

Maple Leaf Community

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

January/February/March 2009

www.MapleLeafCommunity.org

A Community Council Publication

Next Meeting

Wednesday
January 28
7:00 PM at
Olympic View Elementary

- ▶ Update from King County Councilmember and Maple Leaf resident Bob Ferguson
- ▶ Construction Updates: Multiple transportation projects will impact us all year long.
- ▶ Community Updates: Waldo Hospital, Community Garden.
- ▶ Presentation of proposed Maple Leaf Park designs from UW students.
- ▶ Your questions invited.

Change is in the air ...and our reservoir, our trees, and along our freeway and streets. You should have a lot of questions about the many changes coming to Maple Leaf in 2009! Come and get them answered by project authorities and learn how they will impact your year.

Bob Ferguson, our King County Council representative and a Maple Leaf resident, will be attending the January 28 MLCC meeting. He'll briefly summarize the recent County budget process and always enjoys responding to questions regarding local issues, such as Metro Transit, public health, and criminal justice. We hope you'll bring your questions and join us for this lively discussion.

FREE LICENSED CHILDCARE PROVIDED. The Maple Leaf Community Council sponsors free on-site childcare in order to encourage adult participation at our meetings. Please take advantage of this service by bringing your children with you to the General Meeting, where they will be cared for by professional childcare workers.

MLCC THANKS DAVID MILLER, TAPS MARC PHILLIPS

There has been a major transition of leadership at the MLCC. In December, David Miller announced a voluntary leave of absence from the Executive Board in order to run for City Council. David will continue to work with our neighborhood council on issues related to the Waldo Woods and other Maple Leaf concerns.

Marc Phillips was unanimously elevated by the Executive Board from vice-president to interim president for the rest of this election cycle. Marc has served on the Executive Board for a number of years, and this has been a smooth transition.

The MLCC deeply thanks David for the countless hours and tireless work he has donated in service to our community as president. It would be difficult to overstate the impact his leadership and effectiveness have made on so many issues faced by Maple Leaf.

RAISE YOUR HAND!

The MLCC lives directly off of the support and feedback from residents like you. Have we been doing our job? Do you have an opinion on construction or traffic in Maple Leaf? Neighborhood safety concerns? Want to comment on the newsletter? Help us shape our 2009 priority list: attend our meeting, visit www.MapleLeafCommunity.org, send us a letter or email, or give us a call. We want to hear from you!

WALDO HOSPITAL: TO COURT

by David Miller

The effort to have a more environmental and neighborhood-sensitive project at the Waldo Hospital site (15th NE and NE 85th) is continuing. As we noted in the last newsletter, we have appealed the Seattle Hearing Examiner's decision to King County Superior Court. We didn't want to go this route, but the Hearing Examiner ignored city law in her decision and didn't even rule on some of our key arguments.

Our attorney, Dave Mann of the law firm Gendler & Mann, will be representing us in front of the judge in February. This type of appeal doesn't involve witnesses or new evidence. It is strictly made on the record of the prior hearing. Our goal is for the judge to recognize the mistakes made by the Hearing Examiner and the Mayor's Department of Planning & Development, then either decide a full EIS is required based upon the facts or remand the decision back to DPD to do it right this time.

To get more frequent updates, you should sign up for the Waldo email list on our web site. Signing up is easy; just click the red box on the right side of any page on the site. We won't share your information with anyone.

SEE PROPOSED MAPLE LEAF PARK DESIGNS

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

About the Park

As you are probably aware by now, there will be a future addition to our park on the current reservoir, north of the current Maple Leaf playfields and playground. This is possible since the reservoir is being buried, starting in mid 2009. This burial will add 15+ acres which, when combined to the 5+ acres from the lower playfields and playground, will make the entire Park approximately 21 acres.

With the passage of the Parks and Green Spaces Levy, \$5M will be available over the next six years for our park and \$450,000 for renovations to the equipment at the Maple Leaf Playground. This will pay for the planning and the engineering schematics, as well as a few features in the park. What the plan and the park will look like will be determined over the next few months. Join our email list or visit the web page to keep up-to-date.

Potential Designs from Community Workshops

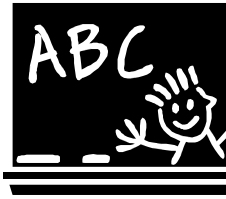
In the beginning of November Friends for a Greater Maple Leaf Park (FGMLP) hosted three Community Park Design Workshops (aka charrettes). These charrettes were facilitated by a group of UW landscape architecture students for a Community, Environment, and Planning project. Over 70 members of our community dedicated two hours of their time to give input on their vision of what our park (both the current lower park and the soon to be added upper park) could be and how it could enhance our neighborhood.

