



Monroe Manorisms

March 2008 ♦ Volume 13, Issue 1

I. A FEW WORDS FROM THE BOARD

by Gordon Jarratt



Mark Your Calendars for May 17 and June 13!

The Community-wide Yard Sale will be held on Saturday May 17. **Carolyn Jarratt** has agreed to organize this annual event and could use help with signage. Special for this year – there will be a charity pick-up truck scheduled to come through the neighborhood at the end of the Yard Sale for you to conveniently donate any items for a good cause!

The End-of-School/Beginning-of-Summer Party is scheduled for Friday afternoon, June 13. **Lisa Fee, Judy May, and Jennifer Carson** are planning another fun event – and could use some additional support. Read more about both of these events in Section III Community/Social Events.

Elementary School Boundary Study in Fall 2008 needs Parent-Resident Group!

The attendance boundary for Floris Elementary School may be changing next year. New Coppermine Elementary is being constructed in part to help reduce overcrowding at Floris ES and McNair ES. A group of residents to engage on this study in the Fall of 2008 is needed. See article in Section IV Local School News for more information.

Monroe Manor Web Site Coming in 2008

The HOA is working to establish a web site! **Debbie Nelson and Doug Barbee** have been developing an initial capability that should be rolling out in 2008. A broadcast announcement will be made when the website is ready for resident use.

Important -- E-mail Addresses Needed for 16 Homes!

There are two reasons why your HOA needs at least one home or work e-mail address for the owner of each Monroe Manor home:

- (1) In the future, the frequency of the printed version of the *Monroe Manorisms* newsletter will be significantly reduced. In its place, most of the news and content that used to be in the newsletter will now be posted on the website. Instead of the quarterly mailed newsletters, the HOA will be sending out periodic e-mail messages to all residents when there is some new link, announcement, or content to view on the website.
- (2) E-mail is the only practical way to keep residents informed about last minute service changes and notifications about community issues (such as changes in trash pick-ups, significant crime incidents, school issues, snow removal, and upcoming social or community events).

If you are not already receiving occasional community broadcast messages (averaging maybe one per month), please contact **Laurie Gibson** at lauriegibson@cox.net or call her at 703-904-8616 so she can add you to the list.

We still need e-mail addresses for residents of the following 16 homes:

2501 Camberwell Ct.
2518 Fallon Dr.
2523 Fallon Dr.
2553 Fox Hound Ct.
12708 Fox Woods Dr.
12809 Monroe Manor Dr.
12902 Monroe Manor Dr.
13008 Monroe Manor Dr.
13009 Monroe Manor Dr.
13011 Monroe Manor Dr.

13016 Monroe Manor Dr.
12800 New Parkland Dr.
2506 Tallyrand Ct.
2506 Tatnuck Ct.
2507 Tatnuck Ct.
2509 Tatnuck Ct.

Thanks to all the residents that have already provided e-mail addresses!

HOA Dues have Changed

Reminder that **quarterly dues payments of \$165.00** are due on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1, 2008. Dues coupons with pre-addressed remittance envelopes were mailed to each homeowner in December 2007. It is each homeowner's individual responsibility to ensure that full HOA payments are received before the due dates. Late payments are assessed late fees. Homeowners may elect to prepay dues up to a year in advance to help avoid issues with late payments. Checks need to be written to Monroe Manor Homeowners Association, Inc. Contact Pat Dillon at Zalco (pdillon@zalco.com, or 301-495-6632) if you need coupons or have questions about the quarterly assessments. The remittance address for dues payments only is Zalco Realty, Inc., P.O. Box 17344, Baltimore, MD 21297-1344.

2008 Board of Directors Meetings

The remaining scheduled 2008 Monroe Manor HOA Board of Directors meetings are:

- ♣ May 21
- ♣ August 20
- ♣ November 19 (2008 annual meeting date)

Meetings are generally held quarterly, at 7:30 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Residents are welcome to attend. Please contact a Board member to confirm the specific time and location.

Mailbox Vandalism, and Reporting Incidents

Neighbors living near the intersection of Curved Iron Road and Monroe Manor Drive have experienced several incidents of mailbox vandalism. The latest incident happened February 10/11 between Sunday night and Monday early morning. Residents with any information are asked to contact the Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131. All vandalism incidents must be reported to the Police Department.

