

Maple Leaf Community

MAPLE LEAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL, PO BOX 75595, SEATTLE WA 98175-0595

October/November/December 2008

www.MapleLeafCommunity.org

A Community Council Publication

Next Meeting

**Wednesday
October 29
7:00 PM at
Olympic View
Elementary**

The MLCC is proud to announce our annual Candidates and Issues Forum at our October 29th General Meeting. No activity in a democracy is more important than being an informed voter. We have an excellent line-up this year of candidates and speakers, including: incumbent Phyllis G. Kenney, Gerry Pollet, John Sweeney, and Scott White for State Legislature (46th District); Jim McIntire, Steve Beren, and Jim McDermott for Congress (District 7); and representatives of Chris Gregoire and Dino Rossi for the governor's race. Come take advantage of this opportunity to meet the candidates and hear their positions and ideas. Additionally, we will have speakers for and against I-1000 (Assisted Suicide), King County Prop. 1 (Sound Transit), Seattle Prop. 1 (Pike Market Levy), and Seattle Prop. 2 (Parks and Green Spaces). This is a great opportunity to learn about the ballot measures you will be voting on this November. Come to the meeting and ask questions about the issues of importance to you.

WALDO HOSPITAL: IT'S NOT OVER!

by David Miller

As you may know, we lost our appeal to the Seattle Hearing Examiner concerning the proposed development at the Waldo Hospital (former Camp Fire) site. She agreed with many of our arguments, but we lost anyway due to quirks or misinterpretations of law. Our website has more information: <http://www.MapleLeafCommunity.org/savewaldo.html>

We immediately asked Mayor Greg Nickels to withdraw DPD's decision to correct errors confirmed by the Hearing Examiner. He declined, saying he thought the developer was doing a good job and that our only recourse if we disagreed was to sue the City. We decided to take Mayor Nickels up on his offer and filed an appeal of the decision in King County Superior Court. Generous donations from community members like you made this possible.

The unnecessary loss of trees has been a driving force behind our efforts to date. A significant part of our decision to move forward with the suit, however, was the complete disregard for our neighborhood's health represented by the skimpy plan to control dust from the demolition of the hospital.

There is more on this in the next article, but there is lead five times safe levels in the building and surrounding soil. At the hearing, our toxicology experts presented unrefuted data showing how lead dust from demolition spreads hundreds of feet outside the demolition area—far enough to reach the reservoir, adjacent homes, bus stops, and the ballfields at the park.

What has our neighborhood so upset is the admission, under oath, that the City sees this project as an opportunity to figure out how to control lead dust fall. In other words, the City is experimenting on us. Given the lifelong harm lead can have on our children, this is unacceptable.

City Official (under oath): "So lead is the big problem. How do you keep it from getting airborne? And I don't think we're doing a very good job of that generally. And it is becoming apparent that we need to and so this is an

interesting case and an interesting opportunity to see what can reasonably be done."

Maple Leaf would be proud to help create a new demolition policy ensuring the safety of kids and adults, but ONLY under the auspices of a full Environmental Impact Statement. An EIS mandates careful scientific study of the risks and benefits to different approaches.

You may be surprised to learn there are no state, federal, county, or city regulations governing community exposure to lead dust from demolition. There are recommended maximum exposure levels. There are regulations to protect workers on site. But there are no regulations to protect our community from this significant health hazard.

Because we so strenuously object to our neighborhood being a test subject in a poorly-controlled experiment, we've taken our case to court where we hope an impartial judge will see the glaring errors in the City's decisions on this project.

PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN FROM DEMOLITION DUST

by Janice Camp

Maple Leaf Community Council is very concerned about the potential health hazards, particularly to neighborhood children, associated with the demolition of the old Waldo hospital. According to the developer's own measurements, lead levels in excess of five times safe limits have been found in the soil surrounding the building. And there is lead several times above safe limits in the building itself. If and when the building is torn down, this dust will be disbursed into the surrounding homes, yards, park, sidewalks, alleys, and streets.

