



The Mapleleaf

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

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NOVEMBER 2022

Meeting: (MASKS OPTIONAL)

Wednesday. Nov. 16, 2022 at 7:30pm

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

AGENDA

Call to Order

- SHA Presentation and discussion of bicycle lanes on Old Georgetown Road
- Update on 2023 Maryland Legislative Session by District 16 Delegation

Business Meeting

- Secretary's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Approval of funds for hosting Maplewood-Alta Vista Online (MAVO)
- Update on Turkey Chase charity run
- Update on French International Elementary School

MAPLEWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

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

Website: www.maplewoodcitizens.org

President: Allen Myers
president@maplewoodcitizens.org

Vice President: Joe Aukward
vp@maplewoodcitizens.org

Secretary: Robin Audy
secretary@maplewoodcitizens.org

Treasurer: David Seid
treasurer@maplewoodcitizens.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

For many years, I have tried to have a neighborhood meeting that would feature the District 16 Legislative Delegation to provide Maplewood residents a preview of the upcoming legislative session. However, scheduling such a session proved problematic. I am pleased that at our November 16th meeting, Senator (and Maplewood resident) Susan Lee along with Delegates Marc Korman and Sara Love will attend and inform residents what is to be expected when the Maryland Legislature convenes in January 2023.

Also attending the meeting will be a representative from the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) who will discuss the existing and new bike lanes that are being constructed in a travel lane on Old Georgetown Road.

Finally, the meeting will include the latest information on the Thanksgiving Turkey Chase, a proposal for another new private school, the Diener School, on Old Georgetown Road, and the home on Danbury Road that was constructed in violation of the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance. Also, since the new elementary school operated by the French International School is expected to begin operation after the deadline of this edition of *The Mapleleaf*, an update on that school will be presented.

I hope that many Maplewood residents will attend this special neighborhood meeting and I look forward to seeing you there.

I wish everyone in Maplewood a happy, healthy, and joyous holiday season.

Allen

Maryland District 16 Senator and Delegates To Attend November 16th Maplewood Neighborhood Meeting

If you want to know how the 2023 Maryland Legislative Session will affect your life, the November 16th neighborhood meeting will afford you that opportunity. Senator Susan Lee and Delegates Marc Korman and Sara Love will provide a preview of the upcoming legislative session and answer questions from those in attendance. This is a rare opportunity for Maplewood residents to hear from and ask questions of the delegation. Please make plans to attend this meeting.

TWO NEIGHBORS JOIN THE MCA TEAM

Robin Audy is the new secretary of the MCA executive. He moved last December to this neighborhood with his young family in order to be close to Rochambeau. Originally from Montréal, Canada and married to an Oregonian, Robin is an economist working for the World Bank, where his wife also works, and he also consults for other international organizations and NGOs. When he's not traveling in developing countries doing research on social protection programs, Robin spends his spare time fixing up his house and supporting his two lovely little daughters as they sell jewelry to passers-by on Linden Ave.

Miguel Ramos is our new Webmaster. He was born in Lima, Peru and lived in Canada for 20 years before moving to the DC area in 2008. He and his wife Mariana have been in Maplewood since 2015 and have their hands full with a 2 and a half year old boy and 4 and a half year old girl. He works in the technology industry and speaks Spanish and French as well.



40th Annual Turkey Chase

This annual event, which was absent during the pandemic, returns to Maplewood streets on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 2022. It will result in road closures that may affect your Thanksgiving plans. Please read the enclosed flyer from the YMCA carefully.

The new Rochambeau Maplewood Campus is opening

The long-awaited opening of Rochambeau French International school’s Maplewood campus is imminent. After a big push renovating two buildings on the former campus of The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), on Rockville Pike between Alta Vista and Pooks Hill roads, the campus is now ready to have its first students.

The new campus will welcome children from age 2 through 5th grade, consolidating two previous campuses formerly on Bradley Road and in Chevy Chase at the closed MCPS Rollingwood Elementary School. The school will add this new campus to the existing middle school and high school campus on Forest Road. As part of the zoning permit process, the school agreed to implement a rigorous transportation management plan imposed by the Montgomery County Board of Appeals. While MCA views the arrival of the new campus positively, the association wanted to minimize cut-through traffic in the neighborhood. In addition the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) wanted to limit the school’s impact on Rockville Pike traffic. As a result, children age 5 and up who will not be walking or biking to school will have to use the bus service provided by the school. This should also reduce traffic on neighborhood roads.



It has been a bumpy ride to get to this opening; at the time this article was going to press, an additional delay was just announced: It is now expected that the first students will start school sometime in early November pending final approval of an occupancy permit. Parents have been anxiously following the saga since August when cascading delays in the construction forced the administration to delay the opening, which was originally scheduled for the start of the school year.

MCA will actively be working with the school administration, the county authorities, and other directly affected parties to alleviate any negative impacts the new campus could cause, particularly on the transportation infrastructure. A Neighborhood Liaison Committee, composed of representatives from the school, MCA, as well as residents on Alta Vista Road, Alta Vista Terrace, and Alta Vista Court, will be established to monitor compliance with the transportation management plan and ensure a harmonious relationship for both the neighborhood and the school.