If you have an emergency or you see the vandalism incident happening, you need to call 911. If the

incident has already happened, call the non-emergency number at 703-691-2131 and still report it -- even if several days have passed by. Sometimes the Police apprehend those responsible for the vandalism. In addition, they need to know about all incidents so they will increase the patrols in the neighborhood. When you call the non-emergency number, a police officer will come to your address only if you specifically request it (which is fine to do -- it is your decision). After reporting the incident to the Police, please also report it to a Monroe Manor Board member.

If you want to speak with a police officer you can call the Reston District Police Station (which covers Monroe Manor) Crime Prevention Office at 703-478-0799 or e-mail Officer Katy Fernbacher at katy.fernbacher@fairfaxcounty.gov or Chip Cogan at harry.cogan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Fairfax County Crime Solvers has also implemented new technology to allow tipsters to anonymously report crime information via text messages and e-mail. Tips can be submitted by phone at 866-411-TIPS, or by e-mail through the Crime Solvers website, or by texting "TIP187" and sending a message to CRIMES (274637). For more information link to <http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org>.

Crime Incident Statistics

In February 2008 the Police Department was asked to provide a report about crime incidents in our local area. Looking strictly at the streets within Monroe Manor HOA, for the past 12 months there were only two reported incidents (destruction of property) along Monroe Manor Drive.

The Police Department reports incidents by "sub-census tracts." The street boundary perimeters of the two sub-census areas (81102 and 81103) which are relevant to Monroe Manor include Fox Mill Road, Centreville Road, West Ox Road & Pinecrest Road. Here are the reported police incidents between 2/1/07 – 1/31/08:

ASSAULT W/WEAPON	2
BURGLARY	2
DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY	19
FIGHT	14
GRAFFITI CASE	1
LARCENY	27
LOUD PARTY OR NOISE VIOLATION	14
NARCOTICS / VICE EVENT	9

NOISE VIOLATION	109
PROWLER	1
ROBBERY	1
SEX OFFENSE: GENERAL / MISC	2
SIMPLE ASSAULT	26
UNLAWFUL ENTRY	8
VEHICLE STOLEN / RECOVERY	2
VEHICLE TAMPERING	10

Over one year, there were 247 total incidents for the two combined subcensus tracts (approximately a 2 mile x 2 mile area). Half of these were noise violations. Considering the number of residents and the number of households in this large area, it works out to approximately two reported incidents every three days. Based upon these statistics, we have a low number of crime incidents and live in a low crime area.

Lights On for Safety!

Too many front lamp posts are dark in our neighborhood each evening. Leaving a front light on is one of the easiest things each of us can do to help prevent crime and keep our neighborhood safe. Please replace burned out bulbs and ensure that your lamp posts are working each evening. Indoor lamp post switches should be left in the “on” position so the light comes on automatically each evening. Some lamp posts may need additional maintenance attention:

- (1) The GFI (ground fault interrupter) circuit may need to be reset – typically in an aluminum box located on an outside wall near your lamp post.
- (2) You may need to install a new “electric eye” on your lamp post (under \$25 at hardware stores) or you can get light sensors that screw into socket before installing the light bulb.
- (3) A new lamp fixture may be needed on top of your lamp post (purchase a polished brass and glass fixture of a similar size and style as the existing fixture).

[Editor’s note: neighbor and contributing writer David Whiting sent in the following excellent article about an energy efficiency idea that saves money and helps the environment! What are you doing to “go green”?]

***Interested In Saving \$50.18 Per Year, Every Year?
by David Whiting***

By now everyone has heard of compact fluorescent light bulbs. They cost a little more up front, but they

save you a little more over time and if you are interested in climate change, they consume less electricity than incandescent bulbs and therefore less carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere at the power plant.

I was at Wegman's the other day and I noticed, for the first time, reasonably priced "decorative candle" compact fluorescents of a size that will fit into our front sidewalk lamp posts. So I picked up a few and gave them a try. I was pleased with the brightness -- they're at least as bright as the incandescents I'd been using. I then decided to run the numbers and see if there's really any money to be saved using these. Turns out, there is.

I won't bore everyone with the math here (although if you're interested, I'd be happy to tell you in more detail), but to make a long story short, by changing the three bulbs in my lamp post, and running the thing an average of 12 hours a day, I'm saving \$25.09 per year in electricity costs, and -- this number astonished me -- saving 558.06 pounds of carbon dioxide from being released each year since I'm consuming less energy.