Research has shown that demolition activities increase levels of lead dust at least as far as 300 feet from a demolition site. Research has also shown that there is an association between elevated blood lead levels in children and nearby demolition activities. It would be much safer for our children and the neighborhood to leave the building standing and manage the lead and asbestos in the building by safer

BUSINESS PROFILES

by Dale Marston

Math 'N Stuff

8926 Roosevelt Way NE

206-522-8891

<http://www.math-n-stuff.com>

Hours: Tues-Sat: 10 a.m.—6 p.m.

Math 'n Stuff is not new to Maple Leaf, but their permanent location status is new. Owners Gini and Tom Wingard-Phillips moved their business from the Roosevelt district to Maple Leaf in 1996.

They feel that Maple Leaf is a marvelous place to do business and are thrilled that they finally have a permanent home. When the previous property owner abandoned plans to redevelop their site as a four-story, mixed-use development; Tom and Gini recently bought the building.

Gini got her love of math from her father who was a math teacher in the Tacoma School District. He believed that kids, especially girls, should be taught strong math skills.

Math 'n Stuff grew out of Gini's presentations to home schoolers to help overcome math phobias.

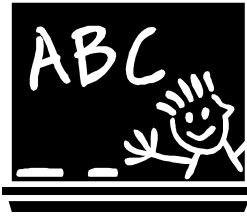
She began to buy items to illustrate that math was fun. When her audiences wanted to buy her examples, a business concept was born. Gradually it outgrew their living room, where their children had all been home-schooled for several years before entering public high school.

Today Math 'n Stuff serves not just the Seattle School District, but math teachers and schools across the country, and a strong Amazon.com market presence as well. They've broadened their client base from parents who like to provide brainy activities for their kids...to kids of all generations who like their stuff!

From hi-tech math puzzles and books to no-tech fun stuff (remember dice, marbles, jacks, and pick-up-sticks?), Math 'n Stuff is more than just math. Step inside their well-organized and jam-packed store to discover shelves full of activities for all ages: from nature and science oriented to architectural building blocks, from beautiful origami papers to MC Escher artwork, travel games to relieve the "are we there yet" monotony, and much more. Who would expect to find a wall of beautiful skeins of yarn in a math store? But Gini loves hand-died, natural fiber yarns and believes there is even a math connection involved in knitting!

After Tom retired from his federal job, he joined Gini to work full-time in the store. They have discovered that there is more art than science involved in helping customers decipher what is really needed to enhance their child's learning style.

To welcome Math 'n Stuff permanently to the neighborhood, Tom & Gini are offering a 25% discount on one regularly-priced, non-curriculum item if you bring in this newsletter article through December 24, 2008. Drop by to explore the store; you're sure to find something for someone on your Christmas list!



Seattle Public School Calendar

November 11

Veteran's Day Holiday

November 27-28

Thanksgiving Holiday

Dec 22—Jan 2

Winter Break

January 19

MLK Jr. Day Holiday

January 26

Day between semesters

Olympic View School

Canned Food & Toy Drive -Starts November 10

Drop by the school with your canned food or new toy donation.

New Playground

Our new playground is underway thanks to the volunteers and money raised in Maple Leaf to help make this happen. Come by and see our changes!

Sacajawea Elementary School

Annual Book Fair—October 13-17

Our annual Book Fair (which raises money for our PTA, which goes to fund Library expenses) is held in our WONDERFUL library October 13—17. Open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Volunteering

There are many opportunities to volunteer. Please contact Ki Pemberton, the school Volunteer Coordinator, at 206-252-5572.

