



Hilton Neighborhood Association ZOOM Holiday Party

Thursday, December 17th @ 7:00pm

Invite your children to chat with *Santa* at 7pm.
Afterwards, some Holiday games and fun!



Meeting is open to all!

www.ZOOM.com
Meeting ID: 965 2188 2299
Password: 902522

Editor's Note

I am delighted to bring you this month's newsletter. Why? Well, first off because I am very encouraged by the positive feedback we have received since our last issue. Many of you have expressed how much our monthly Zoom meetings and newsletter have helped you stay connected. Secondly, it is that time of the year that reminds us of the beautiful things in life, including family, fun, friendship, eating, gifting and everything that falls in between.

How do you plan on spending your holidays? Why not share on our Facebook page? Whether it is a family tradition, recipe or a family photo.

As we close out what many consider to be the worst year in recent memory, we are excited at the prospect of a brighter 2021. What is in store for the HNA? Well, we want to continue growing our membership and we look forward to the time when we can meet in person once again. But until it's safe to do so, have a terrific holiday from the HNA Executive Team!

Sheron Hansel
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HNA Township Update

By Vic De Luca, Township Committeeman

Maplewood's New Requirements for Condiment Packets & Plastic Utensils

You know those pouches that contain single-use quantities of foods such as ketchup, mustard, sugar or soy sauce that many food establishments throw into your own to go bag. How about the plastic forks, spoons and stirrers that are tossed into your bag? Well beginning in 2021, these items can only be provided by a food establishment at the request of a customer or at a self-service utensil and condiment station. If you need sugar for your coffee, a fork for your salad, or ketchup for your french-fries, you'll have to ask for it or take some from a condiment station in the store.



And what about plastic straws or stirrers? You must request a disposable plastic straw or stirrer when buying takeout or at a diner or restaurant when they serve a drink like water, soft drinks or iced tea to you at your table. Also, plastic straws and stirrers will not be available at self-service stations.



New Stores Open on Springfield Avenue

On November 21st, the Township Committee joined with three business owners to cut ribbons welcoming their businesses to Springfield Avenue.



The **Raven's Quill** at 1874 S.A. is Maplewood's first body art studio. **Marigold Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics** at 1713 S.A. makes going to the dentist like a day at the park. **Remerch** at 1843 S.A. provides creative interior designs to make each of your rooms a place you will want to spend time in.

Cont.

Coping During the Time of Covid-19

If you missed last month's HNA Zoom Meeting with guest speaker Vincent McMahon, Ed.S., Licensed Family Therapist on "*COVID Mental Health: Coping Skills in these Trying Times*", here are the key takeaways:

- **Connect** with friends/family via phone or video
- **Tune out**, no need to watch the news 24/7
- **Meditate** as this will help you relax
- **Be grateful**, after all there is hope
- **Learn to forgive** by letting go of grudges
- **Sleep**, your body and mind will thank you later
- **Eat well** and try out healthy recipes while home
- **Exercise** by going for walks or take an online class
- Lastly, project **positive energy!** Take up a hobby or just hug your kids or loved ones

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.

Need to "Un-Wine'd" for the Holidays?

This past August a well-known South Jersey beverage chain, **Joe Canal** (1830 S.A.), opened its doors joining **Kasper's Wines & Liquors** (1718 S.A) and **Wine Barrel** (1886 S.A.) on Springfield Ave. Check out their websites to see which will deliver to your home or which offers sale or limited holiday-themed items such as **Hallmark Channel Jingle Cabernet Sauvignon** or **Brotherhood Winery - Holiday Spiced Wine**. In the words of Charles Baudelaire, "*One should always be drunk. That's all that matters...But with what? With wine, with poetry, or with virtue, as you choose. But get drunk.*" — Charles Baudelaire, circa 1850s

Speaking of Wine....



Here is how Hilton residents Ewa Bracko, Stella Wilkins, Lourdes "Cookie" Cordero and yours truly enjoyed the last days of Fall! Safe Outdoor picnicking and wine tasting, then end the day watching the sun go down.
— *Warwick Wineries.*





COVID-19 Vaccinations on the Horizon

The Township is working with Essex County to plan for the administration of COVID-19 vaccinations in 2021. Township Committee Members, Department Directors and other municipal employees are engaged in planning activities around communications, volunteer recruitment and training, transportation, and public safety. More information on the roll out of the vaccination program will be available in the coming weeks.

