

# Madison Manor Citizen

www.madisonmanor.org

*The newsletter of the Madison Manor Civic Association*

August 2015

## President's Letter

Hello Neighbors,

I hope you are having an enjoyable summer. It got kicked off in great fashion thanks to the wonderful Annual MMCA Summer Picnic. It was an impressive turnout to enjoy all the activities, live music, and great food!

I would like to extend a big thank you to the planning committee. This year's awesome planning committee members were: Angela DiBenigno (co-chair), Becca Barnes (co-chair), Wendy Reed, Peggy Nasir, Jerrilyn Ishee, Colleen Fredericks, Melissa Revin, Julie Thompson, Carly Kelly, Stacy Noblet, Tracy Barnes, John Nasir, Kelsey Barnes, Anna Barnes, and Lily DiBenigno.

I also would like to extend a thank you on behalf of the Executive Committee to Jim Frison and Amy Meehan for a wonderful job organizing and running our Annual Memorial Day Bike Parade this year.

It is volunteers like these folks that continue to make our neighborhood events possible and remind us how fortunate we are to live in Madison Manor!

**VACANCIES – Interested in becoming more involved with our amazing community? We need a new Vice President to start in September when the MMCA begins the new planning year. This position needs to be filled in order to ensure we have the leadership needed to maintain an active and ongoing civic association.**

Without a full Executive Committee we will not be able to continue to: offer wonderful events throughout the year, hold community meetings so neighbors can voice their concerns and get better informed about important topics that affect our neighborhood, and have an organized body that can advocate on behalf of the community. **Please send me an email at [mmcapresident@gmail.com](mailto:mmcapresident@gmail.com) if you are interested in the Vice President position or would like to discuss this opportunity further.**

Hope you have a great rest of your summer and I look forward to seeing you in the Fall when our new MMCA year gets kicked off!

Cheers,

Dave Blair  
MMCA, President

## Calendar of Events

### Summer Movie Nights

Madison Manor Park, as soon as it gets dark (~8:15 p.m.). BYO blankets, chairs, beverages, popcorn, bug spray.

-Friday, August 7:  
Guardians of the Galaxy (PG-13)

-Friday, September 11:  
The Breakfast Club (R)

**MMCA Quarterly Meeting**  
TBD

## 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	<b>Vacant</b>

### 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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## 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](mailto: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](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)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.madisonmanor.org) for color photos, posted newsletters and lots of great information.

## Madison Manor Community Events

### May Yard Sale

On May 16th, 28 Madison Manor families participated in the neighborhood yard sale. The great weather boosted buyer traffic, and helped many unused items find new homes. A big “thank you” to **Dick and Cathy Brooks** for their supreme organizational skills and the immense effort they made to advertise the sale and ensure it was a success.



### Memorial Day Bike Parade

Our annual Memorial Day Bike Parade (May 24<sup>th</sup>) was a big success thanks to the hard work of **Jim Frison**, who persevered through the county’s permit process to request the closure of 12<sup>th</sup> Road North for one of our neighborhood’s most popular events. A big “thank you” to **Amy Meehan** as well for providing refreshments.

### Summer Picnic



We had another very successful Madison Manor summer picnic, with families from all over the neighborhood coming together on June 7<sup>th</sup> to enjoy good food, beautiful weather, and of course, the moonbounce. Spirits and attendance were high as we enjoyed the sounds of local bands **Wilbur’s Redemption** (above, left) and **The Nonessentials** (right). A special thank you to co-chairs **Angela DiBenigno** and **Becca Barnes** and all of the other volunteers who made this such a successful event!



## Madison Manor History

### Did You Know...?

#### Jim Frison

Did you know that the first telephone in Arlington County was installed in what is now Madison Manor?

In the April 2015 newsletter we discussed Nicolas Febrey, an early owner of half the land that is now Madison Manor. Febrey's granddaughter Ella married Dr. Thomas M. Talbott in 1876. In 1885 they acquired the Febrey land on the west side of McKinley Road – roughly from the McKinley school south to Wilson Boulevard.



