

Madison Manor Citizen

www.madisonmanor.org

The newsletter of the Madison Manor Citizens Association

January 2013: Vol. 20 No. 1

LAST HARDCOPY NEWSLETTER! ... Maybe...

Hello Neighbors,

I hope you had a safe and wonderful holiday season and are ready for another great year!

COMMUNICATION:

As my article headline implies, we are looking at the most effective and efficient ways to communicate Madison Manor Civic Association (MMCA) information. Several members have asked if the hardcopy newsletter is needed any longer, or worth the effort to create and deliver, especially with the increased use of electronic communication such as our Listserve and webpage. Others have expressed their enjoyment of getting the hand-delivered newsletter each quarter. What do you think? Do you feel that you receive information about the events you want in a timely manner and in the medium you want? Should we get professionally made signs to put up each quarter to notify neighbors of our upcoming meeting (similar to Bluemont)? Did you know we have a Madison Manor Facebook page? We want to hear from you at our next **Quarterly meeting on January 15th at 7:30** in the McKinley School library. This meeting will focus on communication within our neighborhood association and I hope you will come. If you are unable to attend please, but would like to share your thoughts on the topic, e-mail (mmcapresident@gmail.com), write (945 N Quantico St), or call (703-300-9765) me. I will make sure your views are shared at the meeting.

CAR BREAK-INS:

In December several neighbors' cars were "broken into," and items were stolen. I put it in quotes because most if not all of the cars were left unlocked. Please make locking your car (and house and sheds, etc.) a New Year's resolution. If you are a victim of a theft, please report it to the police immediately. For emergencies, call 911, for non-emergencies, call (703) 558-2222 or complete an on-line report at: <http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/Police/PoliceMain.aspx>

OTHER NEWS:

- Please check out our website (www.madisonmanor.org) to see color pictures of our holiday decorating contest and caroling, plus other great info.
- We are still looking for **Volunteer(s)** to lead our annual pot-luck picnic.
- My thanks to Stacey Milici for volunteering to lead our **Home Additions tour** coming in late April/early May timeframe – see more details inside.

Hope you have a great New Year and I look forward to discussing communication at our January 15 quarterly meeting.

Cheers,
Justin

MMCA Officers for 2012 - 2013

President	Justin Hall
Vice President	Jim Frison
Treasurer	Steve Elsberg
Secretary	Jenny Capone
Past President	Danielle Rampton
CivFed Primary Delegate	David Blair

Committee Chairs

Bonfire	Judy Henderson
Egg Hunt	Jenny Capone
Holiday Caroling	MaryLu Mahoney
Holiday Decorating	Officers, last year's winners
House Tour	Stacey Milici
I-66	Miriam Rollins
Membership	Melissa Koenig
Memorial Day Parade	Adam Green
Movie Nights	Patty Cummings
Neighborhood Conservation	Parker Harrington, Zach David
Newsletter	Suzanne Plimpton
Newsletter Distribution	Martha Kile, Julie Stradling, Errin Matechak
Pot Luck Picnic	VACANT
Stream Clean Up	Hank Ickes
Web Site	Tara Claeys
Yard Sale	Dick and Cathy Brooks
Young Entrepreneurs	Tammi McKinley

Madison Manor Citizen

Founding Publisher Jonathan Harmon

The *Madison Manor Citizen* is the newsletter of the Madison Manor Citizens 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 Suzanne Plimpton at shplimpton@comcast.net for ad rates and sizes.

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Calendar of Events

Q1 Meeting

– January 15, 7:30 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt

– March 30, 10 a.m.

Memorial Day Parade

– May 27, 10 a.m.

Potluck Picnic

– June 9, 5-8 p.m.

Join the MMCA e-Mail Listserv and

MMCA Discussion Listserv

Go to www.madisonmanor.org to sign up to get important updates and to discuss neighborhood issues.

You can also go to Facebook and “like” us for all of the latest updates and to share information.

facebook | join our group +

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 Suzanne Plimpton at shplimpton@comcast.net

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

MMCA newsletters are now available online.

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

Halloween Recap:

Many thanks to our master fire builders for another spectacular blaze. Much fun was had by all!

Halloween Contest – Judging was scheduled for Sunday before Hurricane Sandy, which wreaked a little havoc on decorating and judging.

Last year's winners led the judging for this year, and the winners were:

Kid choice – Wong Family
Parent choice – Beckner/Kelly Family

Honorable mention – Stropes Family

Winners get movie gift certificates and will judge next year's Halloween decorations.

Holiday Recap:

It was a rainy night for Christmas caroling, but voices were clear and cookies were enjoyed!



Holiday decorating winners!

The "Grown-up's Choice" award goes to the **Scheffel Family** on Quintana.

