

Find out what your home is worth! Free quick over the 'Net evaluation. www.MyHomePriceOnLine4.com.

Fixer uppers - Bargains! These homes need work. Call recorded message for FREE property list. (800) 836-9740 ID#4718.

Courtesy of Remax Commonwealth Group

SERVICES

Companion, caregiver, aide – Elderly, Alzheimer's, dementia. Hospice trained. References provided. Kathy, 743-7285.

Everything electronic from computer and virus removal, networking and troubleshooting, and web design, all at an affordable price. Tech Mechanic, 836-5862, e-mail technician@techmechanic.biz. www.techmechanic.biz.

Mary's Pet Sitting – Walking, feeding, loving.

located in Chesterfield. I would be surprised if any other county of this size can or would want to duplicate those numbers.

I have been told the reason is that Chesterfield County has more school-age children, and that money spent on education and ball fields leaves none for the arts. Hardly a satisfactory excuse.

In 2004, so I have been told, a bond issue was passed allocating \$7.5 million for a cultural arts center to be built next to the Chester Library. However, there was a stipulation that another \$7.5 million was to be raised privately in order that a facility would be built in 2009 or 2010. I have talked to the woman in charge of Chesterfield Cultural Center for the Arts, and she admitted to me about three months ago that no funds have yet been raised.

It is my understanding that the disposition of Clover Hill High School, once it ceases to be a high school, has not yet been determined. That being the case, I am suggesting the facility be studied to see if it could become a cultural arts center similar to the one in Glen Allen [in Henrico County]. If not feasible, why not use the high schools as venues for performing arts? How about providing incentive to encourage a theatre (a la Barksdale) at the Hancock Village Shopping Center, currently under construction, or the Cloverleaf [Mall replacement]?

Howard A. Meyers
Midlothian

RMA serves entire region and not just Richmond

Dear Editor,

As is often the case, information can be used to portray whichever position one happens to support or oppose. In a recent letter [Jan. 9], the author recited much information that, unless one were to examine what lies under the surface, might lead anyone to the same conclusions regarding the composition of the RMA (Richmond Metropolitan Authority) board as the author. However, the facts of this matter do not support such a position.

The RMA was, as noted by the author, approved by the General Assembly in March 1966. This vote followed a two-year study by a committee appointed by the Richmond Planning Commission to explore the feasibility of an expressway system connecting Richmond

to be better skiers...but what we really want is for everyone to believe [the athletes] can do more than they think they can. If the attitude changes, then we become more inclusive as a society."

Jeffrey views Matt as an "amazing" example of overcoming obstacles.

Licensed/bonded/insured. House sitting. 908-6399.

Powerwashing – Houses, decks, etc. Free estimates. 337-5811.

Broker price opinions \$55 & up. Our forms or yours. Reports e-mailed in Word or PDF. High quality digital photos, interior/exterior BPOs. Call for list of zip codes serviced. Other services: we photograph realtor listings, legal typing services for law firms. Bankruptcy. Corporate. Estate plans. Personal injury. Real estate. 490-1872.

Timesaver Lawn Care – Leaf removal from lawn or curb, mulching. 986-0892.

K. Langford Plumbing – 276-4488.

Computer repairs cheap – 467-4310.

Yard work – Leaf and debris removal. Call today! 516-2542.

Gutter cleaning – Licensed, insured and professional. Call South River Services at 221-4559.

with the surrounding counties. This initial approval included funding of \$2.05 million in debt for operating funds and a \$20 million guarantee from Richmond.

When initially established, Richmond extended \$10 million in loans to RMA as a reserve fund required to issue the debt needed to construct the expressway system, which were subsequently repaid. The governing bodies of the other localities that make up the RMA board have not provided any financial assistance or subsidies to finance the construction or operation of the expressway system. However, in the early years of the expressway system, Richmond provided additional operating subsidies to RMA. These subsidies, as of the date of the 2007 legislation cited, have resulted in more than \$47 million in subordinated debt (principal and interest) of RMA to Richmond.

Yes, the citizens of Chesterfield County, including myself, have contributed to the tolls for the operation of the original expressway to Chippenham Parkway and the extended parkway to the Brandermill area. For the record, it should be noted that the extended portion of the expressway from Chippenham Parkway to Brandermill is owned and operated by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), not RMA.

At its inception, the tolls on the expressway were \$.20. The initial tolls on the Downtown Expressway to 7th Street were \$.15. Currently, the tolls on the expressway are \$.50 each. The Powhite Parkway to Cary Street opened in January 1973 and the Downtown Expressway to 7th Street in February 1976.

General economic indexes will show an increase in prices that result in a doubling of consumer prices every 10-12 years. Using 10 years as a guideline, the costs of using the expressways would be approximately \$2 each. The Downtown Expressway tolls, using this same formula, would be in the range of \$1.25 each. However, efficient operation of the expressway by RMA, including enhanced toll collection technology, has enabled RMA to keep toll increases to a minimum. If tolls increased at the rate of inflation, they would be a great deal higher than they are presently.

