

Maple Leaf Community

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

October/November/December 2011

www.MapleLeafCommunity.org

A Community Council Publication

Next Meeting

**Wednesday
October 19**

7-9 p.m. at
Olympic View
Elementary
(504 NE 95th Street)

Candidates and Issues Night

Come out to a General Meeting on a special earlier date to accommodate early mail ballot voters. The forum will include candidates and advocates discussing:

- ◆ 5 Seattle City Council Races
- ◆ \$60 Car Tab Tax
- ◆ Statewide Measures

Free licensed childcare service provided. The MLCC sponsors free on-site childcare in order to encourage adult participation at our meetings.

Volunteer opportunities available for the Thornton Creek Watershed Oversight Council, web design, and our Executive Board.

2011 SUMMER SOCIAL

by Grace Seidel, Organizer

Thank you all for being part of the 16th Annual Maple Leaf Summer Social. The park was packed and everyone looked like they were having a great time! Please mark your calendar for the next Summer Social the last Wednesday of July, 2012 (the 25th).

You can always get information or contact someone regarding participating in the next Social from the Maple Leaf Community Council web page (see above).

If you would like to see some more photographs from the event, please visit the Maple Leaf Life blog (<http://www.mapleleaflife.com/2011/07/28/summer-social-photos-from-maple-leaf-life/>) and the Maple Leaf Community Council Facebook page. We hope to see you next year!

The MLCC Executive Board would like to express its own gratitude to all who helped make the annual event such a success (even the weather was cooperative)—and Grace Seidel in particular for the tremendous job she did stepping up, coordinating 50 tables and bringing together hundreds and hundreds of eager participants of all ages. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers in the community, the Summer Social was once again our biggest event of the year.



Photo courtesy of Grace Seidel

CANDIDATES AND ISSUES NIGHT

The MLCC holds a Candidates and Issues Night every October to allow our community to hear from, and ask questions of, candidates running for office and advocates for ballot measures. For 2011, we have moved this event ONE WEEK EARLIER to now be held **October 19, 7-9 p.m., at Olympic View Elementary.**

We moved the event ahead one week so it would be held before ballots arrived in the mail. Feedback from last year's event was that many people did not attend because they had already voted. We wanted to make sure our community heard from candidates and advocates before voting started, so we moved the event up one week.

At the time this was written, we have all City Council candidates but two confirmed to attend. We have pro/con for at least one of Seattle's ballot measures, and have extended invitations to most of the statewide ballot measures.

The format will be short statements followed by an opportunity for Maple Leaf residents to ask questions. This is your chance to ask questions of candidates before you mark your ballot for them.

School Board Candidate Forums:

- ◆ Tuesday, October 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m.: Olympic View Elementary, 504 NE 95th St.
- ◆ Tuesday, October 18, 6:30-9:00 p.m.: Madison Middle School, 3429 45th Ave. SW

SPU WANTS CUSTOMER INPUT ON LONG-TERM SOLID WASTE PLAN

from Seattle Public Utilities

For the seventh straight year, Seattle's recycling rate has risen, hitting an all-time high of 53.7 percent overall and 70.3 percent for single households. The national recycling average is 32.1 percent. While each city calculates its diversion rates differently, Seattle is considered to be among the national leaders in municipal recycling, especially after the great strides we made in 2010.

Make sure your voice is heard as Seattle Public Utilities updates its long-term solid waste plan. SPU is looking for customer input on many proposed recommendations, including recycling goals, waste reduction initiatives, and service costs.

Read the plan at [www.seattle.gov/util/About SPU/Garbage System/Plans/Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan/index.asp](http://www.seattle.gov/util/About%20SPU/Garbage%20System/Plans/Solid%20Waste%20Comprehensive%20Plan/index.asp)

Tell SPU what you think and take a five-minute survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/spusolidwasteplan

Let's make sure Maple Leaf is well represented in SPU's outreach process!

MAPLE LEAF CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

A common feature of running for office is being asked questions by voters. Many groups do this in formal fashion by creating a "Candidate's Questionnaire" where the same questions are asked to all candidates.

