

Life with gadget guy

So what if we don't have any outdoor lights this year. We never got it done because we were busy with the fly-through daughter, a road trip and the usual holiday scramble. That left an unused gadget sitting around so my other half has connected that remote control to a two-foot sparkly, lighted wire cone that sits on a table.

Instead of just reaching down and pulling the plug, I now get the remote out of the drawer, push "off" and then put it back into the drawer.

Which brings us to the "big" Christmas tree. It has two separate sets of lights, two separate off/on "step-on" switches with one master "step-on" power switch. No remote needed. I just stick my foot under the tree and step on the lump under the tree skirt, hoping that it isn't something live and furry or a fragile gift that has migrated to the back of the tree.

We now have three wireless outdoor thermometers. I can tell the temperature of three sides of the outside of our house from the bedroom, kitchen and family room of the house. And in case you want to know the humidity, we have two gadgets that record that information, too.



Loose Ends
Susan Nienow

If we should happen to leave the house without a charge on our cell phones, there is a charger in my car and my other half's truck. Or, if we are out of town and one of our cell phones die, we each have a charger in our luggage. And, for everyday charging, there is a charger on each bedside table.

So if the phone is fully charged, why can't I hear it when it rings in my purse?

In one of my futile efforts to de-clutter my office desk, I bought a caddy for my three remotes: TV, satellite and CD player (an antique one of the kids left behind). I do see just how foresighted that caddy purchase was now that I have two more remotes. One is for a fan and one for a small heater – both bought by my other half. He thought the remotes were the best part – so I wouldn't have to walk four steps to turn them on.

Next to the bed is an air filter. You guessed it – it came with a remote. Though I haven't seen any advertising directly touting a remote, I doubt if any electronic equipment would sell without one.

I suspect my other half is watching the ads for a master remote that could be programmed to control all of the other remotes – sort of a "remote central." One detail about remotes – they only work with working batteries. Now my other half is on a mission to find a camera battery charger for a friend of our fly-by daughter and send it to Africa.

I have one word of warning for anyone we know: do not give or sell that man another remote.

Library opens new exhibit

Chester Library will hold an opening reception for the exhibit, "Through Our Eyes," on Sat., Jan. 5, from 3-4:30 p.m., in the Maud Hurt Meeting Room.

The exhibit is a collection of nature and landscape photographs by local photographers Danny and Rhonda Poole and will be on display at Chester Library, 11800

Chester St., on Jan. 5-30. Danny and Rhonda Poole are members of the Camera Club of Richmond and have served on its board of directors.

"Through Our Eyes" is sponsored by the Chesterfield Center for the Arts at Chester Foundation. For more information, call 748-6314.

Wrapping up the holidays



Lisa Billings/Chesterfield Observer

Midlothian High School Spirit Club member Chelsea Heintschel offers tape to Andrew Moehling (left) and Andrew Flitcraft (right) as they wrap presents for four needy families the club adopted this holiday season.

Why 50% of Homes Listed for Sale Don't Sell the First Time & What to Do About It

CHESTERFIELD – If your home has just come off the market and hasn't sold, don't be discouraged. The reason your home did not sell may have nothing to do with your home or the market. In reality, your home may have been one of the more desirable properties for sale.

So Why Didn't Your Home Sell?

Last year many of the homes listed for sale never sold at all, and many sellers found that there was a tremendous amount a homeowner needed to be educated on to sell their home for top dollar in the shortest time period.

Don't risk making the wrong choices and losing both time and money on your investment. Before you hire a realtor, know the right questions to ask to save you time and money.

Industry experts have prepared a free special report called "How to Sell a House that Didn't Sell" which educates you on the issues involved.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your free copy of this report, call 1-800-836-9740 and enter ID #3448. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call now to make sure your home sells the next time you list it for sale.

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Chesterfield County Mandatory Water-Use Restrictions



Due to severe drought conditions, the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors approved the declaration of mandatory water-use restrictions at their Oct. 10 meeting. These restrictions apply to all Chesterfield County water customers and took effect on Monday, Oct. 15. The biggest water use in the county is attributable to lawn-irrigation systems. The ordinance for mandatory restrictions on the use of public water requires that lawn watering be done only three times per week. This is sufficient to maintain healthy lawns and gardens, according to Chesterfield County Cooperative Extension. Users of the public water system shall limit their use of public water as follows:

- 1. Decorative or landscape fountains** — Water use is prohibited.
- 2. Paved areas** — Washing is prohibited except for immediate health and safety requirements.
- 3. Swimming pools** — Limit to filling and replenishing to maintain health and safety. All other uses are prohibited.
- 4. Vehicle washing** — Noncommercial washing is limited to one day per week using only hoses with automatic shut-off nozzles. Commercial vehicle-washing businesses are permitted to operate under normal conditions.
- 5. Established landscaping and gardens** — Watering is limited to three days per week by address. Addresses ending with an odd number may water only on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Addresses ending with an even number and locations with no street numbers may water only on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Watering is prohibited on Mondays. Watering with buckets of up to five gallons per day is permitted any time.
- 6. Vegetable Gardens** — Limit watering vegetable gardens to any two days per week between 8 p.m. and 10 a.m. Watering by bucket is unlimited.
- 7. New landscaping** — All watering is permitted for the first 10 days after planting. Thereafter, the restriction for established landscaping and gardens shall apply. Over seeding an existing lawn does not qualify as new landscaping.
- 8. Golf courses** — Watering is restricted to Tuesday through Sunday between 8 p.m. and 4 a.m. Greens are exempted from this restriction.
- 9. Businesses** — Limit to essential use only.
- 10. Restaurants** — No restrictions.
- 11. All other consumption** — Conservation by any means is encouraged.

To view the ordinance in its entirety or for answers to related questions, visit the county's Web site at chesterfield.gov or call the Chesterfield County Utilities Department at (804) 748-1291. Fines for violating the ordinance begin at \$100 and double each time a violation occurs until it reaches a maximum of \$1,600. Once this maximum is reached, all subsequent fines will be \$1,600.

Special Note: To maintain water quality, the Utilities Department periodically flushes hydrants throughout the county. This needs to be done for health and safety reasons, even during drought conditions, and should not be interpreted as wasting water.

Para asistencia en español, por favor llame a Juan Santacoloma, Enlace Hispano del Condado de Chesterfield Teléfono: 796-7085.