



# The MAPLELEAF

A Publication of the Maplewood Citizens Association, Inc.

Volume 0405 No. 2

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

November 2004

*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, November 17, 2004**

**7:30 p.m.**

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

### **AGENDA**

1. Secretary's Report
2. Treasurer's Report
3. New Business
  - a. FASEB Modification to Special Exception (Jeff Yokum, Facilities Manager)
  - b. NIH Master Plan (Ralph Schofer, MCA Representative on Citizens Advisory Committee)
4. Old Business
  - a. Bylaw revisions

## **Message from the Vice President**

*(As part of our effort to make MCA Officers better known to the community, in this issue we've turned the regular President's column over to the incoming Vice President, Seth Maiman).*

I am the new vice president of the Maplewood Citizens Association. My wife, Marissa, and I moved to Maplewood in 1998 when we were the parents of an infant child. Now, six and a half years later, we are fully integrated into the neighborhood and its institutions, mostly through our children. Joel is a first grader at Wyngate and Ilana is a pre-schooler at Bethesda Country Day School. I am continually amazed that in a world that keeps getting smaller so much of our lives are contained in this little neighborhood in Bethesda.

As a political professional managing campaigns, serving as a Congressional chief of staff, and lobbying in Annapolis and in Congress, I have a long record of experience and activism. With a family and roots in this neighborhood, I am finding it is increasingly important — and rewarding — to use that activism on a local level. I have been involved in the effort in recent years to keep a preschool in the neighborhood and, as part of a Neighborhood Liaison Committee, I work with a neighboring institution (the French International School) on its construction plans.

For the past few years, I have been an active member of the Maplewood Citizens Association, and I was pleased to be asked to serve as vice president. We are fortunate to live in a wonderful community with a great park and a good community atmosphere. We have to work together as a community to balance the various residential and institutional interests inside, and close to, Maplewood. An active citizens association is a community treasure — a forum to discuss issues, to reach out to neighborhood institutions, and to take actions on behalf of the greater good. I am proud to be a part of this Association and look forward to serving you as vice president.

*Seth*

## **Turkey Chase Alert !!**

Thanksgiving Day will see the 22nd running of the annual Turkey Chase 10K and 2Mile walk/run. This is the largest fund-raiser of the year for the Bethesda Chevy Chase YMCA and Rotary Club. Six thousand runners/walkers are expected to participate.

The first two miles of the Turkey Chase winds through much of Maplewood. Residents are asked to move cars off streets from 8 to 11 a.m. that day—and to excuse any traffic inconvenience due to road closings or detours of traffic during that time.

## Around and About the Maplewood Community



You may have noticed construction work going on at Maplewood-Alta Vista Park. The fence surrounding the tennis courts has been taken down and basketball hoops have also been removed. Not to worry—this is part of a renovation project that is scheduled to be completed in the spring.

An official with the Montgomery County Park and Planning Department explains that the decision to carry out the needed renovation actually came some years ago. Funds for the work, however, were not freed up until this fiscal year.

The two tennis courts will be recovered, a new fence will be put up around them, the basketball area will also be re-covered, and new hoops will be erected. In addition, lighting will be modernized. Work is expected to be completed by springtime.



There is construction activity in another part of the neighborhood. Work has begun at the French International School to erect a new high-school building, expand the gymnasium, and refurbish athletic fields. A number of trees have been taken down to make room for the new building. Temporary parking lots have been established to accommodate teachers and visitors.

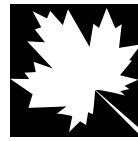
The French International School has worked closely with a Neighborhood Liaison Committee, made up of representatives of adjoining streets, as well as those of MCA. The next meeting of the NLC was scheduled for November 16. As a result of this committee's deliberations, construction traffic will use both Montgomery Drive and Forest Road to access the site, and not concentrate all such traffic on Forest Road as planned. Construction is expected to last until next summer, with most major work expected to have been finished by spring.

A ground-breaking ceremony is scheduled to take place at the school on November 29.

On a separate (but related) issue, there has been no decision yet from Montgomery County's Office of Real Estate Management on the future of the former Alta Vista public school on Beech Avenue, across from the YMCA. In September, 2003, a public hearing was held to hear arguments about future use of

the building. Both the French International School and the current occupants of the leased building, the Bethesda Country Day School, have applied for the long-term lease to use the facility as an educational institution. The current lease expires summer of 2005.

The Office of Real Estate Management has not indicated when a decision on the building will be made.



FASEB (the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology), which operates from its campus at 9650 Rockville Pike (between Pook's Hill Road and Alta Vista Road), will be going before the Board of Appeals on November 19th with plans to demolish one of its office buildings in order to erect another one. The existing 100,000 square-foot building, an aging structure, would be replaced with a modern, similarly sized building.

In addition, FASEB would like approval from the Board to allow non-biomedical organizations to be housed on its campus. The current Special Exception limits FASEB office occupancy to bio-medical concerns. The change would allow other non-governmental organizations, essentially non-profit groups, to use the FASEB offices.

Currently, about 275 FASEB employees use the campus on an average day. If approval is given to allow other organizations to lease space on the campus, an extra 120 people per day would be expected to arrive on the campus, still within the limit set out in the original Special Exception governing FASEB.



The Bethesda Fire Department has an opening on its Fire and Rescue Board of Directors for a member of the Maplewood community. Traditionally, MCA has had one representative on the Board.

