Jefferson Manor Citizens Association
Neighborhood News
September–October 2011 JMCA, P.O. Box 4104, Alexandria, VA 22303 • www.JeffersonManor.org

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, September 20, 7:30 p.m.

Location: Telegraph Station, 5735 Telegraph Road

Guest speaker: Steve Knudson, Fairfax Department of Transportation

JMCA EVENTS

Tuesday, October 18: General Board Meeting

Open to the Public

Location details will be posted on the JMCA website

JMCA ON THE WEB

Website: http://www.jeffersonmanor.org

Listserv: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/jeffersonmanor

Parents group: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/jeffersonmanorparents

Facebook: Search Facebook groups for Jefferson Manor Citizens Association

Twitter: follow us @JMCA22303

President's Letter

Dear Jefferson Manor Residents,

As our summer shakes, soaks, and sizzles its way to a close, it's a good time to look ahead at the glories of autumn and take stock of the harvest from a busy summer. The fall is bustling with the usual JMCA social events. Our annual picnic in the park will be held on Sunday, September 25, and will be preceded by a park cleanup. While this is always a popular event for new and old residents, we can't do it without your help.

October will bring us playoff baseball, the return of the Caps, and Halloween in the Manor. The Jefferson Manor Parents group will be hosting a costume parade and contest. Most importantly, we are nearing completion of our lengthy traffic calming project. Balloting is scheduled to begin at the picnic in the park. We will have a limited amount of time to deliver the ballots and have residents return them. This has been decades in the making, and we are so very close to the finish line.

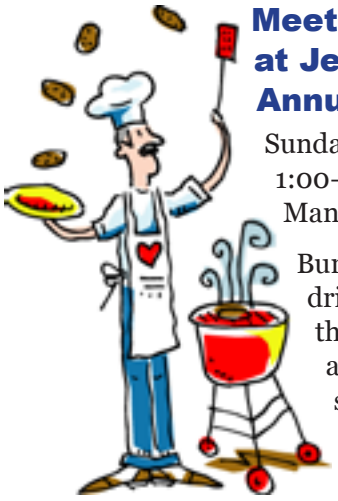
Looking back, we had a tremendously successful candidate night in July. Roughly 60 residents came out to enjoy a beer at Telegraph Station and meet Adam Ebbin and Rob Krupicka. Both were thoroughly impressed by the depth and breadth of the energy and interests of those in attendance. The generosity of the folks at Telegraph Station continues to be boundless, as they kept their kitchen open and the beer flowing throughout the evening.

In terms of reliable generosity, Rachel and Matt Haws continue to come through for the community. They again hosted the National Night Out event on behalf of the JMCA and Neighborhood Watch. Over 125 of you came out to meet our local police and local elected officials and to enjoy the unique fellowship that sets Jefferson Manor apart from other neighborhoods.

Finally, a reminder about our Jefferson Manor yahoo group. This has been our community listserv now for many years. Its utility is always pronounced during times of inclement weather and this was no more so than after the effects of Hurricane Irene passed through the area. I strongly urge you to join up–it is free, helpful, and will help you get to know your community better. See the gray box at left for details.

Best wishes to everyone as we enter my favorite season of the year. And especially good luck to our families ramping up for the school year.

Chris Soule
President, Jefferson Manor Civic Association
president@jeffersonmanor.org



Meet your neighbors at Jefferson Manor's Annual Picnic

Sunday, September 25, 2011
1:00–4:00 p.m., Jefferson Manor Park Pavilion

Burgers, hot dogs and drinks will be provided by the JMCA. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

There will be games for kids and the annual neighborhood group picture will be taken at 3 p.m.

Prior to the picnic neighborhood volunteers will help to clean up the park. The park clean-up will start at 11 a.m. Trash bags will be provided; please bring your own gloves. For more information, please contact Chris Soule, president@jeffersonmanor.org.

About JMCA

JMCA is a volunteer citizens' group devoted to the betterment of the Jefferson Manor neighborhood. Membership is $20 annually, paid at the membership meetings or to JMCA, P.O. Box 4104, Alexandria, VA 22303. JMCA membership is annual, from January to December. For more information, visit: *www.JeffersonManor.org* or email us at: *info@JeffersonManor.org*.