SENIORS SHOULD PLAN AHEAD TO HAVE NEEDS MET IN EMERGENCIES

by Pam McGaffin, on behalf of the Healthy Aging Partnership

The Healthy Aging Partnership—a coalition of more than 35 Puget Sound-area agencies and organizations—urges seniors and caregivers to make emergency preparedness a top priority. Try this simple, three-step approach advocated by the U.S. Administration on Aging:

1. **Know the basics:** Learn your community's risks, emergency phone numbers, and where to get emergency information (King County: KIRO 710 AM or channel 7 TV7). Get to know your neighbors, and make a plan for connecting with loved ones (including two designated meeting places and an out-of-the-area contact if local phone service is down). Remove loose rugs, cords, or other items that can cause falls, secure objects that could fall in an earthquake, make an unobstructed path to an exit in the event of a fire. Be alert and cautious if cooking, smoking, or using a space heater. Finally, know how to use your gas, electricity, and water shut-offs.

2. **Have emergency supplies ready:** Gather or buy two sets of supplies, which should each last three to six days. Home: include water, non-perishable food, medication, battery-powered lighting, portable radio, and cell phone. Evacuation bag: include basic personal hygiene items, water-proof clothing, extra eyeglasses, blanket, bottled water, food bars, hard candy, and emergency contact and medications lists.

3. **Make a personal plan:** If you have special needs, plan to meet them in case of emergency. Limited mobility? Register with your local fire department or emergency services office for special help. Use the buddy system so a relative or friend can check in on you knowing how to operate any necessary equipment. See: www.SeattleRedCross.org, www.AgingInStride.org, or www.4Elders.org

MAPLE LEAF COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Maple Leaf Community Garden had a wonderful and productive second growing season. Not only did our P-Patch donate over 160 pounds of produce to local food banks, we also welcomed many visitors, including workers and clients from nearby businesses and offices, residents and even geocacher's (hobbyists who use GPS to search for a hidden object). Building community is our goal and the garden is an ideal location to meet and chat with neighbors. We were fortunate again this year to have several dedicated volunteers who weeded and watered over the summer months. Thank you to all!

Thank You Scot Eckley: A special thank you to Scot Eckley for donating his time and skills in building and finishing the entry arbor to the garden. We are so fortunate to have professionals like Scot in the neighborhood who cheerfully help with projects that make Maple Leaf a better place to live. Thank you, Scot!

Fall Work Party—Chip In and Help Chip: Saturday, Nov. 15th, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come out and help spread wood chips to mulch the garden. We are determined to conquer the horsetails sooner or later!

Garden Social—Winter Solstice Luminaries Garden Walk: Sunday, December 21st, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

We will celebrate the winter solstice by lighting the garden pathways and labyrinth with luminaries. Take a short break from your hectic schedule. Come and enjoy a stroll through the garden, a walk of our labyrinth, holiday refreshments, and meet some of your neighbors.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Community volunteers are needed to help care for our garden on an ongoing basis. No special skills are necessary. **Everyone in the neighborhood is welcome.** We have jobs for people with varied physical abilities and experience. Come out and meet your neighbors. Get a little exercise and fresh air. Have fun contributing to our community. For more information, contact Barbara Maxwell at 524-1502 or via e-mail at tbmax@juno.com or Jennifer Zanella, our local P-Patch site coordinator, at 527-0895 or ilgirasole@att.net.

MAPLE LEAF THANKS MIKE THOMPSON

After over a decade of serving on the MLCC Executive Board, Mike Thompson has resigned to pursue new and exciting opportunities. Mike served as Maple Leaf's representative to the North District Council and as their representative to the Citywide Neighborhood Council. He also helped organize Maple Leaf's annual candidate/issue forum and helped with other projects, such as the neighborhood identification signs and the Summer Social. Thank you, Mike, and every best wish to you in the future.

MAPLE LEAF RESERVOIR COVERING: NEW OPEN SPACE

by Donna Hartmann-Miller & Friends for a Greater Maple Leaf Park

As reported previously, Seattle Public Utilities has scheduled the burying of our reservoir to begin next summer. The open space that will be created will be developed into park space that will be added to the already existing playground and ball fields. Construction will begin next summer and take up to 2-1/2 years to complete. After that, the park space will be developed. What will that park look like? THAT is what the *Friends for a Greater Maple Leaf Park (FGMLP)* Committee was formed to work on. This is a rare opportunity for our neighborhood to plan a park that can be a focal point of Maple Leaf.

