



The Mapleleaf

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

VOLUME 2425, NO. 1

2024 SEPT

Meeting:

Wednesday, Sept. 18th, 2024 at 7:30pm

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

AGENDA

Call to Order (7:30 pm)

- Presentation by Montgomery County District 16 Delegation – 45 minutes
- Discussion with MCDOT staff regarding pedestrian safety islands – 20 minutes

Business Meeting – 10 minutes

- Secretary's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Other business for the good of the order

Adjourn

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I hope that everyone in Maplewood had a pleasant and enjoyable summer. As fall approaches, the Maplewood Citizens Association begins its new membership year. This means that membership dues are now payable. However, there has been a necessary dues increase – the first in at least 30 years. Instead of \$25.00, dues are now \$40.00. I hope that the modest \$15.00 increase will not prevent residents from joining or renewing their membership in the Association. An article explaining the need for the dues increase is contained below.

Our first neighborhood meeting will occur on September 18th at 7:30 p.m. at the Knights of

Columbus at 5417 West Cedar Lane. We will have a presentation by the Montgomery County District 16 Legislature Delegation. Also, representatives from the Montgomery County Department of Transportation will be on hand to hear any resident concerns about the pedestrian safety islands that were recently installed on Alta Vista Road and Linden Avenue.

Welcome to fall and the start of the 2024 – 2025 MCA membership year. I hope to see many of you at our September 18th neighborhood meeting!

Allen

Why Are My MCA Dues Increasing This Year?

For many years, the Maplewood Citizens Association has had the good fortune of securing a location for its meetings where it was not charged for the use of the facility. This has been true for the past 10 years at MCA's current meeting location, the Knights of Columbus. However, in April, the Knights informed MCA that starting in September, it would charge \$400.00 for each meeting held at its facility. This fee is well below the \$1,500.00 that is normally charged. Even with the greatly-reduced fee but with MCA having four or five meetings a year, the additional cost associated with the meeting would result in a negative cash flow because of other necessary expenses incurred in operating the Association. At the May neighborhood meeting, residents were provided the option of changing the meeting location outside of the neighborhood, the Stone Ridge School on Cedar Lane, which would not charge the Association or to continue holding meetings at the Knights of Columbus and to raise the membership dues to cover the additional expenses. The members voted to do the latter.

MCA Bylaws require the membership at the May meeting to set the dues for the succeeding membership year. In accordance with that mandate, the impact of the dues increase on the Association's financial health will be evaluated at the May 2025 meeting and any changes necessary will be acted upon by the membership at that time.

Please submit your 2024 -2025 MCA dues by either filling out the form in this newsletter and mailing it to the address provided; utilizing the link provided on the MCA website, MaplewoodCitizens.org; or bringing them (with the form in this newsletter) to the neighborhood meeting on September 18th.

MAPLEWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

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

Website: **www.maplewoodcitizens.org**

President: **Allen Myers**
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Wyngate & Maplewood Neighbors Helping Neighbors Village Update

Villages in Montgomery County submit an annual report of their collective impact on the communities they serve. The following is a summary of the "Collective Impact Report" submitted by our Village, WMNHN, for the fiscal year 7/23 - 6/24.



Now in its 9th year, our Village's volunteers continued to provide needed rides and other direct assistance to our community. The shared-interest groups that we organized created and sustained friendships and the sense of a neighborhood where people care about their neighbors. Our all-volunteer, no-fee Village engaged all generations in our community. For example, the vaccination clinic we co-hosted with Giant pharmacy last fall enabled mobility-impaired residents to be vaccinated in their cars and family members to be conveniently vaccinated together. Our engagement with the community was further strengthened by hosting a series of presentations on financial literacy and sustainable living -- topics requested in our poll of the community's interests. A Stronger Memory Program was organized by one of our residents, and Village-organized outings to local points of interest, such as the Josiah Henson House, brought neighbors together to visit places they've long meant to see.

There were over 200 social and educational events, including regularly recurring interest groups and one-time activities, that were hosted by WMNHN. Over 2100 residents attended one or more events, and roughly 380 individuals participated in activities, received services or volunteered their efforts. The Village was able to do all this thanks to the efforts of 46 active volunteers and a budget of less than \$900, received through gifts and donations.

To learn more about ongoing activities, to request services, or to volunteer:

- Read end-of-month emails on Maplewood - Alta Vista On-Line (MAVO) with information about upcoming events, new initiatives, and interest groups' schedules
- Visit our website: wmnhn.org
- Email us: wmnhn.village@gmail.com
- Call us: 301-388-5112



The MapleLeaf needs a new editor!

I have had a wonderful time editing the *MapleLeaf* & getting to know the folks who look out for our neighborhood! However, I will be retiring from federal service in 2025 and moving out of the area. Therefore, the *MapleLeaf* needs a new editor. The time commitment is minimal - just a couple of hours 4-5 times a year and a great support team who format, proofread & deliver the newsletter. Please consider volunteering for this important neighborhood position so that we might overlap for an issue or two for an orderly transition.

