

THE OXFORD OBSERVER

VOLUME 09 ISSUE #03

WWW.OXFORDCIVICASSOCIATION.COM

SUMMER 2018

NEIGHBORS - WE NEED YOU!

The neighbors on Page 4 are 2018 paid members. Thank you for helping Oxford continue its neighborhood services – spring clean up, neighborhood-wide yard sale, neighborhood entry signage and landscaping, community advocacy board, block captain coordination, community infrastructure board, quarterly newsletter, neighborhood website management, and coordination of annual events and activities to bring the neighborhood together (picnic, national night out, halloween trail).

(Cont. on Page 4)

ANNUAL MEETING ON APRIL 10

Be sure to save the date for the Greater Oxford Civic Association's Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 10. This year, our speakers will be Jennifer Hatchett of the Richmond City Department of Public Utilities and Jamie Brunkow of the James River Association. Ms. Hatchett will be speaking about the city's work to improve Rattlesnake Creek, and Mr. Brunkow will be sharing more about the work of the James River Association.

The meeting will be held at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 7757 Chippenham Parkway, Richmond, VA. Refreshments will be provided by the OCA Board during the social gathering from 6:30-7:00 p.m. The business meeting and program will start at 7:00 p.m. and end by 8:30 p.m.

The agenda includes:

- Presentation of and voting on the 2018 OCA Board;
- Recognition of, and comments by, local government leaders;
- Updates on issues and initiatives affecting our neighborhood;
- Presentations from Jennifer Hatchett and Jamie Brunkow; and
- Community forum to allow residents to address their issues and concerns.

The 2018 slate of officers and new and renewing board members is as follows:

- Slate of Officers – Alison Berry, President; Courtney Tolmie and Anthony Corcoran, Co-Vice Presidents; Emmanuel Wright, Treasurer; Nancy Miller, Secretary.
- New Board Members – John Cardwell and Paula Lowry (nominees will be posted on the Oxford Civic Association website in advance of the meeting for review by the community).
- Renewing Board Members – Nancy Miller, Niki Sabbath, Evelyn Klumb and Eileen Sadler

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New Bulk and Brush Pick-up for Richmond



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Yard Sale



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Meet Pete Bell



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Observer Staff

The Oxford Observer is a quarterly publication of the Greater Oxford Civic Association.

Executive Editor: Jerry Miller

Editor: Niki Sabbath

Layout Editor: Alison Berry

Advertising: Evelyn Klumb

Distribution: Mike Martin, Page Wagner, Nancy Miller, Eileen Sadtler & Your Block Captain

Contributing Writers:

Nancy Miller, Niki Sabbath, Suzanne Munch, Emmanuel Wright, Mark Gribbin, Mike Martin, Jason King, Phyllis Custer, Wayne Gauthier, and Alison Berry.

The Observer welcomes articles of interest to Oxford residents. Articles may be emailed to:

nsabbath@verizon.net

Published each season by the volunteers listed above.

A Note from the Editor: We will be updating the new website with news items between Observer publications. Send any news items to Niki Sabbath at **nsabbath@verizon.net**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is coming soon! With spring comes a busy time for the Oxford Civic Association. Our Annual Meeting is just around the corner. This is an opportunity for you to express any of your concerns or to ask questions before the community. We are also planning our annual community yard sale coming in April. Please read the article in this issue for more information and check our website for updates when they become available.

We depend on volunteers from the community to help us preserve our Oxford neighborhood. Don't let our property values decline! We the board can only do so much. So I implore you to please volunteer in whatever way you can. We have many opportunities for you to get involved -- for example, helping to plan events like National Night Out, Annual Meeting, Oxford Picnic, and fundraising. We have an Infrastructure Committee that deals with things that happen in and around our community. Also, check out our social media including our newsletter, Facebook, and our website. If you would like to get involved, please contact our volunteer coordinator Courtney Tolmie at 434-242-1684.

A reminder that our Annual Meeting is on April 10th. We encourage everyone to attend. At \$15.00 membership in the Oxford Civic Association is a great bargain! I'm hoping that you will all see the value of full membership. I urge you to make the effort to join this year. Keeping our neighborhood vibrant requires voluntary as well as monetary support.

Finally, I wish to give many thanks to those who have helped the association with its activities this past year -- Board members, Block Captains, and all of the other volunteers and members who make our work possible. I hope to see you at the Annual Meeting!

Alison Berry,
President

Greater Oxford Civic
Association



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Food by Kitchenette
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Kids' activities and crafts
Raffle



**May 12th, 2018 from 10–2 pm
At Good Shepherd Episcopal School**



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

(cont. from Page 1)

2018 PAID MEMBERS

8131	Abbey Road	8314	Charlise Road	8151	Riverside Drive	2600	Weyburn Road
8350	Abbey Road	8323	Charlise Road	8201	Riverside Drive	2631	Weyburn Road
8368	Abbey Road	8333	Charlise Road	8420	Rubimont Road	2805	Weyburn Road
8435	Abbey Road	8342	Charlise Road	8437	Rubimont Road	2815	Weyburn Road
8443	Abbey Road	8331	Cherokee Road	8440	Rubimont Road	2822	Weyburn Road
8101	Ammonett Drive	8423	Cherokee Road	2900	Scherer Drive	2839	Weyburn Road
8111	Ammonett Drive	3020	Darnley Drive	2920	Scherer Drive	2913	Weyburn Road
8119	Ammonett Drive	3021	Darnley Drive	2927	Scherer Drive	3001	Weyburn Road
8216	Ammonett Drive	3040	Darnley Drive	3010	Scherer Drive	3011	Weyburn Road
8224	Ammonett Drive	3050	Darnley Drive	3041	Scherer Drive	3121	Weyburn Road
8225	Ammonett Drive	3121	Darnley Drive	3111	Scherer Drive	3131	Weyburn Road
8232	Ammonett Drive	3138	Darnley Drive	8530	Sherbrook Court	3206	Weyburn Road
2909	Archdale Road	3141	Darnley Drive	3263	Sherbrook Road	3230	Weyburn Road
3100	Archdale Road	3146	Darnley Drive	3266	Sherbrook Road	3631	Weyburn Road
3111	Archdale Road	8100	Duncaster Road	3280	Sherbrook Road	3717	Weyburn Road
3206	Archdale Road	8138	Grimsby Road	3350	Sherbrook Road	3811	Weyburn Road
3241	Archdale Road	8319	Halesworth Road	3706	Sherbrook Road	3921	Weyburn Road
3301	Archdale Road	8328	Halesworth Road	3716	Sherbrook Road	3701	Weyburn Road
4300	Arrowhead Road	2908	Halstead Road	3801	Sherbrook Road	3703	Weyburn Road
4541	Arrowhead Road	2924	Halstead Road	3904	Sherbrook Road	3840	Weyburn Road
4619	Arrowhead Road	2932	Halstead Road	3924	Sherbrook Road	8339	Weyburn Road
4627	Arrowhead Road	2939	Halstead Road	3925	Sherbrook Road	8346	Weyburn Road
4646	Arrowhead Road	8217	Halstead Road	4036	Sherbrook Road	8351	Weyburn Road
4682	Arrowhead Road	3401	Huguenot Road	8300	Trabue Road	3809	Whitewood Road
4687	Arrowhead Road	8613	Huguenot Road	8320	Trabue Road	8305	Whitewood Road
3000	Bicknell Road	8117	Lethbridge Road	8511	Trabue Road	8310	Whitewood Road
3016	Bicknell Road	8126	Lethbridge Road	8546	Trabue Road	8319	Whitewood Road
3112	Bicknell Road	8127	Lethbridge Road	8610	Trabue Road	4307	Wyncliff Drive
3136	Bicknell Road	8631	McCaw Drive	8627	Trabue Road		
2901	Brixham Drive	2900	Mohawk Drive	8643	Trabue Road		

