

The Mapleleaf

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September 2009

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

Meeting:

**Wednesday, September 30th,
2009**

**7:30 p.m.
American College of Cardiology
9111 Old Georgetown
Road**

AGENDA

Call To Order

Secretary's Report (5 min.)

Treasurer's Report (5 min.)

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional
Services Center Presentation
(30 min.)

FAES Property Rezoning—
Presentation and Discussion (45
min.)

ADJOURN

Maplewood Citizens Association

Mailing address: **MCA
P.O. Box 2483
Kensington, MD**

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

Website: **www.maplewoodcitizens.org**

President: **Allen Myers
Allenm@maplewoodcitizens.org**

Vice President: **Janet Maalouf
Janetm@maplewoodcitizens.org**

Secretary: **Barbara Harrison
barbarah@maplewoodcitizens.org**

Treasurer: **Hugh Barteman
HughB@maplewoodcitizens.org**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope all of our Maplewood residents had a pleasant and relaxing summer. I don't know about you, but I always find it a jolt to my system when the pace of activity and traffic increase immediately after Labor Day.

It has not been a quiet summer for the Maplewood Citizens Association. Our ad-hoc committee, established to address the community concerns created by the Foundation For Advanced Education In The Sciences (FAES) development project, has met with local and federal officials over the summer regarding this issue and has also created a website for those who desire more information. Please read the article on page 3 which provides details of the issue being brought before the Planning Board on October 6, 2009 prior to a scheduled administrative hearing on October 26, 2009 by a Hearing Examiner for the County Council.

Our September membership meeting will be devoted, in part, to a report by the FAES committee and a discussion of this subject. We will also have as guest speaker Mr. Ken Hartman, Director of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center.

As we begin a new membership year (September 1, 2009 – August 31, 2010), you are encouraged to join the Maplewood Citizens Association now. While we happily ac-

cept membership throughout the year, for administrative reasons, we are unable to pro-rate membership dues. Thus, dues received at the beginning of the year provide you the benefits of membership for the entire period. Additionally, dues are the primary means of income for the Association and having the money at the beginning of the year enables us to better budget for our expenses. A membership form is on page 4 or you can download it from www.maplewoodcitizens.org. Join at the September meeting and save a stamp!

Finally, please consider volunteering a little of your time to help MCA. We have no paid staff and residents who volunteer play a key role in making Maplewood a great place to live. The more volunteers, the more responsive MCA can be to your interests. For example, we had to cancel our annual 2009 spring social event – something enjoyed by hundreds of Maplewood residents – because no one volunteered to serve as the coordinator for the event.

In short, please join MCA and volunteer a little of your time. It will be greatly appreciated. Contact any officer or leave a message at the MCA hotline 301-530-6080.

Allen



MAPLEWOOD-ALTA VISTA PARK RENOVATION

The Montgomery County Parks Department continues to report that Maplewood -Alta Vista Park will be renovated this fall. A committee of neighbors has submitted a "wish list" to the Parks Department. The Parks Department is working

on a design that incorporates as many of our requests as possible. We hope to have an opportunity to comment on the design in the next few weeks. Beckyumhofer@hotmail.com or 301-571-4633.

THE CLOCK IS TICKING: BRAC UPDATE



Coordination at various governmental levels continues on the Bethesda Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) with some hiccups as revealed at the September 15 2009 County BRAC Implementation Meeting (BIC) when Mr. Edgar Gonzalez, Deputy Director for Transportation Policy at the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) unveiled a "detailless" proposal for a multi-modal underground tunnel at Rockville Pike (355) and Medical Center Metro. This new proposal was used as the basis for the County's application for a \$20 million "Tiger Grant" offered by the federal Department of

Transportation under the economic stimulus program. Winners of the grants are slated to be announced in Feb 2010 but possibly as early as January. With this proposal, the County appears to have effectively discarded the work WMATA had done over the last year which resulted in 5 alternatives to address pedestrian/bus rider issues at this intersection. However, Gonzalez and Alperson (BIC coordinator) acknowledged that the figures in the WMATA study were valuable in the "Tiger Grant" application.

