sugar, salt and pepper. Simmer for five minutes. Keep sauce warm, and prepare grouper.

Grouper
Grate bread crumbs on coarse side of grater. Add fresh chopped herbs and horseradish. Set aside. Make egg wash. Dredge grouper fillets in flour. Dust off excess. Dip in egg wash, then coat in bread crumbs and herb mixture. Sauté breaded grouper fillets in olive oil on low heat three to four minutes on each side until golden brown. Do not burn. Serve over sweet basil red sauce.

washer, and eventually worked up to kitchen manager. He wanted a more creative outlet so he enrolled in the

See Chef's Pantry on page 16.

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"Comedy of Errors" shines on unique stage

By Wendy Parker
Managing Editor

Those who generally shy away from Shakespearean performances, had better get thee to the theater. Shakespeare's ever popular "The Comedy of Errors," showing through March 15 at TheatreVirginia, has a new unconventional look—a surrealistic set where buildings, sculptures, gigantic fish and torpedo rolls float through the air.

In addition, don't look for men in tights and traditional Shakespearean garb. There are no sword swirling soldiers of the Elizabethan era—instead there are high-booted, pistol packing members of the German guard.

While most of the costumes denote the '30s—doublebreasted suits, derby hats and schoolboy knickers—Luciana's hairdo and attire bear a curious resemblance to those of the '50s, in particular those of Jackie O. In short, TheatreVirginia is breaking the mold. If Shakespeare were around today, he would take pleasure in knowing that one of his silliest plays still works, even on an unconventional stage.

Despite the weird set, Artistic Director George Black remains true to the plot. "The Comedy of Errors" is performed as Shakespeare wrote it: two sets of twin brothers are separated by a storm at sea.

The chaos begins many years later when they happen to land in the town of Ephesus. Mistaken identities—quadrupled—and absurd situations heighten the fun four-fold.

Rick Hammerly steals the show as the confounded slave Dromio and Robert Lee Martini shines as the exasperated Antipholus.

TheatreVirginia is a not-for-profit theater in the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

For ticket information, please call 353-6161.



Photo by Eric Dobbs

Robert Lee Martini and Rick Hammerly, in untraditional attire, are the comic force behind TheatreVirginia's "The Comedy of Errors."

Sabrina Squire will speak at BWC meeting

By Violet Bauch
Guest Correspondent

The Brandermill Woman's Club meeting at Brandermill Country Club on Wednesday, March 19 will present a Virginia celebrity as the speaker. Sabrina Squire is known throughout the area for her accomplishments, as well as her unique presence as an anchor and TV newscaster. Take advantage of the opportunity to hear her speak and ask her questions.

Call Susie Blancke at 744-0334 for lunch reservations by March 14. Coffee will be served at 9:30 a.m.

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SUNDAYS
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CASA volunteers speak on behalf of children in the courtroom



Photo by Janet Joyce
Jack Davis and Diane Baughan discuss the CASA program.

By Linda Burns
Assistant Editor

Many people may not be aware that the office for a unique volunteer program for children, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), is located in the community at Genito Station.

As suggested by CASA's motto, "Speak up for a child," the program's beneficiaries are abused and neglected youngsters. CASA volunteers are appointed by a juvenile court judge to champion the rights of victimized children who are at the mercy of a system burdened with too many cases and too little manpower to serve their best interests. Volunteers agree to be on the front lines, researching records, interviewing parents, teachers, neighbors and most importantly, the children themselves. CASA volunteers must appear in court and make recommendations to the judge, revealing what they have learned from their research. The more information a judge receives from the CASA volunteer, the better equipped he or she is to make a prudent decision about the child's welfare.

Volunteers may schedule their appointments to suit their needs but court dates must be respected. The average monthly commitment of a CASA volunteer is 15-20 hours.

Diane Baughan, director of the

Chesterfield CASA program, wants prospective volunteers to understand that commitment is more important than experience. Baughan was a CASA volunteer in Hanover County before introducing the program to Chesterfield County. "No special training or experience is required to become a CASA volunteer. Only a strong commitment to the needs of children and a willingness to be an extra set of eyes and ears for the court," explained Baughan.

The CASA program was founded in 1977 in Seattle by David Soukup, a juvenile judge who was constantly faced with the responsibility of deciding whether a child should be allowed to stay home or be assigned to a foster home. Soukup said, "As a judge, I had to make tough decisions. I needed someone who could tell me what was best for that child—from the child's viewpoint. That's what CASA does." Twenty years later, more than 600 CASA programs have been established nationwide, serving more than 116,000 children annually through the efforts of 33,000 volunteers. In Virginia alone, the program serves more than 1,500 children each year.

On February 18, the first 10 Chesterfield CASA volunteers were sworn in by Judge Frederick Rockwell of the Chesterfield Juvenile and Domestic

Relations Court. The new CASA inductees had completed the mandatory 30 hours of instruction which covered courtroom procedures and effective advocacy techniques for children.

Jack Davis, of Stoney Ridge, currently serves on the governing board of directors for CASA. Davis says, "Having served the young people of the commonwealth for many years, I see the CASA program as an excellent opportunity to continue that service."

Baughan plans to recruit more volunteers in the fall and hopes to attract more interest within Brandermill. She will appear with Clover Hill Supervisor Art Warren on the "Chesterfield Matters" show on Channel 6, Thursdays at 8 p.m. through April.

The CASA office is at 13615 Genito Road. For more information, contact Diane Baughan at 744-1755.

Brandermill Woods holds health fair

Brandermill Woods Retirement Community will sponsor its 3rd Annual Health Fair. The Health Fair will be March 21 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Clubhouse at Brandermill Woods.

This year's Health Fair will feature over 15 vendors, doctors and other medical practitioners, as well as many community resources. Some services to be offered will be: cholesterol checks, blood pressure checks, stress screenings, massage therapy, blood glucose tests, adaptive equipment presentations and much more.

The Health Fair is open to the public. For further information, please call Craig Hedley at 379-7100.

Kimberly Ann Riley will marry James M. Nix

Mrs. Earl T. Riley of Old Fox Trail announces the engagement of her daughter, Kimberly Ann, to James M. Nix, son of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Nix of Cape Coral, Fla.

Kimberly Riley received a bachelor of arts degree from James Madison University and is a teacher at James Blair Middle School in Williamsburg.

James Nix received a bachelor of science degree from Southern Illinois University. He is a curriculum developer at E.L. Hamm and Associates in Virginia Beach.

They both reside in Virginia Beach.

The couple will be married at Galilee Episcopal Church in Virginia Beach on April 26.



Kimberly Ann Riley

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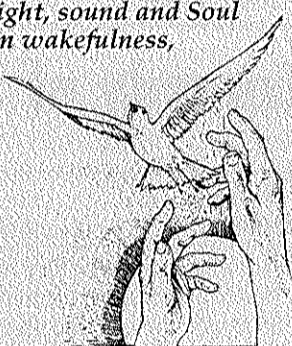
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✦ Speaker: Terry Lee Bivona, RN ✦

Mr. Bivona has worked in the mental and medical healthcare fields for 20 years, including psychiatry, trauma ICUs, and Hospice. He is currently writing a book titled *Insight, Wisdom and Spiritual Truth*. He has done workshops in regional conferences and is a warmly enthusiastic speaker.

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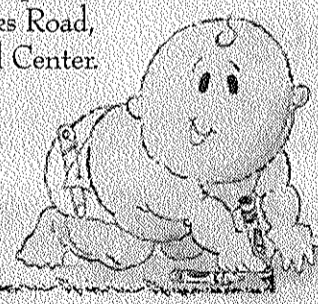
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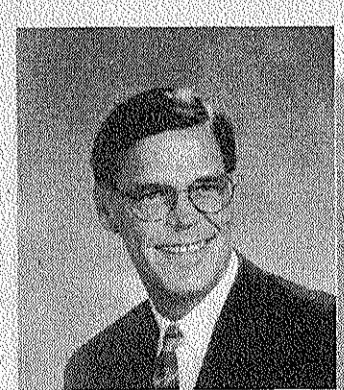
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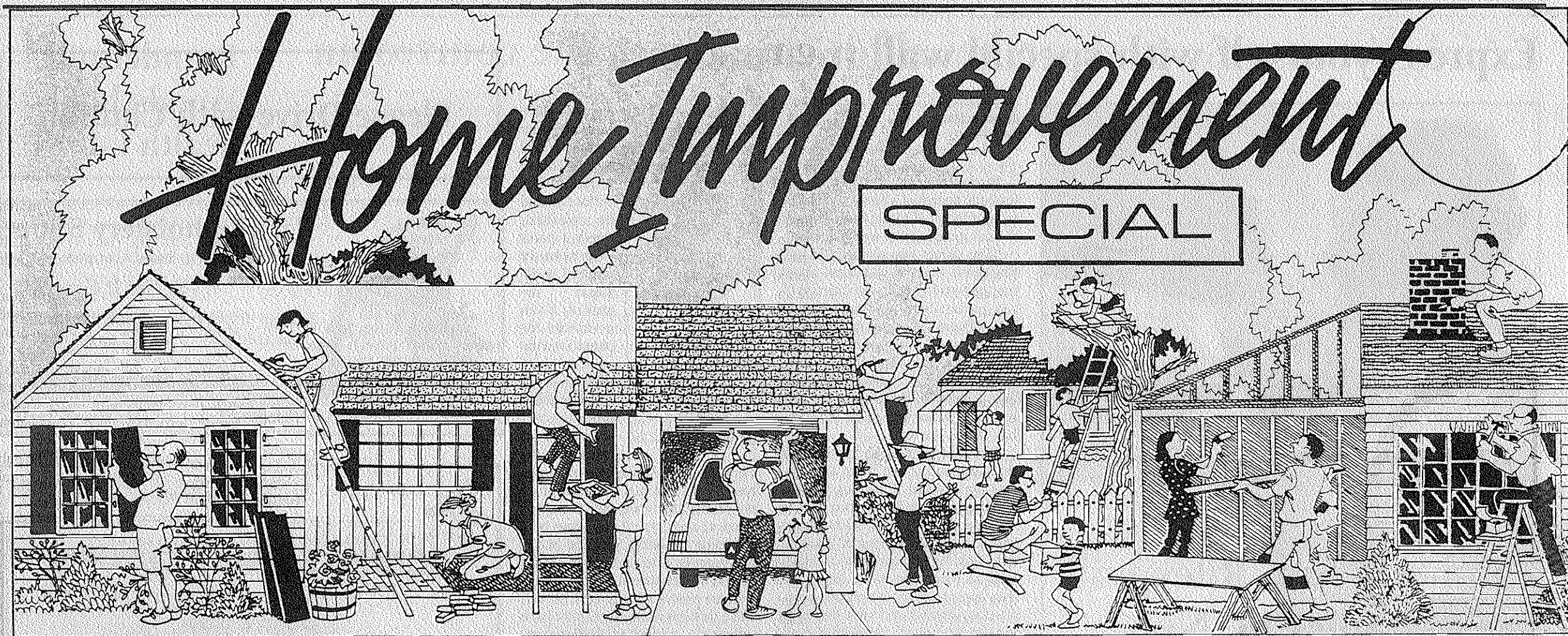
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Don't forget to get ARB approval

