

MPNA GRAPEVINE  
JAN/FEB, 2012 EDITION  
BI-MONTHLY  
MAPLE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
4937 N. FREMONT  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64119  
VOLUME 18, ISSUE 1

*The MPNA meets the third Tuesday of every month at 7pm. The January 17 and February 21 meetings are at Maplewood Elementary School and the Board of Directors meet the fourth 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.

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### Maple Park Loses a Special Friend and Member

Maple Park lost one of her favorite sons on November 8, 2011. Cecil Green (Houston to most of us) passed away almost a year after discovering cancer. Houston was born in KC on June 15, 1944 and a graduate of Westport High School in 1962. He served four years in the U.S. Army in Germany. He was survived by his loving wife Darlene, his children and their families, Apryl Green, Mandy Sanders, three grand children and two great grand children and his two step children. Houston was a proud teamster for 31 years, retiring from ABF Railroad in 1998. Following retirement he had what he called his "fun job" as an engineer on the Worlds of Fun train. He was a member of Tower View Baptist Church. Houston was a Maple Park Neighborhood Association board member in the past and continued to serve until last winter when he found he had health concerns. For years, Houston and Darlene could often be seen walking in Maple Park and visiting with neighbors. He always had a smile and always had a laugh. He was a very good friend to me also and will be sorely missed. We extend our sympathy to Darlene and Houston's family. We were lucky to have a friend like Houston and we are all saddened that he is gone. Richard Taylor, MPNA Director

### Taco Night

On November 15, at our regular monthly meeting, we had Taco Night. We had a taco dinner consisting of four tacos with all the trimmings, refried beans, rice, desserts and beverage for a donation of \$5.00. All the food was donated and the event raised \$135.00 for our Maple Park Neighborhood Association fund. This fund, like all revenue raised by the MPNA, is used in various ways throughout the year to help our neighborhood and to help families in need, especially at Christmas time. We had approximately 30 people in attendance. Everyone is invited to our monthly meetings at 7 pm on the third Tuesday of each month. Our general meetings are held in the Maplewood Elementary School Cafeteria. Come and visit with your neighbors. Betty Latimer, MPNA Director

TACO TUESDAY



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### Shepherd's Center Call Back Program

Winter is fast approaching. It will be either too cold or too slick to get out of the house for the next few months. We probably won't be seeing our neighbors very often until spring. Did you ever wonder what would happen if we fell or had a sudden illness and were unable to use the phone to get help? The Shepherd's Center has a call check program that makes contact every day. If you don't check in with your contact person by a set time, your contact person will call you. If there is no answer, the contact person will notify the Center that you may be in need of help. If you live alone or know someone who needs this service, call the Shepherd's Center at 452-4536. This could be a life saving program and it is free of charge to you. Ron Baldrige, MPNA Director

### Free Admission to Liberty Memorial Museum

Kansas City, Missouri residents will receive **TWO** free admission tickets to the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial during the first two months of 2012. Residents can show a photo ID in addition to a utility or other bill with a Kansas City, Missouri address at the Museum Store to receive their tickets.

The complimentary admission is offered in recognition of the ongoing partnership between the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial, the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department and the City of Kansas City, Missouri.

If you've never visited this national treasure right here in our very own city, now is your chance and best of all it's **FREE!** For more information or to visit the museum's website go to [www.theworldwar.org](http://www.theworldwar.org). Larry Knudson, MPNA President



*Winter is the time of promise because there is so little to do – or because you can now and then permit yourself the luxury of thinking so - Stanley Crawford.*


### Remembering Richard Green

I moved into Maple Park Neighborhood in January of 1983. For the first several years, I was busy working and did not see my neighbors very often. But as years passed, I began to know more about those who lived in the houses around me. I have always been lucky to have very good neighbors. Wally (Clem) and Louise lived just to the south of me. Larry and Christy live next to them on the corner. To the north was Ken and Beverly. Just behind Larry and Christy was Richard and Noma Green and their family. Just behind my house was Vicki and her two kids, Amy and Kyle. The far north end of our block is where Betty and Tom were living.

But time seems to take such a toll on our friends and neighbors. Vicki and her family have moved and Richard Noma Green moved to Liberty. Louise and Wally, Ken Danner (I think of Wally and Ken often) and Tom have all passed away. Then, not long ago, I received an email that Richard Green had also passed away. Richard was not very old and lived many years in Maple Park. I first thought that the email was a mistake, but unfortunately, it was not. Richard passed away November 6, 2011.

