

Maple Leaf Community

MAPLE LEAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL, PO BOX 75595, SEATTLE WA 98125-0595

January/February/March 2006

www.ci.seattle.wa.us/COMMNTY/mapleleaf

A Community Council Publication

Next Meeting

**Wednesday,
January
25
7:00 PM at
Olympic View
Elementary**

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS - LEARN FROM THE EXPERTS

- ▶ City of Seattle
Emergency
Management
- ▶ King County
Office of
Emergency
Management
- ▶ American Red
Cross
- ▶ Pandemic Flu
- ▶ Local Resources

FREE ON-SITE CHILD CARE

Free on-site, professional child care is offered at our General Meetings. This complementary service is offered by the Maple Leaf Community Council to encourage families with children to attend.

The Maple Leaf Community Council's Goals for 2006

How can we work together to improve Maple Leaf's spirit of community in 2006? The qualities that are important to individual families and friends are similar to the qualities that characterize a strong neighborhood—things like a good home, good neighbors, a community of caring people, a thriving local economy and a clean environment. Everything that is good for us and our families is also good for our neighborhood. And vice versa—what is good for our neighborhood is also good for us and our families.

The Maple Leaf Community Council's goals for 2006 are to improve the spirit of community in Maple Leaf through projects that will bring people together and make the neighborhood safer and stronger. During the first quarter, we will provide the opportunity for Maple Leaf residents to learn how to prepare for an emergency. We hope to build on the Block Watch system and incorporate emergency preparedness on the block level and eventually have an emergency plan that covers the entire community. We should know who might need extra help in the event of an emergency in our neighborhood. We will improve neighborhood recognition by installing additional "Maple Leaf Neighborhood" signs. We will continue to encourage support for our local businesses through the business profiles in the newsletter and through our web site links. We will be constructing Maple Leaf Community Garden in 2006. About a third of the garden site will have p-patch plots where gardeners will grow gardens using organic gardening techniques. P-patches traditionally donate a share of their produce to food banks. The garden will also include extensive native plantings that are naturally drought resistant and provide habitat and food for birds and other small creatures. The garden design incorporates places for informal gathering and chatting—a community bench, a labyrinth, a straw bale tool shed. In addition, we hope to improve water quality by

retaining street storm water runoff in a street edge drainage improvement. Maple Leaf will host the 11th Annual Summer Social the last Wednesday of July. This popular family event provides an opportunity for socializing and enjoying as well as learning about things that will affect our neighborhood. As always in October, we will bring candidates and issues to the community so that we help have Maple Leaf residents be informed voters.

Let us know your ideas. Contribute some of your time and energy to helping Maple Leaf continue to be a great place to live and work. Get involved in 2006.

Emergency Preparedness Focus for Jan 25 General Meeting

The hurricane tragedies have reminded us again of the importance of emergency preparedness. The January 25, 2006 General Meeting will be a workshop dedicated to assisting Maple Leaf residents develop an emergency plan for personal, home and neighborhood readiness. If you don't do anything else in 2006, do this one thing to prepare yourself, your family and our neighborhood for the unexpected.

Several experts will be at the meeting to help us learn what we need to do to prepare for an emergency: Barb Graff, the Director of the City's Department of Emergency Management and/or the department's new Public Education Coordinator; King County Councilmember Bob Ferguson; a speaker and emergency kits from the American Red Cross and a Public Health expert to speak about the pandemic flu.

We encourage active block watch groups to participate in the general meeting and to build a block emergency plan. If your block does not yet have a block watch, this is a perfect chance to organize. It's easy—come to the meeting and find out what you need to do. Get a head start by downloading the Red Cross Disaster Preparedness Calendar at <http://www.seattlredcross.org/brochure/PrepCal.pdf>. Using the calendar, you can assemble an emergency supplies kit in small steps over six months, checking off items you gather each week.

