

# SPRINGLINE

AT DISTRICT 60

## Historical Significance of Springline

Springline, the name of the new mixed-use development in Chesterfield County, takes inspiration from the remarkable history of a spring near the site. The area was settled in the 1700's and was once owned by William Byrd II and Thomas Jefferson. The spring – in an area between the Springline development and the Boulders office park, was originally called Lucy Spring and then Crow Spring.

The land was purchased by James Robertson in 1895 and named Beaufont Springs (beaufont means beautiful spring in French). Robertson started the Beaufont Lithia Springs Company that sold therapeutic water throughout the area and other markets including Washington D.C., Philadelphia and New York. The water was reputed to have high concentrations of lithium, which is related to the revolutionary medicine which continues to effectively treat a variety of mental illnesses. Robertson built a springhouse on the site to collect the water in 1896.



Photo provided by the Chesterfield Historical Society of VA

In 1916, Robertson sold the property to Frederick Sitterding, who created a variety of carbonated beverages from the spring water in addition to the spring water. Sitterding later added a brewery to the site. As the quality of water treatment plants improved the business floundered and eventually shut down the water bottling business in 1940.

The Sitterding family built a recreation and picnic area on the site in the 1950's. Parties could rent the property for sports, recreation, dancing and other activities. Renters were required to purchase beer and drinks through the company. As the Chippenham Parkway was completed along with other commercial development in the area, the water became muddy and the business was no longer viable. A great debt is owed to the developers of the Boulders who preserved the springhouse, which remains intact today.

