



The Mapleleaf

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

MARCH 2019

Meeting:

Wednesday, March 20, 2019

7:30 p.m.

Knights of Columbus/Rock Creek Mansion
5417 W. Cedar Ln.
Bethesda, MD 20814

AGENDA

- Call To Order
- Presentation by Neighborhood Sun about community solar (45 Minutes)
- BUSINESS MEETING
 - * Secretary's Report
 - * Treasurer's Report
 - * Report By MCA President on French International School Plans for:
 - ◊ a new elementary school on FASEB property
 - ◊ operation of a summer camp at Forest Road campus (15 minutes)
 - * Spring Social Events Discussion/Budget – Chip Brennan (15 minutes)
 - * Maplewood Village Report by Mary Jo Deering

MAPLEWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

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

Hotline: 301-530-6080

Website: www.maplewoodcitizens.org

President: Allen Myers
president@maplewoodcitizens.org

Vice President: Bob Fisher
vp@maplewoodcitizens.org

Secretary: Jason Pagett
secretary@maplewoodcitizens.org

Treasurer: Alan Goldhammer
treasurer@maplewoodcitizens.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Maplewood Citizens Association is losing two very active volunteers: Bob and Elissa Fisher are selling their home of 35 years in Maplewood and moving to Florida. Bob has served as MCA Vice President this year. Elissa assumed responsibility for the distribution of The Mapleleaf Newsletter in March 2016 and has established a great team of newsletter delivery volunteers who dutifully hand deliver 4 issues of The Mapleleaf Newsletter throughout the membership year (September, November, March and May; the January issue is typically mailed) to Maplewood residents. Bob has pitched in to help with the distribution organization! Bob and Elissa are renting a unit in The Promenade as a "pied-à-terre" (small abode away from the primary residence) when

they come back to visit.

MCA is grateful to the three residents who will assume the newsletter delivery responsibilities: Alan Shakin, Barbara Harrison and Dan Pierce.

I would like to have a volunteer to replace Bob as Vice President through the remainder of the membership year which ends on August 31st. If interested, please send an email to almyers@starpower.net.

Our guest speaker at this month's meeting will be a representative from Neighborhood Sun Benefit Corporation. Details are in the article below.

I hope to see you at the meeting!

Allen



A Different Way To Go Solar

A representative from **Neighborhood Sun Benefit Corporation** will be our guest speaker at the MCA general meeting, March 20, 2019. Neighborhood Sun is one source of community solar power for homeowners. Community solar power involves no solar panels on a house and is especially useful for homeowners who prefer to not invest in either the purchase or rent of solar panels on their house or for those homeowners whose access to the sun throughout the day is limited (trees, orientation, etc). Neighborhood Sun works with existing utility companies to provide solar power. Come to the meeting to learn more about this exciting new way to have solar power delivered to your home.

Pooks Hill Marriott Development Update

The Quadrangle Corporation plan to build two sixteen floor luxury rental apartment towers on property next to the Pooks Hill Marriott Hotel was approved by the Montgomery County Planning Board in the summer of 2018 subject to Quadrangle's submission of an Enhanced Transportation Agreement (ETA). Quadrangle has submitted its ETA and the Planning board staff has requested Quadrangle to make some minor changes to the ETA. Once those are received and approved construction will probably begin over the summer 2019.

The ETA provides for a shuttle from the two new buildings to the Medical Center Metro station and not to the originally proposed Grosvenor Metro. However, contrary to earlier statements by Quadrangle that neighbors might be able to use the shuttle, the ETA as submitted indicates that the shuttle will only be available to residents of Quadrangle's two buildings. The Planning Board staff is not requiring that the shuttle carry anyone other than the residents of the two buildings.



LYCÉE ROCHAMBEAU
The French International School



MAPLEWOOD OUR HOME

Needed:

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

Contact Barbara Harrison (lakestargirl@gmail.com)

French International School Update

The French International School (FIS) continues to have discussions with the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) and the Planning Board staff on its proposal to establish a new elementary school on the property now occupied by FASEB along Rockville Pike (Route 355) and just south of Pooks Hill Rd.

