



"My children who are [ages] nine, five and two witnessed this crime and are traumatized from [it]. Please help me in any way you can."

# OPINIONS

## Victim seeking justice needs public's help

**Dear Editor,**

On Monday, Apr. 30 at 8:31 p.m., my husband, 65-year-old mother, and a family friend were assaulted by 10-15 African-American males and females and one Caucasian male on Goolsby Avenue at the entrance of Heritage Point Apartments. Some of them were underage, and some were not. The Chesterfield County police officer [who wrote up the report] is not confident that an arrest will be made.

My mother sustained injuries to her face, ribs, arms and back. My husband was taken to the ER where he was placed in a critical care unit [but he has since been released]. He was knocked unconscious, and the individuals continued to beat him with bricks and stomped on his head and back. They [also] broke a bottle on his head, and he is still unable to walk or stand for long periods of time.

The family friend was knocked unconscious and thrown into the ditch and was bitten several times on his back as well as hit in the head with an unknown object. During the assault there were several people watching, and no one [intervened].

I made a 911 call from my cell phone at 8:31 p.m., and an officer responded at approximately 8:35 p.m. My children who are [ages] nine, five and two witnessed this crime and are traumatized from [it]. Please help me in any way you can.

**Name Withheld**

*Anyone who has information about this crime should contact Crime Solvers at 748-0660. Editor*

## New development should pay for roads, schools

**Dear Editor,**

Having just read this article in the May 9 edition I was totally shocked. All along the county supervisors are talking about this

special taxing district for the new developments in the Upper Swift Creek Plan. Lo and behold, it now includes areas that are already fully developed and not even in the drainage area for the reservoir.

I am a resident of Deer Run and want to know how come I am going to be required to pay 10-15 [cents] higher taxes for an area I have nothing to do with? My housing area is fully developed, and I am currently paying my share of taxes to pay for what is required to support my area. Why should I now have to pay for the new areas with higher taxes? Are the supervisors too afraid of the builders to make them and the new residents of these higher priced homes pay for their subdivisions? Why can't the builders be required to build the schools, roads and other infrastructure required to support their high priced buildings and developments?

Why the rush to approve this plan before the next election? Is someone afraid the new supervisors might disapprove of this taxing area? Afraid it might become an election issue? Be wary of this issue as I call upon all county residents to follow this with great fear. If this area can be required to pay this new tax without a discussion and proper representation, it could happen anywhere in the county. Could your house and development be next? When were the residents of these developments going to get their say so? Certainly not before the May 23 vote by the Board of Supervisors.

**Jerry Frawley  
Deer Run**

**Dear Editor,**

I have a selfish suggestion regarding the proposed tax increase for specific areas of Chesterfield: tax credit for homeowners [age] 70 plus, additional credit for military service and more for those of us who served during time of armed conflict.

Looking at the map in the Chesterfield Observer [May 9], it appears that the proposed new roads are absent in Woodlake and Brandermill – the very areas that will be subject to the tax increase. How do the politicians

justify this? Will this increase apply to any of them?

In the interest of the democratic process why not let those being affected [pay]?

A half million dollars for a consultation fee? SHAME.

**Henry Manger  
Brandermill**

## Loupassi victory overcomes local party

**Dear Editor,**

Congratulations are due to Manoli Loupassi for his selection as the Republican candidate for the 68th District House of Delegates seat. In gaining 75 percent of the vote, he overcame the transparent, but failed attempt, by party leadership to suppress regular Republican [voters] by splitting this election off from the regular Republican primary.

His election shows that at least some Virginians will make the extra effort and put up with extra inconvenience to make their voices heard. The people of the 68th District (part Chesterfield and part Richmond City) are also to be congratulated for making this effort and standing up for the democracy they believe in. Lest anyone think the city voters overwhelmed the wishes of the county residents, Mr. Loupassi received approximately 60 percent of the Chesterfield vote in attaining his victory.

**Larry Miller  
Chesterfield**

*Letters to the editor can be e-mailed to [letters@chesterfieldobserver.com](mailto:letters@chesterfieldobserver.com), mailed to P.O. Box 1616, Midlothian, VA 23113, or faxed to 744-3269. Letters should include the writer's phone number and home address, but neither will be printed. All letters may be edited for clarity or space. For complete guidelines, visit [www.chesterfieldobserver.com](http://www.chesterfieldobserver.com) and click on "letters policy."*

## Broadcast media are AWOL

The perception is that local media are watching out for the citizens when local government meets, monitoring what elected and appointed officials do and say. That might be true in other counties, but it's not true in Chesterfield. And our county has more population than any other locality in central Virginia so you'd expect more attention on Chesterfield.

It's hard to report on Chesterfield County if you don't have a reporter at meetings of the Board of Supervisors, School Board and Planning Commission meetings. You can't understand Chesterfield issues and the county process if you are AWOL: Absent WithOut Learning.

There are dozens of radio stations in the Richmond metro, but none of them attend these meetings. Period. Perhaps five percent of the time one reporter from one of the television stations is present. Maybe. In fact, some citizens have been asked to call TV reporters to tell them what goes on at these meetings

since the citizens, and not the reporters, are present.

Staff members of four different TV stations have acknowledged to us that they keep files of our news reports so their reporters know the issues. (No, we don't keep files on their stories.) Thanks for the compliment TV stations, but knowledgeable reporters know the issues firsthand and don't use other media reports as background material.

Some time ago, we began delaying our latest online issue by two days because WWBT (Channel 12) kept using us as a news source – Ed Barber sues the county for medical coverage; Cosby High School builder is sued by neighbors; and keeping chickens in the yard of a River Ridge home to name a few. If the number one TV news station does it, what can be expected of the other stations?

Imagine, TV stations, with all their resources and staff, taking stories from a weekly newspaper? That's just one reason we believe that TV and other daily media here have been under-serving the Richmond market for some time.

A story told to us by one former county

official illustrates that point. About 15 years ago, he went outside the meeting room during a break and found a WWBT reporter in tears because she was supposed to do a live report about the planning commission meeting but didn't understand what was going on. He sat down with her and helped her write the story, and she was able to do the live report as scheduled. She has since gone on to network television, and you can occasionally see Campbell Brown sitting in to anchor "The Nightly News."

Reporting the news in Chesterfield isn't hard unless you're AWOL. Yes, the meetings are often long and sometimes tedious, but no one ever said reporting the news was easy. Attending those meetings leads to understanding and better reporting of Chesterfield news.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### MEDIA WATCH Greg Pearson

## Chesterfield Observer

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