



The Mapleleaf

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

VOLUME 2223, NO. 1

SEPTEMBER 2022

Meeting: (MASKS OPTIONAL)

Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022 at 7:30pm

Kinghts of Columbnus/Rock Creek Mansion
5417 W. Cedar Ln.
Bethesda, MD 20814

AGENDA

Call to Order

- YMCA presentation on "Turkey Chase" charity run November 24, 2022.

Business Meeting

- Secretary's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Motion To Terminate the MCA Verizon Messaging Service
- Lycee Rochambeau's new elementary school update
- 5208 Danbury Rd Status
- Proposed Spring Neighborhood Yard Sale

Adjourn

MAPLEWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

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Hotline: **301-530-6080**

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president@maplewoodcitizens.org

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secretary@maplewoodcitizens.org

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treasurer@maplewoodcitizens.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I want to welcome all residents of Maplewood to the beginning of the new Maplewood Citizens Association (MCA) membership year. As the nation slowly eases out of the COVID pandemic, so too will MCA with an intention of returning to in-person meetings during the months of September, November, January, March and May. All meetings will be on the third Wednesday of the month with the exception of September when we will meet on the third Tuesday, the 20th.

This year we will see the return of the YMCA's annual "Turkey Chase" race for charity on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 2022. Please see the article about this event on page 2 of this newsletter. Also, the opening of the new elementary school on Rockville Pike, operated by the French International School (FIS), has been delayed. However, it is still expected to open soon.

This membership year sees three new residents of Maplewood stepping up to fill key positions within MCA. Robin Audy will serve as the MCA Secretary. Miguel Ramos will be the new MCA webmaster. And Suzanne Gleason will edit this newsletter. I want to thank them all for volunteering their time and efforts for the MCA and the neighborhood.

The ascension of these three residents means that three others who have ably served MCA are stepping down. I want to thank Allison Pospelman's son, JD, for filling in as the webmaster. His full-time job as a student now occupies

his schedule. Jason Padgett has served as MCA Secretary for the past three years and has had to relinquish this position because of work commitments. He has done an admirable job balancing, work, young children, and the pandemic to make sure that records of MCA membership and executive committee meetings have been kept. Finally, our newsletter editor, Janet Maalouf, will be leaving this position. Each year, for fourteen years with the exception of one year, she has edited the newsletter, and made sure that it was printed and ready for distribution. She has my deep gratitude for her efforts as I am sure she has from the entire neighborhood.

Please consider becoming a member of the Maplewood Citizens Association (MCA) for this new MCA membership year (September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023). The membership form is on page 4. Dues are the primary funding resource for MCA which helps to defray the costs of the Mapleleaf newsletter and the valuable Maplewood Neighborhood Helpers List among other expenses. MCA is actively engaged in maintaining the quality of life in Maplewood and with your support this continues to be achievable.

I look forward to seeing many of you on September 20th and at other MCA meetings. Also, please feel free to reach out to us at any time regarding issues that affect the neighborhood.

Allen

LET'S MEET THE NEW MAPLELEAF EDITOR

Suzanne Gleason is our new Mapleleaf newsletter editor. She grew up in Iowa but has lived on the East Coast since coming to UMD for graduate school. After working in Boston and teaching at Trinity College in Hartford CT, she moved to Bethesda in 2005 and lived in Wyngate and Pineview neighborhoods before moving to Maplewood this summer. Suzanne works as an economist for the U.S government, has one daughter (a sophomore at Barnard College) and spends her spare time volunteering with Girl Scouts, Days for Girls, VITA and the homeless.



Thanksgiving Day "Turkey Chase" Returns to Maplewood

After being run as a virtual event for the past two years, the YMCA Bethesda Chevy Chase and the Rotary Club of Bethesda Chevy Chase will run the 40th anniversary Turkey Chase as a hybrid event offering participants an in-person experience or a virtual alternative. Funds raised from the Turkey Chase provide those most in need with financial assistance and access to enrichment programs that empower youth and families.

The Turkey Chase takes place on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 2022. The 10K run will start on Old Georgetown Road at 8:30 a.m. and the 2-mile Fun Run will start on Spruce Tree Avenue at 9:00 a.m. All festivities should be completed by 10:30 a.m. or just shortly after.

