



The Mapleleaf

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

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Meeting:

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

7:30 p.m.

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

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

Maplewood Neighborhood Watch Program –
Allison Peppleman, Coordinator (5 minutes)

Presentation on Free Resources & Services at
Montgomery County Libraries – Eric Horwitz (45
minutes)

BUSINESS MEETING:

Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report

Pooks Hill Marriott Development Testimony (15
minutes)

Maplewood Village Report – Mary Jo Deering

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MAPLEWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we roll into fall (and cooler temperatures) one of the most important issues facing Maplewood Citizens Assn (MCA) is likely to be the Montgomery County Planning Board public hearing on the site plan for the proposed new high-rise development on the Pooks Hill Marriott surface parking lot. The public hearing is tentatively scheduled for September 22, 2016. Please see page 3 for details.

Allison Peppleman has kindly stepped forward as the new Maplewood Neighborhood Watch Program Coordinator! This

program is important in helping to keep a safe neighborhood and offers a simple way to give back to your community by serving as a Block Captain. Remember: "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure"! More details about Allison's plans are on page 2.

I look forward to seeing many Maplewood residents at the September 21st MCA meeting at the Knights of Columbus when we will have a Montgomery County library presentation. Allen

PROGRESS, PROGRESS... READ ALL ABOUT IT

With luck, by the time you receive this newsletter, the left turn from northbound Rockville Pike onto W. Cedar Lane may be reinstated! This left turn was eliminated nearly two years ago to allow for intersection improvements and installation of the new culvert under Rockville Pike.

The new pedestrian crosswalk and traffic signal on the south side of Rockville Pike at Alta Vista Road is under construction. When completed, the rush hour no left-turn restriction from Alta Vista Road onto northbound Rockville Pike will be eliminated. The same will apply to cars exiting Bellevue Road to go southbound on Rockville Pike. Please exercise caution when turning left from Alta Vista Road as cars may be approaching from across Rockville Pike.

Improvements to the portion of the Bethesda Trolley Trail on the sidewalk of Old Georgetown and Alta Vista Roads are scheduled to be done as part of the last phase of BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) intersection improvements at Old Georgetown Road and West Cedar Lane. This work will be completed in either late fall 2016 or early spring 2017. The Bethesda BRAC is related to the move of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center from Washington, DC to the Bethesda Naval Medical Center by September 2011, five years ago!

State Highway Administration has agreed that additional warning of a southbound lane merge is needed on Rockville Pike at Pooks Hill Rd. One of the two lanes is the extended off ramp of Exit 34 from I-495.

Over the summer and at the request of MCA, Do Not Enter signs were installed on Linden Avenue at the intersection with Pooks Hill Road. These signs reinforce the rush hour left turn restrictions that have existed. It is hoped that these Do Not Enter signs will reduce the number of drivers who ignore the turn restrictions.

Maplewood Family Halloween Costume Party and Parade!

Join us for a Maplewood Halloween costume party and parade! We will meet Sunday, October 30 at 4:30pm at Maplewood-Alta Vista Park. After a short parade around the block, we will reconvene at the park for pizza, generously donated by the Maplewood Village. Bring your own beverages and candy to share (if you want!). Friends and family of all ages welcome!

RSVP to maureenr000@gmail.com by October 28, 2016

Rain date: Monday, October 31, 2016 at 4:30pm



2016-2017 Dues Due!

A new calendar year for MCA has arrived. The September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2017 membership year dues remain at \$25. Payment options are on the membership form, page 4. Cash and check is accepted at any MCA general meeting.



Neighborhood Watch- New Coordinator

The Neighborhood Watch program is a network of neighbors looking out for each other—if someone notices something that seems strange, suspicious, or otherwise concerning, we can bring it to the attention of the police and share any pertinent information with each other—just as is often already done on our listserv, albeit in a slightly more organized form. The Neighborhood Watch program does NOT involve a neighborhood “patrol” or investigation of a suspicious activity. In fact, this is absolutely discouraged.

The new coordinator of MCA’s Neighborhood Watch, Allison Peppelman, will speak briefly about the program at the MCA meeting September 21 and is looking for Block Captain volunteers. Allison can be contacted at aeppeelman@gmail.com.

WAYS TO MEET FELLOW “MAPLEWOODIANS” Maplewood Village Update

Visit our Facebook page and “like” us at <https://www.facebook.com/MaplewoodVillageBethesda/>

Silent Reading and Social Night: Bring that book or other reading material you have intended to read. Socialize before and after the hour of quiet reading. Tentative date is Thursday September 22, 7:30 p.m., at the home of Mary Jo Deering, 9604 Page Ave. RSVP by September 20th to Mary Jo (see below).

