

Madison Manor Citizen

www.madisonmanor.org

The newsletter of the Madison Manor Civic Association

November 2015

President's Letter

Hello and Happy Fall,

It was truly a pleasure serving as president of the Madison Manor Civic Association (MMCA) for the past year. My wife and I feel extremely fortunate to live among so many wonderful people in Madison Manor and to raise our family in such an engaged and down-to-earth community.

I would like to extend a BIG THANKS to the Executive Committee members, our committee chairs, our block captains, and many other neighbors who have volunteered their time and skills to make our events so successful (and the envy of other neighborhoods). The past year was filled with many great achievements. To name a few, we--

- Got great turnouts for each of our annual events
- Reached what I believe is an all-time high of 259 MMCA members
- Provided quarterly newsletters filled with new and rich content
- Secured funding approval for our Neighborhood Conservation 12th Street Lights project
- Played an active and successful role in the planning process for the McKinley school renovation project
- Ended fiscal year 2015 in a strong financial position for the year ahead.

MMCA's vice president would have typically assumed the office of president in June and be serving a one-year term. However, the vice presidency continues to be vacant, so I have agreed to serve another year in the capacity of Acting President. With that said, **WE NEED TO FILL THE VICE PRESIDENT VACANCY ASAP**, to ensure that we have the leadership needed to maintain an active and ongoing civic association. **Please send me an email to mmcapresident@gmail.com if you are interested in the VP position.**

I am excited to announce that we have filled one of our Executive Committee vacancies! Stacy Noblet will be serving as our new MMCA Secretary, and she has already proven to be a wonderful addition to the team.

I also wanted to notify you that the Executive Committee has decided to eliminate quarterly community meetings for the coming year. We will continue to offer community information forums (in addition to our quarterly newsletters, listservs, and website), but we will be moving to an ad hoc/issue-driven approach. Part of this change will be to try to collaborate, and co-host community meetings, with other neighboring civic associations when the topic is of shared interest or concern. Stay tuned for more information coming soon.

Finally, along with this newsletter you received our annual membership form. **It is time again to renew your support of the MMCA, and it's still only \$10.** This nominal fee makes a critical impact in subsidizing your favorite neighborhood activities like the Halloween Bonfire, Easter Egg Hunt, Summer Picnic, and Summer Movie Nights. **Please pay your dues by December 31st if you want to appear in the 2015/2016 Directory.**

Enjoy the beautiful fall season, and happy holidays!

Dave Blair
MMCA Acting President

MMCA Officers for 2015 - 2016

Acting President	David Blair
Vice President	VACANT
Treasurer	Steve Elsberg
Secretary	Stacy Noblet
Membership Chair	Carly Kelly

Committee Chairs

Annual Neighborhood Events

Egg Hunt & Parade	Nikki Baltatzis
Halloween Bonfire	Judy Henderson
Halloween Decorating Contest	Last year's winners
Holiday Caroling	MaryLu Mahoney
Holiday Decorating Contest	Last year's winners
Memorial Day Parade	Vacant
Stream Clean Up	Jon Walsh
Summer Movie Nights	Karyn Ewart
Summer Picnic	Angela DiBenigno and Becca Barnes
Yard Sale	Vacant

Neighborhood Committees

Civic Federation Delegate	Vacant
Invasive Plants Task Force	Lawrence MacDonald Jo Allen Ted Wheeler
Neighborhood Conservation	Parker Harrington
New Neighbor Welcome Newsletter	Charlene Harkin Ann Kurzius
Newsletter Distribution	Laura Dfrat Julie Stradling, Errin Matechak
Web Site	Tara Claeys
Young Entrepreneurs	Tammi McKinley

Madison Manor Citizen

Founding Publisher Jonathan Harmon

The *Madison Manor Citizen* is the newsletter of the Madison Manor Civic Association of Arlington, Virginia. The *Citizen* is reviewed by the Officers of the Association and published quarterly, generally in January, April, July, and October.

The *Citizen* has a circulation of 575 copies.

