



# The MAPLELEAF

A Publication of the Maplewood Citizens Association, Inc.

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Association Phone: (301) 530-6080

September 2004

Website: www.maplewoodcitizens.org

*President:* Allen Myers

*Vice-President:* Richard Krents *Treasurer:* Paul Foldi *Secretary:* Guy Wolcott

*"The Mapleleaf" Editor:* Roger Morier

## Come to the next meeting of the MCA:

**Wednesday, September 22, 2004**

**7:30 p.m.**

**American College of Cardiology**

**9111 Old Georgetown Road**

### AGENDA

1. **Secretary's Report**
2. **Treasurer's Report**
3. **Guest Speaker**  
Councilman Howard Denis (30 mins.)
4. **Old Business**
  - a. By-law revisions (20 mins.)
5. **New Business**
  - a. Car vandalism (10 mins.)

## Message from the President

Welcome to another Maplewood Citizens Association membership year. I hope that you had a pleasant summer, whatever vacation you may have taken. Some important things happened during that time that affect your Association.

First, in June, Vice President Richard Krents told me that he would be moving to New Jersey in September. I soon realized that replacing Rich would mean more than just replacing the Association vice president. Rich also chaired our FACEB Committee and Municipality Incorporation Committee, housed our archived records, served as the web master for our web site, and brought refreshments to our meetings. In short, we needed to find six people to replace one!

Fortunately, several individuals have stepped forward to fill the gaps left by Rich. Seth Maiman has

agreed to serve as Vice President as of October 1 and to bring refreshments to meetings. Our new Secretary, Guy Wolcott, has agreed to chair the Municipality Incorporation Committee and to take on responsibility for the web site. Communications Committee chair Roger Morier will store our archived records, and Cindy Cicalese, currently serving on the FACEB committee, will be its chair.

Whew, problems solved! Well, almost. As you can see, a number of individuals are doing double and triple duty. It would be greatly appreciated if more Maplewood residents would volunteer their time and efforts to assist their Association. With your help, the MCA could better respond to the many good ideas expressed by those residents who returned the survey forms we distributed last spring.

Over the summer, I also learned of several acts of vandalism to automobiles in the neighborhood. Principally, these involved thefts of license plates and airbags. Honda airbags are currently a major target because of the popularity of the car and the value of the airbags. You may have also read an article in *The Gazette* about this. In every situation reported to me, the cars were parked on the street. To deter such vandalism, it is recommended that cars be parked, wherever possible, in garages, carports, or driveways. Cars parked on the street are an easier target than cars parked off the street. Also, lights that shine on cars parked on your property will deter criminals from attempting to vandalize the automobiles.

Lastly, we have an important membership meeting coming up on September 22nd (*see Agenda on this page*). I hope to see many of you there. If you can't attend this meeting or other meetings, please take a moment to fill out the membership application in this newsletter and send it in. Only members may vote on issues affecting Maplewood, and a strong membership makes us a stronger organization when we deal with issues affecting our community.

## Around and About the Maplewood Community



### Councilman Denis at MCA

Montgomery County Councilman Howard A. Denis will speak at the next MCA General Meeting on Wednesday, September 22. Denis, a Republican, represents District 1 (Bethesda, Chevy Chase, Potomac, North Bethesda, Garrett Park, and Friendship Heights) on the County Council.

Denis will speak about changes to the County's Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit (MPDU) law, and proposed changes to zoning codes in the County. As well, he will offer comments on changes to the Bethesda Central Business District, and an upcoming ballot initiative that would change the way Council members are elected (*see article on Page 4*).

Denis will also answer questions from the public.



### Trolley Trail / Bike Path

Resident Bonny Palmer informs us that there are further delays in construction of the bike path that follows the former trolley line through North Bethesda. This is the path that winds its way behind the YMCA, then along Montgomery Drive to the Beltway.

Montgomery County's Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) says the starting date for finishing work along the trail will be delayed until February 2005, and that work on that section of the Trolley Trail won't be completed until July. The problem has evidently been in acquiring easements along the path. A further issue has arisen where the Trail has already been completed: how to maintain it. DPWT says it has only \$50,000 in its budget in this fiscal year to maintain approximately 100 miles of bike paths throughout the County.



### ListServ for Maplewood

Maplewood resident Mark Nathans has created a Listserv for anyone living in the community. Nathans says it is "like an e-mail conference call" allowing people to share information by sending messages to only one e-mail address. A group web site would also enable those who wish to take part in the Listserv to access an archive of previous e-mails, download files, and more.

Listservs, which are growing in popularity, enable people with similar interests to communicate and share information easily. For instance, information posted could include important phone numbers, recommended trades people or professionals, maps and other neighborhood information, links to local web sites, etc.

The new Maplewood Community Listserv is open to anyone in the community. Participants have to live by some rules (no "spam", use your full name, all postings should relate to the Maplewood community and/or Bethesda area, etc.) but membership is free.

