

Chickahominy Falls awarded Virginia's 2020 Community of the Year

Contributed Report
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ASHLAND -- What started five years ago at Cornerstone Homes with an idea, plenty of research, inspiration and good old-fashioned hard work, reached back around full circle to meet the highest aspiration.

The local homebuilder recently was awarded Virginia's Community of the Year at the Home Builders Association of Virginia's 2020 Housing Excellence Awards for its unique 55+ agri-community, Chickahominy Falls.

Roger Glover, Cornerstone Homes founder and owner, said he knows success doesn't grow overnight.

Through a thoughtful, 55+ persona driven approach, Glover has taken his 25 years of experience to perfect the lifestyle first formula that is getting the attention from both a local and national scale. From following the broad reaching national active adult trends to conducting market surveys for a finer, more local focus, Glover has found that the secret is going beyond typical home and community design. It happens when that focus shifts to creating unique and rewarding lifestyle experiences.

"The heart and soul of Chickahominy Falls lives in the experiences we have tried to create here," said Glover. "Of course it happens in the homes, but it also exists in the fields of Woodside Farms, at community gatherings in The Barn and at our Farm Stands where that original imagination and vision for Chickahominy Falls comes to life and will be extended and enhanced further as we complete our five-star clubhouse, exercise facilities, resort style

pool, wildflower meadows, and walking trails through those meadows and along the river."

The unique spirit of Chickahominy Falls' lifestyle forward design has attracted local support from the very beginning.

Working hand-in-hand in collaboration with the Hanover County Planning Commission, the Hanover County Board of Supervisors and one-on-one meetings with local residents back in 2015, two years later, a unanimous County project approval set the development of this one-of-a-kind agri-community into motion.

"This development is truly unique, a blend of healthy living combined with fabulous site amenities creates a one of a kind experience that all of us appreciate and are most proud of," said Sue

Dibble, South Anna District supervisor. "Chickahominy Falls clearly reflects Hanover County's vision to create a premier community for people and businesses to achieve their full potential and I am proud to work with Roger Glover and Cornerstone Homes to continue to grow this magnificent environment."

The current board of supervisors and the planning commission recently provided additional approvals that allow Woodside Farms, the 10-acre heart and soul of Chickahominy Falls, for hosting special, small to medium sized events. Every Saturday, The Farm Stand will continue to welcome other small local businesses and county residents to reap the benefits by heaps and mounds or by the share. Now the Red Barn, at Woodside Farms, also can serve as a hub for the health

and wellness gatherings for residents of Chickahominy Falls and as a public special events venue for the greater Richmond community.

"Cornerstone Homes takes amenity considerations to a new level with lifestyle innovations such as the agrifood development," said Danna Markland, chief executive officer of Home Building Association of Richmond. "This simple concept has an abundance of benefits, from health and nutrition to bringing the community together, which sets them apart."

Besides the working farm, The Barn and the community health and wellness events, Chickahominy Falls continues to add to its list of lifestyle-forward amenities.

The highly anticipated Farmhouse, the five-star community clubhouse will begin construction in early 2021,

totaling over 16,400 square feet of thoughtful indoor and outdoor recreation.

Inside "The Farmhouse", residents will enjoy a large club room, entertaining kitchen, billiards and meeting rooms, a fitness center with cardio and weight equipment and a classroom and yoga studio. Outdoors, an extensive network of outdoor patios and terraces overlook the pond and pool and will include a firepit and grill station.

Continued development of a scenic overlook will eventually become a new focal point at the pond, and more walking trails, wildflower meadows, pocket parks and bark parks are underway.

The Crescent Group, Cornerstone Homes' sister company and developer of Chickahominy Falls, also is in the early planning stages for a fishing pier at the pond and a

multi-court facility, including pickle ball, complete with an outdoor pavilion with a fire-place.

"We still have so much to look forward to at Chickahominy Falls," said Glover. "We recently introduced our new and innovative Tapestry Collection of homes that focus on providing special in-home living experiences, not just floor plans and room dimensions. Every day, we continue to welcome new folks to the community and we're always building up our repertoire of amenities that complete our vision."

Over 180 residents now call Chickahominy Falls home and will continue to welcome over 220 more over the coming years. As support for this experiential destination continues, so too does the atten-

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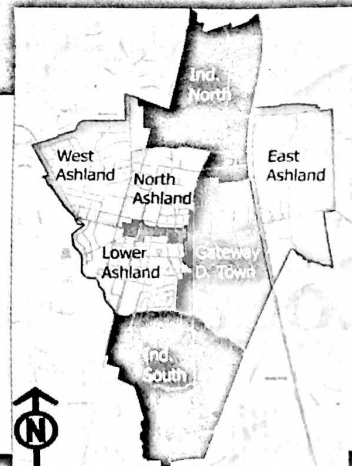
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COMMUNITY

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tion to detail to fulfilling the original vision for Chickahominy Falls. It is in this collaboration, belief and nurturing that goodness grows and Chickahominy Falls will continue to thrive.

Located in Hanover County, about 20 minutes from downtown Richmond, Chickahominy Falls is situated on 180 acres abutting Cedar Lane, Holly Hill Road, and the Chickahominy River. It is the first and only "Agri-Community" in the Greater Richmond area blending age-qualified residences, amenities, orchards and a working farm.

Over 73 of the community's 180 acres will be dedicated to com-

mon space for all to enjoy with an elaborate network of walking trails winding throughout the community connecting nature and neighbors, pocket gardens, open natural spaces with wild flower meadows and groves of mature trees, a large stocked neighborhood pond and the Chickahominy River.