By Kathy Austin
Community Standards

As warmer weather approaches, many residents are finally putting in that extra room they have always wanted, or painting the house, or building a deck. Before starting to dig, paint, or knock down walls, remember to get approval from the Architectural Review Board.

The first step is to submit an application for architectural review. Applications are available in the BCA office. Residents need to include all plans, drawings, surveys, dimensions and materials. It is important to make sure applications are complete to avoid any unnecessary delays in getting the project started.

Paint colors, sheds, and most fences are reviewed every Tuesday. More extensive projects such as additions are reviewed by the entire ARB, which meets on

the second and fourth Tuesday of every month.

If an application is denied, the ARB will give specific reasons, as well as offer some solutions. Should the application be approved, it is important to build exactly what was approved. Sometimes people may get a little carried away during the building process, and what started out as a 20-foot deck ends up as a 40-foot deck with a hot tub. Remember, if what is built is not what was approved, the property will be considered in violation and subject to the enforcement process.

So if a resident gets approval to paint the house light rose beige and decides that robin's egg blue is really much more stylish, that resident must resubmit the new choice.

As always, the staff architect is available for consultation every Tuesday, should there be any questions about how or where to begin.

Use caution when selecting a contractor

By Kris Risendal
Staff Writer

Trusting anyone with investments is always a gamble. Trusting anyone with a home can be the biggest gamble of all. That is why it is important to choose a professional contractor carefully before making any repairs or additions to a home.

A competent contractor will do the job efficiently and correctly. With just a little bit of research, protecting an investment becomes easier.

"If you want to get your money's worth, always contact at least three professionals for estimates and evaluation before hiring a contractor to do a job," said Skip Henderson, extension agent for the Chesterfield County Extension Service. Check to see if the contractors solve the problem the same way and if their estimates are comparable.

Henderson also emphasizes the importance of requesting and checking references. A long list of satisfied customers is a good indication that the contractor is professional and gets the job done right. Henderson recommends asking colleagues, friends and neighbors for recommendations on building contractors.

Homeowners can also check out the contractor with the Better Business Bureau and state licensing board. These agencies can report if

any complaints have been made against a contractor.

When choosing a contractor, it is also important that the employees who work on the job are covered by insurance and are experienced. According to Henderson, the rule of thumb is, the longer the contractor is in the business, the better.

Ask a contractor for detailed written estimates including the cost of materials and labor and how long it will take to complete the work. In addition, be sure that a warranty is included in the written contract.

A professional contractor can save a homeowner both time and money in repairs or remodeling and protect a most important investment—a home.

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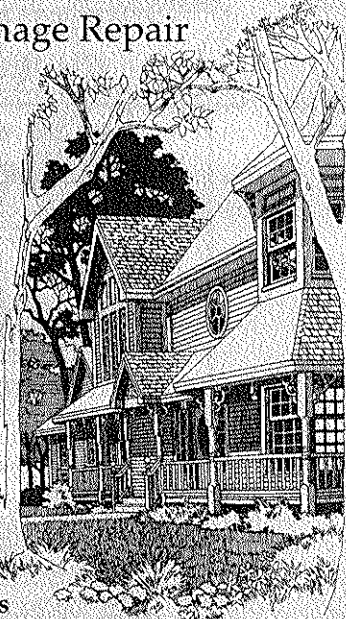
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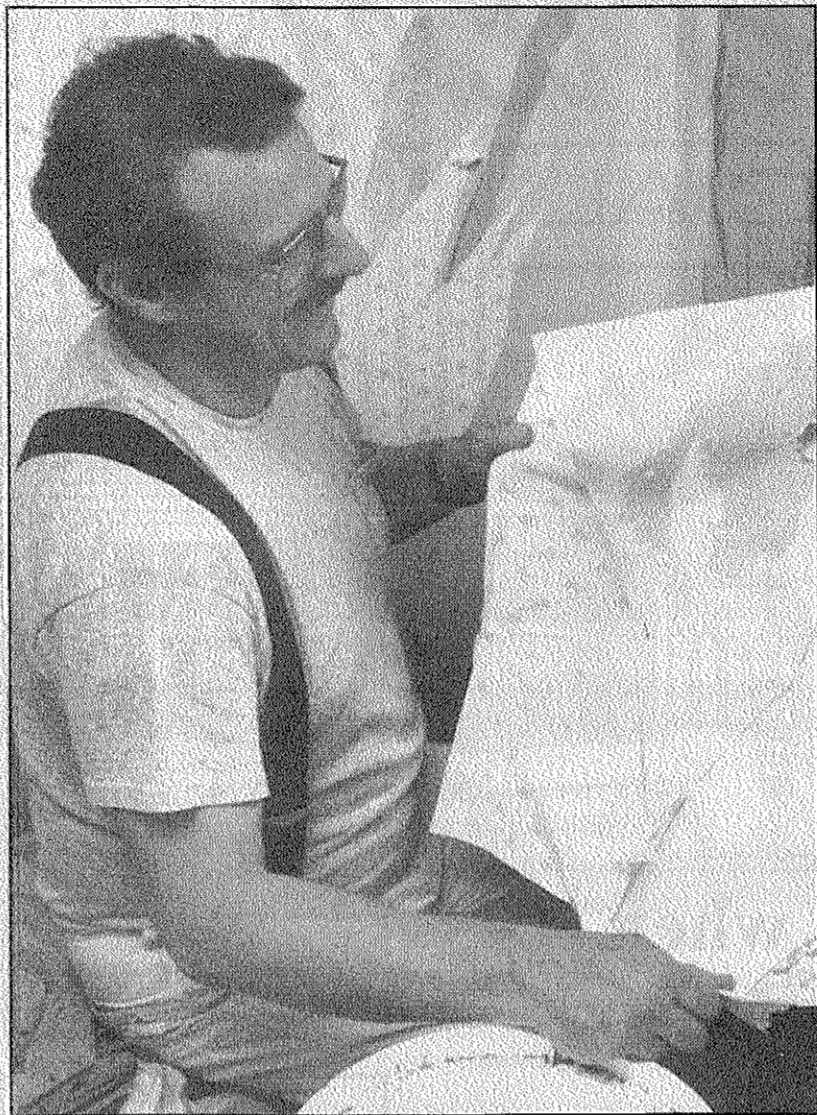


Photo by Janet Joyce
Randy Pepin removes old paper from a wall that had not been properly prepared.

By Janet Joyce
Staff Writer

Wall treatments contribute to the aesthetic appeal of a home and can be a major factor at resale time. Popular choices include paint and wallpaper.

"The colors you choose for wall treatments make a statement about your personality and your character," said professional wallpaper hanger Randy Pepin. "You can make a room feel really cold and uninviting; you can make a room feel really warm. With dark colors on the ceiling you close a room in; if you paint the ceiling really white you make the room look larger," he said.

A coat of paint on an interior wall sets the mood of the room and protects the drywall. Choosing a high-quality product will lengthen the life of the paint job. Certain paints are designed to withstand repeated washing and would be appropriate in a child's room or recreation room. Pepin advises consumers to research the products they choose and says that high price does not always mean high quality with either paint or wallpaper.

There are many types of wallpaper available that range from \$10 per roll to more than \$150 per roll. "Consumers should select the pattern that they like. It's up to the wallpaper hanger to do whatever prep work is necessary to make that paper work on the wall," said Pepin. Most wallpapers are vinyl-coated and if hung properly will withstand washing and humidity.

Whether you paint or paper yourself, or hire a professional, proper preparation of the surface is essential for the paint or wallpaper to adhere properly. The surface should be washed; peeling paint or previously applied wallpaper removed; holes or cracks repaired; and the appropriate primer used. Light switches and outlet covers should be removed.



When the old wallpaper is removed from a wall that had not been properly primed, the wallpaper paste will adhere to the drywall and some of it will come off along with the paper. This requires extensive repair before the next wall treatment can be applied.

Some papers already have the adhesive on them while others must have wallpaper paste applied. Different papers have different requirements. Using the wrong paste can stain or burn a paper.

Applying wallpaper is often done by homeowners themselves. Pepin says to carefully analyze the pattern of the paper to ensure that it is hung properly and recommends that novices select preprepared papers because sometimes only experience can tell you which paste to use.

