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National Night Out Celebration

by Jeff Brady

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, August 4th, when Jefferson Manor will be participating in its 11th annual National Night Out. National Night Out is an annual neighborhood-based crime and drug prevention event. This event is observed on the same date in thousands of communities in all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases around the world. National Night Out is an occasion for neighbors to get together, strengthen neighborhood spirit, and build police and community relationships.

Jefferson Manor Neighborhood Watch will be having an ice cream social at our neighborhood Jefferson Manor Park from 6:30 to 8:00p.m.

We are especially honored by the attendance of our local police officers and representatives from Fairfax County. This is a great opportunity to show the police, County Supervisor, and local residents that Jefferson Manor is a vibrant community with active neighbors who care. Building community is at the heart of Jefferson Manor's Neighborhood Watch program. Join your neighbors and community supporters on August 4th.

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 - (3/2015-3/2016)

- Ashley Davis, President
President@JeffersonManor.org
- Kathryn Floyd, Vice President
VP@JeffersonManor.org
- William McGrath, Treasurer
Treasurer@JeffersonManor.org
- Jeffrey Batt, Secretary
Secretary@JeffersonManor.org
- John Holman, Director
- Jason Stern, Director
- Craig Mehall, Director

JMCA General Contact Information

- Newsletter - newsletter@jmca.org
- Neighborhood Watch - jmnw2012@yahoo.com
- Home Improvement Committee -
homeimprovement@JeffersonManor.org
- Land Use Committee -
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- Parents' Group - parents@JeffersonManor.org
- Social Committee - social@JeffersonManor.org
- Transportation Committee -
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Advertising Pricing

per issue

Full page: \$210

1/2 page: \$110

1/4 page: \$60

1/8 page: \$35

Questions?

newsletter@JeffersonManor.org

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The Editors' Pens

by Sarah Hastings and Kyla Lupo

Greetings from your new newsletter editors!

Allow us to tell you a bit about ourselves:

Sarah is fairly new to Jefferson Manor; she and her husband, Alex, moved onto Fairhaven last October with their greyhound Watson. Sarah attended GW Law, and then spent a couple of years in Dallas before returning to the DC area. Sarah and Alex are expecting their first child, a baby girl due in September.

Kyla has lived in the Manor for almost 9 years. In 2006 her then-boyfriend, now-husband Vince bought a house in the Manor. Just 3 months ago, and after 8 years of wedded bliss, they bought their first home together, on Fort Drive, still in the Manor! In her spare time Kyla cooks up a storm in her new kitchen and sips Mint Juleps on the front porch with their 4 cats.

We are excited to be involved with the JMCA and hope to continue producing a great newsletter. We have a few ideas for how to make the newsletter even better, and of course we are always open to your suggestions. You can reach us at jmcanews@yahoo.com. Feel free to send questions, comments, and articles to that email.

Our Neighborhood's Civil War History

Mr. Lincoln's Forts atop Mt. Eagle

by *Bob McDonough*

In the later part of the 19th Century, the Mount Eagle plateau presented a much different picture than what we see today. During the Civil War, Mount Eagle played host to thousands of Union soldiers occupying four earthen forts established to protect the nation's Capitol.

Mount Eagle was also home to several plantations, Ballenger House, which was located where the Huntington Plaza Shopping Center is, and Mount Eagle Plantation which was behind the Metro Police barracks, currently the site of Montbello Condominiums.

The Mount Eagle fort complex was the southern end of the defensive ring around Washington otherwise known as "Mr. Lincoln's Forts." Fort Lyon was the 2nd largest fort in the entire line covering 9 acres on the summit of Mount Eagle. Three smaller redoubts, Fort Weed, Fort Farnsworth, and Fort O'Rourke covered the area from Mount Eagle to current Route 1.

