



The MAPLELEAF

A Publication of the Maplewood Citizens Association, Inc.

Volume 0304 No. 5

Association Phone: (301) 530-6080

May 2004

Website: www.maplewoodcitizens.org

President: Allen Myers

Vice-President: Richard Krents *Treasurer:* Paul Foldi *Secretary:* Sarah Gilligan

"The Mapleleaf" Editor: Roger Morier

Become Informed: Come to the Next Meeting of the MCA

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

7:30 p.m.

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

AGENDA

1. Secretary's Report
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Old Business
 - a. Election of Officers (10 mins.)
 - b. Certificates of Appreciation (10 mins.)
 - c. By-law change: membership (10 mins.)
 - d. Dues for 2004-2005 (10 mins.)
4. New Business
 - a. Wood ties in Maplewood Park (20 mins.)
 - b. Woodmont Triangle (10 mins.)

Message from the President

Our meeting this month is our "Annual Meeting" and marks the end of the membership year for the Maplewood Citizens Association. In September we will start a new year. I want to thank the other officers for their help in making the Association run so smoothly this year. I also would like to thank the members who have served as liaisons to other organizations as well as those who volunteered and made our Spring Social event such a success! My thanks also go to Fred Ordway of Elsmere Avenue for his article about Maplewood that appeared in the March edition of *The Mapleleaf*. I believe that a sense of the history of Maplewood is important to our coming together as a community. In fact, several

of you have indicated you would like more articles in *The Mapleleaf* to speak about Maplewood's past. If anyone else would like to contribute similar articles, please contact the editor of *The Mapleleaf*, Roger Morier.

I would also like to extend thanks to the large number of you who took the time to fill out and return our MCA survey - especially those who provided comments about what we're doing right and what you would like to see improved or expanded upon. We'll strive to fulfill as many of these changes as possible.

In order to do this, however, we really need more residents of the community to volunteer and become involved. Some of the things that the executive committee is considering include a fall social or special event meeting; an event geared for our senior citizens such as a bingo night (some younger people also might like to play); the publication of an MCA directory; and the creation of an e-mail distribution list so that we can alert members electronically about important issues. If you're interested in volunteering for any of these activities, or if there is another function with which you would like to help, please do not hesitate to contact us via the e-mail links on the web site, www.maplewoodcitizens.org or call the MCA telephone number: (301) 530-6080.

While May is the end of the MCA membership year, the executive committee will continue to meet over the summer to handle the affairs of the Association. Have a great summer and enjoy your vacation wherever it may be. I look forward to seeing you in the fall at our first meeting in September—and to working with you throughout the coming year to make Maplewood an even better place to live.

Allen

Sunshine, Success for MCA's 2nd Annual Spring Social



A moon-bounce castle and a balloon-twisting clown were some of the attractions for young people on April 24 as MCA hosted its second annual Spring Social.

More than 250 people turned out on a sunny Saturday in April for MCA's Spring Social 2004. The event was held in Maplewood-Alta Vista Park, specially reserved for the Association. There was free food and soft drinks for MCA members (non-members could pay a small fee to partake as well), along with a moon-bounce castle, face-painting exercises, a clown who twisted balloons into strange shapes for children, and a visit from two fire departments: the Glen Echo detachment with its pumper truck, and the Bethesda squad with its tall ladder truck for all to see and touch.

MCA President Allen Myers said he was pleased with the turnout, especially since many residents reserve Saturday afternoons for shopping or household chores. "It was good to see so many people come out, enjoy the sunshine, and chat with their neighbors. It's gatherings like this that make a community. Next year, we hope to have more than 350 neighbors on hand for an even bigger and better Spring Social."

One by-law change to be discussed

The upcoming meeting will discuss and vote on amendments to one of the MCA by-laws. This is necessary because the May meeting traditionally decides on annual dues for the coming fiscal year (September 1, 2004—August 31, 2005). At the last by-law amendment meeting, the by-law below as modified and approved, and currently reads as follows:

Section 1: Membership Status

Membership in the Association shall be open to all owners and residents of single-family houses with the area enclosed by Old Georgetown Road, West Cedar Lane, Rockville Pike, Linden Court, and the northern boundary of the Maplewood-Alta Vista Park. All dues paying individuals meeting the above requirements and who are over the age of 18 are considered Members of The Association with all rights, privileges, and responsibilities pertaining

thereto. If membership status is in question, the Membership Committee shall have final say as to the right of any individual vote at a given meeting.

The amendment to be discussed and voted upon at the next meeting currently reads as follows:

Section 2. Annual Dues.

Annual dues shall be required from each member [-family] at a rate set by the Executive Committee and approved at the annual meeting. The dues are payable at the beginning of the fiscal year, the first day of September.

Please note: this will be the only by-law change to be discussed at the May meeting. Approximately half of the proposed changes to the MCA by-laws have been voted upon. The Executive is considering ways to vote on the remaining proposed changes in as efficient a way as possible. By-laws have not been modified for the past ten years.

We invited you to “have your say” - here’s what you told us

Whew! In the March issue of *The Mapleleaf*, we included the first ever survey of Maplewood homes, inviting you to tell us what you think about living in this community and what concerns you as residents. We wanted to use your responses to help us fashion priorities and activities for the coming year. We knew it wouldn’t be a true scientific study, but at least it would give us a sense of what the neighborhood thinks.

