



The Mapleleaf

Due to COVID-19, MCA meetings will be virtual until further notice and announced on MAVO.

MEETING:

Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 7:30pm

Zoom Virtual. For link to join:

<https://agoldhammer.com/MCA/>

Or Dial: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 847 6469 2292

Passcode: 541181

AGENDA

Call To Order

French International School (FIS) Presentation on Proposed New Elementary School (45 minutes)

Business Meeting:

- a) Treasurer's Report;
- b) Discussion of MCA Testimony and possible traffic mitigation related to FIS Elementary School Presentation

MAPLEWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

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

Hotline: 301-530-6080

Website: www.maplewoodcitizens.org

President: Allen Myers
president@maplewoodcitizens.org

Vice President: Joe Aukward
vp@maplewoodcitizens.org

Secretary: Jason Padgett
secretary@maplewoodcitizens.org

Treasurer: Alan Goldhammer
treasurer@maplewoodcitizens.org

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WWW.MAPLEWOODCITIZENS.ORG

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As we continue life in these unusual times, I hope that this edition of *The Mapleleaf* finds you well and safe. For 2 ½ years Maplewood has waited for “the other shoe to drop” with respect to the French School’s (FIS) proposed new elementary school at the former site of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) on Rockville Pike. The school purchased the site in March and has received a favorable response from the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) and Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) for its Transportation Management Plan (TMP). Accordingly, the County’s approval process for a Conditional Use Permit for the site has begun. MCA will meet on December 2, 2020 to hear from the school and to discuss and formulate testimony to be presented to County authorities. Please read the related article about the FIS proposal on page 2 which provides instructions on accessing the Zoom virtual meeting.

In other development news, the construction of seventeen new sin-

gle-family detached homes on Beech Avenue has begun. Be prepared for construction delays on that road and use extra caution in the vicinity between Linden and Page Avenues.

In November 2020, the Foundation for Advanced Education in The Sciences (FAES) will raise 3 homes it owns on the west side of Cypress Avenue and 1 home on West Cedar Ln. In December 2020, FAES will commence construction of 6 new homes, 4 of which will replace the raised 4 and 2 new homes which will be built on 2 undeveloped lots on West Cedar Lane just to the east of the Carriage Hill Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

Additional new homes on the vacant parcel bordered by Cypress and Acacia Avenues will be constructed when funding is secured.

I wish everyone a happy, joyous, and safe holiday season. I look forward to seeing many of you, virtually, on December 2nd.

Allen

Annual “Turkey Chase” Fundraiser

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this annual Thanksgiving Day event has been replaced with a virtual event. Sign up at <https://runsignup.com/turkeychase>, to run or bike the race of your choice (5K, 10K and more), anywhere, anyplace, anytime from November 16-30. You will receive a 2020 Turkey Chase t-shirt and a digital racing bib. Dog bandanas are available for purchase at registration.



ROCHAMBEAU
THE FRENCH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



MAPLEWOOD
OUR HOME

MONTGOMERY COUNTY TO BEGIN FINAL REVIEW PROCESS OF FRENCH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL'S PROPOSED ELEMENTARY CAMPUS IN MAPLEWOOD

On Thursday, December 10, 2020, the Montgomery County Planning Board will hold a public hearing on the French International School's (FIS) request to establish a new elementary school on the site formerly occupied by the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) at 9650 Rockville Pike (between Pooks Hill Road and Alta Vista Road). FIS finalized the property purchase in March 2020.

Subsequent hearings will be at the Office of Zoning and Administrative Appeals (OZAA) in mid-late January 2021 and the Board of Appeals (the agency that authorizes a "conditional use permit" for the site) in mid-March 2021. MCA will testify at each of these 3 hearings. Any Maplewood resident who wishes to testify is encouraged to do so as well. Further information on the specific dates and times of the hearings will be provided on the neighborhood e-mail group (MAVO – Maplewood/Alta Vista On-Line) as they become known.

FIS representatives held a virtual meeting with the Maplewood Citizens Association (MCA) Executive Committee on November 5, 2020 to provide an update on the elementary school plans which have changed since their initial presentation to MCA in May 2018. (To view a summary of the current FIS proposal, please go to <https://eplans.montgomeryplanning.org/UFS/15046/50545/S862-C%20Statement.pdf/S862-C%20Statement.pdf>.)

It appears that FIS has worked diligently to limit cut-through traffic in the Maplewood neighborhood with the use of shuttle buses. There will be no entrance or exit from the new school on either Alta Vista Road or Alta Vista Terrace. Rockville Pike will be the sole entrance/exit for buses and vehicular traffic at the school. All children enrolled at the school (K through 5) will arrive and depart by bus. Only children associated with day-care and enrolled in pre-school will arrive and depart in private vehicles. Four shuttle buses will operate between the new elementary campus and the Forest Road campus. Shuttles from the new campus to the Forest Road campus will travel on Alta Vista Road and Linden and Beech Avenues. From the Forest Road campus to the new elementary school shuttles will travel on Beech and Linden Avenues and Pooks Hill Road. This is a change from the May 2018 presentation that had shuttles circumventing Maplewood via Rockville Pike, West Cedar Lane and Old Georgetown Road. Classes at the new school will operate Monday through Saturday and there will be summer camp held there as well. Total projected maximum enrollment for the new elementary school as well as the summer camp will be 700 children.