JMCA Board Members
(4/2010–3/2011)

Chris Soule, President
President@JeffersonManor.org

Julie Upham, Vice President
VP@JeffersonManor.org

Shawn Ulrick, Treasurer
Treasurer@JeffersonManor.org

Richard Ewell, Secretary
Secretary@JeffersonManor.org

Roberta Zimmerman, Director

Matthew Haws, Director

Kat Sumida, Director

Maeve Ulrick, Director

Brian Allen, Director

JMCA Activities

Neighborhood Watch
watch@JeffersonManor.org

Home Improvement Committee
homeimprovement@JeffersonManor.org

Land Use Committee
landuse@JeffersonManor.org

Parents' Group
parents@JeffersonManor.org

Social Committee
social@JeffersonManor.org

Transportation Committee
transportation@JeffersonManor.org

Website Committee
website@JeffersonManor.org

Neighborhood News Newsletter

Please direct any requests or questions about Neighborhood News to: newsletter@JeffersonManor.org

Kristina Mann, editor-in-chief
Kelly Marshall, distribution

National Night Out

Thanks to all who came out (and volunteered their time) to make our seventh annual National Night Out grill-out a huge success. We had over 150 residents eating burgers and ice cream, chatting with their neighbors, and meeting local police and government officials. We even had an impressive flyover by the Fairfax County Police helicopter. Once again, Jefferson Manor's National Night Out event was one of the largest in the Mt. Vernon District, and a visible demonstration that Jefferson Manor is a vibrant and caring community.

Fall Traffic

Fall means that kids are back in school and traffic is back in full swing. We all love the fact that our neighborhood is centrally located with easy access to major transportation options, but that also means that lots of folks use our roads to get around area back-ups and problem spots. Neighborhood Watch will continue to work with the police to ensure that traffic laws are enforced in our neighborhood. But the police can't solve all of our traffic woes. Here's what you can do to help:

Support JMCA's efforts to get traffic calming. The police can't do anything to actually reduce the high numbers of "cut through" drivers who use our streets to avoid traffic delays on major roads around our neighborhood or to access Metro. That will require restrictions on our streets by VDOT. JMCA is actively working on these issues. See the articles on traffic calming balloting in this issue for more information.

Be a Pace Car. You can make our neighborhood roads safer each time you drive. The Washington Area Bicyclist Assoc and DC Government has a "pace car" program, in which drivers pledge to drive at or below the speed limit and receive a special sticker for their window. (Read more about the program at: http://www.waba.org/education/pace_car.php.) We don't have an official program here, but the same principle applies—if you stop fully at each stop sign and proceed at the speed limit of 25 mph, everyone behind you will automatically slow down (and perhaps even realize they are driving in a residential area). Give it a try!

Pay extra attention to school children, pedestrians, and bicyclists now that it is getting darker earlier. Between greater darkness, wet leaves on the road, and approaching ice and snow, it is worth remembering that we share the roadways with users other than cars. It is easy to forget that a bicyclist or pedestrian needs a little more space to stay safe than a car does (and that—unlike hitting a car—if something goes wrong and you merely tap a bicyclist, you may kill them).

—Matthew Haws

¿Tiene usted preguntas sobre JMCA? Llame a Sonia al 703-329-1882.

New Large Recycling Bins to be Distributed in Jefferson Manor

All Jefferson Manor duplex homes should be receiving new trashcan-sized recycling bins within the next 4 weeks. Residents on Williamsburg and parts of Monticello have already received them as of press time. The County had previously indicated that residents would need to request the new bins individually, which had prompted Jefferson Manor residents Gretta and David Wiegold to compile (via the listserv) a list of residents who wished to receive the new bins, but now that is not necessary. In fact, the County has indicated that after all these bins are distributed, the County will eventually phase out the smaller bins and will NOT empty those. Residents will need to use the new larger bins or drop off their recyclables at a center themselves. The townhouses on Edgehill Court will not be receiving new bins at this time. The County is currently exploring new options for recycling bins for townhouses.

Neighbor News

On August 18 Brooke and Dan Emery of Monticello Road welcomed their new daughter, Marlo Charlton Emery. She joins big sister Norah and big brother Leroy.