Richard worked installing flooring and I think had started his own company. He was very good. I was always amazed at his ability when it came to carpet planning. He was kind enough to lay the carpet in our house several years ago. When the day came to install the carpet, he pulled up in front of the house and unloaded one of those very large rolls of carpet. Our house is not very large and there was not room indoors to work with the large roll of carpet. I helped him unroll the roll of carpet in front of the house. He looked at it, measured a few distances, and then, with a very sharp knife, began slicing away at the carpet. *I about had a heart attack right there in the front yard.* The carpet was one piece the full length of the house. I was afraid to say anything. I was not about to

distract him. I thought to myself—there is no way that someone can do that. It will never fit. I was beginning to feel concerned that a friend would be embarrassed for messing up a rather expensive piece of carpet while doing me a favor. *But it did fit, perfectly.* When all the cutting was finished, we rolled up the carpet and unrolled it inside from one end of the house to the other end. I



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#### MPNA Winter Chili Dinner

The annual MPNA Winter Chili Feed is scheduled for February 21, 2012. This is a good opportunity to get to know some of your neighbors AND try a variety of new Chili recipes. Here is how it goes. We have our neighborhoods best cooks make their favorite chili, put it in a crock pot and bring it to the meeting. Someone will provide the various additional food items needed to make it Dinner. All donations of food items will be gladly accepted. Think Desserts. Anybody wanting to contribute to this event in any way should contact Leslie Knudson @ 516-0852. We will charge you \$5.00 for all you can eat. Keep in mind we are a 501©3 charity and are totally self supporting so we need all of the support we can get for these fundraising events. All donations are tax deductible and this is the right time of the year to think about taxes. All donations, large and small over the \$5.00 fee will also be appreciated. Also keep in mind that everybody pays, even those who donate food. Yeah, we do charge them to eat their own chili, but as I said these fundraisers allow us to do a lot of good things for Maple Park.

This event (as well as all MPNA meetings) will be held in the

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could not believe that someone could do that.

Richard always had a great sense of humor. There was a time when I decided to replace the windows in my house. I was working on the back bedroom window. I had reframed all the windows to a different size. For some reason, I picked up the wrong size window for the window size I had framed. It was about four inches too small for the hole I had framed. I placed the window in the hole and was surprised when the window almost fell out onto the driveway below. But I could only smile when I looked out and saw Wally, Larry, Richard and someone else sitting in their yard together watching me struggle. They were smiling and enjoyed the entertainment. Those were good times and with good neighbors.

I don't know if many others in our neighborhood knew or remember Richard, but he will be missed by many. Losing both Houston Green and Richard Green so very young lends truth to the saying "the good die young." It was far too soon for both neighbors. I have been very fortunate in Maple Park. I still have great neighbors, both the ones who have been here many years and those who have moved in during the last few years. But these neighbors who have left us will never be forgotten and certainly made an impact on the lives of those who shared friendships with them. Larry Houser, MPNA Director

#### Holiday Dinner

Maple Park Neighborhood Association is hosting a after holidays dinner on January 17th. This meal will be at our regular scheduled meeting in January. Last year we moved the dinner from our December meeting to our January meeting. Since the holidays are so hectic and can be stressful and cold, we thought January would be a good month to celebrate the coming of SPRING. MPNA will furnish the ham and Larry Houser is furnishing the turkeys. Hooray! Please let Leslie Knudson 516-0852 know what dish you would like to bring, better yet, come to the December meeting and we will have a sign-up sheet. The dinner is always great and we have a great time visiting with our neighbors. If you have been to one of our functions and had a great time please bring a neighbor there! Leslie Knudson, MPNA Treasurer

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**Chinese Garden Restaurant**

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cafeteria at Maplewood Elementary School. As usual it is the third Tuesday of the month just as our regular MPNA meetings. Normal meeting time is 7:00pm but we will try to begin this one at 6:30 so we don't have to eat too late. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the multi talented and generous staff at Maplewood School for all of the wonderful support they give MPNA now and throughout the year. You have supported us for years and we are very appreciative of your considerable effort. Thank you.

Larry Knudson, MPNA President

**Calendar**

December 21—NKC Schools 1/2 day early release- winter break begins  
 December 25—Christmas Day  
 January 1—New Years Day  
 January 4—NKC Schools, Second semester begins.  
 January 16—Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday  
 February 12—Abraham Lincoln's birthday  
 February 20—President's Day  
 February 22—George Washington's birthday

It will be a lot of fun and the cooks are out of this world. See you