# OF HALLSLEY MAGAZINE FOR THE RESIDENTS OF HALLSLEY APRIL 2018

Hello, Barkson Family! Carl, Lindsey, Carter, Myles, and Elliott

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Barkson family Picture courtesy of Lexi Hanrahan





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# *welcome* announcement

Nick Fessick Publishe

### New Hallsley Living Staff

We would like to welcome Erin Brandenburg and Jen Hermanson as our restaurant review organizers. In this role, both Erin and Jen will coordinate fun and exciting events for the residents at local eateries. *Hallsley Living* provides complimentary appetizers for the attendees. Everything we do with the community revolves around creating relationships. We hope you decide to come out to the events that Erin and Jen will be coordinating to have fun and get to know other Hallsley residents. Pamela is our new resident liaison and writer of The Style File. Pamela will be responsible for handing out new residents gift bags that are sponsored by the advertisers of Hallsley Living. In this effort, we plan on getting the new residents connected to you through the content articles and with the events. Additionally, The Style File will be informative and fun for the ladies.

Eri Brandenburg

#### **Erin Brandenbrg**

Erin is married to Jason and is a stay at-home mom of three beautiful girls, Ava, Olivia, and Ella. Originally from Wisconsin, she moved to Midlothian three years ago. The Brandenburgs love the Packers and Disney. Erin is an RN and is a small business entrepreneur with Rodan and Fields. She is passionate about her community, her family, and helping others.



The Hermansons moved from Seattle to Hallsley in January of 2017. Currently, Jen is a stay-at-home mom with 15-year-old twin daughters. Jen enjoys photography and cooking. She is very much looking forward to the opportunity of meeting new people in the community.

#### **Pamela Anderson**

Originally from Michigan, Pamela recently relocated with her husband and 10-year-old daughter to Midlothian, VA, after brief stints in Switzerland, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia. They are so happy to have landed in Hallsley and felt immediately welcomed by this wonderful community! Pamela has had a long-term interest in fashion







Pamela Anderson

and interior design that has positioned her as an informal adviser to her friends and acquaintances, helping them meet their style and budget needs. As an independent stylist, mentor, and member of the Style Council with Stella and Dot, she gets to share fashion tips and trends with women and help them feel more confident. She also enjoys partnering with organizations and foundations that impact our local community. In addition to volunteering at JB Watkins Elementary, Pamela is currently focused on getting settled into their new home. She is looking forward to meeting and getting to know the residents in Hallsley!



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athlete of the month

Logan Sowers is a 12-year-old cross-country long-distance runner. A few years ago, Logan began running in community races with his mom Kristen and realized how much he enjoyed running. He quickly joined the cross-country team at Midlothian Middle School.

Logan trains three to four times a week for long-distance races in Virginia. He may be seen running through Hallsley or the surrounding neighborhoods. Logan participated in all of his cross-country meets and many outside 5K, 8K, and 10K races during the year. Additionally, he has completed two half-marathons! Logan won the "Most Improved Runner" award his first year in cross country and recently won a plaque at the Hampton Half-Marathon for finishing first in his age group. For the past two years, Logan has been elected team captain of the Midlothian Middle Mustangs cross-country team.

Logan truly appreciates the coaching and guidance his mother provides him in this sport. Logan shares, "She teaches me, encourages me, pushes me to work hard, and talks me through rough patches. She also rewards me for long runs with a big breakfast! We are a good team, and we have only trained with each other, and we always cross the finish line together at every race." One of his favorite moments of running happened when he crossed the finish line hand in hand with his mom, and he heard his name announced over the speakers at the end of his first half-marathon! He received a lot of positive attention at that race for completing it at such a young age.

Running is hard work! Logan notes, "It takes a lot of patience, sacrifice, effort, and discipline. You need to be willing to take the time to train so that you improve. I have gained a great appreciation for running and what it takes to train." Logan feels a great sense of pride, joy, and accomplishment as he crosses each finish line. He shares, "It feels good to work hard and push yourself to







Contact Tiffany to have your student featured By Tiffany Moore at tiffany.moore@n2publishing.com LONG-DISTANCE RUNNER **LOGAN SOWERS** 

achieve your goal." For others interested in long-distance running, Logan encourages it's important to have a training program and a running partner and to educate yourself on the running process. And for those interested in cross-country, don't forget speed is important because time counts!





Meet the Barkson family!

**Hello, Barkson family:** Carl, Lindsey, Carter, Myles, and Elliott have called Old Castle Road home for the last five months. An opportunity for Carl to join the tax department at Genworth Financial relocated the family to the Richmond area from Columbus, Ohio. Lindsey worked as an orthopedic nurse practitioner but currently spends her days caring for and playing with their three boys: five-year-old Carter, three-year-old Myles, and oneyear-old Elliott.