If you replace the lights just outside your front door as well as the light between your garage doors, you can double it, for a total of \$50.18 per year. It's not enough to retire on, but I'll take a free \$50.

How much are the bulbs? I picked them up for \$3.99 apiece, so they're more than paid for within 6 months. And the best part, I don't anticipate them burning out nearly as fast as the incandescents (which get so hot since they're in a small, enclosed space adjacent to other hot bulbs that they burn out way before they should). Compact fluorescents don't get very hot -- they're just barely warm to the touch even if they've been on for hours.

I'm not seeing a downside here. Even if you don't care about the environmental part, you're still saving money. If you're wondering how bright they are and what the light quality is, feel free to walk by my house any evening -- 12810 Monroe Manor Drive -- and see what you think.

I've notified Wegman's that there may be a number of people coming in to buy these, so they're going

to try to stock a bunch of them. And even if they don't have them on the shelves when you go, they can order them at no additional cost (I just replaced 15 inside my house as well) and it took three or four days for the order to come in.

The bulb to look for is the "Philips Energy Saver 40 Decorative Candle." There is a wide-base version (for the lights on either side of your front door and the garage), and a narrow-base version (for the lamp-post). The UPC number for the wide is 0 46677 15287 1. The UPC for the narrow is 0 46677 15286 4. I'm sure there are other places that carry similar bulbs, but I haven't seen any that can beat the \$3.99 cost yet.

And if you are interested in the environmental part, consider that there are 184 houses in our HOA. If everyone swapped in these bulbs in their lamp-posts as well as the door and garage bulbs, we'd collectively save 205364.5 pounds of carbon dioxide per year from being emitted. That is 102.7 tons per year. One caveat -- compact fluorescents do contain some mercury, so a little care is needed with disposal and in the event that one is broken indoors. For more information on them, check out: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compact_fluorescent_lamp

Mailbox and Lamp Post Maintenance

Some of our mailboxes and lamp posts could use a little maintenance. In just a couple of hours, your mailbox and lamp post can look like new again by painting them with gloss exterior paint for metal surfaces. If you need a new mailbox, please buy a similar-sized black one made of similar material. Don't forget to reapply your address using 1-2" numbers. The wooden mailbox post must be repainted with dark green paint (Rustoleum makes a Dark Hunter Green paint that matches perfectly). The mailbox and lamp post must be painted with gloss black paint (also like Rustoleum).

Please Be a Considerate Pet Owner

Neighbors have complained about inconsiderate pet owners who leave pet waste along the trails and sidewalks. Please take a moment to "scoop up" after your pet and leave the pathways a clean and safe place to walk or ride a bike. Pet waste must also be picked up from all fields and common areas too.

Thanks!

Herndon-Monroe Parking Garage Problems

Residents who use the Herndon-Monroe Parking Garage have noticed that some sections of the parking deck have been fenced off. The reduction in parking spaces means the garage fills up many mornings by 7:45 am. It appears that there was a problem with the original concrete mix that has caused portions of the structure to deteriorate before it is even 10 years old. Adding to the woes, the original contractor is under bankruptcy. Repairs are being made. More information is available at: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/01/26/AR2008012601981_pf.html

HOT Lanes are coming to the I-495 Beltway!

In December 2007, VDOT signed an agreement to allow Fluor Enterprises Inc. and the Transurban Group to construct and operate 14 miles of "High Occupancy Toll" Lanes along I-495 between the American Legion Bridge and the Springfield Interchange. For the next 75 years, Fluor will collect tolls from private vehicles with one or two occupants that use the lanes. Buses and vehicles with three people or more do not have to pay the toll. The contract allows five years for construction on the Beltway, but tolls could be imposed as early 2010. The toll for an "average trip" would be \$5 or \$6 dollars according to the Fluor/Transurban proposal, but other toll road supporters suggest they could be 3-4 times higher. Toll rates will vary based upon traffic congestion levels.

This is VDOT's second HOT Lanes project agreement. Fluor/Transurban will also build 56 miles of HOT Lanes on I-95 and collect tolls there as well. The Beltway project is the largest private-public project of this nature in the U.S. and the two Virginia projects make the state the most heavily invested in private toll roads of any state in the country. There are currently only four operating traffic management toll roads in the U.S.