Contact me directly with questions: suzannegleason@yahoo.com.

Invasive Vines Abound in Maplewood – Let's Clean up!

Everyone has likely driven along Old Georgetown Road, or I-495, or I-270, and noticed the trees and bushes along the sides covered with what looks like a blanket of vines, smoothing out the shape of the vegetation underneath, sometimes with pretty purple and blue berries. You've probably also seen trees around the neighborhood with their trunks smothered under dark green English ivy.

Originally planted as landscape plants, these non-native invasive vines have spread and grown very aggressively, wiping out the native plants and reducing the diversity of plant species. **Porcelainberry** (the purple-berried vines) can grow 10 to 15 feet a year and climb from tree to tree in the canopy. **English Ivy** is an evergreen vine which holds moisture against tree trunks, thus increasing fungal decay, and its heavy vines make the trees susceptible to falling in bad weather. (Unfortunately, English Ivy is still sold as an attractive landscaping plant in nurseries around this area, and Porcelainberry can easily be purchased online). Both of these invasive species smother native plants and will prevent the growth of new seedlings below them. And both are all over our lovely Maplewood Park and our yards!

What can we do to preserve the natural beauty and health of our local habitat from this invasion?

Don't buy or use either species in your yard: they are very difficult to control, and will undoubtedly spread beyond your own space via birds and local fauna, no matter how careful you are. Try to plant more native species instead.

Next, take a look at the links below for pictures of these invasive vines, so you can recognize them and remove them from your yard.

Fall is coming soon, so now is a good time to attack these vines in your own yard. Small plants can be pulled up by the roots. For larger infestations, it is safest (for you and the tree) to never pull the vines off the trees – they may be holding up dead branches that can fall and hurt you. Instead, cut a 'window' or 'band' into the vines as low down as you can get, and let them wither and fall off over time.

If your own yard is clear of invasive species, do consider expanding your efforts to our local parks. Montgomery County Parks have a great volunteer program called '**Weed Warriors**' to identify and remove invasive plants in our parks. They have open workdays where anyone can volunteer 2 hours to learn about and clean up these vines. You can also become a certified Weed Warrior after training and practice, after which you are authorized to independently work on invasive vines in MoCo parks.

It is **very** satisfying to leave an area clear of vines, but it is also startling to realize how much more there is to do! It may seem like a hopeless task, but if you feel disheartened, take a walk around Wyngate Woods (behind Wyngate Elementary), which has almost no invasive species thanks to the efforts of local Weed Warrior volunteers. It would be fantastic if Maplewood Park and our neighborhood were cleared as well!

Invasive plants in Maryland: <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/introduction-invasive-plants-maryland/>

Recommended Native Plants for MD: <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/recommended-native-plants-maryland/>

Fact Sheet for Porcelainberry: <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/invasives-your-woodland-porcelainberry/>

Fact Sheet for English Ivy: <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/english-ivy>

Montgomery County Parks Weed Warriors: <https://montgomeryparks.org/support/volunteer/weed-warriors>

Neighborhood Contact for Weed Warrior Program: susan.chacko@gmail.com

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.



J-2 Buses To Continue Running On West Cedar Lane

As part of its Better Bus program, METRO had planned to discontinue the J-2 bus service on West Cedar Lane starting in 2025. The reason for this was the northbound bus is currently prohibited from turning left from Rockville Pike onto West Cedar during the AM peak rush hour. During that time, it operates via Battery Lane to Old Georgetown Road while southbound buses continue to use West Cedar Lane. METRO felt that confusion as to the bus route would be eliminated by running the bus solely on Old Georgetown Road between Montgomery Mall and the Bethesda Metro station. After MCA learned of this proposal, it reached out to District 16 Delegate Marc Korman. As a result of his efforts, arrangements are being made for the northbound J-2 bus to turn onto West Cedar Lane during the AM rush and METRO has reversed its decision on the route change.

District 16 Delegation To Attend September 18th Neighborhood Meeting

Members of the District 16 Delegation will be at the September neighborhood meeting. They will present a wrap up of what occurred during the 2024 General Assembly session as well as what can be expected during the 2025 session. Residents will be afforded the opportunity to ask questions of the Delegation.

New Pedestrian Safety Islands On Maplewood Streets

In response to a suggestion by a Maplewood resident, pedestrian safety islands were installed on Alta Vista Road at Balford Drive and on Linden Avenue at Linden Court. These pedestrian islands are intended to make it safer to access the Maplewood-Alta Vista Park. However, because they were installed without notice to MCA or affording Maplewood residents to provide comments about them, some residents expressed concerns with them after installation. In order to get feedback from Maplewood residents who support the islands or continue to have concerns, representatives from Montgomery County DOT will explain the islands and receive comments on them at the September 18th meeting.

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: "Hear Ye, Hear Ye..Read All About It" - *Mapleleaf* Delivery Team Volunteers Needed :
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: 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) :
:

Please join MCA—\$40 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 \$40 for one year, September 1, 2024 - August 31, 2025 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 .