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A home security system is an important investment



Photo by Janet Joyce
A sign announces a secure home.

By Harriet Coppins
Copy Editor

A coat of paint, a new roof and beautiful landscaping all add to the value of a home. However, home own-

ers should not overlook the importance of less aesthetic improvements such as a home security system. Alarm systems can give home owners a feeling of confidence that they are doing all they can to keep their families safe.

Law enforcement agencies offer suggestions on how to choose an alarm company. Select a well established firm with a record of successful operation. Be sure that the installing company is a member of the Virginia or National Burglar and Fire Alarm Association and be sure that any employees who have access to your home are bonded. Ask the company to give you the names of satisfied customers. The company should have a permanent office that can be contacted 24 hours a day and has a 24-hour central monitoring station.

Before choosing an alarm company, the home owner should obtain at least three estimates. Each company should have an agent come to the home since there is no way an appropriate system can be suggested over the phone. If there are any questions about estimates, call the Crime Prevention Section of the Chesterfield County Police at 748-1265.

Anyone who purchases an alarm system for home or business must obtain an alarm permit within 30 days of its installation. There is no fee and the permits can be obtained from any alarm company or the Chesterfield County Police.

Security Devices

There are many different types of devices that can make up an alarm system for the home. Law enforcement agencies suggest that the homeowner know what each device is designed to do. The following is a list of common components and how they operate.

Magnetic contacts are the most widely used devices for perimeter sensing in home alarms. They are electromechanical devices comprised of a simple switching mechanism, whose contacts are attached to doors and windows. An alarm sounds when they are opened.

Glass breakage detectors are devices designed to detect when a window is broken. There are single detectors and detectors designed to cover several windows on a wall.

Screens are made of mesh in which are placed specially designed invisible wires. When they are cut, an alarm sounds.

Pressure mats may be used to supplement a perimeter alarm. They are flat switches operated by the pressure of a footstep and are installed under carpeting near entrances, windows, stairways, and hallways.

Photo electric beams emit an invisible infrared light beam across hallways, rooms and stairways. An alarm sounds when the beam is broken.

Passive infrared detectors are good supplements to the perimeter

system. They measure heat levels and will sound an alarm when the detector measures a person's body heat.

Ultrasonic motion detectors will detect movement in a specific area. They should not be installed where there is a potential for wind turbulence from windows or heating and air conditioning units.

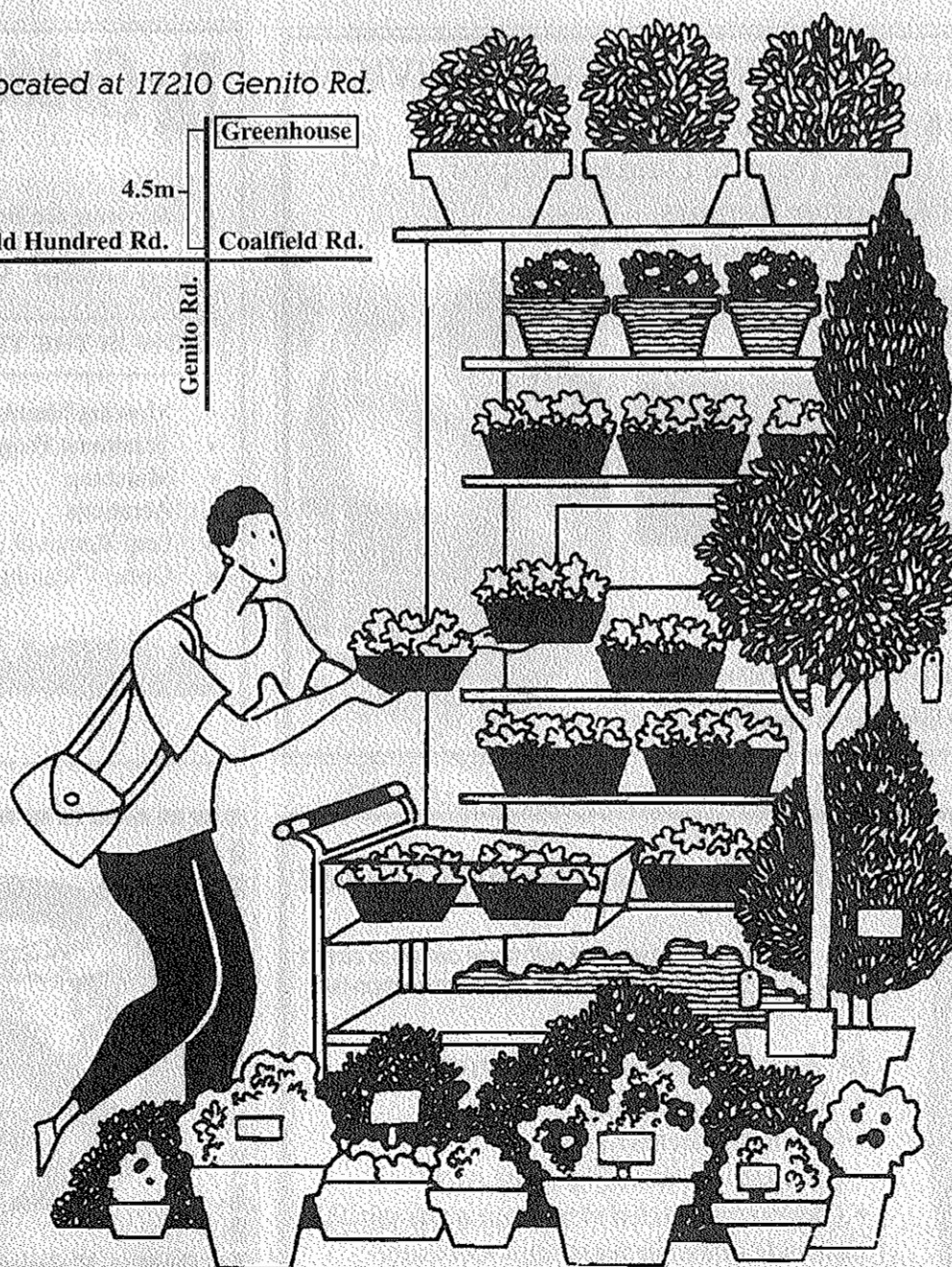
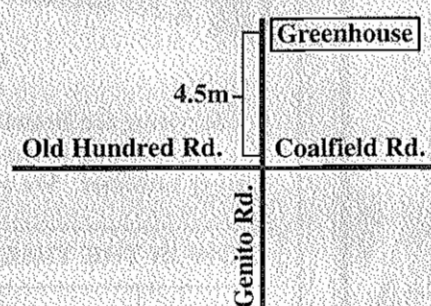
Dual technology sensors combine the technology of passive infrared and ultra-sonic detectors.

Panic buttons may be placed in specific areas of the home which allow residents to manually activate an alarm in case of emergency.

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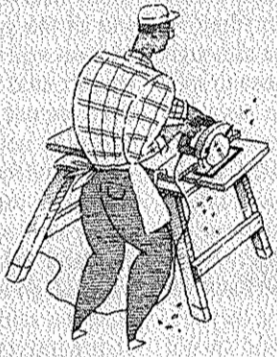
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Remodeling may be the best alternative to moving

By Janet Joyce
Staff Writer

If a home doesn't quite measure up to the ideal and the thought of moving makes the homeowner break out in a cold sweat, perhaps remodeling is the answer. Adding an extra room or another bath, turning a carport into a garage or adding counter space in the kitchen are some of the popular ways to turn an existing dwelling into the homeowner's dream.

While the main reason for remodeling is generally to improve the quality of life, it can have a considerable effect



on the value and marketability of a home.

Brandermill resident Earl Jackson, former president of the Richmond Association of Realtors, advises that before starting, have the home appraised and know what it's worth now and what it would be worth after the remodeling. He advises homeowners to look at how their house compares to others in the neighborhood. Bringing a home up to the norm for the neighborhood is more likely to maximize the investment than creating the most unusual house on the block.

Chesterfield County requires a building permit for all major structural

changes. The tax assessor's office receives a copy of the permit and once completed, a representative will come out and inspect the property. Any change in assessment for tax purposes is based on what the market indicates the change adds to the property, not on the amount of money spent. Adding a bathroom, for example, would change the assessed value while making cosmetic changes would not although they might help a house sell more quickly.

Brandermill covenants require that all structural changes must be approved by the Architectural Review Board but cosmetic improvements to the interior of a home do not require approval. The purpose of regulating structures and controlling improvements is to enhance the overall value of properties in Brandermill and com-

pliance is a condition of property ownership.

Application forms are available at the BCA administrative offices. The full Architectural Review Board meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Applications must be submitted no later than noon on the day before the scheduled meeting.

For more information, contact the BCA Community Standards Department at 744-1035.



Home improvement, starting at the top



By Kris Risendal
Staff Writer

It doesn't take much of an imagination to picture a beleaguered homeowner frantically trying with pots and pans to catch drops of water leaking in through the roof. Homeowners seldom climb up and inspect the roofs of their homes. That is why it is usually an unpleasant surprise when a spring shower rains inside the house

as well outside. Often significant damage can occur before residents ever realize that there is a problem.

Early detection of leaks or other problems can save the homeowner money and time. It may only involve patching a relatively small area rather than more costly repair when the problem is left untreated.

Several types of roofing materials for homes are: asphalt shingles, wood shingles and shakes, metal, tile, slate and composite coverings. The most popular and least expensive roofing material is asphalt. According to a Better Business Bureau consumer information brochure, this roof type generally lasts 20 to 50 years. If the corners and edges of the shingles are beginning to curl and crack, and if the black asphalt is showing through, the roof needs repairing. Most likely, the weatherproof seal is damaged. If one out of every five to 10 shingles shows damage, it is time to re-roof.

