

Steve Thomas named Virginia's Builder of the Year!

Each year the Home Builder's Association of Virginia (HBAV) names as Builder of the Year one builder member who has gone above and beyond normal business enterprises to really exemplify a commitment to the industry and the community.

For 2009 President Rand Sompayrac and HBAV chose Steve Thomas of Stephen Thomas Corporation as Builder of the Year. Thomas, a Richmond builder and member of the Home Building Association of Richmond was chosen for his commitment to the adoption of the Easy Living Home Program in Virginia.

Recognizing the need for a model of construction that provides accessible construction for both people living with disabilities and the aging population, Thomas was instrumental in the search and selection of a set of standards that promoted accessibility, ability and the opportunity for homebuyers to age in place.



Steve Thomas pictured with son Hunter and daughter Kendall

HBAV's selection of the Easy Living Home programs was the direct result of Thomas' work. Thomas was the first Virginia builder to construct an Easy Living Home certified house, and is on the leading edge of innovative construction techniques that make accessible construction more affordable and fit into common styles of Virginia architecture.

Thomas has also pledged his volunteer commitment as the general contractor on the "Homes For Our Troops" project in Varina for SSG Dwayne A. Cole <http://www.homesforourtroops.org/site/PageServer?pagename=DwayneCole>

Steve and his dedicated team have long been great supporters of SCIAVA. We would like to express our appreciation for the efforts that Stephen Thomas Homes has made in bringing the Easy Living program to Virginia and calling attention to the importance of accessible home design which works for all of us. For more information on the Easy Living Homes program visit www.elhomes.org or www.stchomes.com

US QUADRIPLLEGIC DOUBLES TEAM WON GOLD IN BEIJING

The US duo of Nick Taylor and David Wagner were repeat Olympic gold medalists at the '08 Paralympics in Beijing. In addition to winning their first gold in Athens, they are also the 2009 US Open quad doubles champions. Nick and David play quad wheelchair tennis for the US, and you too should give tennis a try. Nick was the keynote speaker in Richmond October 24th at the Virginia Tennis annual meeting where he talked about how he got started with tennis. As the only wheelchair player in town, he hit against a garage door everyday for four hours. Now that's dedication!

If a garage door isn't your cup of tea then why not come out and join the local wheelchair tennis group for lessons, play, and/or competition. Three six-week clinics are now offered every year with many opportunities to play. Tennis is the only sport that fully integrates players in chairs with able-bodied players. The same rules apply with the exception that players in chairs are allowed two bounces. Once you learn the strokes, you can find fun and games on any tennis court.

The clinics are taught by certified tennis professionals and volunteers. Robbie Thomas is one of the certified tennis pros. He is also a physical education teacher and has nearly 25 years of wheelchair tennis experience. Mel Curry is a volunteer instructor, a medical technologist and also plays in wheelchair tennis tournaments.

The Richmond wheelchair tennis program is co-sponsored by Sportable and the Richmond Tennis Association, a division of the US Tennis Association. You're invited to try out this fast growing sport, improve your fitness and make new friends.

For information, call Kristen Lessig or Shima Grover 804-750-1781.



Chapter Monthly Meetings



Dinner at Pronto Italian Restaurant



Buzz Hickok - Shown discussing the details of the Ticket to Work Incentive program and the services of Resources for Independent Living.