



Manor Lake Civic Association

February 2014

Manor Lake Civic Association Annual Election



The Manor Lake Civic Association will hold its annual election for the Executive Board at the General Meeting in May. The Executive Board consists of nine members – four Officers and five At Large members. The Nominating Committee will be putting together a ballot for this election as well as candidate's statements which will be posted on our website prior to our May meeting.

All Executive Board members are expected to attend regularly scheduled Board meetings, all General meetings and any emergency ad hoc meetings. In addition, Executive Board members assist with community projects and participate in all MLCA events. Each of the At Large members will be expected to lead at least one project during their term. The overarching obligation of all Executive Board members is to advocate for the social and economic welfare of the entire community.

Each resident voting in the election must be a paid member of the MLCA. Any MLCA member wishing to vote will receive a ballot at the check-in desk at the May General meeting. If you have not already become a paid MLCA member, an application form is included in this newsletter and can also be found online at www.ManorLake.org

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Executive Board member please contact our Nominating Chair Lorraine Loreck via email at lorylory@aol.com

Letter from the President

Greeting Friends and Neighbors,

I hope this edition of the MLCA newsletter finds you well after all this snowy weather!

I'd like to thank Board member Phyllis Taylor for organizing our first bulk item pick up event in December. We are looking forward to hosting another successful pick up on April 19th for our paid members of the association. Please sign up early.



As a reminder, you can pay your membership dues online using the PayPal online service. Just log into the community's website at www.manorlake.org and you will see the PayPal easy to follow instructions. And if you sign up you will be entered into the gift certificate drawing which takes place at our general meeting in May. It's convenient and easy to do so renew or join online now!

It's that time again....Our Board member elections will be taking place in May. We are looking to welcome new volunteers to the Board and to achieve representation from the various areas of Manor Lake. Welcoming new faces to the Board ensures that everyone in the community has the opportunity to participate and that new ideas are brought forth.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the next General meeting which will take place on Wednesday, February 26th at the Bel Pre Elementary beginning at 7:30 p.m. If you are new to the Manor Lake community, please take this opportunity to come out and meet your neighbors!

Best wishes,

Michelle

Michelle Miller Bean



FIRE HYDRANT REFLECTORS

Just a reminder to the residents that were issued a reflector for the fire hydrants in front of your homes. Due to the recent snowy weather please make sure they have been put out. Thanks in advance!

First MLCA Bulk Item Pick-Up Event A Success!

On December 14, 2013, Manor Lake held its first ever Civic Association Member Bulk-Item Pick-Up. A number of families participated – and several families joined the MLCA specifically to participate in this event. On that Saturday morning, items left at the bottom of the driveways of participating homes were picked up and recycled / trashed as appropriate. Comments from residents included:

- Great way to motivate us to clean out the basement!
- Thanks for planning this event.
- Great idea!
- Love that this includes recycling.
- Thanks to all for efforts on behalf of Manor Lake residents!



In fact, we've already got several families signed up for the next Bulk Pick-Up Day – April 19, 2014!

As a reminder, the Bulk Item Pick-Up is a new service for families who join the Manor Lake Civic Association. The event will take place twice a year, and each family can participate in **one** of the pick-up days.



Just in time for Spring Cleaning! Join MLCA and sign-up for the April 19 Bulk Item Pick-Up day. Acceptable items include furniture, appliances, potted plants, televisions, CPUs, mattresses, mowers drained of gas, doors, bathroom fixtures, clothing (bagged or boxed and marked), car batteries, carpeting, and more.

Who wants to load trash into the car and drive to the dump? Save time and save money and contribute to your residential Civic Association which does so much to keep your community neat, well-lit, and safe. Don't miss this opportunity to clean unused items out of your home. Join the MLCA today! See membership flyer in this Newsletter for details on how to join.

And while you're cleaning those closets and your basement, you may want to put aside some "treasures" to sell at the 2014 Manor Lake Yard Sale, scheduled for late spring/early summer. Participants pay just \$10 for a spot. Stay tuned for more information on this popular event, now in its third year.

NOTE: If you would like to participate in the next Bulk Item Collection, pay your dues and **sign up for the collection** by sending your name and street address, with the subject: Bulk Item Pick-Up to Phyllis Taylor (**email: ptmlboard@gmail.com**) or call 301-460-5581. This is a **members' only** benefit. NOTE: Paying your dues does NOT AUTOMATICALLY sign you up for the bulk collection; you **MUST SIGN UP** using one of the above-referenced methods.

Please note: The Manor Lake Civic Association membership year is
October 1, 2013, through September 30, 2014.

Joining MLCA Just Got Easier!

As of January 26 of 2014, the price of a stamp for a letter went up to 49 cents! That's not a lot on its own, but it means that sitting down to pay your bills just got more expensive! In spite of the bad press some retailers are receiving, more and more people are paying their bills quickly and easily using a variety of online systems.



