

# Madison Manor Citizen

www.madisonmanor.org

*The newsletter of the Madison Manor Civic Association*

April 2015

## President's Letter

Hello Neighbors,

Happy Spring! Thanks to everyone who worked hard this winter keeping our sidewalks and walkways clear. I know it is greatly appreciated by all the families that walk to McKinley and neighbors that make the wintry trek to the Metro.

We have already gotten the spring season off to a wonderful start in Madison Manor with the Stream Cleanup and Egg Hunt & Parade events (see more on page 3). And, there are lots of great events still to come. Please review the "Calendar of Events" to the right and mark your calendars.

**Please note: we need someone to take the lead if we are going to have our Annual Memorial Day Bike Parade this year.** Please contact me at [mmcapresident@gmail.com](mailto:mmcapresident@gmail.com) if you can take the lead on organizing the event this year.

Our next MMCA quarterly meeting will be **Tuesday, April 21st at 7:30p** in the McKinley school library. We will have a special presentation from **Danylo Kosovych, owner, Organic Edible Gardens**. Danylo will talk about organic and edible landscaping and will share advice on such topics as building up soil fertility, pruning, and lawn care. He will also field questions on gardening and landscaping from the community. You can find some of his great advice on pruning on page 5.

The spring also welcomes many new Madison Manor volunteers. I am very excited to announce that Ann Kurzius has agreed to take on the newsletter editor role. Ann, a.k.a. Annie, is a native Washingtonian and a 39-year resident of Madison Manor. In 1976 she and her husband bought one of the "California contemporaries" on Rochester Street, three years after that neighborhood was built. Mark passed away in 1996, and Ann took early retirement in 1999 from a national teachers union, where she was a writer, editor, and public relations manager. We are happy to have Ann's experience and expertise and look forward to enjoying her articles and new features.

Finally, I'm happy to report that we have filled all our Block Captain vacancies. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, this critical role helps keep our civic association connected and informed. Block Captains deliver newsletters, give warm welcomes to new neighbors, and help to make this neighborhood a true community. A big thanks to all the volunteers that stepped up and took the torch, including: Roxanne Rucker, Giin Levy, David Kraut, Jill Kettler, Stacy Noblet, Mary & Lary Koskinen, Joel & Elizabeth Langley, Matt & Kay Summers, Jeff Ellis, and Laura Dufprat (new Block Captain Coordinator).

Hope you have a great spring and I look forward to seeing you at our April 21<sup>st</sup> quarterly meeting.

Cheers,

Dave Blair  
MMCA, President

## Calendar of Events

**MMCA Quarterly Meeting**  
Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm  
McKinley ES Library

**Arlington Candidates Night**  
Wednesday, April 29 at 7:30pm  
Resurrection Lutheran Church  
*\*See page 6 for further details*

**Madison Manor Yard Sale**  
Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>  
(Rain date May 23<sup>rd</sup>)  
*\*See flyer for further details*

**Memorial Day Bike Parade**  
Monday, May 25 at 10:00am

**Summer Picnic**  
Sunday, June 7 at 5:00 – 8pm  
*\*See flyer for further details*

## MMCA Officers for 2014 - 2015

President	David Blair
Vice President	<b>Vacant</b>
Treasurer	Steve Elsberg
Secretary	Taylor Heim
Membership Chair	Carly Kelly
Past President	Jim Frison

## 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	<b>Vacant</b>
Stream Clean Up	Jon Walsh
Summer Movie Nights	Karyn Ewart
Summer Picnic	Angela DiBenigno and Becca Barnes
Yard Sale	Dick and Cathy Brooks

### Neighborhood Committees

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

## 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:mmcapresident@gmail.com) for ad rates and sizes.

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## JOIN THE MMCA "ANNOUNCE" LISTSERV & MMCA "DISCUSS" LISTSERV

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

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

## HELP WANTED

*Are you interested in filling a committee vacancy (see vacancies to the left)? Would you like to volunteer at an upcoming community event? Interested in starting something new in Madison Manor?*

Please email [mmcapresident@gmail.com](mailto:mmcapresident@gmail.com) to inquire about opportunities to get involved.

