

Profile of the Midlothian community surrounding Winfree Church

History

Winfree Church is located in an area known as the Village of Midlothian. Technically this is an unincorporated community in government of Chesterfield County. It was founded over 300 years ago as a coal mining village, but is now a suburban community located well beyond the city limits in the southside area of Richmond .

In the early 18th-century coal mining enterprises produced the first commercially mined coal in the Virginia Colony and in what became the United States. The coal was of such high quality that Thomas Jefferson ordered it to heat the White House. The highly productive coal mines led to the first graveled road, now Midlothian Turnpike, an early toll road, and the first railroad in Virginia, a gravity fed line running from the mines to the James River. A series of deadly explosions led to the eventual closure of the mines.

Growth

Beginning in the 1970s the population started to swell rapidly. The completion of Interstate 288 spurred further development in the area. For several years Midlothian had the highest number of housing permits granted of any area of the county and was a leader in the greater metro area also. Midlothian has been listed twice in *Money* magazine's Best 100 Small Towns.

The county has approved a new master plan for the Village of Midlothian area. The overall concept is to transform the Midlothian Turnpike area into more of a pedestrian-friendly village environment. A key feature of the plan is to allow for a much higher density level, both in the Village and the general area. Already completed or slated for construction are numerous projects for upscale townhomes, condominiums and apartments, numbering in the several thousand housing units. The target market, according to the developers, is young adults.

Demographics

The population of the 5 zip codes which comprise the primary church field for Winfree totals approximately 140,000 and is growing. Approximately 85% of the households are families. The largest age ranges are birth to 18 and 30 to 60 years old. There are 6 high schools in the 5 zip codes, all fully accredited and highly regarded. Adult education levels are above state and national averages. The household poverty rate is below 3%. Residents indicating a religious preference are below the national average. Politically the area has leaned Republican historically, but lately has been more balanced.