SHA is concerned about traffic exiting the property and intending to go north on Rockville Pike. SHA contends that it would be too dangerous for drivers to cross three lanes of southbound Rockville Pike to reach the U-turn at Alta Vista Road. Consequently, SHA wants a separate exit into the neighborhood so that drivers can use the Alta Vista Rd light at Rockville Pike to go northbound. SHA is also concerned about potential traffic back-up and congestion at the property entrance and exit especially in the morning and evening rush hours due to the added in and out bound traffic.

Independently, the Planning Board staff is concerned about northbound vehicles on Rockville Pike trying to make U-turns at Pooks Hill Road in order to enter the property. The Planning Board staff believes that it will be difficult for cars, once they make the U-turn onto southbound Rockville Pike, to reach the current property entrance. Thus, the Planning Board wants one entrance to the school relocated further south and a new road

exiting the property directly into the Maplewood neighborhood. FIS is opposed to this proposal as it means a major redesign of the property layout to accommodate a new road.

MCA president Allen Myers, who has met with the Planning Board staff, will report on that discussion at the March 20th MCA general meeting.

Also, MCA has been informed that FIS is allowing TIC Camp to operate on its Forest Road campus over the summer. This camp, for children 7 – 16 years old, features both technology and sports activities. It is possible that operation of this camp may not comply with the Conditional Use Permit under which the FIS operates at the Forest Road campus and which was granted by Montgomery County. Allen Myers has prepared a draft of a letter to be sent on behalf of MCA to the Montgomery County Board of Appeals asking the Board of Appeals for its opinion in this regard. This letter will be presented at the March 20th MCA general meeting for discussion.

Should the Board of Appeals concur that FIS is required to seek a modification of its permit in order to host the camp and if FIS agrees to seek this modification, Maplewood residents would have the opportunity to learn more about the camp and to provide input on its use of the FIS site including hours of operation, noise and traffic, etc.

De CHANTAL DASH

5K and 1-mile fun run Saturday, April 13, 2019, 8:00 a.m.

St. Jane de Chantal Church is preparing for its annual fund raising **de Chantal Dash**, the proceeds from which will go to its "School Safety Initiative".

The route includes these streets in Maplewood: Forest Place, Forest Road, Beech Avenue, Linden Avenue, Kingsley Avenue, Elsmere Avenue, Fresno Road, Benton Avenue, Chandler Street, Acacia Avenue, Locust Avenue, Alta Vista Road, and Montgomery Drive.

The de Chantal Dash organizers appreciate the use of the Maplewood streets and are making every effort to reduce any potential inconvenience to the neighbors. There will be no road closures. Volunteers will be at every route intersection. Organizers would appreciate neighbors on the route parking their cars where possible in their driveways on race day.

Further details are at www.dechantaldash2019.racewire.com. Questions? Email Kelly Jana at kellyjana22@gmail.com.

Election of Officers For 2019 – 2020 Membership Year

MCA Bylaws require that the election of officers for the 2019 – 2020 membership year occur at the May MCA meeting. Barbara Harrison has agreed to once again serve as chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee. If you wish to nominate someone for an officer position (president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer), please submit their name to a) "Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee", MCA, P.O. Box 2483, Kensington, Maryland 20891 or b) email Barbara at lakestargirl@gmail.com. The deadline for nominations is May 11, 2019.



Maplewood Village Report for March 2019

Maplewood Village is an ongoing volunteer initiative, providing a variety of opportunities for you to meet your neighbors. We collaborate with our sister village in Wyngate to offer free volunteer services to Maplewood residents. To request assistance, call 301-388-5112 or e-mail wnhn.help@gmail.com and a volunteer coordinator will handle your request.

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 Road 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.

* Neighborhood Knitters: enjoy your craft with conversation. Contact Sandi Komarow, sandikomarow@gmail.com.

* "News and Schmooze: Join neighbors in a lively discussion on current events topics selected by the group. Contact nardaehr@yahoo.com.

