

Madison Manor Citizen

www.madisonmanor.org

The newsletter of the Madison Manor Citizens Association

April 2014: Vol. 21 No. 2

President's Column

As I write this, we have just had what I hope is our last winter storm. Let's hope that the transition to spring is finally here. Thanks to everyone who worked hard this winter to clear their sidewalks and who helped neighbors with theirs. In my walks around Madison Manor after storms, I was pleased to see the MMCA neighborhood spirit in the form of snow shoveling.

With the warmer weather, we can finally get out, re-introduce ourselves to our neighbors and enjoy more outdoor activities. The MMCA has several events coming up soon. Our Easter Egg Hunt will be on April 19th - see the enclosed flyer for details. At the Quarterly meeting on Tuesday, April 22nd, Arlington County staff will join us for presentations and discussion regarding street lighting. For more on the street lighting issues, see inside this newsletter.

Our invasive plant group has been hard at work clearing ivy from Brandymore Castle, where the ivy is particularly prevalent and threatening the trees. They meet the third Saturday of every month at 9am. Bring clippers and gloves and wear sturdy shoes. The April work session coincides with the Egg Hunt - an alternative if you're not hunting for eggs. This activity happens every month so keep it mind - it would fun and educational for the kids. By the way, Brandymore Castle is the name of the hill next to the W&OD trail on the way to the Metro. Brandymore castle literally put the Madison Manor area on the map. Colonial surveyors used it as a landmark when the first survey of the area was done in 1724.

And on April 26th, the annual Arlington stream cleanup will take place. Meet at Madison Manor park with boots and work gloves at 9am. This will be the last stream cleanup for long-time coordinator Hank Ickes. Hank is leaving us soon to move to New Jersey (no jokes, please!). Thanks, Hank for your contributions to Madison Manor over the years!

And one more transition: we're sad to see Jenny Capone, MMCA secretary, and her family move to California. Thanks for your work for the association. We'll miss you.

Finally, we need someone to take the lead if we are going to have our Memorial Day Bike Parade this year. Adam Green, who has done a terrific job the last few years, has to take this year off while home renovation is underway.

As you can see, we can always use help in organizing MMCA activities. Please consider helping to keep Madison Manor such a great place live.

Jim Frison
MMCA Presiden
mmcapresident@gmail.com

MMCA Officers for 2013 - 2014

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

Committee Chairs

Bonfire	Judy Henderson
Egg Hunt	Vacant
Holiday Caroling	MaryLu Mahoney
Holiday Decorating	Last year's winners
House Tour	Vacant
I-66	Miriam Rollins
Membership	Carly Kelly
Memorial Day Parade	Adam Green
Movie Nights	Karyn Ewart
Neighborhood Conservation	Parker Harrington, Zach David
New Neighbor Welcome Newsletter	Maureen Yacobucci
Newsletter Distribution	Suzanne Plimpton
	Martha Kile, Julie Stradling, Errin Matechak
Pot Luck Picnic	Tracy and Becca Barnes
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

Quarterly Meeting

– April 22, 7:30 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt

– April 19

Stream Clean-Up

– April 26, 9:00 a.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.**

Community News

New Street Lights

As many of you are aware there have been some issues with the new street lights with their LED bulbs. For those who don't receive our email list updates, I wanted to provide a summary of what have been happening. Let me say first, though, that the issue is not the replacement of the old style "Cobra" lights; the newer Carlisle lamp posts are definitely more attractive and provide better light coverage. But there have been complaints about the implementation of these lights and the responsiveness of the County to citizens who have expressed concerns. The most significant issue is that the lights shine directly into some residents' homes including their bedrooms. For those affected residents, this is quite disruptive and disturbing. This is not just an issue with newly installed lights but has also occurred as the County replaces the less dim bulbs in older fixtures with brighter LED bulbs.

There are other issues such as the brightness (too bright for some) and the quality (too blue) of the lights. There is room for debate on these issues and there will be more discussion within our neighborhood as well as with the County on these and other concerns about the lights. For now, I am going to focus on the most disruptive issue and the County's responsiveness.