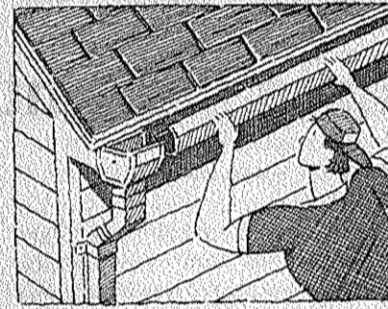
Another frequently used roofing material is wood shingles which have a life span of 20 to 50 years if properly installed. The shingles should be treated with flame-retardant chemicals. If the shingles begin to form gaps or appear crumbly, it is time to replace them. The same rule applies to this type of roof as with the asphalt shingles: if one shingle out of five or 10 shows signs of aging, consider re-roofing.

Tile, slate and composite roofs require little maintenance and often last more than 50 years; however, replacement costs are high.

To help avoid costly repairs, have roofs inspected annually by roofing professionals who are experienced and have reputable references. Many roofing contractors provide inspection services free of charge or consider hiring someone who doesn't work for a roofing company for a more objective opinion.

Residents should remember to repair distressed areas and apply roof coatings before serious roof deterioration occurs. Always use a roof coating that is chemically compatible with what is already on the roof. Remember to allow asphalt roofs to weather adequately before applying a roof coating and never use roof coatings on a wood shingle roof.

Spring is also the time to check for clogged or damaged gutters.



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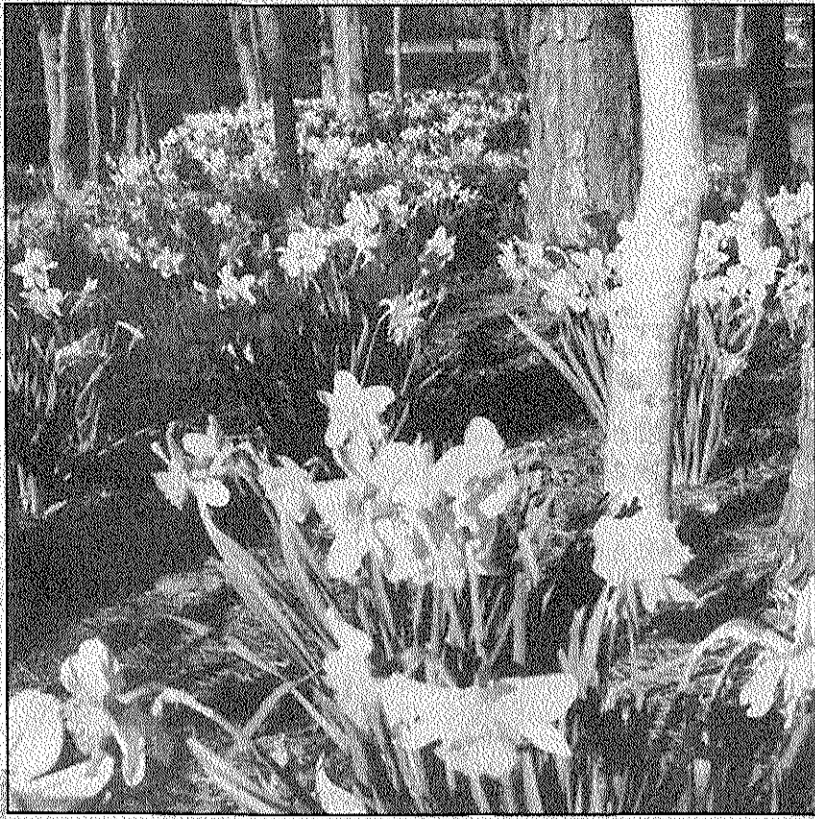


Photo by Wendy Parker

Daffodil bulbs can be separated when they barely appear in the spring or after they die back in the fall.

It's time for all that bloomin' yardwork

By Janet Joyce
Staff Writer

With the winter of 1997 nearly over, homeowners will soon be able to get outside for some quality yard work.

Besides lawn maintenance, the care of flowering trees and shrubs as well as bedding flowers can become quite a passion for the home gardener. There are many varieties of flowering plants that thrive in the Virginia climate and can provide practically year-round beauty.

Early spring is the time to start a maintenance program for flowering trees and shrubs. Those that bloom in the summer on new wood such as roses, hydrangeas and butterfly bush can be pruned now. Cut them back roughly halfway to some viable buds.

Flowering shrubs that bloom in the spring such as azaleas, rhododendrons and forsythia, on last year's growth, should be pruned after they flower. Evergreens can be trimmed back now

as well, but not too severely. As a rule of thumb, fertilize all plants after April 1. Sue Scarano, a nursery sales representative at Hudgins' Nursery says, "We recommend an all-purpose tree, shrub and ornamental fertilizer but for rhododendrons and azaleas, we recommend a fertilizer specifically formulated for acid-loving plants."

Annuals have to be replaced each year but provide a long season of color. Perennials and bulbs will only bloom for a few weeks to a month but they will come back year after year and multiply. Annual bedding plants will start arriving at area nurseries this month. Pansies tolerate the cold weather best and can be planted right away but they'll have to be replaced by the end of June.

Warm weather annuals such as vincas, marigolds and zinnias can be planted around the first of May after the soil has warmed up. Summer-flowering bulbs such as gladiolas should be planted in early spring. Alliums or lilies can also be planted in the spring-

time. To care for spring flowering bulbs, particularly daffodils and tulips, remove the foliage after the plant has bloomed and is all brown and tattered. Flowering bulbs can be fertilized with specialty products either when they emerge or after they've bloomed. Scarano says that although the previous wisdom has been to split the bulbs in the fall, she says it's easier to do it in the spring after they've bloomed and died back. "From what I've been reading lately, daffodils can be split in the spring either when they have just barely come up or else after they've died back but when you can still see where they are. Bulbs that you've purchased should be planted in the fall."

Perennials can be split or moved in the spring or fall but you don't want to move them during the heat of summer. Hostas are easy to divide in the springtime when the foliage is just starting to emerge. They can be divided into any size plant by using a very sharp knife. The base contains a

very solid root with stringy roots attached and each division should contain some roots and shoots.

Some flowering plants, such as irises, need to be divided every three years with the tuber planted half way out of the ground, or the number of blooms will decrease. Another rule of thumb, said Scarano, is that if perennials are not blooming profusely, they probably need to be divided.

One of the most popular flowering shrubs is this area is the azalea and new plants are arriving at area nurseries daily. "If you can work the ground you can go ahead and plant azaleas," Scarano said. "But if they have been overwintered in a greenhouse, you may have to cover the buds if the temperature drops below 30 degrees," she said.

Brandermill residents are reminded that extensive landscaping changes or removal of trees more than six inches in diameter must be approved by the Architectural Review Board. Applications can be picked up at the BCA.

Home Improvement Check List



By Kris Risendal
Staff Writer

Every spring, people talk excitedly about spring vacations, longer days and warmer temperatures. Now is the time to get excited about homes as well. Just follow the spring checklist.

- Crawl underneath the house to check for winter damage. If there are signs of moisture, be sure to check the insulation for dampness which may indicate a problem. Also check for termite damage.
- Clear away dead leaves and debris from gutters in time for the spring showers.
- If the house needs painting, do it now before the weather gets

too hot or contractors become too busy. Check window sills and doorjamb for rotting wood before painting. Poke a screwdriver into the wood as a quick test for damage.

- Say goodbye to winter doldrums and hello to color. Plan your spring planting. Mulch cuts down on the time spent watering and improves the soil. Flowers and shrubbery add distinction to any home.
- Furnaces were running all winter. Now is the time to change the filter and check for soot backup.
- Residents who enjoyed warming themselves before a roaring fire this winter should have the chimney cleaned.
- Anyone thinking of warmer days ahead will want to check freon levels in the air conditioning unit.
- Reopen vents closed during the winter months.
- Check attic and dead spaces for insects. It is not unusual to find them sharing comfortable living quarters.
- Reseal the asphalt driveway if needed.
- The secret behind a great looking lawn is a well-maintained mower. Make all necessary repairs.

Driveway conditions make strong first impressions

By Kris Risendal
Staff Writer

One of the first things a buyer notices when looking at a house is its exterior and its curb appeal. A shabby driveway can make or break a sale. Fixing an ailing driveway and caring for it regularly is the key to a driveway's long lasting attractive appearance.

While concrete and aggregate driveways are more expensive than asphalt, they require less upkeep. With proper maintenance, however, asphalt can enjoy a long and healthy life. According to Ben Blalock of Quality Driveway Sealers, Inc. in Midlothian, sealing an asphalt driveway is necessary when cracks and crevices become noticeable. "Too much sealing will lead to a buildup of sealant which makes penetration to the driveway more difficult," he says. Blalock advises sealing driveways with an oil-based product when the outdoor temperature is at least 50 degrees. Oil-

based products are preferred because they penetrate the driveway better, allowing the driveway to breathe. Sealing is relatively inexpensive; the average price of sealing a 1,000 square foot driveway is \$100 or 10 cents a square foot.

Whether a homeowner paves a driveway or opts for the natural look, one thing is certain — maintenance is the key to enjoying a long-lasting, attractive appearance. Sealing, weeding, edging, all help keep a driveway neat in appearance and enhance the overall beauty and curbside appeal of a home.

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SCMS students create erupting Mt. Vesuvius

By Ernestine Armstrong
School Correspondent

Seventh-grade students at Swift Creek Middle School taking the Latin foreign language exploratory classes took their exploring one step further through recent class projects. The students had to decide what they liked best about Italy and produce a visual product. The volcano, Mount Vesuvius, was the definite winner. When the volcano actually erupted, through the use of vinegar and baking soda, the Latin students envisioned what a real explosion was like.

