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CITY OF ROCKVILLE

328 New Mark Esplanade
Rockville, MD 20850

September 23, 2008

City of Rockville Environmental Excellence Award
30 Courthouse Square
Rockville, MD 20850

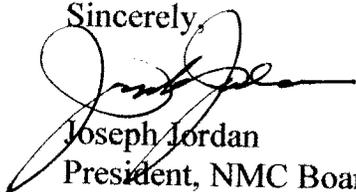
Dear Sir or Madam:

I am very pleased to submit the attached nomination for consideration for a City Excellence Award. I included a write-up of what we are doing here in New Mark Commons to restore sections of our wonderful urban forest that have been lost over the last 40 years. These losses were due to storms, age, disease, etc.

I sent news of this program to the City Mayor and Council but received acknowledgement from only one Councilmember...Anne Robbins. I did discuss the project with JoAnn Grbach, who said she would put a brief article in a future Rockville Reports.

I am confident this is the kind of community involvement you are encouraging and should be recognizing. Two individuals in the community took the lead on this project, and we can discuss it in more detail, if desired. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Joseph Jordan
President, NMC Board of Directors

City of Rockville Environmental Excellence Award



Nomination Guidelines

- Anyone is eligible to nominate or endorse a deserving individual, organization, business, public agency, student, educational institution or program for an award. Candidates must reside, do business, or study/teach in Rockville, or have conducted a project that specifically benefits Rockville's local environment.
- Submit a completed form, along with the supporting information indicated below.

Candidate

Name NEW MARK COMMONS HOME ASSOCIATION

Affiliation _____

Mailing Address PO BOX 4206, ROCKVILLE, MD 20850

Day Phone 301-340-0288 Fax _____

Email Address _____

Award Category

- Outstanding Individual Environmental Stewardship
- Outstanding Leadership in Environmental Practices
- Outstanding Achievement in Green Building Technology/Design
- Outstanding Environmental Education and Academic Achievement

Nominator

Name JOSEPH JORDAN

Affiliation PRESIDENT, NMCHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mailing Address 328
~~328~~ NEW MARK ESPLANADE, ROCKVILLE
20850

Day Phone 301-294-8006 Fax _____

Email Address JORDANJOS@COMCAST.NET

September 2008

New Mark Commons has always been devoted to the preservation of our beautiful trees. Our annual operating budget has tree maintenance as the second largest expenditure each year. This month there have been two developments which will help to ensure the future of the New Mark Commons urban forest. The New Mark Board of Directors has approved the planting of about 80 trees throughout the community this fall. 40 of these trees, mostly native canopy species, will be planted by Stolburg Landscaping Inc. The trees measure 1.5" to 2.5" in diameter and cost us about \$10,000. Located throughout the community both in forested and townhouse parking areas, this new planting is designed to replace large trees which have been lost in recent years to age, disease, wind, and lightning.

The second development is that New Mark Commons has received a grant from the Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee to buy about 40 tree saplings from the Maryland Tree-Mendous Program. These trees, also native species, will be planted by New Mark Commons volunteers sometime in November. We presently have some volunteers for this planting but would like more. If you would like to be involved in this volunteer effort, please contact Joe Jordan at jordanjos@comcast.net.

The New Mark Board has also approved a policy that when a tree is removed a new tree will be planted in its place. Any action involving hardwood trees still needs approval of our Tree Committee. Forms are in the NMC Directory and on the website. This will ensure that the New Mark Forest will continue to flourish in the future. Local governments and urban planning agencies are increasingly recognizing the importance of trees in urban environments. Trees inhale carbon dioxide and exhale oxygen, which makes them an important part of reducing greenhouse gases and improving air quality. The shade of large trees significantly reduces air temperature in the summer, which cuts cooling costs and reduces energy use. Anyone who lives in New Mark Commons knows that the temperature in the community can be up to 10° cooler than on Rockville Pike. Thanks to the foresight of New Mark designers, we have inherited a model of what a mature urban forest can offer. The Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee has expressed an interest in publicizing our volunteer planting, both as an example of what can be done in an urban forest and how volunteer efforts can maintain and improve the forest.