The charrettes began with an information period, a Q&A, then attendees were divided into groups. Each group discussed their priorities, then drew on their maps what they thought should be there and where features would best be located on the site. The meeting ended with presentations of the designs by each of the groups. It was an interesting process that revealed the popular features consistently on almost every map and also introduced some innovative ideas that got people talking.

Come Give Input on the Plans

The UW landscape architecture students took these designs, input, and comments from the community and developed full Site Plans for the whole park. These proposed site plans will be formally presented at the Maple Leaf Community Meeting on Wednesday, January 28. They will also be posted on the Park webpage and in the display window at 8521 Roosevelt Way. We look forward to hearing back from everyone about these designs.

For more 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 Maple Leaf Community Council. We look forward to hearing from you.



Seattle Public School Calendar

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| January 18 | Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday |
| January 26 | Day between semesters—no school |
| February 16-20 | Mid-winter Vacation |
| March 20 | Professional Development Day |
| March 30—April 3 | Spring Vacation |

Olympic View School

School Tours & Open House, February 5

Kindergarten Information Night & an opportunity to meet the teachers on Thursday, February 5th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Kindergarten tours begin January—meet the principal, tour the school and get a first hand look at our three classes in action! Please call 252-5500 to register for a tour.

Dinner & Live Auction, February 7

The Snow Flake Gala Auction will be held on Saturday, February 7 at the Northgate Community Center, 7-10 PM. For information about items for auction or for information about making a donation, call the school office at 206-252-5500.

Sacajawea Elementary School

School Tours

School Tours will take place in January and February. Please call the school office, 206-252-5550, to get more information

Volunteering

There are many opportunities to volunteer. Please contact Ki Pemberton, the school Volunteer Coordinator, at 206-252-5576.

I-5 / 5TH AVE NE TO NE 92ND ST NOISE WALL PROJECT - STAGE 2 UPDATE

WSDOT is designing one noise wall (Wall 1-North) on the east side of I-5 between NE 85th St and NE 92nd St. This noise wall will be built using a non-concrete product called Carsonite AcoustaShield because it can be disassembled and reused when Sound Transit's light rail project is constructed in the same location. Carsonite is also lightweight and has a smaller footprint, leading to less construction impacts than traditional materials.

In November, WSDOT conducted public outreach to share design information and learn about neighbors' landscaping preferences for the neighborhood side of the noise wall. The majority of neighbors preferred a landscaping concept with plants of varying color that would grow in to cover the noise wall.

Design of Wall 1-North will continue through early 2009, and construction is scheduled to begin in late fall 2009. To learn more, please:

- ▶ Visit: www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I5/5thAveNEtoNE92ndNoiseWall
- ▶ Call: 206-770-3636
- ▶ E-mail: NWNoiseWalls@wsdot.wa.gov

NORTHGATE DEVELOPMENT

The Northgate Stakeholders Group has continued to meet on the topic of the Northgate Revitalization design process. For details on the City's proposed rezoning plans for Northgate, visit www.seattle.gov/DPD/Planning/Northgate_Revitalization.

LAND USE: 80TH ST. BUSINESS EXPANSION WITHDRAWN

Permit #3008110 for the significant expansion of operations at 559 NE 80th Street was withdrawn by its applicant after strong community opposition. The proposed exemptions to existing zoning would've included more employees, expanded hours, and a full menu with less parking availability in an already congested residential area. Neighborhood coordinators called on the MLCC to help them appeal the move and are an example of residents making a difference.

COME & HELP NORTHGATE GO WILD!

Thornton Creek Park Six Work Party

We'll be removing invasive plants so our native ones can thrive and run riot.

When: Saturday; 2/28/09

Time: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Stay the whole day or a couple of hours.

Where to meet: Go to 8th Ave. NE & NE 104th St., and drive west on 104th, which is a dead end. Walk into the park at 104th. You'll see our group right there.

What to bring: Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Leather gloves are nice if you have them. Bring your lunch. We'll provide snacks, beverages, tools, and laminated gloves.

Contact: Ruth Williams, 206-365-8965 or ruthalice@comcast.net. This work party will be run by EarthCorps, but Ruth will be on hand 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

I-5 RESURFACING

WSDOT recently awarded a construction project to make improvements on I-5 in the Seattle area. The contractor will be grinding the concrete surface of the pavement, which will result in a smoother ride and quieter pavement. Most of the concrete in the northbound and southbound direction between the Ship Canal Bridge and 130th St will be ground. This grinding will take place at night and on a few weekends. In areas where the concrete pavement is severely cracked, those sections will be removed and replaced with new concrete. These locations are scattered throughout the project area, which ranges from the Boeing Access Road crossing to the 145th St. crossing. Work will be done on weekends. WSDOT anticipates that the contractor will begin pavement grinding in the February/March 2009 timeframe and complete the grinding the fall of 2009. Work on the cracked concrete will occur later in the spring and should be completed by late summer. WSDOT provides a project web page address if you would like more information; <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i5/seattlepavementrepair>.