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

MCA Spring Social

The annual MCA spring social has tentatively been set for Sunday, April 28th. However, this year MCA faces the possibility of incurring substantial legal fees associated with the proposed development by the French International School of the FASEB property as a site for a new elementary school.

Accordingly, at the March 20th meeting, MCA members will be consulted about whether the social event should be held this year and, if so, what the budget should be and what activities that have not been part of past social events should be included.

FIRST JOINT SOCIAL EVENT FOR WYNGATE AND MAPLEWOOD

The first Joint Maplewood-Wyngate Community Social was scheduled for March 10 (as this newsletter goes to press) at Rock Creek Mansion. Live music from several neighborhood musicians and groups was planned for this great opportunity to meet residents from both sides of the two Old Georgetown Road neighborhoods.

ROCK CREEK MANSION

DID YOU KNOW? Right in your own neighborhood is a lovely private event venue. The Rock Creek Mansion is ideal for wedding ceremonies and receptions, bar/bat mitzvah celebrations, anniversary parties, family reunions - and a host of other events! Visit us at www.rockcreekmansion.com. Booking now into 2021. It is the best kept secret in Bethesda, and is right around the corner at 5417 West Cedar Lane!

CALLING ALL DOG OWNERS/WALKERS (Again....)

There is dog poop "out there in them there hills"! Please be a good neighbor and pick up after your dog! Keep Maplewood clean! This continues to be a problem for your neighbors.

Join the MCA Listserv

Send an email to maplewood-citizens-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

and be sure to include your name and street address.



SIGN UP NOW: Bending Bridge Farm ORGANIC CSA

2019 Peak Season Share May 22 – October 30, 2019

For the second year, **Benton Ave** (in Maplewood) is a pick up point for the organic CSA from Bending Bridge Farm.

Wednesday pick up 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm . Membership CSA with \$500 paid in advance to the farm; use your credit towards the weekly deliveries between May 22- October 30, 2019. There are 24 planned delivery dates during the season which builds in 4 weeks of no delivery (great for vacations, etc.).

Sign up, ordering, selecting delivery dates, and managing your account are easy at **bendingbridgefarm.com**.

Organic agriculture emphasizes **soil health, limited synthetic input and minimum impact to the environment**. Healthy soil creates nutrient dense foods that are so important to human health.

This CSA opportunity is arranged for the purpose of raising the consciousness about the importance of healthy food for good health and to support the work of young farmers who are true stewards of our earth and who represent a vital new generation of farmers.

"Dirt to Soil: One Family's Journey into Regenerative Agriculture" by Gabe Brown is a 2018 book that is an easy to read and informative book. The reader will gain an appreciation for regenerative farming that takes care of the soil in the pursuit of producing nutrient dense food! The book is available at Amazon.com or from the publisher at www.chelseagreen.com (on sale for \$12.97).

DYNAMIC LANE SIGNALIZATION

Rt. 355/Rockville Pike and Jones Bridge Road



If you have comments (positive/negative) about the "dynamic lane" signalization at the intersection of southbound (towards downtown Bethesda) Rockville Pike /Rt 355 at Jones Bridge Rd (JBR) please complete the customer service form at the following link and submit it to the Maryland State Highway Administration:

http://marylandsha.force.com/customer-care/request_for_service

Once on the link, scroll down to select topic "Traffic/Pedestrian Signals" and select the sub-topic "Traffic Signal-Other".

During southbound Rt. 355 rush hours the two left lanes (2 green arrows) are permitted to turn left onto JBR eastbound. During non-rush hours only the inner most left lane is allowed to turn left onto JBR eastbound despite the 2 arrows (linked together) which blink red for both lanes. The white arrow supersedes the "fast lane" blinking red arrow by indicating that the "fast lane" traffic should proceed straight into Bethesda and is not permitted to turn left.

SHA has agreed to conduct a 60-day review of the "dynamic lane" signalization from a safety standpoint given what some drivers feel is a confusing situation. SHA welcomes your comments.

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 .