Funding: As we have stated previously, funding is a challenge. While the reservoir burial is fully funded, development of the park has no money currently budgeted. While we have received generous donations from individuals to hire a landscape architect to create a park plan, the development of a park is VERY expensive (look on our website page for other reservoir park budgets). This summer, the Seattle City Council placed a Parks & Green Spaces Levy on the November ballot (Proposition 2). The Maple Leaf Reservoir park has been allocated to receive \$5 million, plus \$450,000 for new playground equipment. This amount of money would fund the first phase of our park.

Planning: FGMLP is working to facilitate planning, fundraising, and community participation in the design and development of the Maple Leaf Reservoir site into the adjacent Maple Leaf Playground, thereby creating a unified, new park. We will be holding several community park design workshops this fall in order to hear ideas, answer questions, and start developing a consensus for what people would like to see in our park.

For more detailed information: Visit the MapleLeafCommunity.org website, go to "Activities & Issues" to get more Maple Leaf Park details; or you can check out our display window at 8521 Roosevelt Way. If you have questions or comments, please email them to reservoirpark@MapleLeafCommunity.org or mail them to the MLCC. We look forward to hearing from you.

CRIME PREVENTION

MAPLE LEAF RESIDENTIAL

BURGLARIES: SEPT 2008*

9/02 9500blk 1st NE, 5:21 p.m.: resident discovered that her front door had been forced open, laptop and TV stolen

9/16 9100blk 17th NE, 6:22 p.m.: resident reported fresh pry marks on both front and back doors, no entry made or property taken

9/17 8800blk 5th NE, 7:54 p.m.: owner purchased house at auction "sight unseen," was assured it was in excellent condition, discovered it had been completely gutted of all major systems, including cabinets, wiring, plumbing, furnace, etc.—neighbors reported seeing "work crews" at the house but assumed foreclosure connection

9/17 1900blk NE 85th, 11:37 p.m.: "suspicious person" call at apt. building, a white female in her 20s looking into cars in secured garage, a fire box pried open and key missing, and a car broken into and items removed

note: a car prowling in a secured garage is classified as a burglary

9/22 9400blk 17th NE, 6:40 p.m.: resident discovered broken glass in basement door; someone entered, rifled the house, and stole cash

*unofficial stats

HELP WANTED

The MLCC seeks a licensed childcare provider to give more parents a chance to attend our general meetings. Contact David Miller (David.Miller@MapleLeafCommunity.org or 517-5520) if interested!

MAPLE LEAF SUMMER SOCIAL

A BIG SUCCESS

The 13th Annual Maple Leaf Summer Social, held July 30th in the Maple Leaf playground, was a huge success! We had nearly 1,000 people come to enjoy ice cream from Ice Cream Express, African music by Tumbuka, the Bubble Man, a balloon clown, food samples from local restaurants, and information from several of our great local businesses and a wide range of city and county services. Seattle Parks Department crew helped set up and break down the tents and tables. Thanks to our local business community and Seattle Parks and Recreation for their continued support of our community event.

The 13th year of the Maple Leaf Summer Social was as fun and informative as the first one. We have Barbara Maxwell and Janice Camp to thank for their energetic and generous work organizing this event. Their behind-the-scenes tireless efforts coupled with many volunteers, such as the MLCC Executive Board and Maple Leaf Evangelical Church volunteers, are what make the event happen.

We also had the generous financial support of Dawn Porter, who sponsored the clown and Cathy Boyce, who sponsored the balloons. A huge thank you to Mike Kelley and Kathy Stephenson of Maple Leaf Ace Hardware for sponsoring the ice cream. All of these generous people are repeat sponsors again this year. If you see these volunteers or visit these businesses, tell them thank you and let them know how much we appreciate them being a part of Maple Leaf!