At the February quarterly meeting, we had unusually large attendance prompted by some residents who were not pleased with the lights and, in particular, with them shining into their homes. Some had contacted the County but they did not get any satisfaction or action from the County. In fact, the County staff actually told them that they would just have to get used to it. We agreed at the meeting to have the MMCA contact the County in the hope that the association might be listened to. Subsequently, on behalf of the MMCA, I wrote to the County staff and County manager to express our concerns and request action. Board member Libby Garvey heard our concerns, expressed her interest and has been included in our communications with the County.

I have also personally spoken with the Assistant County manager, Wilfredo Calderon, to discuss our concerns. He and the County Manager agree that the County staff's responses were inappropriate. They are committed to

addressing our concerns. I have provided him with contact information for about 20 residents who are disturbed by lights shining into their homes. The County staff should be contacting those residents and addressing their specific concerns. Our next actions will depend on what happens if and when the County staff contact MMCA residents.

The County has also agreed to attend our next quarterly meeting to make presentations on the lights and to discuss our issues. Again, the specific topics will depend in part on what occurs between now and the meeting. My hope is that meaningful actions have been taken with the residents most affected by these lights. If not, it should prove to be a very lively meeting. The County would also like to schedule an after-dark demonstration of the lights and their dimming capabilities later this spring when the weather is better.

Due to Ms. Garvey's interest, the County Board is aware of the situation and is concerned about the lack of responsiveness. I will keep Ms. Garvey informed.

We have definitely gotten the attention of the County's management. Now it is up to them and the staff to respond. We'll have an update at the meeting, of course, and I will continue to send out information through the MMCA announce email list.

If you have concerns about the lights, please contact the County at 703-228-6570 to report them. Also, let me know at mmcapresident@gmail.com so that we can monitor the County responses.

Community News

2013-14 MMCA Membership Drive Results

Thank you to everyone who joined MMCA this year! We collected dues from 239 families (representing 54% of Madison Manor households). As a reminder, the MMCA membership year starts in September and ends in August. This year, we ran a more condensed membership drive from September through December. Collecting dues at the beginning of the membership year makes it easier to manage the annual budget, and it also allows us to publish the MMCA Neighborhood Directory in January rather than waiting until the end of the summer.

If you paid your dues, you should have received a copy of the directory by now through your block captain. We're still happy to accept 2013/14 dues if you forgot to pay, and there are still a limited number of directory copies available. If you haven't received your directory yet and/or would still like to pay your dues for this year, please contact Carly Kelly, MMCA Membership Chair, at carlykelly@gmail.com or (703) 533-3994. The next membership drive (for the 2014/15 year) will begin this September.



Looking for a way to get involved with the neighborhood and a chance to meet people? The Citizen will have an opening for the newsletter editor – please contact Suzanne Plimpton at shplimpton@comcast.net to learn more!

Mulch: Materials and Strategies

By: Danylo Kosovych, Owner
Organic Edible Gardens LLC

There are many benefits to mulch, including improved soil moisture retention, weed suppression, increase in organic matter and aesthetic quality, but like most things, a sound approach goes a long way, if applied too thickly, it can create problems like root collar disorders in trees, anaerobic soil conditions and killing of tender perennials. There are multiple material options to consider as well as the ideal time of year to apply mulch.

The best time of the year to apply mulch to your garden beds is the early spring before perennials emerge. It is best to wait until most of the snow has finished, if applied too early, the mulch will be flattened and weathered come spring time. Perennial garden plants will emerge through mulch if not applied too thickly. Attempting to mulch after perennials emerge requires significantly more care because recently sprouted perennials can be damaged if covered by mulch. Mulch applied in spring prevents annual weed seed germination in garden beds and can smother already emerged perennial weeds.

There are many mulch materials available, but the most widely available are shredded bark, leaves and wood. The best mulch resembles most what nature produces. Nature's mulch is a combination of leaves, downed twigs and trees, therefore one could assume that leaf mulch from the county facility is the best option. While it does produce rich dark soil when used over a number of years, it contains a lot of weed seeds and can counteract the weed suppression benefit of mulch. Bark mulch is high in tannins which over time lowers the pH of our already acidic soil. There is never such a high concentration of bark around plants in nature; it is always accompanied with wood and leaves. No material is perfect, but out of the three, wood mulch is my mulch of choice because it keeps weeds down, looks attractive and has balanced nutrients.