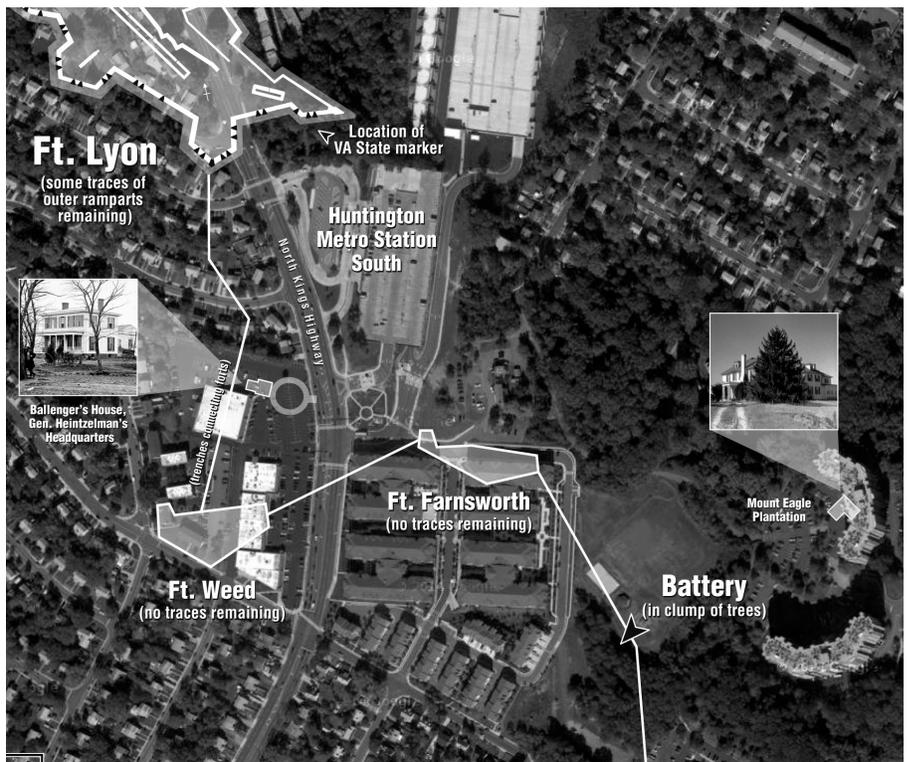
While no traces of Forts Weed, Farnsworth or O'Rourke survived the construction of the neighborhoods that now populate the plateau, if you look closely there are still some visible remains of the walls of Fort Lyon.

Fort Lyon's claim to fame: Magazine Explosion Kills 22 Men

On Tuesday, June 9, 1863, a catastrophic explosion destroyed the north magazine and a portion of the fort. The force of the blast shattered glass in homes as far away as Alexandria. Newspapers reported 21 men were killed instantly and 10 men were wounded. The accident occurred when a detail of 26 men under the command of Lieutenant L. Kuhne were engaging in examining, airing, and refilling shells near the magazine door. Some of the soldiers had been given wooden spoons to remove caked powder from inside the shells that had absorbed moisture

The lieutenant, dissatisfied with the slow progress of the detail, then handed out priming wires to aid in the removal of the caked powder. Friction upon the powder in one of the shells set off the explosion which ignited eight tons of powder and several thousand rounds of fixed ammunition in the magazine. The blast shook the ground like an earthquake. Debris, dirt, screaming shells, and bodies were hurled over a half mile away from the fort. The New York Times printed the fantastic accounts of two sentinels:

continued on page 4



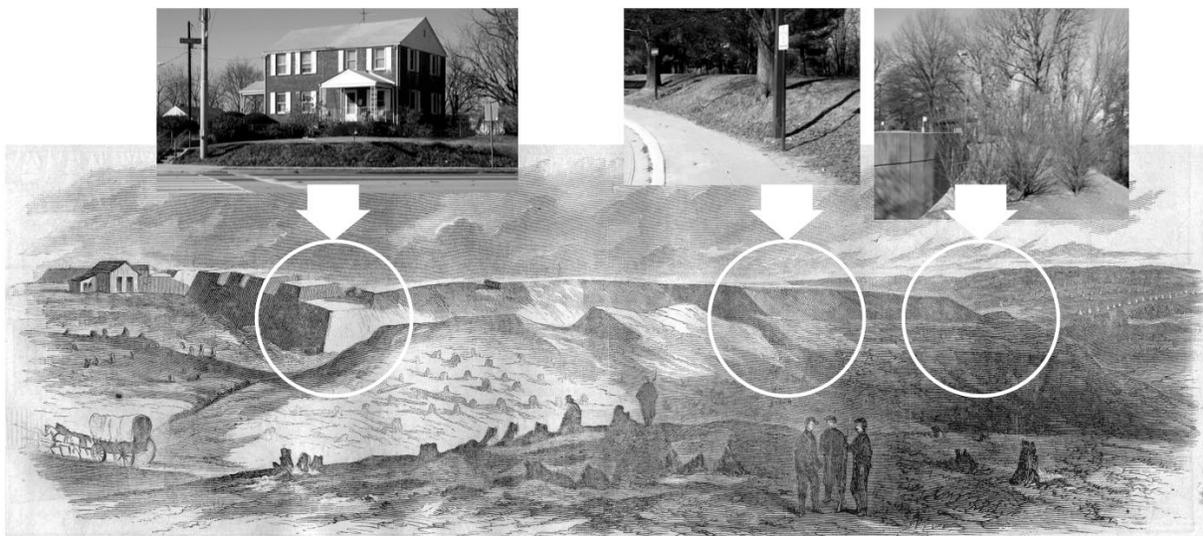
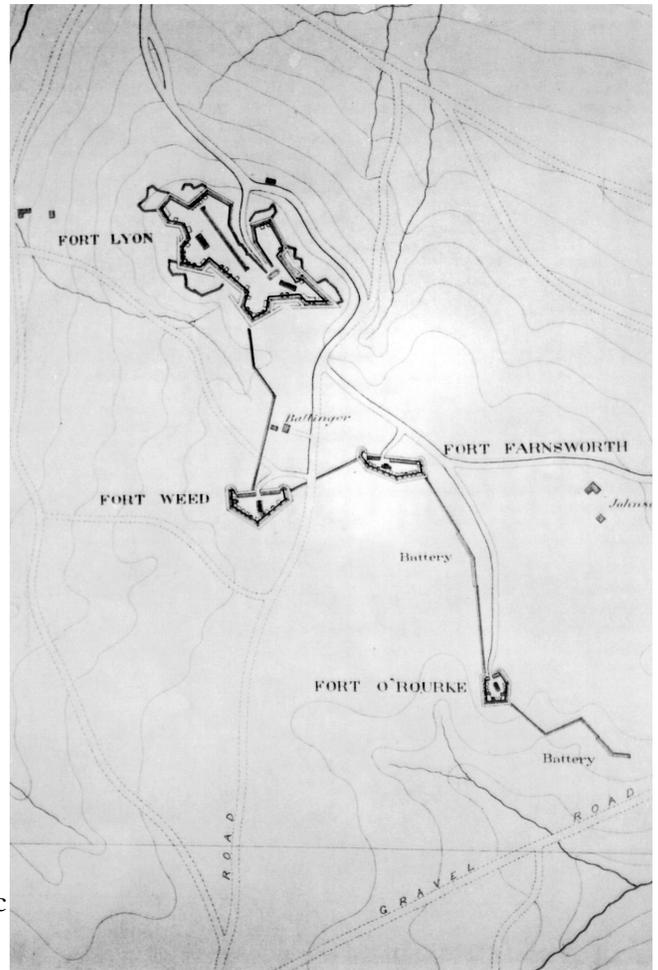
Our Neighborhood's Civil War History - from page 3

Private Musser, while pacing his beat on the parapet, was hurled through the air one hundred yards from beyond the fort into a clump of bushes, with his musket in his hands. It is a positive fact that he sustained no serious injuries, and in ten minutes afterward he was back again upon his path, walking with his piece at his shoulder. Another sentinel was thrown fifty yards out of the fort into the ditch, with his musket in his grasp. Some officers happening to pass, he gathered himself up, face and hands begrimed with powder, and his clothes in shreds, and, with soldierly habit, presented arms.