The Richmond Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving sponsored the Sixth Annual Poster and Essay Contest. The following students at SCMS had winning entries: eighth grade - Erin Maloney and Megan Rohas and sixth grade - Kevin Curtis and Juli Kay. In addition to these winning entries, all students in health and P.E. classes wrote essays as a health project in the substance abuse unit. The theme was, "My World, My Choice, No Alcohol."

Seventh-grader, Katie Isaacs, was the SCMS 1996-1997 Geography Bee winner. Other finalists included runner-up Brian Dunn, Will Cary, Todd Lewis, Clark Dwyer, Alex Matterna, Missy Long, Jeremy Franklin, Dawn Durvin, Jenny Dertinger, John Thacker, Erik Wilson, Chris Biggs and Mike Stirewalt.

SCES gears up for auction

By Kris Risendal
School Correspondent

It has been a busy month at Swift Creek Elementary School as teachers and children have enjoyed the After-School Enrichment Program. Hats off to Sharon Goode for organizing this successful program.

The third annual SCES Silent Auction will take place the evening of Friday, April 18 at the Brandermill Inn. Proceeds from this event will go toward new playground equipment for the school.

The School Staff Committee and the Classroom Project Committee are working to secure at least one project from each class at SCES. These projects range from canvas aprons with all the children's hand prints on them to laminated books of poetry and framed pictures.

SCES second-grade teachers have even agreed as a group to donate a bowling trip for five lucky children. In addition, theme baskets are being prepared with items donated by children and parents.

According to Kate Hourin, Silent Auction co-chairman, the Vacation Packages Committee is also working with local and not-so-local inns for romantic get-away packages to auction. Other committees are also working hard to ensure that the auction will be a resounding success. Participants are reminded that a donation to the auction is tax deductible.

Each family of a Swift Creek gator is asked to donate something for the auction, anything from original prints, handmade clothing, computer software, or personal services, such as cooking, music lessons or babysitting to name just a few. The auction is open to the public.

If anyone would like to volunteer to serve on one of the committees, or make a donation, or help set up or total bids, call Sherri Brooks at 763-4491 or Kate Hourin at 744-9361.

The next general PTA meeting will be on March 11 at 7 p.m. This special program will recognize all the students who participated in the Reflections Program.

The much-anticipated Sock Hop will be held Friday, March 21 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Music will be provided by SCES parent Bob Broomfield.

Tickets will be sold the week of the Sock Hop and at the door. All third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students, parents and teachers are invited to attend.

Parent volunteers are still needed at SCES. Those who are interested should call Susan Schumm at 744-3585 or Diane Gilbride at 763-2491.

The new dates for the SCES Spring Book Fair are May 5 through May 9.

By Mary Kay McCall
School Correspondent

Clover Hill Elementary School third-graders traveled back in time to Williamsburg in February to culminate a unit of study on the history and life in the Virginia Colony's political and cultural center in the 1700s. Tour guides demonstrated how the colonists lived, worked, gardened, and traded. Students were able to use colonial tools and experience grinding corn, turning a windmill, and using scales to weigh silver for determining its value.

"Obedient" and "formidable" were the winning words for Michael Sanders from Barbara Farmer's fifth-grade class, as he became the new CHES spelling bee champion. Joshua Albert from Sharon Perry's fifth-grade class was runner-up. For their participation in the school spelling bee competition, CHES congratulates the following finalists from the fourth and fifth grades: Dana Carter, Aurora Cassity, Jillian Earnest, Madison Gross, Joshua Jones, Lindsay Jost, Matt Maloney, Nicholas Marinacci, Keisha Marshall, Carlton Moody, Matthew Munch, Chelsea Phillips, Lisa Pitts, Ben Smelley, Adam Traub, and Nicholas Volkmar. As school champion, Michael Sanders represented CHES in the county spelling bee at Manchester Middle School on February 25.

Parental concerns regarding the transition from elementary to middle school were addressed at the February 19 PTA meeting, as speakers Principal Thornton Carter and Guidance Counselor Joyce Morene, of Swift Creek Middle School, discussed expectations and opportunities at the middle school level.

Members of the Swift Creek Middle School Band entertained CHES fifth-graders on February 25.

Parents with questions regarding instruments and band participation in middle school may call Myrne McGonigle, band director, at 739-6315. The CHES PTA is looking for new

faces with fresh ideas for its 1997-1998 executive board. Both elected and committee positions are available. Please call Carolyn Holloway, nominations chairman, at 744-2052, for

more information. Broadway, look out. The CHES Student Council Association is hosting a talent night at the CHES PTA meeting on March 19 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria. Bring the whole family at 6 p.m. and enjoy a delicious bowl of chili, dessert, and soda for only \$2. Tickets are on sale now. Call PTA Programs Vice

President Jo-De Davis at 744-6533, for more details.

Creative and award winning art, music and technology will be on display at the annual Fine Arts and Technology Festival to be held on Saturday, April 12 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 13 from noon to 4:30 p.m. at Manchester High School. Artistic selections from county elementary, middle, and high school students will be featured.

This event will include a performance on Sunday, April 13 by 21 CHES fifth-graders, who will be part of a 200-member chorus from surrounding Chesterfield County schools.




Photo by Mary Kay McCall

Tour guide Mary Black demonstrates corn grinding for Donna Willett's third-graders.




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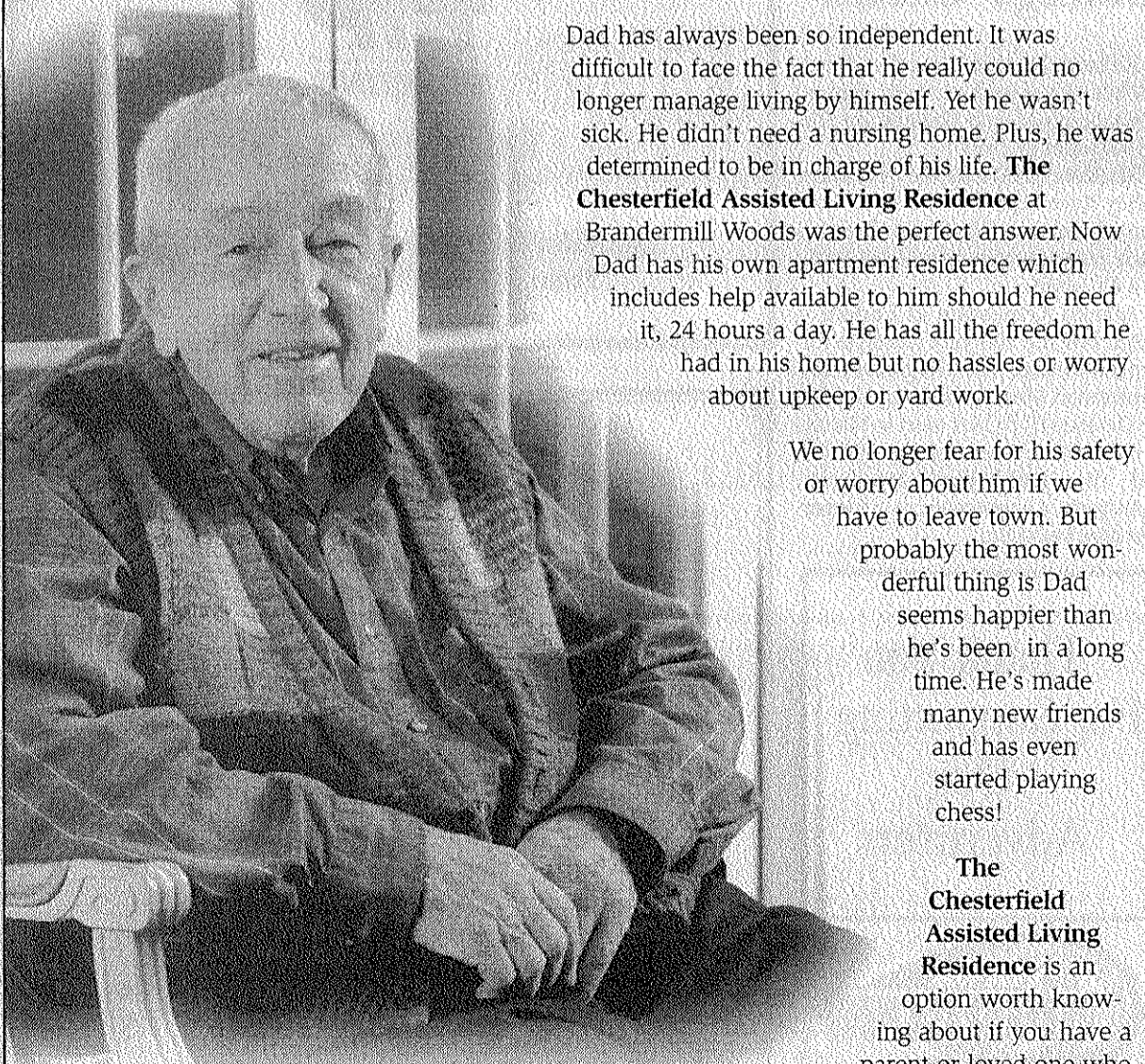


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Students "go before" the supreme court

By Julie Breissinger
School Correspondent

Clover Hill High School students, seniors Matt Roberts and Ken Dowdy and junior Kara Breissinger, recently were selected to participate in a mock trial before the Virginia Supreme Court. The team will participate with 10 other teams chosen statewide.

