

**Answer: Their birthplace.**

## Hanover News

**Rabies Clinics:** Hanover County Animal Control will be holding Rabies Clinics on the following dates: (1) Saturday, December 2nd from 9-12 at the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Company. (2) Saturday, January 6th from 9-12 at the Hanover Parks & Recreation office. (3) Saturday, February 3rd from 1-4 at the East Hanover Volunteer Rescue Squad. The cost is \$5 per cat or dog. For more information call 365-6485.

**Educational Workshops:** Hanover Community Services, through its "Practical Parenting Education" series is offering monthly workshops for parents. These workshops are designed to help parents learn strategies for promoting positive homework attitudes and habits as well as gain insight and skills for responding to the reluctant learner. The workshops are held at the East Hanover Family Counseling Center on Creighton Parkway in Mechanicsville from 6:30-8 PM and cost \$20. For more information or to register, call Connie Bowen at 365-4238.

**Personal Property Taxes:** Remember: Personal property tax bills are due by December 5th. County residents will notice a decreased tax relief this year from the 70% relief that has traditionally been available. There will continue to be 100% personal property tax relief for vehicles valued at \$1,000 or less. Relief for vehicles valued above that will be 60% of the first \$20,000. Vehicles are now assessed at "trade value" rather than loan value and this year's bills also reflect a reduction in the county's personal property tax rate of \$3.64 per \$100 to \$3.57. For more information, call 365-6129 or 365-6050.

**New Business:** County officials are excited to announce that Bass Pro Shops will be opening an outdoor superstore in the Lewistown Commerce Center. It will be the first such store along the I-95 corridor in central Virginia. Their involvement with NASCAR and other outdoor sporting events will certainly make them a popular destination throughout the region, contributing to the county's tax base and other economic development efforts.

**For more information about county departments or upcoming events in your our area, call the General Information line at 365-6000 or visit: [www.co.hanover.va.us](http://www.co.hanover.va.us)**

Thought For the Month: He who has no Christmas in his heart will never find Christmas under a tree.

## Holiday Office Schedule

In observance of the holiday season, our office will be closed to allow our staff time with family and friends on the following days:



**Christmas Day**  
Monday, December 25th

**New Year's Day**  
Monday, January 1st

## Holiday Plants

**Submitted by: Marie Smook**

Looking to give the gift of a plant this holiday season? The following traditional plants make excellent ideas:



**Amaryllis:** Given as gifts at Christmas, their flowers can be as much as 7" across, in all colors, but they bloom just a few months. Place in a bright location, and keep the plant evenly moist during the growing period. After flowering, cut the stalk, and let the leaves die back. Stop watering until fall, and your plant should rebloom. No need to feed this plant because the bulb nourishes the plant.



**Christmas Cactus:** Place in bright light, and keep the soil evenly moist all year. Feed monthly. This plant can be rooted from cuttings.



**Poinsettia:** Keep in a bright, and cool location. Keep soil moist until leaves start to fall and then water only slightly. In the spring, cut back severely and repot with fresh soil. To promote the buds, place plant in the dark for 12 hours a day for 10 weeks prior to the holiday. Caution: The sap from this plant can cause a rash.

# KOSMO COMMUNITY COURIER

**KOSMO VILLAGE MOBILE HOME PARK**

**GLEN ALLEN, VA**

**Volume 2, Issue 12**

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## Holiday Safety Tips

It is imperative to have working smoke alarms installed, test them monthly, and keep them clean and equipped with batteries at all times. Remember, in the event of a fire in your home, get out and stay out! Call 911 from a neighbor's home. To keep your holiday season merry and bright, follow these safety tips offered by the Hanover County Fire Marshal's Office:

- Any string of lights with worn, frayed, or broken cords or loose bulb connections should not be used.
- Always unplug tree lights before leaving home or going to sleep.
- Never use electric lights on a metal tree.
- Make sure candles are at least 36" from tree branches and never leave them burning unattended.
- Keep your live tree moist by giving them plenty of water daily.
- When purchasing an artificial tree, be sure it is fire-retardant.
- Make sure the tree is at least 36" from any heat source.
- Keep children and pets away from light strings and electrical decorations.
- Avoid using candles as part of your decorating, but if you do, place them in stable holders on stable surfaces where they cannot be easily knocked over.
- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of residential fires in the US. When cooking remember to keep an eye on the range.

**FACT:** About 2 million fires are reported each year with direct property loss due to fires estimated at \$8.6 billion annually. Please do your part to prevent a fire in your home!

## Management Memos

As the holidays approach, our thoughts turn to sharing time with family and friends. We stop to think about the people, experiences and things we appreciate. We look back on the past year—the accomplishments made and the lessons learned. It is during this holiday season, more than ever, that our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible and look forward to continued efforts in the future. So with sincere appreciation, our staff thanks you for your hard work and dedication, and in the spirit of the season, we extend our very best wishes to you and your family for a new year of hope, happiness, peace and prosperity!

~Kosmo Village Management

## Community Meeting

Our next Community Meeting is rescheduled for February 5th, 2006. It will be held at the Management Office at 7:00 p.m. All residents are encouraged to attend. This meeting is designed to plan upcoming community activities and to discuss concerns or issues with life in Kosmo. Come and let your voice be heard!