The Maryland State Highway Administration continues to work on the four major intersection improvements but will not reveal details of their plans indicating they "are coming to a consensus" on the improvements. Gonzalez reluctantly admitted at the Sept. BIC meeting that while intersection improvements will be prioritized by intersection, project plans will be dictated by available funds and not all the dollars will be necessarily put into one intersection. Intersection #1 on

Gonzalez's priority list is W. Cedar Ln. at Rt 355 followed by Connecticut Ave from I-495 south; #3 is Jones Bridge Rd. at Rt. 355. Funding sources are still fluid and inadequate. The BIC was assured there would be a process for public input on the final road improvement plans. A "Bike Station" concept similar to the one that is opening up at Washington D.C.'s Union Station in Oct 09 is being explored for Medical Center.

Construction continues on schedule on the National Naval Medical Center (NNMC) grounds with great progress on the state of the art National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICOE) for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury complex for which the exterior concrete precast panels are more than 50% complete.

Additional info is available at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/BRAC. The Coalition of Military Medical Center Neighbors has launched a new website of its own at www.cmmcn.org.

MAPLEWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Perhaps you have noticed the new blue and black Neighborhood Watch signs at the entrance to our neighborhood. These signify that the required minimum number of your neighbors have taken the Neighborhood Watch training given by the Montgomery County Police Department for a neighborhood to qualify for participation in the program. The program calls for one Block Captain per 10 homes and one overall Coordinator. The Captains pass on valuable information regarding protection of your home, automobile, family, and neighborhood. We

do not do patrols in Maplewood. If you have not been contacted this means that part (or all) of your street needs a Captain (this is where you step in). Anybody can be a Captain (as long as you are 18 years or older). You will participate in three 2-hour training sessions taught by the Montgomery County Police Department at a local venue. Our goal is to make all residents aware of what is going on around them and to report suspicious activities to the Montgomery County Police Non-emergency number:

301-279-8000.

If you would like to be a Captain for your street please contact Frank Leibsly at LeibslyF@saic.com or 301-493-4256 for details.



BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE RESCUE SQUAD OPEN HOUSE OCTOBER 3RD

This event will be held rain or shine on Saturday, October 3, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and will feature tours of the squad's station, demonstrations of emergency medical, rescue and firefighting equipment as well as a close-up view of a medevac helicopter.

Free firefighting hats will be given to children and there will be a moon-bounce. Since on-site parking will not be available, visitors are encouraged to use nearby County parking garages. Further information on the event is available at www.bccrs.org or by

calling (301) 652-0077. Also, the Rescue Squad's annual fund drive is underway and will continue through October. Contributions are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

Join the MCA Listserv!

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

BETHESDA GREEN

Bethesda Green was created in January 2008 under the guidance and leadership of Montgomery County Councilman George Leventhal and Seth Goldman, TeaEO of Honest Tea, to educate, share information and promote local sustainability issues. Based on a unique model designed by Livability Project CEO Dave Feldman, now Executive Director, Bethesda Green serves and relies on the support of all sectors of the community -- residents, businesses, government, schools, nonprofits and faith-based -- to promote recycling,

energy efficiency, and a community-wide environmental ethic.

Everyone is invited October 1-3 to visit Bethesda Green, 4825 Cordell Avenue, second floor above the Chevy Chase Bank for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house showcase celebrating the launch of the Learning Center and Green Business Incubator. Please register by sending an email with the subject line BG Launch to:

info@bethesdagreen.org. Additional information on Bethesda Green can be found on their website www.bethesdagreen.org.