For additional information, residents may contact:
Pamela F. Gratton, Recycling Manager
Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services
Division of Solid Waste Collection and Recycling
703-324-5230

A special thank you to the Wiegolds for obtaining clarification from the County on behalf of the neighborhood!

—Richard Ewell

COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

JEFFERSON MANOR'S REAL ESTATE MARKET REPORT FOR THE FALL OF 2011

Status	Address	BR	BA	List$	Sold$	Settled
Sold	6004 Monticello	4	2	$295000	$290000	7/29/2011
Sold	2728 Farnsworth	2	2	$249000	$232000	7/27/2011
Sold*	2802 Albemarle	2	2	$374900	$365000*	7/21/2011
Sold*	2809 Albemarle	2	2	$349500	$350000*	7/13/2011
Sold	2708 Albemarle	2	2	$247000	$242500	7/06/2011
Sold	6102 N Kings Hwy	2	2	$250000	$260000	6/27/2011
Sold	5867 Edgehill Dr	2	1	$339000	$339000	6/15/2011
Sold*	2800 Fort Dr	2	1	$249000	$236000	5/24/2011

Reduce Local Crime — Leave porch lights on at night!

Information provided by area Metropolitan Regional Information Systems. It may contain sales not made by this Coldwell Banker agent or Coldwell Banker. Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. *Toms sales.

Tom Rickert is a resident & Jefferson Manor Specialist with over 150+ sales and rental transactions right here in Jefferson Manor!

Phone—703-447-7901
Email—realtor@crosslink.net

Thinking of Selling or Renting? In this market, the most important decision you make is who to work with! Now offering property management & tenant screening services.

Neighbors, We Need Your Help: Please Vote in Favor of Traffic Calming Measures

Jefferson Manor residents will shortly have the opportunity to approve long-awaited traffic calming measures consisting of the addition of several speed humps and some parking lane marking. This vote will be the culmination of many years of studies and work with the County. I live in the middle of Fort Drive , and my family and I beg you to mail in your ballot and vote "Yes" to make our neighborhood safer!

Jefferson Manor is now filled with little children. I have 2-year-old twins and a 5-year-old. One of my boy's first sentences was "Slow down cars!" Cars regularly whip by at 30–40 mph as I unload my children from our minivan. I have twice watched cars drag race side-by-side down Fort Drive at speeds closer to 50 mph, once during the morning rush hour. I have seen speeding cars side-swipe parked cars, crash into parked cars at the bottom of the hill, and go across the sidewalk at Carla's property at the bottom of the hill. I have seen countless near-misses as cut-through traffic proceeds at full speed around residents backing out of their driveways or pulling out from the curb to complete a three-point turn. I have not yet witnessed a pedestrian injury or fatality, but it is only a matter of time. I hope that we don't have to wait for that to occur before residents realize how important this is.

A few facts about the upcoming vote:

- Each residence gets one vote, which may be cast by either the property owner *or* a resident. We must get a minimum of 50% of our 500+ residences to respond by mailing in a ballot, and 60% of those responding must approve. That's a tall order, so we need your help. Volunteers can distribute the ballots, but you must put your response in the mail yourself!
- The plan up for vote is our only option to slow down traffic. It has taken a tremendous amount of work to get this far and if we don't pass this, we get nothing; this isn't a "let's try to get more" situation. After numerous years of neighborhood advocacy, and several traffic speed and volume studies, the neighborhood traffic group had requested additional traffic controls on Jefferson Drive and other locations but the County determined that they did not meet the requisite criteria.
- The County's approval of the plan means that concerns about emergency vehicle access, street design, and similar issues have already been studied and approved.
- The speed humps are designed so that they will not impact the suspension of vehicles traveling at the posted speed limit. They are like the ones on Russell Road outside of the Del Ray neighborhood in Alexandria. See the boxon this page for a picture of the speed hump on Russel Road.

Speed humps, such as the one pictured above on Russell Road in Alexandria, are 3 inches high at their center, stretch across the entire roadway but are tapered near the curb so as not to impact water flow, and will occupy 22 feet of driving space as the vehicle drives over them. They are designed not to impact the suspension of vehicles traveling over them at or below the speed limit. For additional information about the success of the speed hump program on Russell Road in Alexandria, see http://alexandriava.gov/tes/info/default.aspx?id=3172.