If you did not see your address on the above list, that means we do not have your 2018 dues (as of February 1st). Time is running out to pay your 2018 Greater Oxford Civic Association membership dues. Our membership term is aligned with the calendar year (January 1 to December 31, 2018) which helps make it easy to remember whether or not you've paid your dues. To make the 2018 membership cutoff, please submit your \$15.00 per household dues ASAP. Please make your check out to the Greater Oxford Civic Association and mail your payment, along with the payment coupon on Page 13 to Oxford Civic Association P.O. Box 3881, Richmond, VA 23235. If you need more information about the membership drive, please contact Emmanuel Wright – email: elwright2900@verizon.net or phone: 231-6850.

RECIPE CORNER

By: Phyllis Custer

Mini-Meatloaves

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Ingredients:

1.5 lbs ground lean beef

1 onion, chopped

1 small green pepper chopped

1/4 cup + 6 tablespoons ketchup

1 tablespoon yellow mustard

1 large egg, lightly beaten

2 tablespoons cornmeal

1 garlic clove minced

1 tsp dried oregano

1/2 tsp salt

1/4 tsp freshly ground pepper

Combine beef, onion, green pepper, 1/4 cup of the ketchup, the mustard, egg, cornmeal, garlic, oregano, salt, ground pepper, mixing just until blended. Form into 6 (2 1/2 x 4 1/2-inch) oval loaves. Transfer the loaves to a casserole dish. Spread 1 tablespoon of the additional ketchup on top of each meat loaf. Bake until an instant read thermometer inserted into the center of each meatloaf registers 160 degrees, 40-45 minutes. Let stand about 5 minutes before serving.

These are tasty and so easy. They are great served with mashed potatoes and a green veggie. This is one of my "go-to" recipes for a delicious and easy dish. Enjoy!

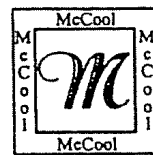


ANNUAL MEETING

(cont. from Page 1)

The OCA is continuously working to improve the quality of our neighborhood. Come and meet the board members, mingle with your neighbors, learn about the efforts being made by your Association, and hear knowledgeable speakers discuss very important topics that can affect all of us! If you need more information or would like to volunteer to help with the Annual Meeting, contact Courtney Tolmie at 434-242-1684.

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ASK JAY

Jay White is a gerontologist who has graciously agreed to answer questions regarding aging in the Oxford Observer. Please email him at JayWhite1973@gmail.com. With your permission, we will print his response in the following issue of the Observer.

What should be considered when deciding whether to move to an assisted living facility? Many seniors have lived in their home for many years and wish to remain there. Often their adult children want aging parents to go to a safer, but more controlled environment. The elderly individual wishes to remain in his/her home and not give up his/her independence. How should families make this decision?

Thank you for your question. This is an issue that many families will personally experience. First and foremost, according to AARP, over 90% of older adults wish to remain in their own homes, rather than moving into an assisted living or skilled nursing facility. And a very small percentage of older adults reside in any kind of congregate facility for any significant length of time. "Aging in place" tends to be more cost effective.

(Cont. on Page 7)

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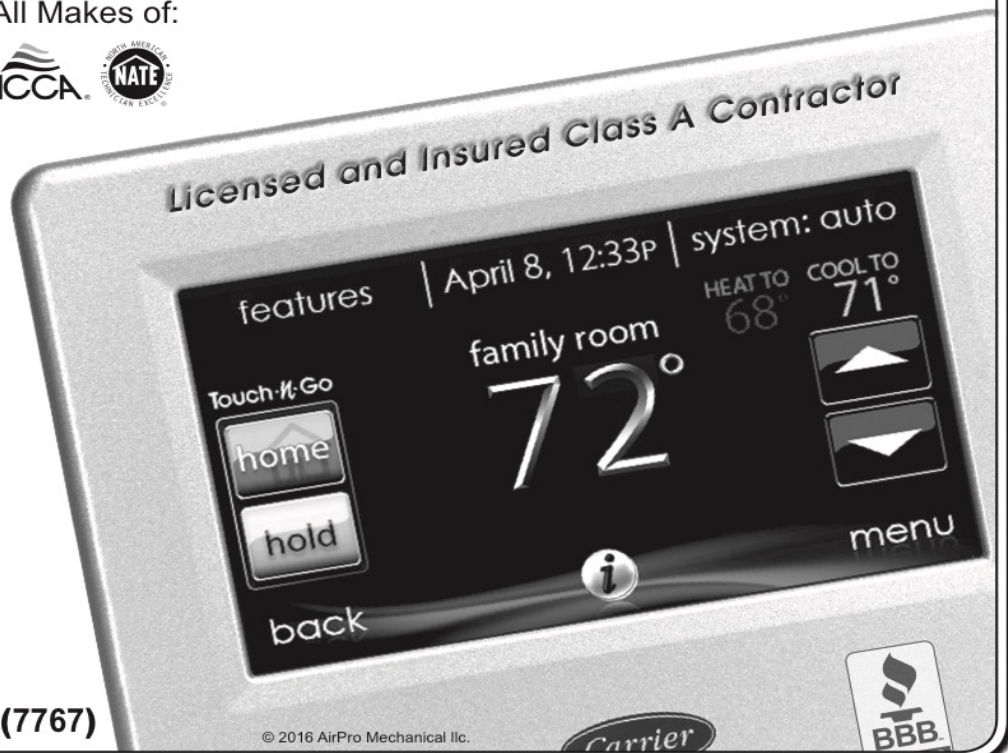
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ASK JAY

(cont. from Page 5)

The average cost of an assisted living facility is over \$3000 per month. This cost will double (or more), when considering skilled nursing. That said, many homes are ill-equipped. And living at homes may put elders at greater risk for social isolation. I personally argue that I would rather be alone at home than in a congregate facility where the only thing in common I have with my neighbor is chronological age. But that aside...