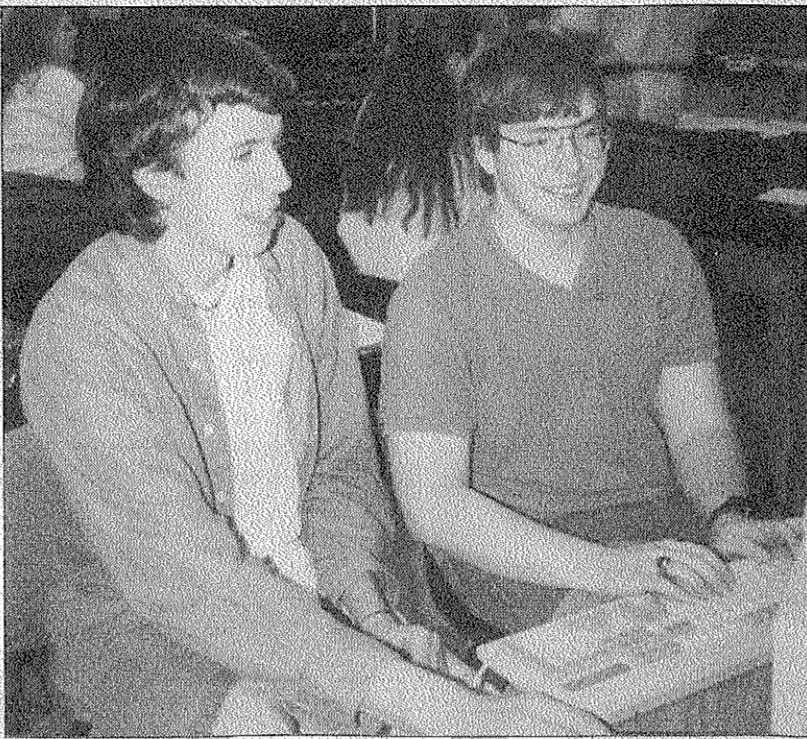
The competition originally began in December when practical law students at CHHS rivaled Thomas Jefferson High School in a mock trial held at the Chesterfield County Circuit Court. At the conclusion of the trial, several students from CHHS were asked to participate in an appeals process before the Intermediate Court of Appeals. CHHS was the only Chesterfield County school selected to participate. Two teams were then selected to compete before the Supreme Court based on their earlier success.

"It's a great honor for these kids," practical law teacher Billy Pritchett said. "To actually plead a case in front of seven judges."

The students will argue the case of *Clausen vs. Richmond Metropolitan Transit Authority*. The suit pertains to a woman who slipped on ice and injured her back after stepping off the bus and is therefore suing for damages.

Intense preparation has begun for the upcoming trial. "We have been working with Jack Martin, an attorney," Dowdy said. "In addition, we have been doing research at the University of Richmond Law Library."

"This is a wonderful experience to have prior to entering law school and becoming a lawyer," Dowdy said.



Ben Allison and Andy Fundinger work on their space project.

NASA Project

NASA and CHHS have collaborated to allow students the opportunity to design an experiment to be tested in outer space. Students in Sam Peters' integrated science classes have been working on the project since the first week of school.

The project was designed to give students the opportunity to study the effects of the space environment. The project, chosen by Peters' students, will explore the effect of cosmic radiation on four speeds of black and white film and preprogrammed floppy

disks. Identical disks will be kept on Earth and compared to the experimental ones once they return.

The part of the project was delivered to NASA before Christmas break. It will be in competition with projects from other U.S. schools and universities for a place on the space shuttle.

Students are excited about the project and the special interest Peters has taken in their studies.

"Mr. Peters is a very dedicated science teacher," junior Adam Harkins said. "He really takes an interest in his work."

Supervisors recognize Patrick Liu

By Harriet Coppins
Copy Editor

Brandermill resident Patrick Liu, a senior at the Governor's School, was recently honored by the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors for his outstanding achievements. In the resolution presented to him by Chairman Art Warren, Patrick was cited as representing a "caliber of students of whom the citizens of Chesterfield County and Central Virginia can all be proud..."



Patrick Liu

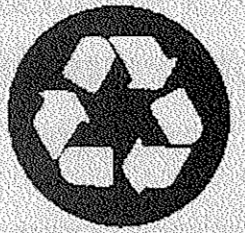
Patrick's academic honors include his grade point average of 4.61, and being named both a National Merit Scholar finalist and an Emory Scholar finalist. Liu took first place in the Classical Association of Virginia Tournament and received a perfect score on the national Latin exam. He has been inducted into the National Honor Society and the National German Honor Society. Patrick also qualified for the American Invitational Mathematics Exam.

Patrick is a talented musician and placed first in the Richmond Piano Bach Competition and the National Music Study Club Competition. He performs as second violinist in the Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra and received superior ratings at the National Guild playing auditions and the National Federation of Music Clubs Festival.

Patrick received a first place award in an illustrated children's book competition. He is first in class in the Richmond Chinese School and a member of the Richmond Chinese Baptist Church Youth Group. In addition, he is an accompanist for The Brandermill Church Children's Choir. A copy of the resolution will be permanently recorded among the papers of the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors.

Patrick is the son of Reiko and Victor Liu of Stoney Ridge Road.

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Guests speak about Civil War

By Jim Alberston
Guest Correspondent

A seminar on the Civil War took place at Clover Hill High School in February. Four guest speakers addressed various aspects of the conflict.

Carl Ashlock, a Chesterfield County resident and historian, reflected on the human and personal side of the war. He related several incidents involving brother versus brother.

Gene Johnson has spent over 30 years studying different phases of the Civil War. Johnson emphasized the role of minorities during that period.

David Ruth of the Richmond Battlefield Park Service related how he helps people research their family's history and its role in the Civil War.

Chris Barnett from the Education Department of the Museum of the Confederacy discussed the idea of the "lost cause" that has been associated with the Confederacy. He talked about how his organization disseminates information to people who want to learn more about the Civil War.

Jim Triesler's Civil War class and Jenny Prior's U.S. history classes were also involved in the seminar.



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Kristen Jeanine Marcel of Long Hill has earned dean's list recognition at Randolph-Macon College for the fall semester of 1997.

Students qualify for the dean's list if they have been enrolled in no less than 12 semester hours and earned a grade point average of at least 3.25, on a 4.0 scale.

Amelia Armstrong of Fortune's Ridge won the 500-yard freestyle for Kenyon College in the Regional Ohio Conference Meet, qualifying her for the Division III NCAA meet in March.

In addition, she won the 400 IM and the 1,650-yard freestyle. Armstrong, a sophomore, is a former Poseidon swimmer.

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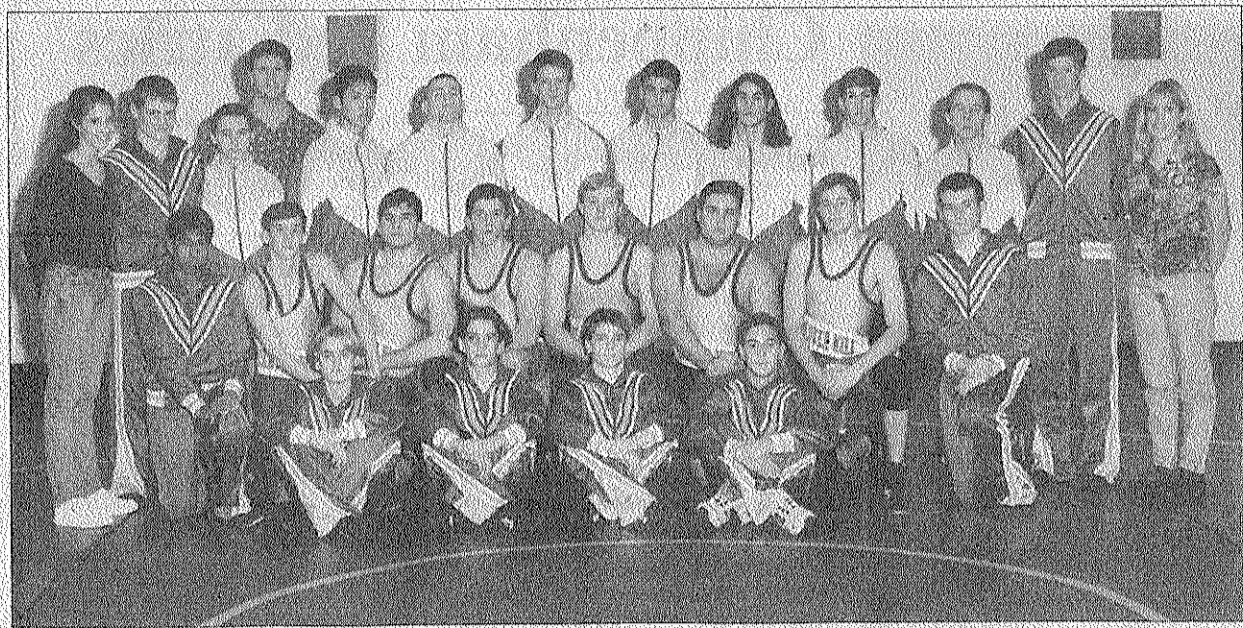
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Clover Hill wrestlers claim district title



CHHS Wrestling Team District Champs

Front row, from left: Ethan Wirt, Bill Bolton, Tobin Walker, and E. J. Edelman. Second row: Sumeth Theruvath, Steve Daggett, Mike Gotta, David Jones, John Arthur, Mike Forden, Ryan Alberston, and Justin Andrews. Back row: Jamie Dworkin, Jonathan Harrell, Josh Jarrell, Coach Steve Eliasek, Dan Chung, Jeremy Fox, Chris Gibson, Ted Conrad, Jay Wolman, Marc Wolman, Danny Daggett, Matt Harper, and Leslie Currow. Not pictured: Jeff Thompson, Jeff Morris, Josh Tuthill, Jonathan Harris, Stephanie Ferguson, Tim Wrachford, Gideon Wolff, Ryan Smith, Stephen and Eric Colpo, Coach Ed Metzger, and Coach Jim Alberston.