At our April General Meeting, we asked our neighbors what questions they would like to ask candidates for Seattle City Council. Your Maple Leaf Community Council Executive Board took those questions, added a few of our own, and produced the Maple Leaf Community Council Candidate's Questionnaire. We published the candidates' answers before the primary election on our web site. Those questionnaires remain on the site so you can see them before you vote in the coming General Election.

Here are five of the sixteen questions asked:

- Q: What specific steps would you take to build more sidewalks in Maple Leaf?
- Q: Outside our two business districts on Roosevelt and 5th NE, our neighborhood is largely zoned single family. Would you support changing our current single family zoning to allow for larger buildings and higher density within in the Maple Leaf boundaries?
- Q: When LINK light rail arrives at Northgate in 2020 (or so), Metro has proposed to sharply reduce or eliminate downtown bus service in the Maple Leaf area. Describe how you would address neighborhood concerns about service reductions.
- Q: Maple Leaf residents consistently advocate for crosswalks and speed control devices. Please provide specifics on how you would work to bring pedestrian safety improvements in the Maple Leaf neighborhood.
- Q: Do you support a stronger tree protection ordinance for Seattle? Why/Why not?

The answers to the 16 questions make for great reading for Maple Leaf residents who are looking for more information prior to voting. Remember, ballots for the General Election arrive in your mailbox in just a few more days and are due by November 1.

Candidate answers to our questionnaire are available on our web site at:

<http://www.mapleleafcommunity.org/elections.html>



Seattle Public School Calendar

Nov 11

Veteran's Day Holiday

Nov 24-25

Thanksgiving Holiday

Dec 19—Jan 2

Winter Break

Olympic View School

Live Auction

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2012

The Olympic view Live Auction is returning. This cornerstone fundraiser pays for programs, supplies, equipment, and support staff that enrich our kids' lives at school. Please contact the school for more information.

Sacajawea Elementary School

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you would like to get involved as a volunteer, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Ki Pemberton at klpemberton@seattleschools.org. She can help you find the right opportunity to match your skills and available time. Thanks for your community involvement!

THORNTON CREEK: INFESTATION AND FLOODING?

by Charles Harper, Thornton Creek Watershed Oversight Council Representative

Some recent news about our urban watershed is good. Some is not-so-great. Let's get to the key concern first:

Invasive Species Alert. The bio-diversity of Thornton Creek and now Lake Washington is still under dire threat from the spreading invasion of "New Zealand mud snails," which are reportedly moving northward into the lake. To keep from inadvertently aiding the tiny snail's throttling march over native species, **everyone is advised to keep out of the creek's waters—including children and pets.**

The Knickerbocker Project. The good news, though, involves funding for floodplain restoration. One cause King County, Seattle Public Utilities, Seattle Parks and Recreation, and the community councils of Maple Leaf, Lake City, and Wedgewood have agreed on is support for the pursuit of a Watershed Protection and Restoration Grant through the WA Department of Ecology for the otherwise unfunded "Knickerbocker Floodplain Reconnection Project." SPU will be seeking the maximum amount available (\$500,000) to help restore the site at NE 100th Street and 20th Ave NE. The government's request for proposals can be found at www.ecy.wa.gov/puget_sound/grants_fed.html. Cheryl Klinker, Thornton Creek Watershed Oversight Council's chair, notes that this is a key opportunity at a time when salmon recovery funding has been cut to balance the budget.

Matthew's Beach Culvert Divert. This spring SPU asked the community for input on alternatives to a failing culvert near the mouth of Thornton Creek at NE 93rd Street. The word now is that a Fish and Wildlife agency has weighed in and directed SPU to their preferred alternative, which, Klinker reports: "involves changing the stream channel to flow around the backside of the Matthew's beach parking lot then across the open picnic area, and out at about the same location of the existing mouth, but angled to provide flows that push gravels and sediments southward rather than straight out and northward as it does now. Maple Leaf Creek will most likely be rerouted into the old Thornton channel that winds through the residential properties in a narrow and armored channel that will be more naturalized through the project."

Pending further analysis, no official decision has yet been made.



Please call Sydnie at 524-2512 if you're able to help deliver this newsletter!