This active family can often be found experiencing indoor or outdoor fun. The "Barkson Boys" love to tumble and swim! Carter, Myles, and Elliott all take gymnastics at VIGS. American Family Fitness also keeps them active and provides the opportunity to swim. A pop-up family camper allows for exciting weekend camping adventures spent hiking and exploring. When Richmond-bound, Carl, Lindsey, and the boys enjoy days spent exploring the Richmond Zoo, playing at the children's museum, or jumping at Monkey Joe's. A rousing game of putt-putt or bowling rounds out the family's list of favorites.

The "Barkson Boys" are becoming regular little chefs, as this family enjoys cooking together. They are very proficient at measuring, stirring, chopping, and peeling. Carl and the kids often make their specialty of chocolate chip pancakes on the weekends. Lindsey discovered her love of cooking and baking from her mother. Some of her favorite meals to prepare include salmon, mustard-crusted pork, and roast lamb. However, every fall, the family will fry a turkey to celebrate a family tradition and the Ohio State Buckeyes! This made-up holiday provides a yearly opportunity to connect with out-of-town family without the added stress that may surround Thanksgiving and Christmas travel. And really, what's not to love about a holiday centered on college football, beer, and family celebrated during Virginia's beautiful fall weather?

When it comes to vacations, the Barkson family are true beach lovers! Every August, they meet Carl's extended family at their oceanfront home in Maine. Lindsey shares, "It's a beau-





tiful place filled with family, food, and lots of outdoor fun including hiking, canoeing, swimming, rock skipping, and relaxing." They also spend time each summer with Lindsey's side of the family at the beaches in Topsail Island. This summer, Carl and Lindsey are looking forward to exploring some near-by exciting places. Busch Gardens, Virginia Beach, Williamsburg, the Outer Banks, and Annapolis top the list. The Barksons are happy to be a part of Hallsley and are looking forward to experiencing all the places, people, and adventures in the surrounding areas!



Have your family featured by contacting Tiffany at tiffany.moore@ n2publishing.com

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Brent and Madilyn Miller





Send your photos into Tiffany for any community events at tiffany.moore@n2publishing.com





Looking for a fun, family-friendly way to get out and enjoy the upcoming warm weather? Try geocaching ("jee-oh-cash-ing"), the fast-growing sport that is similar to a modern-day pirate treasure hunt. Instead of using a worn map marked with an X, you use a GPS receiver (iPhone, mobile device), a set of coordinates, and clues. And instead of hunting for a buried treasure chest, you're looking for a "cache" of goodies hidden above ground. There are more than three million geocaches hidden all around the world in parks, shopping center parking lots, trails, neighborhoods, etc. Want to get started? Simply download a free Geocaching account and create a code name/username for your family.

Geocaches come in different sizes, shapes, and difficulties. A typical cache is usually a small waterproof container containing a logbook and sometimes a pen or pencil. Once you find the cache, your family signs the log with their established code name and dates it, in order to prove that you found the cache. After signing the log, always make sure your family puts the cache back exactly where the person found it. Remember to resist the temptation to find a better or more complicated hiding spot. Larger containers, such as plastic storage containers (Tupperware or similar) or ammunition boxes, can also contain fun items for trading, such as toys or trinkets, usually of more sentimental worth than financial. So, you might want to make sure you take along a few small, fun things to "trade" ... remember always leave a cache better than you found it. Occasionally, you might be lucky enough to find a "travel bug." Travel bugs are different than trade items. Sometimes called "hitchhikers," these are often intended to travel the world. They are okay to take as long as you promise to put it in another geocache. Be sure to log the travel bug number online, so its owner can trace its travels.

One other tip for "caching," especially in more populated areas, is to try to not draw attention to yourself and possibly expose the hiding spot of the cache to others who aren't geocaching. These people are referred to as Muggles. Yes, the term was taken from the Harry *Potter* series, as Muggles do not possess any magical powers.

You don't even have to venture very far to enjoy caching, as surprisingly there are quite a few cool caches right here in our very own backyard of Hallsley. Download the app and hop on the paths and start searching. Just remember to always return the cache to its original spot for the fun to continue for others after you.

kids 2 kids By Jacey Imbriaco

# GEOCACHING **ADVENTURE**





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### **CABIN CREEK** INTERIORS

Cabin Creek Interiors is a full-service interior design company offering kitchen and bath design, furniture, art, rugs, accessories, and patio furniture. Cabin Creek Interiors strives to deliver smart, effective design to anyone on any budget by working with numerous designer brands. Owner and designer Michael Maszaros shares, "Over the years, I've worked diligently with vendors and workrooms to put together plans for window treatments, upholstery, and bedding at massive savings, less than



ready-made furnishings. The end result is your home reflects a style that is uniquely yours!"

