



The Mapleleaf

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

VOLUME 1516, NO. 4

MARCH 2016

Meeting:

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

7:30 p.m.

Knights of Columbus/Rock Creek Mansion
5417 W. Cedar Ln.

Bethesda, MD 20814

AGENDA

Call to Order

Presentation by Board of Elections on New Voting System (One Hour)

Business Meeting:

- Secretary's Report (5 minutes)
- Treasurer's Report (5 minutes)
- Spring Social Event Budget (10 minutes)
- MCA Elections Report (5 minutes)
- Maplewood Village Report (5 minutes)

Adjourn

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: Mary Jo Deering
vp@maplewoodcitizens.org

Secretary: Jo Batky
secretary@maplewoodcitizens.org

Treasurer: Hugh Barteman
treasurer@maplewoodcitizens.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our Maplewood Citizens Association (MCA) bylaws require that I appoint a nominations Committee in March to prepare for election of officers at the May MCA meeting. Therefore, I have asked Barbara Harrison to serve as the Nominations Committee Chair and to select two other MCA members to serve on the Committee. Please see page 2 for the related article on this subject.

This brings me to a major issue that continually confronts MCA: finding volunteers to serve in various capacities to enable MCA to run smoothly and ensure that no volunteer is in their position "for life". While I thank those who have "stepped up to the plate" to assume new responsibilities, there are volunteer positions that still need to be filled.

Elissa Fisher has agreed to take on the responsibility of coordinator for the newsletter delivery and Susan Chacko is now producing our March and September Neighborhood Helpers List. Our MCA Vice President, Mary Jo Deering, has accepted the position of MCA webmaster. This is in addition to her continued responsibilities as Chair of the Maplewood Village Committee which has added a new dimension to Maplewood as a great community.

The current editor of the MCA newsletter would like to "retire" after serving since 2008 with the exception of about 3 years (see page 2 for details). In addition, we need a Neighborhood Watch coordinator.

I know that residents of Maplewood are very busy and have many talents. Volunteers are like cogs in a wheel: important for running the "machine." The only prerequisites are enthusiasm and an interest in learning something new. Please contact me or one of the other MCA officers about your interest in "joining the MCA team" to help MCA meet its stated bylaw objective of "promoting the highest levels of community responsibility of the Maplewood community."

Primary election day in Maryland is Tuesday, April 26th, and a new voting system will be used. Mr. Greg Humes, a representative of the Montgomery County Board of Elections, will speak at the March 16th MCA meeting about these changes and offer residents an opportunity to use the new system before they go to the polls. Please see the article below for further details.

For ready reference, please save the enclosed flyer announcing MCA's annual spring social event scheduled for Sunday, April 24th, with a rain date of Sunday, May 1st. A lot of family fun activities and great food are planned for what is sure to be a lovely afternoon shared with your Maplewood neighbors.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the March 16th meeting and at the spring social event on Sunday April 24th!

Allen



NEW VOTING PROCEDURES AND MACHINES

Starting with the April 26th primary election, Montgomery County will no longer use the touch-screen machines that were used in the past. At the March 16th MCA meeting, Board of Elections official, Mr. Greg Humes, will explain how the new "fill in the circle next to your candidate's name" process works. A new scanner will be used as part of this process. Maplewood residents will be able to fill out sample ballots to see how their filled-in ballots will be scanned and recorded. Mr. Humes will also provide information on early voting and absentee balloting.



The Mapleleaf

NEWSLETTER EDITOR/PUBLICATION COORDINATOR

Do you like: Coordinating... Editing articles... Meeting deadlines?

You are needed!

The current editor, who has served in this capacity since at least 2008 with the exception of about 3 years, would love to see a new volunteer take over this MCA communication publication for the months of September, November, January, March and April.

Please contact Janet Maalouf at janet.maalouf@verizon.net for further information.

Maplewood Happy Hour!!



