

# Community cleans up

## Hundreds of volunteers complete projects as part of Madison Day

**BY GRACIE HART BROOKS**

Editor

More than 200 people worked on 19 job sites Saturday, improving yards, homes, facilities and more as part of Madison Day.

The event was thought about years ago by Karen Coppage after she worked on a similar event in Culpeper called Kelsey's Big Give. Named in honor of Kelsey Orndorff, a Culpeper teen who died in an automobile accident in August 2008, the annual event has volunteers painting fences, completing yard work, fixing handicap access ramps and more. Since its creation more

than 10 years ago, nearly 300 different labors of love have been completed.

In an effort to bring a local event to fruition, Coppage began working with a small planning. The result was amazing, she said. Saturday, more than 200 volunteers completed 19 projects throughout the county including home repairs, a porch repair and landscaping at Barbara's House, landscaping at buildings along Main Street, yard cleanup at several homes and the continued construction of the concession stand at Hoover Ridge.

Robert Day, III, volunteered during Madison Day. He was

part of a crew that did clean-up and landscaping duties at several buildings along Main Street.

"I work with the Boys and Girls Club and we like to get involved in our community," he said.

Day was joined by other volunteers including Mary Anne Walthall, who had heard about the event from Coppage, and town resident Clarissa Berry.

"It seemed like a good thing to do," Berry said. "It's a way to be with other people who like to help the community. It's a great opportunity to come together and help Madison. That's the good thing about Madison is [neighbors helping neighbors]."

Lottie C. Strother was one of

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several homeowners to have projects completed on their properties. Volunteers cleared brush from around her home, completed some roof work and bathroom work and replaced her refrigerator.

"I'm just as happy as I can be," she said, noting she was particularly pleased with her flowerbed.

Coppage said the event was a success. She plans to do it again next year.