



# The Mapleleaf

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A publication of the Maplewood Citizens Association, Inc. (MCA)  
[www.maplewoodcitizens.org](http://www.maplewoodcitizens.org)

## Save The Date!

**Montgomery County Police Commander Russell E. Hamill of the 2<sup>nd</sup> District will be the guest speaker at the next MCA meeting on May 21. Commander Hamill, who is a life-long Montgomery County resident, assumed command of the 2<sup>nd</sup> district (Bethesda) last August.**

### Maplewood Citizens Association

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P.O. Box 2483  
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20891-2483

**Phone #:** 301-530-6080

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

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Allenm@maplewoodcitizens.org

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Janetm@maplewoodcitizens.org

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Caroll@maplewoodcitizens.org

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## Message from the President

Welcome to spring! It the time of the year that we emerge from inside our homes to take up chores such as mowing the lawn and cleaning windows. It's also a time when we see neighbors whom we might not have seen during the winter. We look forward to our annual Spring Social on April 19! MCA will not have its normal meeting in March, but we'll

see you at our next meeting on Wednesday, May 21, 2008. In addition to our speaker, County Police Commander Hamill, the May meeting will focus on the election of officers and establishment of MCA's dues for '08-'09. I look forward to seeing you at the Spring Social on Saturday, April 19!

Allen

## BRAC Message

*Portions of "Commander's Column" reprinted with permission from the NNMC weekly, The Journal*

On Tuesday, March 4, the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) announced the signing of a Phase 1 design and construction contract. The final BRAC Phase 1 contract was awarded to Clark Construc-

*Continued on page 4*

## The MCA Spring Social Is Coming!

With spring upon us, MCA is preparing for its annual neighborhood spring social. It is a great way to meet old friends and also make new ones. There will be food and drinks, a moonbounce, a clown, face painting, crafts, fields for sports, and, depending on availability, a fire truck and firefighters. There will be fun for everyone! The event is free for members of the Maplewood Citizens Asso-

ciation and at a nominal fee to non-member households.



MCA is looking for volunteers to help at the party (set-up/clean-up, organize athletic events, etc.). As Malaak Rock (the wife of comedian Chris Rock) says, "Volunteering/giving back is your way to pay your rent in

life". Please don't let this opportunity pass you by. Join your neighbors and help us make this event better than ever!

A flyer announcing the spring social is included with this edition of *The Mapleleaf*. Please save it for future reference. If you have questions or wish to volunteer to assist at the social event, please call the event coordinator, Elizabeth Bucello, at (240) 421-1214.

## Nominations Committee Now Accepting Names of Potential MCA Officers

Ralph Schofer has agreed to serve as chair of the Nominations Committee this year. Election of officers for the 2008-2009 membership year will occur at the MCA meeting

on May 21<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested in serving your Association as an officer or wish to nominate someone to serve, please submit your nomination to Mr. Schofer at the As-

sociation's mailing address: Post Office Box 2483, Kensington, Maryland 20891-2483 no later than April 30, 2008.

## WRAMC/NNMC BRAC Is 'Sailing' Along; NNMC Interested In Being Good Neighbor

**BIC = Montgomery County BRAC Implementation Committee**

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

**CNMMCN= Coalition of National Military Medical Center Neighbors (Bethesda Parkview Citizens Assn, Chevy Chase View, East Bethesda Citizens Assn, Glenbrook Village Homeowners Assn, Locust Hill Estates Citizens Assn, Maplewood Citizens Assn, Stone Ridge School)**

**EIS = Environmental Impact Statement**

**NNMC = National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD**

**SHA = Maryland State Highway Administration**

**WRAMC = Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, DC**

**WRNMMC = Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (new name of merged NNMC/WRAMC)**

The plans for this BRAC merger are moving ahead full-steam:

◆ **March 3, 2008** - contract awarded for the first and largest construction phase on the NNMC base.

◆ **Early April 2008** - Navy expected to release draft Final EIS which will contain final project options and address the 1200 public comments received on the Draft EIS (December 14, 2007 to January 28, 2008)

◆ **Early May** - Navy will sign Record of Decision (no earlier than 30 days from release of draft Final EIS) which will identify the construction option selected by the Navy.

