



The Mapleleaf

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

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MAY 2014

Meeting: **7:30 p.m.**

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

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

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

Bethesda CBD Master Plan Revisions, Elza Hisel-McCoy (45 minutes)

NIH Children's Day Triathlon, John Martuci (10 minutes)

BUSINESS MEETING:

Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report

MCA Elections for 2014 – 2015 (10 minutes)

Establish Dues for 2014 – 2015 (10 minutes)

Vote to Pay Maplewood representative's registration fees To 6th Annual National Village Gathering in Arlington, VA (10 minutes)

Discussion of Pooks Hill Marriott Development (15 minutes)

ADJOURN

MAPLEWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

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Secretary: Barbara Harrison
secretary@maplewoodcitizens.org

Treasurer: Hugh Barteman
treasurer@maplewoodcitizens.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Summer is almost upon us and the end of another membership-year for the Maplewood Citizens Association (MCA). In my final column for the year, I want to thank the individuals who have made this year so successful. First, I want to especially thank our secretary, **Barbara Harrison**, who has chosen not to continue in that position next year. I have known Barbara for many years—even before moving to Maplewood in 2001. Her mother got me interested in civic activities while I was living in East Bethesda. Barbara has been an outstanding secretary, conscientiously producing accurate minutes for all of our executive and membership meetings for the past six years. I also want to thank Treasurer **Hugh Barteman** who has updated MCA's financial recordkeeping, produced detailed and accurate accounting of MCA's expenses and revenue and maintained the MCA membership list.

Vice President **Ralph Schofer** has served ably in his capacity as my assistant. I am grateful for all the help that he has given me. **Helen Strang** has edited this newsletter for the past few years. Helen, a long-time Maplewood resident, is moving and I and our newsletter team wish her the very best. **Christine Maalouf** has done a great job in preparing the layout of the newsletter and is the webmaster for the MCA website, www.maplewoodcitizens.org. **Jo Batky** and **Lynne Joseloff** coordinated a reliable

team of fellow residents who distribute our newsletter, *The Mapleleaf*, at least 4 of the 5 times it is published in a year:

Nancy Abeles, Alex Amdur, Jo & Bob Batky, Sherry & Chip Brennan, Bonnie Chamberlain, Bill Davis, Mary Jo Deering, Christina Gorski, Neil Greene, Bill Hagan, Barbara Harrison & Dan Pierce, Mei Han, Bill & Jean Ho, Diane Hopkins, Linda Hubbard, Lynne & Larry Joseloff, Pat Kirwan, Ester Kurz, Jeanne Levin, Melanie Lacount, John & Nancy McHugh, Allen Myers, Katee Neal, Cindy Onder, Phil Ordway, Philippe Pradel, Lisa Reff, Ann Rossilli, Mercedes Tibbits, Amy Trenkle, and Becky Umhofer.

This summer appears to be a busy one for MCA as reflected in this newsletter. Details of the issues facing us in the coming months are contained in the articles of this issue and many of them will be discussed at our membership meeting May 28, 2014. I would like to encourage you to attend.

I wish you a safe and pleasant summer!

Allen



Children's Day Triathlon

On June 8th, International Children's Day, The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is sponsoring a Triathlon (swim/bike/run) in conjunction with YMCA for children ages 7 to 12 years-.

This event will include a 1.65-mile bicycle trek through Maplewood beginning at the YMCA and using Beech Ave, Linden Ave and Locust Avenues, Alta Vista Road and returning to the YMCA via Spruce Tree Ave. Money raised by the event will go to Special Love (a supportive charity for children with cancer), The Children's Inn (a home-away-from-home for children undergoing treatment at the NIH Clinical Center), Friends of the Clinical Center (a charity that seeks to reduce financial stress on families relating to medical treatment); and the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington.

Maplewood residents can register their children for this event at www.imathlete.com/events/childrensdaytri. John Martuci, the Race Director, will provide additional details and answer questions at the May 28th MCA membership meeting.