Families should have this conversation sooner than later. And please engage the parent or parents in this conversation. If living at home is the agreement, I strongly recommend reviewing a Home Safety or Fall Prevention Checklist. The National Council on Aging has a comprehensive checklist that can be googled. Consider all options for ensuring ease of movement and access inside the house, from the house to transportation and around the community. Consider options for connectivity...transportation, social engagements, etc. We want to not only support our loved ones' wishes to remain at home, but also to remain connected to friends, events and activities that provide purpose and fulfillment.

If families elect to investigate congregate facilities, such as assisted living or skilled nursing, start asking around. And ask TOUGH questions of the sales and marketing representatives. "Has your community ever received a complaint from a resident?" If so, what? Has your community been cited for any violations with any regulatory bodies, like the Department of Social Services (this is public record)? Ask any friends who live in congregate communities what their experience is. Make sure you anticipate ALL expenses. Staffing can be a challenge in many of these communities. Supplemental care may be required. Please make sure to budget accordingly. Please ask about events and activities. If Bingo or Bible Study are the only two activities on the calendar, RUN!

The true starting point to this very important conversation is as a family. This is a group decision that should actively involve, or even be led by, your loved ones.

FROM THE HOUSE DELEGATES

Dear Friends,



The General Assembly convened for the 2018 Legislative Session on January 10. Since then, the House and Senate have considered over 2000 bills; I would like to provide you an update from the Capitol at 'crossover', the midpoint of the legislative session.

The bills I introduced reflected issues of community concern, as well as recommendations from the Housing Commission and the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) on which I serve. A bill (HB 594) addressing crime blight along a couple of traffic corridors in our area, which had been identified by our Richmond police chief, passed in the House. Another bill (HB 609) endorsed by the Housing Commission provides a statewide system for ensuring the proper installation of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in rental residences.

Two bills, which were JLARC recommendations, dealt with the issue of establishing a statewide policy on regional water use and planning in our Commonwealth.

(Cont. on Page 9)



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HOUSE DELEGATE

(cont. from Page 7)

HB 1185 would have required that localities work together to plan their use of water. Currently, each locality, which uses a common water source, can develop its own plan. This approach can be problematic because upstream localities could, for instance, make a plan for river water use without considering implications on downstream localities.

The second bill (HB 1186) would have ensured that the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) follow current Virginia code when issuing permits for water withdrawals from the Potomac

Aquifer, which is the aquifer underneath the Eastern half of Virginia. This bill would have ensured that permits are prioritized for human consumption; for instance, human needs and a municipal water supply would take precedence over an industrial commercial use.

Several key issues permeate this year's legislative session. Expanding access to health care coverage continues to be a major priority for representatives. Governor Northam and Speaker of the House Cox have had pertinent discussions about how Virginia can provide more health coverage to our residents. The House of Delegates Appropriations Committee will present its Fiscal Years 2019-2020 budget proposal on Sunday, February 18. Where we stand on the critically important task of ensuring quality health coverage for more of our citizens may be clearer then.

Legislation supported by Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power Company has garnered much attention. House Bill 1558 would lift the "rate freeze" that was passed by the General Assembly in 2015, which I opposed. The bill also proposes significant investments in renewable energy while returning \$200 million to ratepayers in one-time bill credits using money that was deemed to be "over-earned" by Dominion Energy. Much work and stakeholder input has gone into improving HB 1558. Governor Northam, the League of Conservation Voters, and many other groups now support it. However, it appears that there still may be more work to be done. While I favored the significant expansion of renewable energy that was proposed, as well as the bill credits, I believe that both can be done in simple legislation and not within a complex package of technical regulations. Along with 40 out of 100 other

delegates, I voted against the bill on its final passage in the House.

Numerous constituents contacted me to support legislation that would have banned discrimination in the workplace and in housing for members of the LGBT community, such as SB 202 and SB 423. While I co-sponsored these bills, and pushed for them to be passed by making motions in the subcommittee, the Republican majority defeated these bills in the subcommittee.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, work on the state budget for Fiscal Years 2019 and 2020 is ongoing. Virginia is required to pass a balanced budget each biennium. I submitted various amendments to the introduced budget. Among my budget amendments are those that would direct more funding to school districts that serve a disproportionately high number of at-risk and low-income students, fund emergency construction and repair needs for facilities at Virginia Commonwealth University, and expand access to Virginia's popular and helpful 529 College Savings Plan by allowing our citizens to make smaller deposits to these prepaid college tuition plans.

Participation in the Richmond Public Schools Recent Job Shadow Day each year is a special delight. Aijya, a middle school student at Elkhardt-Thompson, shadowed me and my office staff for the day to learn more about the legislature and how a bill becomes a law.

Constituents often want to know how best to follow General Assembly business. The General Assembly's legislative website, available at this link, is an excellent resource to view the legislation and budget amendments introduced by each legislative member. You can search legislation by bill number, by committee, or by General Assembly member. Various committee meetings are streamed online by visiting the meeting agenda for the committee.

The General Assembly is scheduled to adopt the FY 2019 and FY 2020 budget, finish all legislative business, and adjourn 'sine die' by Saturday, March 10th.

It is a privilege to serve you in the House of Delegates. I am available to meet with any constituents throughout the year in my office or in their local district community. Please never hesitate to contact me if I can be helpful with a state agency or with legislative information. (Cont. on Page 10)

THE HOUSE DELEGATES

(cont. from Page 9)

My phone number is 804-698-1069 and my email address is delegate.carr@betsycarr.org. I look forward to our continuing work together.

Sincerely,
Betsy B. Carr
Member, House of Delegates 69th District

4th DISTRICT UPDATE

After many months of community meetings and negotiations with the Richmond Department of Public Utilities and Chesterfield County, I am pleased to say that we will be adding an additional 18 acres to Lewis G. Larus Park; this addition will grow the park by about 20 percent. Also, the entire park, including the newly acquired land, will be placed under a conservation easement to add additional protection against any future development. I know that many in the community are disappointed that one acre of the park will be used for the construction of a water tank and pumping station, and I agree that the location of this necessary infrastructure is not ideal. However, I am proud that we were able to work with all parties to reach this compromise, and I am excited that we are using this rare opportunity to increase the size of parkland in the 4th district. I look forward to now working with the community and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities to determine how best to use the additional parkland. We will make sure that this park continues to serve the residents of the 4th district.



As winter turns to spring my office is gearing up for budget season! This is a period of hard work, long meetings and probably a few late nights, but am I excited to work collaboratively with my colleagues and the mayor to set a course for next year that continues to move our city forward. If you would like to share your thoughts on the city budget or any other priorities please do not hesitate to reach out to me at kristen.larson@richmondgov.com or give me a call at 646-5646.

I always enjoy visiting with the Oxford Civic Association at your annual meetings and parties. I encourage you to get involved with this great organization and I hope to see you at an event soon. Also, please mark your calendars for my

next quarterly 4th District Meeting on March 22nd at Huguenot Community Center at 6 pm.