## 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.*

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

## Newsletters Are Available Online

Check out our website at:

[www.madisonmanor.org](http://www.madisonmanor.org)

for posted newsletters and lots of great information.

## Madison Manor Community Events

### Annual Stream Cleanup



Despite the downpour throughout most of the day and the raging creek conditions we had a great turnout of Madison Manor neighbors for this year's Madison Manor stream cleanup day. For safety reasons we stayed out of the creek, but there was plenty of trash and debris to cleanup from the park and alongside the creek. We filled lots of bags with plastic water bottles, trash of all sorts, dresser drawers, parts of an old weight bench, and bed rails just to mention some of the interesting items! **A big thanks goes out to all the neighbors that participated and to our event chair, Jon Walsh, who did a wonderful job organizing and running this important event.**

### Easter Egg Hunt & Parade



There is not a better way to welcome spring in Madison Manor than our Annual Egg Hunt and Parade. The morning was filled with excitement and smiling faces as children took part in the parade with the Easter Bunny and the wonderful egg hunts. This event would not have been possible unless we had neighbors giving their time to volunteer. The Madison Manor Executive Committee would like to thank all the volunteers that helped stuff and hide the MANY Easter Eggs, bring coffee and pastries, do face painting for the kids, and help clean up the park and playground. **A special thanks goes out to Nikki Baltatzis (event chair) for a fabulous job of planning and running an event that is such a great tradition in Madison Manor.**

### Did You Know...?

Jim Frison



Mr. A. M. Lothrop

Did you know that for a brief time in the 1950's, Halloween trick-or-treaters from Madison Manor received their candy from a famous television star?

Our story starts long before then. We mentioned in the last newsletter that in the 19<sup>th</sup> century the western two-thirds of what is now Madison Manor was owned by Richard Gott. The remaining (eastern) part, as well as most of Dominion Hills, was owned by Nicholas Febrey. Sometime prior to the Civil War, Mr. Febrey built himself a farmhouse near what is now Wilson Boulevard and N. McKinley Road. His farm and house appear on maps from 1861.

In 1893 the property was sold to Alvin Lothrop, co-owner of the now defunct Woodward & Lothrop department stores. Mr. Lothrop made extensive additions to the farmhouse to create an elegant two-story summer residence, for escaping the city in those pre-air-conditioning days. The hilltop location with its breezes would have been a pleasant place indeed to retreat for the summer.

And the TV star? The property was purchased in 1950 by Randolph Rouse, the developer of Dominion Hills. For two years in the mid-1950s, Rouse was married to actress Audrey Meadows, who commuted from Arlington to New York City each week to play Alice Kramden on "The Honeymooners" with Jackie Gleason. And, we are told, she really did answer the door on Halloween and hand out candy to the neighborhood children. Some came from Madison Manor just so to get a glimpse of the star.

Mr. Rouse, now in his 90s, still lives in the mansion, along with his current wife.

More history of the Febrey-Lothrop estate appears in the March/April *Arlington* magazine. Its author mistakenly calls McKinley Road "McKinley Street" and makes a few other errors, but the article is still worth a read ([www.arlingtonmagazine.com/March-April-2015/Febrey-Lothrop-House-Holds-Rich-History/](http://www.arlingtonmagazine.com/March-April-2015/Febrey-Lothrop-House-Holds-Rich-History/)).

### Structural Pruning

Danylo Kosovych, owner, Organic Edible Gardens LLC

What most people consider pruning is taking a power tool to the exterior of a shrub and turning it into a perfect ball—or turning adjacent shrubs into a hedgerow. But this so-called pruning technique does not benefit most shrubs, let alone trees.