Michael grew up in the country surrounding the far west end with creative parents. His mother designed jewelry and knitwear, while his father designed furniture. During college at the University of Virginia, Michael initially pursued a career in medicine but soon realized it did not make him happy. He found his creative roots were calling him home, and he began to focus on design, originally in menswear and then interiors. Following a nine-year stint as the lead designer for a large soft furnishing company, the opportunity for Michael to own his own design firm presented itself. After buying Cabin Creek Interiors, he expanded the store's services from just windows and upholstery to the full-service interior design firm it is today. Michael shares, "Since then, I've been able to create beautiful spaces and work with some of the most amazing people, whether clients, vendors, or colleagues."

Passion for great design sets Cabin Creek Interiors apart from other typical design firms. Michael is passionate about interiors and about his clients. The Cabin Creek





Ali, Michael, and Gina

Interiors design team is passionate about delivering on their goals to ensure amazing results for every client with whom they work. Additionally, the tremendous selection of interior design options available at Cabin Creek Interiors sets them apart from competing firms in the area. With over 100 vendors for furniture, accessories, art, rugs, fabrics, wall-coverings, and more, what Cabin Creek Interiors can offer clients is unparalleled. Some may find the studio stocked with over 50,000 fabrics and wallpapers a bit overwhelming, but the designers at Cabin Creek Interiors are available to guide each client to that perfect solution.

Cabin Creek Interiors is proud to offer Hallsley residents some words of wisdom regarding their expertise in interior design:





- 1. Trust the professionals! With an overabundance of free advice and DIY information saturating the market, professional help is the only way to cut through the clutter and stay on the path to good design. Designers have access to thousands of more options than you will see online or in stores, and a professional knows how to curate that selection specifically for you.
- 2.Don't fall for the catalog hype! The best solutions for your home are created just for you and not for everyone. Unique pieces and combinations of furnishings and fabrics reflect you and your family, not someone from a photo shoot.

#### 3. The highest quality furnishings are never ready-made!

A designer is essential for putting together custom pieces and knowing where to splurge and where to save on furnishings to result in a one-of-a-kind look with minimal investment but maximum value.

Cabin Creek Interiors and Michael Maszaros are eager to meet all your interior design needs. Their design motto is "If it fits between four walls and a patio, we can handle it!" Hallsley residents can expect exceptional full-service interior design services, including kitchen and bath, furniture, art, rugs, patio furniture, and accessories from Cabin Creek Interiors. Please allow Cabin Creek Interiors to handle all your home design needs!









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living spaces

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#### Newborn and Milestone Photography in Hallsley

Family member names: Elise, John, and Nora Welker Street address: 16400 Binley Road How long have you lived there? One-and-one-half years

#### What is unique about the house?

It is also "home" to Elise's studio for newborn portraits and "baby's first year" milestone sessions. The space is flooded with natural light but also features top-of-the-line professional studio lighting. It is a cozy studio filled with knits, quilts, delicate wool hats and headbands, wood and wool textures, vintage touches, pastels, and neutrals. Parents typically bring their newborns for posed portraits within the first two weeks after birth and older babies for sessions at three, six, and 12 months of age.

#### Favorite decor inspiration?

Elise sources props from local antique stores and custom newborn shops as far away as Australia. Her mother knits hats in custom colors for nearly every session, and Elise learned to finger knit to create blanket layers. She loves using the same natural wool flokati rugs that are popular in home decor to create texture in her images.

# A Home Studio













#### What inspired you to create the studio?

While Elise Welker Photography also offers in-home newborn lifestyle and outdoor family sessions, Elise loves how studio newborn/baby photography allows her to combine photography with her appreciation for textiles, antiques, and vintage decor. The studio space is really a celebration of all of those things.



Learn more at www.elisewelker.com



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**Tiffany Moore** 

A Special Evening for Fathers and Daughters at J.B. Watkins Elementary



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Madeline, Caroline, and Wes Dunn

The PTA at J.B. Watkins Elementary sponsored a magical night for fathers and daughters at the First Annual Sweetheart Dance on Friday, February 9, from 7 to 9 p.m. Dads and daughters dressed in all their finery spent a special evening of dancing and togetherness while making precious memories! These are just a few of the handsome dads and beautiful daughters who shared their pictures of this fun night with Hallsley Living.





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### **FIVE WAYS** the New Tax Law May Impact You

The most sweeping tax reform legislation in decades was enacted into law at the end of 2017. If you pay federal income taxes, you are likely to see an impact this year. As you plan your 2018 tax strategy, here are five key changes to know about the tax reform law:

#### 1. Tax rates and brackets have changed

Federal income tax rates progressively increase as your income rises. These are known as tax brackets. The new tax code reduces most of the ordinary tax rates and adjusts the tax brackets, applicable from 2018 to 2025. However, the number of brackets for individual tax filers and married couples filing jointly remains at seven. For instance, in 2018, the first \$19,050 of taxable income for a married couple filing a joint return is subject to a 10-percent federal income tax. For income the couple earns between \$19,050 and \$77,400, the ordinary tax rate for 2018 is 12 percent, lower than the 15 percent seen under the previous law. The highest ordinary income tax rate, which was previously 39.6 percent, was reduced to 37 percent and starts at \$600,000 of taxable income for couples who file jointly. Visit IRS.gov to see the full list of tax rates and brackets.

