

Madison Manor Citizen

www.madisonmanor.org

The newsletter of the Madison Manor Civic Association

May 2016

President's Letter

Happy spring, neighbors!

Madison Manor looks lovely this time of year, thanks to everyone's flowering trees and shrubs. What a beautiful, colorful neighborhood we live in!

I'm pleased to announce that we've finally been able to fill all of our Executive Board and Committee Chair positions. This is a tremendous relief, as we've been operating with significant MMCA leadership vacancies over the past two years.

I stepped into the role of MMCA President effective April 1. Dave Blair will be staying on as Past President, and Ali Protik will be the new Vice President. The MMCA Executive Board will be rounded out by Stacy Noblet (Secretary), Jill Kettler (Treasurer), and Elizabeth Johnson (Membership). Because these changes are taking place so late into the 2015/16 membership year, we're all planning to stay in office through the 2016/17 membership year (ending September 2017). You can read more about your new MMCA Executive Board members inside this newsletter.

I'd also like to thank Cara Voth and Michelle Curry for agreeing to serve as our Summer Picnic co-chairs. This is a huge event to plan each year, and Cara and Michelle have hit the ground running. **Please note: due to a conflicting park reservation, we've had to move the picnic to the afternoon of Sunday, June 12.** Watch your email in the coming weeks for more details and picnic volunteer opportunities.

Finally, don't forget the annual Madison Manor Memorial Day celebration on Monday morning, May 30. This is always a wonderful way to honor the current and former members of our armed forces living in Madison Manor. Amy Meehan and Karen Colmie are hard at work planning this year's event and will have more information shortly!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns for the MMCA Executive Board, please email us at mmcapresident@gmail.com. And enjoy the summer!

Carly Kelly
MMCA President

Calendar of Events

Community Meeting

Tuesday, May 10th at 7pm
Westover Branch Library

Invasive Plant Removal

Saturday, May 21st at 2pm
Madison Manor Park

Memorial Day Bike Parade

Monday, May 30th

Summer Picnic

Sunday, June 12th
Madison Manor Park

Invasive Plant Removal

Saturday, June 18th at 2pm
Madison Manor Park

Invasive Plant Removal

Saturday, July 16th at 2pm
Madison Manor Park

MMCA Officers for 2015 - 2016

President	Carly Kelly
Past President	David Blair
Vice President	Ali Protik
Treasurer	Jill Kettler
Secretary	Stacy Noblet
Membership Chair	Elizabeth Johnson

Committee Chairs

Annual Neighborhood Events

Egg Hunt & Parade	Giin Levy
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	Amy Meehan Karen Colmie
Stream Cleanup	Jon Walsh
Summer Movie Nights	Karyn Ewart
Summer Picnic	Michelle Curry Cara Voth

Neighborhood Committees

Civic Federation Delegates	Ann Unitas Vacant
Invasive Plants Task Force	Lawrence MacDonald Jo Allen Ted Wheeler
Neighborhood Conservation	Parker Harrington
New Neighbor Welcome Newsletter	Charlene Harkin Ann Kurzius Stacy Noblet
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 will now be published triannually, generally in January, late April, and September.

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.

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

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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.

Newsletters Are Available Online

Check out our website at **www.madisonmanor.org** for newsletters and lots of great information.

Mark Your Calendars: Madison Manor Civic Association Meeting, May 10

Join us Tuesday, May 10, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Westover Library Meeting Room for an MMCA community meeting. Our scheduled speakers include:

- William Jones, Arlington Transit
- Claudia Russell & Sergio Viricochea, Arlington County Traffic Engineering
- Jason Hardin, Capital Bikeshare
- Captain Patrick Donahue, Arlington County Police Department (ACPD)

Mr. Jones will cover plans to replace the 1E Metrobus line; see more about this change later in the newsletter.

Ms. Russell and Mr. Viricochea will be updating us on the upcoming traffic calming construction on McKinley Road, scheduled to take place this summer.

Mr. Hardin will discuss a new Capital Bikeshare station planned for the top of McKinley Road (near Wilson Boulevard).