Would you like to get to know your neighbors? Would you like to meet up with some friends at a nearby location? How about an inexpensive drink and snack? Perhaps a game of pool or shuffleboard? Catch the news or sports on TV? Do you wish there was a convenient neighborhood location for such a get-together? Sound too good to be true?

The Maplewood Village proudly announces the Maplewood Monthly Hump-Day Happy Hour! We would like to thank Knight Chip Brennan for inviting us to the Knights of Columbus lounge on the second Wednesday of every month from 6-8 pm. Please plan to socialize with your Maplewood neighbors in this friendly and casual atmosphere. Full bar, wine, beer, sodas and pizza for sale. We can bring snacks. Our first Hump-Day Happy Hour will be Wednesday, April 13th in the lower level lounge of the Knights of Columbus, 5417 W. Cedar Lane. See you there!

MCA ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Election of MCA officers for 2015 – 2016 will occur at the May MCA membership meeting. MCA bylaws require the MCA president to appoint a Nominations and Elections Committee in March. The Chair of the Committee this year is Barbara Harrison. Please submit any nominations for MCA president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer to the "Nominations and Elections Committee, Maplewood Citizens Association, P.O. Box 2483, Kensington, Maryland 20891-2483 before May 5, 2016. Also, please verify that your nominee(s) is/are willing to serve prior to submitting your nomination. Thank you.

**ARE YOU INTERESTED
IN HELPING DELIVER
THE MAPLELEAF?**

**IF SO, LEAVE A
MESSAGE ON THE MCA
HOTLINE**

301-530-6080

Join the MCA Listserv

Send an email to maplewood-citizens-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

and be sure to include your name and street address.

VILLAGE UPDATE

My, oh my, where does the time go?

Maplewood neighbors are getting to know each other through a wide range of activities. Here are some fun upcoming events:

Oldies but Goodies Party Saturday, April 2, from 7:30 p.m.- 11pm at the home of Ken and Marion Zatz, 5208 Camberley Ave. Dance to music from the 60's and 70's. Bring your favorite "oldies" CDs, some snacks (sweet or savory) to share, your beverage of choice, and your dancing shoes. RSVP to marionzatz@gmail.com by March 28 (adults of any age welcome).

Happy Hour at the Knights of Columbus April 13th from 6 to 8 pm and every second Wednesday of the month thereafter (see separate announcement on page 2).

Bake Sale and Maplewood History table at the Maplewood Citizens Association Spring Social, April 24th (see flyer insert). Proceeds from the bake sale go to the Maplewood Village activities fund. If you would like to contribute a baked good, please contact Mary Jo Deering at her e-mail below. Any long-time Maplewood residents interested in displaying an historical Maplewood relic are asked to contact Mary Jo as well.

Ongoing activities:

Garden & Plant Sharing Group. The Maplewood garden and plant sharing group had a cheery mid-winter get-together at Jo Batky's house. We enjoyed her hospitality, looked at photos of her plants and talked about our plans for the coming garden year. As spring arrives, the group plans to begin meeting again at neighbors' gardens to enjoy sharing our garden trials and triumphs. Please contact Barbara Harrison at

lakestargirl@gmail.com if you would like to receive notice of upcoming garden get-togethers.

Walking Groups start at the entrance to Maplewood Park on Alta Vista at 9 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. A Friday walking group meets at 9 a.m. at the home of Marion Zatz, 5208 Camberley Ave. Street parking is restricted.

Knitting Group. If you would like to participate in the next gathering (date to be determined), please contact Sandi Komarow at skomarow@covad.net.

Game parties, pot lucks, other gatherings. Please contact mdeering@starpower.net.

Working Artists Group. Please contact Kathy Wiley at kathypaints@verizon.net or 301-493-4721.