#### 2. Standard deduction is nearly doubled

When you prepare your tax return, you have a choice of either a standard deduction or itemizing deductions such as mortgage in-

terest, charitable gifts, or state, local, and property taxes. Under the new law, more people will use the standard deduction. (Itemized deductions are changing as well – see item number three.) The standard deduction stood at \$6,350 for a single taxpayer and \$12,700 for a married couple filing a joint return in 2017. Under the new law, the standard deduction has increased to \$12,000 for a single taxpayer and \$24,000 for a married couple filing a joint return. These changes are effective from 2018 through 2025, unless Congress acts to extend them.

#### 3. Changes in itemized deductions

For those who itemize deductions in 2018 (and through 2025), there are some significant changes, even considering the increased standard deduction. Among the most notable:

- The deduction for state and local taxes, including property taxes, is generally limited to a maximum of \$10,000 per year. Under previous law, no maximum limit applied.
- The ability to deduct interest on home mortgage remains, but the \$1,000,000 debt limit under the previous law is generally reduced to a \$750,000 debt limit for home mortgages created after December 15, 2017. Also, deductions on interest paid on home equity loans (whether new or existing loans) is no longer allowed. This may make home equity loans less attractive as a borrowing option.
- Miscellaneous itemized deductions, such as investment expenses and tax preparation fees, are no longer allowed.



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Richard LaRose, CRPC<sup>\*</sup>, CLTC Private Wealth Advisor, Managing Partner

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#### 4. Personal exemptions are suspended, and child tax credit is increased

Under long-standing tax law prior to the new legislation, individuals could also claim personal exemptions for themselves and their dependents when filing their tax return. That exempted a portion of income from taxes. In 2017, the personal exemption was \$4,050 per person. Under the new law, effective in 2018 through 2025, the personal exemptions no longer apply.

If you have children, you may qualify to claim a \$2,000 tax credit per qualifying child beginning in 2018 (and through 2025), double what was allowed in prior law. That is a dollar-for-dollar reduction of the taxes owed. It's expected that more people will be able to take the credits because income limitations have been raised. Another credit of \$500 is now allowed for dependents you may claim who are not qualifying children.

#### 5. Expanded use of 529 plans

To this point, 529 plans have provided a tax-advantaged way to save money for qualified higher education expenses, such as tuition, room and board,

and fees. The new law allows you to withdraw up to \$10,000 tax-free per year per child from a 529 plan to help cover the K-12 tuition at a public, private, or religious school.

These are only some of the changes that may affect individual taxpayers. Consult with your tax advisor to understand how the new legislation may affect your circumstances. Keep in mind that many of the tax provisions have an expiration date, unless Congress acts to extend them.

Richard LaRose CPRC® CLTC is a financial advisor and private wealth advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. in Midlothian, Virginia. He specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for 16 years. Contact Info: 804-419-2502 / 14350 Sommerville Court Midlothian, Virginia 23113 / richard.l.larose@ampf.com. Ameriprise Financial, Inc. and its affiliates do not offer tax or legal advice. Consumers should consult with their tax advisor or attorney regarding their specific situation. Investment advisory products and services are made available through Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., a registered investment adviser. Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA and SIPC.

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In my family, I have a twin sister named Julia, a mom named Jennifer, and a dad named Norbert. I have two cats and one dog. One of my cat's name is Mooie, and the other is Pumpkin. My dog's name is Freddy. I will be writing about my cat, Mooie, who is an American short hair.

I got Mooie at the ASPCA in Seattle, where I used to live, because we were looking for another cat to add to our family. Our last cat had died a little while back because of an unfortunate accident. I named him Mooie because when I first laid eyes on him, I instantly thought of a cow because he's black and white. He was behind this cage meowing at me to give him attention. Right then and there, I knew he was the one. Our original plan was to go in there and come home with one cat, but my sister and I couldn't decide between two cats. I just knew if I left him there I would regret it. Mooie was already left behind by a family who had to move, and my heart couldn't give him up. So, my mom made a family decision to adopt both cats.

Something unusual about my cat is that he likes to sit on things. Name anything and he's probably sat on it ... notebooks, backpacks, and bags. He doesn't sit anywhere normal. Also, another thing unusual about Mooie is that he's scared of everything, like noises, movement, and people. He always runs and hides when I have guests over, and if he is out, he doesn't let anyone pet him. So, I'm pretty much the only one he lets touch him and be around him.

My favorite thing about Mooie is that he's always down to cuddle. If I'm lying in bed, he's always there right next to me. When I go to sleep and when I wake up, Mooie is there to greet me.