This fall your MLCA joined the movement! You can now join MLCA via PayPal – no need to pull out your checkbook, write a check, find an envelope, and find a stamp. And there have been no credible accounts of hacking into PayPal accounts.



There's no cost to the user!

Go to **www.manorlake.org** and follow the directions.

Please note: Membership dues are still a bargain at \$40 a year. In spite of the new payment plan, the new Bulk Item Pick-Up program, the entrance lighting, and the popular neighborhood social activities, dues have not been raised.

See membership flyer in this Newsletter for details on how to join.



It's Time to THINK SPRING!



At least in terms of planning your spring/summer garden. Last spring, Manor Lake held a very successful garden tour of residents' home gardens, complete with Master Gardeners and garden experts. One of those experts, Pat Wainwright, Landscape Consultant and a landscape/garden designer for Johnson's Nursery, has provided a few tips for preparing for your spring garden.

This is the perfect time to assess what you might want to do in the spring, and the end of February is the ideal time to prune most shrubs or trees EXCEPT those that will be blooming in the spring.

- On warm days, clean up the beds and old weeds.
- Spread corn gluten to prevent weed seeds from emerging (must be applied every month to be effective)
- If you have a slug problem, sprinkle "Sluggo" (iron pellets) near cracks and crevices and along the house walls to kill them before they lay eggs. Do it now to control them for the rest of the season.

These are a few organic methods. For more information, or garden "training" consultation, contact Pat directly at **patwainwright24@gmail.com**.

WATCH YOUR MAILBOX!

WORD OF WARNING: During the week of January 27, 2014, the U.S. Postal Service carrier for Manor Lake mentioned to several residents that what appeared to be discarded mail was found on Waterway Drive. The items were **outgoing** mail from several streets in Manor Lake, were opened, and appeared to be payments of bills, e.g. checks.

Therefore, residents are encouraged NOT to raise the mailbox flag signaling that there is outgoing mail in the box. U.S. Postal Service carriers will check for outgoing mail before putting incoming mail into boxes in our community.



Some additional safety suggestions from the MLCA Neighborhood Watch:

- If you are mailing bill payments or cards, especially with gift cards or checks – and especially if you are mailing cash – do not put them in your mailbox until the day of mail pick-up.
- Do not raise the flag on your mailbox signaling outgoing mail.
- Arrange with a neighbor to pick up packages or other items that may be delivered during the day, especially if you are out of town.
- Do not let solicitors into your home as they can easily see your possessions and ease of entrance and egress.
- If you go out of town, ask a neighbor or friend or relative to pick up your mail, packages and newspapers.
- If you have a security system, post signs discretely; most burglars worth their salt know how to get around quite a variety of security systems.
- Be aware of unfamiliar faces and cars on your street.
- Be vigilant.

Some years ago, my neighbors went away just overnight and didn't bother to stop the newspaper or mail since it was just one night. Seeing the newspaper in the middle of the day, I picked it up and placed it by their door behind a shrub. My daughter accused me of "stalking the neighbors!" I assured her I was just looking out for their welfare, and hoping they'd do the same for my family. Now that she's an adult, and has had her own mishaps, she "gets it!" Vigilant neighbors are a great crime deterrent.



Manor Lake has a Neighborhood Watch volunteer squad that is very valuable to the community. Volunteers patrol at random times of the day and evening. We are most grateful to these volunteers. If you would like more information about serving on the Manor Lake Neighbor Watch, contact Al and Rae Kordell at 301-871-6733.

There is Still Time to Win \$50

The Manor Lake Civic Association has been publicizing its new web site for quite some time now. It is an excellent source of news on our neighborhood and the greater community of Rockville as well. News about Rock Creek Park, the "hiker/biker" trail, changes to Montgomery County School plans, master plans, and more have been discussed and posted to the site.



As part of the marketing of the MLCA web site, residents have been offered a chance to win a \$50 gift card by "registering" on the site. Information pertinent to the safety and well-being of our community can be sent via blast email if there is an emergency or timely issue, and the Manor Lake Newsletter is posted there as well. In addition, you can enter a conversation, see the MLCA advertisers, pay your dues, learn about social and other activities, print coupons for local retailers and restaurants, and more.

At the Manor Lake General Meeting scheduled for May, the winner will be drawn from those who have registered on the web site during the last year.

3 Ways to Register:

1. Visit **www.manorlake.org**

- a. Select "Join our website email list"
- b. Complete the fields
- c. Check the box for "newsletter and important information"

2. Email **ManorLakeCivicA@aol.com**

- a. Subject line: Manor Lake's Email List
- b. Provide your name and email address

3. Scan the QR Code with your smartphone

- a. Select "Join our website email list"
- b. Complete the fields
- c. Check the box for "newsletter and important information"



* Only residents of Manor Lake subdivision/community are permitted to enter. Only one entry permitted per person. The winning entry is subject to validation by the MLCA Board prior to awarding the gift certificate. For your privacy, all email addresses will only be used by MLCA for the distributions of newsletters or other communications from the Manor Lake Civic Association.