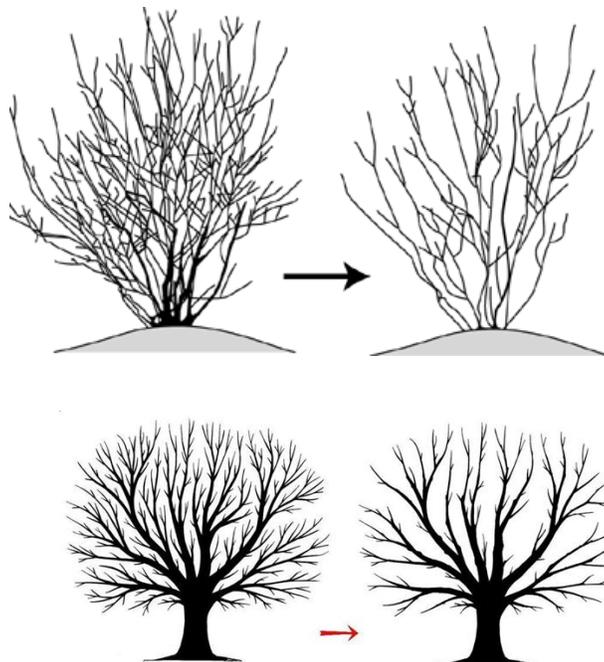
All too commonly, people “prune” crape myrtles by chopping off their tops. The tree will survive and flower a lot the next year, but its aesthetic structure is lost forever—and it will have to be chopped off the same way every year thereafter.

A much more practical way of pruning, called “thinning” or pruning from the inside out, enhances the aesthetic structure of the tree while helping it resist pests and disease. In fruit trees, thinning also increases fruiting. Thinning's primary objective is structural, to open up the canopy for air and light penetration. Allowing more air to flow in the center of a tree or shrub canopy reduces disease by allowing limbs and leaves to dry sooner. Increasing sunlight onto the interior buds of a tree increases fruit production. Shaded branches are unproductive, but they still use nutritional resources.

The best way to prune a tree or shrub is by looking at the plant from the inside out. Before you cut anything, analyze the plant. Find the large branches that reach the canopy. They should come out of the trunk at an almost perpendicular angle. These are the main structural branches. Do *not* remove these!

Start by removing dead, diseased, or broken branches. Any small branch that starts within the interior and does not make it to the canopy can be removed, because it's shaded and unproductive. Next, remove any branches that come out of the trunk with a very small crotch angle and then grow vertically through the canopy. These are shoots. They will be smaller than the main structural branches and entangled through the entire canopy.

When making a cut it's best to remove an entire branch from the trunk at the end of the branch collar. The resulting tree or shrub will have a cleaner look. There will be fewer small limbs in the interior of the canopy, making the larger structural branches more visible. The tree or shrub will also be more resilient and require less ongoing maintenance than a plant pruned from the top down.



### **Italian Store (Finally) Coming to Westover**

*(adapted from ARLnow.com)*

Has any neighborhood retail event ever been as anxiously awaited as the arrival of The Italian Store in the former 7-Eleven space at Westover? Opening date for the family-owned shop has been pushed back several times but appears to be finally imminent.

When owner Robert Tramonte announced in December 2013 that a second location of his popular grocery/takeout restaurant business would take over the Washington Boulevard 7-Eleven, he planned to open in May 2014. But permitting issues held up the start of construction until last summer, at which point Tramonte said he hoped to be open before the holidays.

The holidays long over, in February he was blaming delays in getting utilities installed in the 75-year-old, 6,000-square-foot building — water, gas, electricity, and Verizon FiOS. “There is no competition for those companies,” Tramonte explained, “so they schedule as they see fit.” At last check, construction seemed quite far along, and Tramonte was hoping to open “this spring.”

He envisions the new location as “The Italian Store on steroids,” with a seating area for eating and drinking, an expanded grocery section, and an illy@espresso bar.