Deadlines for submissions to the *Citizen* are the 10th of the month prior to publishing. Exceptions to the deadline will be considered. Articles should be of general interest to the residents of our community and may be edited or rejected. Space is limited. Contact the Publisher.

The *Citizen* accepts advertisements. All ads need to be submitted in black and white, camera-ready form. Please contact David Blair at mmcapresident@gmail.com for ad rates and sizes.

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Who Deserves Madison Manor's First 'Good Neighbor' Award?

The prize isn't much, but the prestige is priceless. Your civic association would like to start giving an award annually to the person who's done the most to improve life in our neighborhood.

Who deserves the 2015 award? And do we dare call him or her "Lord of the (Madison) Manor"?

Be thinking, and submit names to MMCA president Dave Blair (mmcapresident@gmail.com) by December 1, 2015.

Join the MMCA Listservs!

To join "Announce" and receive important community updates send an email to: mmcaAnnounce-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

To join "Discuss" and discuss neighborhood issues send an email to: mmcaDiscuss-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Got News? Got Pictures?

If you have community news or photos you'd like to share in our newsletter, we want to hear from you! Please send your stories or announcements to annkurzius@gmail.com.

News should be no more than 300 words in length and photos must be digital.

HELP WANTED

Please email mmcapresident@gmail.com to inquire about opportunities to get involved. Current vacancies listed on the left.

Newsletters Are Available Online

Check out our website at www.madisonmanor.org for color photos, posted newsletters and lots of great information.

Madison Manor Community Events

The annual **Halloween Bonfire** at Madison Manor Park was a huge success! A big thanks to Judy Henderson, our Bonfire Chair, for all her hard work and dedication to making this annual Halloween kick-off such a great tradition in our community. The Executive Committee would also like to thank the other volunteers on the event committee who played a major role: master fire builders Jim Riley and Brice Henderson, Andy Shelton of Andy's Lawn & Landscape, Debby Churchman, Gus Grohmann, Shelly Grohmann, Jon Walsh, Matt Murray, Andrew Murray, and Drew Henderson. A final thanks to everyone who made a donation at the Bonfire to help offset our expenses this year!



Halloween Decoration Contest Winners

Thanks to all who added to the Halloween fun by decorating their homes and yards. Clearly the judges were given a difficult assignment this year.

"Adult's Choice" Award

The Lewis family on N Powhatan St.

"Kid's Choice" Award

The Hall family on N Quantico St.

Honorable Mentions:

Craig family on N Quintana St., Morris Larkin Family on N Quantico St., the family at 1112 N Rochester St., Lisa Novak and John Sutherland on N Quintana St.

Congratulations to our winners, who will be our lead judges for the contest next year!