NEW BULK & BRUSH COLLECTION PROGRAM IN RICHMOND

The City of Richmond has announced that, effective December 18, 2017, it began collecting bulk trash and brush items bi-weekly. It is no longer required to phone in to schedule these pickups. Put the bulk trash out on a regular trash pickup day that is in the same week as your recycling pickup. Mattresses, upholstered furniture and leaves are excluded from the bi-weekly pickups (however the city is considering changing its policy on these items). See the City's Department of Public Utilities web site on how to dispose of these types of items and be alert for any announcements on a possible updated policy. The City has been running behind with the pickups, as could be expected following the snow storms this year. If you see a pile of bulk trash or brush sitting by the side of the road for more than three weeks, you can call the City at 311 (option 0) and Public Works will be reminded to pick up the refuse.

WATER TANK IN LARUS PARK

Following is a recent article by Mark Robinson in the Richmond Times Dispatch. It relates the recent approval of the construction of a water tank in Larus Park. We know this issue has been a concern to our residents.

Richmond City Council approves controversial Larus Park water tank project with Chesterfield
By Mark Robinson Richmond Times-Dispatch
Feb 5, 2018

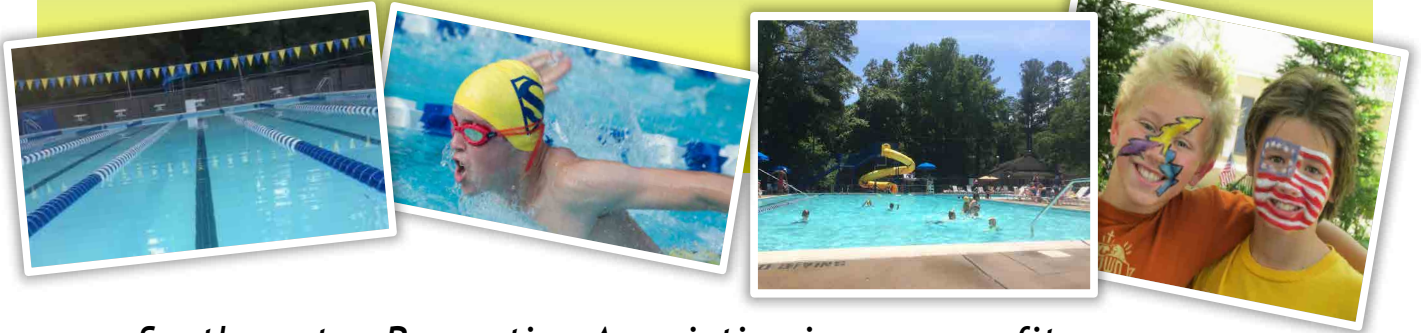
The Richmond City Council on Monday green-lighted a contested plan to increase water service to Chesterfield County ratepayers by way of construction in a South Richmond park.

The council approved the plan to allow Chesterfield to construct a water tank and pumping station in Lewis G. Larus Park, located off West Huguenot Road near Stony Point Fashion Park. Under the complex plan, the city will purchase an 18-acre parcel of undeveloped land abutting the existing parkland, expanding the 106-acre park. A conservation easement for the park also will be established.

"I do not think this process has been perfect,
(Cont. on Page 12)

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- Tennis Pro, tennis lessons, league play and socials
- Basketball court
- Volley Ball pit
- Enclosed playground
- Summer classes & camps
- Plus, ice rink for winter activities!

**CALL FOR A TOUR OF OUR FACILITIES
& A FREE 1 DAY FAMILY PASS!**

WATER TANK

(cont. from Page 10)

but I'm comfortable with where it is to move it forward," said Kristen Larson, the 4th District councilwoman who worked closely with the administration to amend the plan over the past eight months.

Chesterfield will spend \$7.5 million to build a water pumping station and tank on 1.2 acres of existing parkland, leasing the land from the city for \$1 per year. The project will allow the county to increase its daily water usage from 27 million gallons to 32 million gallons.

The added capacity also will improve water pressure for city ratepayers in the vicinity.

The deal will generate \$4.1 million in gross revenue over five years, officials with the Richmond Department of Public Utilities have said. Plans call for the facility to be operational by fiscal 2021.

As a part of the deal, Chesterfield has agreed to pay a higher percentage of the utility system's capital costs, which are shared by the city, Chesterfield, and Hanover and Henrico counties.

The plan evolved after its introduction last spring. Initially, it was met with opposition from some 4th District residents who said it would eliminate too many trees, disturb the public park and encourage future overtures for city parkland as demand for drinking water in the counties grows.

Opponents also raised legal questions. They contended the plan violated a section of the city code forbidding the leasing of public parkland for redevelopment, as well as a section of the 1978 agreement transferring the property to the city. That agreement states that the land should be left in its natural state. The city attor-

ney rejected both arguments and advised council members they could move forward with it.

After hearing concerns from residents, Larson worked with the city administration to amend the proposal to include the purchase of 18.2 acres of forested land adjacent to the park.

"It was serendipity that we could purchase it at this time," said Bob Steidel, the city's deputy chief administrative officer for operations.

The city has agreed to pay \$420,000 for the new parcel. The Department of Public Utilities will provide about \$329,000 of the sum, with the additional \$91,000 coming from Chesterfield for trees marked for removal during the construction of its water tank. The city's Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities will take care of the new land.

In December, Larson introduced a measure to

(Cont. on Page 13)

Keep 'em Leashed

**Dogs in public
must be leashed
at all times.
It's the law!**



**Richmond Code of Laws; Chapter 4; Article III.;
Division 4. Sec. 4-243
Restraint or confinement of dogs.**

All dogs shall be kept be kept under restraint or confined in an enclosure, except as otherwise provided in State law.

WATER TANK

(cont. from Page 12)

grant the park and proposed addition a conservation easement, which will safeguard it from future development, she said. The protections will take 12 to 18 months to establish.

Five people spoke in opposition to the plan before the council vote Monday.

Community activist Charles Pool thanked Larson for her work on the issue but asked the council to reject the plan. He cited, in part, the higher rates city residents must pay for water compared with county ratepayers. Pool called it "a gross inequity" that puts city residents and businesses at a disadvantage.

"This is a wonderful deal for the county, not the city," Pool said.

The plan was originally scheduled for a vote at the Jan. 22 council meeting, but technical difficulties with the council chambers' sound system caused the meeting to be suspended.

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY RECYCLING AND SHREDDING EVENT

Saturday, June 2, 2018 - 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Chesterfield County Department of General Services – Waste and Recovery Division is hosting this event for Chesterfield residents only at the Chesterfield County Fairgrounds, 10300 Courthouse Road.