If you would like to smother a section of weeds or lawn consider using a compostable material like cardboard. Weed fabric should be avoided in garden beds. It never breaks down! If not removed annually, perennial weeds begin to seed themselves on top of the fabric, growing roots throughout the fabric, making it more difficult to remove the weeds. It 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, improving the soil.



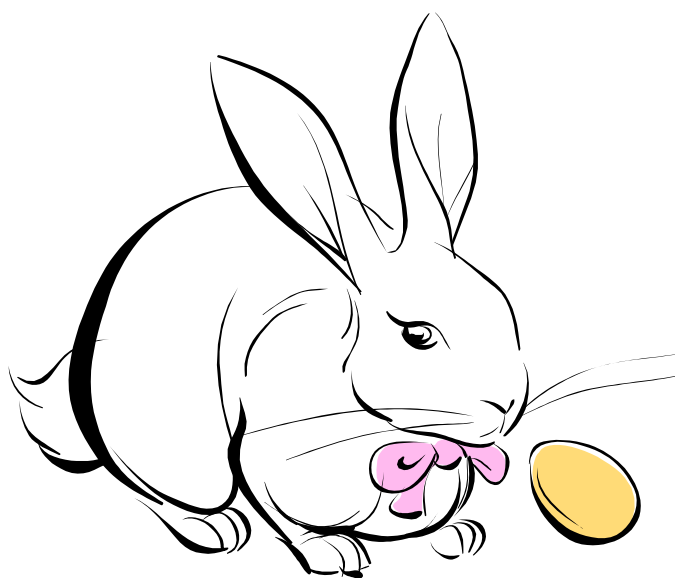
Ten year old weed fabric with a thick layer of weeds growing on top



Cardboard also smothers weeds but breaks down over time

**Bring the family and join us at the
Annual Madison Manor
Easter Egg Hunt featuring:**

- *The Easter Bunny*
- *Tasty treats from Heidelberg Bakery*
- *Easter Bonnet Contest*



When: Saturday, April 19th at 10:00 am

Where: Madison Manor Park

(Rain date: Monday, April 22 at 10:00 am)

A \$1 contribution per child is suggested

Questions: Nikki Baltatzis, 703-538-1177

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 (age 18) is a Red Cross-certified babysitter. You can reach Laura at 703-533-1565 or lauramisra22@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.). 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 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. 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.



Interested in beginning piano or clarinet lessons? Contact Yorktown freshman Ben Celestino at 571-438-8067, bcdcsports@comcast.net, or visit his Facebook page "Crescendo: Piano and Clarinet Lessons with Ben Celestino"

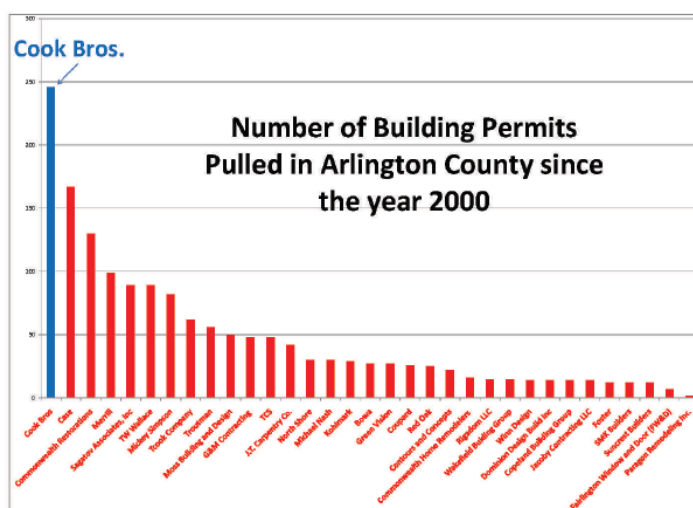
If you know a young entrepreneur who would like to be added, please e-mail Tammi at tammi@novamidwife.org

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

Why Wouldn't You?

For a larger Graph image
and more information
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website at

www.CookBros.org/MadManorGraph



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

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Contact Nancy at nancycarterartist@gmail.com for more information or to be included in the weekly email sign-up.



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