



# The MAPLELEAF

A Publication of the Maplewood Citizens Association, Inc.

Volume 0405 No. 3

Association Phone: (301) 530-6080  
Website: www.maplewoodcitizens.org

January 2005

*President:* Allen Myers

*Vice-President:* Seth Maiman *Treasurer:* Paul Foldi *Secretary:* Guy Wolcott

*"The Mapleleaf" Editor:* Roger Morier

**Become informed:  
Come to the next meeting of the MCA**

**Wednesday, January 19, 2005**

**7:30 p.m.**

(in case of inclement weather,  
consult the MCA Web site or call  
the MCA phone number listed above)

**American College of Cardiology  
9111 Old Georgetown Road**

**AGENDA**

1. Secretary's Report
2. Treasurer's Report
3. New Business
  - a. Maplewood-Alta Vista Park
4. Old Business
  - a. Municipal Incorporation

**Presidents Column**

I wish to take this opportunity to wish all residents of Maplewood a very happy and prosperous New Year. May it bring you all that you desire.

I have to report to you that the Maplewood Citizens Association begins 2005 with fewer members than at the same time last year. When I became MCA President, the September issue of *The Mapleleaf* was distributed to all households while remaining issues of the year were sent by mail only to households that paid the membership dues—about 200 homes. I felt that it was not fair to have an additional 650 households not informed about what was happening in their community and what their citizens association was doing. I also felt that we might get more homes

to join if all were to receive *The Mapleleaf*. The January, 2003 general meeting endorsed this viewpoint, voting to distribute the newsletter free of charge to all homes in the community.

Our membership numbers for the next year seemed to validate this change. We closed out the 2003 membership year with 315 members. I set a goal of trying to have 400 members — or half of all Maplewood households — in 2004. We ended the 2004 membership year with 264 members. As of this month, we have no more than 175 members.

This community needs a strong association and the way to do that is to have a large and active membership in the citizens association. If you have simply neglected to renew your membership, I hope that you renew today. If you've not previously been a member, please consider writing a check for the small amount of \$20 to join the Association. For those who have chosen not to renew a membership, we'd like to know why: please e-mail the Executive Committee through the Association's web site or send a letter to our Post Office Box (details at bottom of page 4).

Over the summer, and especially into the fall, I received numerous complaints from residents living near, or using, Maplewood - Alta Vista Park about the condition of the field, trash, and parking. In an attempt to resolve these concerns before the park gets more heavily used in the spring, most of our January meeting will be devoted to discussions with representatives from the Department of Parks, Montgomery County Police, and the Maplewood Football association.

I look forward to seeing you at the January 19 meeting. Best wishes,

Allen

## Around and About the Maplewood Community



### Preserving the Park

There have been increasing complaints about the use and condition of Maplewood—Alta Vista Park and the surrounding area. Complaints generally fall into three categories:

- 1) Parking on park property and on adjoining streets in violation of County parking rules and to the annoyance of residents;
- 2) Over-use of the playing fields by football teams for both practices and games;
- 3) Garbage and litter left behind after public use of park facilities. This has increased since the County removed trash cans in the park as a cost-saving measure.

In a move to examine the issue and explore solutions, MCA has invited several representatives from Montgomery County Parks and Recreation, Park Police, and the Maplewood Football Association to speak at the January 19th meeting. Residents are encouraged to come to the meeting to learn more and express their views on use of the park. Guest speakers will also update the audience on improvements being made to the tennis and basketball courts at the park, scheduled for this spring.



### Spring Social

Plans are underway for the third annual Maplewood Spring Social. The first such event drew 150 residents to Maplewood—Alta Vista Park on a wet Saturday in 2003. Last year, about 250 people turned out on a sunny (and dry) day. Attendees were able to take part in many activities for children (and some for adults), and by all accounts, it was a pleasant way to spend a spring Saturday afternoon. Free food and soft drinks were provided for MCA members (non-members could pay a small fee to partake as well). As well, there was a moon-dance castle, face-painting exercises, a clown, and a visit from two fire departments.

Volunteers are needed for this year's Social. People are needed to organize a softball game, help with children's crafts and games, service food and drinks, clean up, serve at the membership table, etc.

If you can spare an hour or two, please call the MCA Phone Line at (301) 530-6080 and leave a message, or send an e-mail to: [allen@maplewoodcitizens.org](mailto:allen@maplewoodcitizens.org)



### ListServe for Residents

Resident Mark Nathans continues to develop a Listserv for anyone living in the community. As he indicated previously, Nathans says the on-line service is "like an e-mail conference call", allowing people to share information by posting important phone numbers, recommended trades people or professionals, links to local web sites, etc. A critical mass of people, though, is needed for the ListServe to be beneficial to all.

To sign up (free of charge), go to this address: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/maplewood-citizens/>



### Names Needed

On page four of this issue, you'll read about Maplewood resident Charles McGee, a Tuskegee Airman who served his country in three wars during an inspiring military career. We'd like to hear about other Maplewood residents deserving to be better known to their neighbors. If you are aware of someone who deserves recognition for a life well lived, for accomplishment in their field, or for general good citizenship, please send a note to: [roger@maplewoodcitizens.org](mailto:roger@maplewoodcitizens.org)



### Neighborhood Helpers Update

*Neighborhood Helpers* is a list of young people in the Maplewood community available for hire to carry out chores (snow shoveling, baby sitting, pet care, house sitting, etc.). It is being updated and will be included in the next issue of *The Mapleleaf*, with distribution to 850 homes in the Maplewood area in March. Any young person (aged 12-18) wanting her or his name to appear on the list should e-mail the relevant information to: [roger@maplewoodcitizens.org](mailto:roger@maplewoodcitizens.org)



### Membership Dues Due

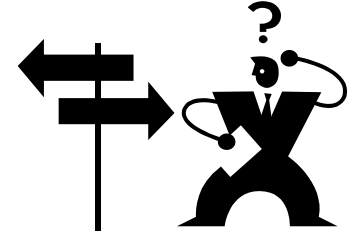
This is a call for all residents of the Maplewood area (if you receive this newsletter, then you are in the Maplewood area) to renew their membership in the Citizens Association, or to become a member. Membership dues are modest and haven't been raised in years—yet they give members the ability to vote on issues that affect them directly in the community. The dues form is on the next page — please use it today.