Shredding 2 boxes or 3 grocery bags of personal papers	FREE
Hard drive shredding	\$5
Television recycling	\$23 under 27" \$30 if 27" or more
Other electronics recycling	\$2.50 - \$17.00

I LOVE BON AIR ARTICLE IN RHOME

We'd like to recommend an article in the January/February issue of Rhome. Becky Boncal wrote an article, which appears on page 72. The title is I Love Bon Air and mentions many familiar sites in our neighborhood.

Here is the link to the article: <http://richmond-magazine.com/home/neighborhoods-i-love-bon-air/>

Enjoy!

Observer Ad Rates

Business Card: \$20.00

1/4 Page: \$30.00

1/2 Page: \$50.00

Full Page: \$80.00

Back Page(part color): \$95.00*

*When Available

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804-377-3091



OXFORD SPRING CLEANUP - MAY 5

Mark your calendars for the Oxford Spring Cleanup on Saturday, May 5th. This annual event is a joint effort of the OCA, the city of Richmond, and Chesterfield County, who provide large trash trucks for the day. During the cleanup, Oxford residents have an opportunity to rid their homes, sheds, attics, and basements of large and bulky items the local trash service would not otherwise pick up.

Furniture, appliances, bagged yard waste, and just about any other non-hazardous waste that can be muscled to the curb will be removed if placed at the curb by 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 5. (Solvents, oils, paints, and other hazardous items cannot be disposed of in the vehicles provided). Additionally, yard debris will only be taken if it is bagged or in bundles that are shorter than three feet in length.

If you need assistance helping move items to your curb, contact Wayne Gauthier at 804-377-3091 before Monday, April 30th to schedule a 30 minute or less window to have the items removed from your home on the Friday night before the Cleanup day. This service is free for OCA members or only \$15.00 for non-members

(the difference covers one year membership dues in the OCA).

Please take advantage of this once-a-year opportunity to rid your property of old, unsightly, and unsafe items. The success of this event depends on Oxford volunteers assisting board members with the effort – the more, the better! If you are interested in helping, please call Wayne Gauthier at 804-377-3091.

The meeting place for volunteers on the day of the Spring Cleanup is at the corner of Barningham and Bicknell Roads at 8:00 a.m. Water will be provided.

Important Reminders for the Spring Cleanup:

- Lawn mowers must be completely emptied of gas and oil.
- Latex paint must be completely dried.
- No propane tanks.
- No oil-based paint, mineral spirits, paint thinner, turpentine, acetone, polyurethane, stains, varnish, primers, or paint reducers.
- No car fluids, such as motor oil, transmission fluid, or antifreeze.
- No car batteries.
- No tires.

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WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS

The Greater Oxford Civic Association would like to welcome the following new residents to the Oxford community. If you are a new Oxford resident or you know of a new resident in our neighborhood, please contact Nancy Miller at 272-8867 to receive an Oxford neighborhood newcomer packet. This packet, provided by the Oxford Civic Association, is filled with information about Richmond in general and our area in particular, and gives us an opportunity to meet and greet our new Oxford neighbors. We very much want to reach each and every one of our new neighbors, but we need you to let us know when a packet is needed. Welcome newcomers!



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Jeff and Lori Matthis
8644 Trabue Road

Ann and Kurt Robohm
3849 W. Weyburn Road

Todd Noonan and Louisa Esser
3254 Sherbrook Road

Donna and Steve Carey
2823 E. Weyburn Road

Arthur and Sylvia Shurcliff
8217 Halstead Road

Tom and Debi Kuhn
2909 Archdale Road

Bill and Tracey Lee
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GARDENING TIPS

From the Oxford Garden Club

Have you ever noticed that the grass in the front of your yard is brown in early spring and summer? The paragraphs below might explain why this is happening to you...

Rock salt melts snow and ice very well in winter, and it's also cheap. However, it's not the most plant-friendly way to make your sidewalks and driveway safe for walking. Common rock salt contains sodium chloride, which - when carried onto lawns and garden beds in melt water - can increase sodium levels in the soil. Excess sodium can damage the small feeder roots of many plants and harm their ability to take up water. This can lead to browning around the leaf margins during the growing season and explains why lawns near driveways and sidewalks seem to brown out sooner in hot, dry weather.

Snow plows also often throw salt-treated snow and slush onto property-front plants and lawns. If you've ever seen a line of roadside arborvitae, boxwoods or euonymus that are brown on the side facing the road, salt is usually the culprit. To head off possible salt to plants, invest a little extra money in substances that don't contain sodium. Some contain calcium chloride, some contain potassium chloride, and the plant-friendliest are those with calcium magnesium acetate (CMA), a product made from dolomitic limestone and acetic acid.

When to prune?

February is a good month to prune leafless, dormant trees - especially ones that "bleed" a lot if you wait to prune them until the sap starts flowing in early spring.

Maples and birches are two examples of trees that are ideally thinned and shaped in winter when the cuts aren't "sappy." Oaks, most shade trees, and most fruit trees (apples, pears, cherries, etc.) also can be pruned in February, when weather allows.

Pruning wounds typically heal well in winter - especially if you've made clean cuts with sharp tools - and they don't draw potential pest bugs now that may be active in spring or summer.

Get rid of dead or damaged wood first. Then remove any unwanted low-hanging branches, cut out wood to eliminate crossing branches and/or excess wood, and finish by shortening the "keeper" branches as needed.

(Cont. on Page 19)



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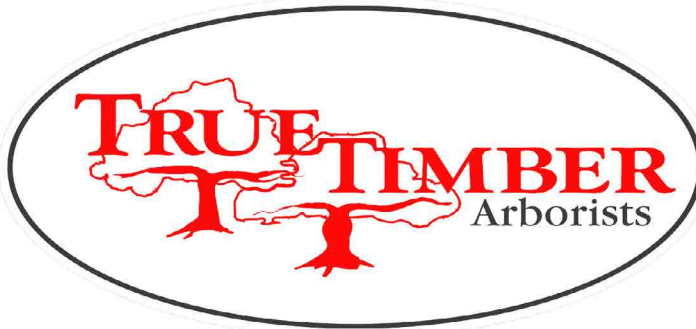
It's almost springtime, so exciting outdoor events will start popping up all over Richmond in the coming weeks. I'd like to encourage you to mark your calendars for one event in particular, taking place on May 12th from 10-2. Good Shepherd Episcopal School's upcoming River and Trail Festival (formerly Community Bike Bash) will celebrate all things outdoors afforded by our beautiful Forest Hill Park and James River Park System. This year we will again showcase mountain bikes, local biking experts, and bike-related non-profits, but we will also be including river sports in the outdoor theme, as well as conservation organizations, local food, music, and artists. Most importantly, this event will benefit the Richmond Cycling Corp, a non-profit organization which creates and coaches cycling teams for youth living in Richmond's housing projects. Come and enjoy food by Forest Hill's own Kitchennette, music by Tin Can Fish Band, crafts for the kids, and art by local artists. You can't go wrong with that line-up!

