



The Mapleleaf

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

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Meeting:

Wednesday, November 28, 2018

7:30 p.m.

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

AGENDA

- Michael Paylor, Chief Traffic Operations
MCDOT: Proposed safety improvement for the Bethesda Trolley Trail at Beech Avenue (30 Minutes)
- French International School: Revised Traffic Management Plan for the proposed new elementary school (45 minutes)
- BUSINESS MEETING
 - * Secretary's Report
 - * Treasurer's Report
 - * Maplewood Village Report by Mary Jo Deering

MAPLEWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

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treasurer@maplewoodcitizens.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I write this message, the beautiful fall colors visible from my window remind me that winter weather and the holiday season will be soon upon us. Maplewood Citizens Association (MCA) has much to deal with in the upcoming months. The French International School (FIS) planning for a proposed new elementary school on Rockville Pike between Pooks Hill Road and Alta Vista Road continues to change as the school addresses State Highway Administration (SHA) and Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) traffic flow concerns. Also, MCDOT is proposing to make changes to the Bethesda Trolley Trail at Beech Avenue to make it safer for trail users in crossing Beech Ave. Further details

on these issues are on pages 1 and 2. I would like to note the passing of Ralph Schofer in October 2018. His lengthy service to Maplewood over the last several decades included being MCA Vice President, Chair of the MCA Nominations and Elections Committee and the MCA representative to the National Institutes of Health Community Liaison Committee. With a career as a traffic engineer, his expertise was important in a variety of development projects in Maplewood over the years. Ralph also became a personal friend and invited me into his extended family. He will be missed.

Since our next issue of *The Mapleleaf* is in January 2019, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Maplewood residents a happy and safe holiday season. Until next year!
Allen

Safety Improvements to the Bethesda Trolley Trail at Beech Avenue

Maplewood residents who travel on Beech Avenue in the vicinity of the Bethesda Trolley Trail crossing have continually expressed safety concerns for bikers and pedestrians crossing at that point. Of particular concern are those trail users coming from the south where line of sight is limited. Many possible solutions have been proffered in the past but never came to fruition. At the MCA general meeting on November 28, 2018, Michael Paylor, Chief of Traffic Operations for the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), will present MCDOT's proposed solution to improve safety which involves a slight realignment of the trail where it crosses Beech Avenue. Mr. Paylor welcomes Maplewood resident input on this proposal.





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

elissa.fisher@comcast.net

The Latest: The Proposed French International Elementary School

At the May 2018 MCA general meeting, representatives from the French International School (FIS) presented their plans for a new elementary school to be located on property now occupied by the Foundation for The Advancement of Experimental Biology (FASEB) located between Pooks Hill Road and Alta Vista Road along Rockville Pike. At that meeting, FIS stated that all traffic would enter and exit the site from Rockville Pike. However, upon review by the staff of the Planning Board as well the State Highway Administration (SHA) and Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MDOT), FIS is being requested to allow some individual vehicular traffic to exit onto Alta Vista Terrace through the existing FASEB back gate or through a new road to be constructed from the property directly onto Alta Vista Road. SHA and MCDOT are concerned that drivers exiting onto Rockville Pike will attempt to cross several lanes of southbound Rockville

Pike traffic in an effort to make the U-turn at Alta Vista Road to go north on Rockville Pike during the AM rush-hour. SHA and MCDOT prefer that drivers have the ability to exit the rear of the property to use the light at Alta Vista Road or travel to Pooks Hill Road to reach northbound Rockville Pike. Both of these proposals have the potential to bring significant traffic into Maplewood at the beginning and end of the school day.

As this newsletter goes to press, FIS is expected to have an updated traffic management plan to present to the neighborhood at the November 28th MCA general meeting. All Maplewood residents who have an interest in the proposed school and its potential impact on Maplewood are urged to attend this meeting to ask questions and express their concerns.

A Short History of Maplewood

By Alan Goldhammer

In addition to being your newly elected treasurer of the Maplewood Citizen's Association, I have been working on a history of our area. I began this project back in 2016 and have done a fair amount of documentation of the neighborhood's origin and growth. We live in an interesting neighborhood whose origins trace back to the late 1800s when the area was mostly farmland. One of the oldest homes, built before the turn of the 20th century still stands next to the YMCA on Beech Ave. Subdividing the neighborhood probably took place around 1910 when prospective streets were all given tree names. Most of the early homes on Charles Street which was the first to be built on have been torn down and replaced.

