



# The Mapleleaf

A PUBLICATION OF THE MAPLEWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (MCA)  
WWW.MAPLEWOODCITIZENS.ORG

VOLUME 1819, NO. 4 MAY 2019

## Meeting:

**Wednesday, June 5, 2019**

**7:30 p.m.**

Knights of Columbus/Rock Creek Mansion

5417 W. Cedar Ln.

Bethesda, MD 20814

## AGENDA

- Call To Order
- Presentation by Washington Gas (45 Minutes)
- BUSINESS MEETING
  - \* Secretary's Report
  - \* Treasurer's Report
  - \* Establish Dues for 2019-2020 Membership Year
  - \* Election of Officers for 2019-2020 Membership Year—Barbara Harrison, Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee
  - \* Maplewood Village Report by Mary Jo Deering
  - \* Adoption of Memorandum of Understanding between MCA and Maplewood Village
- Adjourn

## MAPLEWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

**Mailing address:** MCA  
P.O. Box 2483  
Kensington, MD 20891-2483

**Hotline:** 301-530-6080

**Website:** [www.maplewoodcitizens.org](http://www.maplewoodcitizens.org)

**President:** Allen Myers  
[president@maplewoodcitizens.org](mailto:president@maplewoodcitizens.org)

**Vice President:** Vacant  
[vp@maplewoodcitizens.org](mailto:vp@maplewoodcitizens.org)

**Secretary:** Jason Padgett  
[secretary@maplewoodcitizens.org](mailto:secretary@maplewoodcitizens.org)

**Treasurer:** Alan Goldhammer  
[treasurer@maplewoodcitizens.org](mailto:treasurer@maplewoodcitizens.org)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Voting for new MCA officers for the 2019-2020 membership year will take place at the Wednesday, June 5, 2019 MCA general meeting. Please see the related article on page 2

I want to thank the 2018-2019 (September-August) MCA officers: Vice President Bob Fisher, Treasurer Alan Goldhammer, and Secretary Jason Padgett. In addition, many thanks to a) Elissa Fisher (Bob Fisher's wife) who served as the newsletter delivery team coordinator until moving recently with Bob to Florida ; b) Barbara Harrison with husband Dan Pierce and Alan Shankin who have stepped in as the new newsletter delivery coordinating team; c) Mary Jo Deering for her hard work on behalf of the Maplewood Village and outreach to Wyngate's Village. All of the aforementioned individuals have put in many hours to keep you informed and provide opportunities for an active and involved community.

While all Maplewood residents are encouraged to attend MCA general meetings, only those residents who have paid their dues (membership form on page 4) may vote. Please consider joining MCA as dues are the only ongoing source of funding to allow MCA to communicate

with all residents (via hotline, listserv, newsletter, etc.) on neighborhood issues. Dues also cover expenses involved with some of the many neighborhood activities. Regardless of whether you are homeowners or renters, MCA extends an invitation to participate. MCA is honored to count military families, foreign diplomats, international organization employees, National Institutes of Health employees/researchers among its residents. MCA has also embraced three Home Owner Associations' (HOA's) residents to include Maplewood Park, Bethesda Crest and Bethesda Mews. As we end this membership year, the French International School proposal to construct a new elementary school in the neighborhood remains unresolved. Further details are on page 2.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that Washington Gas representatives, David Thomas, Construction Manager, Ron King, Field Operations Manager and Kelly Caplan, Community Outreach, will speak at the June 5th meeting and answer any questions. Among other topics, they will address the various gas leaks that have occurred in Maplewood during the last year. I hope you can attend.  
Allen

## Safety Improvements For The Trolley Trail At Beech Avenue

In response to concerns expressed by residents about the safety for users and drivers at the Beech Avenue crossing of the Bethesda Trolley Trail, the Montgomery County Department of Transportation has begun the process of redesigning the crossing. The plan, which is being fine-tuned, will have the trail run parallel to Beech Avenue on the south side of the street in the direction of the YMCA and then cross Beech Avenue to join the sidewalk on the north side of the street before returning to the current trail along Montgomery Drive. Construction of the redesign is expected to begin in early July 2019.

