



# In Our Backyard

## Western Hanover County

BY SKIP ROWLAND



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# Foreward

My wife and I wound up in Hanover County because she saw a billboard advertising a development where “families build dreams.” One visit was all it took. Little did we know what we were getting into.

Barely three months after moving in we started getting “public hearing” notices regarding possible expansion of the county airport. Even though the county supervisors turned back that initiative, that was only shades of things to come.

In the nearly fifteen years since then, we’ve watched the supervisors and zoning boards constantly struggle with proposal after proposal for more development. Thankfully, they have held firm to the county’s comprehensive development plan that essentially sacrifices the middle third of Hanover, from Mechanicsville up to Doswell down to Glen Allen, the 95 corridor, for intensive residential, commercial, and light industrial development, all in the hopes of maintaining the rural characteristics of the outer two-thirds of the county. The pressures are intense, especially considering how much potential money is at stake. I applaud those who are doing all they can to hold the line.

# Dedication

This effort would not have been possible without the support and assistance of my family, especially my wife and partner, Nina. Thanks for everything, especially driving me all over the place and not even flinching when we realized we had just driven past something we knew needed photographing.

As badly as I feel for those adversely affected by the ensuing development, I know it would be much worse if there was not a plan in place to responsibly manage growth. And, I know it will be far worse if we do not have elected officials committed to the plan. However, in order to have the best elected officials, we have to have a public that truly appreciates just what we have here in this county.

That is the purpose of this book, to take you to the places that you might not see otherwise, to introduce you to the neighbors you might not know otherwise, to give you the experiences that you would not have otherwise. While there are many things that bring us together, the simple broad expanse of the county makes it so that it’s more the exception than the rule that someone from Beaverdam would cross paths with someone from Old Church. And, as we get to know each other, maybe we can all work together to build a future without losing our past.

Skip Rowland, Photographer  
2009

































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WASH BLUE

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JUNCTION

TOILETS

OPENING















this is only the beginning...