Captain Donahue will address the recent Madison Manor break-ins and the construction and landscaping vehicles parked at the top of McKinley Road. There will be time for Q&A with ACPD.

Invasive Plants Begone!

Beautiful weather on April 16, the Saturday afternoon of Volunteer Week, brought a hard-working group of Madison Manorites out to the public spaces along Four Mile Run for a couple hours of neighborly stoop labor. Wielding a variety of tools but using mostly just their hands, Jo Allen, Lawrence MacDonald, Howard Hudgins, Rich Derbyshire, David Walker, Preston Atkins, Andrea Auerbach, and Katherine Safian waged war on unwanted invaders that smother trees or taint the soil. Top target this time: garlic mustard, which is easily pulled out, roots and all. If you identify and remove flowering garlic mustard, do not mix it with your yard waste. Send it with your rubbish to the landfill. No one wants its seeds floating around in compost created from yard waste.



Next battle: Saturday, May 21 from 2 to 4 p.m. Please join the weed warriors in removing invasive plants such as any remaining garlic mustard plants, each of which can spread thousands of seeds in June or July. The tussle also will target wineberry, porcelain berry, un-American wisteria, English ivy, multiflora rose and other pesky threats to our native trees and shrubs that support butterflies, birds, bees and other welcome wildlife.

Meet at the Madison Manor Park parking lot. Wear long pants, long sleeves, and closed shoes or boots. Gloves and tools will be available for loan. Weather permitting, the county-sanctioned RIP (Remove Invasive Plants) effort will continue on the third Saturday of every month from 2 to 4 p.m. until our dwindling native wild spaces are restored.

Easter Egg Hunt and Parade: Spring Fun in the Park

Residents and guests of all ages gathered at Madison Manor Park on March 26 for the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Parade. The chilly morning brought sunshine, plenty of hidden eggs, and a lot of fun!

Nikki Baltatzis has chaired the event committee for three years and is handing over the reins to new chair Giin Levy. Thank you, Nikki, for your leadership and service!



Community Announcements

Introducing Your MMCA Executive Board!

Carly Kelly, President

Carly has been a resident of Madison Manor since 2006. She lived on McKinley/Ohio Street, before moving into her current house on Nottingham Street in 2013. Carly lives with her husband, Chris Beckner, and two children (ages 4 and 7). Carly has been the MMCA membership chair for the past three years, and looks forward to continuing to serve MMCA as president this year. In addition to her MMCA duties, Carly works full-time as a healthcare attorney and she is an active member of Falls Church Presbyterian Church.

Dave Blair, Past President

Dave Blair and his wife, Courtney, have lived in Madison Manor for seven years. Their daughter Chloe is a 2nd grader at McKinley Elementary and their son Duncan will be joining his sister in the fall as a kindergartner. Previously, Dave has served as MMCA president, vice president, and the Madison Manor delegate to the Arlington County Civic Federation. His professional background is in nonprofit management, but he has been enjoying the most rewarding job of his life as a stay-at-home dad for the past four years.

Ali Protik, Vice President

Ali and his wife, Afra, took up residence in Madison Manor three years ago. Their son, Ayaan (meaning gift of God), is a third grader at McKinley and their daughter, Rayya (meaning content), is looking forward to go to McKinley in two years. Ali's work involves evaluating social programs in the U.S., Africa, and Asia. He is also the co-chair of the Math Advisory Committee for Arlington Public Schools. Ali and Afra are originally from Bangladesh.

Stacy Noblet, Secretary

Stacy is a relatively recent addition to the neighborhood, having moved to Madison Manor in July 2014. She and her husband, Mike, have a three year old daughter, Amelia, with another little girl arriving in mid-May! Stacy works full-time as a transportation and energy consultant. Both Stacy and Mike were born and raised in Michigan but have called Northern Virginia home for the past 12 years.

Jill Kettler, Treasurer

Jill has lived in Madison Manor since 2003. She is married to Brian and has two daughters, April (9) and Kira (8), who attend McKinley Elementary. Rounding out the family are Sparky, a gray schnoodle, and Oliver the kitten. Jill can often be seen dog walking or jogging around the neighborhood.