Maple Leaf Community

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

www.MapleLeafCommunity.org

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MLCC Executive Board meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month: 7 p.m., Olympic View Community Church, 425 NE 95th St.
Garden Club meets the last Thursday of each month, 7 p.m. Call Dale Marston at 524-5371 for the monthly location.
North District Council meets the 1st Wednesday of each month. 7 p.m. Lake City Library, 12501 28th Avenue NE.
North Precinct Advisory Committee meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at North Seattle Precinct from 7-8:30 p.m.
Executive Board Members: Joshua Newman (pres.), Tyler Letey (treas.), Charles Harper (rec. sec.), David Miller, Matt Stockbridge, Donna Hartmann-Miller, Helen Chatalas.

COMMITTEES

Transportation & Land Use	David Miller	517-5520
Community Garden	Cyndy King	522-4299
Membership/Dues	Joshua Newman	963-2397
Newsletter Advertising	Charles Harper	527-3032
Newsletter Distribution	Sydnie Sliker	524-2512
Newsletter Editor	Charles Harper	527-3032
Newsletter Layout	Jocelyn Coit-Durland	527-0837
North District Council	Helen Chatalas	
Parks	Donna Hartmann-Miller	517-5520
Garden Club	Dale Marston	524-5371
North Precinct Advisory	Howard Handewith	

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ADVERTISE IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Consider advertising with us! There are about 4,000 copies distributed to homes and businesses in the Maple Leaf area. If interested, contact Charles.Harper@MapleLeafCommunity.org.

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Membership Form

Maple Leaf Community Council, PO Box 75595, Seattle, WA 98175

Name _____

Home Phone _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Membership: \$15 ___ \$30 ___ S ___ New ___ Renewal ___

Circle issues you would like to be involved in:

Membership	Garden Club	Website
Parks/Reservoir	Public Relations	Public Safety
Block Watch	Save Waldo	Newsletter
Board Member	Community Garden	Neighborhood Planning
Land Use/Transportation/Pedestrian Safety	Other _____	

...OR BECOME A MEMBER ONLINE:

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NEW LAND USE EMAIL LIST

by David Miller

In August, the Maple Leaf Community Council launched a new service that sends a weekly email detailing construction, demolition, and land use permits applied for and granted in the Maple Leaf area. We don't cover permits for work internal to structures (there are too many!). Instead, we focus on permits representing new development, demolitions, and additions – the sort of work that might affect neighboring properties.

The City, unbelievably for this day and age, has no single resource for this. So Maple Leaf volunteers comb through a number of online sources to find these. This is time consuming and inexact, but we do the best we can with the tools we are given. *We do not send this weekly email to the entire Land Use and Transportation email list.* We set up a special list for this weekly email. You can sign up to receive this weekly "Maple Leaf Land Use Permit" list on our website at http://www.mapleleafcommunity.org/mail_list_join.html

SOME PARK FEATURES STILL UNFUNDED

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

Maple Leaf Reservoir Park, A Super-Quick Brief Update:

- ♦ 15-acre Park to be built atop the soon-to-be-underground reservoir.
- ♦ Scheduled reservoir burial completion: Summer 2012. Park construction immediately follows.
- ♦ Park design completed (view at MapleLeafCommunity.org).
- ♦ Family Terrace design almost complete (hopefully viewable at our fall General Meeting).
- ♦ Funding: \$5M from Park Levy; \$450K Levy funds, plus \$175K from Department of Neighborhood Matching Fund.

Fundraising Needs

While we don't know everything to be included (or what will be left out) of the construction, we DO know the Family Terrace picnic shelter, completed sidewalks along 14th Avenue and 82nd Street, and the skate dot are currently *unfunded*. In order to have any of these amenities, additional money (through donations, fundraising events, and/or grants) is necessary. So, Friends for a Greater Maple Leaf Park (FGMLP) is focusing on funding the shelter first, then the missing sidewalks, trees and plantings, and whatever else the Parks Dept doesn't plan to pay for with levy funds. If we raise enough over the next few months, we hope to keep costs down by having the shelter included in the 2012 construction.

So... we are asking for community donations. From all of you. Finances are a challenge at this point in time, and we realize budgets are stretched thin. As you can imagine, asking for money now is tough, BUT, if everyone is able to make a contribution at some level, it could result in a truly positive impact on our community. Plus, we may be able to leverage your generosity with matching grants. Because of this, *any help you can provide would be much appreciated.*

Join our Facebook page (Friends for a Greater Maple Leaf Park), send in comments to reservoirpark@mapleleafcommunity.org or the MLCC P.O Box listed below, and sign up on our email list.

