



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

FALL 2013

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Now that the summer has passed and fall is upon us, the pace of Martha Jefferson-community activities and interests seems to be quickening.

Of broadest interest is our annual Fall Picnic, set for Sunday, October 13. This is a great opportunity to renew old acquaintances and greet new neighbors, so we sure hope to see you there!

Development in the city, especially in the eastern portion of downtown, is becoming increasingly challenging for us, and the MJNA board is closely following new and future projects for their impact—positive and negative—on our community. A “strategic investment area” study by the city of the area south of the old hospital site from High Street to Market Street has looked at how mixed development could accommodate residential, commercial, and retail uses in the best traditions of urban design. But pending developers’ projects in or adjacent to this site are not waiting for a master plan and, taken together, could bring significantly more traffic to our streets. The MJNA board has made it clear to the Planning Commission and City Council that it will oppose these developments if “traffic calming” and street safety are not initiated in short order. So please stay tuned to MJNA messages and alerts on this subject.

Speaking of messages, we are rolling out a new Facebook Group page that hopefully will become an important community forum. Together with our existing website, newsletters, and occasional emails, our Facebook page will reinforce MJNA’s commitment to keeping in close touch with neighborhood residents and knitting our community together.

Finally, we are always looking for better ways to tap the talents of our residents, and so MJNA is setting up new neighborhood teams that will help you get involved in ways that fit your interests and busy schedules. I hope to explain how this will work at the picnic.

Best to all!

Bruce Odell, 2013–2014 MJNA President

Email me any time at: cvilleodell@gmail.com. ■

ROAD WORK ON LEXINGTON AVENUE

The road work on Lexington Ave next to the old Martha Jefferson Hospital site is being done by contractors hired by CFA Institute, the new occupant of the southern portion of the old Martha Jefferson Hospital site, to increase water and sewer capacity for its new headquarters. If CFA also requires an increase in gas line capacity, the gas line work will be done by the city, not contractors reporting to a private entity. The City expects the road work on Lexington on behalf of CFA to be completed by the end of December, but disruption to traffic on Lexington may continue. Once new tenants for the northern part of the old MJH complex have been named, additional road work may occur if these new tenants require increased utility capacity. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

FALL PICNIC
Sunday, October 13
4 to 6 pm



In the backyard of 843 Locust Ave.

Please join us at our annual Fall Picnic. This is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors. There is always good food and this fall there will again be activities for children. Please bring a chair if you wish to sit and your favorite potluck dish to share. Pizza and drinks will be provided by MJNA. Bring a little cash to renew your membership and, if you would like something more than cider, a donation for wine or beer.

THE 19TH ANNUAL SPIRIT WALK

Friday, October 18
6 to 9 pm

Sponsored by the Albemarle
Charlottesville Historical Society

Neighbors from long ago speak from their graves. These spooky 90-minute guided moonlight tours of Maplewood Cemetery sell out every year. Tours leave every 15 minutes from the Maple Street entrance. Tickets are \$12 for adults; \$8 for children. For tickets and further information see albemarlehistory.org.

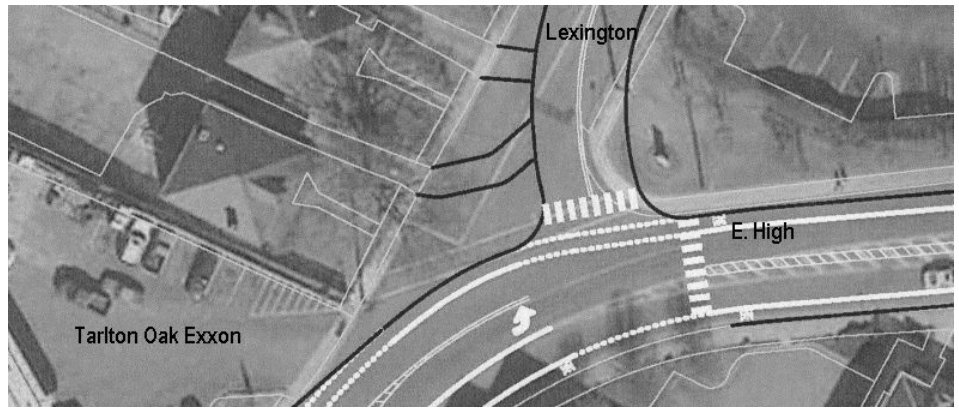
THE WINTER HOLIDAY PARTY

location and time in mid-to-end of
December TBA

Our Holiday Party has become a tradition. Please keep an eye out for email from MJNA sometime around Thanksgiving with details.

LEXINGTON & E. HIGH REDESIGN

Charlottesville's Traffic Engineer has informed MJNA that a redesign of the intersection of Lexington and E. High is underway for this year's capital improvement plan (CIP). The MJNA board has been vocal in urging the city to redesign this problematic intersection. The map at right shows current thinking on the design. Assuming the plan is in this year's CIP, it would go before council in 2014. If you want to comment on the design, please do! Harry Holsinger,



hholsinger@aol.com, will gather comments and get them to council and city officials. ■

OCTAGON UPDATE

CFA, the owner of the southern portion of the former MJH site, sends MJNA updates every month which we forward to our email list. According to the last update, CFA is on schedule for a December move in. Octagon, the owner of the northern portion, reports demolition is nearly finished in the Cardwell building and new tenants Hemoshear and Varian, a manufacturer of medical devices and software, plan to be operating in their facilities in early 2014. Electrical, plumbing, and mechanical improvements are ongoing, most of which are in the building's basement and not visible to neighbors. We will soon see Octagon's contractors working on the utility yard for the Cardwell portion of the project. Improvements to the Rucker building will follow work on the Cardwell wing. Octagon has a Part II Application for Historic Treatment under review with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Once that review is completed, Octagon's work on this portion of the facility will begin. They expect to have construction completed by November of 2014. Neighbors should also expect to see work on the front entrance and roundabout over the coming months as tenants prepare to move in this winter. ■

THANKS TO **JOE AUST** OF THE DOWNTOWN OFFICE OF **REAL ESTATE III** FOR PRINTING THIS NEWSLETTER.

MJNA IS ON FACEBOOK

Like Facebook? The MJNA Group is up and running in beta. You are welcome to try it out. Just search Facebook for "Martha Jefferson Neighborhood Association" and, once you are on the page, click the "join group" button in the top right corner. Our new page will permit all MJNA members who join the MJNA FB Group to post their own items of general interest, such as lost pets, household services or yard sales, upcoming community events, neighborhood-related questions or concerns, or simply to reach out to folks with similar interests. More details will follow when we're out of beta. ■



JOIN US / UPDATE US

Our dues are \$10 for two years and we depend on them for our picnics, newsletter and other ongoing activities. If you are not sure if your dues are up to date, please email Harry Holsinger at *hholsinger@aol.com* or ask at the membership table at the picnic. If you want to join MJNA or want to be sure our contact information for you is current, please complete this form.

Family Members' Names

Street Address

home cell

Telephone

Email

- Exclude me from the MJNA directory distributed to neighbors.
- I'm not ready to join, but add the email address I've given to MJNA's list.

Dues are \$10 every 2 years per household. Please make check out to MJNA. Bring to the membership table at the picnic or mail to Harry Holsinger, Treasurer, 709 Grove Avenue.