## Maplewood Municipal Incorporation: Should the Process Begin?

A committee of the Maplewood Citizens Association has completed its examination of the pros and cons of municipal incorporation and will present its findings to the upcoming general meeting on January 19th.

In its final seven-page report, the committee report does not make a specific recommendation concerning incorporation. It does, however, conclude in this way:

“There are many important benefits to becoming an incorporated municipality. Probably the most important is greater local control over taxes, services, and governance. With this increased power comes increased responsibilities—both for the (volunteer) elected officials and the residents.”



“Each of the mayors (*of local municipalities consulted*) indicated that they—and most of their citizens—would vote to incorporate again. They believe the benefits outweigh the drawbacks. But because the process to incorporate is so long and complicated, both community leaders and citizens alike must be convinced that the end is worth the means.”

Copies of the committee’s report will be available at the January 19th meeting, and also on line from that date at: [www.maplewoodcitizens.org](http://www.maplewoodcitizens.org) At the meeting, MCA members will be asked to examine the report, offer their views on the issue, and then come to the March meeting prepared to vote on whether to initiate a municipal incorporation process.

This would entail a petition of Maplewood residents. Any incorporation petition must be signed by 20% of the residents and the owners of at least 25% of the assessed valuation of real property in the area concerned, OR 25% of registered voters. Eventually, a referendum would be held on incorporation: in order to pass, 50% plus one vote of all registered voters within the proposed area would have to approve.

While there are proponents and opponents of incorporation within the community, the onus would seem to be on those who wish to incorporate to muster support for the idea. Come to the meeting to express your views.

**The Maplewood Citizens Association provides a public forum to discuss neighborhood concerns, solve problems, and promote community.**

**Join the MCA today and make Maplewood an even better place to live.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**New Member:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Renewal:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are \$20 for one year, September to September  
Checks should be made payable to “Maplewood Citizens Association” and be given or mailed to:

**Paul Foldi, Treasurer**  
**Maplewood Citizens Association**  
**P.O. Box 2483**  
**Kensington, Maryland 20891-2483**

**The residents around you****Meet Your Neighbors: Colonel Charles McGee**

Since 1995, Charles McGee (USAF, Ret.) has been living with his younger daughter, Yvonne, in a split-level on Elsmere Place. It's a long way from rural Alabama, where he was among the first small group of African-American servicemen to receive military pilot's wings in the summer of 1943, and even farther from an Italian airfield near Naples where he first saw World War Two combat as one of the celebrated Tuskegee Airmen.

McGee's home is filled with souvenirs of a distinguished 30-year military career with the U.S. Air Force that saw him rise from pilot to the rank of Colonel commanding Richards-Gebauer AFB in Kansas City. In between were tours of duty in many parts of the world and the United States. This included flying 136 missions (82 tactical, 54 long-range strategic) in southern and central Europe during WW II, 100 missions during the Korean War, and 173 reconnaissance missions during the Vietnam War.

By his own estimate, McGee has spent more than 6,100 hours in a cockpit for the military, yet never suffered a serious injury and managed to bring his planes home each time (except once) without serious damage. In between combat experience, McGee's military career led him to become a superior officer in charge of aviation maintenance and the growing U.S. missile program.

**The Tuskegee Airmen**

"The Tuskegee Airmen were dedicated, determined young men who enlisted to become America's first black military airmen ... The black airmen who became single-engine or multi-engine pilots were trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field (TAAF) in Tuskegee, Alabama ... From 1942 through 1946, nine hundred and ninety-two pilots graduated at TAAF, receiving commissions and pilot wings. Four hundred and fifty of the pilots who were trained at TAAF served overseas ... The outstanding record of black airmen in World War II was accomplished by men whose names will forever live in hallowed memory. Each one accepted the challenge, proudly displayed his skill and determination while suppressing internal rage from humiliation and indignation caused by frequent experiences of racism and bigotry, at home and overseas. These airmen fought two wars - one against a military force overseas and the other against racism at home and abroad."

*From the web site of the Tuskegee Airmen Inc.  
www.tuskegeearmen.org*

Growing up in Illinois and Iowa in the 1920's and 1930's the son of a minister/social worker, McGee says he never imagined a career in the military. To avoid serving as a foot soldier, though, he was one of the first African-Americans to apply for flight training when it was initially proposed in 1942.

"I fell in love with flying and kept getting good assignments," he says modestly in looking back. After his service years, he pursued a successful business career in finance, real estate, and managing the Kansas City airport for a time. But his 30 years in service to his country remain the most memorable for him.

In a lifetime of highlights, the most recent came last year when he was one of only 100 veterans invited to represent the U.S. in France for the 60th anniversary of the D-Day invasion. He was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor by the French government at a glittering ceremony in Paris.

McGee continues to lecture around the country, keeping him away from his three children, 10 grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. Nevertheless, the man whose motto is "Do while you can" says "I have been blessed and have a lot to be thankful for."

**Maplewood Citizens Association: How to Reach Us and MCA Officers 2004-05****Mailing address**

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P.O. Box 2483  
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