By Jim Alberston
Guest Correspondent

Under the guidance of second year head coach Steve Eliasek, the 1996-1997 Clover Hill High School wrestling team was 14-2. The team enjoyed a victorious season winning the Dominion District regular season and the District Tournament on February 14. Co-captains Steve Daggett and David Jones lead the team.

Dominion District Tournament Results: 103—Josh Jarrell, third place, All Academic District Team; 112—Steve Daggett, second place; 119—Marc Wolman, second place; 125—Jonathan Harris, seventh place; 130—Jay Wolman, third place; 135—Gideon Wolff, fourth place; 140—Ryan Alberston, third place; 145—Chris Gibson, third place, All Academic District Team; 152—Daniel Chung, third place; 160—John Arthur, first place, All Academic District Team; 171—David Jones, second place; 189—Mike Gotta, fourth place; 215—Jeremy Fox, first place, All Academic District Team; HWT Mike Forden, second place, All Academic District Team.



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Danny Finnegan excels in gymnastics

By Brad Gunton
School Correspondent

Through hard work and rigorous practice, gymnast Danny Finnegan has taken his sport to a new level. He is currently ranked 17th in the nation in his age group.

Finnegan, a junior at the Mathematics and Science School at Clover Hill, began taking classes when he was 6 1/2 years old. "I was climbing on the furniture, and my mom didn't know what to do with me," Finnegan said. "So she enrolled me in a gymnastics class."

Ten years later, Finnegan is as dedicated as ever to perfecting his sport. He spends four hours a day, four days

a week practicing at the gym. Believing that gymnastics has given him mental discipline, strength, confidence and the ability to perform under pressure, Finnegan has no intention of quitting. "I like gymnastics because it lets me excel in a very difficult field of activity," Finnegan said. "I hope to continue my gymnastics career to the highest level I can."

Outside the gym, Finnegan is an honor roll student and hopes to earn a degree in chemistry at a good college.

Despite his cluttered schedule, Finnegan also manages to have fun in his free time. "I like to hunt, fish and generally relax when I'm not in the gym." In addition, Finnegan teaches

gymnastics to younger children. He acknowledges that it is best to start out at 6 or 7 years old, but teenagers can also learn with practice and discipline.

Finnegan, who enjoys gymnastics in part because of its challenges, maintains that the sport is probably the most difficult physical activity imaginable. "Gymnastics is the hardest sport there is because it requires so much effort and puts a great demand on your body," Finnegan said.

Last summer, Finnegan was honored to be selected as one of Richmond's Olympic torch runners.

Register now for softball

Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation is sponsoring a new women's softball league beginning in April.

Chesterfield County's coed softball league is also recruiting players. To sign up for either team, call 748-1122. Deadline to register is March 28.

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Danny Finnegan competes on the bar.

Swim team has new coaches

By Kris Risendal
Staff Writer

The Brandermill Swim Team is gearing up for its 1997 summer season with registration and a new coaching staff. Diane Jones of Arro-wood spearheaded the search for the new coaching staff.



Trista Reese has been hired as the team's new head coach and brings with her extensive swimming credentials. She qualified for Junior Nationals during high school and placed in the top five at state championships. After receiving a master's degree in recreational management from the University of West Florida, Reese was an assistant coach for TRAC in Burkwood and has served as head coach at Shenandoah. According to Jones, Reese is excited about incorporating new exercise programs and pre-training workouts.

Rob Lasine has been hired as assistant head coach. During his eight years as a swimmer with Poseidon, Lasine was ranked in the top 10 of Virginia swimmers. He graduated this year from VCU with a degree in physical education.

Michael Mulshine has been hired as the new assistant coach. He was a top swimmer for Brandermill and holds many team individual records, as well as several league records. Named outstanding freshman on the

Michigan State swim team last year, Mulshine placed first in the 100 butterfly at the 1994 Junior Nationals and was the 1995 Virginia Swimmer of the Year.

Registration for this year's team will be held on Saturday, March 22 from 9 a.m. until noon at the Brandermill Country Club; on Sunday, April 13 from 1 until 4 p.m. at the Brandermill Country Club; and on Monday, May 12 from 4 until 5:30 p.m. at North Beach Pool. Early bird registration deadline is May 1 with the cost at \$45 per swimmer. After May 12, cost is \$70 per swimmer. The senior rate \$25 per swimmer.



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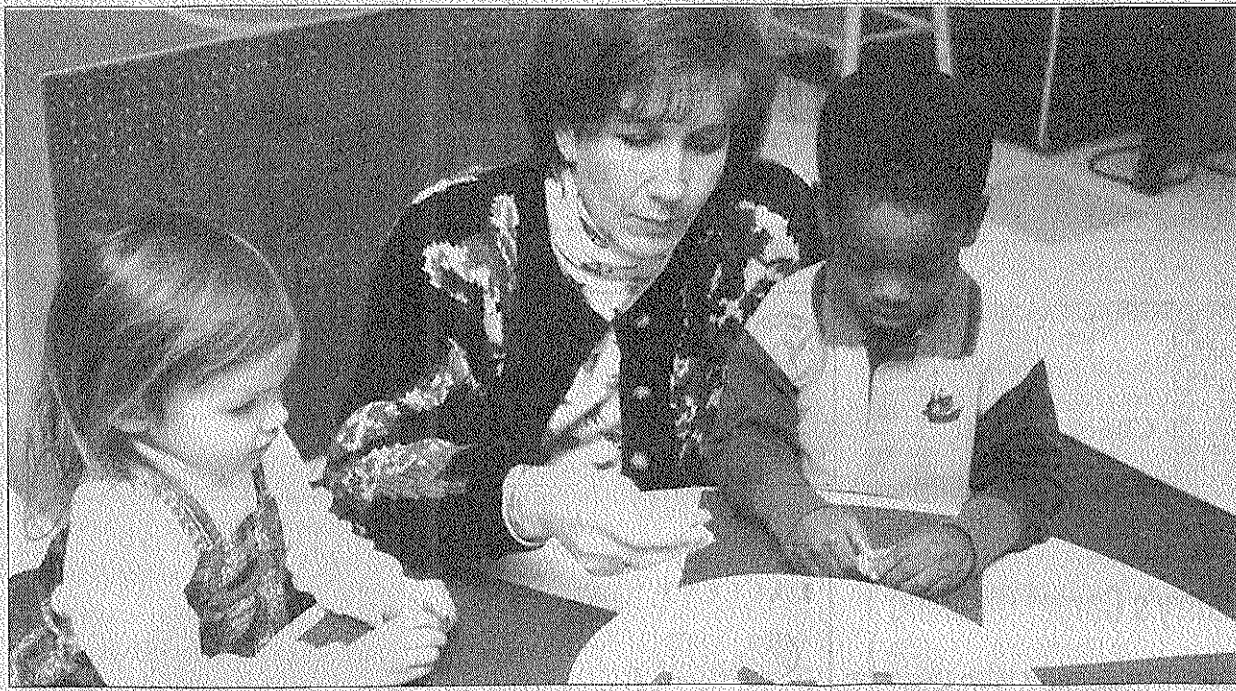
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Sally Kizler is new director of Children's World

Children's World Learning Centers recently announced the appointment of Sally Kizler as director of the Children's World center located at 4721 Market Square. In this position, Kizler will oversee the day-to-day management and operation of the center. "Sally brings a great understanding of child care and early childhood education to her position," said Gretchen Yeager, district manager for Children's World. "Her expertise will be an invaluable asset to the overall operation of the Brandermill center."

Kizler worked in the public schools for 10 years as a kindergarten teacher, junior kindergarten teacher and elementary school principal. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in education from the University of Mississippi, and is a member of Phi Delta Kappa, the education honor society.

For additional information on programs offered at the Brandermill center, parents are invited to call Kizler at 744-4821.



Sally Kizler works with youngsters at Children's World.

Photo by Janet Joyce

No more homework excuses, thanks to Ed Menster

By Linda Burns
Assistant Editor

Ed Menster of Bayport Landing had to do his homework before launching his business, E-Link Communications, a new on-line information service for students and parents. A father of two school-age children, Menster was inspired to start his communication network by the fact that homework often gets misinterpreted or forgotten by the time children sit down to do their assignments at home.

After numerous conversations with county school administrators, principals, teachers, and parents, Menster officially initiated the school bulletin

board and homework hotline at Clover Hill Elementary School in time for the 1996-1997 school year. The hotline employs a familiar voice mail system to inform callers about current homework assignments and general news about the school. From lunch menus to the PTA calendar, special school events and school council happenings, the CHES hotline is user-friendly for youngsters and adults.

Every teacher has a voice mailbox and is responsible for recording homework assignments on an ongoing basis. Thanks to the hotline, parents at CHES have more peace of mind now that they have a back-up system in place if their child has a concern about

an assignment in the evening.

Principal Dianne Smith agreed to pioneer the program at CHES. Smith says, "I hear constant praise from parents who view the hotline as a safeguard or reinforcement, but not as an escape for their children." Smith stresses that the system in no way reduces the students' personal accountability for their assignments.

Since its inception, the hotline has received an average of 565 calls a week, or over 100 calls each weekday. The tracking program enables Menster to categorize callers. Sixty percent of callers to the hotline are students; the remaining 40 percent are parents.