Elizabeth Johnson, Membership

Elizabeth and her family have lived in Madison Manor for four years. Her husband is currently on assignment in the DC area. Together, they have one child who attends McKinley Elementary. Elizabeth volunteers with numerous nonprofit organizations and is excited to help play a part in the Madison Manor community.

Time to Say Good-Bye to Paper

Did you know that MMCA spends almost 1/3 of its budget each year on photocopying? Now that email is so easy to access, the MMCA Executive Board plans to eliminate paper copies of the MMCA directory and Citizen newsletter going forward. If you've provided MMCA with an email address, you'll get an electronic (PDF) version of each publication sent directly to your inbox.

We will also send out the newsletters over the MMCA Announce listserv and will make all issues available for downloading from the MMCA website. (Note: The MMCA directory will continue to be available only to MMCA dues-paying members.)

There are several advantages to eliminating paper distribution. First, we will save over \$1,000 annually, which can be dedicated to other MMCA events. Second, electronic distribution requires significantly fewer volunteer hours. Today, an MMCA board member must make two trips to Staples to drop off/pick up documents for photocopying. Next, another board member must sort the documents for distribution to the block captain coordinators. From there, the block captain coordinators distribute to individual block captains, who then distribute to your homes. When there is a block captain vacancy, another volunteer must cover the route. We have over 560 homes in Madison Manor, and block captain vacancies are common and sometimes hard to fill. Third, eliminating the days spent producing and distributing paper publications greatly reduces the time lag between when the newsletter is written and when it's read (fresher news!). Fourth, electronic distribution has obvious environmental advantages as it cuts down on unnecessary paper consumption and waste. Fifth, electronic delivery allows you to see the newsletter's photos in full color, which would be cost-prohibitive to print.



To date, we have continued to generate paper copies under the assumption that not everyone had an email address. However, in the last MMCA membership drive, only 11 households (out of 251) did not provide an email address. We believe that we can make other accommodations for residents who truly do not have computer/internet access. We recognize that some MMCA residents just prefer to read things on paper, but there are other ways to print if desired (e.g., personal printers, Westover public library).

If you have questions or concerns about the elimination of paper directories and newsletters, please email mmcapresident@gmail.com.

Bus Changes Coming in August

Meridith & Lars Hanson

As you may have heard, Metrobus 1E will be eliminated as of August 19. Madison Manor and Dominion Hills residents have been working with Arlington Transit (ART) to decide on a new ART bus route to replace the 1E and serve our neighborhoods by providing a connection to Metrorail.

There were public meetings on March 15 and April 19 to discuss the service options and potential routes. William Jones of Arlington Transit has been the lead on developing the new route, which has not yet been decided. As of now, the most likely route would connect our neighborhood to the East Falls Church Metro station and to Wilson Boulevard, with potential stops in Madison Manor along McKinley Road and 12th Road/12th Street, south of Madison Manor Park. Arlington Transit is in the process of incorporating feedback from the community into its final route decision, including a careful look at whether the route will impact the safety of the playground and its users. Questions and concerns can be sent to Mr. Jones at wjones@arlingtonva.us.

As a next step, an Arlington Transit test vehicle, specifically a small "mobility bus" built on a truck body, will soon be driving through our neighborhood to time potential routes and ensure adequate clearance for ART buses. Arlington Transit expects to have more information for Madison Manor and Dominion Hills residents in mid-May; look for updates via the MMCA Announce listserv.

The ART bus eventually used on the route will likely be smaller and quieter than the current Metrobus 1E and will run a route approximately every 30 minutes during peak times. Long-term viability of this bus will depend on the ridership from our neighborhood meeting Arlington Transit's service evaluation guidelines, which specify a minimum number of riders per day (approximately 56). Service will begin August 22.

Crime Prevention

When and How To Call the Police

If you observe suspicious activity, even though you may not be the only witness, take the initiative and call the police. Don't rely on someone else to react. You could be the only caller.

The Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) says many people don't call the police because they're not sure if what they're observing is worth reporting. When in doubt, call the police immediately. Don't lose precious time discussing the event with neighbors or friends first.

If you suspect a crime is being committed—or about to be—phone **703-558-2222**. You don't need to give your name unless you want a police officer to contact you. If you would like to meet with an officer, tell the call taker and provide your name, address, and phone number.

To ensure a rapid response when you need it, ACPD has a call priority system. High priority calls are those reporting crimes where lives may be endangered, or crimes in progress, or recent crimes where there is still a chance of apprehending a criminal. As the call taker is asking questions, the information is going to the dispatchers for relay to the nearest police unit.

Lower priority calls are those reporting property crimes that occurred some time ago. These calls are dispatched based on available police units and may be handled by telephone.



What Constitutes Suspicious Behavior?

Suspicious activity may include. . .

- A stranger around your house or an unfamiliar vehicle parked on your street
- Unfamiliar vehicles that make repeated passes through your neighborhood
- The sound of breaking glass
- Anyone peering into vehicles or removing parts from a vehicle
- Someone carrying property such as TVs, computers, or tools, especially at night
- Screams, explosions, or other loud, unfamiliar sounds
- Persons involved in a fight
- Someone knocking on your door at night
- Solicitors at any time of day, if they don't have a solicitor's permit.

If you see any of these, or any other suspicious behavior, call the police. If you can safely get a license plate number or a description of the suspect, do so, but don't confront a suspicious person—call the police.

More Words to the Wise from ACPD

The ACPD offers these tips for protecting your personal safety on the street and in your vehicle:

- Pay attention to your surroundings!
- Be watchful when using any portable electronic equipment in public.
- When walking, running, or biking, use only one earbud or earphone.
- Lock your car doors and keep windows up while driving—and when your car is parked in your driveway or on the street.
- Carry your car keys and house keys on different rings.
- Place shopping bags and packages in the locked trunk, out of sight.
- Never leave your purse in your grocery cart while shopping.
- Don't carry a purse unless absolutely necessary.
- Carry in your wallet only what you need for the day—no extra cash or credit cards.
- Use only well-lit ATMs, and don't walk away displaying cash.

ACPD also offers safety tips for the office or other workplace:

- Don't leave the reception area unattended at any time.
- Keep your purse, wallet, keys, cell phone, or any other valuable item with you at all times or locked in a drawer or closet.
- Have employees wear access cards, so that strangers stand out.
- Check the identity of any strangers you see in your office. Ask whom they are visiting and if you can help them find that person. If you feel uncomfortable, inform security or management of your suspicions.
- Don't allow anyone—even your co-workers—to piggyback in on your access card. In the event of an emergency evacuation, the card reader system can identify who is still in the building.
- Be discrete. Don't advertise your social life or vacation plans, or those of your co-workers, to people visiting or calling your workplace.

McKinley Addition Won't Be Ready Before Late November

Thanks to several construction delays, the new three-story addition to McKinley Elementary won't be "move-in" ready until late November 2016 at the earliest, and the new parking lot and fields won't be completed until spring 2017. But Arlington Public Schools (APS) is moving forward with school boundary changes and bringing new families into McKinley from Glebe and Tuckahoe Elementaries, resulting in ~100 additional students at McKinley this coming fall.

McKinley is in the midst of a \$22 million expansion project to add 241 seats. It opened the current school year with a capacity of 443 and an enrollment just over 600. Glebe and Tuckahoe are also over capacity with 580 and 669 students, respectively. The original plan was to take advantage of McKinley's expansion by adjusting boundaries to balance capacity utilization across all three schools. With McKinley's expansion now not likely to be completed until November or December, changing the boundaries as planned this summer will bring this fall's projected McKinley student body to 712.

In presentations to the McKinley Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and the community on April 5, APS blamed the delay on unexpected problems its contractor has encountered at McKinley, including the discovery of an underground spring, old building footings, and undocumented utility lines. Those problems are delaying until late November the expected substantial completion of "Phase 3" of the expansion — a three-story addition with a number of classrooms and other facilities originally scheduled to be ready for the opening of the school year.