Another Private School Proposed For the Neighborhood (Well, Almost)



The Maplewood Citizens Association has been informed that the Diener School has entered into an agreement to purchase the property at 9312 Old Georgetown Road. This location, on the west side of Old Georgetown Road across from the intersection with Alta Vista Road, is currently used as an office building. The Diener School hopes to commence operation in the fall of 2024 with 72 students and later to increase the school capacity to 110 students. While the operation of the new school should have a minimal impact on the Maplewood community, MCA has invited a representative from the new school to attend our next meeting to present the school’s plans to Maplewood residents. The school is currently proceeding through the County’s review for a Conditional Use permit for the site as a private educational institution.

Maryland State Highway Administration Official To Explain Bike Lanes on Old Georgetown Road

In response to two tragic accidents involving children riding bicycles on Old Georgetown Road, last year the State Highway Administration (SHA) replaced portions of a travel lane on Old Georgetown Road (OGR) with a bicycle lane. More such lanes are currently under construction on OGR from the Capital Beltway to Nicholson Lane. Some Maplewood residents have expressed concerns about these bike lanes and have objected to them. Alternatively, other Maplewood residents have supported them as necessary. A representative from SHA will attend the November 16th neighborhood meeting to explain the reasoning for the bike lanes and to hear from residents who have concerns as well as those who are supportive of the bike lanes.

MCA Needs Volunteers

Everyone who attends an MCA neighborhood meeting enjoys socializing over the delicious refreshments and coffee that have been provided at each meeting. However, two of the three members of the Refreshment Committee have moved from the neighborhood and the third has "retired" from that function. If MCA is to continue to have this social part of its meetings, it needs a few residents who regularly attend the meeting and who are willing to coordinate refreshments (cost to be borne by MCA and not the volunteers). If you are interested in helping with refreshments for MCA meetings, please contact MCA president, Allen Myers at almyers@starpower.net.

MCA Asked To Pay Hosting Fee For Maplewood-Alta Vista Online (MAVO)

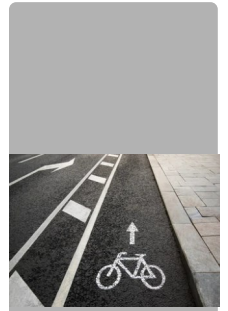
The creator and original moderator of the neighborhood group email, MAVO, who has left the neighborhood, had assumed the financial cost of maintaining the email program. The current moderator has asked MCA to assume the payment to the internet service provider, groups.io.com, which is currently \$200.00 per year. MCA members in attendance at the November 16th meeting will be asked to consider this expenditure.

JOIN Maplewood Alta Vista Online ("MAVO" neighborhood group)

1) Go to <https://maplewood.groups.io/g/mavo>; 2) Click on the "Apply for Membership in This Group" blue button (just above Message History); 3) Enter your email and the confirmation that follows; 4) You will receive an email that asks for your name and address for verification; 5) The moderators will approve your request.



"Hear Ye, Hear Ye..Read All About It" - Mapleleaf Delivery Team Volunteers Needed
Volunteers hand deliver the *Mapleleaf* on established routes in September, November, March and May. Volunteers eliminate the need for MCS to mail the newsletter at great expense. Join the team and meet neighbors on your route ("enroute"). Contact Barbara Harrison (lakestargirl@gmail.com)



Wyngate & Maplewood Neighbors Helping Neighbors (W&MNHN) Village Update for November 2022 Mapleleaf

Our neighborhood Village, W&MNHN, hosted a Zoom event on October 20, *Wyngate and Maplewood Working Together*. The purpose of this informational Zoom was to increase awareness of our W&MNHN Village, the Wyngate and Maplewood partnership that enriches our community, and for our neighbors to learn what our Village does, how it works, and how each of us can benefit and participate. The event was led by members of the W&MNHN Steering Committee, who were joined by Gail Kohn, the Age-Friendly DC Coordinator in the office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services. The program described how our W&MNHN Village provides free intergenerational assistance, as well as social, educational, and cultural activities, to enable our residents to thrive in their homes and community. Gail shared her perspective on what our Village can do for us individually and for our community. Approximately 2 dozen community members joined the Zoom. If you missed it you can see a recording of the event at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s1PVCi7I-drA7R6jVHZDmyRYeo3yOGmV/view?usp=sharing>. And if you would like to know more about W&MNHN, what it does and how you can participate, go to WNHN.org, email WNHN.help@gmail.com, or phone 301-388-5112.

Marion Zatz, member, W&MNHN Steering Committee, and Wyngate-Maplewood Community Liaison

Maplewood Hotline Message Service Discontinued

At its meeting on September 20th, the membership of MCA voted to discontinue this messaging service as it was underutilized and costing MCA nearly \$800.00 to maintain. The neighborhood group email – Maplewood-Alta Vista Online (MAVO) has replaced the hotline as the location to address neighborhood issues and concerns. Residents not currently registered for this service are encouraged to do so. Instructions on how to join MAVO are contained elsewhere in this newsletter.

Please join MCA—\$25 dues support MCA’s efforts to ensure Maplewood continues to be a fantastic place to live! Thanks to Goshen Enterprises for their advertising support; we hope Maplewood residents will support MCA by becoming members too!.

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, 2022 - August 31, 2023** payable by check to “MCA”. Please send your completed membership form and check to: **David Seid, Treasurer, MCA, P.O. Box 2483, Kensington, MD 20891-2483 OR join using PayPal at maplewoodcitizens.org .**