Greetings from the Aspen Hill Chapter 1892 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)

Many of our friends and neighbors are either federal employees, or retired federal employees. NARFE is one of America's oldest and largest associations, begun in 1921, with the mission to "protect the earned rights and benefits of America's active and retired federal workers." NARFE is not a union and is non-partisan. Their mission involves:

1. Legislative activity,
2. Information provisions, and
3. Cooperative efforts with other organizations and associations.

At the September MLCA general meeting, a resident spoke up about an elderly neighbor who was being taken advantage of by marketers coming through the neighborhood, offering both goods and services that were not requested and not necessary.

We all have aging family, friends and neighbors. For this reason, the Manor Lake Board is working on having a presentation at the May general meeting with a guest speaker on this topic. However, the local (Aspen Hill chapter) of NARFE has already had a couple of presentations on the topic of our aging citizens, and they are inviting the Manor Lake and adjoining communities to attend their meetings both to learn more about NARFE, and to help educate the community about this and other issues which may affect Montgomery County residents.

NARFE holds monthly meetings on Wednesdays. Upcoming topics include:

- Fire Prevention and Safety, February 26
- Senior Housing, March 19
- Importance of Family Stories, May 28

Meetings are held at the Holiday Park Senior Center, 3950 Ferrara Drive, Wheaton, near the intersection of Connecticut Ave. and Veirs Mill Rd. Meetings start at 1:30 p.m. (except for the March 19 and May 28 meetings that are co-sponsored with Holiday Park Senior Center and will start at 1:15 pm). Meetings are cancelled when Montgomery County Schools are closed.

NARFE Aspen Chapter President Linda Cohen has invited residents of Manor Lake to attend meetings without registration. Contact Linda with any questions at 301-460-5177 or via email at **LLCDTM@comcast.net**

2013 - 2014
Manor Lake Civic Association Membership Application
Directory Information and Dues Form

MLCA Membership dues are collected on a fiscal year schedule (October 1 – September 30). As prescribed in the Manor Lake Civic Association By-Laws, dues payment is required for full participation in the Civic Association, including voting privileges and certain other benefits. Please complete the form below and mail it with your payment to the address below.

Manor Lake Civic Association
P.O. Box 768
Rockville, MD 20851

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Indicate whether New, Changed or Add'l: _____

By default, your e-mail address will NOT be included in the directory and will be only used for e-mail news and information from MLCA. Initial here if it is OK to include your email address in the directory. _____

Please exclude from future directories: My name _____ My phone number _____

How do you prefer to have the MLCA newsletters delivered? E-mail _____ U.S. Mail _____ Both _____

Members only benefit: Free Curbside Bulk Item Collection: April 19, 2014. To participate, pay your dues and send your name and street address with subject: Bulk Item Pick-Up, to Phyllis Taylor, email: ptmlboard@gmail.com, or call 301-460-5581, by April 4, 2014 in order to participate.

I am interested in volunteering for:

<input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Watch	<input type="checkbox"/> Block Captains/Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Social
<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic/Roads/Pedestrian Safety	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental/Zoning/Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter/Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Distribution Team	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

I would like to advise on: Information Technology Political Liaison Other _____

I am interested in the following club(s):

Book Card/Bridge Gardening Other: _____
(please describe)

My family can offer these services:

Family Member's name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Service: _____
(Examples: Babysitting, Pet sitting, Lawn mowing, Snow shoveling, Tutoring, etc.)

Dues Payment

Annual Dues.....\$ **40.00** + additional contribution..... \$ _____ = **Total Remitted \$** _____

Checks should be made payable to Manor Lake Civic Association. Or, to use our secure online payment service, Go to www.ManorLake.org and click "Pay Your MLCA Membership Dues Online."

Not yet registered on www.manorlake.org?

Thank you for your support

Jane Dobridge

"Your Neighbor, Your Realtor!"



Manor Lake/Rockville Specialist

Leisure World/Adult Community Specialist

- ◆ Providing Manor Lake homeowners with expert representation from pre-listing through settlement
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- ◆ No one has more expertise selling homes than Jane Dobridge and Long & Foster...because of my unrivaled professional experience, exclusive local knowledge and a world class approach to service

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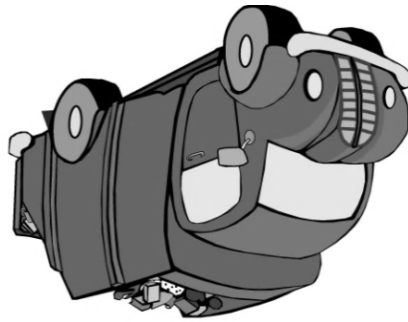
Email: jane.dobridge@LNF.com

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