Madison Manor History

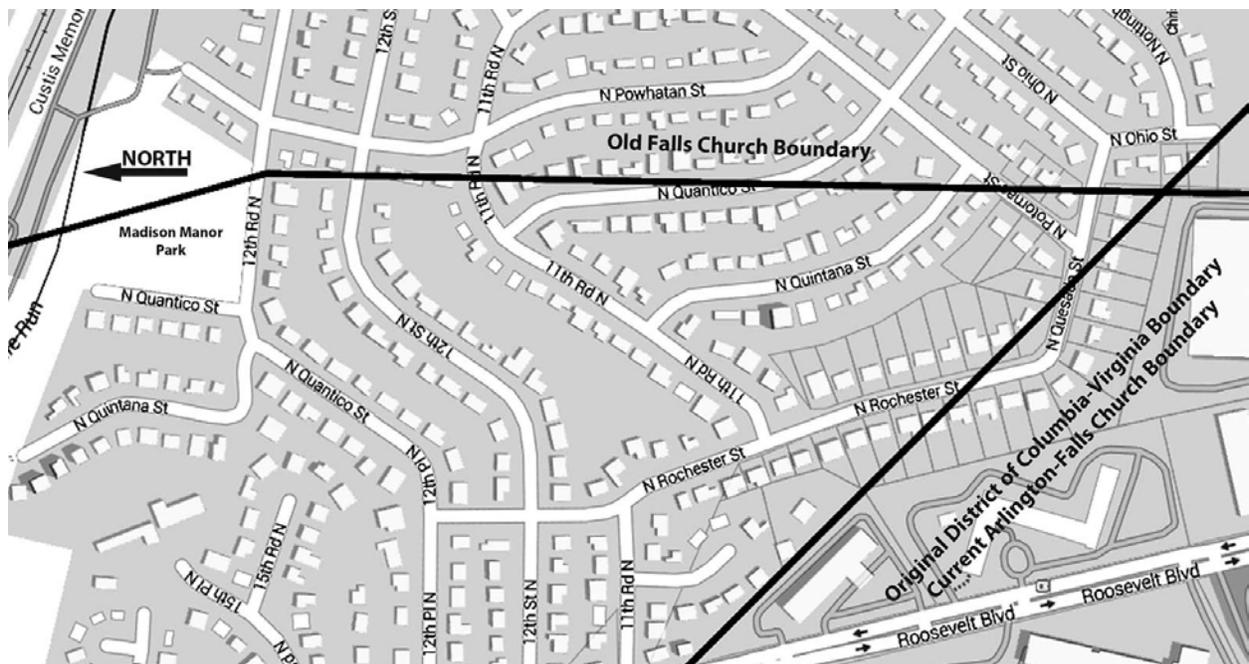
Did You Know...?

Jim Frison

Most of us know that Arlington County was once part of the District of Columbia. But did you know that about half of what is now Madison Manor was once in Falls Church? Or that a few of today's Madison Manor homes remain in Falls Church, not Arlington?

From 1791 until 1847, the area that is now Alexandria and Arlington County was known as the County of Alexandria in the District of Columbia. The original Southwest boundary line for the District of Columbia is (almost) Madison Manor's boundary with Falls Church and Fairfax County. Almost, because a few homes in Madison Manor are actually on the other side of that boundary and are in Falls Church. Little visible evidence of this boundary can be found in Madison Manor, other than the property line/fence of the Madison condominium. Nearby, original boundary stones can be seen in Benjamin Banneker Park (off of Van Buren Street) and near the water tower across Wilson Boulevard at the Patrick Henry Apartments.

The old Falls Church boundary is not as celebrated or visible. It was created in 1875 when Falls Church officially became a town and included parts of Arlington (then called Alexandria) County. Since towns were considered to be part of the County they were in, both Falls Church and Arlington County had jurisdiction where their boundaries overlapped. And both could tax the residents. In the 1920s, some citizens began to lobby to secede from Falls Church and become solely residents of Arlington County. In 1935, the Virginia court approved that secession but Falls Church, not wanting to lose tax revenue, appealed. The appeal was denied and effective April 30, 1936, the original District of Columbia boundary became the Arlington-Falls Church boundary.



Homeowners' Q&A

Making Small Baths Feel Bigger

The good folks at Moss Building and Design in Chantilly, VA, answer a question they're often asked by their northern Virginia homeowner clients.

Q. How can I make my typical “small Arlington bathroom” feel more spacious?

A. Many homeowners wonder how they can revamp a bathroom without having to enlarge the space it occupies. With a few simple tricks, you can make your small bathroom feel much bigger without needing to completely remodel it.

A good place to start is the vanity. A large one just doesn't work well in a small space, so make sure your vanity isn't taking up valuable room. By choosing a smaller vanity, or having a custom one built to fit, you'll keep the room from feeling so cramped. Or forget the vanity entirely, keep the area under the sink open, and store your toiletries in a cabinet mounted on the wall instead.

Another easy way to make your bathroom feel bigger is to mount your sink faucets on the wall. Not only will this change give you more counter space, but it will also make the sink feel less crowded and therefore larger. Your sink is the main focal point of the room, so creating the illusion of space here can make the whole room feel bigger.



Don't overlook another main element of your bathroom: the toilet. Finding one with a smaller tank and footprint will give you more legroom (whether sitting or standing) while also visually opening up the space. In the remodel pictured here, a smaller toilet tank also allowed for more counter space.