If interested, you can sign up at this address:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/maplewood-citizens/>



### French International School

Construction work at the French International School on Forest Road is expected to begin by the end of September. The school will replace an aging high-school building with new facilities, and will upgrade the current gymnasium and sports facilities. In addition, there will be new signage on the campus and improved outdoor lighting.

Work was slated to begin in August, but delays in the issuing of permits from Montgomery County has pushed back construction. School officials say, nevertheless, that they still expect students to move into the new high-school building in September 2005.

A Neighborhood Liaison Committee, created as part of the 2003 Board of Appeals decision to allow construction to go ahead, has met six times. The Committee, made up of representatives from adjoining streets, MCA, and the school, works to resolve issues arising from the project.

One issue that looms large is the anticipated volume of truck traffic in the area as work proceeds. Initially, construction company Coakley Williams estimated that a relatively small number of trucks would be moving along Beech Avenue, Forest Road, and Montgomery Drive. Subsequent estimates, however, show a much larger number of trucks may be delivering materials to the school. Deliveries could begin as early as 7:00 a.m., but will be halted from 7:30 to 8:30 or 9:00 so as not to endanger pedestrian traffic.

## For Maplewood Man, A Dream Leads to Athens

*Maplewood resident Janet Maalouf brought to our attention the story of Joe Aukward, a neighbor on Balfour Drive participating as a sprinter on the U.S. national team at the 12th Paralympic Summer Games this month. We asked Janet to tell us more about this remarkable Maplewood resident:*

As a small child, Joe Aukward dreamed of participating in the Olympics. Diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa at age six, Joe shifted his goal to that of participating in the Paralympics as his eyesight progressively degenerated over the years. Joe's dream came true when he traveled to Athens, Greece earlier this month to compete in the 12<sup>th</sup> Paralympic Summer Games, currently being held and ending on September 28. Approximately 4,000 disabled athletes from 144 nations are representing their countries in 19 sports at the Games.

To achieve his goal, Joe created a rigorous training schedule that included workouts at the Washington Navy Yard (where he works as a budget analyst), the use of personal trainers, participating with groups such as the Montgomery County Roadrunners, and a recent opportunity to train with the renowned Walter Johnson High School track team. In May, Joe qualified for the 2004 U.S. Paralympic Athletics team. Joe is quick to acknowledge the wonderful support of his wife, Betty, who encouraged Joe to try for the 2004 games after he narrowly missed the chance in both 1996 and 2000.

Joe and Betty, both natives of the Washington, D.C. area, moved to Maplewood in 1994. "Maplewood's appeal was its character as a mature neighborhood with quiet streets," says Joe, "an ideal place to raise a family, with friendly neighbors, a convenient location to transportation and an array of activities including church, schools, the YMCA, and Alta Vista Park."

"Everyone we talked to seemed genuinely to enjoy living in Maplewood," Joe continues. He says he appreciates the extensive civic-minded focus of the neighborhood today and the fact that Maplewood continues to enjoy a fine reputation.

For the Aukward's children — Maria (9), Joseph (7), and Michelle (3) — excitement abounds, especially after watching the Summer Olympics in August. The Maplewood Citizens Association wishes Joe all the success in his upcoming competition in the 200-meter sprint and the four-man 100-meter relay events on September 23, 24, and 27. For those interested, the event results will be available at [www.athens2004.com](http://www.athens2004.com). Go Joe!



### Rat Infestation?

Near perfect conditions this summer (including a steady supply of cicadas and relatively mild temperatures) have resulted in an unusually large number of rats in and around the Maplewood area. Residents are encouraged to be careful if rat infestation is suspected. Nevertheless, Montgomery County law states that rat control and elimination is the responsibility of property owners.

The County's Health and Human Services Department's web site offers practical advice on what to do. Go to [www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov) and look for Licensure and Regulatory Services under the County Health and Human Services department. Or, call (240) 777-3986 to speak with an environmental health officer specializing in rat control, who may visit your house.



### FASEB Update

Vice President Rich Krents, MCA liaison with FASEB (Federation of American Scientists in Experimental Biology), reports that the organization will appear before the Board of Appeals in November. This is a first step in obtaining a Special Exception that would allow FASEB to tear down an older office building and replace it with a new facility.

FASEB Property Manager Jeff Yokum, briefed Maplewood residents on these plans at last January's general meeting. The new building will encompass the same "footprint" as the current building. FASEB estimates it will be three to five years before the project commences.

Currently, approximately 300 employees use the 11-acre campus on a daily basis.

## County Council: Legislation That Will Affect You

*Sarah Gilligan, who served until recently as Secretary of MCA, has been keeping a close eye on activities of the Montgomery County Council. We asked her to bring us up to date on some important business before the Council in the near future:*

On Thursday evening, September 23, Montgomery County Council will hold a hearing on nine pieces of legislation concerning housing and development. These various bills can basically be divided into two sets.