### ***Arlington Candidates Night***

The Leeway Overlee Civic Association has organized a Candidates Night for Wednesday, April 29th at Resurrection Lutheran Church on Washington Blvd. The Madison Manor Civic Association and nine other local civic associations will be cosponsoring this event. The two races that will be highlighted are those to replace two current members of the Arlington County Board and the race for the open seat on the Arlington School Board. There are no incumbents in these races, so these are real races with low voter knowledge of most of the people running. This event is a real opportunity for people to figure out whom to support in a nonpartisan setting.

The Candidates Night will take place from 7:30 till near 9:30p that Wednesday evening in the Parrish Hall at Resurrection Lutheran. It will open with the School Board race and the two people who have filed to run. Each candidate will give a 3-minute introductory statement, and then the moderator will pose questions supplied from folks in the audience. Each candidate will have a minute to respond to each question. After half an hour, there will be a short break for refreshments, and then the candidates (currently 8) registered to run for the County Board will follow the same process of introductory statement and one minute answers to questions from the audience. The forum will conclude at 9:15p.

### ***Explore Glencarlyn on May 3, 'Garden Day'***

The Glencarlyn Library's Community Garden, the nearby Ball-Sellers House, and the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) jointly invite Madison Manor garden lovers to “Garden Day in Glencarlyn” on Sunday, May 3 (rain or shine).

Park just once and stroll among three destinations free of charge: the annual plant sale at the community garden (off Carlin Springs Road at S. 3<sup>rd</sup> and S. Kensington Sts.), a tour of Arlington's oldest house (Ball-Sellers, 5620 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.), and a browse through the Ball-Sellers colonial garden, one of 40 local gardens that grow fruits and vegetables and donate them to AFAC to supplement the nutrition of more than 2,000 Arlington families with scarce resources.

The plant sale in the tranquil library garden will feature locally sourced tropicals, ferns, shrubs, trees, and annuals. Master gardeners will be on hand to answer questions and advise on purchases. Hours: 10 to 3, but come early for best selection.

The Ball-Sellers House, Arlington's oldest dwelling, will be open from 10 to 3 for house and garden tours at no cost. Built about 1750 by John Ball, it is a rare example of an ordinary Arlingtonian's home in the 18th century. The house was donated to the Arlington Historical Society 40 years ago this year by Mrs. Marian Sellers, the last private owner, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

AFAC volunteers will be on hand in the Ball-Sellers garden to answer questions. Longtime Madison Manor resident Luella VanNewkirk, one of the garden volunteers, notes that “free packets of heirloom seeds will be available, along with free colonial era beverages and snacks.” Donations of nonperishable food items are welcome.

## Young Entrepreneurs

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

<p><b>Regan and Braeden's Pet Care Services:</b> Homeschooled children available during the week, as well as weekends. Regan and Braeden have two dogs and a snake.</p> <p>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, a rabbit, and bearded dragons.</p> <p>To hire them, call: <b>(703) 237-6136.</b></p>	<p><b>Patrick's Pets:</b> Patrick (age 11) 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: <b>703.237.7975 or dhramp@yahoo.com</b></p>	<p><b>Ben Celestino:</b> Interested in beginning piano or clarinet lessons?</p> <p>Contact Yorktown freshman Ben Celestino at: <b>571-438-8067, bcdcsports@comcast.net,</b> or visit his Facebook page: "Crescendo: Piano and Clarinet Lessons with Ben Celestino"</p>	<p><b>Corrie Steele:</b> (Age 16) Red Cross-trained Babysitter, Pet Care, Typing and Data Entry, Soccer Skills Tutoring.</p> <p>For more information, please contact: <b>703-532-2496 or Julie.steele@hok.com</b></p>
<p><b>Petsitter available:</b> 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 <b>amy_larrymeehan@yahoo.com</b> if you have a job for Brenna.</p>	<p><b>Matthew and Alec's Twin Services:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Experience walking and taking care of dogs</li> <li>- Raking</li> <li>- Picking up mail and newspapers when neighbors are gone</li> </ul> <p>References available upon request.</p> <p>For more information, please contact: <b>(703) 842-4821 or 703-869-4259</b></p>	<p><b>David Aronson:</b> Is a computer wiz and could hook up electronic equipment. David has done cat sitting and house sitting (checking basement after rain, water plants, etc.)</p> <p>For more information, please contact: <b>703-534-4718</b></p>	<p><b>Braeden's Mowing and Snow Shoveling:</b> Need someone to come over and mow? Shovel your snow? Braeden is experienced and at the ready.</p> <p>For more information, please contact: <b>regansmom@hotmail.com</b></p>
<p><b>Jacob Hall:</b> (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: <b>totallyyuneekemail@gmail.com</b></p>	<p><b>Brian Taylor Steele:</b> (Age 14) Leaf blowing, Snow Shoveling, Dog Walking, Pet Sitting</p> <p>For more information, please contact: <b>703-532-2496 or Julie.steele@hok.com</b></p>	<p><b>Laura Misra:</b> I am 19 years old and I am a Red Cross Certified Babysitter.</p> <p>You can reach me at: <b>703-533-1565 or lmisra@live.unc.edu</b></p>	<p><b>PLEASE CONTACT TAMMI MCKINLEY AT tammi@novamidwife.org IF YOUR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS ARE INTERESTED IN BEING LISTED</b></p>