Besides being a physician, Dr. Talbott was a business and community leader in Falls Church, where he was one of the founders of the M. E. Church Telephone Company. While telephones were installed in Alexandria prior to that, the one installed in Dr. Talbott's house in 1888 was the first in what is now Arlington County. This phone made it possible to “call the doctor” when his services were needed.

After Ella's death Dr. Talbot and his second wife, Katherine (nee Nourse), built the second house in Madison Manor, in 1893. That house was torn down in about 1965 and replaced with the Christian Science church.

At Dr. Talbot's death in 1940, he was said to have delivered over 2,000 babies in his 68-year career. One can imagine many of the calls to that home telephone were for his assistance on those births.

The graves of Dr. Talbott and his two wives can be found in the nearby Oakwood Cemetery on Roosevelt Street in Falls Church.

*Above: 1905 view of the Talbott house, where the Christian Science church now stands. (Photo from A Virginia Village, by Charles Alexander Stewart.)*

### When Did You Land in Madison Manor?

For a future feature, we're looking for Madison Manor's most veteran residents, to share tales and photos of earlier times in the neighborhood—and to let the newer arrivals know how much has (or hasn't) changed.

If you've lived in Madison Manor since the early 1970s or before, and especially if you grew up here, please contact editor Ann Kurzius ([annkurzius@gmail.com](mailto:annkurzius@gmail.com)).

## Advice for Gardeners

### Collecting Rain Water in the Earth, Not a Rain Barrel

Danylo Kosovych, Organic Edible Gardens LLC

You don't need rain barrels to collect rain water. They are useful if you want to store water and use it for irrigation but for stormwater management they are dwarfed by amount of rainfall that falls in the average storm. One inch of rain falling over a 1000 square-foot roof produces 600 gallons of water. A 50-gallon rain barrel only catches 1/12 of the water.

A 600 gallon water tank is not only large and obtrusive but also expensive. Not to worry, there are multiple ways to catch rain water without using a container at all. Below are examples of multiple ways we have collected rain water using the earth as the container.

*You can catch it in a rain garden:*



Here we piped the downspout to a bowl shaped depression which we later planted with Aronia, Low- Bush Blueberries and native perennial flowers. The soil in the center is deeply tilled and the water infiltrates rapidly while the plants benefit from the additional water.

*You can catch it in a swale:*

A swale is a depression in the earth much like the rain garden but linear in shape, therefore more adept at catching runoff. This client had runoff problems from their neighbor. We created a swale along the property line to catch and infiltrate the runoff before it entered their property. The Elderberries and Aronia benefit from the additional water.



*Or, you can use perforated pipe to leach it into the soil:*



This is a vegetable garden which we created on contour and directed the roof runoff into a perforated pipe and buried the pipe in gravel. All of the water from the roof infiltrates into the soil and waters the vegetable beds.



Here we used the same principal with the infiltration pipe but planted columnar apple trees on top of the pipe. Now the water from the pipes waters the apple trees.



## Homeowners' Q&A

### Minimizing Storm Damage

*The good folks at Moss Building and Design, a family-owned building and design company in Chantilly, VA, have volunteered to answer, in each issue of this newsletter, a question they're often asked by their northern Virginia homeowner clients. Here's the first one.*

**Q. With storm season upon us, how can I best prepare my home to minimize any storm damage?**

**A.** The first thing you might want to do is have a licensed contractor come and inspect your roof to check for possible leaks. After that, make sure your gutters and drains are clean so that rapidly falling rain doesn't get blocked and start flooding a certain area around your house. Additionally, make sure your downspouts are positioned away from your home's foundation. You could even consider getting removable extenders that can be attached to your downspouts to carry the rain even farther away from your foundation.

Another thing to take into consideration, storm-wise, is tree care. This includes removing dead and rotting trees and branches and also trimming back trees to keep them at their healthiest. Because we have some extremely old trees in Arlington, it wouldn't hurt to have an arborist come to check out the health of your trees, so you can be aware of any failing trees before they came crashing down around—or even onto--your house.