15TH AVE NE BRIDGE REPAIR

The City of Seattle Department of Transportation's (SDOT) design of the 15th Ave NE Bridge Repair is currently moving forward as scheduled with anticipation that the design will be completed by the middle of 2009. Since presenting to the Executive board of the Maple Leaf Community Council in October, SDOT has had initial discussions with Metro to provide them with project information as well as impacts to consider with respect to a complete bridge closure for the entire duration of the project versus bridge and partial lane closures.

Both options were discussed with Metro, in light of potential impacts to routes currently utilizing 15th Ave NE, as well as the logistics involved with dispersing schedule changes for the routes. The final consensus reached was that full bridge closure would be the most logical option, posing the least amount of risk for the contractor; reducing the impacts to the public, based on the shorter construction duration; and eliminating the need for multiple bus schedule changes.

King County Metro is currently working on determining where the buses will be detoured and what other incidental work will be required to accommodate the bus detours, as well as evaluating the most appropriate time to announce the schedule change for the 3 routes that will be impacted. Concurrently SDOT is moving forward to finalize the repair plans and working with other SDOT divisions to address minor roadway improvements along the detour as requested by Metro in order to accommodate the detoured bus routes. Additional information regarding the location of the proposed detour routes will be forthcoming and from Metro, while SDOT will still be the primary contact for the construction work related to the bridge.

For more information:

LeAnne Nelson, MPA, SDOT Project Communications Manager

EMAIL: LeAnne.Nelson@seattle.gov

PH: (206) 684-3897



MAPLE LEAF COMMUNITY GARDEN —

529 NE 103RD ST

The Maple Leaf Community Garden gardeners are looking forward to our third growing season in 2009. Building community is our goal, and the garden is an ideal location to meet and chat with neighbors. We have been very fortunate to have a wonderful core group of dedicated volunteers and P-Patch gardeners who have helped keep our garden healthy and beautiful for all to enjoy.

Spring Work Party:
Saturday, March 21, 2009. Two sessions: 10 a.m. to noon & noon to 2 p.m.

Everyone in the neighborhood is invited to come out and celebrate the arrival of Spring 2009! Help trim back perennials and prepare the garden for the upcoming growing season. Come when you can and stay as long as you can. Refreshments will be provided.

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. There will be opportunities for new gardeners to garden one of our P-Patch plots, as plots become available. For more information, contact Barbara Maxwell at 524-1502 or via email at tbmax@juno.com or Jennifer Zanella, our local P-Patch site coordinator, at 527-0895 or ilgirasole@att.net.

The MLCC congratulates Barbara Maxwell on her nomination for a Denny Award for work on the Maple Leaf Community Garden! The Parks Department honored Barbara at an event with gift certificates and a profile on her contributions.

SOUND TRANSIT

Voters approve mass transit expansion plan

On November 4, 2008 voters in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties approved the Sound Transit 2 regional transit plan. Among the many projects in this plan is the expansion of the Link light rail system with 36 miles of new light rail and at least 19 more stations.

In the north corridor, the plan includes a 12.5-mile light rail extension north from the University of Washington Station to Brooklyn Avenue, Roosevelt, Northgate, Jackson Park, Shoreline, Mountlake Terrace and Lynnwood. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and preliminary engineering (PE) for light rail between UW Station and Northgate is already complete. Service to Northgate is scheduled to begin by 2020 and to Lynnwood by 2023. For more information on light rail between the University of Washington and Northgate, visit <http://www.soundtransit.org/x1694.xml>.

The approved ST2 plan also includes a new streetcar line connecting First Hill with the Capitol Hill Station to the north and the International District/Chinatown Station to the south. This streetcar line is expected to be complete by 2016. For more information on the First Hill streetcar, go to www.soundtransit.org/x6847.

FTA announces intent to award \$813 million grant agreement for U-Link

On November 14, 2008 the Federal Transit Administration notified Congress that it plans to enter into a grant agreement with Sound Transit to provide \$813 million to build the University Link light rail extension project. The notification outlines plans to approve the full funding grant agreement following a 60-day congressional review period. Sound Transit is in the final stages of preparation to launch construction of light rail between downtown Seattle and the University of Washington.