The bulk of the housing was built following World War II and was accompanied by some high-rise buildings such as the Pooks Hill Apartments and what is now known as Whitley Park. The pre-war homes were largely colonials and the shift to split level houses was seen during the 1950's building boom. As we all know, the area is still under de-

velopment with the Bethesda Mews nearing final build out and the vacant property on Beech now sold by the Potter family and slated for 17 new homes. The other major vacant land near the intersection of Cypress and Acacia is owned by the Foundation for the Advancement of Education in the Sciences and will ultimately have new homes for visiting NIH fellows.

We are fortunate to have a wonderful YMCA and I as well as other members are looking forward to the completion of the construction. There are a number of other prominent landmarks such as the French International School and St. Jane de Chantal Church. You can read the most current draft of the history which is on my website at: <https://www.agoldhammer.com/documents/> where it can be downloaded.

There are still some gaps in this chronology and the final page of the document lists some gaps that I am still trying to fill in. I would welcome any comments that you might have. Feel free to email me at: agoldhammer@yahoo.com.

MAPLEWOOD VILLEGGE UPDATE

Maplewood Village is an ongoing volunteer initiative which provides a variety of opportunities for neighbors to meet. Maplewood Village recently joined Wyngate's village organization, Wyngate Neighbors Helping Neighbors (WNHN). Volunteers from both communities are now available to assist residents in either community without charge. (Assistance can be requested by calling 301-388-5112 or emailing wnhn.help@gmail.com)

Maplewood and Wyngate residents are welcome to participate in each other's village social activities. WNHN maintains a website calendar that lists both villages' activities. Subscribers to the website receive an emailed invitation when an activity is added to the calendar. Go to wnhn.org and click on "JOIN THIS COMMUNITY." Click on the top line tab labelled "Calendar" to see scheduled events.

Here are just a few of Maplewood's regular activities.

Happy Hour the second Wednesday of each month, 6 - 8 p.m., at the Knights of Columbus, 5417 W. Cedar Lane. **NEW: There will also be a Happy Hour 6 - 7:30 pm before the November 28th MCA meeting, which is right upstairs!**

Walking Groups. They start at the entrance to Maplewood Park on Alta Vista at 9 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Knitting Group: contact Sandi Komarow, skomarow@covad.net.

A 55+ Lunch Bunch meets at noon monthly at Marriott's Cooper Mill restaurant. The next lunch is December 10th. RSVP to Narda Ehrlich, nardaehr@yahoo.com.

Discuss current events with your neighbors at News & Schmooze. Contact Lorraine Nagy, lnagyster@gmail.com, to get the December date.

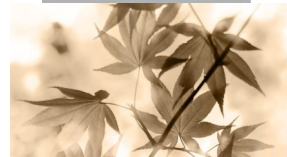
The Maplewood Garden Group is dormant for the winter. Contact Barbara Harrison at lakestargirl@gmail.com to keep abreast of plans for next year or to make suggestions.

Maplewood Village and young parents organized the annual Halloween parade on October 28. Close to 100 children and parents gathered at Maplewood Alta Vista park to march in their costumes. Pizza was provided by the Village after the parade. The Rock Creek Dance Academy kindly provided tables and welcomed children (and a few adults!) to come in and dance.

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/>.

Join the MCA Listserv

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



**MCA WELCOMES NEW VOLUNTEERS
TO KEY POSITIONS
WORKING ON BEHALF OF ALL MAPLEWOOD RESIDENTS**

Vice-President: Bob Fisher is a native of Bethesda and has lived in Maplewood with his wife, Elissa, for almost 35 years. He has a degree in business management and is a Certified Public Accountant who recently retired from his government position as Assistant Inspector General for Management & Administration at the Small Business Administration. He also has served in the past as president and as treasurer of the Bethesda Court Condominium Association. Bob and Elissa, who live on Viking Road, coordinate the *Mapleleaf Newsletter* distribution to residents.

Treasurer: Alan Goldhammer has lived in Maplewood since 1985. He is retired from working in the pharmaceutical industry where he specialized in regulatory affairs and drug safety. In addition to consulting on pharmaceutical issues, Alan is an avid photographer whose work is displayed in several office buildings. Alan also serves on the Board of Directors of the Foundation for the Advancement of Education in the Sciences (FAES). FAES is a non-profit organization that provides services to the NIH and owns a parcel of property on Cypress Avenue and the large stone mansion at the corner of Old Georgetown Road and W. Cedar Lane.

Maplewood representative to the NIH Community Liaison Committee: Maureen Wilkerson has resided in Maplewood for most of her life and it is where she and her husband have raised their family. Their children attended several local elementary and high schools. Decades ago, after she graduated law school at the University of Notre Dame, she served on the Fire Board for the Bethesda Fire Department at a time when staffing of the trucks was a contentious and litigious issue. Over the years Maureen has been involved in a variety of local civic matters.



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 .