◆ **Late April/Early May** - contractor construction staging activity likely to be seen on NNMC grounds.

◆ **Late May/early June** - Construction will actively begin on base.

◆ **Late 2010/early 2011**- Construction will likely be completed.

◆ **September 15, 2011** - date the merger is to be completed and the new medical facility should be fully operational as mandated by the 2005 BRAC federal law.

Navy is exploring additional funding sources (DAR) for additional traffic mitigation/road improvements to complement County/State funds.

### What should we expect?

NNMC is well aware that there may well be "rough waters" for a period of time with the initial staging and subsequent construction start-up. NNMC is requiring its contractors to provide off-site shuttle transportation for workers as concern the surrounding neighborhoods. You may have recently noticed

SHA/contractor surveyors looking at four intersections for planning intersection/

road improvements (details not yet available): W. Cedar Lane at Rockville Pike and Old Georgetown Rd and Jones Bridge Rd at Rockville Pike and at Connecticut Ave.

### Outreach:

NNMC Base Commander, Rear Admiral Richard Jeffries, met with the Coalition for National Military Medical Center Neighbors members in early March. He expressed NNMC's interest in being a good neighbor, indicated he was well aware of neighborhood concerns (traffic and construction related among others), and that he was appreciative of the support NNMC neighborhoods have given to this critical military medical project. He is familiar with Maplewood as he has biked on the Trolley Bike Trail. Please read his Commander's Column beginning on page 1. It appeared in the March 6, 2008 issue of NNMC's weekly newspaper, The Journal.

### Next meeting of the BIC:

The next BIC meeting is expected in early April once the Draft Final EIS is released. At that time, it is anticipated that bike and pedestrian issues related to BRAC will be addressed. The public is always welcome to attend.

### Action Requested:

Please contact Janet Maalouf at (240) 694-0204 or [janet.maalouf@verizon.net](mailto:janet.maalouf@verizon.net) if you have specific suggestions/comments/concerns related to:

◆ Bike/pedestrian issues.

◆ The BRAC project - construction traffic, general traffic, neighborhood parking, etc). We will bring them to the direct attention of the NNMC for resolution.

[www.bethesda.med.navy.mil](http://www.bethesda.med.navy.mil)

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac)

## Join the MCA Listserv!

Send a message to [maplewood-citizens-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:maplewood-citizens-subscribe@yahoo.com) and be sure to include your name and address.

## Maplewood Roads Need Repair!

MCA has received several complaints from residents about the deteriorating condition of the roads in our community. A letter was sent to the Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation requesting that our road be examined and resurfaced, where necessary. In response, Mr. R. Keith Compton, chief of the Highway Maintenance Section, stated that his department is undertaking a countywide pavement assessment program that will take into account the physical conditions of the pavement and will provide the basis for development and prioritization of a residential street resurfacing, paving, and rehabilitation program.

The County Executive and County Council

are reconciling the FY '09 Capital and Operating budgets that will provide funding for this program. Mr. Compton also stated that the County will monitor residential streets, including those in Maplewood, to ensure their safety. He asked residents who observe specific areas that need to be repaired to contact his Department's Customer Service Center by phone at 240-777-6000 or via e-mail at [highway@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:highway@montgomerycountymd.gov).

On March 13, 2008, Mr. Compton addressed the Transportation Committee of the Western Montgomery County Citizen's Advisory Board on the subject of resurfacing the rural and residential roads in Montgomery County. He stated that the Depart-

ment of Public Works and Transportation has studied 6% of the County's rural and residential roads and found that of the roads studied, 2% were in very good condition, 10% were in good condition, 52% were in fair condition, 27% were in poor condition, and 9% were in very poor condition. He also indicated that, starting in April 2008, a study of all the County's rural and residential roads would be undertaken to determine their condition and to establish a priority for resurfacing these roads. The results of the study should be available in October 2008 and will be widely disseminated, including being posted on the DPWT web site.

## Volunteer to Help During an Emergency

The Montgomery County Volunteer Center maintains several programs for volunteers at all skill levels who want to help their community:

♥♥ The **Emergency Action Team** helps staff phone banks, comforts people in shelters, distributes information, and provides many other important functions when emergencies occur. The group meets quarterly for training and updates on how the County is preparing for emergencies. EAT members need no special skills – only the willingness to be called on when an emergency occurs.