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precious pets By Emma Hermanson





student life By Katie Krasner







# Introducing Girl Scout Meador



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Tenth-grader Megan Meador has been an active Girl Scout member for the past eight years. She joined her first troop as a Brownie with her friend when she was in second grade. Current ly, she is at the senior level of Girl Scouts. Her meetings are held at St. Augustine Church.

Since joining, Megan made the accomplishment of selling more than 1,000 boxes this year of those notoriously delicious Girl Scout cookies! The ability to connect and communicate with each customer has been one of the keys to her selling success. It was a lot of work, but it certainly paid off because she has her name engraved on a brick on Cookie Lane. Cookie Lane is located at Pamunkey Girl Scout camp where girls who managed to sell over 1,000 boxes are recognized for working so hard. Aside from selling tons of cookies, Megan has made many friends with whom she will share lifelong memories!

Megan shares that her parents are always motivating her to work hard and have taught her the importance of education and respect. In the future, Megan hopes to become a member of the highest level of Girl Scouts, an Ambassador. After that, she said she wants to start a career working with children where she can apply the leadership skills she learned through Girl Scouts.



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#### making a difference

By Angie Lovero and Tiffany Moore

### Mercy Mall and Hallsley's Call to Help

#### **Mercy Mall Mission Statement:**

To serve the hungry, the homeless, and the hurting by filling practical needs, providing resources, and building relationships.



Hallsley Living is excited to introduce Mercy Mall – a heartwarming community action ministry helping people and families in need here in Chesterfield County and beyond. Many people often associate Mercy Mall with a "free Goodwill," but it is so much more! Mercy Mall exists to provide hope, love, encouragement, support, and resources when many families are at their lowest point. They believe in providing a hand-up, not a handout, while inspiring the next generation through service opportunities and ministering to volunteer families. God has something personal for each person at Mercy Mall.

Mercy Mall is a free clothing and housewares boutique where individuals and families are able to "shop" for free for items they need for their family. The majority of clients cared for by Mercy Mall are considered to be "in crisis" in their need for clothing and housewares. These in-crisis families are typically fleeing from domestic violence situations, escaping human trafficking, or exiting homelessness, without any of the basic necessities to fill a new home. Some families, due to job loss or underemployment, do not have the extra funds to replace clothes and housewares as they are outgrown or in need of new items. Mercy Mall also supports many young, new mothers and pregnant women in obtaining much-needed baby gear.

The idea of a *free* boutique was born in the heart of Arkansas pastor Shannon O'Dell and his wife, Cindy, shortly after watching the movie, Blind Side. One of their children came home from school and wanted to cut the toes out of their shoes because they thought it was a trend. However, it was the only way that a classmate could participate in P.E. "Why not *free*?" asked Shannon.



Jeff and Stacey Jones brought the Mercy Mall to Virginia, with blessings from their pastor, after relocating to the area for work. It was not their intention, but God had other plans! After reading an article in the *Chesterfield Observer* about how the recession had affected families in the area who had "cherry wood cabinets with no food inside," the Jones family knew there were needs in the area that needed to be met.

Mercy Mall quickly grew from a table and a rolling cart at Alberta Smith Elementary to a 10,000-square-foot facility at the Chesterfield Airport in less than five years, serving an average of 200 families a month. Stacey Jones, executive director at Mercy Mall, shares, "We may appear big, but we still only have one part-time employee and feel very much like a 'mom and pop' ministry. We do not celebrate our growth like some companies do because it just demonstrates the extensive needs of our own community. We wish the community didn't need us, and maybe one day it won't, but until that day comes, we will continue to serve our community with the love of Jesus!"

Mercy Mall is more than a store. It is a free shopping experience serving approximately 50 families each week. Clients are seen as individuals and are paired with a volunteer personal shopping assistant. The shopping experience is a time for the volunteer to get to know the client--their needs and their story--and also to share the volunteer's own story as an encouragement. Shopping list items may include clothing, shoes, housewares, baby items, food, and toiletries. At the end of a client's shopping experience, volunteers pray with them if desired. Assistance in finding supportive resources like mental health care and food or furniture support may be provided. Individuals and families in crisis need a lot of things, but Mercy Mall also knows they need the love of Jesus, and it's their desire to share that love by finding them things, treating them with love, respect, and dignity, and just getting to know them during their visit and praying with them.







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A few Hallsley residents, like Amy Jordan, have already discovered the powerful impact volunteering at Mercy Mall has both for those in need as well for themselves personally. It is a strong reminder to be thankful for the blessings one has in their life and an important reminder that everyone is called to show kindness to others. Mercy Mall has numerous opportunities for Hallsley residents to get involved through:

Shopping with clients, receiving donations, restocking the boutique floor, cleaning, front desk, and sorting donations

Filling and delivering suitcases for Cases of Hope Ministry, where filled suitcases are delivered to women as they are leaving the Central Virginia Correctional Unit for Women on Courthouse Road in Richmond. Mercy Mall likes to provide highlighted Bibles and encouraging notes for these women, which is another rewarding task individuals can do at home. Teens can earn community service hours for school or other organizations. Opportunities for people to donate gently used and/or new clothes, coats, shoes, housewares, and baby items.