Our guest speaker at the September 20th neighborhood meeting will be the YMCA Senior Vice President of Operations, and Maplewood resident, Carla Larrick who will update residents on the latest plans for the Turkey Chase and also provide maps of the two routes that go through the neighborhood. Route maps will be provided with the November issue of *The Mapleleaf*.

Home Under Construction Found In Violation of Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance

A new home nearing completion at 5208 Danbury Road was found by the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services to be in violation of several provisions of the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance. Specifically, maximum lot coverage (35% instead of the allowed 30%), rear-yard setback (16 feet instead of the required 20 feet) as well as height.

The developer filed a request for variances with the Montgomery County Board of Appeals. At a hearing in July, the Board denied the request citing the conditions under which a variance might be granted. Specifically, (1) the lot had no extraordinary circumstance or condition; (2) that strict application of the ordinance requirement would result in peculiar and unusual practical difficulties; and (3) exceptional or undue hardship upon the owner.

Moreover, variances are to be sought prior to construction commencement and not after the house is built. Legal precedent precluded that Board from retroactively granting the variances.

As this edition of *The Mapleleaf* goes to press, the fate of the constructed house will be decided by the Department of Permitting Services and the developer.

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 MCA to mail the newsletter at great expense. Join the team and meet neighbors on your route ("enroute"). Contact Barbara Harrison (lakestargirl@gmail.com)



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A SMALL FARMER PERSPECTIVE BY Emma Jagoz

Owner, Moon Valley Farm, Woodsboro, MD

“Come Hail or High Water: Moon Valley Farm’s Climate Resilience Vision”

(Former editor note: As I relinquish the Mapleleaf editor position, many of you know my passion for healthy food and regenerative agriculture. Emma sent this treatise (edited for brevity) to her customers and I thought it worthy of sharing. Janet Maalouf

“The globalization of our food supply brings food from all over the planet regardless of season—but it comes at a cost we cannot afford.

Climate change is altering human survival globally through increased flooding, droughts, pest and disease, and extreme weather events. This compounds traditional human caused pandemics, wars, political conflicts that alone destroy and erodes our exceedingly complex and extensive food chain.

For personal, regional and national security we must shorten the food chain.

We do this by starting where we live. As farmers we steward the land because our lives, our communities—our people—depend on it.

Unpredictable weather events destroy crops overnight. Back to back crop losses can ruin a business and destroy the land’s ability to produce food.

Farmers, like myself, have weathered unprecedented and devastating losses from unconquerable disease and pest pressure to flooded fields. Moon Valley’s existence is crafted with these risks hedged to ensure a stable and sufficient food supply for our customers come hail or high water.

This is how we do it:

1. **Farming organically with long-term stewardship**

Farming organically and stewarding the land with long term environmental and soil health goals is the cornerstone of our climate resilience plan. The top few inches of our soils are the most important part - the topsoil that sustains life for our crops - and these must be protected. Major flooding, major snow storms, droughts, hurricanes, tornadoes, extreme temperatures - all make vulnerable the precious topsoil we rely on. One major way that we are protecting this topsoil is with a focus on adding organic matter to the soil - making it more resilient across all weather events - by adding compost, by mulching, and by cover cropping then incorporating those green manures to the soil. Additionally, we have a large portion of our land, nearly half of it, in green lanes between and around our fields. This practice prevents erosion from washing away our precious topsoil by having permanent pathways of grasses and clovers that absorb the water (and bonus - the white Dutch clover we use blooms a lot of the year and our honeybees and native pollinators love it!).

2. **Crop diversity + Selection**

Crop diversity and selection is a very important and extremely complex category of our climate change resilience plan. As year-round growers, we are constantly planning, seeding and planting for the next harvest, and we manage dozens and dozens of different crops and varieties to keep the harvests coming and diverse all year long.

3. **Growing in high tunnels**

One way we’ve found we can gain control and mitigate the high risk of losing our first summer crops is to invest in high tunnels for season extension. High tunnels are essentially unheated greenhouses made of steel frames with plastic covering, which add several degrees of temperature protection for our crops - especially useful at the shifts between seasons. High tunnels also protect crops from other weather events, such as hail or heavy rains, and give the grower much better control of how much water and nutrients our crops are getting.

4. **Collaborating and partnering with other farmers**

Besides mitigating risk of loss from pests and disease, partnering with other farmers allows us to have more quantity and diversity of products available in all 4 seasons - but especially the winter season here. In Maryland, due to having less than 10 hours of sunlight a day, there is a period of time from November to January (known as the Persphone period) where plants will not actively grow, even if the temperatures aren’t too cold. That means we can still harvest crops, we just can’t really GROW them. Partnering with other farms allows us to have more acres of crops in the ground without having to buy more acres!