The next day, President Lincoln and Secretary of War Edward Stanton visited the fort to see the extent of the damage. Years after the war ended the Washington Post featured a small article on the incident in the September 9, 1883, issue. An eyewitness to the explosion, Mr. James McWilliams of Alexandria, reported that he saw the air filled with mutilated bodies, and special care was taken to conceal the disaster, because it was believed that Confederate Partisan Ranger Colonel John S. Mosby was in the neighborhood.

About 4 p.m. the funeral procession formed at the gate. The ambulances, seventeen in number, each with two coffins, were followed by officers and men. They marched to mournful music played by the First Connecticut Artillery band. It was a sad sight to see the procession move towards the soldier's graveyard in Alexandria. All those killed belonged to the 3rd Battalion "German" Heavy Artillery which was made up of Germans from New York City.

So the next time you are planting something in your yard you might find a piece of Civil War history buried right beneath your feet. And whenever you walk to the metro, check out the Marker about Fort Lyon and remember the forts and the men who were here long before Jefferson Manor came into existence.



The Neighborhood News is published 6 times a year by volunteers in your community. The newsletter operates on advertising and the generous hours donated by neighbors like you. If you would like to submit articles, volunteer time or advertise in the News, **please e-mail jmcanews@yahoo.com**.

Deadlines for submissions are the 10th of September, November, January, March, May and July for publication the following month.

The Welcome Wagon

Help us welcome new neighbors to our community by joining the Welcome Wagon Committee! We brainstorm awesome items to put in the basket, involve local businesses, and help new neighbors make their house a home. To join the Welcome Wagon Committee or let us know you just moved in, please email Kay Floyd at khfloyd@gmail.com.

Mt. Eagle PTO Report

by Tia Colvin

On May 27th, Fairfax County Police and school administrators held a Community Safety Meeting at Mount Eagle. They discussed how we can all work together to keep both the school grounds and the surrounding community safe. The overriding message of the meeting was “if you see something, say something.”

Mount Eagle’s Principal reminded us that no one, other than approved groups, should be on the grounds of Mount Eagle after sunset. If we see anyone on the grounds, we should call the police non-emergency number, 703-691-2131.

To aid in school safety, Mount Eagle has recently installed security cameras to the outside of the building, and they have worked on trimming the trees and shrubs around the perimeter. The police officers spoke about the small increase in violent crimes in our area, but assured us that the suspected perpetrators of these crimes have been apprehended. They also emphasized that, although there was a small uptick in violent crime earlier in the year, the overall crime rate in our area has actually gone down.

In other school news, Mount Eagle has partnered with Sprout Supplies this year to make back-to-school shopping easier for parents. School supplies can be ordered by grade level on the Sprout website, and they will be delivered directly to your child’s classroom. If you don’t have children attending the school, we could still use your help. Last year, Mount Eagle was fortunate to have a lot of generous donations of supplies from the community, which went a long way toward helping families who couldn’t afford to purchase the supplies on their own. This year, Sprout Supplies has created special Mount Eagle Elementary Sponsor Kits to help support students and extra needs of the school community.

To donate, visit: <http://sproutsupplies.com/products/mount-eagle-elementary-sponsor-kit> and select one of the supply kit options and a selection of requested school supplies will be contributed on your behalf.

Finally, Mount Eagle has announced that the school library will be open each Wednesday morning this summer from 10AM to noon, starting July 1st and ending August 19th. Any student who was in Head Start through 5th grade at Mount Eagle this past school year will be able to check out up to 3 books at a time. Students must be accompanied by an adult. The school wants to help students continue reading over the summer so they can maintain the progress they made during the school year.

