

MJNA Newsletter

Spring 2010

Upcoming Events

[Spring Picnic - May 9](#)

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Hospital Redevelopment May Take a Different Course

The latest news on the Martha Jefferson Hospital Redevelopment is that the Crosland/Celebration partnership will not be redeveloping the hospital site. The reasons for ending negotiations with MJH are not entirely clear, but probably include uncertainty over Crosland's access to adequate commercial financing in the current difficult economic climate, and the developer's desire to focus on projects already underway rather than launching new ones.

The hospital is exploring alternatives for site redevelopment, especially now that the new campus on Pantops is likely to be ready in 2011, ahead of schedule. One option may be to convert sections of the hospital, or build additional space for a single big tenant, such as a headquarters complex. Under this scheme, the current site might undergo less radical redevelopment than was anticipated from the Crosland/Celebration multi-use ideas. The MJNA Board and its Hospital Liaison Committee are in continual contact with MJH and will be reaching out to the community as soon as the picture on various redevelopment options becomes a bit clearer.

Historic Conservation District Gets Support

The balloting conducted by MJNA with all 103 affected property owners has concluded, and better than two-thirds of respondents support creation of a Historic Conservation Overlay District by the city. The overall 52% ballot response rate was impressive. Based on the clear preference expressed, MJNA is preparing an application for creation of a conservation district. The city's Planning Commission and then City Council will take up the application, and there will be multiple opportunities for public comment before final action.

[More Information](#)

Spring Picnic in May

Mark your calendars! Our Annual Spring Picnic takes place at Sunday, May 9 (Mother's Day) at 5 pm at Gail and Downing Smith's at 810 Locust Avenue. The rain date will be Sunday, May 16. Bring a potluck entrée, salad, or dessert, if you can, and MJNA will provide the liquid refreshments and pizza.

Ideas for Fun Neighborhood Events

We want to have more FUN events this year, getting the neighborhood together in some new ways. Our ever-creative MJNA Board has come up with these ideas:

- Outdoor movie night: We'll set up a screen in someone's yard on a summer night and invite everyone to bring blankets and picnics to join us for a night at the movies.
- MJNA Rivanna clean-up day.
- Neighborhood softball game: Locust vs. Lexington.
- Sidewalk Sales: A communal yard/sidewalk sale day, with a small portion of sales going to the MJNA.
- Walking tour of Maplewood Cemetery: hopefully, local expert Lynn Rainville would be able to oblige a follow up to her fascinating Winter Meeting presentation.

We would like to gauge interest in these ideas and are seeking neighbor volunteers to help plan these events. If you are interested or have suggestions for other events you would like to help organize, please [email us](#).

Maplewood Cemetery Vandalism Continues

There have been renewed reports of gravestone vandalism at the Maplewood Cemetery after a winter lull. Residents in the immediate vicinity of the cemetery hope to form a watch group to observe and report vandalism and suspicious activity. The success of this group will depend on enough volunteers to cover the critical hours and days, so let us know at info@mjna.org if you would be prepared to help out.

Serve on MJNA's Board, Committees

This May, MJNA membership will elect a new Board for 2010/2011. We are always looking for folks who have never served before, or at least not recently. If you have any interest in serving on the Board, or on one of our ongoing committees (e.g. traffic & transportation, communications & outreach), please volunteer and email info@mjna.org or call Maria Chapel at 977-5759.

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