Thanks for all your support and contributions throughout this process — it is gratefully received in any form.

MAPLE LEAF COMMUNITY GARDEN: 529 NE 103RD STREET

by Dale Marston

We're having a work party at the Maple Leaf Community Garden **Saturday, October 15, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.** The garden is located east of Thornton Place. Look for the round stucco tool shed rising up from the hillside. Free parking is available at the NW corner of 5th Avenue NE and NE 103rd Street.

We need many volunteers to pitch in to really make a difference! No gardening expertise required. A variety of tasks for all abilities are often needed: weeding lower levels, clearing out compost bins, weeding upper native plantings, cleaning up the entries and the street swale, and spreading the pile of mulch from the driveway. Bring your gardening gloves, hand tools will be provided.

Coffee, beverages and light refreshments will be provided to give us strength. Feel free to bring something to share also—too much zucchini bread, or whatever you wish.

As always, come when you can and stay for as long as you can.

Don't forget ...



November 6, 2011

Yes! I want to donate to the Maple Leaf Park

Maple Leaf Community Council is a 501(c)(3). Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Check with your tax advisor for details.

Enclosed is my contribution for:

\$200 \$150 \$100 \$50 \$20 Other \$ _____ \$475 sponsors a tree to be planted

I'd like my money to go specifically for:

Park General Fund Family Terrace Picnic Shelter Trees & other plantings Other _____

Please make checks payable to the Maple Leaf Community Council and mail them to: MLCC — PO Box 75595 — Seattle, WA 98175
OR if you prefer to pay online by credit card, visit www.MapleLeafCommunity.org and click on the "Donate" at the bottom of any page, then choose "Donate to the Upper Maple Leaf Park effort."

Name _____

Street _____ City/Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

MAPLE LEAF IN THE (LED) MOONLIGHT

by David Miller

If you don't have them yet, you soon will. Seattle City Light is replacing all the yellowish sodium streetlights on residential streets with energy-saving LED streetlights that cast a light intended to simulate moonlight.

The LED street lights use 48% less electricity and have a 12-15 year lifespan, about four times longer than the sodium lights. They will save City Light \$2.4 million a year once they are all installed.

The amount of illumination from these lights is precisely the same as with the old sodium lights. For those who have them, that might seem surprising. To this author, at least, they seem brighter. This is due, according to City Light, to much better visual properties of the LED's light color. Contrasts are clearer and the blue-er light makes details (especially vehicle reflectors) stand out more clearly. Even though the LEDs are not physically brighter, they seem brighter because they make it easier to see at night. City Light is currently experiencing a 2% complaint rate on the new lights and surveys in prior installations show an 85% positive rate. They do take some getting used to after so many years with the yellow-ish sodium lights. These lights are being replaced at the clip of a couple hundred per day across City Light's entire service area. Use of LEDs on arterial streets is coming, but City Light is still testing additional money-saving technology.

If you have questions or complaints, City Light's point person on this is Scott Thomsen. He can be reached at Scott.Thomsen@Seattle.gov or 206-615-0978.

NEIGHBORHOOD DIRECTION: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

by Barbara Maxwell and Janice Camp

When each completed moves out of our neighborhood recently, we asked Barbara Maxwell and Janice Camp for their perspectives on the Maple Leaf they helped guide and protect.

PAST: The Maple Leaf Community Council (MLCC) was founded in the mid 1980s by residents who were concerned that a City proposal would result in a geographically divided Maple Leaf neighborhood with **no sense of community and overwhelming traffic problems**. The founders were effective advocates and soon became involved in other projects that benefited the neighborhood.

Although we were not among the founding mothers and fathers, we worked to carry on their early efforts. We began volunteering long enough ago that, between us, we had 40 years of volunteer experience on behalf of the MLCC. During these years, we worked to **keep Maple Leaf a livable community**. We volunteered in several areas: the Executive Board, the newsletter, land use and transportation projects, public art projects like the pergola and fence tiles at Maple Leaf Park, the 1990 playground upgrade, years of neighborhood planning, acquisition of the land and development of the community garden, and organizing the quarterly MLCC general meetings (including the October Candidate and Issue forum, and the annual Summer Social). We both served as presidents of the MLCC and represented the neighborhood on various citywide committees. We share the view that "community" is not limited to us as individuals or to our families or our block, but that **strong communities make a vibrant City**.