BUSINESS PROFILE

Café Javastit

8410 5th Avenue NE
 Seattle WA 98115
 206 985 9903

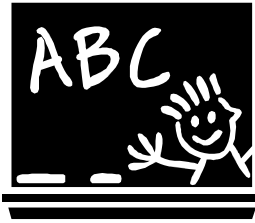
Hours: Monday–Friday 6:00am–6:00pm; Weekends 7:00am–5:00pm

Drink coffee and feel virtuous – it’s easy to do at Café Javasti. Café Javasti uses only Batdorf & Bronson Fair Trade Certified coffee. The Tacoma-based Batdorf & Bronson Coffee Roasters uses only shade grown, organic coffee purchased from farmers who participate in cooperatives where workers have suitable working conditions, democratic decision-making processes, and high quality agricultural stewardship practices. Farmer cooperatives receive a fair price for their coffee. Batdorf & Bronson carries their commitment to the environment to their roasting facilities where they use only electricity from renewable resources and have received awards from the EPA and State of Washington for their sustainable business practices.

Using Fair Trade coffee is just one example of how Café Javasti works to be a good neighbor. And the neighborhood appreciates it. More than 250 customers stop by the shop each day to enjoy Batdorf & Bronson coffee and homemade sweet or savory crepes, pastries, and soups. The crepes are to die for and a fun change for breakfast or lunch. Pastry recipes are from family recipe boxes and are all made in house.

The Café is approaching its fifth anniversary in Maple Leaf. Owners Scott Morell and Ryan Sheridan, who started out selling coffee at espresso stands at the downtown Nordstrom store, are very happy with their decision to start the Café in the neighborhood. Ryan actually grew up in Maple Leaf so is very familiar with the great community feel. The team recently opened another Café Javasti in Wedgewood (8617 35th NE). Members of the Maple Leaf neighborhood see the Café as a special meeting place – a place to come together in difficult times. Recently Scott and Ryan hosted two spaghetti dinner fundraisers for their customers and raised \$8,000 for Tsunami and \$10,000 Hurricane Katrina victims.

Check out Café Javasti for a great cup of coffee and great community.



Seattle Public School Calendar

January 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
Jan 30	Day between semesters—no school
February 20-24	Mid-winter Vacation
March 17	Professional Development Day
April 10-14	Spring Vacation

Olympic View School

Open House, February 2

Kindergarten Information Night & an opportunity to meet the teachers on Thursday, February 9th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

School Tours

School Tours will take place on January 17, 27 & 30 and in February 14, 17 & 27. 9:30 to 11 a.m. Please call 206-252-5500 to schedule your tour.

“Alice in Wonderland”

Come enjoy the production of “Alice in Wonderland” March 10 & 11 at the new Nathan Hale Performing Arts Center performed by Olympic View Students. Questions? call Edna Christian @ 368-8962

Plant Sale, April 28 & 29

Olympic View is having their annual plant sale on April 28 and 29.

Sacajawea Elementary School

Kindergarten Open House, February 9

Kindergarten Information Night & an opportunity to meet the teachers on Thursday, February 9th from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. Then join us for our annual Science and Math Fair from 7 to 8:30 p.m. All are welcome!

School Tours

School Tours will take place on Tuesdays in January and Thursdays in February 3, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Please sign in at the Main Office upon your arrival.

Night of the Golden Dragon Auction, March 11

The fabulous Sacajawea Auction will be held on Saturday, March 11 at the Shoreline Convention Center. For information about the wonderful items that will be auctioned off that night or for information about making a donation to the auction, please check out www.sacauction.org or phone the school office at 252-5550.

Neighbor Appreciation Day — Saturday, February 11

In 1995, Phinney Ridge activist Judith Wood suggested that the City designate “a special day to celebrate the goodness in those around us and to reach out and strengthen our bonds to each other.” Mayor Norm Rice responded by proclaiming the Saturday before Valentine’s Day as Neighbor Appreciation Day. The observance has grown every year since! People and organizations throughout Seattle have organized block parties, open houses, award ceremonies, potluck dinners, and work parties to recognize and encourage caring neighbors.