**The first set of three bills would make specific changes to the County's Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit (MPDU) law.** The bills propose specific changes that were recommended in the comprehensive Council staff report, "The MPDU Program: A 30-Year Review", and also propose to end the practice of alternative agreements ("buyouts"). The aim of this legislation is to ensure that required MPDUs get built and are held as affordable units for a longer period of time (99 years) than is currently mandated (30 years).

**The second set of bills comprises five Zoning Text Amendments (ZTAs) and a Subdivision Regulation Amendment (SRA) that would make general changes to the County zoning codes.** The aim is to increase the building density on residential building projects throughout the County. This would enable developers to squeeze in more units on sites than are currently allowed. The ZTAs and the SRA propose to decrease the amount of land that building projects would be required to dedicate to green space and public amenity space, remove current restrictions on building heights, remove Master Plan compliance provisions, and allow for the building of clustered and attached units in rural areas of the County where they are currently prohibited.

**The County Council will also hold a hearing about the newly introduced accessory apartment legislation.** This hearing will be held on the evening of Thursday, September 30. This legislation, also a ZTA, proposes changes to the regulations regarding the approval process, concentration, ownership requirements, unit age, and zoning standards for accessory apartments.

The Montgomery County Civic Federation has conducted votes and has adopted positions in support of, or I opposition to, each of the pieces of legislation. You can read some of the pros and cons at this web site: [www.montgomerycivic.org](http://www.montgomerycivic.org). For more information about the location and time of the County Council hearing, please call (240) 777-7900.

**On another matter, the Montgomery County Civic Federation has initiated Ballot Question C,** which proposes to change the composition of the County Council from five district seats (representing 200,000 constituents each) and four at-large seats (representing 950,000 constituents each) to a composition of nine district seats (representing 110,000 constituents each). Information on the ballot question is available at [www.montgomerycivic.org](http://www.montgomerycivic.org) or [www.VoteYESonC.org](http://www.VoteYESonC.org)

To send your comments about the legislation to the County Council you can e-mail them to the Council president at: [steve.silverman@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:steve.silverman@montgomerycountymd.gov) and to our Council district representative at: [councilmemberdenis@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:councilmemberdenis@montgomerycountymd.gov). Letters can be mailed to the Council president at County Council Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD, 20850.

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### Your MCA Connections and MCA Officers 2004-05

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## Neighborhood Helpers 2004-05

*(Young residents of Maplewood—age 12 and up—available for hire for the tasks listed.  
Keep this list handy. The next one will be distributed with The Mapleleaf in April 2005)*

Name	Age	Phone Number	Street Residence	Baby Sit	Pet Sit	House Sit	Mow Lawns	Rake Leaves/ Shovel Snow
Brittany Aiken	17	(301) 530-1990	Cedarcrest	☺	☺	☺		
Karen Bien	15	(301) 530-0554	Montgomery Dr.	☺				
Alessandra Bloch	16	(301) 897-5798	Wickett Terrace	☺	☺			
Melanie Bloch	13	(301) 897-5798	Wickett Terrace	☺	☺			
Alex Bonnel	16	(301) 897-8620	Beech		☺	☺	☺	☺
Michele Bornstein	15	(301) 564-5623	Linden Ave.	☺		☺		
Tak Chikosi	16	(301) 581-0594	Linden Ct.	☺		☺	☺	
Colin Cloherty	17	(301) 897-8131	Locust		☺	☺	☺	☺
Nora Cloherty	14	(301) 897-8131	Locust	☺	☺			
Heather Dew	17	(301) 897-5168	Locust	☺	☺	☺		
Amy Klazkin	14	(301) 564-1084	Fordyce	☺	☺	☺		
Janna Kline	14	(301) 564-0203	Alta Vista	☺	☺			
Abby Massey	16	(301) 493-4925	Alta Vista	☺	☺	☺		
Katharine Molloy	14	(301) 530-3660	Edgeley	☺				
Geoffrey Morier	14	(301) 896-0224	Linden Ave.		☺	☺		☺
Jonathan Morier	16	(301) 896-0224	Linden Ave.	☺	☺	☺		☺
Mike Moss	17	(301) 564-1145	Elsmere		☺	☺	☺	☺
Mollie Reiss	14	(301) 571-0398	Danbury	☺				
Sam Reiss	16	(301) 571-0398	Danbury	☺			☺	☺
Jennifer Schultz	14	(301) 897-9146	Locust	☺				
Sara Sidransky	18	(301) 530-0281	Kingsley	☺				
Ian Vickery	15	(301) 564-0346	Wildoak	☺	☺	☺		
Louise Wingfield	17	(301) 530-4924	Camberley		☺	☺		



**Become an MCA Member  
or  
Renew Your Membership  
Today !**

**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.**

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

**MEMBERSHIP FORM— MAPLEWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION**

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

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

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **email:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

Dues are \$20 for one year, September to September  
(dues paid now will provide membership until September 2005).  
Make checks payable to "Maplewood Citizens Association"  
and mail to:

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

The fall football season has again 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.