



COVID Mental Health: Coping Skills in these Trying Times

With Vincent McMahon Ed.S. Licensed Family Therapist



gg59206451 GoGraph.com

Thursday, Nov. 19 @ 7:30pm

www.ZOOM.com

Meeting ID: 825 4630 8205

Password: 461642

From the Editor

Now that election day is behind us, we hope we can all move on with our lives as we get ready to celebrate the upcoming holidays!

The HNA Executive Board wants you to know that we are committed to keeping you up-to-date on matters that affect us all, as well as keeping you apprised of upcoming events, township matters and other interesting stories.

As such, we would also like to hear from you: whether it's feedback about previous newsletter articles to suggestions for future issues; perhaps you have questions for our board members or reflections on an event you have attended, or maybe just a poem you would like to share...we want your input! We are also looking for suggestions for our monthly Zoom meetings. This is your neighborhood and our activities should be a collective effort, so it's important that we hear *your* thoughts. So, go ahead and send me your suggestions and your stories!

As a final reminder, feel free to invite your friends and neighbors to join our HNA family and be a part of our community! More importantly, we would like to wish you and your families a **Healthy, Happy and Safe Thanksgiving Holiday!**

Sheron Hansel
hanselsh@gmail.com

HNA Township Update

By Vic De Luca, Township Committeeman



Election Results

Maplewood voters came out in force on Tuesday, November 3rd. When all mail-in and provisional ballots are counted, a record number of votes will have been



cast. Unofficial results show that Joe Biden and Kamala Harris received over 12,500 votes, more than 92% of all votes. The number and percentage of votes for Biden/Harris were more than any other presidential/vice-presidential candidates in Maplewood's history. In Essex County, the Biden ticket received 224,615 or 77% of votes, Trump received 64,000 or 22% votes (other candidates received 1% of votes).

With the Maplewood Township Committee election, I received 11,891 votes and my running mate Dean Dafis received 11,804 votes, again record numbers of votes for Township Committee. For the Board of Education, Susan Bergin and Courtney Winkfield won their elections and the third Board seat is too close to call between Deborah Engel and Elissa Malespina.

All results listed for President, Township Committee and School Board are mail-in votes only. The more than 1,000 provisional ballots cast in Maplewood on Election Day will start to be counted by Essex County officials on November 10th.

Front of Town Hall Steps to be Named Jerry Ryan Plaza

The Township Committee voted unanimously to name the front steps and walkway area in front of Town Hall as Jerry Ryan Plaza. Jerry, who died in May at age 59 after the three-year battle with cancer, was first elected to the Township Committee in 1992 after a close election and subsequent legal battle. He served for 19 non-consecutive years, including being Mayor for three years (1998-2000). Jerry also served on the Planning Board for 23 non-consecutive years, including five years as Board Chair. He oversaw many pieces of legislation, reviewed numerous construction projects and worked on the Maplewood Master Plan. Suzanne Ryan, a member of the HNA Executive Board, is Jerry's former wife and the mother of their three adult children.



Sustainable Essex Alliance – Promoting Green Energy and Reducing the Cost of Electricity for Residents in Seven Communities

Last year, the Sustainable Essex Alliance (SEA) entered into a contract with Direct Energy to provide cheaper and greener electricity to residents in five Essex County communities, including (Cont.)



Last Month's HNA School Board Forum

Last month's HNA Board of Education Forum was a success with over 30 people joining our Zoom meeting. Candidates provided thoughtful responses to the questions presented and we hope you were able learn more about them in order to make informed choices. Thanks to Suzanne Ryan and John Sullivan for running a smooth meeting and to all those who participated.

Open Call for Student Musicians, Poets & Artists

Let us know if you have or know of a teen who would like to participate in our Zoom celebration of Black History month in February 2021. Participation could be through the form of poetry readings, skits, music, etc.; just send an email to: hna.maplewood@gmail.com.

Lucy's Tree

On Saturday, November 7th, HNA Board members gathered by Lucy's Tree (located in the parking lot next to St. Joseph's Church) to install a plaque honoring Lucy Wilkinson. Lucy was a long-time resident of Hilton and a fellow Executive Board Member.



If you would like to volunteer for our next park clean up, please contact hna.maplewood@gmail.com.

Thank You Gertrude!

If you happen upon a lady picking up trash during her frequent walks on Burnett Ave. between Laurel Ave. and DeHart Park, well her name is Gertrude and she has been doing this for many years!

Gertrude doesn't live in Maplewood, and starts her walks from her hometown in Union, but doesn't mind helping to keep our streets clean...while setting an example for us and our children.



Perhaps you might be inspired by Gertrude to do the same – adding to the goodwill of our community. If you happen to notice her on one of her walks, please take a moment to say thank you on behalf of the HNA.

DeHart Basketball Court



If you haven't yet checked out the new basketball court, well Mary Bohner and I did! And during one of our morning walks, we saw a full-fledged basketball tournament

taking place. We just couldn't help but stop to cheer on those adorable kids!

Fall Leaf Collection

Leaf collection officially began the week of Oct. 14th.

While weather and equipment failures may sometime cause an interruption in the collection schedule, delays should not be more than 1 or 2 days. If the Township is ahead of schedule, pick up may happen earlier but will also be collected during your scheduled week.

Note that leaves should not be placed on the street: 1) more than 7 days prior to your scheduled week and 2) after the Sunday of your final collection week.

