



The Mapleleaf

Volume 0607 No. 10
May 2008

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

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

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

7:30 p.m.

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

AGENDA

A. Presentation by 2nd District Police
Commander Russell E. Hamill (20 mins.)

B. Presentation of Preliminary Plan by
American College of Cardiology (20
mins.)

X. Business Meeting (30 mins.)

1.MCA Financial and Staffing Re-
sources (15 mins.)

a. Advertising support for *The
Mapleleaf*

b. Costs associated with MCA social
events

c. Establish dues for 2008-09

2. Election of Officers for 2008-09

Maplewood Citizens Association

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P.O. Box 2483
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20891-2483**

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Website: **www.
maplewoodcitizens.org**

President: **Allen Myers
Allenm@
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Vice Presi-
dent: **Janet Maalouf
Janetm@
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Caroll@
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Treasurer: **Joe Levin
Joel@
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Message from the President

Volunteers are the backbone of a civic organization such as the Maplewood Citizens Association. I want to thank those who volunteered to make our fifth annual Spring Social in April such a success. First and foremost: **Elizabeth Buccello**, who served as the coordinator of the event and also, in her capacity as a realtor, sponsored the moon bounce, which was very popular. Other volunteers included pizza servers **Dr. Pradman and Ratna Qasba and Sally Jones**. **Linda Hubbard** arranged for fire engines from the Bethesda and NIH fire departments. Many children from Maplewood climbed aboard these trucks and also received souvenir fire hats. **Janet Maalouf** stepped in to serve as "MCA

Treasurer For A Day" because our treasurer was unable to attend the social. **Gary Skulnik**, from Clean Currents, contributed to the cost of the pizza. **Sarah Gilligan** helped to organize the event and provided bottled water. Finally, Elizabeth's sister, **Elizete Ferreira**, who was visiting from Brazil, stepped in to help set up the event and to clean up afterwards. Well done all of you!

Regrettably, we did not have sufficient volunteers to do face painting at this year's social event. It seems that Maplewood, like a lot of organizations that depend on volunteers, is having trouble finding enough people to do the work of the Association. We have approximately 950 households in the

neighborhood and only five officer positions to fill each year; yet, in response to the announcement in the March issue of *The Mapleleaf*, we received no nominations to serve as MCA officers for 2008-09! What's the solution to this situation? Come to May 21st meeting to find out!

Also, at that meeting, we must find a solution to adequate funding for MCA. The newsletter, which provides a vital means of communication within the neighborhood, is expensive to produce (see related article). And, despite the corporate funding for our social events, MCA expends a considerable amount of its own funds to provide food and activities at

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**Spring Social '08
was a grand
success thanks
to our volunteers
and 'socialites'!**

*See more pictures
on page 4*

Record of Decision Signed for BRAC

BIC = Montgomery County BRAC Implementation Committee

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

DAR = Defense Access Road Program (allows for Federal funding of road improvements if BRAC impact meets guidelines)

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)

[exec/brac/pdf/rod-transportationextract-050608.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/rod-transportationextract-050608.pdf)

The ROD generally follows the Final EIS as it relates to the Preferred Alternative outlined in the Final EIS, but the DAR projects have been modified: a) The Metro access stays the same – high-speed elevators on the NNMC side of MD 355 to the Metro platform. This is a project that has been discussed with WMATA (Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority). b) The turn lanes into the NNMC campus have been changed. The proposed turn lane from Jones Bridge Rd. mentioned in the Final EIS is not included in the ROD. Instead of a northbound right-turn lane into South Wood Dr. as mentioned in the Final EIS, the ROD mentions a northbound LEFT turn lane at North Wood Dr. into NIH. The existing southbound left-turn lane into NNMC at North Wood Dr. would be extended. A traffic light study is recommended for possible installation of a signal at the North Wood Dr. intersection.

On May 15, SHA will meet with state and county agencies involved in the SHA transportation study. SHA has refused a request by the Coalition of National Military Medical Center Neighbors for a representative to attend this meeting as an observer.

The next Montgomery County BRAC Implementation Committee meeting will be held **Tuesday, May 20** at the **Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Service Center (near Bethesda Metro), 4805 Edgemoor Lane at 7:30 p.m.** SHA will present its position on the I-495 slip ramp, and the BIC will receive an update on possible funding sources for BRAC which include the War Supplemental Bill, the Congressional Annual Defense Bill, the Annual Transportation Appropriations Bill, and in the 2009 five-year Transportation Bill. The public is encouraged to attend the BIC meeting; at the end of the meeting, the public is welcome to comment.

In the meantime, please be aware of construction activities/construction vehicles in the vicinity of NNMC possibly as early as late May.



Following the April 4, 2008 release of the Navy's Final EIS, the ROD was signed on May 6. This now allows construction to begin at NNMC for the BRAC merger of WRAMC and NNMC.

The 38-page ROD can be viewed at: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/rod-050608.pdf>

There is also a 6-page extract from the ROD about traffic mitigations: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/

Heart House Property Update

In response to concerns from the Planning Staff, the American College of Cardiology (ACC) submitted revised plans to the Planning Board in early April. On April 16, 2008, ACC hosted a community meeting at the Heart House to present these plans and receive feedback. Even though this was not an official MCA meeting, many Maplewood homeowners were in attendance. Also present were residents of Oakmont, across Old Georgetown Road. The



Foundation of the Advancement of Education in The Sciences (FAES) and the Knights of Columbus also sent representatives.