To bridge the gap, over the summer APS will be re-installing a "six-plex" classroom trailer complex it had removed over spring break, to allow for the installation of an underground storm water management system. APS was able to meet capacity needs without the trailers thanks to the completion of "Phase 2" — a one-story addition with four new classrooms — over the winter.

McKinley was at 136.6% capacity when it opened last fall, according to APS. It is projected to have 712 students (131.1% capacity) when it opens this fall with the school boundary changes in effect. Once the renovation project is complete and classes move into the three-story addition over winter break, the school will be at 104% capacity. That compares to 573 projected students (112.4% capacity) at Glebe Elementary and 586 projected students (107.5% capacity) at Tuckahoe Elementary.

"APS believes that moving the students from Tuckahoe and Glebe to McKinley as planned this fall provides the best continuity of instruction and relieves crowding at both Tuckahoe and Glebe," Assistant Superintendent of Facilities and Operations John Chadwick told the media.

The delay raises concerns about the lack of recreation space for McKinley students. A new gymnasium won't be ready until Phase 3 is completed, and the fields around the school are now not expected to be restored post-construction until April 2017. This fall, physical education classes will continue to take place in a trailer in the school's parking lot.

The increased enrollment and the fact that the new parking lot now won't be ready until next spring will clearly impact traffic and parking along McKinley Road. Claudia Russell of Arlington County's traffic planning department will be at the May 10 MMCA meeting to discuss a "traffic calming" project on McKinley Road. Asked about that project at the April 5 community meeting, the APS officials said it's totally unrelated to the school construction/parking/boundary change decisions.

Meanwhile, the teachers, administrators, and PTA volunteers at McKinley are doing a heroic job keeping instruction running smoothly under extraordinarily difficult circumstances. While the expansion project has been tough on many of us for many reasons, we are truly lucky to have such a wonderful school community in our neighborhood and have a beautifully renovated school to look forward to.

Homeowners' Q&A

Getting Your Deck Ready for Summer

The good folks at Moss Building and Design in Chantilly answer a question they're often asked by northern Virginia homeowners.

Q. My wooden deck seems to have really deteriorated over the winter. What should I do?

A. One thing you should make sure to keep an eye out for is "dry rot," which is very common on wooden decks. It's caused by microorganisms that remove cellulose from the timber, leaving it brittle. Despite its "dry" name, this fungus occurs due to moisture building up and causing the wood to mildew.

Common signs of dry rot include shrinking, darkened, or cracked wood. Due to the dark, decayed look of the wood, dry rot can often be confused with pest damage.

One of the difficulties in identifying dry rot is that you usually can't see all of the affected areas. Make sure to check the underside of your deck, because the fungus thrives in dark, humid places. It's best to hire a trained professional to detect every area of dry rot—and to repair your deck promptly. Act fast, because dry rot can easily spread. This fungus is often called the "cancer" of homes.

Finally, make sure to find the source of the dry rot problem: check for plumbing leaks near hoses and faucets. And take preventive measures to keep the fungus from growing again. Inspecting your gutter systems, eaves, and even the grading of your yard are proactive things you can do to prevent the excess water build-up that leads to dry rot.



Mulling Over Mulch

Danylo Kosovych, Organic Edible Gardens LLC

Mulch offers a multitude of benefits to the gardener. It improves the soil's moisture retention, suppresses weeds, adds organic matter, and increases aesthetic appeal. But don't go wild with it. Mulch applied too thickly can create root collar disorders in trees, kill tender perennials, and reduce the amount of oxygen in the soil.

The best time of the year to apply mulch to your garden beds is the early spring, before perennials emerge. If applied too early, the mulch will be flattened and weathered come springtime. It's best to wait until there's little chance of snow.

Perennial garden plants will emerge through the mulch if it's not applied too thickly. Attempting to mulch *after* perennials have emerged requires significantly more care, because covering newly sprouted perennials with mulch can damage them. Mulch applied to garden beds in early spring prevents annual weed seeds from germinating—and helps smother already emerged perennial weeds.