Donation of current high demand items: high chairs, pack-n-plays, car seats, swings, saucers, diapers, wipes, peanut butter, pasta, canned foods (meat/fruit), laundry detergent, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, clothing sized XL and above (2X-5X), men and women clothes, coats, teen size/style clothing, and children's clothes

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Mercy Mall is financially supported by individuals and businesses. This keeps the building rented, heated, and lighted! Additionally, they love to be able to purchase specific items for clients, such as new mattresses or men's 6X clothing, as those unique needs arise. Tickets are on sale now at www. mercymallva.org for Mercy Mall's annual fundraising celebration, the Mercy Mall United Event, held on Friday, April 27, at The Chapel - South (3505 Old Hundred Rd.) in Midlothian. Doors open at 5:30 for an evening of entertainment, dinner, gift basket raffles, and the opportunity to hear stories about how Mercy Mall impacts the community. Corporate sponsorships with various levels of promotional opportunities are available. Mercy Mall is attempting to raise \$50,000 to meet the projected operating budget. Please consider joining Mercy Mall at this enjoyable and worthwhile fundraising endeavor.

Everyone knows that there are people going through hard times, mental illness, domestic violence, human trafficking, job loss, and homelessness. At times, one may feel powerless to



help, but Mercy Mall provides a practical and safe way to respond to these emergencies in a way that empowers the individual in need, encourages them to keep going or start over in some instances, and helps them see that they aren't forgotten in this life. The message that people do care about them is eloquently delivered. Mercy Mall realizes it can't help everyone, but with the partnership of Hallsley residents, they can continue to touch the lives of those God sends their way for a moment, making it a little better, a little brighter, and with more

hope! Please join Mercy Mall at their Mercy Mall United Event at the end of the month, and feel free to contact Stacey Jones, Misi Rose, or Angie Lovero through one of the venues listed below to discover how you can help.

#### Mercv Mall

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resident recipe By Dana Miller

# EASY Strawberry Shortcake

This easy strawberry shortcake is sure to be a family-pleaser this spring! Make sure to check out the "cook's tip" at the bottom of the recipe.



Send any yummy recipes to Dana to have them it featured at danacmiller@yahoo.com





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#### EASY STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE Ingredients

2 lbs. fresh strawberries, stems removed 1/2 cup, plus 1 tbsp. sugar, divided 1 tbsp. cornstarch 1/2 lemon 2 cups self-rising flour (see cook's tip) 11/2 cups heavy whipping cream 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon



Preheat the oven to 400°F. Place the strawberries, ½ cup of the sugar, cornstarch, and lemon juiced with a citrus press into the Rockcrok® Everyday Pan. Bring to a simmer over medium heat. Simmer for 10 minutes to reduce, using a mix 'n chop to mash the strawberries.

Combine the flour and cream in a large mixing bowl and mix until just combined. Use a large scoop to add the biscuit dough to the pan with the strawberry mixture.

Combine the remaining sugar and cinnamon. Sprinkle the mixture over the biscuits. Bake, uncovered, for 20 minutes, or until the biscuits are lightly browned.Remove the pan from the oven and let it stand for at least five minutes before serving.

#### Yield: 8 servings

U.S. nutrients per serving: Calories 350, Total Fat 17 g, Saturated Fat 10 g, Cholesterol 60 mg, Sodium 420 mg, Carbohydrate 47 g, Fiber 3 g, Sugars 18 g, Protein 5 g

**Cook's Tips:** Biscuits are usually made with flour, baking powder, butter, and milk. The biscuits in our recipe only have two ingredients. It works because the high-fat content in heavy cream takes the place of butter and creates a light and fluffy biscuit. You can substitute self-rising flour with 2 cups of all-purpose flour, 1 tbsp. of baking powder, and ½ tsp. salt.

Dana Miller

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#### Hallsley Car Talk with the Hallsley Hopper By Tiffany Moore

Hallsley offers the Hallsley Hopper, a Mercedes-Benz limousine van operated by James Limousine Service, for personal use in the Richmond metro area. The Hopper can seat 14 and is available to rent for any number of exciting events, such as ladies' nights, group dates, theater outings, or a night of dinner and dancing. Hallsley residents booking the Hopper for a dining experience can participate in the Hopper discount program. Many local restaurants have partnered with Hallsley to offer special savings to Hallsley Hopper users. Some restaurants include Crab Louie's, Latitude Seafood, Palermo, The Boathouse Restaurants, and The Tobacco Company. Check out all the details and specials at www.hallsley.com under "amenities."