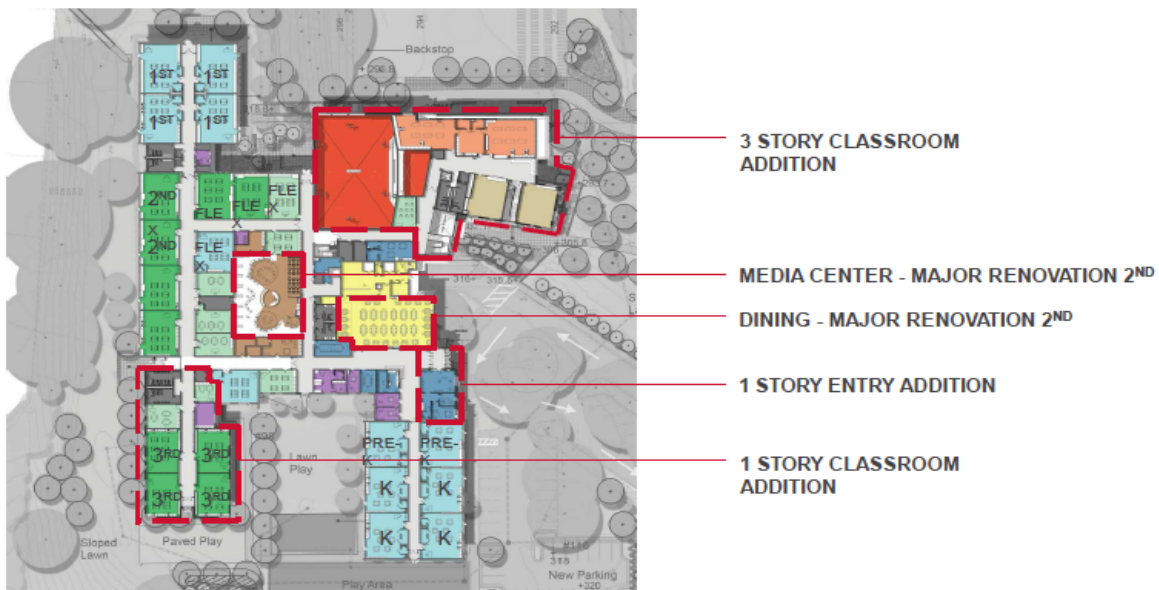
And last, but not least, prepare for the inevitable. If you don't have one already, a back-up generator might be a good investment. Not just to have power to keep your major appliances running (refrigerator, air conditioner), but also to keep that ever important sump pump running smoothly. Although some sump pumps are equipped to handle power failures with battery back-up, not all are designed to do so. If the power goes off, a back-up generator should keep that sump pump going and help minimize the risk of a flooded basement.

## School News

### McKinley Elementary School Construction Project FAQ's Dave Blair

**Question: What are the major phases of the project and when will the project be completed?**

SCHEDULE AND PHASED CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION DATES	
Construction Start	June 22nd 2015
Phase 1: Interior Renovations	July / August 2015
Phase 2: New Pentagon Wing	March 2016
Phase 3: New Three-Story Addition	July / August 2016
Phase 4: New Admin Area & Interior Work	July / August 2016
Phase 5: New Parking lot, Site work & Fields	August/ October 2016
Punch List Items	October / November 2016
New Building Occupancy	Start of School year September 2016
Project Complete	November 2016



**Question: When will the construction occur during the day and what is the schedule?**

- **On-Site Work Hours:** Normal business working hours 7:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- **Weekend and Holiday Hours:** 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- **Hours for Utility Shutdowns:** As permitted by the impacted homeowner(s)
- **Public right of way work:** Between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays

**Question: How is APS addressing construction worker parking?**

Arlington Public Schools has leased 45 parking spaces at the First Church of Christ Scientist for the duration of the project. Workers will walk to the site and parking is prohibited on streets around the school.