This event was created as part of Good Shepherd's increased focus on place-based education and environmental stewardship. Place-based education is the process of using the local community and environment as a starting point to teach concepts in language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, technology, and other subjects across the curriculum. Emphasizing hands-on, real world learning experiences, this approach to education increases academic achievement, develops strong ties to the community, enhances appreciation and understanding of the natural world, creates an ethic of stewardship, and a commitment to serving as active, contributing citizens. GSES has initiated phase one of the "place-based" curriculum through Outdoor Education with its youngest students, and next year seeks to extend it to the entire K-8 population. Ultimately, GSES hopes to become a resource to Richmond City Public Schools.

If you have questions about the River and Trail Festival or wish to set up a tour of Good Shepherd Episcopal School, contact Elizabeth Coleman at ecoleman@gses.org or (804) 231-1452. Hope to see you on May 12th!

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GARDENING TIPS

(cont. from Page 15)

Try to make all cuts just outside the little rings. Sometime between now and when new growth begins in spring is the time to trim leafless flowering shrubs that bloom in summer or fall, such as panicle and smooth hydrangeas, butterfly bush, caryopteris, rose-of-sharon, and vitex. Wait until after flowering in spring to prune spring-blooming trees and shrubs, such as forsythia, azalea, rhododendron, lilac, weigela, and bigleaf hydrangeas.

Hire a pro to do any work that involves your leaving the ground with a chainsaw in hand. The idea is for the trees to lose limbs, not you.

Season's first seed starts

February is also the time to start cool-season plants from seed indoors, so they'll grow to transplantable size by early spring. These include edibles, such as cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, onions, and leeks, and cold-tolerant annual flowers, such as pansies, violas, dusty miller, dianthus, and snapdragons.

Happy gardening everyone, and we hope to see you at our next meeting. Our location has changed. We now meet at 6787 Forest Hill Avenue Richmond, VA 23225. Parking is in the back of the building on Melbourn Ave.

Portions of this article were taken from George Weigel at Penn live!

COMMUNITY YARD SALE APRIL 14

Declutter your house, put extra cash in your pocket, and pick up some good deals! Here's what you need to know to participate in the Oxford Community Yard Sale, organized annually by the Oxford Civic Association.

When: Saturday, April 16, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., rain or shine

Cost: \$10 for members / \$25 for non-members (\$10 plus one year membership dues). The cost helps cover advertising in the Community Shopper and the Richmond Times-Dispatch as well as printing signs and maps. All proceeds go to community improvement.

Registration: Send payment to Eileen Sadtler, 4212 Arrowhead Road, 23235. Include name, address, and phone.

Deadline: Registration and payment must be

received by **Wednesday, April 4** to participate.

Signs will be posted directing customers into our neighborhood and maps will be printed and delivered to each sale location. The maps can be given to customers so they can find their way to each participating site. Call Eileen Sadtler at 323-3139 for more information.

Preparation Tips

- Check the attic/basement/shed in addition to the main house.
- Have other family members scour bedrooms and closets for items they no longer want or no longer fit.
- Clean items that need it. Throw clothes into the dryer to remove wrinkles.
- Put items in original boxes with related paperwork, if possible.
- Be realistic about the price. Remember, you want to get rid of what you're selling. What would you pay for it?
- To speed the pricing process, print labels. You can also make zones: \$1 zone, \$5 zone, etc. Indicate a zone with a colored sticker.
- Gather boxes, bags, and newspapers to wrap purchases.
- Have an extension cord handy to demonstrate how electronic items work.
- Have small bills and change on hand. Plan to keep money in a secure area – possibly on a money belt.

Yard Sale Day Tips

- Present items in a pleasing and organized way (by size or type) and keep them off the ground if possible.
- Put items that show well near the street to attract more customers.
- Let customers know if you're willing to negotiate on price.
- Slash prices as the yard sale comes to a close.
- Take items that didn't sell directly to the truck at the Barningham Strip so they don't junk up your newly decluttered house.
- Have fun! Enjoy talking with your neighbors and others around the community.

Our annual bale sale will take place at the same time. Enjoy goodies under the tent on the Barningham Strip!

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FINANCIAL CORNER

By: Jason King

Five Ways the New Tax Law May Impact You



The most sweeping tax reform legislation in decades was enacted into law at the end of 2017. If you pay federal income taxes, you are likely to see an impact this year. As you plan your 2018 tax strategy, here are five key changes to know about the tax reform law:

1. Tax rates and brackets have changed

Federal income tax rates progressively increase as your income rises. These are known as tax brackets. The new tax code reduces most of the ordinary tax rates and adjusts the tax brackets, applicable from 2018 to 2025. However, the number of brackets for individual tax filers and married couples filing jointly remains at seven. For instance, in 2018 the first \$19,050 of taxable income for a married couple filing a joint return is subject to a 10 percent federal income tax. For income the couple earns between \$19,050 and \$77,400, the ordinary tax rate for 2018 is 12 percent, lower than the 15 percent seen under the previous law. The highest ordinary income tax rate, which was previously 39.6 percent, was reduced to 37 percent and starts at \$600,000 of taxable income for couples who file jointly. Visit IRS.gov to see the full list of tax rates and brackets.

2. Standard deduction is nearly doubled

When you prepare your tax return, you have a choice of either a standard deduction, or itemizing deductions such as mortgage interest, charitable gifts, or state, local and property taxes. Under the new law, more people will use the standard deduction. (Itemized deductions are changing as well – see item number three.) The standard deduction stood at \$6,350 for a single taxpayer and \$12,700 for a married couple filing a joint return in 2017. Under the new law, the standard deduction has increased to \$12,000 for a single taxpayer and \$24,000 for a married couple filing a joint return. These changes are effective from 2018 through 2025, unless Congress acts to extend them.

3. Changes in itemized deductions

For those who itemize deductions in 2018 (and
(Cont. on Page 21)

FINACIAL CORNER

(cont. from Page 20)

through 2025), there are some significant changes, even considering the increased standard deduction. Among the most notable:

- The deduction for state and local taxes, including property taxes, is generally limited to a maximum of \$10,000 per year. Under previous law, no maximum limit applied.
 - The ability to deduct interest on home mortgage remains, but the \$1,000,000 debt limit under previous law is generally reduced to a \$750,000 debt limit for home mortgages created after December 15, 2017. Also, deductions on interest paid on home equity loans (whether new or existing loans) is no longer allowed. This may make home equity loans less attractive as a borrowing option.
 - Miscellaneous itemized deductions, such as investment expenses and tax preparation fees, are no longer allowed.
4. **Personal exemptions are suspended and child tax credit is increased**

(Cont. on Page 22)

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FINACIAL CORNER

(cont. from Page 21)

Under long-standing tax law prior to the new legislation, individuals could also claim personal exemptions for themselves and their dependents when filing their tax return. That exempted a portion of income from taxes. In 2017, the personal exemption was \$4,050 per person. Under the new law, effective in 2018 through 2025, the personal exemptions no longer apply.