From The President

Rarely a day goes by that I don't read a post on social media or hear someone wishing for some past era when people not only knew their neighbors, but talked to them every day; when people helped each other and felt a sense of community; and when children played outside and walked to school. Obviously, those people do not live in Jefferson Manor. I try to tell relatives and friends, "I live there! That's exactly what my neighborhood is like!" I don't think they believe me or they think it's just me being overly-positive again. But in the past months I've seen Kay Floyd organize a community yard sale that donated around \$100 to Mount Eagle School; read daily posts for advice and help with gardening and home improvements that not only get very detailed recommendations, but often invitations to come over and see someone else's results ; watched our neighbors regularly freecycle all sorts of things and offer plants, herbs, and veggies when their gardens are too bountiful; been moved when a neighbors pet died, there was an outpouring of sympathy and help; and taken it for granted that I can tell my kids to, "Go down the street and see what so-and-so is doing." The JMCA Board just began a Welcome Wagon – the idea was just to let them know JMCA existed and introduce them to some local businesses. But the character of our neighborhood took over and we soon had homemade crafts and goods donated and many volunteers ready to deliver the baskets. The Board is working with a talented neighbor, Alexis Glenn, to update the website. And, in case you didn't notice, we got not one, but two amazing women to volunteer as editors for this newsletter. This is an engaged neighborhood, but we can always do more. If there are any clubs or events you would like to see, please contact any member of the JMCA Board and we can help you get the word out.

Sincerely, your neighbor,

Ashley Davis

JMCA President

Connect with JMCA

Want to keep up to date with the latest JMCA news, goings' on, or want to let your neighbors get first dibs on that item your selling before it hits Craigslist? Join us at Yahoo Groups, Nextdoor.com, Facebook and on Twitter!

Yahoo Groups:

groups.yahoo.com/group

Search Jefferson Manor. This listserv is used to disseminate information to the community.

Nextdoor.com:

jeffersonmanorva.nextdoor.com/news_feed/

Nextdoor lets us connect with each other and the neighborhoods around us.

Twitter:

Follow @JMCA22303 and access some of the twitter feeds of news sites and organizations that are important to Jefferson Manor residents.

Facebook:

Visit JMCA's group. Search Facebook groups for Jefferson Manor Citizens Association.

JMCA website:

www.jeffersonmanor.org

You can find updates on upcoming neighborhood events and news on this site, as well as a color version of this newsletter in PDF.



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Direct Office 703-317-8007

Jeff Brady's Jan-June 2015 Real Estate Sales Report

Sold	2820 Fort Drive	Listing Agent	Jeff Brady
Sold	2812 Fort Dive	Listing Agent	Jeff Brady
Sold	5851 Monticello RD	Listing Agent	Jeff Brady
Sold	2333 Fairview Ter	Listing Agent	Jeff Brady
Sold	5939 Monticello RD	Listing Agent	Jeff Brady
Sold	5826 Edgehill DR	Selling Agent	Jeff Brady
Sold	2813 James Drive	Selling Agent	Jeff Brady
Sold	5939 Monticello RD	Selling Agent	Jeff Brady
Sold	2812 Fort Drive	Selling Agent	Jeff Brady
Sold	5851 Monticello RD	Selling Agent	Jeff Brady
Sold	2820 Fort Drive	Selling Agent	Jeff Brady
Sold	5823 Berkshire CT	Selling Agent	Jeff Brady
Under Contract	5851 Monticello RD	Listing Agent	Jeff Brady

If your home is currently on the market, this is not an attempt to solicit.

Manor Tips-n-Tricks

We just built a deck in our backyard this summer, which required a bunch of homework on Fairfax County building codes. A simple, noteworthy tip for anyone interested in a similar project:

For decks, a building permit is required, EXCEPT if it is a wood patio constructed directly on the ground. You can apply and in some cases obtain a permit online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fido.

-Alexis Glenn

Last August, I had a simple backyard sprinkler installed by Marco Reinoso (marco.reinoso@hotmail.com). It operates on pressure, and involves no electronics. He guarantees all his work, and the ability to consistently water has really transformed our garden. I had him back a few months ago to put a smaller version in the front. The entire system (front and back) cost approximately \$475. I get no kick-backs for recommending him! If you would like a demonstration or if the weather is beastly hot and your kids (or let's be honest, YOU) need to run through the streams of water, then knock on the door.