- Residents near where the speed humps will be placed have already signed off on their installation.
- The new travel lane markings have been shown to reduce speed by making drivers more conscious of the limited road space.

Please vote for the sake of your neighbors even if you think this issue doesn't affect you directly.

Ask a realtor whether traffic speeding up a street affects property value. Ask the parents with the little kids, or the dog-owners walking their pets, how the traffic speed affects them. Ask an engineer about the physical affects on the roadway. Ask the JMCA Board why they support this initiative or ask the neighborhood volunteers why they spent so many hours on working on this issue. But most important, ask yourself whether you want to live in a collection of houses or a community in which people respond when their neighbors ask for assistance!

—Richard Ewell

Traffic Calming Balloting Process

Project overview

For over 15 years, the JMCA has been trying to get traffic calming measures installed in the neighborhood. In 2007, working under the County's R-Tap program (http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/rtap.htm#traffic_calm) we began the initial steps of our latest efforts. That petition drive was successful, and the ensuing traffic study netted us approval to move forward with the County DOT. County staff worked with JMCA Board member Brian Allen and a working group of residents to craft a design that maximizes the traffic calming given the physical limitations of our community. These include speed humps on Fort and Farmington, as well as lane and parking striping on Fort, Farmington and the connecting strip of Edgehill. We are finally nearing the end of this process. Balloting is tentatively scheduled to begin at our annual picnic on Sunday, September 25.

JMCA TRAFFIC CALMING PROPOSAL

VOTING BALLOT
ONE BALLOT, ONE VOTE PER HOUSEHOLD

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation have researched carefully and approved the following traffic calming plan:

1. Speed Table on Farmington Drive, adjacent to 2908 Farmington Drive and the Jefferson Manor Park.
2. Speed Table on Farmington Drive, adjacent to 2621, 2622, and 2624 Farmington Drive.
3. Speed Table on Fort Drive, adjacent to 2725, 2726, 2727 and 2728 Fort Drive.
4. Traffic lane striping to occur along Fort Drive from North Kings Highway to Monticello Road.
5. Traffic lane striping to occur along Farmington Drive from North Kings Highway to Edgehill Drive.