Anchoring the recreation, health and wellness amenities will be "The Farmhouse," a clubhouse, fitness and wellness center, and resort style pool with scenic views overlooking the pond, and outdoor recreation and relaxing pavilions.

Chickahominy Falls has been recognized as Virginia's 2020 Community of The Year by the Home Builders Association of Virginia, voted in the top 100

planned communities by Ideal Living Magazine and as the "crown jewel" of Hanover County by the Richmond Tourism Bureau.

For more information about Chickahominy Falls, and to register for early information about future home releases, visit ChickahominyFalls.com.

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Old Courthouse open for tours

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HANOVER— "Hear Ye, Hear Ye ... the Hanover County Historical Society is pleased to announce that the Old Courthouse open for tours from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with Society Docents, and continue as originally scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month.

"Come prepared and observe the protocols for facial coverings (masks) and social distancing. ... and just in time for the upcoming holiday season. Pass the word, join us, and welcome back!! See you there!"

LETTERS

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not mean they have to approve the next one.

Control of development in Hanover is in the hands of our Board of Supervisors. Every time they say yes they could say no. No matter what else you hear.

Larnie C. Allgood Jr.
Mechanicsville

Wearing a mask isn't about you, but everyone

It is ridiculous that after 315,000+ deaths, over 3,000+ daily deaths, and over 240,000 new daily cases, we would still have people complaining about wearing a mask in public and social distancing. The most intelligent quote I have heard lately is "To protect others, protect your family, protect yourself, wear a mask".

This is not only about you. It also is about the people who have lost and about people who do not want to lose friends, relatives, their job, their business. And what about emergency workers, doctors and nurses? Have some respect for others.

After a year of death, destruction, failed business and loss of jobs, I cannot understand why anyone would still believe this is not serious. I fig-

ured when COVID-19 did not disappear on Nov. 4 as was the belief of some 74 million people, the reality of it being true may take over.

We all know that COVID-19 originated in China as per the excuse we keep hearing, and we all know the destruction at Pearl Harbor originated in Japan. The difference is that FDR listened to the experts, learned what to do, how to do it, and made it priority one to protect the American people.

Instead of acting like and doing what a president would do to get re-elected like using past accomplishments, Trump went the communist route and tried using his corruption skills to get help from Giuliani, Russia and the Ukraine to stop Biden from running for president. Three years wasted and

It backfired! His scheme failed and he got himself impeached. If at first you don't deceive, try, try again and that he did by downplaying COVID-19.

He failed at the polls for (among other reasons) ignoring the advice of CDC experts and risking the lives of millions of Americans (Republicans included) by convincing people that COVID-19 was a hoax. He said don't listen to the CDC and that it is your constitutional right to ignore local government and CDC guidelines that would have reduced the spread of COVID-19.

A similarity would be like the fire department spraying water into a building to extinguish a fire and another group spraying an accelerant into the building to keep it burning.

Trump again failed at overturning the election by failing to prove fraud or illegal activity. The conservative Supreme Court of the U.S. gave him a 9-0 defeat and a big embarrassment for the party.

Someone else acting this way would be considered armed and dangerous and probably shackled for the next 30 days or until the results of a mental evaluation is completed and made available.

Ted Mentz
Old Church

Thanksgiving Feast hosted without guidelines

In most school years, the last classes before Thanksgiving break are unequivocally loose and often feature a feast or party in some fashion. In a typical setting, this type of activity would be perfectly acceptable but school is not taking place in a typical setting this year: It is taking place in the midst of a global pandemic that is only getting worse.

It is in this current setting that a Mechanicsville High School teacher hosted a Thanksgiving Feast in their

class without any proper social distancing, further showing the flaws in Hanover County's current educational plan.

In a statement made by a senior who took part in the Thanksgiving feast, speaking on the basis of anonymity, "Recently at Mechanicsville High School, I had a teacher that decided to host a party involving food to celebrate the holidays. This would've been OK if this teacher had set limitations on food items and enforced [proper] social distancing, but this teacher did not set guidelines of social distancing or pre-packaged foods for this party."

It is almost unimaginable that this event occurred, considering the health challenges we still face, but it did. Even worse, this particular class was missing several students due to an active quarantine that was taking place in that very same class, as confirmed by further conversations with the senior. Despite the risks, the teacher still chose to host the party.

Even more concerning, according to the senior who took part in the feast, "This teacher did not ask for permission from the principal, stating that it would be easier to ask for forgiveness than permission."

The students were told this information directly by the teacher, which implies that the teacher understood their actions would not have been approved by administrators. It is

egregiously reckless to think that in the midst of a global pandemic, an educator was able to host an unsafe Thanksgiving Feast in a class, missing half of its students due to an active quarantine, putting their students in unnecessary danger.

What is even more shocking is that presumably the flimsy logic this was based on was that "they would rather ask for forgiveness than permission" or, in other words, they would rather put their students' health in danger than not have a party for Thanksgiving.

This Thanksgiving Feast is just another example of how the Hanover County Return To Learn Plan is weak. The plan itself lacks effective structure to cover these types of situations and what little structure it does have is often ignored.

Further examples of concern are the Return To Learn Plan has guidelines for staff to verbally screen students as they enter the building, which is entirely ignored.

The Return To Learn Plan has guidelines for bus seating, which is inconsistently managed and in some cases ignored.

The Return To Learn Plan says students may not share food, which in this instance only takes one negligent teacher to put the lives of multiple children in danger.

John Wade
Mechanicsville