Honorable Mentions:

The Donley Family on Quantico St

The Claeys Family on Powhatan St



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

The "Children's Choice" award goes to the **Beckner/Kelly Family** on Ohio St

Honorable Mentions:

The Novak/Sutherland Family on N. Quintana St. with its Snoopy theme

The Hayes Family on Quintana with an American flag decking its entire rooftop



One Tradition We Would Love to Continue

After 3 years of helping plan some fun annual meetings, our pot luck picnic chairs want to sit back and relax. We can't have an annual picnic without someone willing to secure the entertainment, moon bounces, grills, paper products, drinks, make fliers, etc. The executive committee handles the "program" part of the evening and neighbors are invited to bring their own main dish with a side dish to share. Dessert is provided.

The date of the picnic is SUNDAY, JUNE 9 from 5-8. Even though the planning is fairly simple, if you're feeling burdened, invite two or three neighbors to help! Many hands make light work!

Contact Danielle Rampton at dhramp@yahoo.com or 703.237.7975 if you can make this happen.

2013 Home Additions Tour is Back!

We excitedly announce that we are bringing back the successful neighborhood event this spring of 2013! We are currently looking for interested home owners who would like to showcase their special renovations projects on the tour as well as committee volunteers!

Interested homeowners, please contact Stacey Milici at staceymilici@gmail.com by Friday January 25th. We plan to meet with interested homeowners the last week of January to discuss possible dates for the spring tour.

Please visit our Madison Manor website at <http://madisonmanor.org/> for all details and updated information. We will be listing the homes, committee members, volunteers and sponsors on our website this year!



Looking forward to another successful tour this spring!

Invasive Plants: English Ivy

By Christina Campanella

In late December the sun passed over the tropic of Capricorn as the tilt of the earth listed to its farthest point from the sun. It's official: Winter has begun.

Winter, the all-important season of planning and putting things to order before the Vernal Equinox: Spring, new beginnings, fresh starts, awakenings. And what better place than in our gardens?

It is during winter's colder, darker months that deciduous plants in our landscape drift to sleep, shed their leaves and we can get down to the business of removing the most common and widespread evergreen pest in our midst. I'm talking about English Ivy (*Helix hedera*).

You'll see this plant on sale at most of our best nurseries, but don't be fooled into thinking that it's okay to load up your cart with it.

English ivy poses one of the greatest ecological threats in our region today.

Still, commercial growers grow it and nurseries stock it because it is easy money, a cash crop: It grows anywhere, anytime. In nurture. In neglect. In sun. In shade. In dry soil. In wet soil. In contaminated soil. In clean soil. On slopes. On flats.

So, then, what's the problem with planting this "lovely" little native of Europe, Asia and North Africa?

Just this: English ivy clammers up trees, using them as a support in its never-ending quest for light.

This is not a benign phenomenon. Ivy on a tree's trunk reduces the tree's exposure to sun and free flowing air and so leads to disease and insect infestations.

Eventually the ivy takes over a tree's canopy, blocking sunlight to the tree's leaves and hindering the tree's ability to photosynthesize, or make its own food. And that leads to a weakened, less stable, more hazardous tree.

And we all know what that means in high winds and fierce storms.

To learn more about what we can do to eliminate this enemy in plain sight, check out this website: www.TreeStewards.org. It serves volunteers who advocate for trees and increasing the tree canopy in Arlington and Alexandria.

The group has launched an anti-ivy campaign and has lots of tips for how to rid your garden of this evergreen scourge.

In addition, you'll find on the website lots of other information about the proper care and maintenance of trees and links to other resources.

You can also join TreeStewards in their efforts boost the tree canopy and help improve the health of our environment.

The next training class begins in February. Students learn the basics of tree biology and physiology, tree identification, planting and maintenance techniques, construction impacts on trees, pruning and selecting the right tree for the right spot.

Applications and more information are available on the website.

Westover Farmers Market Now Open Year Round

The Westover Farmers Market launched this past May has enjoyed a successful first year. Many families and singles living in the area have come out on Sunday mornings to enjoy the market and pick up the freshest seasonal fruit and vegetables around. Now that we are into the colder months, vegetables are limited. But the market (which was approved by the County Board in November as a year-round market) still offers a wide variety of locally grown apples and pears. And the season doesn't matter for such prepared products as breads, pastries, chocolates, soup mixes, meats, fresh eggs, mushrooms, and the like.

A local farmers market lets you develop a relationship with those who grow your food. The market customers all have their "favorite" vendors and look forward to exchanging a few words with each of them on market day. It is one of the best ways to build a community and a sense of place.

This kind of market also gives one a graphic sense of the seasons. When the fresh strawberries ripen in April and May, you can revel in their fragrance and flavor. The same applies to the corn and cantaloupe in midsummer, the cling and then the freestone peaches, and on and on. But as the season for each of those delights passes, you can only sigh and wait for those favorite of Nature's bounty to return same time next year. As we all know, that item in the vegetable section of the supermarket in December may look like a tomato, but it certainly doesn't taste like one.