Please vote: Yes_____ No_____

Name (print) _____

Address _____

_____

Signature _____

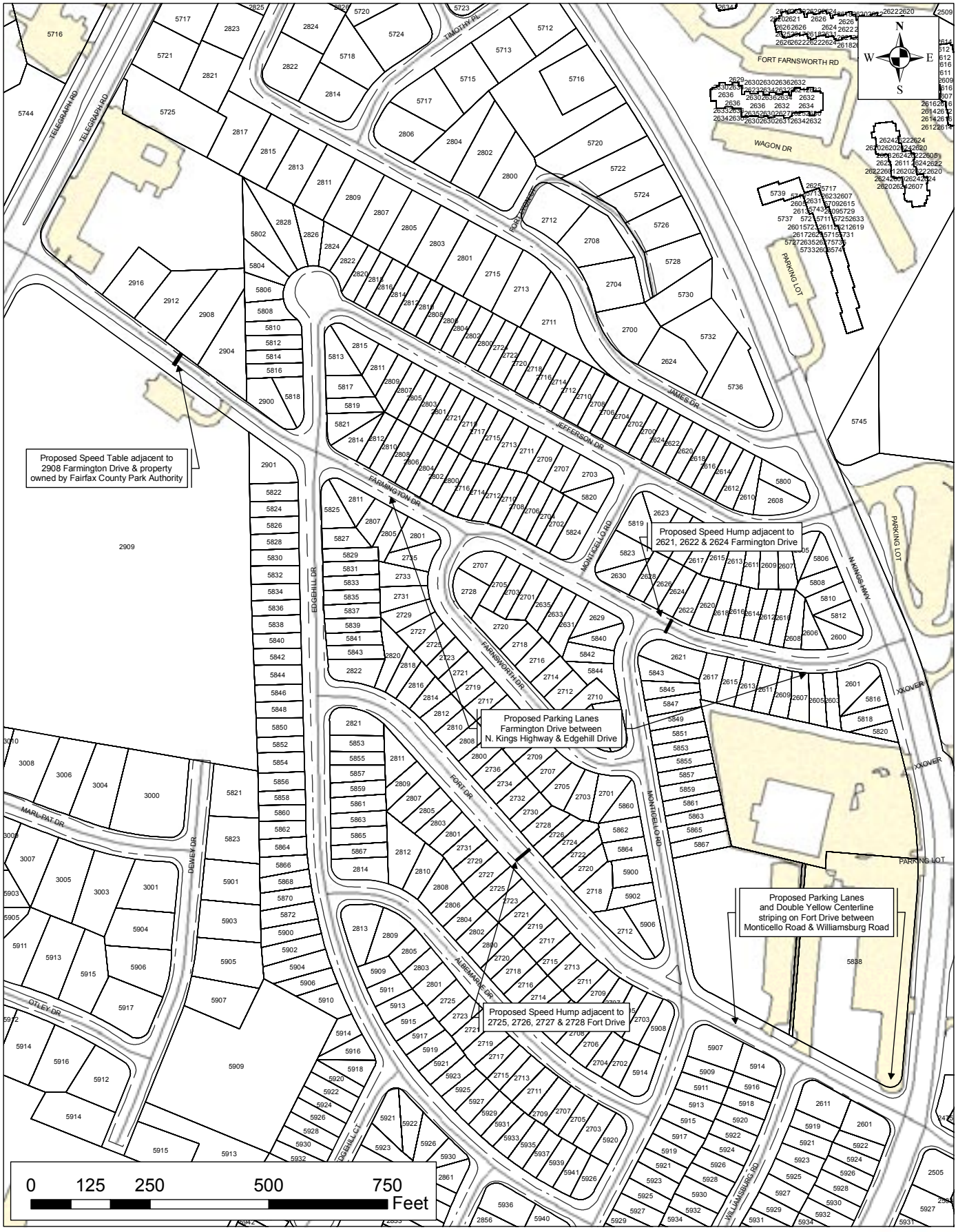
SAMPLE SAMPLE SAMPLE SAMPLE

Rules for the balloting process

1. Each household in the designated voting area will receive one ballot. The resident(s) of the property are eligible to vote regardless of whether they are owners or renters of the property. Residency at the address is the only requirement.
2. Ballots must be postmarked within three weeks of when the process starts. This date will be included on the ballot as a reminder.
3. For this process to be successful, we need a minimum of 50% of the households to return their ballot. Of those returned, 60% must have voted in favor of the traffic calming measures.
4. The JMCA will provide the ballots and a pre-addressed, pre-paid envelope, but are not allowed to handle the return of the ballots. Residents ***must*** return them on their own.

Additional notes

1. The JMCA needs volunteers to distribute ballots and follow up with residents regarding returning them. Please contact JMCA President Chris Soule at president@jeffersonmanor.org if you would like to help.
2. Jefferson Drive was part of the original traffic study, but did not meet the volume and speed of traffic necessary under the R-Tap program.
3. **If this measure fails, it will mark the end of traffic calming in the community for the foreseeable future. There is no "next step" if this fails.**



Fairfax County Department of Transportation
Residential Traffic Administration Program (RTAP)
PROPOSED CUT-THROUGH RESTRICTION & TRAFFIC CALMING PLAN
FARMINGTON DRIVE, FORT DRIVE & EDGEHILL DRIVE

7/7/2011 **Lee District** Tax Map: 82-2, 82-4, 83-1, 83-3

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Hummingbirds in Jefferson Manor?

Absolutely! And there is still time to put up a hummingbird feeder and enjoy the last wave of hummingbirds migrating south.

On the east coast, we only have one hummingbird species—the Ruby Throated Hummingbird. The males have a bright red throat, while the females and the juveniles have white throats. Both are bright green. At this time of year, the hummingbirds are on their way south for the winter, so you'll see mostly females and juveniles stopping at your feeder to tank up during their long flight.

Setting up a feeder is easy. Hummingbirds are attracted to red and pink, so always choose a feeder with red on it. There are many styles of feeders available, and all hummingbird feeders will attract hummingbirds. Clean the feeder and fill it with fresh nectar every 3–4 days, and place your bright red feeder in a prominent location where you and the birds can see it. It also helps to put the feeder near pink or red flowers.

