

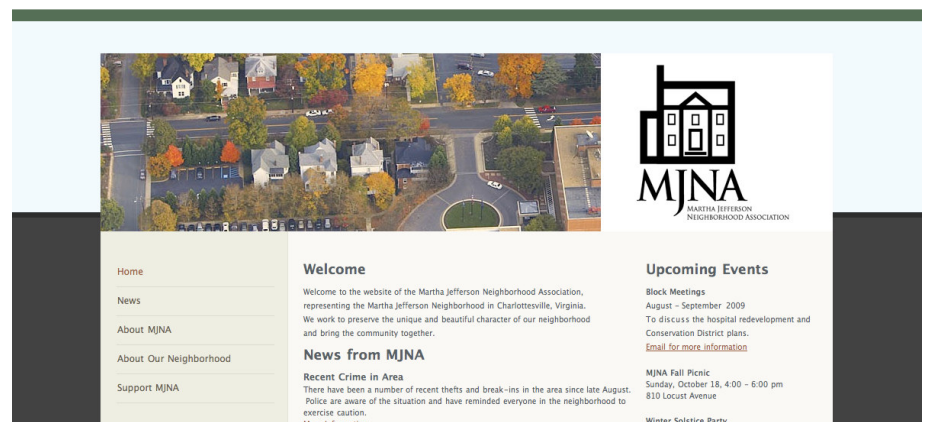


October 2009

## Inside This Issue

- 1 New Website
- 1 Upcoming Events
- 2 Letter from the President
- 3 Meet Your Neighbor
- 4 Calendar
- 4 2009-2010 Board

## Introducing the New MJNA Website



MJNA has created a new website for our neighborhood:

[www.mjna.org](http://www.mjna.org)

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*Please visit the new website for the latest news about issues and events in the neighborhood.*

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Please visit the website for the latest news about issues and events in the neighborhood. You can email [info@mjna.org](mailto:info@mjna.org) with any items you would like to be included on the website or ideas for content.

We also plan to begin distributing an electronic version of the newsletter in the coming months along with the printed edition. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter via email instead of a printed version, please email [info@mjna.org](mailto:info@mjna.org) with your name, address and email address.

## Upcoming Events

### **MJNA Fall Picnic**

Celebrate the season with our annual Fall Picnic.  
Sunday, October 18, 4:00 - 6:00 pm  
810 Locust Avenue  
Please bring a dish to share. MJNA will provide beverages.

### **Solstice Party**

Please join us in welcoming Winter and the holidays.  
Sunday, December 20, 7:00 pm  
Home of Kate Berman, 508 Lexington Avenue  
Please bring a plate of cookies to share. MJNA will provide beverages.

## Letter from the President

Fall is fast approaching, with all the signs there: cool nights, kids back in school, and football(!). The summer doldrums are pretty much over, and folks are beginning to re-engage once again. Meanwhile, the Martha Jefferson neighborhood community waits to hear the outcome of the negotiations between the hospital and the developer partnership it has selected, led by Crosland and Celebration. These talks have been ongoing since the spring, but we are told there's nothing to announce yet. Members of our board are in close contact with the hospital and will report to you once we hear something concrete. It is essential that the community be well informed and conversant with the issues and options, and that its voice – and not just that of the board – be heard; that is the board's mission.

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*Increased larcenies and vandalism in the neighborhood. Keep your "stealables" locked up or indoors.*

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The board members are conducting mini-"block meetings" to bring the neighborhood up to speed on the ins and outs of development options and to obtain your input on what we as a community want – and need – to see happen with the site. We already have a lot of good ideas and insights from you. In these get-togethers we are also discussing the pros and cons of adopting the new historic conservation district for our area. I would say we have no clear consensus yet on whether a conservation district is a popular idea, but you seem to be interested in learning more.

Hopefully, you will have seen our new and expanded website. Thanks to our newest and youngest board member, Erin Malec, for pulling all the pieces together (we've been working on this for quite awhile) and making it look so good! I hope it becomes the community's routine to turn to the website to keep abreast of news and developments. We as the MJNA board plan to communicate to you more and more through this mechanism. Visit [www.mjna.org](http://www.mjna.org) and let us know what's on your mind at [info@mjna.org](mailto:info@mjna.org).

