

# Celebrate Thomas Jefferson's birthday with tea at Magnolia Grange

The Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia (CHSV) will serve a theme tea in celebration of Thomas Jefferson's birthday at historic Magnolia Grange House Museum on Wednesday, April 15, at 1 p.m.

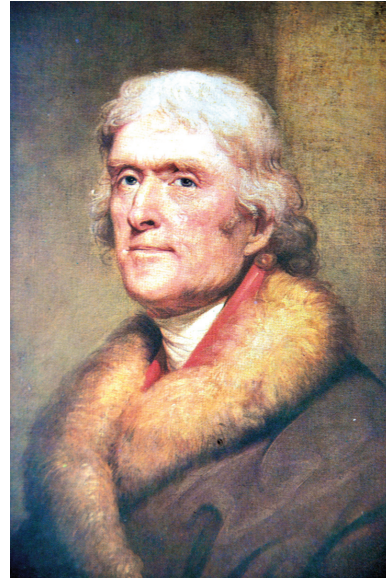
A costumed interpreter will portray the third president of the United States who was born on April 13, 1743. A spokesman for democracy and author of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson had a close connection to Chesterfield County through his wife's family, the Eppes of historic *Eppington*.

During the celebration tea, finger sandwiches and a selection of petit desserts will be served. A guided tour of the historic 19th century

house will follow the tea.

The cost to attend the tea is \$25, and reservations are required. For more information and to make a reservation, please call Tamara Evans at 796-1479.

The Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia is a private, non-profit 501(c)3 organization that serves as the center for Chesterfield county history. Headquartered in historic *Trinity Church* on Iron Bridge Road in Chesterfield, the CHSV mission is to collect, preserve, interpret and promote the county's unique past for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations. For additional information or to volunteer, please visit [www.chesterfield-history.com](http://www.chesterfield-history.com)



## Garden Club announces home and garden tour

The Chester Garden Club will present a standard home, flower show and garden tour on Wednesday, April 29, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. – rain or shine. This year's show is entitled "Celebrating Spring in Chester," and features three homes and two gardens. Visiting these lovely homes and/or gardens is a must attend event.

Garden club members will be in each of the gardens to answer questions. There will be designs created by garden club members in each of the homes on the tour.

Horticulture and educational exhibits, will be displayed at the Chester Methodist Church, where refreshments will be served.

Tickets are \$20, and can be purchased from any Chester Garden Club member, or by contacting Melissa Ray at 778-4647 or by e-mailing your request to [ChestergardenclubVA@gmail.com](mailto:ChestergardenclubVA@gmail.com)

### Mixing Bowl

## Hen Picked

BY GENA LASHLEY



My sweet husband finally relented, and we now have five little chicks living in our den. I have two White Leghorn's, one Silver Laced Wyandotte, and two Rhode Island Reds. They are adorable and growing so quickly. I went to Boulevard Flowers two weeks ago and picked up four chicks (yes, I can see you doing the math, there is a story here, just be patient). I had two little fuzzy yellow chicks and two little fuzzy black and white (silver) chicks. I made a "brooder" out of a large Rubbermaid container, pine shavings, a water dish just for chicks, a feeder, and the most important thing – the heat lamp. We were ready to roll.

Now, as I sit on my couch and look to the left, there is a red glow from the heat lamp and a constant chatter of "peep, peeps" coming from the box. As I said above, we originally came home with four chicks. We each named our chicks, the children's were Chloe and Stitcher (I will let you figure out who named who) and my husband and I named Maxine and Mildred. The four girls were dropped into their new home, their beaks dipped in the water so they would know where it was, and we were all set. My precious flower and I thoroughly enjoy cleaning out the brooder, putting fresh pine shavings in, cleaning and replenishing their food and

water. It's quickly become part of our afternoon routine; then the best part, checking their little chicken behinds. Chicks can quickly acquire what is referred to as "paste" on their "vent" (which is another word for their exit). Chicks only have one "exit" which is their vent to expel any and everything, and yes – that's also where the eggs will come from.

So, you have to check their little behinds to make sure they are not "clogged," so far all has been well in that department. Unfortunately, right from the get go, I noticed that sweet little Stitcher was not as feisty as the other three. She never seemed to eat and drink with the others, and every time I stuck my hand in the brooder to pick one up; they all immediately had a convulsion, except for sweet Stitcher. After five days had passed, I noticed that Stitcher had a large looking "growth" on the right side of her tiny neck. I researched it and determined she had "Impacted crop." Chickens can get an impacted crop by eating something that clogs their crop. The chicken crop is essentially like a sack at the bottom of their esophagus that collects their food and water. Throughout the day the crop will empty, unless it's impacted. There are some things you can do to try and save the chicks, but it



usually is not a good sign.

I began massaging Stitcher's crop and trying to make her vomit up the impacted food. Nothing was working. I went back to Boulevard Flowers where the "chicken ladies" gave me some ideas but told me to prepare for the worst. I was so sad for this sweet little chick. That evening my most wonderful husband tried taking care of Stitcher and was able to induce some spit up, but it wasn't enough. I got up on Friday morning and she was still doing well. I was so happy she made it through the night and was hopeful she would pull through. I kept checking on her throughout the morning and she was still hanging with the other hens.

Close to lunch time I peeked in on her again, and saw that she was lying down on her side. I thought, "Oh no, she's gone." As I picked her up, she moved. Poor, sweet Stitcher was dying and it was so terribly sad. I wrapped her little self in a washcloth and held her while she breathed her last breaths. I thought

I was truly becoming the crazy chicken lady because I had tears running down my cheeks while this sweet little creature, wrapped in a wash cloth, departed this world. The children were so sad; we buried Stitcher in the backyard.

I wanted more than three hens, so I went back to Boulevard Flowers (I'm sure they were sick of me by this point) to pick up a chick. Somehow, two chicks ended up coming home with me. Thankfully, my husband was not too upset at the added hen, can't be mad at such cuteness.

While we were sad that Stitcher left this world, we were happy to welcome the newest additions, Petunia and Gertrude. The five girls are doing rather nicely in the Lashley household, and it won't be long before they will be outside in their coop (built by all of us from every imaginable scrap we could find) and laying eggs for us. They are a true joy, if you need a good belly laugh; just watch some baby chicks for a while.