Mayor Greg Nickels has declared that the next Neighbor Appreciation Day will be held on Saturday, February 11, 2006. This is a great opportunity to acknowledge the good work of your immediate neighbors and others in your community who help make your neighborhood a special place to live.

Do you have a neighbor you wish to thank or recognize? Someone who helps without being asked, looks out for others or contributes to the welfare of Maple Leaf? The MLCC Executive Board encourages you to take a moment to thank those who help make Maple Leaf a great neighborhood. Cards depicting neighbors helping neighbors will be available at all Neighborhood Service Centers and Seattle Public Libraries. We also hope to have cards available at our January 25th General Meeting.

For more information about neighborhoods, visit the Department of Neighborhood’s website at <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods>.

NORTHGATE LIBRARY, COMMUNITY CENTER & PARK

Construction of the new Northgate Branch of The Seattle Public Library, community center and park continues to make good progress at Fifth Avenue Northeast and Northeast 105th Street. The structures have taken shape, brickwork is being installed and roof work has started. Inside, crews are installing steel stud framing and roughing in the mechanical and electrical systems. The park was hydro-seeded in the fall so the seed could sprout before winter and the area is now covered with a fine layer of fresh green grass.

The 10,000-square-foot branch library will include a new collection capacity of 40,200 books and materials, reading and homework areas for children and youth, computers, instruction areas, and a meeting room. The 20,000-square-foot community center, operated by Seattle Parks and Recreation, will offer activities such as teen camps, basketball leagues, classes, after-school programs, community meetings, and programs for seniors. The 1.67-acre park will play an important part in addressing the open space needs of the densely developed neighborhood. The facilities and park are expected to open in mid-2006.

This February, the Seattle Department of Transportation will start transforming Fifth Avenue Northeast into a safe, pedestrian-friendly street that accommodates all types of transportation. Improvements include landscaping medians, widening sidewalks, planting trees and creating a pedestrian promenade with an improved crosswalk connecting the new community center and library to the Northgate Mall.

MAPLE LEAF COMMUNITY GARDEN

Thank you City Council: In recent months, the cost estimate for garden construction had to be raised to reflect current conditions such as higher fuel, concrete, and steel prices. As a result, we did not have enough money in our construction budget. We appealed to longtime garden supporter **Seattle City Councilmember Richard Conlin** for help. Richard sponsored an addition of \$35,000 for the garden project in the City's budget and his proposal received the unanimous support of the other councilmembers. Maple Leaf thanks **Richard** and his legislative assistant, **Elaine Ko**, for their invaluable assistance.

Construction Update: As 2005 drew to a close, the Design Development of the garden plan reached the 95% construction document stage. In January, our landscape architect, John Barker, will meet with Seattle Parks & Recreation reviewers as required for final City review and 100% approval. Bidding to hire a contractor for site preparation work will take place in mid to late January. If all goes well, construction could begin in February and will continue through 2006.

Help Name "Maple Leaf Community Garden": Since October 2001, we have referred to the community garden project as "Maple Leaf Community Garden." When the property was acquired in 2003, Seattle Parks and Recreation (Parks) took ownership on behalf of the City. All new parks are officially named in a public naming process administered by Parks. Parks has begun the naming process for our site and has invited the public to submit potential names for the garden site. Names submitted are considered by a Park Naming Committee that is made of one representative designated by the Board of Park Commissioners, one by the Chair of the City Council Parks, Education & Libraries Committee, and one by the Parks Superintendent. Criteria the Committee considers in naming parks include: geographic location, historical or cultural significance, and natural or geological features. A park may be named for a person no longer living (deceased a minimum of three years) who made a significant contribution to parks and/or recreation. The Naming Committee will consider all suggestions and make a recommendation to Parks Superintendent, Ken Bounds, who makes the final decision. The deadline for submitting suggestions for parks names for the garden site is February 17, 2006. You can submit suggestions in writing with an explanation of how your suggestion matches the naming criteria. Send to Seattle Parks and Recreation, Park Naming Committee, 100 Dexter Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109, or by e-mail to paula.hoff@seattle.gov. The Maple Leaf Community Council recommends naming the site "Maple Leaf Community Garden."