DEMOLITION DUST -

Continued from page 1

removal practices or encapsulation.

The City's only requirement to deal with this was to ask the developer to come up with an Air Quality Monitoring plan. Currently, their draft plan includes monitoring for dust on the construction site, but not in the surrounding neighborhood. Unfortunately, according to the plan, the developer may not even know if there is a high level of dust for at least 24 hours after any sampling is done—and the dust is already disbursed away from the site.

Even more alarming, there is no requirement for the developer to share the results of the air monitoring with the neighborhood in a timely fashion.

Lead is a very hazardous heavy metal. Even tiny quantities can create lifelong learning disabilities in children. The US EPA acknowledges there is no safe level of lead exposure for children or pregnant women. Lead can also exacerbate adult illnesses and it accumulates in bones.

While the amount of dust from a Waldo demolition may seem like a small thing, the cumulative effect of lead from this source and other sources, such as the lead dust falling into the adjacent Maple Leaf reservoir and our drinking water, toxic toys not yet discovered and eliminated, or home lead paint from remodeling activities, can all add up to unfortunate health outcomes.

Since the City failed in its responsibility to protect its citizens, the MLCC encourages you to educate yourself about the health effects of exposure to lead dust and how to protect yourself and your family. Here are some things you can do:

- ▶ Limit time outside during the Waldo demolition
- ▶ Remove all shoes before entering the house
- ▶ Wipe pet's feet when they come in from outside
- ▶ Frequently vacuum with a high efficiency filter, especially rugs
- ▶ Damp mop floors frequently
- ▶ Wash hands well before eating
- ▶ Wash yard fruits and veggies well
- ▶ Wash cut flowers before bringing them inside
- ▶ Limit exposures to other sources (remodeling, water from old plumbing, toxic toys)
- ▶ Talk to your health care provider about blood lead levels for children

Write the Mayor, DPD, the news media, and City Council and tell them about your concerns.

See also: http://kidshealth.org/parent/medical/brain/lead_poisoning.html, <http://www.epa.gov/lead>

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY: HELP KEEP NORTHGATE WILD

Thornton Creek Alliance invites you to help plant native understory plants and clear out some of those pesky invasives in Thornton Creek Park Six, just across the street from the Maple Leaf Community Garden.

When: Oct. 26 (Sun.) 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: South side of Pacific Medical Center (10416 5th Ave NE)

Parking: NE 104th St. end or across the street at Northgate Mall

We'll provide: Plants, tools, gloves, snacks, & beverages

You should: Dress for the weather & wear sturdy shoes. Bring leather gloves if you have them.

Everyone is welcome! Please RSVP to Ruth Williams, 206-365-8965 or ruthalice@comcast.net, so we can be sure to have enough plants to go around.



When you turn your clocks back for daylight savings time on **November 2**, remember to change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

ABUSED DEAF WOMEN'S ADVOCACY SERVICES (ADWAS)

by Carol Brown

Hope and Justice Benefit Breakfast

Join ADWAS October 17th for a breakfast with Kerry Kennedy, human rights activist and daughter of the late Robert F. Kennedy. She has been working in human rights since 1981, leading more than forty human rights delegations to over thirty countries. All proceeds from this breakfast benefit deaf and deaf-blind women and their children served by ADWAS.

Your RSVP is needed to reserve your seat. Admission is free; attendees will be asked to donate a minimum of \$150 during the breakfast: 7:30 a.m. at The W Hotel, 1112 4th Ave, Seattle.

Open House for Maple Leaf Neighbors

On November 19th, ADWAS will host an open house for Maple Leaf neighbors. Stop by from 2 to 7 p.m. for coffee and cookies, and learn about ADWAS programs and services.

RSVP for either event with Carol Brown at carol@adwas.org or (206) 726-0093, TTY only / (206) 726-1346, voice.

If you can volunteer to deliver newsletters, please call Sydnie 206-524-2512 if able to offer assistance.