Now we know. Out of 860 households in Maplewood, exactly 100 sent in replies: a very honorable 11.6% return. While the replies were varied, some discernable trends did appear.

For instance, it can be seen that Maplewood is a relatively stable community. Almost 60% of people

How long have you lived in Maplewood?	
Less than 5 years	22%
5—10 years	20%
10-20 years	18%
More than 20 years	40%

living in the community have been here more than 10 years; fewer than a quarter have been here less than five years.

Similarly, the two big concerns that you identified (far ahead of any other issue) were real estate development and traffic/parking. On your write-in comments, you complained about the building of large

What are most important issues facing residents of Maplewood?	
Traffic/parking (cut-through traffic, speeding, on-street parking, etc.)	57%
Real estate development (office buildings, multi-unit dwellings, etc.)	69%
Public safety (adequate street lighting, sidewalks, crime, etc.)	26%
Access to well-kept parks and recreation facilities	18%
Other	12%

houses in the neighborhood (“mansionization”), and called for better street lighting and more sidewalks, or both. As well, cut through traffic and speeding through our streets are important issues you want to

see addressed. As to “other” issues, people who lived in the area longer tended to focus on public safety concerns, while relative newcomers focused on access to parks and recreation facilities.

Some 84% of those who returned the surveys said they are MCA members. While actual membership is not nearly that high, it shows that MCA members want to be active in the community. On the other hand, they don’t attend meetings very often:

How often do you attend MCA meetings?	
Always	8%
Time to time	28%
Rarely or never	64%

We wanted to know why that is, so we asked:

If you do not attend MCA meetings, why not?	
Busy Wednesday evenings	50%
Don’t learn of meetings in time	8%
Meetings run too long	9%
County pays little heed to MCA	6%
Issues discussed are of little concern to me	10%
Other	15%

MCA’s strength rests on the degree to which it represents the neighborhood. We asked how to increase membership. You had many ideas: weekend meetings, door-to-door canvassing, more marketing of achievements, more benefits to membership.

Many of you also told us that you’d like to see more social activities in the neighborhood and more opportunities to get to know your neighbors. You also suggested new ways to help seniors, an MCA directory of members and recommended trades-people, “open houses” for neighbors, and nature walks in the neighborhood.

You also identified other issues you like us to work on: easier access to NIH and Medical Center Metro station; litter in the park and on certain streets; roaming pets; better snow plowing by the County; Marriott’s parking service for NIH contractors; and the future of the Hart House property.

To all who replied, a sincere “thank-you”!

Your MCA Connections ... and ... Your MCA Officers 2003/2004

Mailing address

Maplewood Citizens Association

P.O. Box 2483

Kensington, MD 20891-2483

Phone: (301) 530-6080

Website: www.maplewoodcitizens.org

President: Allen Myers

allen@maplewoodcitizens.org

Vice President: Richard Krents

rich@maplewoodcitizens.org

Treasurer: Paul Foldi

paul@maplewoodcitizens.org

Secretary: Sarah Gilligan

sarah@maplewoodcitizens.org

The Mapleleaf Editor:

Roger Morier

roger@maplewoodcitizens.org

Neighborhood Helpers 2003-2004

(Young residents of Maplewood—aged 12 and up—available for hire for the tasks listed)

Name	Age	Phone Number	Street Residence	Baby Sit	Pet Sit	House Sit	Mow Lawns	Rake Leaves/ Shovel Snow
Brittany Aiken	16	(301) 530-1990	Cedarcrest	☺	☺	☺		
Alessandra Bloch	15	(301) 897-5798	Wickett Terrace	☺	☺			
Melanie Bloch	12	(301) 897-5798	Wickett Terrace	☺	☺			
Alex Bonnel	15	(301) 897-8620	Beech		☺	☺	☺	☺
Karen Byen	14	(301) 530-0554	Montgomery Dr.	☺				
Colin Cloherty	16	(301) 897-8131	Locust		☺	☺	☺	☺
Nora Cloherty	13	(301) 897-8131	Locust	☺	☺			
Heather Dew	15	(301) 897-5168	Locust	☺	☺	☺		
Amy Klazkin	13	(301) 564-1084	Fordyce	☺	☺	☺		
Ophelie Marek	15	(301) 897-3487	Danbury	☺	☺	☺		
Abby Massey	16	(301) 493-4925	Alta Vista	☺	☺	☺		
Katharine Molloy	13	(301) 530-3660	Edgeley	☺				
Geoffrey Morier	13	(301) 896-0224	Linden		☺		☺	☺
Jonathan Morier	15	(301) 896-0224	Linden					☺
Mike Moss	16	(301) 564-1145	Elsmere		☺	☺	☺	☺
Mollie Reiss	13	(301) 571-0398	Danbury	☺				
Sam Reiss	15	(301) 571-0398	Danbury	☺			☺	☺
Jennifer Schultz	13	(301) 897-9146	Locust	☺				
Sara Sidransky	17	(301) 530-0281	Kingsley	☺				
Bladen Vickery	16	(301) 564-0346	Wildoak	☺	☺	☺		
Ian Vickery	14	(301) 564-0346	Wildoak	☺	☺	☺		
Louise Wingfield	17	(301) 530-4924	Camberley		☺	☺		