If you have children, you may qualify to claim a \$2,000 tax credit per qualifying child beginning in 2018 (and through 2025), double what was allowed in prior law. That is a dollar-for-dollar reduction of the taxes owed. It's expected that more people will be able to take the credits because income limitations have been raised. Another credit of \$500 is now allowed for dependents you may claim who are not qualifying children.

5. Expanded use of 529 plans

To this point, 529 plans have provided a tax-advantaged way to save money for qualified higher education expenses, such as tuition, room and board, and fees. The new law allows you to withdraw up to \$10,000 tax-free per year per child from a 529 plan to help cover the K-12 tuition at a public, private or religious school.

These are only some of the changes that may affect individual taxpayers. Consult with your tax advisor to understand how the new legislation may affect your circumstances. Keep in mind that many of the tax provisions have an expiration date, unless Congress acts to extend them.

Jason M. King, CFP® APMAsm is a Financial Advisor and Managing Director with Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. in Richmond, VA. He specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice 17 years. To contact him, visit www.ameripriseadvisors.com/jason.m.king or call him at (804) 747-1214. Office location is Two James Center, 1021 East Cary Street Suite 1001, Richmond VA 23219.

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Treasury Report

January 2018

INCOME:		\$1,395.00
EXPENSES:		\$3.00
CASH BALANCE:		\$9,248.12

OCA Board Meetings - 7:00 p.m., first Monday of each month (contact a Board member for location)



Annual Meeting - April 10th - 6:30 PM

Community Yard Sale - April 14th 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Spring Clean-Up and Food Drive - May 5 8:00 AM

CHESTERFIELD POLICE COMMUNITY ACADEMY

The Chesterfield police department holds a number of Community Academies each year for participants to learn about the functions and services of the Chesterfield County Police. The academies are free to all Chesterfield County residents, business owners, and members of any community or civic organization located in the county.

Participants attend presentations, tours, and hands-on forensics experiences to learn how crimes are prevented and solved. Demonstrations are given by the K-9 unit. Participants visit the shooting range, observe the use of a radar gun for speed detection, and ride along with a police officer.

In 2018, the remaining 10-week courses are:

Senior Academy: May 9 - July 10, 8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m., open to anyone 55 or older. Teen Academy (1 week): Aug. 13-17

Community Academy: Sept. 6 - Nov. 8, 6:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

For more information, call 318-8699, or contact Career Officer Kelly Young at 318-8407 or young-km@chesterfield.gov.



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“CRUISIN” WITH PETE BELL

By Niki Sabbath

Have you ever wondered what you would like to do when you retire? How about restoring old cars? Pete Bell, a neighbor in Oxford, has restored three antique cars to showroom condition. He belongs to two antique car clubs: the Richmond Model A Classic Car Club and the Victory 7 Mustang Club which sponsor events to showcase restored automobiles. He shows his cars weekly at local cruises, where members display re-furbished cars in local parking lots.

Pete began restoring cars in 1999 when he retired from the National Park Service, where he had been employed as a ranger. His first project was a 1930 Model A Ford. (“I specialize in Fords,” he boasts with a smile.) The next was a 1967 Mus-



tang convertible, which won Best of Show Ford at the annual Mustang & Ford Show of the Central Virginia Mustang Club in 2005. He then restored a 1942 four-door Ford Super Deluxe. He was born in 1942, so he has a special attachment to this car. There are not as many of them on the circuit because production was limited that year due to the war effort.

According to Pete, you need three things to restore cars: patience, money and time. He has limitless patience and lots of time, but due to financial considerations, it takes him about three years to completely restore a car.

The story of the Model A Ford: He drove to WaKeeney, Kansas to pick up the Model A. He put it on a trailer and brought it back to Virginia. He stores it in his large garage, where he does all his work. When he purchased the car, it looked like this:

(Cont. on Page 24)



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MEET PETE BELL

(cont. from Page 23)

"Always try to purchase a car that is not rusted out," Pete advises. Then you strip it completely. He always works from the ground up: first restore the brakes, undercarriage and drive train, then the engine, followed by the interior and finally the exterior. Pete restores his cars to showroom condition, and they all are drivable. He gets his parts through antique catalogs, from members of car clubs, and by searching on the internet. All the parts are original, and he uses his mechanical skill to restore them to their pristine state. Some couples hire Pete to transport them on their wedding day in one of his classic automobiles rather than use a limousine.



Pete's first effort was a success. He entered his restored Model A in the Festival of Rods and Customs, and won the award for Best Restored Car or Truck in 2003. This was the first of more than forty trophies he has won for his three cars. The following photograph illustrates why he has earned so many accolades! You may have seen this car displayed at the 2016 Oxford Picnic.

Pete grew up in Richmond on Belt Boulevard. When the city decided to widen Belt Boulevard, Pete lost his house there to eminent domain. He wanted to purchase a corner lot for a new house; he found one at the corner of Huguenot and Cherokee that met his needs. He built a house there, and he's lived there ever since. He has four grown daughters, the youngest of whom lives with him.

During his tenure at the Park Service, Pete worked in the Southeast Regional Office, the Grand Canyon and at the Appomattox Site. Before joining the Park Service in 1969, he was an aircraft mechanic with the Air Force and worked for the Department of Defense.

In addition to building cars, Pete keeps busy with gardening and playing the keyboard and piano. He plays keyboard for gospel music at the Gravel Hill Baptist Church on Gravel Hill Road on Sundays. What an interesting retirement!

INOPERABLE VEHICLES IN OXFORD?

Inoperable vehicles are being kept for long periods of time by some residents in locations where they create an undesirable visual impact on the neighborhood. Spring has arrived, and this should be an inspiration to clean up around our homes, including dealing with any inoperable vehicles either by: (1) repairing and licensing, or (2) removing, or (3) properly storing them.

City of Richmond

Inoperable motor vehicles kept on private property are subject to Richmond Code §§102-361 and 102-362. Violation of the ordinance is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

(Cont. on Page 25)



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INOPERABLE VEHICLES

(cont. from Page 24)

An inoperable motor vehicle is a motor vehicle or trailer that (1) is not in operating condition, or (2) has been partially or totally disassembled for a period of 60 days or longer by the removal of tires and wheels, the engine, or other essential parts that are required for the operation of the vehicle, or (3) lacks valid license plates and a valid inspection decal.

An inoperable motor vehicle must be either (1) stored inside of a fully enclosed building, or (2) shielded or screened from view by vegetation or fencing.

To report an inoperable vehicle on private property in Richmond, call Richmond Code Enforcement at 646-7448. If the vehicle is parked on a public street, contact the Richmond Police at the non-emergency number 646-5100.

Chesterfield County

Inoperable vehicles kept on private property are subject to Chesterfield County Code §13-62. Unlicensed vehicles are subject to §13-43. Violations may result in the offending vehicles being towed away by the County at the owner's expense.