Some other quick-takes:

- We met with the city's chief traffic engineer and the Chief of Police about better speeding and noise enforcement, traffic calming, and crosswalks.
- The city is going to propose a new approach to closing sidewalk "gaps," and we've been given a map of the existing sidewalks to "mark up" with our priorities.
- There have been a lot more larcenies and some vandalism in the neighborhood in August and September. Keep your "stealables" locked up or indoors, and your premises reasonably well-lighted.
- We've set up a special fund to help defray the expenses of the historic district deed and document research done earlier. We already have a number of generous donations but still need more support to pay off the loan to finance this from one of our neighbors.

Don't forget our fall picnic, on Sunday, October 18. It's starting at 4 pm instead of 5 (our usual time) because of the shorter days.

Finally, we welcome volunteers to the various committees MJNA is setting up, on subjects such as communications, traffic and infrastructure, and perhaps security. Helping on committees is a great way to get involved without having to make a bigger time-commitment by joining the board. We also want to expand our "active" MJNA territory down Hazel, Poplar, and St. Clair, and would especially welcome folks from these blocks stepping forward to become block captains.

Enjoy the great fall weather and see you at the picnic!!

Bruce Odell

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*Become a block captain on Hazel, Poplar or St. Clair.*

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## Meet Your Neighbor

Erin Malec and Jed Verity moved to Charlottesville from San Francisco in 2005 so Jed could attend grad school at UVA. Jed had fond memories of Charlottesville from his undergraduate days at UVA, and though they loved living in San Francisco, they were looking forward to the quality of life Charlottesville had to offer. They are presently living on Poplar Street.

While Jed has been working on getting his Ph.D. in Tibetan Buddhism, Erin has been working as the Director of External Relations for a nonprofit sustainability institute, GreenBlue, located here in Charlottesville. GreenBlue works collaboratively with companies to redesign industrial systems to make them more environmentally sustainable.

Married in December 2007, Jed headed to India in mid-2008 and just completed a year in India conducting research for his thesis. He spent most of that time in the small village of Dolanji in the Himalayan foothills of Himachal Pradesh, the second most northern state of India, but his work also required that he spend a couple of months in Kathmandu, Nepal. Jed says he had an amazing time, but he often tells his wife that "he had to go live with Tibetan Buddhist monks in Asia to discover that nirvana is home with her and their cats in Charlottesville."

Although Erin could not join him for the entire year, she was lucky enough to be able to visit Jed twice in India. They had a wonderful time traveling around India, which they say is a beautiful, fascinating country. Together, they spent about two weeks traveling in southern India in Goa and Kerala, one of the southern-most states of India and one of the most beautiful places Erin says she has ever seen. Highlights included two days in a houseboat traveling around the backwaters of Kerala and taking a terrific cooking class. They both love to cook, so they're hoping they can continue to recreate some of that incredible Indian food here at home. Erin's second trip to India was spent mostly at the monastery where Jed was doing research, seeing how he had been spending his time over the past year. They also spent a few days in Shimla, a lovely town in the foothills of the Himalayas.

Erin and Jed love living on Poplar Street. One of their favorite hangouts is the Riverside Lunch diner. Also, Erin says that being within walking distance of the downtown mall and within biking distance of work and school makes their location pretty ideal. She also pointed out that there's a real sense of community within the neighborhood. Since she became involved with the MJNA as one of its two at-large members on the board, Erin has found her neighbors to be welcoming and wonderful. "People care very much about this neighborhood and want to get involved. It's a vibrant, exciting place," Erin says.

As for Charlottesville, "There are too many things we like about it to list here: the people, the food, the mall, the university, the farms and mountains and wineries, you name it!" Jed says. "Our four cats (Wilbur, Herman, Linus and Sardonicus) love it too!"

Mary Odell



*Erin Malec and Jed Verity of Poplar Street*

## Upcoming Events

All are welcome and encouraged to attend the month Board Meetings, which are held at the Odell home at 878 Locust Avenue at 7 PM

<b>Fall Picnic 4-6 PM, 810 Locust</b>	Oct 18
<b>Board Meeting</b>	Nov 2
<b>Board Meeting</b>	December 7
<b>Solstice Party 7 PM, 508 Lexington</b>	December 20

## 2009 – 2010 Board

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### OCTOBER 2009

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Special Thanks to Joe Aust of the  
Downtown Office of Real Estate III  
for printing the newsletter!