On April 20, ACC held a further meeting with the Planning Staff, which requested some minor modifications to the revised plan. ACC has resisted the desires of the Planning Staff to relocate some of the homes proposed along Old Georgetown to the back of the property in the heavily forested area along

Alta Vista, Locust, and Camberley.

As soon as ACC's storm-water management plan is complete, the revised plan (as amended) will be presented to the Planning Board for approval of ACC's Preliminary Plan for development. This action is expected to occur in June. Hence, the May 21st MCA meeting will be the only opportunity for the Association to develop a position to be presented in testimony at the Planning Board meeting. Come be a part of the solution!

There Is No Free Lunch! 'The Mapleleaf' Needs You

Several years ago at an MCA meeting, the membership decided that *The Mapleleaf* would be distributed to all 950 Maplewood households irrespective of their membership status. In so doing, it was hoped that the five yearly newsletters (September, November, January, March and May) – including the Neighborhood Helpers List – would readily reach newcomers, maintain an informed neighborhood, and encourage membership and participation in the MCA.

Here is what is involved in getting *The Mapleleaf* to your door:

- * Write articles of interest/pertinent to Maplewood. Resident input is always welcome.
- * Prepare newsletter layout for submission to printer and review printer's proof prior to authorization for printing.
- * Distribute 950 copies of newsletter to Maplewood households. MCA

is very grateful to those residents who help hand-deliver *The Mapleleaf* to Maplewood households. This personal delivery allows MCA judicious use of its funds by avoiding the expense of mailing the newsletter. While MCA has a bulk rate mailing permit, which provides for less expensive mailing than first-class mail, additional lead time is required to get the newsletters to the Post Office, and on-time delivery is less reliable than first class mail. Nonetheless, the January issue is traditionally mailed due to winter weather concerns.

MCA is entirely dependent on the membership dues it receives in order to meet its operating expenses. The average cost of printing a newsletter issue is approximately \$350.00. Bulk rate mail adds an additional approximately \$240.00. The bulk rate permit fee is \$160.00 annually. As you can

see, the cost of producing and distributing *The Mapleleaf* is considerable. Other "big ticket" items for which MCA expends money are social events (only a portion of the expense is underwritten by corporate funds) and a liability policy that MCA must maintain to protect MCA from a lawsuit. At the upcoming meeting, funding options for *The Mapleleaf* and other MCA revenue issues will be discussed.

We hope you find *The Mapleleaf* useful! Your comments and suggestions are always welcome, and you are encouraged to attend the May 21st MCA meeting. Article contributors, additions to the Neighborhood Helpers List (next one due out with the September issue), and residents who would like to help deliver the newsletter are greatly appreciated ... as are MCA membership dues!

If you would like to help with any aspect of *The Mapleleaf*, please contact Janet at Janetm@maplewoodcitizens.org.

And Speaking of 'The Mapleleaf' ...

HELP WANTED

Laura Nadel Eisen, who has done a superb job of the layout of *The Mapleleaf* for the past 18 months, has informed MCA that she must relinquish the newsletter layout job. MCA is indebted to Laura for her fine work. Many residents have commented favorably on the appearance of *The Mapleleaf*, and we have Laura to thank.

If *The Mapleleaf* is to continue, MCA must

find someone to assume the newsletter layout work. Each of the five annual issues requires about six hours of work. Any Maplewood resident interested in taking over the layout of *The Mapleleaf* is asked to contact MCA President Allen Myers at (301) 530-6080 (leave message) or e-mail Allenm@maplewoodcitizens.org.

In the event MCA does not find a person to do the layout for the newsletter, it will

contact residents through the MCA listserv instead. If you are not already registered with the listserv, go to Yahoo.com, navigate to groups and log onto Maplewood Citizens when prompted to select a group. Fill out the requested information. Once your request to join the group is approved by the moderator, Mark Nathans, you will receive all notices from MCA as well as be able to join in discussions with other Maplewood residents.

Message from the President *continued from page 1*

them. The issue of funding, because it concerns the organization as a whole, must be decided by the membership of the Association.

The May 21st meeting will also have two featured presentations: The first presenta-

tion will be given by Second District (Bethesda) Police Commander Russell E. Hamill. The second presentation will be given by the American College of Cardiology concerning their revised plans for the development of their property. Articles

providing more details on these presentations are found elsewhere in this newsletter.

I hope to see many of you at the May 21st meeting and wish all of you a fun-filled summer!

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, Kensington, MD 20891-2483



**Spring
Social
'08!**



Bethesda Police Commander To Speak at Next MCA Meeting

Montgomery County Police Commander Russell E. Hamill of the 2nd District will be the guest speaker at the next Maplewood Citizens Association meeting on May 21st.

Commander Hamill has been a member of the Montgomery County Police Department

since 1986. He assumed command of the 2nd District (Bethesda) last August. A life-long resident of Montgomery County, Cmdr. Hamill is a graduate of the University of Maryland and the Howard University School of Law.

Commander Hamill will briefly address topics affecting Maplewood residents, including area crime trends, gang violence, and preventative measures that neighborhood residents can take to protect themselves.