

New series teaches better communication among couples

Mon., Dec. 25 and Tues., Dec. 26
County offices closed for Christmas.

Wed., Dec. 27
Book Discussion Group, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Midlothian Library, 521 Coalfield Rd. The group will discuss "We the People" book selections including "Death Comes for the Archbishop" by Willa Cather, "Barrio Boy" by Ernesto Galarza, "The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin" edited by Louis P. Masur, "The Glory Field" by Walter Dean Myers, "Giants in the Earth" by O.E. Rolvaag and "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" by Betty Smith. Please call 794-7907 for information.

Calendar

Thurs., Dec. 28
Read 2 Rover, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Midlothian Library, 521 Coalfield Rd. This program by Caring Canines is designed to help children become better readers. The dogs sit quietly next to children while they read, thus providing comfort and companionship to children who struggle with reading or who simply want to improve their reading. Limited space. Please register one week in advance by calling 794-7907. Visit www.library.chesterfield.gov for more information.

Mon., Jan. 1
County offices closed for New Year's Day.

Wed., Jan. 3
Mayhem at Midlothian Mystery Book Discussion Group, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Midlothian Library, 521 Coalfield Road. "Mary, Mary" by James Patterson will be discussed. Please call 794-7907 for information.
Chester Choices Book Discussion Group, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Chester Library 11800 Centre St., Chester. This year's Go Read selection, "I Got Somebody in Staunton" by William Henry Lewis, will be discussed. Please call 748-6314 or visit www.goreadrichmond.com for information.

Fri., Jan. 5
Huguenot Trail Rotary Club, 12:30-1:30 p.m., Bottega's Bistro, 11400 W. Huguenot Road, Midlothian. The Rotary Club is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. For more information, call 938-1658.

Sat., Jan. 6
Christmas tree recycling, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Woodlake Soccer Complex, behind Clover Hill Elementary School, 5700 Woodlake Village Pkwy. All welcome. \$5 fee per tree. Sponsored by the Woodlake Women's Club. For information, call Sally Harrison at 739-9222.

Art Exhibit, Jan. 6-31, Chester Library, 11800 Centre Street, Chester. "Soft Medium," a collection of photographs by Reginald Conyard, Jr., will be on display during library hours. Conyard has a studio at Artworks where his photographs are regularly on display. His works have been exhibited at Capital One West Creek, Bon Air Library and the Richmond Main Library. A public reception for Conyard will take place Sat., Jan. 6 from 3-4:30 p.m. at the library. Refreshments will be served. Call 748-6314 for more information. Hosted by the Chesterfield Center for the Arts at Chester Foundation.

Wed., Jan. 10
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, Midlothian Chapter 2265 monthly meeting, 9:30 a.m., Brandermill Woods Retirement Community Meeting Room, 14311 Brandermill Woods Trail, Midlothian. The program will feature a speaker from Springdale Village at Lucy Corr. For details or directions, call Joyce Burton, 743-2584.

Thurs., Jan. 11
School Board Forum, 7 p.m., Thomas Dale High School, 3626 W. Hundred Rd., Chester. Everyone is invited to meet Chesterfield's new superintendent, greet school board members and hear about the six-year strategic plan detailing how Chesterfield County public schools will achieve excellence. School Board Chair Marshall Trammell, Jr., who represents the Bermuda District, will attend.

Richmond Books & Bites Book Discussion Group, 10:30-11:30 a.m., LaPrade Library, 9000 Hull Street Road. "The Man in my Basement" by Walter Moseley will be discussed. Please call 276-7755 for information.

Book Discussion Group, 7-8 p.m., Ettrick-Matoaca Library, 4501 River Road. "Excalibur" by Bernard Cornwell will be discussed. Please call 526-8087 for more information.

Fri., Jan. 12
County offices closed for Lee-Jackson holiday.

In The Spotlight

Information Chesterfield: For the Quality of Your Life, For Better or For Worse, Wed., Jan. 24, 7-8 p.m., Bon Air Library, 9103 Rattlesnake Road, Richmond. Healthy, fulfilling relationships don't just happen. This class in couples communication will teach you how to communicate what you want out of your relationship, resolve conflicts effectively, reduce arguments, solve problems as a team, and learn how to maintain fun, friendship and intimacy. This is part of a new series designed to help improve the quality of your personal life, health, safety and security, parenting skills, your children's academic success and much more. Sponsored by Chesterfield County Public Library. Registration is required and will begin two weeks prior to the program date. Please register online at www.library.chesterfield.gov or by calling the library at 717-6381.