♥♥ The **Medical Reserve Corps** is made up of current and retired medical professionals. The group has a need for doctors, nurses, physical therapists, veterinarians, and people from many other medical specialties.

♥♥ The **Teen Adaptive Response Unit** is made up of 14 to 18 year olds who help out at shelters, phone banks, and other locations. The group meets every other month. Members also enjoy the opportunity to learn about different careers that play a part in an emergency response.

♥♥ The **Language Bank** is a group of volunteers who are fluent in English and another language. Volunteer translators serve on-call to County agencies, schools, and non-profit organizations.

♥♥ Other volunteer programs that play important roles in the County's emergency preparedness and response include the Fire Department's Community Response Training (CERT) program

[Maplewood will have a presentation from this group at a future meeting] as well as the Red Cross.

For more information on emergency response volunteer opportunities, please contact Michael Goldfarb at 240-777-2621 or [michael.goldfarb@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:michael.goldfarb@montgomerycountymd.gov). Or visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteers](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteers).



Dr. Lise Van Susteren from the Climate Project addresses the January 2008 MCA meeting on the subject of Global Warming.

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!

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**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, Kensington, MD 20891-2483**

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## **BRAC Message** *Cont. from page 1*

tion of Bethesda, MD with Balfour Beatty Construction of Atlanta, GA in the amount of \$641.4 M. The total estimated construction and renovation on the NNMC campus is now over \$900 million. Navy Medicine National Capital Area (NMNCA) and NNMC will oversee the planning and construction of all the new facilities and renovation of current buildings on campus. Actual construction will not begin until the end of May or early June. The contract allows Clark/Balfour to attain permits, licenses, and approvals with the Maryland Historical Preservation Society and National Capital Planning Commission. Until the ROD is signed, there will be no construction work or purchase of long lead materials and limitations on design work for approvals and permits only. However, you may see trailers and temporary work on campus for our hospital personnel who will be displaced during the construction. We have to prepare accommodations for patients and staff before building and renovations can take place.

The Bethesda Navy base is under the NNMC Command. We are responsible for not only the BRAC construction contract but all facility and base work to improve the

campus and enhance our ability to care for our Nation's casualties, their families, and all our patients. This will require maximum support of not only the Navy Commands but all tenants on the base. Our promise remains: full care and support for all who come through our gates regardless of our challenges. Other projects, besides those required by BRAC law include: a Uniformed Services University addition; renovations to Mercy Hall (Building 50); the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) with the just renamed DoD National Center of Excellence (NCOE) for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (funded by the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund); two new Fisher Houses (funded by the Fisher Foundation); a new Joint Warrior Transition Unit; and Headquarters for the new Joint Task Force National Capital Region - Medical.

We greatly value our relationship with our community neighbors. Montgomery County and the Bethesda community have embraced us as one of their own. We try very hard to be proud and respectful neighbors and are working diligently with local, county, state and federal leaders to solve issues for all who reside here.

To assist in this undertaking, the Secretary of the Navy established an Officer In Charge of Construction (OICC) Command

for the Bethesda Navy base under the operational control of the NMNCA. Although the OICC is administratively under Naval Facilities East Command, it is aligned with NNMC to handle the construction on the campus. Combining this new command with our own NNMC base facilities brings the best together to complete our mission.

A second Request for Proposal (RFP) is planned for the fall. This construction contract will further support the infrastructure for our future world-class campus. The second RFP is covered in the April EIS. It will not bring additional people to the campus, but will improve facilities, housing, rehabilitation and quality of life venues in addition to further mitigation to traffic concerns while enhancing the appearance and functionality of the campus. The second RFP includes road and parking improvements, Navy Exchange renovation, possible expansion of the Navy Lodge, new eating facilities, enlisted housing and a new gym. In addition to enhancing physical and occupational therapy for our patients, the gym will provide fitness training for deploying staff and a recreational area for our wounded warriors.

NNMC Base Commander,  
Rear Admiral Richard Jeffries