~ The Hallsley Hopper

Each month, DetailXPerts owner David Barlow will graciously gift a complimentary car detailing valued up to \$250 to one lucky Hallsley resident. DetailXPerts, the proud sponsor of *Hallsley Car Talk*, is an eco-friendly detailing spa for cars, boats, RVs, and other vehicles. This mobile auto detailing service travels to your home or office to provide exceptional vehicle detailing services using the power of steam. Fleet washing for trucks and business vehicles is also offered. David knows you will love the ease of scheduling and the quality of their work. All you have to do is be the first resident each month to share with *Hallsley Living* some "car talk" focused on your car and a few pictures of you and your vehicle.

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# ROLL OUT THE SOD!

#### Tips For Establishing A Sod Lawn Lisa Donovan of Lawn Doctor

I can't tell you the number of folks I've met over the years who were completely disappointed by their sod lawn full of bare spots and weeds after only a couple of years from installation. Sod provides an instantly thick, green, weed-free lawn. However, sod is not artificial turf. Artificial turf is made from nylon and made to look like grass. Sod is a section of grass-covered surface soil held together by matted roots and laid over bare soil. Sod is grown at sod farms with ideal amounts of sunlight, water, and nutrients and then cut up and re-installed in often challenging conditions.

Here are some basic tips for getting your sod lawn established and keeping it looking good for years to come. Get your soil tested to determine the pH level and whether soil will need amending. Improve compacted soil, often found in abundance in the Chesterfield County area, by core aerating the soil each spring before the growing season. This will improve the movement of water, air, and nutrients to the roots and strengthen your sod. Provide regular feeding and weed control treatments to keep weed seed from sprouting and choking out your sod. Follow a consistent watering schedule when hot and dry, alternating days to promote strong healthy roots. Cut grass tall and allow the clippings to fall -- shading and cooling the roots while supplying nutrients and promoting micro-organism activity to improve the health of the soil. Follow these tips and your sod lawn can go from a disappointment to a candidate for Yard of the Month.







~ Chic Boutique

#### A Unique Boutique **Shopping Experience**

#### business beat By Tiffany Moore

Hallsley resident Betsy Campbell owns and operates Chic Boutique, specializing in ladies' fashions and boutique apparel. In February, Betsy embarked on an exciting next step in her business venture, as Chic Boutique opened doors to its first brick and mortar location as part of The Shops at 5807 on Patterson Avenue in Richmond.

Chic Boutique is a ladies' boutique carrying quality hand-selected fashions. Shoppers will experience snappy casual tops, tunics, dresses, and designer leggings in all sizes from small to curvy. Shoppers will discover more than a unique shopping experience at this boutique. Chic Boutique is a business with a heart to support the community and other charitable events through interactive fundraising opportunities.

Chic Boutique pledges to gift a percentage of *regular* priced sales yearly to several charitable organizations, one being We Honor Vets, an initiative between hospice and Veteran Affairs. The local chapter of Ronald McDonald House and Virginia Public Safety are two additional programs profits will help support. Betsy shares, "Honoring veterans is special to me because my father, uncle, both grandfathers, and my husband served our country. Additionally, my grandmother, Cassie Piedmont, was a major role model and inspiration for my charitable giving. She was born in 1914, lived through the Depression, and went to college to become a secretary. She took care of three boys, while my grandfather fought in WWII and outlived him by over 30 years. She was a stable figure within her church and community, always maintaining a fun-positive spirit. She didn't retire from working in hospice until she was 91 years old. I only hope I can come close to being half of the amazing person she was."

Chic Boutique is the realization of Betsy's dream to one day own her own business. She has always wanted her business to be something she enjoys, to positively contribute to the community, and to have the option to get out and meet people in the community on a one-to-one basis. As a mom with young children and with a husband who travels regularly for work, Betsy was searching for a business that was both flexible and rewarding. She married both with the creation of Chic Boutique. As a bonus, owning a boutique fashion store allowed her to establish a personally fabulous four-season wardrobe after returning to Virginia from Florida!

Outside of Chic Boutique, Betsy can be found being mom to nine-year-old Landon and six-year-old Colin and wife to Latane, a former officer in the Air Force and current captain with American Airlines. Betsy shares she is often happiest when she has spare time to dig in the dirt of her yard! As



the weather warms, she is hopeful to have an English flower garden in her Hallslev backvard.

Betsy is so proud of her hard work and how far Chic Boutique has come this first year of business, starting with that initial terrifying yet moving first sale. Repeat customers and the ability to give back to the community warm her heart like no other. Mention this article when you visit and receive a 20% discount. Betsy Campbell is eager to share the quality hand-selected fashions and unique gifts with her Hallsley friends and neighbors!

#### Chic Boutique located at The Shops at 5807

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David Daniels-General Manager



• In one sentence: The main feature of sensory deprivation is to exclude the effects of both light and sound on the brain and body in a state of gravity free Floatation.