Mon., Jan. 15
County offices closed for Martin Luther King holiday.

Wed., Jan. 17
Gardening program, 9:30 a.m., Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 2341 Winterfield Rd., Midlothian. Salisbury Garden Club will discuss "Historic Plants at Monticello: Preserving the Plants from the Past." The guest speaker is Peggy Cornett, director of Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants. For additional details, contact Candy Nasser at 897-5763.

Sat., Jan. 20
Folk Music Concert, 8 p.m., Congregation Or Ami, 9400 W. Huguenot Rd., Richmond. Southern Horizon concert of traditional American music features banjo, fiddle, whistle, guitar and vocals. Part of the "Folk in the Grove" concert series. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at door. Doors open 7:15 p.m. For more information, tickets and directions, call 647-7856, visit the Web site at www.richmondfolkmusic.org or e-mail richmondfolkmusic@yahoo.com.

Have a special event coming up? Please e-mail your calendar items to calendar@chesterfieldobserver.com, mail them to P.O. Box 1616, Midlothian VA 23113, or fax them to 744-3269. Please include a contact name and number with your announcements.

Students will attend leadership conference

A delegation of 46 students from several county high schools will travel to Washington, D.C. on Jan. 4 to attend the National Black Student Leadership Development Conference.

The goal of this event is to expose minority students to positive peers, successful role models and college preparation opportunities, said Brian Curtis, a guidance counselor at Thomas Dale High School. Curtis is organizing the trip and has been taking student groups to this conference for the past 10 years.

"This year is unique because the students will have the opportunity to meet Farrah Gray, the youngest African-American millionaire in the country and receive an autographed copy of his book. They will have the chance to hear his story and find out how he went from growing up in a single-parent home in what might be considered to be the worst ghetto in America to starting his first business at the age of eight and making his first million at the age

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McDonalds at 5925 Hopkins Rd • Eckerd Drug at 4408 W. Hundred Rd. in Chester • Shoney's at Bermuda Square Shopping Center • John Tyler Community College at 13101 Jeff Davis Hwy. • Chesterfield County Administration Building • Chesterfield County Airport • Robious Sports at 10800 Center View Dr. • CVS at Breckenridge Shopping Center in Chester • Flagstaff Car Wash at 11031 Ironbridge Rd. • Aunt Sarah's at 6737 Southshore Dr. • La Siesta Mexican Rest. at 9900 Midlothian Tpke • Uno Chicago Bar & Grill at 12211 Jeff Davis & Deer Run Village Shopping Center • Camille's at 2612 Perdue Springs Rd. • IHOP at Bermuda Crossings Shopping Center • Iron Bridge Medical Park at 11601 Iron Bridge Pkwy • Chick-fil-A, Chattanooga Plaza on Route 360 & Rt. 10 Chester • Midlothian and Chester YMCAs at 737 Coalfield Road and 3011 West Hundred Rd. • Chester Perk at 11884 Chester Village Dr. • Brandermill Woods at 14311 Brandermill Woods Tr. • Brickhouse Diner at 13520 Midlothian Tpke. • Midlothian Apothecary at 13502 Midlothian Tpke. • Burger King at 4000 River Rd. • People's Bank at 14441 Sommerville Ct. • Napier Realtors ERA at 14361 Sommerville Ct. • Long & Foster kiosk at Chesterfield Towne Center • Post Offices - Amthill, Bon Air, Chester, Chesterfield, Genito & Midlothian • Chesterfield Libraries - Bon Air, Central, Chester, Clover Hill, LaPrade, Matoaca, Meadowdale & Midlothian • San Francisco Bread Co., 2077 Wal-Mart Way • Beef 'O Brady's, 13606 Hull Street Road.



"C" is for cookie

Sue Stoker indulges in a sweet treat during a recent cookie exchange at Swift Creek Elementary School. The annual event has become a tradition at the school. Parents bring in cookies, which are then divvied up among teachers and other school employees. (Photo by Elli Morris.)