May 2014 Neighborhood Watch News

Our Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, Richard Kanehl, would like to use e-mail to communicate with residents of Maplewood regarding incidents of crime and tips to avoid crime. MCA currently has e-mail addresses for many members. To test the accuracy of these e-mail addresses, Richard proposes to send to those addresses, sometime in the coming several months, an e-mail message, pre-approved by the MCA Executive Committee. Any Maplewood resident receiving that message will get it as a blind copy so that the privacy of individual e-mail addresses will be maintained.



If you are not a member of MCA, but desire to receive Neighborhood Watch information or if you are a member of MCA but want to opt out of the e-mail alerts, please send an e-mail to Maplewood-Alert@Verizon.net.

**ARE YOU INTERESTED
IN HELPING DELIVER
THE MAPLELEAF?**

IF SO, EMAIL

LYNNE JOSELOFF

ljoseloff@yahoo.com

OR

JO BATKY

pacujo@aol.com

**UNSURE if YOU ARE
CURRENT ON YOUR MCA
MEMBERSHIP dues?**

SEND AN EMAIL TO

[treasurer@](mailto:treasurer@maplewoodcitizens.org)

maplewoodcitizens.org

**OR LEAVE A MESSAGE AT
THE MCA HOTLINE**

301-530-6080

Bethesda Downtown Plan:

An update to the 1994 Bethesda Central Business District Plan

Last fall the Planning Board began a revision of the 1994 and 1976 Bethesda Central Business District (CBD) Sector Plan. What is it? As described in the 1994 plan: “An area master plan, after approval by the County Council and adoption by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, constitutes an amendment to the General Plan of Montgomery County. As such, it provides a set of comprehensive recommendations and guidelines for use of publicly and privately owned land within its planning area. Each area plan reflects a vision of future development that responds to the unique character of the local community within the context of a County-wide perspective.”

Since the kick-off meetings for the latest amendment began last fall, a number of public meetings have taken place to collect input from residents, developers, visitors and other interested parties on the future vision of the CBD. Maplewood residents and the MCA have been involved in these meetings. In addition, MCA has been involved in discussions with other neighborhood associations in the area to coordinate the views of residents. Progress on the plan can be followed through the website: http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/bethesda_downtown/index.shtm.

The schedule calls for a shift this spring from the collection of community views to analysis and the initial formulation of draft recommendations on select issues.

Are your vision and concerns with the development of downtown Bethesda represented? Come find out at the May meeting of the MCA when Planning Coordinator, Elza Hisel-McCoy, will describe the state of the plan and answer your questions.

What will downtown Bethesda look like in 2035? Would you like to see improved walkways or bikepaths – uptown, cross-town, or downtown? Perhaps, taller or shorter buildings and more or less office space or apartments? More or less nighttime entertainment and social activities? Better parking or improvements to traffic patterns? Places for people to gather outside? What are your ideas? Come to the next MCA meeting on May 28 and hear about the process to build a new downtown Bethesda plan that will cover the next 20 years and influence development (http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/bethesda_downtown/index.shtm). Ezra Hitzel – McCoy, Plan Coordinator, will present the latest news and hear from Maplewood residents. Add your thoughts to the process! The draft plan will be sent to the Montgomery County Planning Board this fall.

Join the MCA Listserv

Send an email to maplewood-citizens-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
and be sure to include your name and street address.

Perfect Weather for the 2014 Spring Social

The Maplewood Spring Social event was held on Sunday, April 27, 2014 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus on West Cedar Lane. The weather was ideal! This was the first Spring Social for Maplewood since 2010 when the building at Maplewood - Alta Vista Park was closed by Montgomery County due to budget constraints.

Our special thanks go to the MCA Social Committee chaired by Chip and Sherry Brennan. Members of the Committee were Linda Hubbard, Ester Kurz-Scheibel, Mary Jo Deering,

Jo Batky, and Melanie La-cout.

The menu included hot dogs, sausages and hamburgers which were served with cheese, coleslaw, potato salad, and potato chips. Live music provided by a great three-piece combo, The James Transeau Band, was a perfect addition to the festivities.

