



# Outdoor theater is newest addition to the parkway

**T**he Thomas Jefferson Parkway has a new feature.

The Palmer Woodland Theater, an outdoor classroom situated in a stand of centuries-old white oak trees near the lower end of the Saunders-Monticello Trail in Kemper Park, was dedicated Nov. 23.

The theater, built around a circular stone-edged stage, is organized into a series of rustic benches that provide seating for up to 60 people. It provides a venue for Monticello's educational programs, school and environmental groups, and the "Saturdays in the Garden" series of lectures, workshops, and natural history walks.

The theater is named for the late George C. Palmer II, a member of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Board of Trustees for 26 years and its chairman in 1980. His career also included terms on the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, the county Planning Commission, the Rivanna Water and Sewage Authority, the University of Virginia Board of Visitors, and the UVA Alumni Board of Managers.

Mr. Palmer also served as president of the Charlottesville-based Perry Foundation, which provided the impetus for construction of the Palmer Woodland Theater with a challenge grant.

"The woodland theater is a great addition to the parkway, and we think

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## Woodland Theater

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it is a fitting way to honor Mr. Palmer for his dedicated service to Monticello and the local community,” said Daniel P. Jordan, president of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation.

The Thomas Jefferson Parkway was developed by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation to create a scenic entrance corridor to Monticello and provide a recreational and educational resource for visitors

and area residents. The linear park, which was opened to the public in 2000, is open daily from sunrise to sunset.

Kemper Park occupies 89 acres in the parkway near the intersection of Route 53 and Route 20. In addition to the Palmer Woodland Theater, Kemper Park includes a two-acre pond, Carter Overlook, and an arboretum of native trees and shrubs.



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