There are many possible mulch materials, but the most widely available are shredded leaves, bark, and wood. The best mulch resembles Mother Nature's own: a combination of fallen leaves and downed twigs and trees. So is mulch from the county facility the best option?

While it does produce rich dark soil when used over a number of years, Arlington County's leaf mulch contains a lot of weed seeds, which can counteract the weed suppression benefit of mulch. Bark mulch is high in tannins, which over time lower the pH of our already acidic soil. In nature there is never such a high concentration of bark around plants; the bark is always mixed with wood and leaves.

No material is perfect, but of these three, wood mulch is my mulch of choice because it keeps weeds down, looks attractive, and has balanced nutrients.

If you have a particularly weedy area you would like to smother, consider using a compostable material like cardboard—not “weed fabric,” which never breaks down! If the fabric isn't removed annually, perennial weeds begin to seed themselves on top of it, growing roots throughout the fabric and making the weeds harder to remove. The fabric also stratifies soil, not allowing the organic matter of broken down mulch to mix with the lower layers of soil. As a result, roots remain at the surface. Over time, the fabric becomes clogged with organic matter, preventing water from infiltrating into lower layers of the soil. Cardboard, on the other hand, can be left in place because it breaks down over time and works to improve the soil.



Ten-year-old weed fabric with a thick layer of weeds growing on top



Cardboard also smothers weeds but breaks down over time, improving the soil

Why the Library Is the Urban Gardener's Best Friend

Rebecca Carpenter, Founder & CEO of Sprout

Rebecca@SproutKitchenGardens.com, www.SproutKitchenGardens.com

We have long loved the Arlington public library system for its many resources, and now there are three great reasons for gardeners to love the library even more.

Reason #1: They Lend Garden Tools!

Did you know you can check out a wide range of gardening tools, just like you'd check out a book? The program is called "The Shed," and it offers tools to Arlington residents who don't necessarily have the space or desire to own and store their own gardening equipment.



Seriously, how many of us have the space to store a wheelbarrow, seed spreader, or pitchforks? Not me! So from March to November, you can just borrow them from the Arlington Central Library. At no cost. How great is that?

Here's a sample of what they lend -- you can find the complete list of tools on the library website:

- **Planting & Digging Tools:** shovels, hoes, cultivators, pitchforks
- **Weeding & Cutting Tools:** saws, shears, loppers, pruners
- **Rakes & Cleaning Tools:** rakes, brooms, wheelbarrows
- **Watering & Miscellaneous Tools:** hoses, nozzles, extension cords, ladders, seed spreaders

Tools can be borrowed for seven days, with one renewal; up to five tools can be borrowed at a time. To get started with The Shed, stop by Central Library and sign up at the circulation desk, and read more about it at <http://library.arlingtonva.us/a-z-list/the-shed/>.

Reason # 2: They Offer Garden Talks and Plant Clinics

Do you know about the Expert Garden Talks offered every Wednesday evening at Central Library? The talks, which run from March through October, are led by volunteers and staff from Arlington Food Assistance Center's (AFAC) Plot Against Hunger and the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) Master Gardeners. Topics range from starting seeds indoors through container gardening to composting and more. The full calendar of Talks can be found on the library website. And on Thursday evenings from April to October, the Master Gardeners host a Plant Clinic where you can get answers to all your gardening questions. The Plant Clinic is held at 6:45 p.m. on the first floor of Central Library, and the Garden Talks take place at 7 p.m. outside at the Central Library Community Garden. Which leads me to...



Reason #3: They Host Community Gardens

You may have seen the wonderful community gardens around Arlington, several of which are at the public libraries. Central Library is home to the USDA's People's Garden, the Berm Garden, the Pollinator Garden, and the 10th Street Americorps Garden.

Glencarlyn Library is home to a teaching garden maintained by the Master Gardeners. It consists of herb, shade, sun, tropical, dry, container, and native gardens.

