



The Mapleleaf

Volume 0910 No. 4
March 2010

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

Meeting: 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 24th, 2010

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

AGENDA

Call To Order

Montgomery Co. Dept. of Transportation Snow
Removal Process Presentation (45 min)

Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report

Report of the Spring Social Committee & Ap-
proval of Event Budget (15-minutes)

Future of Maplewood—Alta Vista Recreation
Center (10 min)

Donation to Walter Johnson Prom Night Event
(5 min)

FAES Committee Report (10 min)

MCA Nominating Committee (5 min)

BRAC Report (5 min)

ADJOURN

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Wow, what a winter! I think that even our residents who love snow have said, "enough!" Now that the snows of February are melting, thoughts of Maplewood residents are turning from snow shoveling to the arrival of spring. The Maplewood Citizens Association is doing the same. At our meeting on March 24th, the Association will have both winter and spring subjects on the agenda. To help residents better

understand the County's snow plowing operations, Steve Suprata, from the County's Department of Transportation will address this topic and answer questions. Please see article below. We will also hear the plans for the upcoming MCA spring social event scheduled for April 25th. Please see the announcement on page 3. I look forward to seeing many residents at both the meeting on March 24th and at the spring social event.

Allen

SNOWED IN !

Three major snowstorms this winter had Maplewood residents trapped in their homes until the roads in the neighborhood were plowed. Many messages posted to the MCA listserv expressed frustration and concern about the length of time it took for a snowplow to clear the streets in front of residents' homes. To provide an opportunity for residents to better understand the County's snow removal operations, a representative from the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MDOT) has been invited to speak at the MCA meeting on March 24th. Steve Suprata, MDOT representative, will answer questions

and is open to suggestions for ways to better meet the snow-removal needs of Maplewood.



Jack, a Maplewood youngster, having loads of fun sliding down the luge track built on the corner of Benton and Chandler Streets during our record winter snow storms.

Maplewood Citizens Association

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Allenm@maplewoodcitizens.org

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Janetm@maplewoodcitizens.org

Secretary: Barbara Harrison
bararah@maplewoodcitizens.org

Treasurer: Hugh Barteman
HughB@maplewoodcitizens.org

Join the MCA Listserv!

Send a message to maplewood-citizens-subscribe@yahoogroups.com and be sure to include your name and address.

COUNTY BUDGET CRISIS AFFECTS MAPLEWOOD

In order to address an unexpected shortfall in the 2010 budget in January the County Executive proposed to eliminate Ride-On routes including Route 30 that traverses a portion of the neighborhood along Linden and Beech Avenues. Because of the efforts of many bus riders, the County Council voted in February not to make the cuts in Ride-On routes requested by the County Executive. However, MCA has been informed that cuts and reductions to Ride-On routes will be part of the proposed 2011 budget which, due to decreased revenue, will be more austere than the 2010 budget.

Another victim of the budget shortfall came to light in a February when the County Council voted to close eleven "under utilized" recreation centers (but not the fields) including the center at the Maplewood-Alta Vista Park. Because MCA had an approved application to use the building for the April 25th spring social event, it has received "an exception" to use the closed building for the social event. However, the fate of the building remains in doubt because no money is likely to be included in the 2011 budget for its operation. One possible option is for MCA to assume from the County some aspects of operating the facility. Another possibility is for the

County to turn the building over to a public or private organization. There is also the possibility in the future that the building could be torn down if funds for its operation remain unavailable and another use for it can not be found.

MCA would like to hear from Maplewood residents about this issue. In addition, any resident willing to serve on a committee to address this subject is asked to contact MCA president, Allen Myers, through the MCA website, www.maplewoodcitizens.org or via the MCA phone hotline at (301) 530-6080.

FAES REZONING APPLICATION REJECTED

In October 2009, a Hearing Examiner for the County Council held a public hearing on the application submitted by the Foundation For The Advancement of Education In The Sciences (FAES) to rezone property it owns bounded by West Cedar Lane and Cypress & Acacia Avenues. The Examiner issued his opinion in February and found that the proposed rezoning would not conform to the Bethesda - Chevy Chase Master Plan, was too dense and would not be compatible with

the rest of the neighborhood. This is a major victory for MCA!

Normally, the County Council would meet to discuss the Hearing Examiner's recommendation and to take action on it. However, FAES has requested the Council to dismiss its rezoning application "without prejudice". If a rezoning request is dismissed "without prejudice" the land owner can effectively resubmit a rezoning request at anytime. Otherwise, there would be a three year waiting period before another rezoning request

could be submitted for that property.

MCA believes that FAES' request to dismiss its application "without prejudice" should be denied as the County has spent a considerable amount of its resources on the FAES proposal. Accordingly, MCA has submitted an opposition to the FAES request. The County Council is expected to address this matter on March 16th and a report of the final disposition of the FAES application will be made at the March 24th MCA meeting.

* Many thanks go to Rowland Dennie of **Rowlandscapes** for his support of The Mapleleaf. His Ma- *
* plewood customers give him rave reviews for his attention to their lawns. Do you have yard debris *
* caused by our record winter weather? Call Rowland at 301-515-7170 and he will be happy to provide *
* Maplewood references upon request. *

Very knowledgeable and interested in customer satisfaction, Nelly Branson at **Wheaton Door and Window** will gladly assist you with door (including storm doors), window, siding, roofing and gutter guard needs. We greatly appreciate her support of The Mapleleaf. Call Nelly at 301-814-1865 and she will be glad to provide Maplewood references.