You can also use time-tested design tricks to help create the illusion of a bigger space. The goal in a small room is to create smooth transitions between different finishes. Matching your tile and paint color will make the room look bigger by not letting your eye separate it into distinct spaces. Matching your floor tile and backsplash can also create a restful sense of unity.

Advice for Gardeners

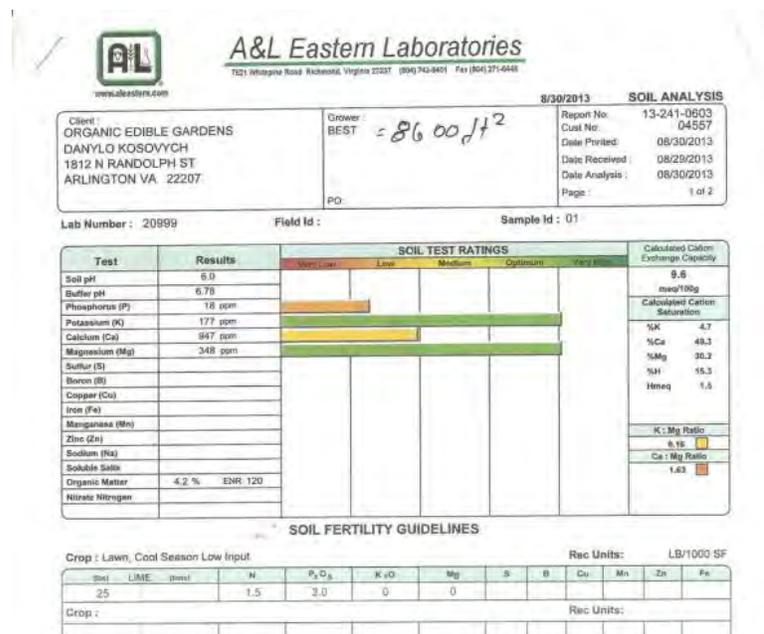
Tips for Fall Lawn Renovation

Danylo Kosovych, Organic Edible Gardens LLC

Fall is the best time of the year for lawn seeding. With temperatures slowly cooling down, an increase in precipitation, and reduced weed competition, newly sown grass seed has a good opportunity to establish itself.

Organic lawn care means no synthetic herbicides or synthetic fertilizers. How do you manage weeds without chemical herbicides? You can burn (technically, heat-sterilize) them with a specially made tool designed for organic agriculture, or you can use an organic herbicide. Both pretty much do the same thing: burn the leaves. Both methods require multiple applications.

A healthy lawn grows in healthy soil. Following a sufficient weed suppression schedule, you should take a soil sample and send it off to a trusted soil laboratory for a chemical soil analysis (*see example to the right*). This will tell you what nutrients your soil has and which it is deficient in. A biologically healthy soil requires organic matter. That's the food the microbes eat in order to produce nutrients for the plants. Organic matter also improves soil porosity (air) and holds water.



Most lawn soils, especially chemically treated ones, have low percentages of organic matter. If yours falls into this category, apply a top-dressing of well matured compost. Follow that with an aeration using a core-aerator in order to reduce compaction, work the compost into the soil, and provide a good seed bed for the grass seed.

Immediately after aerating, apply the grass seed. Seed selection is important, as certain varieties are best adapted to our climate and varying microclimates of more or less sun and shade. Finally, apply organic fertilizers as recommended by the soil test. A short time later, after a little help from Mother Nature in the form of rain, you can have a more drought tolerant, lush green lawn for your children to play in without the health risks of synthetic pesticides, and without contaminating the local watershed.

School News

McKinley Elementary School Construction Summary **Dave Blair**

Arlington Public Schools has provided a very detailed summary covering the ins and outs of the construction project so far plus information on what is yet to come.