The position that the Diamond, Main Street Station and the expressway system are "income generators that benefit Richmond and not the surrounding areas" is dubious, at best. Much of the economic development activity west of Chippenham Parkway as far as Route

"If you want to have a genuinely moving experience, follow Matt Anecchini for a day," he said. "He wakes up in the morning and opens up his eyes, and he's blind and mentally disabled, and that's before he even gets out of his bed. He is a profile in courage."

Spectators are invited to attend the Alpine

Graphic design – Samuel Little Graphic Design is looking for clients who need layout and design of newsletters, catalogs, publications, annual reports and multi-page documents. Call 545-7503 or visit www.samuellittlegraphicdesign.com.

M. T. Hauling – Trash/debris removal. Free phone estimates. Call Mike, 536-1132.

FOR SALE

Himalayan Goji juice – Buy (at 30 percent discount) or sell. Judy, 897-1553.

LESSONS

Kindermusik – Music and movement classes for babies and toddlers. Starts Feb. 1. For information, call 639-3079.

288 can be attributable to the existence of the expressway and other facilities that attract commercial development to the greater Richmond area. VDOT would not have been able to extend the parkway from Chippenham to Brandermill had the expressway system created in 1966 not been present.

Furthermore, much of the discussion today about extending the Powhite Parkway from Brandermill to Route 360 near Grange Hall Elementary School would be a mere "pipe dream" were it not for the vision and willingness to invest in the economic future of the Richmond region by the General Assembly and the leadership of Richmond in 1966 and subsequent years.

In 2008, however, it is time for all players in the region to think outside of the box and address issues from a more regional mindset and not the limited, parochial position of the past. Restructuring the composition of the RMA board may be possible, but it should not take place in a vacuum, nor should it occur without protecting the financial interests of those responsible for its creation and success to date. The citizens and taxpayers of Richmond have carried the lion's share of the financial costs of the creation and operating costs of RMA. Additionally, Richmond owns the land under the expressway. This ownership interest must also be appropriately accounted for in any discussions regarding transportation and restructuring of the RMA board.

The players (local elected bodies) in the Richmond region should be encouraged to find ways to work cooperatively in the best interests of all citizens in this region rather than confine their thoughts to their own geographical boundaries. None of the jurisdictions exist in an isolated bubble all to themselves.

Like it or not, the success of all are linked, inextricably, to the success of the region as a collective entity.

Bob Herndon
Chesterfield

Letters to the editor can be e-mailed to 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 and click on "letters policy."

Skiing Championship events, which take place 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Jan. 28 and 9 a.m. to 1:30 on Jan. 29. People interested in volunteering at any of the Special Olympics Virginia events should visit www.specialolympicsva.org.

Look Up Archives Online

ChesterfieldObserver.com

Chesterfield Observer

www.ChesterfieldObserver.com
(804) 545-7500

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

P. O. Box 1616, Midlothian, VA 23113

Email: news@chesterfieldobserver.com

Published: weekly.

Circulation: 48,365; 39,064 copies mailed.

©2008 The Observer, Inc.

Advertising Display: (804) 545-7502

Classified Advertising: (804) 545-7506

Publisher & Editor: Greg Pearson

News Editor: Donna C. Gregory

Creative Director: Samuel Little

Graphic Designer: Shariq Torres

Advertising Director: Carol LaLiberte

Advertising Sales: Stephanie Doyle, Joanna Lupo and Tracy Williams

Classified Advertising: Anne Dalton

Accounting: James Grooms

Contributing Writers: Richard Foster, Marcy Horwitz

Katherine Houstoun, Betsy McElfresh, Elli Morris,

Susan Nienow, Sande Snead, Shariq Torres and Joan

Tupponce

Photographers: Lisa Billings, Ash Daniel, Page Dowdy,

Elli Morris

Circulation: Brent Armstrong

Pick up locations: McDonalds at 5925 Hopkins

Rd • Rite Aid Drug at 360 West Shopping

Center • 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 • 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. • 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 • Beef 'O' Brady's,

13606 Hull Street Road • Dunkin' Donuts,

4417 W. Hundred Rd. • C & F Bank at 4820

W. Hundred Rd. • Brock's Barbecue at Water

Tower Shopping Center • Pleasants Hardware at

Chesterfield Meadows Shopping Center • Lucy

Corr Village at 6800 Lucy Corr Blvd. • Tops China

at Chatanooga Plaza • Franchesca's Hair Salon at

6511 Woodlake Village Pkwy. • Haley Toyota at

8301 Midlothian Tpke. • Belle Kuisine at Stoney

Point Shopping Center • Ukrops at Bermuda

Square & 11361 Midlothian Tpke. & Stoney

Point Shopping Center • Kroger at Breckenridge

Shopping Center & Swift Creek Village • Food

Lion at Rt. 10/Beach Rd. • WalMart at Rt. 10/

Chalkley Rd. & Rt. 301