International Pot Luck Supper: October date and place to be determined. Contact Mary Jo (see below) to get information as plans firm up.

Garden & Plant Sharing Group: This congenial group of neighbors gets together every month or two during the growing season to visit fellow group member gardens, share plants as available and socialize over coffee. Please contact Barbara Harrison at lakestargirl@gmail.com for further information.

Walking Groups: Meet at the entrance to Maplewood-Alta Vista Park at 9 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Kids and dogs welcome!

Knitting Group: Please contact Sandi Komarow at skomarow@covad.net.

Wednesday Happy Hours at Knights of Columbus (downstairs lounge) at 5417 W. Cedar Lane are planned for 6-8pm October 12, November 9 and tentatively December 14, 2016. Inexpensive drinks and pizza are available for purchase and you can bring snacks. All Maplewood residents are invited. E-mail Jo Batky at pacujo@aol.com for questions.

The Maplewood Visitors meet and greet new neighbors with information about our Village, MCA, and other neighborhood activities. If you would like to help or if you are new to the neighborhood, please contact Elissa Fisher at Elissa.Fisher@comcast.net

Get involved! Contact Mary Jo Deering at mdeering@starpower.net , telephone 301-530-4987. We rely on the Maplewood listserv to communicate. See instructions below.



Join the MCA Listserv

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

RESIDENTIAL DIGITAL PARKING PERMIT SYSTEM IN MAPLEWOOD

Numerous streets in Maplewood require permits to park during business hours on weekdays. From 1974 until June 2015, Montgomery County issued paper permits. At some point, the County selected PayLock (paylock.com) as the contractor to handle the digital parking permit system for Montgomery County and in June 2015 the County began a neighborhood by neighborhood rollout of the residential digital parking permit system; Maplewood went digital September 1, 2015.

Based on Maplewood resident listserv feedback about the digital system, a memo was sent to Ken Hartman, Director of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Service Center citing:

- problems with the permit renewal process;
- digital system is rigid, bureaucratic, and an administrative nightmare; contract employees are pleasant and helpful;
- the “free” visitor permit for up to 5 cars for up to 7 days restricts any of the five cars from being issued a parking permit for the remainder of the month;
- privacy concerns pertaining to having to submit visitor license tag numbers as well as the system’s permanent retention of visitor information.
- the building contractor permits and limits are too confusing; do building contractors even know they may have to obtain permits?
- “Aging in place” senior citizens cannot be expected to manage the digital permit process and especially where a variety of caregivers are involved;
- widespread belief that the digital permit process is simply another revenue stream for the County using a digital system that was designed for County convenience rather than as a service to residents;
- inquiry into a) the cost to the County for the digital parking permit system compared to the previous paper permit system; b) the amount of revenue collected for 2015-2016 through the digital parking permit system; c) County plans to address the list of issues above.

If any resident is interested in a copy of the memo or wishes to share additional feedback on the digital parking permit system, please e-mail janet.maalouf@verizon.net.

Public Hearing on Pooks Hill Marriott Development

The public hearing on the site plan for the 2 residential buildings (up to 631 multi-family dwelling units) proposed for the Pooks Hill Marriott surface parking lot is now scheduled for the morning of September 22, 2016 at the Planning Board, 8787 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring, Maplewood residents should check the schedule as September 22 approaches at http://www.montgomeryplanningboard.org/meetings_archive/. Any changes will be posted to the MCA listserv. As of press time, “Pooks Hill” is item # 5 on the agenda and residents interested in attending the hearing should plan on arriving at the Planning Board by 9:45am. The staff report is available by clicking on the green underlined “Pooks Hill” item on the above website.

MCA is preparing testimony, but individuals can certainly testify as well. Maplewood residents are encouraged to attend the public hearing, whether or not they plan to testify, to show the level of interest in this project. Instructions for testifying are available at the September 22 meeting agenda website. The Planning Board staff recommendation for “Pooks Hill” is for “approval with conditions”.

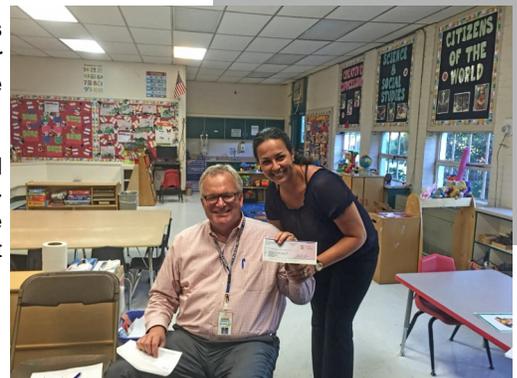
Originally, MCA expected the public hearing to be scheduled in June/July. However, the Planning Board pushed back the hearing date to allow the developer time to address some issues raised by the Planning Staff about the site plan.