The following items have been completed:

- Installation of new concrete steps to the 12 classroom complex (railing also to be installed)
- Foundations and flooring for the new “pentagon” wing
- Site installation of new underground electrical service conduits
- Site installation of new underground water and fire lines
- New ADA compliant widened access ramp from 11th Street path
- Installation of temporary heating and cooling in classroom 7
- Demolition of the old boilers and installation of temporary boilers for the school, now active
- Partial interior demolition of the music room and gymnasium areas
- Temporary relocation of the existing generator
- Transplanting of 3 trees on site and 9 trees to Thomas Jefferson Middle School
- Installation of the temporary playground outside of 1st grade wing.

The following tasks are ongoing:

- Continued installation of new storm water management system
- Installation of new generator and transformer dumpster pads
- Demolition in gymnasium area; excavation for three story addition
- Topping out masonry work on new pentagon wing
- Metal decking and roofing of the new pentagon wing
- Completion of new dumpster enclosure
- Completion of temporary street lighting on McKinley Road.

The following activities will take place in November:

- Continued work on storm water system and new sewer line connections
- Complete build up to roof level of new pentagon wing, decking and roofing work
- Continued excavation for new footings for new three story addition
- Delivery and installation of new boilers
- Demolition of existing gymnasium walls
- Possible switch over to new electric power source

The following are process related activities:

- Installation of new fire hydrant at 11th Street (scheduled to be completed by the time newsletter is distributed)
- Start-up of the temporary boilers for winter
- Overall project remains on schedule to open as planned at the beginning of the 2016 school year
- Work will occur on most Saturdays and a few Sundays to stay on schedule
- New pentagon remains on track to be enclosed in mid-Fall this year and will be completed in March 2016
- Contractor parking is being used at the First Church of Christ Scientist on McKinley Road. All Grunley contractor staff should be parking at that location. Please notify APS if this is not happening
- The site survived October’s Hurricane Joaquin without incident.



Roof joist installation at Area B



New roof joists at Area B (New pentagon wing)



Temporary boilers onsite



Temporary Playground installation



Area B construction



Old music room gone, new work under construction



Mock Up wall in progress



Dumpster enclosure and Generator temporary location



New concrete steps to the Relocatables

Community News Beyond Madison Manor

A Convenient New Hotel for Your Visiting Relatives?

Have you noticed that big building that's been slowly rising at 6430 Arlington Blvd near Seven Corners (between the BB&T towers and American Lube)? It's to be a Hampton Inn and Suites, a 102,000-square-foot hotel on 1.91 acres, with 160 units—seven stories on one side, eight on the other, developed and managed by Baywood Hotels. All the rooms are suites but they won't have kitchens, so the hotel isn't intended for extended stays. It will have an indoor pool and a parking deck. The entrance will be on the service road along Arlington Boulevard.

Opening was originally scheduled for August of this year, but now the construction project manager predicts an early 2016 completion date, after which interior furnishing, staff hiring, and other tasks will still have to happen before the first guest can be welcomed.

For Madison Manor families with college-age kids looking for entry level or summer jobs, it seems the new hotel could be a possible employer within easy walking distance.

Meanwhile, the developer of a future apartment/townhouse/retail project between the new hotel and the BB&T towers was, at last report, still working on getting Fairfax County to approve the engineering plans.

Looking for a Fun Place to Volunteer Close to Home?

Capital Caring Hospice operates two thrift stores in the nearby Willston Center in Falls Church, at Route 50 and Patrick Henry Drive. One is a boutique for "nicer" items; the other is a thrift store with lower prices. Both have a real need for volunteer cashiers, donation sorters, pricers, and other helpers. Volunteers may work as often as they wish; no experience necessary! There's an early shift (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.) and a later shift (1 to 4:30 p.m.) each weekday, plus a 1 to 4 p.m. shift on Saturday. Anyone interested, please contact Michael Murphy at 703-532-5355.

If you can't volunteer, another way to contribute is by donating your gently used clothes and household items. Just bring them to the thrift store, at 6172 Arlington Blvd; you'll be given a receipt for tax deduction purposes.