## WASHINGTON GAS TO SPEAK AT JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup> MCA MEETING

Over the last several years, some streets in Maplewood have experienced gas leaks. Three representatives of Washington Gas will address the issue including how Washington Gas responds to gas leak reports, what preventive measures are planned for the future, what residents should do if they smell gas or suspect a leak and street repair issues after the leaks are fixed.

David Thomas, Construction Manager for Washington Gas, Ron King, Field Operations Manager and Kelly Caplan, Community Outreach, will be at the June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting to answer your questions. All Maplewood residents are encouraged to attend what will be an informative and possibly life-saving presentation.



**LYCÉE ROCHAMBEAU**  
The French International School



## MAPLEWOOD

### Needed:

Volunteers to join the Mapleleaf Newsletter delivery team in September, November, March and May.

Contact Barbara Harrison (lakestargirl@gmail.com)

## UPDATE ON PROPOSED NEW FRENCH INTERNATIONAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The French International School (FIS) is in the process of making revisions to its project proposal for a new elementary school at the FASEB location on Rockville Pike just south of Pooks Hill Rd. The revisions are in response to concerns raised by the Montgomery County Department of Transportation and the Maryland State Highway Administration officials about the original FIS Traffic Management Plan. As this issue of The Mapleleaf goes to press, FIS has not shared its project revisions with MCA.

In the event any hearings are held during summer 2019 before the next scheduled MCA general meeting on September 18th, 2019 MCA will ask that the hearings be postponed until after the MCA membership has been briefed by FIS and MCA can prepare testimony based on the MCA member input. If this is not possible, MCA may be forced to meet over the summer to address the project in which case MCA will announce this meeting on the Maplewood listserv as well as distribute a flyer to all homes in the neighborhood.

### Beech Avenue Property News

The developer of the Beech Avenue property (between Linden Ave and Page Ave), Brad Bernstein, is waiting for final approval from Montgomery County for the plan to construct 17 single-family homes on the site. However, he has contracted with a company to market the site to a company that will clear the site and construct the homes. If Mr. Bernstein is not successful in arranging for someone else to construct the homes he will build the road onto the property himself. In either case, clearing of the property will not begin until late spring or early summer. MCA president, Allen Myers will present the latest information on this matter at the June 5th MCA meeting,

### Do You Get “BUSHWHACKED” Walking On Sidewalks in MAPLEWOOD?

Attention Homeowners with trees and shrubbery along sidewalks:

Thanks for trimming your vegetation back to allow pedestrians full use of the sidewalk without getting “bushwhacked” by overgrown vegetation or low hanging trees as they walk along the sidewalk. Your neighbors will be grateful.

### MCA OFFICERS SLATE FOR 2019-2020

by Barbara Harrison, Nominating Committee Chair



Elections for officers of the Maplewood Citizens Association (MCA) will be held at the June 5th, 2019 MCA general meeting. The nominating committee has not received any nominations for any of the officer positions despite an announcement in the March 2019 issue of The Mapleleaf newsletter asking for nominations. Three of the four current officers are willing to continue in their current positions:

Allen Myers, President; Jason Padgett, Secretary; and Alan Goldhammer, Treasurer.

The Vice President position is currently vacant as Bob Fisher has moved to Florida. Nominations will remain open for Vice President until the June 5th meeting. Contact Barbara Harrison at lakestargirl@gmail.com or 301-896-0106.

### HEALTHY TREES CAPTURE CARBON DIOXIDE (CO<sub>2</sub>) UNHEALTHY TREES CAN BE HAZARDOUS

Are you concerned about the condition of a tree in the neighborhood that might indicate it is potentially unhealthy and hazardous?

Residents can report any tree concern, but the County will take action only if it is located in their "right of way" (not necessarily within 6 feet of the street) and is NOT on private property. Upon receiving a report, the County will verify that the tree is located in their right of way (and outside the boundaries of a residential plat\*).