And Westover Library uses a series of raised beds and public workshops to teach the community about planting, sustainable gardening, composting, and other useful urban farming techniques.



(Bonus) Reason #4: Books!

With such diverse resources available these days at our libraries, it's easy to forget the very thing they're most known for: books! You can borrow great guidebooks, reference manuals, magazines, and even movies about gardening and farming. Stop by any of the eight branches and ask the reference librarian to point you in the right direction.

Local Book Nook

Calendar of Upcoming Literary Events

Looking to meet a new or favorite author? Taste some delicious wines? Local indie bookshop One More Page Books (OMP) hosts wine tastings the first Friday evening of every month, and authors frequently visit OMP to discuss their writing and sign books. All events are free and typically last about an hour; no RSVP is necessary (but it never hurts to call ahead to confirm that there's been no last-minute schedule change). Unless otherwise noted, events are at the store: 2200 N. Westmoreland Street in Falls Church. For details, phone 703-300-9746 or visit www.onemorepagebooks.com.

Thursday, May 5th at 7 pm – *Falls Church News-Press* Editor **Nicholas F. Benton** shares from *Extraordinary Hearts: Reclaiming Gay Sensibility's Role in the Progress of Civilization*.

Friday, May 6th at 7 pm – Book launch party for Young Adult (YA) author **Jessica Spotswood** and her new release **Wild Swans**.

Tuesday, May 10th at 7 pm –YA author panel: **Elle Cosimano** (*Holding Smoke*), **Hannah Barnaby** (*Some of the Parts*), **Kelly Fiore** (*Thicker than Water*), and **Lenore Appelhans** (*Level 2*).

Wednesday, May 11th at 7 pm – **William Geroux** shares from *The Mathews Men: Seven Brothers and the War Against Hitler's U-boats*.

Wednesday, May 11th at 7 pm (Arlington Central Library) – Shut Up & Write! Bimonthly YA author panel founded by Jon Skovron and Jessica Spotswood. Featuring **Kelly Fiore** (*Thicker Than Water*) and **Lenore Appelhans** (*The Memory of After*). Topic: "They'll Never See It Coming: Writing Effective Plot Twists."

Saturday, May 14th at 3 pm – **Ellen Prentiss Campbell** chats about her debut novel *The Bowl with Gold Seams*.

Tuesday, May 17th at 7 pm (Arlington Central Library) – Printz Award-winning author **John Corey Whaley** will be interviewed by NPR Weekend Edition's Barrie Hardyman and will sign his new YA novel *Highly Illogical Behavior*.

Wednesday, May 18th at 7 pm – **Jenifer Joy Madden** talks about "How To Be a Durable Human."

Friday, May 20th at 7 pm – Two authors from She Writes Press: **Jill McCroskey Coupe** (*True Stories at the Smoky View*) and **Melissa Rea** (*Conjuring Casanova*).

Saturday, May 21st at 3:30 pm – **Megan Lloyd** shares from her children’s mixed-media picture book *Finding Wild*.

Tuesday, May 24th at 7 pm – **Matthew Palmer** chats about his new international thriller *The Wolf of Sarajevo*.

Thursday, May 26th at 7 pm – **Peter J. Daly & John F. Myslinski** discuss and sign *Strange Gods: A Novel about Faith, Murder, Sin and Redemption*.

Friday, June 3rd at 6:30 pm – Wine tasting.

Monday, June 6th at 7 pm – National Journal senior political columnist **Ron Fournier** shares from his memoir, *Love That Boy: What Two Presidents, Eight Road Trips, and My Son Taught Me About a Parent’s Expectation*. Accompanied by a wine tasting.

Tuesday, June 7th at 7 pm – **David Swinson** discusses and signs *The Second Girl*.

Wednesday, June 8th at 7 pm – **Sara Hammel** shares from her debut children’s novel *The Underdogs*.

Tuesday, June 14th at 7 pm – **J. Todd Scott** chats about *The Far Empty*.

Saturday, June 18th at 3 pm – **Tom Stanton** talks about *Terror in the City of Champions: Murder, Baseball, and the Secret Society that Shocked Depression-Era Detroit*.