We had the pleasure of meeting many, many wonderful people in Maple Leaf, other neighborhood leaders, and dedicated public servants in City, County and State government. Working with many of these people, Maple Leaf has received over \$2 million in funding for various neighborhood projects.

PRESENT: It has become more difficult for neighborhood leaders to successfully advocate for the things that we believe are important for strong communities, such as **good transportation, good schools, public safety, clean air, and elbow room**. We have become increasingly concerned that proposed zoning changes to neighborhoods such as Maple Leaf will be implemented without **full public input** and will result in reduced quality of life and other unintended consequences. The City needs to hear from the people of Maple Leaf.

FUTURE: We leave the neighborhood with a legacy of community engagement and a commitment to help make our corner of the world a better place. We hope that our years of volunteer service will inspire more Maple Leaf residents to **get engaged and work on behalf of the neighborhood**. The Maple Leaf Community Council has a great group of board members, but **more volunteers are needed** to carry on the important work needed to keep Maple Leaf the "Neighborhood of the Year" for decades to come. Please give a little of your time and get involved.

MLCC ACQUIRES SPEED GEAR

by David Miller, Land Use and Transportation Committee

Complaints concerning speed on our neighborhood's arterials and residential streets are common. The City is slow to help at best, and refuses to help more often than not. Even getting someone from the City out to measure speeds is difficult.

At our August meeting, the Maple Leaf Community Council Executive Board voted to acquire a radar gun and speed sign (as in "Your Speed Is") for use in the neighborhood. We're still working out policies, procedures, and safety measures, but we expect to be able to start using the gear later in the 2011 to generate speed data to share with the City as well as remind drivers to slow down.

If you have been on 15th Ave NE since it re-opened, you probably have seen the two radar speed signs installed there earlier this year. Reports from neighbors in the area, as well as our own observations, indicate these signs have made a big difference to speeds on this road.

The MLCC and the Maple Leaf Business Subcommittee made a request to the City for similar signs on Roosevelt Way NE. The City said there was need for more study, but did not provide any indication when that would happen. They also said they expected the addition of the bike lanes took care of the speeding problem.

Additionally, we regularly field requests from neighbors on residential streets complaining of speed. Suspected speeders on 88th NE took out (again) a planted-traffic circle. Complaints of speeding drivers on 5th NE and near our neighborhood's two schools are also common.

After doing some research, the MLCC-EB learned the cost of speed measurement and display gear has plummeted in recent years. We authorized the spending of a few hundred dollars to acquire the gear. The plan is to use it to measure speeds in problem areas of the neighborhood as well as deploy it to remind drivers to slow down.

If you're interested in having this gear on your street or helping do measurements, please contact Land Use and Transportation Committee Chair David Miller at David.Miller@MapleLeafCommunity.org.

ADULT CABARET UPDATE

by David Miller, Land Use and Transportation Committee

In June, the Maple Leaf Community Council Executive Board was notified by a concerned neighbor about a permit granted to locate an adult cabaret (strip club) near Maple Leaf at 8914 Lake City Way NE, the site of the former Seven Seas Restaurant.

The MLCC objected on a number of grounds. First, there was no notice as required by city law when an adult cabaret permit is applied for on a parcel that is zoned LR2 as this parcel is. There is also a child day care facility within 800 feet of the building, and City of Seattle rules prohibit location of adult cabarets within 800 feet of certain types of childcare centers.

The City of Seattle rejected our concerns and refused to either revoke or reconsider the permit. In August, "Pandora Adult Cabaret" opened. The MLCC Executive Board voted to not undertake legal action. This was partially a financial decision, partly because other groups we were working with also decided not to sue, and partially because of potential legal hurdles.

We will continue to monitor activities. The MLCC-EB is working with adjacent businesses and the Wedgwood Community Council to track complaints associated with this adult cabaret. If you have complaints, please let us know by emailing our Land Use Committee Chair David Miller at David.Miller@MapleLeafCommunity.org.