• In more detail: Floatation therapy is a powerful stress relief and wellness tool, offering a multitude of physical and mental benefits. During a floatation session, the client rests within a sensory-controlled environment, floating on the surface of a super-saturated salt water solution. This experience is deeply relaxing and rejuvenating for the body and mind. It reduces harmful stress hormones, alleviates pain and tension, and stimulates the release of beneficial endorphins within the brain



I couldn't be more pleased with these shutters! The sales rep was wonderful to deal with, the installation scheduling was professional & the install was perfect. I highly recommend this company. I love the shutters and had an overall great experience.

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#### **RESIDENT BUSINESS GUIDE**

The "Resident Business Guide" is a list of the business owners who live in Hallsley. To have your business listed at no charge, simply email the publisher at nicholas.fessick@n2pub.com or call Nick at 804-840-5836. We look forward to hearing from you.

**CUSTOM HOME BUILDER Biringer Builders** John Waters (804) 897-8343

INSURANCE Sumser Insurance Todd Sumser (804) 423-8372

LIGHTING

Shades of Light

Bryan Johnson

(804) 304-2668

Homesmith Patrick Harris (804) 516-6413

**EVENT PLANNING Events By reDesign** Sheryl Saunders (804) 614-6561

**MEDICAL SERVICES** Housecalls-RVA Michael Fogel (804) 998-3390

SF Medical Consulting

Nicole Fogel

(804) 998-3390

MORTGAGE

**FAMILY DENTIST Swift Creek Dental Center** Jeffrey Koelmel (804) 739-7391 swiftcreekdental.com

**FAMILY DENTISTRY Penterson & Booth** Lynn & Stephen Booth (804) 739-1600

**FINANCIAL PLANNING Ameriprise Financial** Rich LaRose (804) 410-2502 richard.l.larose@ampf.com Alcova Mortgage **Ryan Charles** (804) 543-2009 **OUTDOOR LIGHTING** 

**Outdoor Lighting** Perspectives Rick Popio (804) 874-9985

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**REAL ESTATE Charlie Bickel Real Estate** Charlie Bickel (804) 647-7706

**Keller Williams** Carolyn Longmire (804) 858-9000

**Pembelton Realty Inc.** Elizabeth Muh (804) 561-2790

The Ryan Sanford Team Ryan Sanford (804) 218-3409 www.ryantherealtor.net

REMODELING **RVA Restoration** Jeremy Ford (804) 543-7108

## Real Estate RESOURCE



Featured properties may not have been listed by the office/agent presenting this brochure. All information pulled from CVRMLS and has been verified but not guaranteed.

Address	List Price	Sale Price	DOM	<b>Beds</b>	Baths	SqFt	New/Resale
16101 Old Castle Rd.	\$531,500			4	3.1	3,400	New Construction
16700 Tulip Hill Ct.	\$555,560			4	3.1	3,100	New Construction
16418 Binley Rd.	\$564,950			5	4	3,384	New Construction
2125 Colwyn Bay Drive	\$694,950			6	4	4,500	New Construction
1425 Baltrey Lane	\$529,900	\$515,000	195	4	3.1	3,140	Resale
1319 Ascot Hill Terrace	\$532,251	\$529,236	14	5	3.1	3,394	New Construction
1812 Allsdell Turn	\$599,000	\$565,000	143	4	3.1	3,986	Resale
16106 Allsdell Rd.	\$592,000	\$575,000	35	4	3.1	3,634	Resale
2400 Mitchells Mill Drive	\$653,389	\$687,956	2	4	3.1	3,200	New Construction
1924 Limbeck Lane	\$659,000	\$689,000	404	4	3.1	3,350	New Construction
1301 Baltrey Lane	\$825,000	\$790,000	128	4	4.1	5,100	Resale
2319 Mitchells Mill Dr	\$699,900	\$791,742	20	5	4.1	4,920	New Construction
16137 Binley Rd.	\$799,723	\$799,723		5	3.1	3,561	New Construction
1900 Muswell Court	\$869,900	\$860,000	196	5	5	5,200	New Construction

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Service
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# Did you know?

When real estate transactions fall apart, it's usually during the home inspection phase. Emotions run high for buyers and sellers during negotiations.

If you are thinking of selling, consider having a pre-home inspection prior to listing. Buyers will feel more secure that you have maintained your home and the negotiation should go much smoother.

If you need home inspector recommendations, give me a call.



Carolyn Longmire – *Realtor, SRES, ABR* carolyn.longmire@kw.com/ www.carolynRVAHomes.com O. 804-858-9000 | C. 804-317-7907 Licensed in the Commonwealth of Virginia



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April 21 l<sup>st</sup> Ever Spring Crafters Show Pop-Up 153 Perimeter Drive (between Office Max and Dress Barn)

April 28 Richmond Animal League's Woofstock The Village Green

May 3 The NEW Westchester Farmers Market Opens The Village Green Thursdays 4:00pm-7:00pm

May 4 2018 Westchester Concert Series Kickoff

Featuring Flashback and benefiting Chesterfield Food Bank

May 12 Powhatan Rotary's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Hops & Barley Festival Main Street

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