Local Book Nook

What Your Neighbors Are Reading

Have you discovered One More Page Books, the independent bookstore at 2200 N. Westmoreland Street in East Falls Church? Its stated mission is to be a place where the community comes together to share a love of reading.

In addition to new books for adults and children of all ages, the store, open since 2011, also offers author talks, meeting space for eight monthly book clubs, and periodic tastings of wines and artisan chocolates.

There's metered parking on Westmoreland and free parking in the garage (enter from the driveway to left of store's front door).

One More Page's friendly staffers love recommending books, so don't hesitate to ask them "What's a great book to read?" Here are the books that have been hugely popular at OMP in 2015:

NONFICTION

13 Hours: The Inside Account of What Really Happened in Benghazi by Mitchell Zuckoff with the Annex Security Team

Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania by Erik Larson

The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing by Marie Kondo

Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics by Daniel James Brown

Arlington County Chronicles by Charlie Clark

COFFEE TABLE BOOKS

The Art of Richard Thompson by David Apatoff, Nick Galifianakis, Mike Rhode, Chris Sparks and Bill Watterson

Everything I Need to Know I Learned from a Little Golden Book by Diane Muldrow

Pope Francis: A Photographic Portrait of the People's Pope by Father Michael Collins

FICTION

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

Go Set a Watchman by Harper Lee

Decorum by Kaaren Christopherson

Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins

Americanah by Chimamanda Adichie

The Red Notebook by Antoine Laurain

Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS

The Bear Ate Your Sandwich by Julia Sarcone-Roach

The Princess in Black by Shannon Hale

What Pet Should I Get? by Dr. Seuss

The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywait

CHILDREN'S CHAPTER BOOKS & GRAPHIC NOVELS

Sofia Martinez: My Family Adventure by Jacqueline Jules

El Deafo by Cece Bell

Rain, Reign by Ann M. Martin

Sisters by Raina Telgemeier

Stars of Summer by Tara Dairman

TEEN/YOUNG ADULT NOVELS

Compulsion: Heirs of Watson Island by Martina Boone

Snow Like Ashes by Sarah Raasch

All the Bright Places by Jennifer Niven

I'll Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson

UNEXPECTED BESTSELLERS

Coloring books for adults – especially *Secret Garden* and *Enchanted Forest* by Johanna Basford

Who Remembers the Great Y2K Scare?

As the turn of the millennium approached, Madison Manor wasn't immune from the general worry about massive computer failures. Here's the warning this newsletter published when the momentous date of Dec. 31, 1999, was still about a year away.

“Empty grocery shelves, no electricity, closed banks, no phones, closed airports, and no water coming into your house. Have we got your attention? Some folks think this scenario is what we will be faced with as a result of Y2K, aka “the millennium bug” (the possibility that many computer software programs and embedded microchips that use two digits for the year will not recognize “00” as the year 2000, instead thinking it is the year 1900. This might cause widespread computer failure, and even if you don't own a computer, your bank, grocery store, gas station, pharmacy, and utility company rely on them...Government and businesses are working hard on solutions to this problem, but it is difficult to test for results.

“Wanting to gather more information, we invited Gail Fialkow of the Northern Virginia Year 2000 Community Preparedness Committee to speak to MMCA on Nov.18. This group has the following recommendations, based on the premise that it's better to be safe than sorry: Prepare as you would for a big winter storm. Check batteries in flashlights, smoke detectors, radios, etc.) Get a first aid kit and extra medicine.... Do you have camping gear? Sleeping bags, butane cook stoves, etc. might come in handy if we have no heat or electricity. Do you have a cast iron pan? In case you'll be cooking up tuna surprise in the fireplace, your Calphalon won't work. Do you have an old fashioned can opener, the kind that uses elbow grease, not electricity? Stock up on paper plates. Get a big load of firewood. Get charcoal or gas for your grill, in case we'll be barbecueing in January. Stock up on canned goods and foods with long shelf lives that don't need to be refrigerated (just don't wait until December of 1999 to do it). Bottle and store water. Make sure your fire extinguisher hasn't expired..... Fill up your cars with gasoline before Dec. 31, 1999. Do your laundry before Dec. 31, 1999.....