-Kay Floyd

When we moved into our new house on Fort Drive we found that we had great attic access. Not just a square in the upstairs hallway, but a real pull down set of stairs! Imagine our excitement! Until it started to get super hot. Then our upstairs was an oven. Thanks to Sarah on Fairhaven, we sought out and purchased an attic stairway tent. It's made from pink panther insulation and lined with foil. We immediately noticed a difference, and now our AC doesn't have to work quite so hard. The product is Owens Corning Attic Stair Insulator II 25-1/2 in. x 54 in. We found it at Home Depot for about \$50. It installed in a matter of minutes without having to touch any insulation.

-Kyla Lupo

A year or so after I bought my house in 1986, I noticed a little water in the basement corner after a heavy rain. Over time that turned into a half an inch of water in a larger area after moderate rains. Once mushrooms started growing at the bottom of the stairs, it was time for action. I hired Mid-Atlantic Waterproofing. They dug approximately 3 ft by 18 inch trenches around the interior basement - leaving 18 inch sections in tact between the trenches. Gravel then drainage pipe was laid, and holes were drilled into the cement block so that ground water fed into the drain. Everything was covered back up with cement. All the water feeds into an industrial sized sump pump and out a pipe near the end of my driveway. (I had to hire someone else to dig the drain from the side of the house to the street.) I did a little extra and painted the walls with waterproofing in the areas where water had originally come in. About 25 years later, I've had to replace the sump pump once but have not had any water problems. I had a scare once when the power went out but fortunately no overflow. If I remember correctly, the warranty is for as long as I own the house and is transferrable to the next owner.

-Cindy Vande Stouwe

Do you have great tip for other Manorites? Send it to jmcanews@yahoo.com or drop it off with any board member.

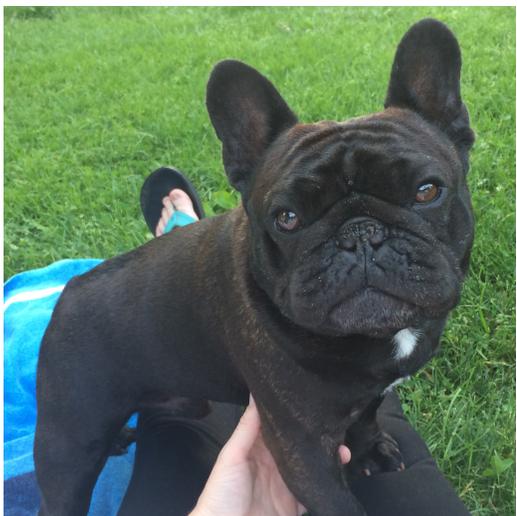
The Gardening Club

Do you have a green thumb? Do you kill everything you touch? Whether you like digging in the dirt or listening to people talk about their gardens, our new gardening club is for you. We'll meet about once a month at different houses for a social gathering, share tidbits and tips (and extra tomatoes), and invite members to volunteer at the JMCA sign a few times a year. Contact khfloyd@gmail.com to join.

Kay's Gardening Plot

by Kay Floyd

It is too hot for Puppy Cash to be in the garden! But he certainly tries. We do a little puttering in the early morning and evening mainly. Let's start with the front yard, which is not looking very nice right now. One day this month, I'm going to get up super early and landscape our front yard. In addition to the tea olive tree I wrote about last time, we put in a *Myrica cerifera* (wax myrtle). We can make candles from the berries and this plant is evergreen (It is green year-round!). To continue the year-round color plan, the front is going to have frost-proof gardenias (cold hardy to -10 of allegedly) and Provence Lavender (by far my favorite, purchased at Holly, Woods, and Vines). We're going to supplement those with tuberose, freesia, and crocosmia flowers, plus some penstemon and marigolds if these grow from seed. I always love to try growing from seed, and almost always fail. Cash has also been known to nibble on my seedlings. Don't worry – our small field of tulips will be back in the spring. The "Let's Dance" hydrangeas in our front box were not doing well in so much direct sunlight, so my husband dug two big holes in the back and we transplanted these (translation, he did lots of digging and I did lots of pointing). Now, these are flourishing in part shade.