5. **Use technology + tools**

As our weather patterns become increasingly unpredictable, we are leaning on technology to collect and store data for us to help us both to collect data that we will use to try to identify new regional trends, as well as to help us in the moment make changes to our daily crop plans. We are utilizing technology to keep data for us on rain, temperature and humidity so that we can look back across the years and make forward-focused decisions based on data from our farm. Additionally, utilizing different tools is increasingly crucial for us. In many years, we’ve seen shorter windows of time with good soil conditions to work in. That means we have fewer hours or days to get our soil ready for planting, our plants transplanted, our fields cultivated, or our crops harvested. We have to be ready to do these things quickly and efficiently when the time is right or we will miss the opportunity. Because of this, we have had to invest in tools that make us as efficient as we can to get the jobs done.

6. **Staying a Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) Farm!**

A farmer can grow all the food in the world but it means nothing at all unless people buy and eat it. We started the farm as a Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm and remain that way, which helps the customer share the risks of farming with the farmer. We have modified our CSA model across the years to better serve our customers and our farm and to extend our season to become year-round. But the concept remains the same: CSA members sign on to get the best of what our fields can produce, knowing that we may sustain a crop failure, that a crop might have more aesthetic damage than we planned for, or that we might need to eat more kale than we anticipated - and in turn, we farmers will work relentlessly to provide the best we can for our members, and for our planet.



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!

Wyngate & Maplewood Neighbors Helping Neighbors (WMNHN) Village Update

WMNHN, our neighborhood Village, is one of over 20 Villages in the Washington metropolitan area dedicated to community members getting to know and help each other. Over the summer our Welcome Wagon volunteers visited over 40 new home owners and provided them with information about our neighborhood, the MCA, and WMNHN Village. And our recently formed artists group is off to a robust start with 18 members who have been meeting via zoom at 5:30 pm on the last Thursday of the month to discuss their art and share ideas. As a bonus, one of the members recently hosted 3 “en plein air” sessions in her backyard. To join the group contact Bob Meck at mecks4@aol.com.

WMNHN continues to provide neighborly assistance by trained resident-volunteers, including rides to medical appointments, picking up groceries and medications, “lending a hand” with simple household and computer tasks, and making friendly calls and visits. Requests can be made online at www.WMNHN.org, or by phone, **301-388-5112**, or email, WMNHN.help@gmail.com.

Village activities and events are announced on Maplewood Alta Vista Online (MAVO): mavo@maplewood.groups.io. You can sign in to our website, WWW.WMNHN.org, for an events calendar, to learn more about the history of WMNHN, to ask for assistance or to volunteer. Sign up by clicking “JOIN THIS COMMUNITY”.

Marion Zatz, member, WMNHN Steering Committee, and Wyngate - Maplewood Community liaison

Maplewood Phone Message Service Hotline

For many years, the Maplewood Citizens Association has maintained a voice messaging service through Verizon. During those years, each month several residents would leave inquiring messages on it for MCA to respond. The phone number to leave messages is published in every issue of *The Mapleleaf*. However, since the start of the pandemic, the only messages received have been from robocalls.

The message service costs MCA \$800.00 per year and may no longer be needed in light of new ways for residents to contact the Association via the website and Maplewood-Alta Vista Online (MAVO). In light of the limited use of the message service, the MCA executive committee is recommending to the membership that this service be discontinued and the money saved be allocated to other MCA expenses and activities. A decision on this matter will be made at the September 20th neighborhood meeting.

Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences to (FAES) Provide Free Shredding Services to Community

Neighbors are invited to securely dispose of old documents and paper files at a free **Community Shred Event on Saturday, October 29**. Shredding services will be provided at no cost from 9:00am – 12:00pm in the surface parking lot of the FAES Social & Academic Center located at 9101 Old Georgetown Road (intersection of West Cedar Lane and Old Georgetown Road). Rover Shredding will shred documents onsite. Please limit volume to 2-3 boxes per person.

Complimentary refreshments will be available, and FAES team members will be present with information about courses, workshops, and programs open to the public, and plans to connect neighbors with the exciting, world-changing science that occurs daily at the National Institutes of Health.

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 .**