**Question: What work is currently underway or completed?**

There has been a lot of work on the McKinley Elementary School construction site since school let out. To ensure the site is protected, erosion control measures have been put in place, as well as tree protection elements. Three single relocatables have been removed from the site per the plan. In addition, the “12 plex” relocatable

classrooms in the field are approximately 50% complete (meaning in place and hooked up for classes in September). Site work demolition is ongoing where much of the work related to the pentagon demolition is complete.

***Question: When will the playground and field be accessible again for the community?***

It is likely that the new field space would not be able to be used until closer to 2017 (Note: this is not a fact, but an educated guess). APS is hoping to have the new playground completed and accessible by Spring 2016.

***Question: Whom do I contact if I have an issue or concern about the construction project?***

Please do not hesitate to contact the Community Liaison, Robin Hodges, should you have any issues or concerns about the construction of the project. She will be serving as the liaison to the community throughout the construction of the site.

**Robin Hodges, Project Manager**

J. Vinton Schafer, Construction Manager

Email: rhodges@JVSchafer.com

Tel: 443.506.1247

***Question: Where can I find more information on the project?***

Project information is posted online at <http://www.apsva.us/Page/21234>.

For more information, kindly email [McKinley.communications@apsva.us](mailto:McKinley.communications@apsva.us).

## Community News Beyond Madison Manor

### **ArlingtonVA Mobile App Really Works!**

Have you discovered ArlingtonVA? This free app lets you report problems and make service requests to the county directly from your Apple, Android, or Windows smartphone. See a pothole, fallen tree, broken streetlight, or median in need of mowing? Snap a photo with your phone and use this app to speed it to the county, where it will be instantly routed to the right division. You'll receive a tracking ID and be notified when the issue is resolved.

The app also lets you click on "nearby requests" to see if your issue has already been reported by others. Another link, "recycling lookup," lets you quickly find out whether something can be recycled. Still others let you view county and police department news releases.

User experience so far has shown that this portal really does yield quick county action. Just search for it in your smartphone's apps store, download, and try it for yourself!

### **RSVP: Your Invitation To Serve**

Are you age 55 or older and looking for ways to "give back" to your community? RSVP is America's largest volunteer network for people 55 and up. You choose how, where, and how often you want to serve, and RSVP will match you with the service activities that are the right fit for you.

Orientations are held often in locations throughout northern Virginia. For more information, go to <http://www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/rsvp.php>, or phone (703) 403-5360.



## New Places to Eat Nearby

Restaurants come and go, but in the past year or two it seems we've seen an unusual number of new arrivals in our environs. How many of these have you checked out?

**The Italian Store**, 5837 Washington Blvd., Westover Village. Over twice the size of the original Lee Highway location, this one includes an espresso coffee bar, a gelato station, a sandwich counter, a pizza station, retail shelves of wine, pasta and sauce, a small private dining room in the back, an outdoor cafe area, and a dedicated customer parking lot.

**Plaka Grill**, 513 W. Broad St., Falls Church. “Greek cafe with gyros, souvlaki & other traditional favorites in a casual, colorful space.” Outdoor seating also available.

**Taste by Katie**, 6017 Wilson Blvd., Dominion Hills. “Strip-mall shop dispensing inventive spins on hearty American classics made to be reheated at home.” Weekly menus are posted at TastebyKatie.com.

**Village Sweet**, 5872 Washington Blvd., Westover Village. Sweet and savory bake shop and coffee shop. Everything baked from scratch, daily, in small quantities. Closed Mondays.

**Yayla Bistro**, 2201 N. Westmoreland St., Arlington. “Turkish restaurant serving traditional dishes in a stylish, contemporary setting.”