Maplewood Spring Social
 3 to 5:30 p.m., Sunday, April 25
 Maplewood-Alta Vista Park

Free for MCA members, \$10 per household for non-members
 Join Maplewood Citizens Association for \$25
 Rain or Shine

Meet Your Neighbors
 Fire Truck · Moonbounce
 Maplewood Memories Table
 Door Prizes · Crafts · Game Table
 Face Painting · Balloon Animals
 Pick-up Kickball · Pizza
 Cupcake Walk

Please bring a lawn chair for outdoor seating and an old photo of the neighborhood to share at the Maplewood Memories Table.

To volunteer, please contact DeeDee Lynch at 301-897-2521 or deedeemartt@hotmail.com. Students can earn SSL hours.

WALTER JOHNSON HIGH SCHOOL AFTER PROM EVENT

Each year, Walter Johnson High School hosts an after prom event from midnight until 5:00 a.m. to provide a safe and fun alternative to seniors and their dates. The event, which is entirely funded through donations, will be held this year on May 22nd. The committee preparing the event has established a goal to raise \$15,000.00. In previous years, MCA has donated \$200.00. At the March 24th meeting, MCA residents will be asked to consider a donation to the WJ after prom event.

MCA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Each March, pursuant to its bylaws, it is necessary for the Maplewood Citizens Association to assemble a nominating committee to identify potential candidates to serve as officers of the Maplewood Citizens Association for the coming year. The MCA president has asked Ralph Schofer to again chair this committee. The requirements for serving on this committee are that committee members must be a member in good standing and cannot nominate themselves to serve as officers. In other words, if you serve on this committee you cannot run for elective office in the ensuing election.

Since the nominating committee is comprised of three MCA members, two additional members are needed to volunteer to serve on the committee. Please contact Ralph at (301) 530-0413. Additionally, any resident wishing to serve as an officer for 2010- 2011 should also inform Ralph of their interest.

ENGAGE YOUR COMMUNITY GROUP IN EARTH DAY THIS APRIL

News from our Bethesda—Chevy Chase Regional Services Center of Montgomery County (www.montgomerycountymd.gov/bcc):

Now is a good time for community groups to plan group service projects around the time of **Earth Day**. While Earth Day is April 22nd, the Montgomery County Volunteer Center and other organizations celebrate Earth Day throughout the month of April.

Get your nonprofit, school, religious, civic or other community group volunteering to improve the environment. Park, waterway, and neighborhood clean ups, painting and gardening are just a few ways groups can make a difference. Find Earth Day volunteering opportunities and view the Earth Day Toolkit, full of ideas on how to plan and organize a group event by visiting the Volunteer Center

website www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteer.

Click on the blue Earth Day link at the top of the page. If your group needs assistance, contact the Volunteer Center at 240/777-2600 or e-mail:

volunteer@montgomerycountymd.gov

RESIDENTS SPEAK OUT: A NEW COLUMN FOR COMMENTS BY MCA MEMBERS

(Letters for this column can be sent to editor@maplewoodcitizens.org; deadlines for submissions for the September, November, January, March and May issues would be the 25th day of each month prior to these months; for example, 25 August for the September issue.)

You may ask yourself why you would want to pay for membership in an organization such as The Maplewood Citizens Association (MCA). I think the best answer to that question can be seen in the recent results of an attempt by FAES, an outside professional organization that owns a large track of land adjacent to our Maplewood homes. FAES tried to get permission from the County to allow it to construct dormitories for NIH workers and students within the boundaries of Maplewood. MCA opposed that project and mounted an organization wide cam-

paigned to present our communities objections to County officials. MCA was successful in mobilizing the community to defeat this project and thus preserve the residential atmosphere of our community.

This was not a simple task. The land owners, FAES, hired powerful land use lawyers and spent untold thousands of dollars to push their project through the County permitting process. The request was denied after a determined and well constructed legal opposition

was mounted by MCA leadership and members. I have no doubt that without MCA leadership this project would have been approved.

The FAES property may not be next to your property but who knows what project or other action might pop up in close proximity to your home. It sure was nice to have MCA fighting for my family's peace and quiet.

James B. Winkler, MCA member

Walter Johnson High School 2010 Mulch Sale

Order by April 2; Home delivery April 10. Each 3 Cubic Foot bag of shredded hardwood mulch covers approximately 20 sq ft to 1 inch thick.

Your Name: _____ WJ Student: _____ Tel: _____ E-Mail: _____

Delivery Address: _____ Name of Your Neighborhood: (Example: "Alta Vista") _____

Please circle your zip code & provide your 4 digit zip code extension if known:

PLEASE NOTE - Delivery will be limited to these zip codes: 20814 - _____ 20817 - _____ 20852 - _____ 20895 - _____ 20896 - _____

Quantity (10 bag minimum) - # _____ x Bags @ \$5.50/bag = \$ _____ I don't need Mulch but would like to donate= \$ _____

Ways to order: 1. online at www.WJMULCHSALE.com, 2. fax order form with Visa or Master Card info, 3. send order form with payment

Make check out to WJHS All School Booster Club or provide the following credit card information:

Visa/Master Charge Acct #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Credit card orders can also be FAXED to 240-465-0218

Mail order form and payment (required at time of order) to: WJHS MULCH SALE: 6400 Rock Spring Drive; Bethesda, MD 20814.

E-mail mulchsale@walterjohnson.com with questions or sign-up to volunteer. We need your help. Please donate your time and pickup truck on April 10th.

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 2010.) Please send your completed membership form and check to: Hugh Barteman, Treasurer, MCA, P.O. Box 2483, Kensington, MD 20891-2483