Volunteer Opportunities: Once we have a contractor on board, we will work with John Barker, our Seattle Parks & Recreation construction manager and the contractor to establish a schedule for volunteer work parties. Volunteers will help with several tasks; such as grading, building a dry stream bed, spreading rock and wood chips on pathways, installing pavers, helping build the straw bale tool shed and benches and planting. We will also need volunteers to help with paperwork and organization of work parties, to take pictures, serve refreshments, run errands, etc. There will be jobs for people with varied of physical abilities and experience. If you have already volunteered to help build the garden, you will be notified of the work party schedule. We still need volunteers, so if you'd like to volunteer, see the contact information listed below.

Volunteers can also help salvage native plants for the garden through the King County Native Plant Salvage Program. King County sponsors a Naturescaping Workshop where people can learn how to create a wildlife-friendly landscape. After completing the workshop, volunteers can participate in native plant salvage at a site made available to King County. The Naturescaping/Salvage events will likely be in late March/early April. If you are interested in participating, call Greg Rabourn at 206-296-1923 or greg.rabourn@metrorkc.gov in February to reserve a spot. The workshop fills up fast. Keep track of your time as it can be used for our community match for our Large Project Matching Fund award. We need to match each City dollar with a dollar in the cash raised by the neighborhood or in the form of volunteer time at work parties to help build the garden or salvage native plants. Volunteer time is valued at \$15/hour for matching fund purposes.

Funding: We are hopeful that construction prices will go back down in 2006 but we will not know how much construction will actually cost until we get contractor bids in January or February. We are not taking anything for granted and continue to actively seek additional funding. Make checks payable to the Maple Leaf Community Garden Project and mail to: Maple Leaf Community Council, P.O. Box 75595, Seattle, WA 98175-0595. Remember, your donation is tax deductible. You can also support the garden project by purchasing one of our custom printed Maple Leaf Community Garden T-shirts at the General Meetings for only \$12.

You can volunteer, see the garden plan, volunteer work party schedule, park naming schedule, and find more information about the garden project on the Maple Leaf web site: www.ci.seattle.wa.us/COMMNTY/mapleleaf or by contacting Barbara Maxwell at 524-1502 or via e-mail at: tymax@juno.com.



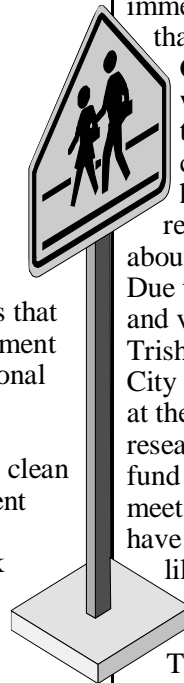
**If you can volunteer to
deliver newsletters,
please call Sydnie at
206-524-2512.**



LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

8901 Roosevelt Way NE: Since October, Sam Viskovich, the property owner, has made progress in clearing debris from the site, has installed some new landscaping and has changed some of the fencing enclosing the site. However, as of the newsletter deadline, he had apparently not met the other terms of his most recent agreement with the City. It also appears that staff changes at the Department of Planning & Development and in the City Attorney's office have resulted in additional delay in resolving the City's civil action against Mr. Viskovich. We have been given to understand that the contractor selected to do the demolition work needed to clean up the site is still in line to complete the work in the event that the administrative issues are not resolved. If the contractor proceeds with the abatement action, the work will be extensive; i.e. the site will be totally cleared down to the dirt.