Book Swap. Please contact Bob Meck at mecks4@aol.com

Feel free to contact Mary Jo Deering with questions or suggestions about Maplewood Village at mdeering@starpower.net. We rely on the Maplewood listserv to communicate so please sign up at:

Maplewood-citizens-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

POOKS HILL MARRIOTT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT UPDATE

In February, the site plan for this project was submitted to the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. A copy of the site plan is available for review in the Reference Section near Consumer Information at the Davis Library. This project has the potential to adversely affect Maplewood by adding more traffic through the neighborhood. Maplewood residents are requested to review this plan to assist MCA in preparation of testimony before the Planning Board at a public hearing on the project that will be held in late spring or early summer. Additionally, a large contingent of Maplewood residents attending the hearing – regardless of whether they speak or not – will impress upon the Planning Board that Maplewood is seriously concerned about the impact this project will have upon our neighborhood and its quality of life.

**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**

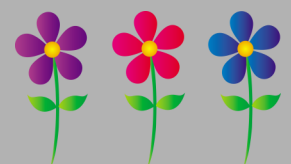
301-530-6080

**Mark April 24, 2016
on your calendar:**

**The annual Maple-
wood Spring Social**

**From 1-4pm at the
Knights of Colum-
bus**

See enclosed flyer



“FOOD FOR THOUGHT”: LAWNS

Paul Tukey

Chief Sustainability Officer, Glenstone.org in Potomac, MD

And author of “Organic Lawn Care Manual- A Natural, Low-Maintenance System for a Beautiful, Safe Lawn”



Editor’s Note: Since this is such a politically charged “season” in which neither the Democratic nor the Republican candidates have addressed climate change in any detail, I would like to focus on the non-partisan topic of lawns which most of us have in Maplewood...and many of us have children that play on lawns. As we begin to thaw out from winter and see the robins out as a sign of spring, lawns are on our mind. Comments are welcome at janet.maalouf@verizon.net.

The Benefits of Lawns While we often think of grass as just a pretty natural carpet, growing grass can actually benefit the environment.

According to NASA’s Ames Research Center, U.S. lawns collectively absorb about 12 billion pounds of carbon every year helping to keep greenhouse gas emissions from harming the atmosphere;

Lawns act as a filter to help purify rainwater as it returns underground. They also act as an anchor for topsoil to help prevent erosion.

Lawn Care Concerns Most Americans grow and maintain their lawns in ways that can harm the environment in part because petrochemicals are the foundation of most lawn care. Conventional lawn care gobbles up fossil fuels, hogs water, and dumps pesticides and synthetic fertilizers into waterways adversely affecting the health of our planet, our families, pets, and the soil. (*Editor’s note: Healthy soil leads to healthy food which leads to healthy people.*)

Consider these facts:

In the U.S., approximately 2.2 billion gallons of fossil fuels are used on mowing lawns each year making grass a major contributor to global warming.

The typical American lawn, about one-third of an acre, requires the pumping of 10,000 gallons of water a year. But in dry areas that can increase to more than 100,000 gallons annually. And the amount of fuel needed to pump the water is at least equal to the fuel used in mowing. In some cities, as much as two-thirds of urban freshwater is used to water lawns.

To create synthetic nitrogen for fertilizers, natural gas must be heated to up to 1,200 degrees. The amount of natural gas required to make about 100 bags of lawn fertilizer would heat an average-sized home for a year. Each 40 pound bag of fertilizer requires the fossil fuels equivalent of almost 3 gallons of gas in manufacturing.

A report from the Seattle Public Utilities finds that up to 64% of the chemicals applied to lawns can run off into waterways. These chemicals in lakes and streams can kill fish, birds and waterfowl and damage the food web that supports all wildlife.

Independent scientific studies have shown that the popular pesticide **Roundup** is toxic to earthworms, beneficial insects, birds and mammals. It also destroys the vegetation on which animals depend for food and shelter.

Editor’s Note: In October 2015, Montgomery County became the country’s first major locality to ban the use of cosmetic pesticides on private lawns. Here is a link to additional information on the topic: https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/md-politics/moco-becomes-first-major-locality-to-ban-cosmetic-pesticides-from-lawns/2015/10/06/ccb5df9a-6c55-11e5-b31c-d80d62b53e28_story.html



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, 2015 - August 31, 2016** 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**