The Beltway portion of the project is estimated to cost \$1.9 billion. The U.S. Department of Transportation will loan Fluor/Transurban \$588 million. USDOT will also issue \$600 million in "private-activity bonds" to the partnership. Virginia is providing a

\$409 million grant. The plans are for the investment by Fluor/Transurban to be repaid from tolls collected on the Beltway. This contract was entered into via the Public-Private Transportation Act which was passed by the Virginia General Assembly and allows the state to enter into contracts involving billion of dollars without have a full public and competitive bidding process. Prior to contract signing, there were no public hearings on either the use of private companies for this project or to discuss the qualifications and reputation of these two firms. For more information link to <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=92651&paper=0&cat=109> Also: <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=92650&paper=0&cat=109>

New Real Estate Assessments

Virginia law requires localities to value real estate at 100% of market value. The 2008 real estate assessments were mailed in late February (with an adjustment sent in March). Locally within Monroe Manor, the typical single family home assessment appeared to decrease about 3-6%. Therefore, if real estate tax rates (currently \$.89/\$100 assessed value) remain the same, the average real estate tax bill will be slightly lower than last year’s amount. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors may consider raising the tax rate 3 cents from \$.89 to \$.92/\$100. Other nearby localities may be raising their real estate tax rates by 20 cents in one year!

Countywide, the average improved residential property (single family, town home, and condo combined) in Fairfax County decreased by 3.38% and is now assessed at \$524,076. Countywide, the average single family detached home decreased by 3.12% and now has an average assessed value of \$617,541. The average town home assessment decreased to \$386,182, down 4.96%. The average condo decreased 4.54% to \$281,562. When combining the Herndon/Oak Hill/Chantilly areas, the average residential real estate valuation decrease was 6.77% to \$460,855 (locally for all types of real estate).

Other jurisdictions in Northern Virginia are also experiencing real estate assessment decreases (rate of decrease for all types of residential real estate):

- ♣ Alexandria – 1.90%
- ♣ Arlington – 1.50%

- ♣ Loudoun – 10.41%
- ♣ Fairfax County – 3.38%
- ♣ Prince William – 14.00% est.

Assessment inquiries can be directed to the Department of Tax Administration (DTA) at 703-222-8234, or link to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta . If you believe your assessment is not equitable with comparison properties, or if you believe your assessment exceeds fair market value, appeals should be filed with DTA by April 18, 2008. Real Estate appeals can also be filed with the Board of Equalization (BOE). The BOE is separate from the Department of Tax Administration and consists of nine taxpayers appointed by the Board of Supervisors. All appeals to the BOE must be filed and postmarked by June 2, 2008. BOE appeal forms are also available on DTA’s homepage, or by calling the BOE office at 703-324-4891.

FY09 Advertised (Proposed) County Budget

Fairfax County’s advertised budget was released on February 26. Total proposed general fund revenue is \$3.3 billion. The primary revenue categories are:

Real Estate Taxes	60.0%
Personal Property (vehicle) Taxes	15.6%
Local taxes	15.2%
(sales, business property, and utility taxes)	

The County’s FY08 proposed budget maintains the real estate tax rate at \$.89 per \$100 assessed value (same as last year). The County Board of Supervisors may increase this rate up to \$.92. Each one-penny change in the tax rate results in a \$22.8 million change in total real estate tax revenue. And each one-penny reduction returns about \$64 back to the average residential real estate taxpayer.

Disbursements from the General Fund are budgeted at \$3.32 billion. The primary disbursements categories include:

Schools (FCPS)	52.4%
Health, Human Services, Welfare	10.8%
Public Safety	13.0%
(Fire, Rescue, Police, Sheriff, E-911, Emergency Management)	

The proposed transfer to school operations is \$1.59 billion. FCPS has requested \$1.65 billion. The personal property (vehicle) tax rate would remain at \$4.57 per \$100 assessed value. The sewer rate will

increase from \$3.74 to \$4.10 per 1000 gallons water consumption.

The Board of Supervisors held public budget hearings on 3/31 – 4/2/08. Final changes to the budget, including any adjustments to the tax rates, will be made on April 21, with the final budget adopted on April 28, 2008. Citizens can link to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/> for more details about the proposed budget.