Transportation: In December, the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), Seattle Public Utilities and a design consultant met to discuss a design for pedestrian safety improvements to the at-grade asphalt walkway on the west side of 15th Avenue NE north of NE 92nd Street. Drainage improvements are an important consideration and a large expense involved in street improvements so the departments must work together to develop a plan. In adopting the City's budget, the City Council reinstated and added funding to the Neighborhood Street Fund and we are hopeful that some of these funds can be applied to this important project. Sacajawea Elementary School students, bus riders and other pedestrians walk along 15th in this area and it is important to try to improve safety for them, especially where the walkway is



immediately adjacent to the traffic lanes. We are hopeful that construction will take place until 2006.

Congratulations Trisha Endzell! The committee works hard to identify opportunities for funding transportation improvements in Maple Leaf, but we cannot do it all. We need more local block leaders to help. One fabulous block leader is Trisha Endzell, a resident of 2nd Avenue NE. Trisha was very concerned about safety at the intersection of NE 91st Street & 2nd NE. Due to topography, the intersection has some blind spots and vehicles tend to travel too fast for a residential street. Trisha took action-she contacted the committee and the City and found out what was needed to get a traffic circle at the intersection, circulated a required petition, researched how to apply for a neighborhood matching fund and organized her neighbors to contribute towards meeting the match requirements. We are very fortunate to have a volunteer like Trisha in Maple Leaf. If you would like to help with the project or learn more from Trisha, you can reach her at 525-0877.

Traffic Circle Damage

Traffic circles are planted and carefully maintained by dedicated volunteers. It is very discouraging when traffic circle plantings are damaged by carelessness. Circles are designed so that a long-wheel base vehicle can safely drive around them, not through them. If you observe a vehicle causing traffic circle damage, please try to get a description of the vehicle and a license plate number and call Barbara Maxwell at 524-1502 with the information.

Committee Meetings: Until further notice, the Committee will not meet on a regular basis. Land Use and Transportation issues can be raised at the regularly scheduled general meetings. Please direct land use and transportation questions to Barbara Maxwell at 524-1502 or via e-mail at tbmax@juno.com.

NORTHGATE COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT PLAN (CTIP):

Department of Transportation and traffic consultants, Mirai Associates has developed an initial list of proposed transportation improvements for streets within the Northgate Plan's boundaries. The CTIP includes an evaluation of streets in Maple Leaf and the plan includes some recommended transportation improvements and cost estimates for projects in Maple Leaf. The preliminary list of improvements can be viewed on the SDOT web site at <http://www.cityofseattle.net/transportation/nctip.htm>. It will be presented at the Northgate Stakeholder group meetings, at a Community Forum on Tuesday, January 31 at North Seattle Community College cafeteria, 7 to 9 PM. For more information about CTIP, contact Tony Mazzella, at 684-0811 or via e-mail at Tony.Mazzella@seattle.gov.

There are many more plans and proposals for the Northgate area.

For updated information about Northgate go to the public website at <http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/planning/northgate> or contact:
Mark Troxel, DPD
(206) 615-1739
mark.troxel@seattle.gov



MAPLE LEAF VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Executive Board: The Maple Leaf Community Council continues to need energetic, dedicated people to be actively involved in the community by serving a two-year term on the Executive Board. The Executive Board meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at Olympic View Community Church. You can come to any Executive Board meeting and get a feel for how you can help shape the future of Maple Leaf and keep it the greatest place to live. Contact Janice Camp at 527-0926.

Thornton Creek Watershed Oversight Council

by Janet Wartinger, 523-9774

You may request the educational map "*Guide to the Thornton Creek Watershed*" from Seattle Public Utilities Creek Steward Program by calling 684-4163 or get more information online at www.seattle.gov/util/About_SPU/Drainage_Sewer_System/Projects/Creek_Restoration/.