An inoperable vehicle is a motor vehicle or

trailer that (1) is not in operating condition, or (2) has been partially or totally disassembled for a period of 60 days or longer by the removal of tires and wheels, the engine, or other essential parts required for operation of the vehicle, or (3) lacks valid license plates and a valid inspection decal.

An inoperable vehicle must be either (1) stored within a fully enclosed building, or (2) parked in the rear yard and shielded or screened from view by a cover, dense evergreen foliage, fence, or wall. Additionally, if the vehicle is unlicensed, the owner must pay a yearly \$100 unlicensed vehicle fee to the County. Only one inoperable vehicle is allowed to be stored in a back yard unless the inoperable vehicle is being

restored, in which case one additional inoperable vehicle is permitted if it provides a source of parts for the vehicle being restored.

To report an inoperable vehicle on private property in Chesterfield, call Chesterfield Zoning Enforcement at 748-1500. The report may be made anonymously. If the vehicle is parked on a public street, contact the Chesterfield Police at the non-emergency number 748-1251.



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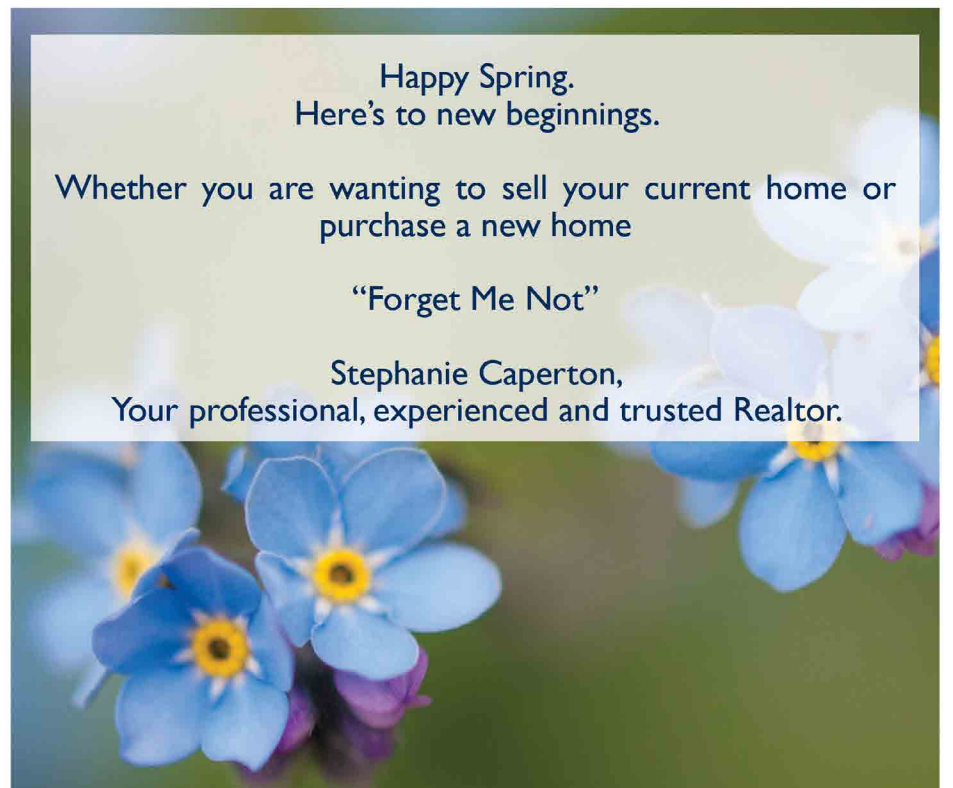
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Stephanie Caperton,
Your professional, experienced and trusted Realtor.

REAL ESTATE CORNER

By Wayne Gauthier

4549 Arrowhead Road is our top Sale of the Month in our Oxford neighborhood!

The location of our neighborhood compels investing in the homes in our area. This home represents what making that investment can do to improve the value and desirability of our properties in Oxford. From the new front stoop to the impressive open floor plan, this home is a great example of what brings new neighbors to our community.



Properties that sold in Oxford between January 1, 2017 through April 30, 2017 are:

Address	Fin SF	Bed	Type	Sale Price	Sale Date
8435 Abbey Rd	1613	3	Ranch	\$275,000	2018-02-09
4549 Arrowhead Rd	2292	4	Ranch	\$435,000	2018-02-13
8201 Barningham Rd	2746	4	Ranch	\$269,900	2017-12-15
8217 Halstead Rd	3199	4	Tri-Level/Quad Level	\$310,000	2017-12-21
13724 Nailor Cir	2031	3	2-Story	\$289,950	2017-12-29
13748 Nailor Cir	2024	3	2-Story	\$286,000	2017-10-20
2700 E Weyburn Rd	1575	2	Cottage/Bungalow	\$223,000	2018-01-08
2823 E Weyburn Rd	3111	4	Ranch	\$364,000	2018-01-12
3525 E Weyburn Rd	1989	3	Tri-Level/Quad Level	\$275,000	2017-11-01
3803 E Weyburn Rd	2283	3	Tri-Level/Quad Level	\$306,000	2018-01-11
3849 W Weyburn Rd	2400	3	Ranch	\$335,000	2017-11-20
8361 W Weyburn Rd	2414	4	Ranch	\$199,000	2017-12-12

* Data taken from the Chesterfield and City of Richmond tax records and the Central Virginia Regional Multiple Listing Service. Transactions Recorded between 10/15/2017-02/16/2018.

2017-2018 GREATER OXFORD CIVIC ASSOCIATION BOARD

www.oxfordciviccassociation.com

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Send \$15.00 membership dues to Oxford Civic Association, P.O. Box 3881, Richmond, VA, 23235

**2550 Swathmore Road
Cambridge
SOLD FOR \$346,000**

WE RAISED THE BAR!

Also SOLD in 23225

- 3001 Archdale Rd.
- 6734 Monitor Rd.
- 3940 Margate Dr.
- 9511 Tuxford Rd.
- 4800 Riverside Dr.
- 3300 Thurloe Dr.



Carol A. Barkstrom
804-399-2384

carol@connectionsrealtyrva.com



Adam Barkstrom
804-370-2970

adam@connectionsrealtyrva.com

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Adam Barkstrom & Carol Barkstrom | 5902 Lowry St.
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We are a concierge brokerage firm built around exceptional service. That means you work directly with us, the owners, who have 35 years combined real estate experience. We:

- Constantly communicate and support you throughout the complicated selling process
- Partner with you on manageable steps to prep your home for sale so you don't spend time on changes that don't appeal to buyers
- Optimize your home's unique features to strategically price it for today's market
- Market creatively and comprehensively for a smooth sale at top dollar
- Let OUR SUCCESS be YOUR SUCCESS

THE SPRING SEASON IS HERE! CALL US TODAY!