Money Back if you Traveled Abroad

Did you use a VISA, MasterCard, or Diner's Club credit or debit/ATM card while traveling outside of the United States between 2/1/1996 and 11/8/2006? If so, you are likely eligible for a rebate of at least \$25 and possibly much more. Credit card issuers failed to properly disclose the foreign-currency transaction fees they charged and have agreed to a \$336 million rebate fund. Individuals who took 1-3 trips abroad and spent less than \$2,500 simply need to enter their name and address on an Easy Refund form to receive \$25. If you spent more, you should fill out the Total Estimation Refund form. Business travelers and extensive overseas travelers using certain charge cards should fill out the Annual Estimated Refund for a refund of as much as 3% of purchases. Refund claim forms must be filed before May 30, 2008. More information is available by linking to www.ccfsettlement.com or calling 800-945-9890. Claim forms are available at: <https://www.ccfsettlement.com/claim/?action=choose>

Digital Television Coming Soon

On February 17, 2009, all "over-the-air" analog television broadcasts will cease. Instead, digital television signals will be broadcast. To prepare for this change, all new televisions, VCRs, and DVD players since March 2007 have a digital tuner (or a new high definition TV tuner).

People with existing analog televisions that want to continue using them in 2009 to receive over-the-air signals will have to buy a separate digital tuner (expected to be \$40-\$50 in mid-2008). Residents with older existing analog televisions that are connected to cable should be OK but you will need to check with your cable provider to make sure. Some cable operators will send a digital-only TV signal, and an analog set owner would need a cable

box with a digital-to-analog converter. Other cable operators may decide to broadcast two signals to all households – a digital stream and an analog stream – so your home television could use either signal. Link here to obtain a \$40 coupon and for more information (note that coupons expire within 90 days after they are requested):

<https://www.dtv2009.gov/>

II. ARC NEWS

by Rick Auman

Depending on the day/week, it seems that spring is surely just around the corner, so in anticipation of those outdoor spring projects, here is a quick recap of the submission process to help ensure a smooth approval to your project:

- (1) Complete the Monroe Manor HOA Application for Exterior Modification for all outside changes. Attach to the form all necessary plans including materials, plants, sizes, dimensions, colors to be used, and plats (with setbacks designated), etc. This form also requires signatures from all adjacent and most affected neighboring property owners (could be two signatures or up to four signatures depending upon the nature and location of the proposed outside changes). The signature does NOT constitute their approval; only that they have been notified of your intentions. Projects should not be started prior to submission and approval by the ARC.
- (2) Submit the completed plan with all attachments to Zalco (address is on the form) before the 1st of the month. Zalco will make copies and forward to the ARC for the monthly meeting, which is usually held mid-month.
- (3) The ARC will review each submission to ensure that your project is sound and appropriate for its surroundings, and that it is compatible with the architectural characteristics of the neighborhood. We also check to ensure that the project meets any specific requirements in the HOA covenants.
- (4) If approved, your ARC member will keep one copy for their files, return one copy to you for your personal files, and send one copy back to Zalco for the master files.
- (5) If your project is not approved, a member of the ARC will return your submission with comments/feedback on why your project wasn't

approved. Typically, disapproval is the result of an incomplete submission, but your ARC member will give you the reasons for disapproval when they return the form. You can then make any needed adjustments to your project and resubmit for the following month.

Remember that you do not have to submit proposals for REPAIR work, only for work that will result in a modification to the exterior of your property (this includes addition or removal of landscaping, shrubs, and/or trees). If in doubt, give one of the ARC members a call.

Lastly, please remember that we'll all soon need to get out into the yards to begin the maintenance that does so much to get our neighborhood beautiful. The spring growing season will be on us before we know it, so get ready with the mowers, pruners, trimmers, etc. and don't let your yard get out of hand. Thanks so much for your cooperation!

All the best,
Rick

III. COMMUNITY/SOCIAL EVENTS

by Jennifer Carson

Community Yard Sale on May 17 – with Charity Pick-up!

It's time to clean out your attics and basements and sell your items at the Community-wide Yard Sale on Saturday May 17, from 8:00 AM – noon. **Carolyn Jarratt** has agreed to organize this annual event and could use help with signage on the day of the event. Advertisements will be placed in several large and local media.