Gregg Schuster Is the New Interim Township Business Administrator

Sonia Viveiros, Township Business Administrator for the past three years, left in December for a City Manager position in another NJ municipality. The Township Committee hired Gregg Schuster to be the Interim Administrator for the next three months. Gregg comes to Maplewood with many years of municipal management experience, including serving as a First Selectman (Mayor) in Connecticut.



The Township Committee has hired a firm to engage in a search for a permanent Township Business Administrator.

- Vic

Holiday Home Decorating Contest

Hilton residents are invited to participate in the neighborhood's Holiday Home Decorating Contest. Winners will be chosen based on their homes lighting arrangement, lawn display, curb appeal and overall holiday theme.



Nominate your home, your friend's home or local businesses within the Hilton neighborhood for a chance to win a gift card from one of our local merchants plus bragging rights! Send the address and a photo, if possible, to hna.maplewood@gmail.com. Winners will be announced at our January meeting and also in our Newsletter.

Welcome ReMerch To Springfield Avenue!

Just in time for holiday shopping, and as Vic mentioned above, we are so happy to welcome "ReMerch" to the Hilton community!

Located at 1843 Springfield Avenue, ReMerch is a great local destination for truly fun and unique gifts; and for the homeowner, lots of inspiration to help bring some new life to an old space. In addition to the ready-to-buy retail, the store also features a showroom for those clients looking to upgrade or refresh their home designs!

Store owner John Estrada has been a Hilton resident for the past seven years. He has worked with major fashion companies, has styled celebrities, and is now thrilled to bring his passion for design and styling to a community that he loves.



"My husband and I moved to Maplewood because we originally had friends who lived right here in the Hilton section, and we just loved what we were seeing – diversity paired with a genuine sense of community and respect and creativity," said John. "It just felt right to us, we wanted to be a part of that. And now, with ReMerch, we're hoping to bring our own tastes and values to a community that

appreciates the same things we do."

The store's front window will also be contracted over periods of time to feature single product launches or artists looking to showcase work. "One of our goals is to bring local artists and creators together for a distinct collaboration with each of our clients." John wants to keep the look and inventory consistently changing. "We'd love it if every time you pass by our windows or walk into our store, you discovered something new."

So, do yourself a favor and head over to ReMerch to pick up some smart holiday gifts, to find inspiration for your own home, or just to say hello!

And don't forget to support your community by shopping small and locally this holiday season!

OPEN - AIR MARKET
 Live Music and Local Vendors
 SATURDAYS 10AM - 2PM
 10/10, 10/24, 11/7, 11/21, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12, 12/19

The Springfield Avenue Partnership will continue its 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 (November 2020)

Home	Listed	Sold
52 Hughes St	\$275,000	\$280,500
72 Hughes St.	\$260,000	\$272,000
72 Concord Ave.	\$345,000	\$357,000
108 Jacoby St.	\$385,000	\$398,000
11 Wellesley St.	\$419,000	\$435,000
208 Franklin Ave.	\$475,000	\$570,000
203 Franklin Ave.	\$499,000	\$519,000

Thoughtful Ways to Welcome New Neighbors

Our article on "Maplewood's Unpresented Housing Demand" in our November issue covered the continued influx of new residents relocating to our neighborhood. Here are some helpful ways you can make our new neighbors feel welcome:

- Introduce yourself
- When bringing food, be considerate of allergies
- Get a group of neighbors together to lend a helping hand, if needed
- Host a dinner party when it's safe to do so
- Share neighborhood information such as the HNA Facebook page, SAM website, events, etc. (Note the HNA sends out a welcome packet to all new residents which includes information about us).
- Share your list of local services such as babysitter, handyman, plumber, landscaper, etc.
- Drop off menus from your favorite local restaurants
- Lastly, respect privacy and boundaries

Check out these 22 Virtual Holiday Party Ideas for 2020



<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: Have a request, suggestion or concern? Send it to hna.maplewood@gmail.com. (Rest assured your comments 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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