

DID YOU KNOW?

This area is known for being the location of the first commercial coal mine in America, as well as the related first railway that transported coal to port. Mid-Lothian Mines Park more than hints at the region's earlier incarnation as a mining town. Many free blacks and slaves did the dirty work in the Grove Shaft and in 1846 built Mid-Lothian African Church, a log church that was the forerunner of the still thriving First Baptist Church of Midlothian.

SHOPPING

For the necessities of life, Routes 60 and 360 are packed with big-box and national retailers, strip shopping centers, and the occasional charming antiques-and-collectibles shop.

THE VIBE

This large region in Chesterfield County is one of its fastest growing, offering suburban ease, planned-community convenience or a rural lifestyle, depending how far past Route 288 you're willing to venture. Home styles range from contemporary in Brandermill and Woodlake to more traditional styles elsewhere. The far-western section is showing signs of suburban growth in an area that once featured only farmland and forests.

RECREATION

Chesterfield County's Rockwood Park fea-

tures athletic fields and ball courts, as well as paved and unpaved trails for walking and biking. But along the way there's a more unusual offering — an archery course in the woods. Mid-Lothian Mines Park combines historic interpretation with recreational trails — some paved, some not — for biking or walking where the dinosaurs once roamed and coal was once mined. But there's also fun and games at Uptown Alley at Commonwealth Centre.

ENTERTAINMENT

For family-friendly action, head to Chesterfield Berry Farm for seasonal shenanigans such as pumpkin picking. Hayrides, animals and various kiddie attractions make it like a mini-county fair. Drivers have been spinning their wheels at Southside Speedway, Central Virginia's 0.333-mile short track, since 1959.

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

This area of Chesterfield County, which runs between U.S. Route 60 and U.S. Route 360, is home to Central Virginia's first planned community — Brandermill.

LOOKING FORWARD

Scheduled to open in March, the Element at Stonebridge is a 600-unit apartment complex. Stonebridge is also home to Kroger Marketplace.

Mid-Lothian
Mines Park