On December 2, 2020, at 7:30 p.m., MCA will hold a Zoom (virtual) general neighborhood meeting. To sign in for the meeting please go to <https://agoldhammer.com/MCA/> or dial 301-715-8592 (Meeting ID: 847 6469 2292 Passcode: 541181). FIS representatives will discuss their plans for the proposed elementary school and answer any questions. After the presentation, residents will discuss the FIS plans and whether MCA should request MCDOT undertake any specific measures to address possible cut-through traffic generated by the new school. This discussion will provide the basis for MCA testimony.

In the event MCA needed to retain counsel, since both the OZZA and the Board of Appeals hearing are formal legal proceedings, MCA membership voted at its May 2018 general neighborhood meeting to authorize the expenditure of \$5,000. MCA is entirely dependent on its dues to conduct its activities and pay expenses. Only members can vote at MCA meetings. Please consider membership (\$25.00) for 2020-2021 by completing the MCA membership form on page 4. Additional donations to offset possible legal expenses are welcome.

"FOOD FOR THOUGHT"

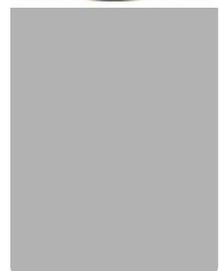
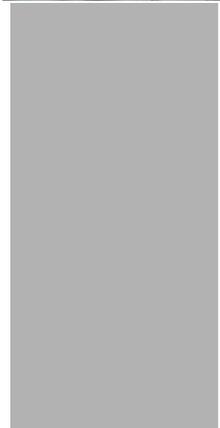
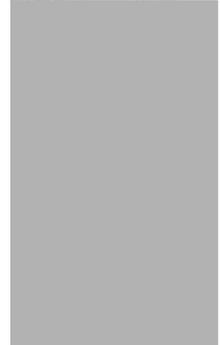
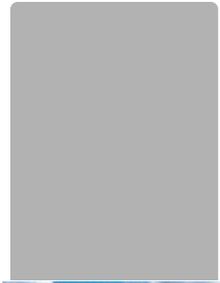
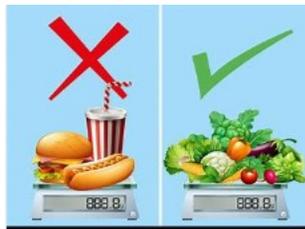
(Editor's Commentary)

Industrial food production using Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), pesticides and synthetic fertilizers is not making us healthy. Nor is heavily processed cheap food making us healthy. This industrial approach ("bigger is better") highlights a disregard for the connection between healthy soil and healthy people. COVID-19 has made us aware of the relationship between chronic health issues and the susceptibility to COVID-19 as well as the ability to recover from it. One cannot ignore the link between chronic disease and unhealthy eating. A Maplewood family who recently returned to their homeland in Africa remarked at how surprised they were to see how unhealthy the American diet was in this land of plenty. Perhaps we all need to step back and evaluate what we are eating and how it is produced.

Wendell Berry, a writer, activist and sixth generation Kentucky farmer once said, "eating is an agricultural act". In his book, "Unsettling of America: Culture and Agriculture" (originally published in 1977), Berry focuses on the link between agriculture and human health and the value of the American family farm.

World renowned soil scientist, Dr. Rattan Lal, Professor of Soil Science (School of Environment and Natural Resources) at Ohio State University, recently posited that perhaps the U.S. needs legislation for healthy soil just as we have legislation for clean air and water.

*Let us be more aware of the importance of: regenerative agriculture, the connection between healthy soil and human health, **how** our food is grown and how food affects our **health** and that of our children. They are the future.*



Speaking of Regenerative Agriculture...

Pastured, Organic EGG CSA

The third in a series of pastured, organic egg CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture) has been organized for December 2, 2020 through February 24, 2021 (7 Wednesday deliveries) in Maplewood (Benton Ave pick up point). Anyone is welcome to join and online payment is now available. Eggs are \$6/dozen.

Nick's Organic Farm in Buckeystown, MD produces the eggs. The farm website is www.nicksorganicfarm.com. Nick Maravell is a pioneer in regenerative agriculture.

For further information, please contact Janet Maalouf at janetmaalouf97@gmail.com or 240-694-0204.

Maplewood-Alta Vista Online (MAVO) is an invitation-only online community group for our neighborhood. If you would like to join MAVO, please send an email to mavo+subscribe@maplewood.groups.io or visit maplewood.groups.io on the web.

MAPLELEAF NEWSLETTER DELIVERY TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED

The Mapleleaf is hand delivered to every single-family Maplewood residence (including Bethesda Crest, Bethesda Mews, Maplewood Park and Spruce Tree Village) in September, November, March and May. This ensures that all residents are informed about what is happening in Maplewood and saves postage costs which double the cost of our main neighborhood communication tool. A route can be delivered in less than one hour and you may even meet a new neighbor! Contact Barbara Harrison at lakestargirl@gmail.com.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES – TIME FOR A CHANGE!

Mapleleaf Newsletter Editor: 4-5 newsletters/membership year.

Contact Janet Maalouf at janetmaalouf97@gmail.com.

MCA Webmaster: Maintaining a current up-to-date community website.

Contact Mary Jo Deering at mdeering@starpower.net

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, 2020 - August 31, 2021 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.