New for this year – there will be charity pick-up trucks coming through the neighborhood right after the Yard Sale ends at noon (likely the Salvation Army). This allows you to conveniently donate any items for a very worthy cause! The charity needs to know the number of homes that will be contributing goods so they can plan for the right number of trucks. Please send a message to Carolyn at cmpj2@cox.net so she can get a count.

End-of-School Party Coming Up – Mark Your

Calendars for June 13!

Since the last scheduled day of school is June 17, it looks like Friday June 13 would be a good afternoon and evening to hold the popular end-of-school and beginning-of-summer party! **Lisa Fee, Judy May, and Jennifer Carson** are already working on a couple of ideas. They need at least three more adults to help plan this great event, and include some fun activities for the kids. And we need another good location. What are your ideas? Please let us hear from you!

More information about these events will be sent via broadcast e-mail (assuming we have one for you – see pages 1-2).

IV. LOCAL SCHOOL NEWS

by Gordon Jarratt

Floris Elementary School Boundaries likely will be changed next! Parent-Resident Group Needed to Represent Monroe Manor at Town Hall School Boundary Meetings in the Fall 2008!

The number of students attending Floris Elementary School exceeds its facility enrollment capacity. The same situation exists at McNair ES. To help address this problem, a new elementary school on Coppermine Road (west of the Clocktower shopping center, west of Centreville Road) is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2009. FCPS is expected to announce that an elementary school boundary study likely affecting Floris ES, McNair ES, and Hutchison ES will begin in the Fall of 2008.

Parents and residents are needed to create a School Boundary Committee and to participate in several “town hall” meetings. We need to make sure that we are organized and speaking with one voice (if possible). Residents that want to participate on this committee are asked contact the Board at MonroeManorHOA@cox.net. Your Board will help organize this Committee with a kick-off meeting and share relevant communication via broadcast e-mails and the newsletter. However, the Committee will be leading our community's participation in these FCPS boundary meetings. Among other alternatives, the Committee may

decide to join with other neighbors participating in the FairfaxCAPS group.

Here is the overall boundary calendar:

June/July 2008 – FCPS School Board finalizes the specific schools in the boundary study

November/December 2008 – FCPS staff hold several public “town hall” meetings for the elementary school boundary study

January 2009 – FCPS staff send their recommendation about the elementary school boundary change to the School Board

January/February 2009 – FCPS School Board holds public hearings

February/March 2009 – FCPS School Board makes final elementary school boundary change decision.

The FY2009-2013 Capital Improvement Plan has detail about capacity and enrollment projections of all schools, including the elementary schools in this study: <http://www.fcps.edu/news/cip.htm> .

The boundary change regulation and process is provided in Regulation 8130.5 which can be found at: <http://www.fcps.edu/Directives/R8130.pdf>

The associated "policy" is available at:

<http://www.fcps.edu/Directives/P8130.pdf>

High School Boundary Decision

On February 28, 2008, our elected Fairfax County School Board members voted 10-2 to change our high school attendance area from Westfield HS to South Lakes HS. Some families and neighbors support this decision and can go to the South Lakes High School PTSA website to get involved with the school at <http://www.southlakesptsa.org> . Other families and neighbors oppose this boundary decision and have filed a legal action through FairfaxCAPS to overturn the change: <http://www.fairfaxcaps.org> .

2007 – 2008 FCPS Calendar

For the most recent public school calendar, link to www.fcps.edu/cal.htm . Below is the current 2007-2008 school calendar.

May 26	Memorial Day Holiday
June 17	Last Day of School

Full-day Kindergarten, and FCPS Budget

The total proposed FY2008 FCPS budget is \$2.2 billion. It includes an allocation of \$5.6 million to expand full-day kindergarten at 21 elementary schools. Floris Elementary did not make this year’s (2008-2009) list; however, it is supposed to be included in next year’s budget. More information about the FY08 FCPS budget is available at www.fcps.edu/news/fy2008.htm .

Substance Abuse by High School Teens, plus Internet Safety

Did you know a local high school teenager recently died of a heroin overdose? Do you know how easy it is for high school students to obtain drugs, alcohol, and other controlled substances? Several recent articles in the *Centre View* (Connection Newspapers) are must-reads for all parents with teens. Listen to what the students themselves, and the principals and police officers, have to say about what goes on with certain groups of teens in local high schools.