## Your Neighbors’ Opinions

We asked Madison Manor residents attending the April quarterly meeting or the June annual picnic two questions:

**A. What do you like MOST about Madison Manor?**

**B. If you could wave a magic wand and make one improvement in the neighborhood, what would that be?**

<p>Bill Graver, 9<sup>th</sup> Road N.:</p> <p><i>A. Peace-and-quiet neighborhood.</i></p> <p><i>B. Effective cooperative governance throughout MM neighborhood that upholds the original MM covenant (1955).</i></p>	<p>Hank Ickes, 9<sup>th</sup> Road N.:</p> <p><i>A. Madison Manor is great for dog walking!</i></p> <p><i>B. Make the neighborhood less car-oriented, since we're only a mile or less from Metro and from Seven Corners and Eden Center.</i></p>
<p>Melissa and Taylor Heim, 11<sup>th</sup> Road N.:</p> <p><i>A. We love the green space, parks, and walking trails—and how we work together to keep them beautiful.</i></p> <p><i>B. Would love to see a walking bridge over Sycamore near the Metro. Also underground power lines.</i></p>	<p>Alberto and Mardi Mucino, 9<sup>th</sup> Road N.:</p> <p><i>A. Nice walkable, friendly neighborhood</i></p> <p><i>B. (Marissa Mucino, 2<sup>nd</sup> grader): The picnic should have three moon bounces: one for the little kids, one for age 6-9, and one for older kids.</i></p>
<p>Varun Nikore, N. Quantico Street:</p> <p><i>A. Diversity of families.</i></p> <p><i>B. Set aside part of Madison Manor Park for a community or other type of garden.</i></p>	<p>Matthew Murray and Oksana Trofimova, N. Powhatan Street:</p> <p><i>A. Police are on the beat and do great.</i></p> <p><i>B. Lighting on the path leading up to the bike path.</i></p>

## 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, contact: <b>regansmom@hotmail.com</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 dh ramp@yahoo.com</b></p>	<p><b>Abbie Strebe:</b> 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 <b>alstrebe@gmail.com</b></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>Petsitter available:</b> 11 yr old seeks small animals to sit for. 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>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>Colin's Lawn Mowing:</b> If anyone in the neighborhood is looking for a reliable young man to cut their grass for a reasonable price, email me (Kevin) <b>kmeek@meekconsulting.com</b> or call <b>(703) 538-1025</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>totallyuneekeemail@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>



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Contact Nancy at [nancy@omagainomagain.com](mailto:nancy@omagainomagain.com) for more information or to be included in the weekly email sign-up.

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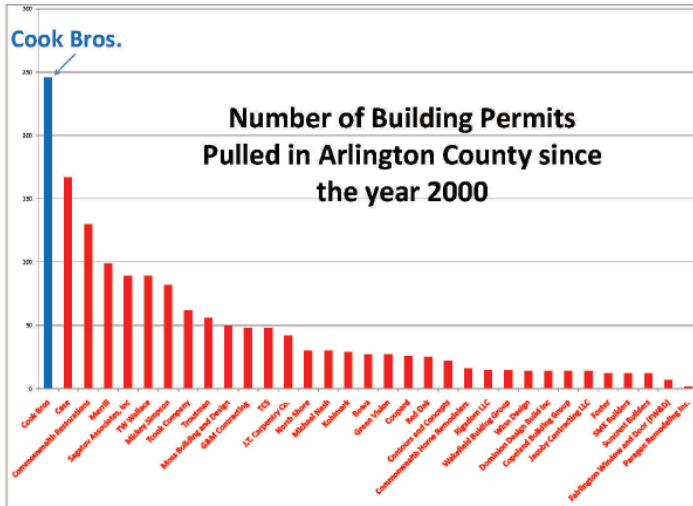


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Advertising in the *Madison Manor Citizen* is a great way for local businesses to reach this community of over 500 families. Why not insert *your* ad in our next issue? All ads need to be submitted in black and white, camera-ready form. For ad rates and sizes, please contact David Blair at [mmcapresident@gmail.com](mailto:mmcapresident@gmail.com).

# You Don't Have to Interview the #1 Remodeler in Arlington... But...

## Why Wouldn't You?



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



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

**Dave Lloyd & Associates**

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**Direct: 703-593-3204**

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