No plastic bags or branches, please! Leaves will not be collected if there is evidence of plastic bags, branches, or other waste items. **Weekly schedules** are:

Maplewood and South Orange. The 2019 contract ends this December and residents will automatically revert to having PSE&G provide their electricity supply.

On November 4th, the SEA agreed to move forward with a new electricity buying contract with Energy Harbor that will be for 18 months starting in March 2021. The new contract will supply power that has double the renewable energy content required of PSE&G and it will be at a price that is three percent lower than PSE&G. In addition, the new contract has an option for residents to select a 100% renewable energy produce for a modest price premium.

This program is an opt-out one in which residents who do not want to be part of the seven-town cooperative buying program can retain PSE&G or another electric power supplier. In January, residents will receive a letter from Energy Harbor explaining the new program and how one can opt-out of the program. To be part of the SEA program, you do not have to take any action. In January or February there will be a ZOOM meeting to present information on the program and to answer questions.

- Vic

Oh, So Spooky...Indeed!!!!



Meet local artist **Damion Stene** whose Halloween decorations leave onlookers marveling at his spooky, yet tasteful, outdoor displays! Damion's artistry is not just limited to Halloween as his Christmas decorations are equally as impressive. His talents also extend to the kitchen where every Christmas he enjoys baking a variety of amazingly delicious holiday cookies that are as spectacular to look at as they are to eat.



Damion lives with his husband John and works full-time as a publicist for Universal Pictures and, before the pandemic, frequently traveled all over the world promoting newly released movies. We love having such talented people in our neighborhood!

HNA Executive Board Member John T. Sullivan



John has been a resident of Maplewood for 20 years, the last 13 years in the Hilton Neighborhood. John resides with his wife, Lauren, and three daughters, Abigail, 16; Annie, 14; and Sarah 10. He is an attorney with a regional law firm based in Morristown, NJ.

John is a Democratic Committee Member and on the Executive Board of the Hilton Neighborhood Association. He spends his free time exercising in DeHart Park and patronizing local restaurants and stores. He is a big fan of The Bread Stand!

Maplewood Real Estate Market Unprecedented Demand

By Allison Ziefert

By now, you probably have heard that the real estate market in town has been experiencing a wave of unprecedented demand due to the pandemic. Our team has seen an uptick in demand from NYC and Hudson County buyers in search of backyards and more space, as our homes have become everything for everyone all of



Jamie Richter, Allison Ziefert, Ginge Calhoun

the time. We have also seen many families choosing to relocate out of town for work, family or lifestyle reasons.

Year to date, Maplewood homes had an average "days on market" of 28 days, 25% fewer days than in 2019. Average sale price is \$652,024 which is 7.79% higher than last year. Homes in Maplewood are selling at an average of 103.76 percent of list price which is 2.53% more than in 2019. There are also relatively few homes on the

market for buyers to choose from-- 45% fewer than last year. With increased demand and limited supply, you can see from the data Maplewood homes are selling much faster and for more money than they did even in last year's seller's market.

One of our recent Hilton listings at 34 Ohio Street illustrates this trend. The house was listed in January of 2019 for \$399,000 and sold in March 2019 for \$405,000. We listed the same house in September for \$425,000. It received multiple offers and it closed this month for \$511,000.

Ginge Calhoun, our team's buyer specialist and a Hilton resident, is sometimes happily surprised at some of the sale prices. She noted that a house on Vermont St. recently closed at \$600,000!

If you have any questions about current market conditions, buying or selling our team would be pleased to assist you. Feel free to contact me at 917-751-0448 or allison@azhomesnj.com for a confidential chat.

Week of 11/09	Sections: 1, 2, 3, 4
Week of 11/16	Sections: 5, 6, 1
Week of 11/23	Sections: 2, 3, 4
Week of 11/30	Sections: 5, 6, 1
Week of 12/07	Sections: 2, 3, 4

The **Springfield Avenue Partnership** will continue



the **Open-Air Market** at Yale Corner through the holidays, bringing live music and a safe, masked retail shopping experience to Maplewood. Come shop and listen safely!

RECENT HILTON HOME SALES (October 2020)

Home	Listed	Sold
1677 Springfield Ave. #16	\$254,900	\$255,000
37 Berkley St.	\$311,900	\$310,000
140 Franklin Ave.	\$399,000	\$450,000
120 Franklin Ave.	\$489,000	\$551,008



Maplewood Farmers Market

Springfield Avenue
Monday 2:00pm – 7:00pm

22 Virtual Holiday Party Ideas for 2020



As we mentioned in our October Newsletter, the holidays are still on the calendar, therefore, we need to come up with some creative ways to celebrate them safely. Here is a list of 22 virtual Holiday Party Ideas for 2020. Go to:

<https://museumhack.com/virtual-christmas-party/>

Source museumhack.com

Upcoming Events & Reminders

The HNA meets the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7:30pm at DeHart Community Center (for now via Zoom).

Suggestion Box: Since our meetings are virtual for the time being, you are welcome to send any comments or concerns to hna.maplewood@gmail.com and we will make sure they are routed to the appropriate Township Department for response. Please rest assured that your concerns are strictly confidential.

Did a friend forward you this Newsletter? You can subscribe by emailing: hna.maplewood@gmail.com.

Hilton Neighborhood Association
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