Diane Castleberry's third-grade class is experimenting with the hotline concept and expanding its scope. Every night Castleberry poses a trivia question to her students over the hotline network. Her children then have the opportunity to access the voice mail and try to answer the question. The students who have the most correct answers for the week are rewarded with a small incentive. Also,

Castleberry has the potential to interact privately with every student's parents, since a mailbox has been established for everyone in her class. Eighty percent of the parents have tapped into this system for conferences and discussions with the teacher.

Future sites for Menster's school bulletin board and homework hotline include other elementary schools and middle schools in Chesterfield and Henrico Counties.

Project 4-Leaf Clover

As an offspring of the homework hotline program, Menster has begun the Kids Communication Network, Project 4-Leaf Clover. Teaming up with the Hospital Education Program at Children's Hospital and the Pediatric Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant Departments at the Medical College of Virginia, Menster has designed an on-line program which enables children to leave friendly messages for children who are hospitalized for serious illnesses or injuries.

See Homework on page 16.

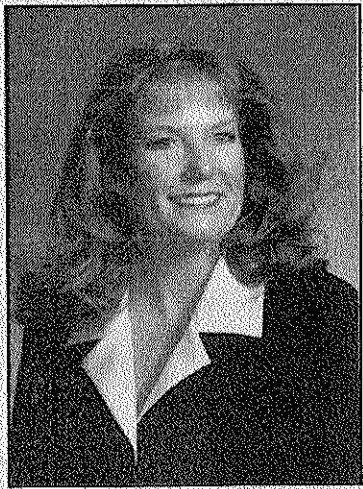


Photo by Janet Joyce

Ed Menster and son Christopher check on a homework assignment.

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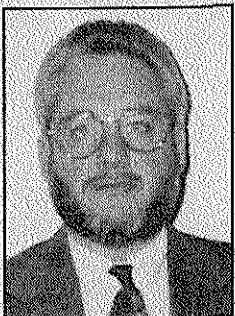
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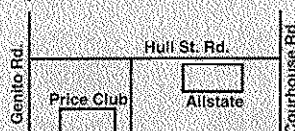
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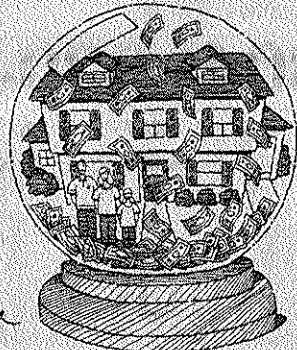
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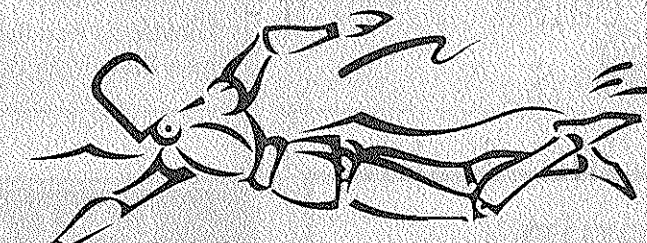


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Kelli Dunnivant joins Chippenham Pediatrics

By Harriet Coppins
Copy Editor

Kelli Dunnivant recently joined the staff of Chippenham Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine, P.C. located in the Brandermill Medical Center on Village Green Drive. Dunnivant, an R.N., is a lactation consultant.

Most of Dunnivant's patients are new mothers who are having difficulty breastfeeding. However, problems may also arise with women who have already had children. Dunnivant offers encouragement, instruction and solutions to problems. Sometimes the mother may not be aware of a problem, but the examining pediatrician will find that the infant is not experiencing the necessary weight gain. She also gives advice to nursing mothers when their maternity leaves expire and

they must return to work. Dunnivant earned a bachelor of science degree in nursing at James Madison University and was on staff at the pediatric intensive care unit at the University of Virginia Medical Center. She earned her certification as a lactation consultant in 1995 from an international board which requires 2,500 hours of counseling breastfeeding mothers and passing a certification exam.

The number for Chippenham Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine is 763-2535.



Kelli Dunnivant

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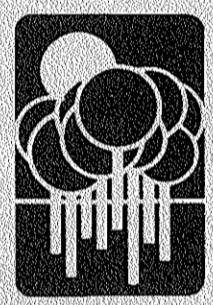
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Pools

Continued from page 1.

indicated there were two strong sentiments: the BCA has no business purchasing the pools and the BCA has no choice but to buy the pools.

Directors Macfarlane and Hughes said questions would be recorded and answers would be sought. Director Hughes estimated it would take three to five months to have all the necessary information available for association members to make an informed decision. A special election would have to be held for the members to vote for or against the purchase of the pools by the membership.

BCC General Manager Doug Wayne later said he did not attend the meetings because they were BCA-sponsored events and "it was a time for the BCA and the community to look at the limited information." He said, "When and if the time comes that we sit down to negotiate all of the parameters of a sale, then we may have an organized presentation and it would make sense for the club to be involved in that effort." In the meantime, Wayne encourages club members to "feel free to call the club regarding their concerns."

According to Community Manager Mike Divita, he plans to recommend to the BCA Board of Directors that any future meetings will be conducted after a "due diligence" study is completed.

Reservoir

Continued from page 1

Otterdale Road/Hull Street Road intersection. The case is important because of the large number of acres being developed so close to the water treatment plant. The rezoning case is legally and technically complicated since the original zoning request was granted prior to the Chesapeake Bay Act. In the rezoning, the planning commission obtained proffers to protect the water quality in Swift Creek Reservoir. According to Dick McElfish, the entire tract will be designed so as to limit phosphorus runoff to 0.44 pounds/acre per year.

If the Watershed Management Committee recommendations are enacted, the phosphorus coefficient would be reduced to 0.22 for new projects.

Writers Workshop

Continued from page 4.

Richmond Times-Dispatch whose first novel, "Littlejohn," was a Doubleday Book Club selection.

"Getting Published," former Brandermill resident T.R. Hollingsworth, adjunct instructor at John Tyler Community College.

"Co-authoring," Susan Ahern, co-author of "Family By Choice: Creating Family in a World of Strangers."

"Journalism Reporting," Marcella Williamson, assistant director of public affairs for Chesterfield County.

"Writing for Children," Muriel Miller Branch, author of a book on Maggie Lena Walker.

"Writing Romances," Christine Dorsey and Carolyn Greene.

"Selling Your Manuscript," Tracy Dunham, a retired lawyer, has written five western novels.

"Character Development," Beth Amos, author of "Cold White Fury."

"Play Writing and Script Writing," Bruce Miller, author of 27 plays.

"Writing for Magazines," Rich Browne.

For information or to register, call Janet Baumgardner at 768-7941.

Chef's Pantry

Continued from page 5.

Chef's Apprenticeship Program at what is now J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College.

Now in his third year at Surf Rider Grill, he enjoys the opportunities for creativity a private restaurant offers. He says, "Everything I offer for dinner specials is something I played around with to make the dish just right. When the restaurant is busy, the stress level is there but when you take the time to put out something that people enjoy, it's all worthwhile."

Workman hopes to offer cooking classes at Surf Rider Grill this spring. He promises to keep the classes and recipes simple and adds, "I'm more than happy to share recipes. The more I share the knowledge I have, the more I can grow."

Homework

Continued from page 14.

Recently 9-year-old Kelan Uzzle, a fourth-grader at Varina Elementary School, sustained a severe head injury when his school bus collided with a plumbing truck. Menster set up a mailbox and Kelan is receiving get-well greetings from Martha Gunther's fourth-grade class at CHES.

Brandermill residents since 1983, Ed and Patti Menster have two children: Heather, 11, and Christopher, 9.

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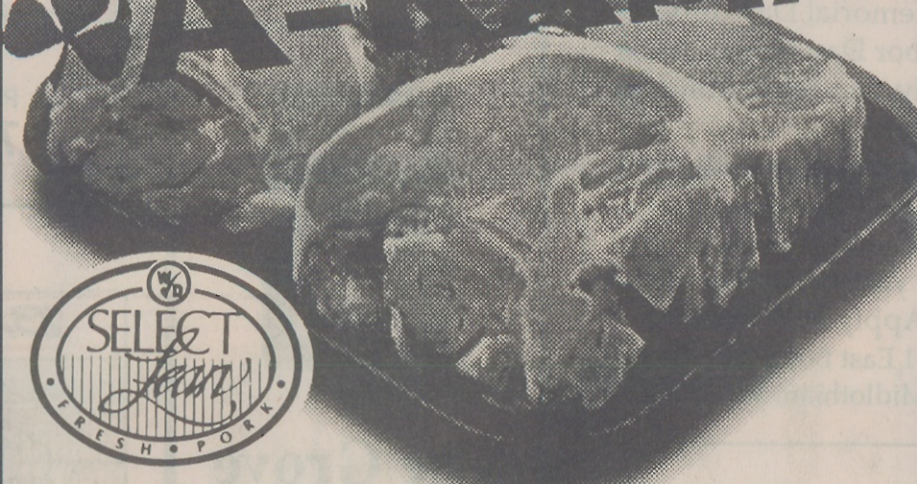
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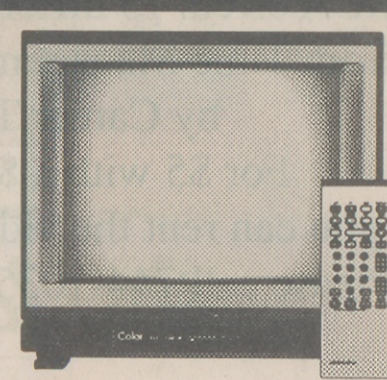
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19-Inch Magnavox (with remote) COLOR TV
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NO PURCHASE NECESSARY! Must be 18 or older to register to win. Winn-Dixie employees and their immediate families not eligible to win. Drawing to be held Tues., March 18th at 6:00 P.M.