Much to the delight of many children and adults, the National Institutes of Health fire department ladder truck and two B-CC Rescue Squad vehicles were present. A moon-bounce was a prime attraction for young children. The MCA

Neighborhood Village Committee provided information about its activities and held a bake sale to raise funds to cover its expenses as it continues to explore actual implementation of the village concept in Maplewood. Check out MCA website for pictures.

Alert: Cedar Ln closure expected June 6 for several months for culvert repair and BRAC related work



Maplewood Village Update

The Maplewood Village exploratory group is launching its first activities to help residents get to know each other. A plant and garden sharing group will kick off June 7, 10 - 11 a.m., at Barbara Harrison's house, 5218 Danbury Road. Contact her at lakestargirl@gmail.com. Bob Meck will host a book swap table (bring one, take one—please, no dumping of boxes of unwanted books) at his curb at 9408 Corsica Drive on June 14, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.. Later this summer, a series of dessert parties will be organized. Sign up for the MCA listserv to hear about them! (Send a message to maplewood-citizens-subscribe@yahogroups.com.) Other activities will come in the Fall. If you'd like to learn more about these activities or other ideas for a Maplewood Village, or if you'd like to join the exploratory group, please contact Mary Jo Deering at 301-530-4987 or mdeering@starpower.net.

Pooks Hill Marriott Development Plans

The proposal for several high-rise condominium buildings on the hotel's existing surface parking lot is once again moving forward. In the process of a Montgomery County-wide re-write of the Zoning Ordinance, the Planning Board staff has proposed zoning that would allow the Pooks Hill Marriott development project to proceed. Maplewood Citizens Association and The Promenade Condominiums on Pooks Hill Rd have histori-

cally opposed this proposed development project based on the traffic it would generate. MCA and The Promenade Condominiums have again joined forces with the goal of reducing the amount of development proposed.

A more detailed discussion of the issue and steps MCA will take in opposition will be presented at the May 28th membership meeting.

Because the final Council vote on the Zoning Ordinance is scheduled prior to the

Montgomery County primary election at the end of June 2014, a County Council candidates forum is being scheduled at The Promenade in the coming weeks. This forum will afford Maplewood residents the opportunity to speak to the incumbent candidates who are running for re-election. A large turnout for this event is encouraged. Details on the forum will be posted on the MCA list-serve when they are available.

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, 2013 - August 31, 2014 payable by check to "MCA". Please send your completed membership form and check to: Hugh Barteman, Treasurer, MCA, P.O. Box 2483, Kensington, MD 20891-2483

GO TO WWW.MAPLEWOODCITIZENS.ORG TO PAY YOUR DUES VIA **PayPAL**.

Maplewood Walking Group: Start Date – Thursday, May 29th

Join the newly forming Maplewood Walking Group!

A group of Maplewood residents has decided to inaugurate a walking group. The group will meet to walk every evening (7 days a week) at 7 pm at the sidewalk/driveway entrance to the Maplewood-Alta Vista Park at 5209 Alta Vista Road. The evening's route will be selected by the walkers who show up. Walk for as long and as far as you wish with a companionable group of your neighbors who are interested in exercise and in getting to know other Maplewood residents. Use of reflective clothing is STRONGLY encouraged.



Purple Line

The Purple Line is a proposed light rail line that will run from Bethesda to New Carrollton. The sixteen-mile line, with twenty-one stations, will connect the three METRO lines (Orange, Red, and Green) and the MARC stations at Silver Spring, Greenbelt, and New

Carrollton. The Purple Line is expected to relieve traffic congestion on east-west roads including the I-495 (Beltway), University Boulevard, East-West Highway, Montrose Road, and Randolph Road. It will be the only rapid transit line connecting Montgomery County and Prince George's County. In addition to relieving highway congestion, it will reduce the crowded Red Line by providing a direct route from Bethesda to Silver Spring that will take 10 minutes instead of the current half-hour now required from the Bethesda Metro Station.

The State of Maryland rated the Purple Line as its number one infrastructure project. Federal and state funds have been set aside to start construction in 2015. In the next few months, one of the six consortium groups bidding on the project will be chosen to design, build, and maintain the rail line for thirty-five years.