Local high school students and principals present frank information about teen drinking and drug abuse:

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?paper=62&cat=104&article=95013>

Recent heroin overdose kills local high school teen:
<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?paper=62&cat=104&article=95010>

Help keep children safe from internet predators:
<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?paper=62&cat=104&article=94746>

New College Rankings from Kiplinger

Do you have a friend or family member that is going to college? Kiplinger has just updated their list of the top values in public and private U.S. colleges. Regarding local area public universities, **UVA, William & Mary, Mary Washington, Virginia Tech, and James Madison** are all ranked between #3 - #22. **George Mason and Longwood** are also within the Top 100. Regarding local private universities, **Georgetown, University of Richmond, John Hopkins, Loyola, and Hood** are all ranked between #16 - #41. Regarding local private liberal arts colleges, **Washington & Lee** is

ranked #6.

Link to search Public Colleges:

<http://www.kiplinger.com/tools/colleges/>

Link to search Liberal Arts Colleges and Private Universities:

<http://www.kiplinger.com/tools/privatecolleges/>

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monroe Manor Contractor List -

Please update your Jobs Wanted Postings!

Many of the ages of neighborhood teenagers are now long outdated. For this issue, the ages have been removed. Please review your posting and e-mail Kathy with updates, corrections, and/or removals. Some of these students may have graduated and may not be living at home. Also, there are probably additional teens out there who would love the opportunity to make some money. Please send Kathy your information to be included in the June newsletter.

Please send any updates to the Monroe Manor Contractor List to **Kathy Lawson** at dklawson5@verizon.net or 703-796-1570.

Kitchen Stuff - For Sale

The Lawsons have just started a kitchen renovation and we have a couple of things for sale that are waiting in our garage:

1. 8-month old GE Profile white dishwasher (replaced last August for the recall) \$200 or best offer
2. Calico Corners custom made roman shade for above the kitchen sink window (blue & yellow print) \$75 or best offer
3. GE Profile side-by-side refrigerator
4. Bar sink & brass faucet
5. 2 black kitchen swivel stools
6. 6 Pier One black wrought iron chairs

Please contact Kathy as soon as possible if interested at dklawson5@verizon.net or 703-796-1570.

MONROE MANOR CONTACT INFORMATION (as of March 2008)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board meetings are generally held quarterly on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Contact any member for the date, time and location of the next meeting.

BOD E-mail: MonroeManorHOA@cox.net

Gordon Jarratt, President

703-471-7374

gjarratt11@cox.net

John Bull, Vice President

703-925-0118

bull_john13@yahoo.com

Doug Barbee, Treasurer

703-437-9245

dougbarbee@cox.net

Jerry Chickillo, Secretary

703-318-8230

jchickillo@cox.net

Rich Schwarzkopf, At Large

703-709-5215

rich.schwarzkopf@usa.net

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Zalco Realty, Inc.

8701 Georgia Avenue, Suite 300

Silver Spring, MD 20910

Mark Hoage, Community Manager

Phone: 301-495-6619

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NEWSLETTER

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ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

ARC meetings are generally held the second week of each month. Contact any member for the location, date and time of the next meeting.

Rick Auman, ARC Chairman, 703-733-0752

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♣ 12827-12907 Monroe Manor Dr.

♣ 12901-12913 Locksley Ct.

♣ 2526-2530 Fallon Dr. (even numbers)

♣ 13000-13009 Monroe Manor Dr.

Mike Nelson, 703-471-5573

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♣ 13011-13030 Monroe Manor Dr.

♣ 13098-13099 Curved Iron Rd.

♣ 2550-2565 Fox Hound Ct.

Brian Roherty, 703-481-6057

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♣ 12901-12909 Brafferton Ct.

♣ 2500-2525 Fallon Dr.

♣ 2527-2531 Fallon Dr. (odd numbers)

Gene Murphy, 703-689-0674

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♣ 12800-12825 Monroe Manor Dr.

♣ 2506-2524 Camberwell Ct. (even numbers)

♣ 12808 New Parkland Dr.

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♣ 12684-12726 Fox Woods Dr.

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♣ 2500-2507 Tallyrand Ct.

♣ 12800-12805 New Parkland Dr.

♣ 2506-2509 Tatnuck Ct.

♣ 2500 Camberwell Ct.

♣ 2501-2521 Camberwell Ct. (odd numbers)