## Madison Manor Classifieds



**organic edible gardens.**



**organic lawn care**  
**ecological landscape maintenance**  
**sustainable landscape design & installation**

**571.282.1724**  
oegardens.com
Mention this ad and receive **10% off** an annual maintenance contract!

Sunday Mornings — N. McKinley at Washington Blvd.



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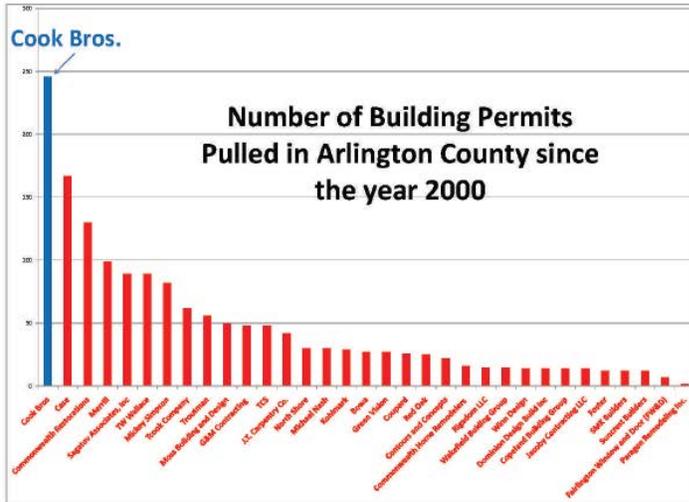
Yoga stretching classes in Mad Manor!

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[www.CookBros.org/MadManorGraph](http://www.CookBros.org/MadManorGraph)



*Happy Spring Greetings to  
All My Friends & Clients  
in Madison Manor*

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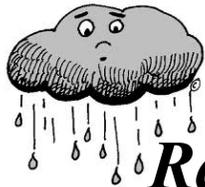


# **Madison Manor Multi-Family Yard Sale**



**Date: Saturday, May 16**

**Time: 9 am to 2 pm**



***Rain date: May 23***

\*If you are interested in participating please send your name and address to Cathy Brooks at [ctbrooks3@gmail.com](mailto:ctbrooks3@gmail.com). Cathy will need your address to point shoppers to your house.

Come and Have Fun at the  
Annual Madison Manor Neighborhood Picnic  
At Madison Manor Park!  
– Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup> 5-8 PM –

*Featuring LIVE music!*

- Hotdogs (meat and veggie), lemonade, sweet treats
- Moon bounce, water balloons, & more kids activities!

Just bring a side and something to sit on...  
everything else is FREE!

Care to help out or have questions? Contact Becca  
Barnes at 434-806-3191



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Madison Manor Civic Association