Bring your feeder inside in late October, and put it back out in March.

Making your own nectar is easy and cheap: boil 1 cup of water, and add ¼ cup white sugar. Mix until the sugar is dissolved. Do not add food coloring. Extra nectar may be stored in the refrigerator.

—Maeve Ulrich

Home-Made Play Dough

1 cup flour
1/2 cup salt
1 cup water
2 tsp veggie oil
1 tsp cream of tartar
food coloring

Mix all in large saucepan. Stirring constantly, cook over medium-low heat until dough comes away from the edge of the pan when you stir it.

Remove from heat; cool. Knead 3–4 times, store in airtight container.

For extra sparkles, add glitter as well as food coloring.

—Maeve Ulrich

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In 2010, **Eden Home Improvement** constructed an addition (basement + main floor) to a duplex townhouse on Jefferson Dr. If you would like information or find out how we can fix or improve your house, please contact US.

Cecilio Vasquez, President & Owner
Cecilio.Eden@gmail.com
(703)329-9329

Weekday Playgroup for Jefferson Manor Tots

Join other Jefferson Manor parents and kids at Telegraph Station every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. for a drop-in playdate!

Jefferson Manor Citizens Association

Any residents of the Jefferson Manor subdivision over the age of 18 and non-resident owners of property in the Jefferson Manor subdivision are entitled to membership in the Jefferson Manor Citizens Association. Membership dues are $20 per household ($10 for seniors) per calendar year. Complete this application & mail with a check or money order to:

JMCA
P.O. Box 4104
Alexandria, VA 22303

Visit the JMCA website at http://www.jeffersonmanor.org for a color version of this newsletter.

2011 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

❑ Renewal ($20) ❑ New Member ($20) ❑ Senior ($10)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

_____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

❑ I have included an additional $_____ as a donation to JMCA to help with the publication cost of Neighborhood News.

TOTAL ENCLOSED: $_____ ❑ Check/money order ❑ Cash

❑ I am willing to help deliver newsletters (once every other month).

I am interested in the following:

❑ JMCA Website ❑ Social Committee ❑ Home Improvement Committee
❑ Green Committee ❑ Transportation issues ❑ Land Use issues
❑ Neighborhood Watch ❑ Newsletter

Other notes:

A Brush with Kindness

Know a Jefferson Manor neighbor that could use some help with basic home repairs and maintenance? Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia recently introduced its participation in A Brush with Kindness, a nationwide effort that serves low-income homeowners who struggle to maintain the exterior of their homes. While Habitat's traditional effort has been on new homeownership, A Brush with Kindness focuses on existing homeowners and also helps a neighborhood's appearance.

Participating homeowners with A Brush with Kindness follow Habitat's basic tenets for eligibility: need, ability to pay, and willingness to partner. A Brush with Kindness uses volunteers, donated materials, and no interest loans to make repairs affordable. Able-bodied homeowners are encouraged to work alongside the Habitat volunteers. Common repairs may include painting, minor exterior repairs, landscaping, and exterior clean-up.

For more information, visit www.habitatnova.org or call 703-521-9890.

—Shane Cochran

JMCA Neighborhood News 2011 Advertising Rates

Pricing per issue
full page: $210
1/2 page: $110
1/4 page: $60
1/8 page: $35

For information email Newsletter@Jeffersonmanor.org.

Stay Up to Date with JMCA

Want to keep up to date with the latest JMCA news and goings' on? Join us on both Facebook and Twitter.

JMCA has had a Facebook group for a while now; however, we are changing. We have migrated to a new Facebook Fan page. This will make it easier for Jefferson Manor residents to find us on Facebook. Join us today by searching Facebook groups for Jefferson Manor Citizens Association.

Also, JMCA is on Twitter. If you are a Twitter user follow us @JMCA22303.

As always we will post information to the listserv and within our bi-monthly newsletters. These additional avenues allow our neighbors to connect with the community through a variety of different venues.

703.373.3376

5735 Telegraph Road Alexandria, VA 22303

www.TelegraphStation.com

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Thurs/Fri: 7am – 10pm
Saturday: 8am – 10pm
Sunday: 10am – 5pm

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ITEM

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OCTOBER 15, 2011