"This news couldn't come at a better time for the Puget Sound," said Senator Patty Murray, Chairman of the Senate Transportation Appropriations Committee. "That's because extending light rail north to the University District will create critical new construction jobs, reduce congestion and provide an environmentally-friendly way of accessing one of the region's largest employment areas. With so much economic uncertainty, one thing that remains clear is that investing in transportation projects like light rail will help get our economy and residents moving again."

FTA Administrator Jim Simpson signed the letter transmitting the full funding grant agreement (FFGA) document. Following the 60-day review, the FTA will then be in a position to execute the FFGA.

MAPLE LEAF RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

REPORT: OCT/NOV 2008*

The following is crime information from our Seattle Police Department contact, Diane Horswill:

- ▶ 10/02 9600blk 15th NE, reported at 1:23 p.m., the resident was gone for a few hours--when she got home she saw that window screens had been removed from two windows and a back door pried open, two computers, jewelry, and several other items were taken.
- ▶ 10/07 10000blk 5th NE, reported at 4:47 p.m., the resident was gone all day--when she got home she noticed a window was open and her DVD/VCR player and a CD player had been stolen.
- ▶ 10/08 500blk NE 103rd reported at 2:56 p.m., the residents were gone for most of the day and when they returned they discovered a bedroom window had been shattered and a plasma TV and an Xbox were taken, the daughter in this household believes it was done by a suspect known to her.

- ▶ 10/13 10000blk 5th Ave NE, reported at 7:24 p.m., a neighbor called 911 to report seeing a possible burglary in progress at their apt. bldg.--officers responded and he was arrested.
- ▶ 10/15 800blk NE 97th, reported at 4:00 p.m., the resident came home to find that his rear patio door had been forced open and a camera and some jewelry were stolen.
- ▶ 10/16 1000blk NE 106th, reported at 1:34 p.m., the resident left his home in the morning and got a call from his daughter around noon saying the house had been broken into.
- ▶ 10/17 800blk NE 104th reported at 11:30 a.m., the resident says he was away from the house for a few hours in the afternoon--when he returned he discovered 2 laptops and cash missing, and there was no sign of forced entry.
- ▶ 10/21 800blk NE 105th reported at 11:00 a.m., the resident received a call from his alarm company that the alarm had been triggered--he came home and saw that the front door had been kicked in and called 911, it appeared that the suspect was trying to steal a flat screen TV but was scared off by the alarm.
- ▶ 10/21 9400blk 20th NE, reported at 4:10 p.m., the resident was gone all day and when he returned he discovered his front door kicked in and several items had been stolen.
- ▶ 10/27 8200blk 19th NE, reported at 5:40 p.m., the resident was gone all day and when she returned she found her back door had been forced open and a flat screen TV, camera, jewelry, and a laptop were stolen.
- ▶ 11/18 2100blk NE 85th reported at 9:58 p.m., the victim's apt door was kicked in and his property was in disarray--he suspects an ex-roommate as they had prior conflicts.
- ▶ 11/28 2100blk NE 88th St. reported at 7:13 p.m., the residents were gone for the afternoon--when they returned to their apt. they discovered that the front door had been kicked in, and electronics and jewelry were taken.

*unofficial stats available at press time

Diane, our Crime Prevention Coordinator, wants Maple Leaf to know about SPD's new online crime statistic reporting, including comparisons between the precincts of Seattle up to the middle of 2008 (Maple Leaf is in the North Precinct):

- ▶ 2008 midyear stats: <http://www.seattle.gov/police/crime/STATS.htm>
- ▶ Comparison of precincts: http://www.seattle.gov/police/crime/PREC_TRANSITION.htm

Maple Leaf residents have become increasingly alarmed about the number of break-ins and strong arm robberies occurring, which typically increase during the shorter days of winter. There are surprising reports of burglars working in pairs to determine which homes are unoccupied before forcing entry during normal business hours.

Consider these sensible recommendations on safety:

- ▶ Never hesitate to report suspicious activity by dialing 911. Give as many details as possible on suspects and their vehicles.
- ▶ Always lock your doors and windows at home when possible and use any alarm or motion-detecting lights you install.
- ▶ Keep your vehicle(s) empty of valuables and secured in a well-lit area.
- ▶ Strangers at your door? Be wary and safely indicate that someone is home.
- ▶ Communicate with your neighbors about safety and security issues.

Watchful neighbors are one of the best deterrents to these crimes, so communicate with those around you and consider joining or starting a Block Watch on your street. Contact Diane Horswill for more information: Diane.Horswill@Seattle.Gov or (206) 684-7711.

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