Walking to the back, two parts of our yard are undergoing a transformation. When we first moved here two years ago, there was a compost pile behind the front fence. Great, fertile soil! We had a lot of garden beds to start building and moved the soil around the yard. Now with a big empty space, I planted loads of extra bulbs. With tulips and daffodils, you have to let the greenery slowly die long after the flowers wilt. This gives the bulb energy for next year and why you will see reeds tied together in the early summer – these are ready to come out of the ground when you can gently pull the reeds up. What we did not plan on was how fast the grass would grow in the tulip-dying phase. We needed a weed wacker to "mow" it. So instead, we've turned it into a mulched herb and "other things I'll stick in the corner" garden. We have Provence Lavender, day lilies, golden thyme, rosemary, red currant bush, honeysuckle, sage, a cherry tree, and bees! Special bees! Nesting in our ground is the *Anthophora abrupt* (mining bee) according to resident bug expert Nate Erwin. This solitary female bee took over old

vole tunnels in the ground. The good news, these are docile bees that have let me garden alongside of them many times. The bad news, you will get a small sting if you agitate them. They are important pollinators of cranberry, tomato, blackberry, asparagus, persimmon, clover, and raspberry according to Entomology & Nematology at the University of Florida (thanks for the info Nate!). Their habitat will be protected by our herb garden and I'll be careful when going near the entrance. If you see little fat bumble bees looking insects crawling in and out of your ground, then please let Nate or me know! We need our bees happy and healthy!

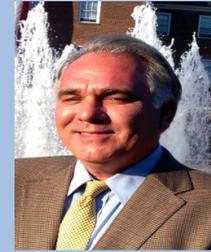
In another part of the backyard, we have put in a Dynamite Red Crape Myrtle by the shed. It will be 20' tall max, with a spread of 8'. The beautiful red blooms should last from spring until fall and it is disease and pest resistant. Our Blue Nikko hydrangea is blooming like crazy, but sadly pink blossoms. I dump my morning coffee grounds on it to try and change the acidity of the soil. Thanks to the Arnold's having too many, a Nanking cherry bush has a new home on the corner of the shed. These can handle extreme heat and cold, and produce sweet, tart cherries. Yum!





JEFFERSON MANOR'S REAL ESTATE MARKET REPORT FOR MID-SUMMER 2015

Status	Address	BR	BA	Listed \$	Sold \$	Settlement
Sold	5927 Williamsburg	2	2	\$359000	\$359000	7/15/2015
Sold	2715 Farnsworth	2	1	\$379000	\$379000	7/10/2015
Sold	5839 Edgehill Dr	3	2	\$455000	\$445000	7/02/2015
Sold	2703 Fort Drive	2	2	\$334500	\$344500	6/30/2015
Sold	2810 Fort Drive	3	2	\$460000	\$455000	6/11/2015
Sold	2811 Jefferson Dr	3	2	\$494900	\$470000	5/29/2015
Sold	5939 Monticello	2	1	\$379900	\$371300	5/28/2015



Tom Rickert, Resident Realtor
Tom's Jeff Manor Track Record:
 JM Assisted Sellers = 137
 JM Assisted Buyers = 46
 JM Assisted Landlords = 48
 JM Assisted Renters = 39
Tom's Jeff Manor Total = 270

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& TomGRickert@gmail.com

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Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage 310 King Street Alexandria Virginia 22314 Office number 703-518-8300



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

Or visit: www.jeffersonmanor.org to pay online, and get a **color version** of this newsletter!

2015 Membership Application

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

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

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 | Green Committee |
| Transportation issues | Land Use issues |
| Neighborhood Watch | Newsletter |