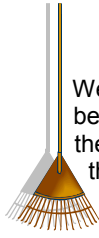
Our Community Meetings are now held quarterly. Below you will find the rest of the schedule for 2007:

Monday, May 7th at 7:00 p.m.

Monday, August 6th at 7:00 p.m.

Monday, November 5th at 7:00 p.m.

## Leaf Collection



We would like to thank the residents who have been diligently working to rake their leaves to the roadside for collection. Please keep up the good work! Remember: The leaves will be collected by our staff through January 31st. After this date, residents will be required to bag and dispose of their leaves on their own. Therefore, if you have not already begun to do so, please make sure you take advantage of this service. Residents are asked to rake their leaves in a single pile by the roadside, being sure not to place them in the drainage ditches along the property. Again, leaves should be free of sticks, rocks, debris, or animal feces.

## Copperhead Reduction

The copperhead snake is the most widely distributed pit viper in the United States. This snake has probably bitten more people than any other venomous snake in the country. Copperheads, therefore, demand respect!

Removing a single copperhead is relatively easy. They have a quiet disposition and tend to freeze when startled. However, for areas that are repeatedly infested with copperheads, residents need to take precautions to prevent these often unnoticed but dangerous snakes. Homes on the edge of a woodland, particularly those with streams and other water sources, are favorites for these types of snakes.

The only way to significantly reduce the risk from copperheads is through aggressive habitat modification, prey reduction, and other integrated pest management tactics including the following:

**Modify overwintering sites.** Copperheads often overwinter in communal groups when they find a well-protected, warm den. Deep voids under patio slabs caused by erosion are prime dens for snake nests. Make sure these areas are filled in and packed tightly.

**Reduce food sources.** Copperheads feed on mice, voles, birds, frogs and even insects. Rodents are the most common conducive condition for recurring infestations. Bird feeders are prime culprits as the birds spill the seeds on the ground, which in turn feeds the rodents. As the population of rodents grows, the copperheads move in to feed on the rodents. Pet food left outdoors, compost bins, as well as rotting fruits and vegetables favor rodents. Eliminate these rodent attractors and control the rodents to help the copperheads move on along.

**Reduce shelters.** These snakes shelter under vines and ground covers. Leaves, mulch, brush piles, stored firewood, debris, and rock piles serve as excellent hiding places. Keeping your grass mowed short and your lot cleared of leaves, sticks, rocks, and debris will go along way towards making your yard very inhospitable for these reptiles.

**Use snake repellent.** A granular repellent containing naphthalene and sulfur, such as "Snake-A-Way," can be used as a barrier around the perimeter of your home and in high-risk areas such as around sheds, in shrubs, etc. However, this is not 100% effective and is certainly no substitute for the tips listed above.



The Virginia Poison Control Center would like to provide the following information: The winter holiday season brings a bustle of festive activity to our homes, and the potential for accidental poisoning to our families. To protect you and your family, educate yourself on what is and is not poisonous.

Things that do **NOT** deserve their reputation include:

- Poinsettia: Accidental ingestion of this plant has not caused **any** cases of serious poisoning in children.
- Shellacked or varnished ornaments: Once dried, these are poorly digested and therefore **not** poisonous.
- Tinsel and icicles: Often made of plastic or aluminum, they are not usually poisonous but can cause choking.

## Classifieds

**FOR SALE BY OWNER:** Nintendo 64 with 2 controllers and 5 games. \$60 OBO. Call Renee at 752-7194 after 4 PM or 798-2012.

**FREE INSPECTION:** For a free inspection of your waterline to determine if you need to install a back-flow device as mandated by the recent Kosmo news bulletin, give us a call. We inspect your unit for free and give you a cost estimate for installation. Licensed contractor. 878-8034. Proctor Enterprises.

**PAINTING SERVICES:** Need some painting done? Call Robert Spence at 253-3900 or 798-4046 for an appointment.

**NOTARY SERVICES:** By appointment. Call Sonja after 5 PM weekdays and anytime weekends. Call 798-4046.

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS:** Looking for ready-made gift ideas for the holidays? Visit Busy Lil' Bees Designs in Billy's Little Dodge City on Route 1 in Ashland Friday through Sunday.

## Holiday Poisoning Hazards

- Tree ornaments: Most modern ornaments are plastic, glass, or Styrofoam and are **not** poisonous, although could cause choking if swallowed.

Items which can be poisonous include:

- Alcohols: Children are especially at risk for even small amounts of alcohol **can** cause their blood sugar to drop to low levels.
- Mistletoe: Ingestion of more than 2-3 of the berries **can** cause poisoning in children.
- Holly: These bright red berries are very attractive to a small child and **can** cause vomiting and diarrhea if more than a few are ingested.
- Batteries: If swallowed, these **can** cause choking, intestinal blockages or injury, and poisoning from leaking contents.



## News You Can Use

**Yard of the Month:** This month's Yard of the Month contest is for the most beautiful Christmas decorations. The winner will be announced in the January newsletter and will receive \$30 off their lot rent. Good Luck!

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Thanks to Nadine Fafard (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-24-2001

THAT'S THE BEST ONE-STAR HOTEL THAT I'VE EVER SEEN