Bethesda Country Day School Donates Playground Equipment To Maplewood

Recently, Nobel Learning Communities, the operator of the Bethesda Country Day School (BCDS), signed a new 10-year lease with Montgomery County for use of what was long ago the former Alta Vista Elementary School on Beech Avenue at Forest Road. Nobel is donating new playground equipment which will be installed on the green space between the school and the Bethesda Trolley Trail along Montgomery Drive. In the picture, BCDS Principal, Fernanda Landa, presents

Tom Williamson from the County’s Office of Real Estate a check for \$10,000.00 to purchase and install the equipment.

The County is soliciting Maplewood residents’ ideas on the types of playground equipment to consider. Please contact MCA president Allen Myers at almyers@starpower.net.



**UNSURE if you ARE
CURRENT ON YOUR
MCA
MEMBERSHIP DUES?
SEND AN EMAIL TO
treasurer@
maplewoodcitizens.org
OR LEAVE A MESSAGE ON
THE MCA HOTLINE
301-530-6080**

A Brief History of Maplewood Part I (Draft Two; 2016-09-09)

Our neighborhood of Maplewood was originally part of the greater Alta Vista area of Bethesda. It is bounded by the Capital Beltway to the north, Rockville Pike to the East, Cedar Lane to the south and Old Georgetown Road to the West. The oldest building in the area is the Bethesda Meeting House that stands on Rockville Pike just south of the Elsmere Road intersection. It was originally a Presbyterian church and is recognized on the National Register of Historic Places (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bethesda_Meeting_House).

William Offutt's "Bethesda: A Social History" which covers the evolution of the Bethesda/Chevy Chase area from the times of the Indians to the end of World War II is expansive but does not cover much of Maplewood. Most of our area was not built up until after World War II. Sadly, the Offutt book is out of print but copies can be found in most of the area libraries as well as from used book sellers. Be forewarned that it is a hefty tome of almost 800 pages. Much of the other data on post-WW II building comes from the real estate site Zillow that has information on the date of construction of almost every house in the neighborhood (<http://www.zillow.com/>). Data on road construction comes from plat map images obtained from the Montgomery County Historical Society (<http://montgomeryhistory.org/>)

The first documented homes in this neighborhood were built just before the turn of the 20th century with some significant building between the years of 1905-1941. TABLE ONE lists some representative addresses with homes built during this period. Alas, most have disappeared as a result of tear downs and new builds on that property. There are a smattering of older houses still standing on Charles Street and Beech. A number of the colonials and Cape Cods that were built in the 1920s to 1941 still stand though many have had additions added to expand living space. Most of the housing stock was built between 1955 and 1963. These were brick split level houses of three basic designs most of which still stand though again additions and modifications have been made to many of them.

In more recent years there has been the construction of elegant townhouses on the bluff overlooking Rockville Pike that used to be owned by the Goodwill. Today we can see building of large single family houses on Old Georgetown Road between Cedar Lane and Alta Vista Road (The Bethesda Mews development). Residents may remember that this property was owned by the American College of Cardiology which had an office and conference center on the property.

The neighborhood also has a Marriott Hotel, a large two building coop (the Promenade), a large condo (Whitley Park), and several townhouse developments, a Catholic Church and school (St. Jane Francis de Chantal), the Washington French School (Lycee Rochambeau), an assisted living facility (Maplewood Park Place), the YMCA, [the national Capital Area Boy Scout headquarters, a modest sized medical office complex,](#) and a nursing and rehabilitation facility.

Though most of Maplewood has been developed, there remain two vacant tracks of privately owned property. One is at the corner of Acacia and Cypress and owned by the Foundation of the Advancement of Education in the Sciences who also own the building at the corner of Old Georgetown Road and Cedar Lane (<https://faes.org/content/social-academic-center>). The second is a rectangular parcel on the north side of Beech between Page and Linden that is owned by the George Bush family (not related to the political Bushes, two of whom served as President).

Alan Goldhammer has compiled a brief history of Maplewood using a variety of sources. This is a work in progress and anybody who has historical information on Maplewood to share is asked to contact Alan at agoldhammer@yahoo.com or 301-530-0216. The Brief History segments will continue in future Mapleleaf newsletters.

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, 2016 - August 31, 2017 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 OR through PayPal at maplewoodcitizens.org