Monday, June 20th at 7 pm – **Colleen J. Shogan** discusses and signs her second book in the Washington Whodunit series, *Homicide in the House*.

Tuesday, June 21st at 7 pm – YA author panel with **Julie Eshbaugh** (*Ivory and Bone*) and **Jodi Meadows** (*My Lady Jane*).

Monday, June 27th at 7 pm – **Timber Hawkeye** shares from “**Faithfully Religionless: A Memoir.**”

Tuesday, June 28th at 7 pm – Book launch Party for **Jon Skovron** and his new fantasy novel *Hope and Red*. Accompanied by a wine tasting and pirate-themed fun.

Friday, July 1st at 6:30 pm – Wine tasting.

Saturday, July 9th at 3 pm – **David Krugler** shares from *The Dead Don't Bleed*.

Friday, July 15th at 7 pm – **Beatriz Williams** discusses and signs her newest novel, *A Certain Age*.

Saturday, July 23rd at 6 pm – YA author panel featuring **Tiffany Schmidt** (*Break Me Like a Promise*), **Miranda Kenneally** (*Defending Taylor*), and **Jessica Spotswood** (*Wild Swans*).

Wednesday, July 27th at 7 pm – “The Dangerous Ladies” are back on tour! Featuring YA authors **Megan Shepherd** (*The Hunt*), **Megan Miranda** (*The Safest Lies*), **Beth Revis** (*A World Without You*), **Gwenda Bond** (*Lois Lane: Double Down*), and **Renee Ahdieh** (*The Rose and the Dagger*).

Friday, July 29th at 7 pm – **Sarah Pekkanen** (*The Perfect Neighbors*) and **Eleanor Brown** (*The Light of Paris*) pair up to chat about their new novels. Accompanied by a wine tasting.

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. To hire them, call (703) 237-6136. 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 dwarf hamster, a rabbit, and bearded dragons. Contact: 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 backyard. Contact (703) 237-7975 or dhramp@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Morgan Birkenstock: Babysitting/Pet sitting/House watching/Homework help. 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. Contact: paulabirkenstock@yahoo.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>Contact: (703) 842-4821 or (703) 869-4259</p>
<p>Babysitter & Petsitter: Brenna (7th grade) is able to sit for young children (preferably over the age of 2). American Red Cross certified. Also available for petsitting needs. References available upon request. Please contact Brenna's mom, Amy, at (904) 673-6842 (cell) or amy_larrymeehan@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Corrie Steele (age 16): Red Cross-trained Babysitter, Pet Care, Typing and Data Entry, Soccer Skills Tutoring.</p> <p>Contact: (703) 532-2496 or julie.steele@hok.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 dressing up for a girl's princess party. Contact: alstrebe@gmail.com</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>Contact: regansmom@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Jessica Layton, Babysitter: Jessica is 13 and a Red Cross certified babysitter. She loves helping take care of children of all ages! Jessica has been babysitting for a year on her street. She is also willing to be a mother's helper for anyone who needs it. Jessica can also watch your cat or any small animals while you are away. Contact: jessieqstreet@gmail.com</p>	<p>Jacob Hall (age 14) is a tech geek. He can therefore help you set up your computer, network, or email. Contact: totallyuneekemail@gmail.com</p> <p>He's your neighborhood tech support!</p>	<p>Ben Celestino: Interested in beginning piano or clarinet lessons? Contact Yorktown junior Ben Celestino at (571) 438-8067, bcdsports@comcast.net, or visit his Facebook page "Crescendo: piano and Clarinet Lessons with Ben Celestino"</p>	<p>Brian Taylor Steele (age 14): Leaf Blowing, Snow Shoveling, Dog Walking, Pet Sitting</p> <p>Contact: (703) 532-2496 or julie.steele@hok.com</p>
<p>PLEASE CONTACT TAMMI MCKINLEY AT tammi@novamidwife.org IF YOUR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS ARE INTERESTED IN BEING LISTED</p>			

*Wishing all of our
Friends & Clients in the Neighborhood
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