“If there are problems for a number of days in January 2000, something we can do as a community is to be sure and check on our neighbors, especially those with special needs, and see if we can lend a hand. The more we pull together, the better off we are!”

Of course in reality the date changed to 2000 without a single reported piece of lost data, let alone any more dire consequences. Today all these precautions sound a bit like Chicken Little, but the fears were real at the time.

Young Entrepreneurs

Need a helping hand? Contact these young entrepreneurs in our neighborhood!

<p>Regan and Braeden's Pet Care Services: Available during the week, as well as weekends. Regan and Braeden have three dogs, a crested gecko, and a snake. They come to your home to walk your dogs and care for your cats and you can bring your fish and birds and hamsters for a sleepover. References include dogs, cats, rats, gerbils, dwarf hamster, a rabbit, and bearded dragons.</p> <p>To hire them, call: (703) 237-6136 or email regansmom@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Patrick's Pets: Patrick is available to watch your pets while you are away. Reasonable rates and references available. Willing to take small animals home for full-time attention. Can also pick up mail, water plants, etc. Dogs will be considered if they have a fenced in back yard.</p> <p>For more information, please contact: (703) 237-7975 or dhramp@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Abbie Strebe: I am 13 and a Red Cross certified babysitter. I charge \$8 an hour. I have experience babysitting babies as well as young children. I am available to help out with birthday parties, and I can also assist with games, face painting, and I can also dress up for a girl's princess party. I can be reached via email at alstrebe@gmail.com</p>	<p>Matthew and Alec's Twin Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experience walking and taking care of dogs - Raking - Picking up mail and newspapers when neighbors are gone <p>References available upon request.</p> <p>For more information, please contact: (703) 842-4821 or (703) 869-4259</p>
<p>Petsitter available: 11 yr old seeks small animals to sit for (haha). Brenna would like to help with your cat, small dog, bird or fish when necessary and available.</p> <p>Please email her mother, Amy, at amy_larrymeehan@yahoo.com if you have a job for Brenna.</p>	<p>Corrie Steele: (Age 16) Red Cross-trained Babysitter, Pet Care, Typing and Data Entry, Soccer Skills Tutoring.</p> <p>For more information, please contact: (703) 532-2496 or julie.steele@hok.com</p>	<p>Ben Celestino: Interested in beginning piano or clarinet lessons?</p> <p>Contact Yorktown junior Ben Celestino at: 571-438-8067, bcdcsports@comcast.net, or visit his Facebook page "Crescendo: piano and Clarinet Lessons with Ben Celestino"</p>	<p>Braeden's Mowing and Snow Shoveling: Need someone to come over and mow? Shovel your snow? Braeden is experienced and at the ready.</p> <p>For more information, please contact: regansmom@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Jacob Hall: (Age 14) is a tech geek. He can therefore help you set up your computer, network, or email. He's your neighborhood tech support!</p> <p>Feel free to contact him at: totallyuneekemail@gmail.com</p>	<p>Brian Taylor Steele: (Age 14) Leaf blowing, Snow Shoveling, Dog Walking, Pet Sitting</p> <p>For more information, please contact: (703) 532-2496 or julie.steele@hok.com</p>	<p>Laura Misra: I am 19 years old and I am a Red Cross Certified Babysitter.</p> <p>You can reach me at: (703) 533-1565 or lmisra@live.unc.edu</p>	<p>Morgan Birkenstock: Babysitting/Pet sitting/House watching/Homework help</p> <p>I am a 13-year-old 8th grader who is Red Cross Certified. I can babysit children of any age; walk dogs and care for pets; collect mail and water plants while you're away; and help younger children with homework after school.</p> <p>For more information, please contact: paulabirkenstock@yahoo.com</p>

*Wishing my
neighbors in
Madison Manor
a Happy
Holiday Season!*

Andrew Acker
Licensed Realtor in VA
Cell: 202.379.6822
Email: Aacker@KennedynCo.com

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