Membership on the Board is not limited to people with fire-fighting or rescue experience. Lay members of the public are encouraged to take part. If you are interested in representing the Maplewood community, please contact MCA President Allen Myers. You can leave a message on the MCA phone line at (301) 530-6080, or send him an e-mail at: [allen@maplewoodcitizens.org](mailto:allen@maplewoodcitizens.org)

## Dream Comes True for Maplewood Resident

*In the September edition of The Mapleleaf, we told you about Maplewood resident Joe Aukward as he was preparing to participate in the 12th Paralympic Summer Games in Athens. Read on to find out how he did:*

“It was a wonderful and extremely emotional experience to represent the U.S.,” says Joe Aukward, the Maplewood resident who participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> Paralympic Games in Athens in late September. Joe says that “sharing it with my family present was very special.” His wife Betty, two of his older children — Maria (9) and Joseph (7) — his brother Steve, and his sister-in-law Judy all traveled to Athens for the events.

“Walking into the Olympic stadium during the opening ceremonies gave me goose bumps and was very uplifting,” Joe remembers. Being in the company of over 4,000 top-rated physically challenged, yet physically fit and focused competitors, was also source of tremendous encouragement. Joe says he found the “Greek people just fabulous, helpful, excited, and exuberant at being hosts for the Olympics and Paralympics. I felt very much at home.”

In the 200-meter sprint, Joe finished third in his individual heat, while in the four-man 100-meter relay, his team finished fifth. The accomplishments of U.S. Olympic and Paralympic athletes were recognized last month in Washington when President Bush invited both contingents to the White House.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Joe was working the polls in the November 2 election at the Knights of Columbus Hall precinct for Maplewood. Looking back on his experiences this summer and fall, he says he is humbled by the number of Maplewood residents who have taken the time to acknowledge his accomplishments.

*(We'd like to profile other Maplewood residents who deserve a little recognition for what they've accomplished. If you know of someone in the Maplewood community who should be better known to neighbors, please send an e-mail to [roger@maplewoodcitizens.org](mailto:roger@maplewoodcitizens.org))*

**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**

## Use of Maplewood Alta Vista Park

The fall football season has brought complaints from residents living near Maplewood Alta Vista Park. This was an issue last year, but County Officials erected “No Parking” signs at intersections bordering the park (Alta Vista and Kingsley, Balfour Drive, and Holland, as well as along Linden Avenue) in order to control the haphazard parking that characterized football games in previous years.

On Labor Day this year, though, and on subsequent weekends when the park has been used for football, neighbors again reported cars parked illegally, intersections partially blocked, and litter on the grounds of the park after the games. MCA is monitoring the situation and would like to hear the views of any affected citizens before taking further action.

---

## Tips for Maplewood Residents Considering Home Improvements

The County’s Division of Consumer Affairs (DCA) is cracking down on unscrupulous home improvement contractors. Recently, two firms, Sunset Landscape Contractor and Flores Construction, Inc. were convicted on criminal charges of operating without a license after they charged residents money for work that was not done.

Maryland law requires home improvement contractors to be licensed by the Maryland Home Improvement Commission (MHIC). This licensing requirement provides a degree of protection and enables consumers to make a claim of up to \$15,000 from a Home Improvement Guaranty Fund if the consumer suffers a loss when doing business with a licensed contractor.

Consumers should follow these steps before entering into a home improvement contract:

1. Contact the Maryland Home Improvement Commission at (410) 230-6309 or online at [www.dllr.state.md.us](http://www.dllr.state.md.us) to see if a firm is licensed. (Don’t be fooled if the contractor only has a “Business” license and not a Home Improvement Commission License.)
2. Check to see if there are any complaints against the contractor with the Division of Consumer Affairs at (240) 777-3636 or online at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/consumer](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/consumer). Also check with the Better Business Bureau at (202) 393-8000 or online at [www.dc.bbb.org](http://www.dc.bbb.org). Consult CHECKBOOK Magazine in the library or online at [www.checkbook.org](http://www.checkbook.org) for recommendations on contractors.
3. Beware of any contractor who solicits business by saying that they supposedly have left over material from another job and can give you a really good price. This is a classic sign that the contractor may be unlicensed and just passing through the area.
4. Read a copy of DCA’s brochure, “Guide to Home Improvements” before selecting a contractor. By law, a contractor must provide a written contract stating the contractor’s license number and not charge a down payment of more than 33 percent of the total job.

For more information and to check any merchant’s complaint record, call (240) 777-3636 or visit DCA’s website at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/consumer](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/consumer).

### Maplewood Citizens Association: How to Reach Us and MCA Officers 2004-05

**Mailing address**

Maplewood Citizens Association  
P.O. Box 2483  
Kensington, MD 20891-2483

**Phone: (301) 530-6080**

**Website:** [www.maplewoodcitizens.org](http://www.maplewoodcitizens.org)

**President:** Allen Myers

[allen@maplewoodcitizens.org](mailto:allen@maplewoodcitizens.org)

**Vice President:** Seth Maiman

[seth@maplewoodcitizens.org](mailto:seth@maplewoodcitizens.org)

**Secretary:** Guy Wolcott

[guy@maplewoodcitizens.org](mailto:guy@maplewoodcitizens.org)

**Treasurer:** Paul Foldi

[paul@maplewoodcitizens.org](mailto:paul@maplewoodcitizens.org)

**“Mapleleaf” Editor:** Roger Morier

[roger@maplewoodcitizens.org](mailto:roger@maplewoodcitizens.org)