



The Mapleleaf

Volume 0607 No. 7
November 2007

A publication of the Maplewood Citizens Association, Inc. (MCA)
www.maplewoodcitizens.org

**Become Informed: Come to
the next meeting of the MCA!**

Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2007

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. Maplewood Football Asst. Commissioner Mr. John Nalls: MCA concerns (15 mins.)
 - B. GWU Environmental Law Studies Assoc. Dean Mr. Lee Paddock: BRAC Draft Environmental Impact Statement Comments — Walter Reed/ Navy Medical (15 mins.)
4. New Business
 - A. Possible Acquisition of Heart House Property by The McLean School (15 mins.)

Message from the President

It's the time of year when things begin to get a bit hectic with plans for the upcoming holiday season. So, please do not forget that we will have an MCA membership meeting in November. It will be a week later (November 28th) than our normal meeting because of the Thanksgiving holiday. We have a couple of key issues with which we must grapple. First, immediately after our September meeting, I learned of another potential user for the American College of Cardiology property. Also, we continue to receive complaints about con-

gestion and other issues caused by Maplewood Football. The assistant commissioner of that organization, John Nalls, will be at the meeting to hear your concerns and to see what can be done to address them before next year's season begins.

In the September edition of *The Mapleleaf*, I mentioned that the Federation for the Advancement of Education in Sciences (FAES) was reviewing its options in developing its property along Cedar Lane, Acacia, and Cypress. However, I have been

informed by FAES that it will not be ready to make its presentation to MCA until either our March or May meeting.

Lastly, MCA still needs volunteers to help organize events and to serve on its committees. Won't you please consider donating of a few hours of your time each month to help your civic association? You may contact any of the officers through our newly redesigned web site (thank you Mark Nathans!).

Happy holidays,

Allen

THIS JUST IN: The Climate Project Eastern Regional Director Dr. Lise Van Susteren will speak on environment/global warming at the January 30 MCA meeting.

Maplewood Citizens Association

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20891-2483**

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New Look for *Mapleleaf* Online

The Mapleleaf Online, the official website of the MCA, has a brand new look and additional features to keep you better informed and improve navigation on the site. Go to www.maplewoodcitizens.org for all the latest neighborhood news, events, and articles.

The Mapleleaf Online is maintained by the MCA to provide information about Maplewood and the surrounding area as well as archives of local news, minutes of MCA meetings, and in-depth articles.

Upcoming events are listed

right at the top of the front page and update automatically. Membership information and links to local resources are a click away. And now you can add your own views: To leave a comment about anything you read on the site, just click the Comments link on any page and start typing.

Interested in contributing articles or other content yourself? Want to sharpen your web skills by helping to maintain the site? Drop a line to the site administrator, Mark Nathans, at markn@maplewoodcitizens.org.

www.maplewoodcitizens.org is updated on a continuous basis, so be sure to check back frequently for all the latest neighborhood information!

For another way to stay connected, the Maplewood Listserv is a mailing list and online forum that enables residents to share information, post news, and request contractor recommendations by email. To join, send a message to maplewood-citizens-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Don't forget to include your name and where you live.

WRAMC/NNMC BRAC Update

WRAMC = Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, DC

NNMC = National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD

BRAC = Base Realignment and Closure (federal mandate related to military bases)

BIC = Montgomery County BRAC Implementation Committee

EIS = Environmental Impact Statement

As of this writing, the draft EIS relating to the move of WRAMC to NNMC by 2011 (and possibly as early as 2010) is now anticipated to be released by the Navy in early December 2007. There will be a limited time period (45 days) from the actual date of release to allow public comment on this merger.

MCA is a member of BIC, which includes other neighborhoods adjacent to NNMC, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce, Suburban Hospital, NIH, Navy, and county, state and federal government representatives among others.

At the October 16 BIC meeting, a newly formed "Coalition of Navy Med Neighbors" presented a letter to the BIC outlining the coalition's concern that the BIC was not adequately incorporating the neighborhoods' perspective in its process. The coalition is following this issue very closely to ensure the necessary actions be taken to insure a successful WRAMC/NNMC merger without traffic gridlock. High on the list of priorities from the coalition perspective is studying the feasibility of a MD-495 ramp directly into the NNMC base.

The next BIC meeting, which is always

open to the public, will be held on Tuesday, November 20 at the B-CC Regional Service Center (near Bethesda Metro) at 4805 Edgemoor Lane at 7:30 p.m.

For everything you wanted to know about BRAC and were afraid to ask, please go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/BRAC.

Interested in BRAC? Maplewood's committee of residents to provide community input and advice in the BRAC process welcomes additional members. This committee will play a significant role in organizing Maplewood's response to the draft EIS and helping to identify actions that ensure the impact of neighborhood perspective in this issue. If interested, please email:

janetm@maplewoodcitizens.org

Heart House Development Plans To Change?

MCA has learned that The McLean School, which is currently housed in a closed Montgomery County school in Potomac, has been in negotiations with the American College of Cardiology to purchase the College's property to use as a high school for 300 students. Under the school's proposal, the existing building would be retained, but most of the trees on the property would be

removed for the construction of soccer fields, and reforestation would be done closer to Old Georgetown Road.

At the present time, no traffic plan exists for the school's desired use of the property, and the school has not committed to attending our November meeting to present its plans more formally. The ACC still intends to proceed to present its residen-

tial development plans to the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission but has not rejected the school's offer. MCA will discuss both of these proposed uses at the November meeting to see if there is a preference for one over the other.