UPDATE ON THE REZONING APPLICATION BY FAES

The MCA ad-hoc committee on the FAES development proposal has been very busy over the summer. At the May 2009 MCA general membership meeting, MCA voted unanimously to oppose the FAES application to rezone their contiguous properties at Cypress Avenue, Acacia Avenue and W. Cedar Lane which include 4 single family detached houses and two vacant parcels of land. The current zoning is R-60, single family detached homes. FAES is applying to rezone all 3 parcels to RT-8 (townhouses), to tear down the 4 houses and build 31 townhouse dormitories to be rented out bedroom by bedroom to single unrelated NIH graduate students. This would mean up to 155 individual residents in these dormitories within our neighborhood.

On June 25th several FAES Committee members met with Norman Knopf, a land use attorney, to learn about the legal procedures and options the committee and MCA have to effectively

oppose this application. On August 5th committee members met with the Planning Staff of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. This meeting was held to express the Maplewood community's opposition to the FAES application and development proposal and to learn about the Park and Planning procedures and views. The committee co-chairs, Susan Cheney and Tyler Mace, and the MCA president, Allen Myers, also met with the staff of Congressman Christopher Van Hollen. On September 2nd *The Gazette* published an article on the FAES plans and Maplewood's opposition and included comments by Mr. Mace.

The week of September 14, 2009 the Executive Director of FAES, Krishna Balakrishnan, requested membership in MCA. This request will be discussed at the September 30th MCA general membership meeting.

The committee has also established a website on the FAES proposal and

MCA's opposition: www.stopthenihdorm.org.

Future events of importance are:

- The Park and Planning staff report expected to be posted to the Park & Planning website (www.mcparkandplanning.org) on Monday, Sept. 28th;
- The Park and Planning hearing on the proposal scheduled for Thursday, October 8th at 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD;
- The County Council's Hearing Examiner's public hearing on October 26th & 29th at 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD.

We encourage you to attend these two meetings. It is important for us to have a large number of attendees to demonstrate our keen interest and opposition to the FAES proposal.

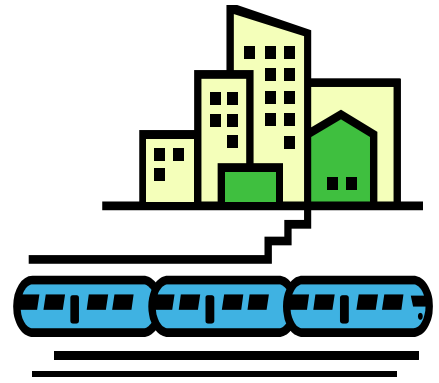
Many thanks to **Joel Gleason of Gleason and Associates** for his support of the September 2009 edition of *The Mapleleaf* and for helping MCA save money on the association's officers and directors' liability insurance.

IS THAT METRO TRAIN COMING DOWN YOUR STREET?

Some residents have expressed concern about the continued noise emanating from Metro's overpass south of the Grosvenor Metro station. Here is Metro's mid-September 2009 update on the issue:

"The track department is still planning to remove and install 1600 feet of running rail on the aerial structure starting in the next few weeks. The maintenance

managers have walked the area to collect data and format a work order for the rail installation. Once the work order is complete it will be forwarded to the production work group for scheduling. Once scheduled, they have to transport the rails. The track department estimates it will be several weeks of work to off load, install and complete the entire process." Metro plans to check back with the track department in October.



DIRECTOR OF B-CC REGIONAL SERVICES CENTER TO SPEAK AT SEPTEMBER MCA MEETING

Mr. Ken Hartman, Director of Montgomery County government's Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center will be the guest speaker at the September meeting. Mr. Hartman will explain the failure of the County Department of Transportation to provide this year's (September 2009-August 2010) permanent residential permits

for County neighborhoods with parking restrictions including Maplewood. He will address what is being done to rectify the situation. He will also discuss the many County government services available at the office and answer questions about other aspects of the County government. Learn how you can save trips

to Rockville and the ever increasing cost of postage by using the B-CC Services Center or the County's on-line services. B-CC Services Center is located at 4805 Edgemoor Ln, Bethesda (near Bethesda Metro) and can be reached at 240-777-8200.

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