All of the farmers and purveyors of value-added consumables at the market hail from within 125 miles of Arlington. This helps to ensure the freshness of the items sold and also eliminates the layers of middle men standing between you and wherever the corn or apples or bread come from that are sold in large grocery stores.

The Westover Farmers Market's winter hours are 9 – 1 on Sunday mornings. In May – November the market is in summer mode and has a larger number of vendors. The summer hours are 8 – 12 – in part to avoid the summer's heat. The market is closed only during the Christmas/New Year holiday period. The market has an excellent web site (<http://westoverfarmersmarket.org/>) and posts to Facebook and Twitter as well. Consider signing up for periodic messages from the market—so you are among the first to know when those spring strawberries arrive!

Young Entrepreneurs

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

Regan and Braeden's Pet Care Services

Homeschooled children available during the week, as well as weekends. Regan and Braeden have two dogs 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, birds and hamsters for sleepovers.

References include dogs, cats, rats, gerbils, a rabbit, and bearded dragons.

Braeden's Mowing and Snow Shoveling

Need someone to come over and mow? Shovel your snow? Braeden is experienced and at the ready. Email regansmom@hotmail.com.



Corrie Steele (age 16): Red Cross-trained babysitter, Pet Care, Typing and Data Entry, Soccer Skills and Tutoring.

Brian Taylor Steele (age 14): Snow Shoveling, Dog Walking, Pet Sitting. You may reach Corrie or Brian at 703-532-2496 or julie.steele@hok.com.



Laura Misra is 16 years old and a Red Cross-certified babysitter. You can reach Laura at 703-533-1565 or lauramisra@gmail.com.



David Aronson is a computer wiz and can hook up electronic equipment. David has done cat sitting and house sitting (checking basement after rain, watering plants, etc.).

Teddy Aronson (17) is an experienced babysitter with CPR and First Aid certification. He is also interested in becoming a math tutor. 703-534-4718.

Matthew and Alec's Twin Services

Experience walking and taking care of dogs; raking; picking up mail and newspapers when neighbors are away. References available upon request. 703-842-4821 or 703-869-4259.



Patrick's Pets Madison Manor's Patrick Rampton is available to watch all your pets while you are on vacation. Reasonable rates and references available. Adult back-up for mid-day watching on school days and walking of dogs. Willing to take caged/tanked animals home for full-time attention. Can also pick up mail, newspapers and water plants. For more information, please contact 703-237-7975, or dhramp@yahoo.com.



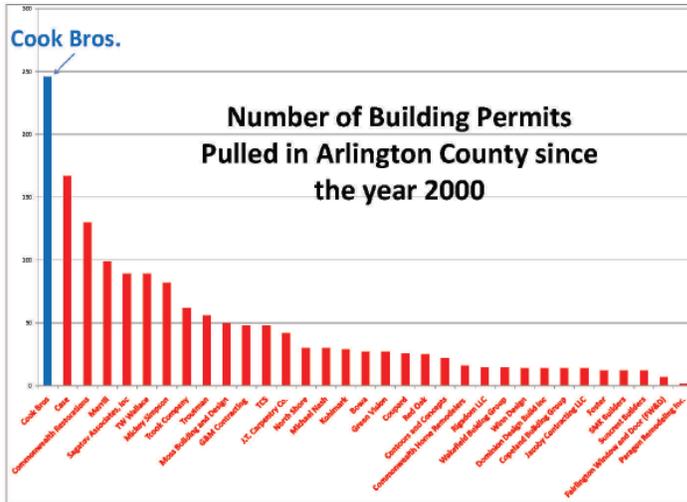
Reliable Dog Walkers Do you need someone to walk your dog? Do you need someone to take care of your dog when you are away? Mary, Lauren and Liz can help! They are students at Swanson and are dog owners. Email them at dudeswalkingdogs@gmail.com or call 703-536-8719 for more information.

If you know a young entrepreneur who would like to be added, please e-mail Tammi at tammi@novamidwife.org.



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5-week Program

Saturdays, January 26 -
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parachutes, egg shakers,
group play, and more!

Madison Manor Citizens Association Membership Form

Join the Madison Manor Citizens Association (MMCA). The \$10 annual membership dues subsidize the numerous activities our neighborhood uniquely offers (Yard Sale, Halloween Bonfire, Holiday Decorating Contest, Easter Egg Hunt, Memorial Day Parade, Potluck Picnic, and Movie Nights). The current membership year runs from September 2012 through August 2013. If you are uncertain whether your dues are current, please contact Melissa Koenig on 703-538-6655 or mksoyh@yahoo.com.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

If you were listed in the most recent MMCA directory and have no changes, please forward dues to the address below (please make sure your name and address are noted above).

(Optional) Children: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Your ideas for new MMCA activities:

Activities you might be willing to help with:

***Please forward \$10 annual dues, payable to MMCA,
to Melissa Koenig at 982 N. Quintana St.***