

MPNA GRAPEVINE
December/January EDITION
BI-MONTHLY
MAPLE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
4937 N. FREMONT
KANSAS CITY, MO 64119
VOLUME 13, ISSUE 8

The MPNA meets the third Tuesday of every month. The December and January meetings are at Maplewood Elementary School and the Board of Directors meet first Tuesday of each month at the Tower View Baptist Church.

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THE MPNA GRAPEVINE

Local Businesses

The businesses you see advertising in our newsletter pay the postage to make mailing our publication possible. Support their business and mention you saw their ad in our Neighborhood Newsletter. Their support is important to us and our support is important to them. They provide excellent products and services. We encourage you to support these businesses near Maple Park. We want them to be successful and to stay with us. It really does make a difference where you spend your money.

The MPNA Annual Christmas Dinner is upon us! Don't miss this great event.

The Maple Park Neighborhood Association would like to take this opportunity to invite you one and all to our annual Christmas dinner. Bring your family, all are welcome. It will be held on December 18th at the Maplewood Elementary School cafeteria.

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We will begin serving at 6:30 pm. Even though this is the normally scheduled meeting date, it is a special time. There will be only a short opening and the remainder of the evening is a dinner celebration. Turkey and ham will be served with all the accompaniments in abundance. You can bring a dessert if you like, or just come yourselves to enjoy visiting with neighbors and a great holiday season dinner. We have invited the KCPD officers who patrol our neighborhood and other special guests.

Keely Golden is the committee chairperson for this event. If you have already signed up to bring a side dish, please bring your dish by 6:15 so the food tables can be organized. Thank you for volunteering and helping to provide this event for our neighborhood. It is nice to have volunteers you can depend upon during these major events. The success of our dinner depends on everyone's cooperation.

If you have attended our meetings in the past, or have never attended our neighborhood meeting, this dinner is for you. This dinner is free. It is provided for you and your family. Put it on your calendar.

See you there.

SAFETY TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

From Marcus Smith, KCPD

These are very good—Let them be your guide to safety.

We were lucky to have Marcus Smith, Shoal Creek Community Resource Officer, speak to us on the subject of safety during the Christmas shopping season. I'm sorry that so many of you missed it. It was very good. During this season the crooks are doing their shopping too. The difference is they don't pay for their gifts. They steal yours. Here are a few tips.

1. Never ever leave your garage door opener in your car. Bet you all do. I did.
2. Shop with a partner or friend.

(continued on next page)

Calendar:

- December 18** - Maple Park Neighborhood Association Annual holiday season dinner. Begins at 6:30 pm in the Maplewoods Elementary School cafeteria. Dinner is free and everyone is welcome!
- December 19** - Early release day for NKCS D students. Winter break begins.
- December 25** - Christmas Day.
- January 1** - New Years Day
- January 15** - MPNA Meeting.

MPNA December Meeting date is December 18

MPNA January Meeting date is January 15

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Safety Tips

- 3. Park as close as you can to the door in a well lighted area.
- 4. Carry your purse (strap) over your shoulder with the purse under your arm.
- 5. Carry the purse on the side next to the parked cars, not on the side where cars can drive by.
- 6. Never leave your purse in the grocery cart. When you

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turn around, it may be gone.

- 7. Never carry all your money in one place. Split it up.
- 8. Never carry money, credit cards or checkbook in your purse.
- 9. Only carry credit cards that you will use that day and only the checks you are using this time out.
- 10. Don't leave anything visible in the car and check inside the car before you get inside.
- 11. Ask the store personnel to assist you loading your car. They won't offer but will help if asked.

Merry Christmas. Happy shopping.
See Marcus, I was paying attention.



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A Different Christmas Poem

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light,
I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.
My wife was asleep, her head on my chest,
My daughter beside me, angelic in rest.
Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white,
Transforming the yard to a winter delight.
The sparkling lights in the tree I believe,
Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.
My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep,
Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep.
In perfect contentment, or so it would seem,

**Is it time for a New Years resolution to make a change?
Do you want to help someone (even yourself) stop smoking?**

Start New Years Resolutions off right this time!
Are You Ready to Get Rid of BAD Habits Once and For All?
It can be a great gift to yourself or someone you care about!

*I invite you to consider Clinical Hypnosis to address these issues and more. If you are interested, give me a call or visit my website. If you are not interested in hypnosis, but prefer traditional counseling, feel free to contact me for those services as well.

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So I slumbered, perhaps I started to dream.
The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near,
But I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear.
Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know,

Different Christmas Poem (continued)

Then the sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.
My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear,
And I crept to the door just to see who was near.
Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night,
A lone figure stood, his face weary and tight.

A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old,
Perhaps a Marine, huddled here in the cold.
Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled,
Standing watch over me, and my wife and my child.
"What are you doing?" I asked without fear,
"Come in this moment, it's freezing out here!
Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve,
You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"
For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift,
Away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts..
To the window that danced with a warm fire's light
Then he sighed and he said "Its really all right,
"I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night."
"It's my duty to stand at the front of the line,
That separates you from the darkest of times.
No one had to ask or beg or implore me,
I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me.
My Gramps died at ' Pearl on a day in December,"
Then he sighed, "That's a Christmas 'Gram always re-
members."



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Richard Nigro, President

My dad stood his watch in the jungles of ' Nam ',
And now it is my turn and so, here I am.
I've not seen my own son in more than a while,
But my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her smile.
Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag,
The red, white, and blue.. an American flag.
I can live through the cold and the being alone,
Away from my family, my house and my home.
I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet,
I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat.
I can carry the weight of killing another,
Or lay down my life with my sister and brother..
Who stand at the front against any and all,
To ensure for all time that this flag will not fall."
"So go back inside," he said, "harbor no fright,
Your family is waiting and I'll be all right."
"But isn't there something I can do, at the least,
"Give you money," I asked, "or prepare you a feast?
It seems all too little for all that you've done,
For being away from your wife and your son."
Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret,
"Just tell us you love us, and never forget.
To fight for our rights back at home while we're gone,
To stand your own watch, no matter how long.
For when we come home, either standing or dead,
To know you remember we fought and we bled.
Is payment enough, and with that we will trust,
That we mattered to you as you mattered to us."

LCDR Jeff Giles , SC, USN
30t h Naval Construction Regiment
OIC, Logistics Cell One
Al Taqqadum , Iraq!

MPNA Note:

This holiday season is a special time for family and those we care about. Give a special thought for those who cannot be with their family. They really become our extended family and always deserve our support.