



**Practicing
what they teach**
page 5



**Lessons
in sports**
page 8

Chesterfield Observer

Volume 13, Number 2 Your Community Newspaper Since 1995 • Chesterfield County, Virginia • ChesterfieldObserver.com January 17, 2007

Setting boundaries

School board gets first look at Winterpock redistricting



Page Dowdy/Chesterfield Observer

Spring Run Elementary School uses about 18 trailers as classrooms, but a new boundary change proposal under consideration could alleviate overcrowding at the school.

By Donna C. Gregory
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Hundreds of elementary students in the western part of the county will be heading to another school this fall. But, the number of students making the move won't be as large as it could be if the Chesterfield School Board approves a boundary change proposed by a committee of mostly parents from Spring Run, Grange Hall and Clover Hill elementary schools.

The committee presented its boundary proposal during a school board meeting last week.

The redistricting is required because of the opening of the new Winterpock Elementary School, located just south of Hampton Park in the new Harper's Mill subdivision, this fall. However, due to current and future overcrowding in the area, only two of the four schools under consideration will be impacted.

see **WINTERPOCK**, page 4

Road costs could stop the Watkins Centre

By Greg Pearson
STAFF WRITER

Another \$20 million or more of unplanned road improvements at the Watkins Centre could cause the developer to walk away. Zaremba Metropolitan Midlothian Group, LLC may pull out of the project because of higher costs for a flyover and widening the Route 60 bridge over Route 288.

"Our discussions have been with the county, but I've heard that," confirmed Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Resident Engineer Dale Totten.

"Because we're in an ongoing permitting process, a comment would be inappropriate," offered Developer Cary Euwer of Zaremba Metropolitan.

It's been a nine year journey through the zoning process for the Watkins Centre, but the huge development is not out of the woods yet.

Now with the county firmly on its side, the current hurdle is VDOT with the Army Corps of Engineers waiting in the wings.

VDOT officials want a flyover — a northbound onramp — from inside Westchester Commons, the retail portion of the Watkins Centre, over the southbound lanes of Route 288 and connecting to northbound 288. According to Totten, that would cost "\$14 million on the low side."

The flyover was part of the plan approved in 1999 when the Commonwealth Transportation Board

see **WATKINS**, page 14



Bridging retirement

Card game helps seniors keep mental, social skills sharp

By Susan Nienow
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Money changes hands or master points are sought. Or more often, everyone brings a sandwich and settles in for an afternoon of play. For non-players, bridge is a card game for four people played the world over. It can be played on many levels of complexity and by players of differing levels of experience. It tests players' memory and requires strategy.

All the cards are dealt. Through bidding it is decided what suit will trump all others, or if no suit is trump. Cards are played by each player to form a trick. The object is to get the most tricks. The bidding can stop at any time or go to game. Scoring is based on the number of

tricks taken and the suit, the final bid and scores of previous hands.

Sound confusing? It is initially, but lessons are available and friendly games allow "cheat sheets" for bidding rules.

But those who do learn are hooked. Bridge players know where the games are. Ask one, and he will tell you there's one on Tuesdays at St. Mark's United Methodist Church on Luck's Lane and on Wednesdays at the Bon Air Library. And there's always the Bridge Center near Willow Lawn in Henrico County for the very competitive.

Joyce Wenberg organizes weekly bridge games for the county's Parks and Recreation Department at the Bensley Community Center. Usually there are 2-3 tables though the numbers rise in the summer.

Because the same people have been playing together so long, they are "basically on the same level," she said. Wenberg plays three times a week — at Bensley, at her church and with a foursome in private homes.

Elvira Plumb is well-known by bridge players in the county. She has been teaching bridge for 18 years and is a Silver Life Master. You can find her at Bon Air Library teaching 32 players in six-week sessions, beginner through intermediate, for parks and recreation. Her classes fill up fast, and many sign up for several sessions each year.

Plumb also plays at the Bridge Center. The center has games every day and some nights, and the cost to play varies.

see **BRIDGE**, page 7



Page Dowdy/Chesterfield Observer

Kay West (left) and Marianna Worley enjoy a friendly game of bridge at St. Marks United Methodist Church. The church began hosting bridge in 1972, and about 40 players attend games there twice a week.



To join the Chesterfield County Chamber of Commerce, call 748-6364 or visit www.chesterfieldchamber.com
See ad on page 10.

PRSRT-STD
US Postage Paid
Petersburg, VA
Permit #13