#### TO REPORT A TREE:

- Call 311 (direct number is 240-777-0311) and ask for a tree to be inspected; provide the address nearest to the tree;
- Provide your name and contact info; obtain a "service number" for the tree inspection request.

The Montgomery County arborist will evaluate the reported tree within 4-6 weeks of the report and leave a "door hanger" at the address provided in the tree report. The "door hanger" will indicate what action the County plans to take: removal, pruning, or no action (if the arborist determines that the tree is located on a homeowner's private property, for example).

If a resident is reporting a tree that is not at their own property address, the only way they will know the result of the County assessment of the tree is to call 311 and provide the "service number" they were given at the time of the report.

Tree reports go to the Montgomery County Highway Services/Tree Maintenance Section. There is currently a 14-month backlog on tree removal and a 4-year backlog on stump removal. A tree painted with a large orange circle is slated for removal.

\*The easiest way for a homeowner to obtain a copy of their plat is to go to the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning office in Silver Spring. The website is mncppc.org.

### SPRING SOCIAL- April 28, 2019

Cloudy day did not deter the fun!

The MCA Spring Social's favorite magician enchanted kids and grown-ups alike as many Maplewood residents of all ages turned out for the annual event. The moon bounce made some adults wish they were kids again and new lawn games made for some lively action. Fire and rescue staff gladly showed off their big trucks much to the delight of everyone. The Knights of Columbus offered their traditional hospitality, fare and patio dining. Maplewood Village members scooped up delicious grass-fed cow milk ice cream from Woodbourne Creamery (Rock Hill Orchard, Mt. Airy) to over 85 people. Photos:

<http://www.maplewoodcitizens.org>; <https://www.facebook.com/MaplewoodVillageBethesda/>.

### PROPOSAL FOR MCA AND MAPLEWOOD VILLAGE

#### MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Maplewood Village and the MCA propose to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to frame the relationship. The MOU will be discussed and voted on by the membership at the June 5<sup>th</sup> MCA general meeting. Here are the key points:

The Village and the MCA agree to a mutually beneficial relationship with activities that are complementary, as follows:

- Both groups will share minutes of their meetings.
- Any websites managed or controlled by either entity will link to the other entity.
- The Chair of Maplewood Village and the President of the MCA agree to meet at least once per year to coordinate activities.
- Each group will actively monitor its activities, identify those that are within the stated goals and objectives of the other group and offer the other group the opportunity for co-sponsorship.
- Any request by the Village for funds from the MCA will be approved by the general membership.

### THANKS TO *The Mapleleaf* DELIVERY TEAM

When you see these fellow neighbors, please thank them for the crucial service they perform in hand delivering *The Mapleleaf* newsletter to Maplewood residents in September, November, March and May. The delivery team always welcomes new members. Contact Barbara Harrison at [lakestargirl@gmail.com](mailto:lakestargirl@gmail.com) if interested.

|                 |                  |                  |                |                       |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Nancy Abeles    | Victoria Barrero | Jo Batky         | Susan Chacko   | Bonnie Chamberlain    | William Davis    |
| Mary Jo Deering | Christina Gorski | Neil Greene      | Sarah Guymont  | William & Sandy Hagan | Barbara Harrison |
| Bill Ho         | Linda Hubbard    | Margaret Human   | Larry Joseloff | Ester Kurz            | Melanie LaCount  |
| Lee Metcalf     | Allen Myers      | Joan Nally       | Katee Neal     | Phil Ordway           | Ann Rossilli     |
| Yazmin Rowe     | Alan Shakin      | Mercedes Tibbits | Michael Tobias | Steve Townsend        | Amy Trenkle      |



### Join the MCA Listserv

Send an email to [maplewood-citizens-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:maplewood-citizens-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)  
and be sure to include your name and street address.

“GRAPPLING WITH GARBAGE” - THE COMPOST CREW

The May 10, 2019 Washington Post article, “Grappling with Garbage” (page B-1,6), discusses the challenges faced by Montgomery County as it considers ways to reduce about 1,800 tons of trash it sends daily to the incinerator in Dickerson, MD. The county is studying food waste (beginning in the commercial sector) as one of the ways to reduce garbage which, according to the article, accounts for about a third of the county’s garbage.