Maplewood's Streets Are Deteriorating

Many of Maplewood's streets have cracks and potholes in them that the coming winter weather will only make worse. In an effort to prevent this and to have the streets restored, MCA sent the following letter on October 26, 2007, to the Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation. As this issue of *The Mapleleaf* is prepared, no response to the letter has been received.

Mr. Keith Crompton, Chief,
Montgomery County Highway Maintenance

Dear Mr. Compton:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Maplewood Citizens' Association, a community of 900 dwelling units.

A few years ago, our residential streets were given a "slurry-mix" surface treatment. This treatment was an unacceptable maintenance procedure as it did not seal the pavement cracks, nor fill in any larger pavement defects. However, it did slightly improve skid resistance during wet weather.

At this time our residential streets are cracked and contain many potholes and other surface defects. As you are aware, these potholes should be filled and the cracks sealed before the winter freezing/thawing in order to preclude progressive pavement failure.

Additionally, we would like to request that your inspection team examine our residential streets and put them on an early schedule for resurfacing.

Sincerely, Allen Myers, President

So...What Does It Take To Make a Great Neighborhood?

Let us hear your thoughts about Maplewood and what we can do to make it better! We want to hear any ideas for activities and how we can make the association meetings (September, November, January, March and May) so exciting you could not resist attending. Your MCA is interested in

doing the best job it can for Maplewood, and we need you! We are open to hearing anything you have on your mind – good, bad or otherwise. If you have ideas for committees or comments on the MCA website, or if you want to volunteer or contribute articles to *The Mapleleaf*, we would

appreciate hearing from you! This is your community!

Send your thoughts to Janetm@maplewood.org or call Janet at 240-694-0204.

Here It Comes...The 25th Annual YMCA Turkey Chase!

10KM, Two-Mile Fun Run & 50 Meter Kids' Run

Thursday, November 22 at 8:30 a.m.

Work up an appetite for that Thanksgiving dinner by participating in this charity event sponsored by the Bethesda YMCA and the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rotary Club! Beginning at the YMCA (Beech Ave. and Old Georgetown Rd.), the route includes Old

Georgetown Rd., West Cedar Ln., Cypress Ave., Benton Ave., Holland Ave., Alta Vista Rd., Linden Ave., Pooks Hill Rd., Rockville Pike to Old Georgetown Rd and back to the YMCA.

The high school with the most "votes" (runners designating a high school) will win a \$1,000 scholarship offered by the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rotary Club.

Registration is open through November 21; further details can be obtained at www.turkeychase.com. Please remember to not park on the race route streets in Maplewood on the morning of November 22 and that traffic on those Maplewood streets named above will be limited to the runners that morning until the race concludes.

Light Up Maplewood

Now that the days are shorter and many Maplewood residents are walking for exercise and commuting on foot/bicycle, functioning street lights are important. Street lights mounted on wooden poles in Maplewood are the responsibility of Pepco. An outage/malfunction can now be reported online through www.pepco.com (click on "What Would You Like to Do?") or by calling

1-877-737-2662.

Street lights mounted on metal poles in Maplewood are the responsibility of Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) and can be reported online through www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dpwt or by calling 240-777-2190. Repair service will

be speeded up by including the street light Pole Number involved.

Additional information regarding street light maintenance in Montgomery County is available at www.pepco.com/home/requests/outage/StreetLight/pdf/MOCStreetLightNewsletter.pdf

From the Workbench: Fall Tips

Here are a few fall tips from the MCA 'Maintenance Guru' Hugh Barteman:

As the bountiful leaves fall throughout Maplewood and the temperatures drop, don't forget to:

1. Check and clean your gutters periodically;
2. Turn off the water source inside your house to outdoor faucets and open (turn

on) your outdoor faucets to prevent frozen pipes.

For weeds and grass growing in cement cracks (sidewalks, patios, etc.), pour full-strength vinegar on them; they will die off over a period of several days.



Step to the curb to see if you can easily see your house number. The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad and the Montgomery County Police (and yes, UPS/FedEx, *The Mapleleaf* delivery staff, and the U.S. Postal Service) greatly appreciate visible and readable house numbers which shortens response and delivery time!

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ email _____

CHECK ONE: *New Member* _____ *Renewal* _____

Today's Date _____

Dues are \$25 for one year, payable by check to "Maplewood Citizens Association". (Dues paid now will provide membership until September 2008.) Please send your completed membership form and check to:

*Joe Levin, Treasurer
MCA
P.O. Box 2483
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Maplewood Football Concerns To Be Addressed at November MCA Meeting

MCA continues to hear from residents who have problems with illegally parked cars, traffic congestion, and trash associated with Maplewood Football's use of the Ma-

plewood-Alta Vista Park on weekends in the fall. The assistant commissioner of Maplewood Football, John Nalls, will attend the November meeting to hear residents' con-

cerns and to see what improvements and changes need to be made before the start of next season's games.

Election Judges Needed for the 2008 Primary and General Elections

The Montgomery County Board of Elections is looking for registered voters to work in the polls as election judges. Training is provided, and election judges receive a stipend for attending the training and a pre-election meeting at their polling place and for working on Election Day. Bilingual voters are also needed.

Election Dates:

Presidential Primary - February 12, 2008

General - November 4, 2008

If you are interested please call or email us:

240-777-8533 or electionjudge@montgomerycountymd.gov

240-777-8570 or democrats@montgomerycountymd.gov (Democrats)

240-777-8576 or republicans@montgomerycountymd.gov (Republicans/Others)

You may also download an application from our website: www.777vote.org

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