The Compost Crew is a young company started by a 2006 graduate of Walt Whitman High School and offers neighborhood residents a subscription based residential pick up service for food waste. It was introduced to Maplewood in late 2013 as a simple way for residents to make a positive contribution to the environment. Friday is the Compost Crew bucket (green and white) service for food waste in Maplewood. The collected food waste is turned into compost. (For further information go to [www.thecompostcrew.com](http://www.thecompostcrew.com)).

“The Mapleleaf” reached out to Ryan Walter, the Compost Crew president, for his perspective on how the county’s consideration of a food waste program might affect the Compost Crew. Here is his comment:

“The entire Compost Crew team is thrilled about Montgomery County's recent focus on food waste! While we recognize that it does pose potential challenges if the County operates in a way that does not foster opportunities for early players and small businesses, we are confident that that will not be the case here. We see ourselves as partners in a very challenging and important mission to eliminate food waste and revitalize our soils, and that we must work together to have any meaningful and sustainable impact. The County has already opened up several lines of communication with us, and we are excited about the potential to support their initiatives across the value chain.”

**THE MAPLEWOOD VILLAGE UPDATE**

Maplewood Village, an ongoing volunteer initiative, provides a variety of opportunities for you to meet your neighbors. It collaborates with our sister village in Wyngate (neighborhood across Old Georgetown Rd from Maplewood) to offer free volunteer services to Maplewood residents. To request assistance, call 301-388-5112 or e-mail [wnhn.help@gmail.com](mailto:wnhn.help@gmail.com).

Here are just a few of the regular activities.

- Happy Hour- the second Wednesday of each month, 6 - 8 p.m., at the Knights of Columbus, 5417 W. Cedar Lane.
- Walking Groups: Meet at the entrance to Maplewood - Alta Vista Park on Alta Vista Rd. at 9 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
- A 55+ Lunch Bunch meets at noon monthly at Marriott’s Cooper Mill restaurant. Contact Narda Ehrlich, [nardaehr@yahoo.com](mailto:nardaehr@yahoo.com) for the June date.
- The Maplewood Garden Group: Maplewood residents who have an interest in sharing plants and/or information about gardening. All levels of expertise welcome. On April 27, members of the group visited McCrillis Gardens to enjoy the amazing azaleas and spring wildflowers. Contact Barbara Harrison at [lakestargirl@gmail.com](mailto:lakestargirl@gmail.com).
- Neighborhood Knitters: Contact Sandi Komarow, [sandikomarow@gmail.com](mailto:sandikomarow@gmail.com).
- News and Schmooze: A lively discussion on current events topics selected by the group. This group is taking a summer break.

Get involved! This is YOUR Village! Contact Mary Jo Deering at [mdeering@starpower.net](mailto:mdeering@starpower.net) with questions or suggestions about Maplewood Village. See photos on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MaplewoodVillageBethesda/>

**IS NO NEWS GOOD NEWS?  
STATUS OF DYNAMIC LANE SIGNALIZATION REVIEW—ROCKVILLE PIKE/Rt. 355 at JONES BRIDGE RD.**

Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) has not responded to a May 14, 2019 MCA inquiry as to the status of its review/study of the dynamic lane signalization on Rockville Pike/Rt 355 at Jones Bridge Rd. This review was initiated in mid -February 2019 and was to take 60 days.

The Maplewood Citizens Association has been around for more than half a century. It provides a public forum to discuss neighborhood concerns, solve problems, and promote community.

Make Maplewood a better place to live — become a member or renew your membership today!

**MEMBERSHIP FORM — Maplewood Citizens Association (MCA)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ONE: New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Today’s Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues are \$25 for one year, September 1, 2018 - August 31, 2019 payable by check to “MCA”. Please send your completed membership form and check to: Alan Goldhammer, Treasurer, MCA, P.O. Box 2483, Kensington, MD 20891-2483 OR through PayPal at [maplewoodcitizens.org](http://maplewoodcitizens.org) .**