

NoMCO News

North Maywood Community Organization – Since 1968

*Not-for-profit,
free publication, Newsletter,
fall, 2007*

Officers:

President: Tom Kus
343-9516
Vice president: June Hollins
Treasurer:
Albertine Alexander
Secretary: Gerald Koppel

Editors: Stacy Saunders and
Joe Mitzenmacher
Reporters: Gary Woll, Sarah
Lira, Stacy Saunders

Meetings:

Thursday, November 8

7:00-8:30 pm at First
Congregational Church, 5th
Ave. and Erie Street

Thursday, December 13

7:00-8:30 pm Christmas
Party at T&JJs at 718 S. 5th
Ave.

Thursday, January 10

7:00-8:30 pm at First
Congregational Church, 5th
Ave. and Erie Street

NoMCO meetings are open to all neighbors, members and non-members alike, in the NoMCO area which extends from the Des Plaines River to 9th Avenue and from the northern border south to Washington Blvd. Guests from outside the area are welcome too. The cost of annual membership is only \$5 per person, or \$40 per business.

NoMCO's mission statement: "Neighbors dedicated to promoting and maintaining a sense of unity and community pride."

Neighbors helping each other, positioning for change, serving Maywood.

Neighborhood accomplishments

--a message from NoMCO's President

Welcome back everyone! I hope all of you had a safe and fun summer.

NOMCO will be celebrating its 40th year in existence in 2008, and I think it's wonderful to reflect on some of its legacy and celebrate that we still have some of its original members with us as well as children of founding members. Congratulations to them, and many thanks for helping to keep the group together, along with so many years of contributions to the community.

This will be my 3rd year as president, and I would like to thank our regular members for their confidence in me to lead the group forward, with a relevant purpose.

As we start a new year, it might be good to **reflect back on some of the recent contributions** we all have made to improve the neighborhood and community:

- 1) Upgrading the zoning ordinances to make the whole north side R1-2—single family—to help stop the dismantling of our single family homes and help keep the residential nature of the community intact.
- 2) Two very successful housewalks. We all put in a lot of hard work and showcased our community. The promotion and reviews were excellent and we had people from all over the Chicago area visiting and being quite surprised by what we had to offer in the way historic and unique homes and wonderful people. Next year's is scheduled for Sunday, June 29, 2008. Let's make it even better!
- 3) Beautification; many of you pitched in and spruced up your properties. We cleaned up, planted flowers, painted, and took pride in our homes.
- 4) Sponsored forums for both school board and trustee candidates
- 5) Had guest speakers make presentations to our group that included our new Police Chief, 2 Village Managers, Community Development Director and Zone 1 MAPS officer. We will also be having the State of Illinois Historic Preservation Officer making a presentation to us on Oct 24 regarding the benefits and "how to" of historic preservation; everyone is looking forward to this talk. *(Continued on Page 3)*

Mark your calendars

Wednesday, Oct. 31—

Enjoy Free Halloween Festivities hosted by the Maywood Special Events and Public Relations Committee. Brave the **Haunted House** fear factor fun from 6-8:00 pm and enjoy the **Teen Dance Party** from 7-9:00 pm. Both events are located at 200 S. 5th Ave. Prizes for most creative, cutest and scariest costumes!

ATTEND!

Saturday, Nov. 3 at

6-9:00 pm contribute to a good cause and enjoy a festive evening at the same time while attending the **Annual Maywood Rotary Club Auction** at the First Congregational Church at 5th and Erie. Tickets are \$10. Seats are limited. Come prepared to bid! Contact any Rotary member for tickets or call Gary Woll at 708-345-2706.

First Congregational Church at 5th Avenue and Erie Street will be hosting a series of events: – **Harvest Moon Barn Dance** on Saturday, **Nov. 10** at 7-10:00 pm; a **Teen Movie Night** on Friday, **Nov. 16** at 7:00 pm; and **Thanksgiving Day Walk** and breakfast on **Nov. 22** at 6:30 am.

Thursday, Dec. 13 at T&JJs Restaurant (718 South 5th Avenue) from 7-9:00 pm join the fun at the **NoMCO Christmas Party Dinner**. Call a member of NoMCO for details.

Progress updates and insights from Village Hall

Main story contributor: Jason Ervin, Interim Village Manager

Street repairs and other city improvements

- Have you seen the **beautiful brick streets** laid this summer on Ohio Street between 1st and 4th Avenues and parts of 2nd Avenue? This was a pilot project to enhance the historical image of the area.
- This fall the Village coordinated north-end improvements on 5th Avenue with the state funding agency and Melrose Park. **The next round of 5th Avenue repairs** will extend from Lake Street south to Quincy Avenue (a few blocks shy of the I-290 expressway). This portion of the multimillion dollar project goes beyond resurfacing; it will go to the sub-base, involve new utilities, light poles and streetscaping. The project is expected to be complete within the 2008 calendar year.
- A **new parking lot to support business enhancement** in Maywood's downtown has been created at the corner of 5th and Main Street, just across from the Metra Train Station. This lot was created to mitigate congestion and prepare for increased traffic on 5th Avenue.
- A stipulated agreement is in development between multiple parties—Union Pacific, Metra, Illinois Commerce Commission, Maywood, Department of Transportation—to **close the 4th Avenue train crossing** based on ongoing safety concerns. This is likely to happen within the 2008 calendar year. Maywood will be compensated for releasing the crossing and hopes that increased traffic on 5th Avenue will stimulate more business growth. On a related note, the Village is also working with the Railroad and federal government to develop a **true train station with a bus connection** which would require only one-quarter funding from the Village. This deal is several years away but the vision has been established.

Economic Development

- The Village has received three **proposals from developers** interested in the former Riteway Grocery store location at 5th and Washington. There are also four active prospects for the properties held by the Village at 1st Avenue and Lake Street. These proposals will be reviewed formally by the trustees soon—stay tuned.
- **Demolition** will take place up and down 5th Avenue in November and December on various Village-owned properties, including 12-18 North 5th Avenue, to prepare for more development.

Planning and Zoning

- The Village's Comprehensive Plan is in the process of being finalized for presentation to the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Board of Trustees, and with the expectation that it will be approved by the end of the year. After it is approved, a comprehensive revision of the Village Code will follow.

Recent Happenings

Pumpkin Patch Parade, a smash!



Over 800 people marched in the Pumpkin Patch Parade on Saturday,

October 13 to help raise roughly \$20,000 in support of the many programs serving over 1,400 youth at the Maywood Fine Arts Association located at 5th Avenue and Lake Street. Did you catch Pastor Elliot of the First Congregational Church singing and playing the drum? Bravo to the Association's dedicated staff and volunteers and to the Bauman family's continued commitment to Maywood's youth, and to all of you for contributing.

Housewalk treasures—a moment of thanks! The Housewalk on September 9 was quite successful, partly thanks to the beautiful weather and the beautiful homes, but most importantly thanks to the people who made it happen; the home owners who opened up their historic treasures, and the countless volunteers who helped plan, advertise, and work the event on the day. We would like to extend a special thanks to Lennel Grace and the Maywood Special Events Commission for collaborating with NoMCO this year to broaden the awareness and appreciation for historic properties all over town, not just the north side. It has been several years since our housewalks covered that much distance. The Trolley tour added a delightful dimension to the walk and we hope to expand that concept next year.

On the evening of Wednesday, Oct. 24, the **Illinois Historic Preservation Society** presented to over 50 members of our community on the advantages and how-tos of forming historic districts. Many thanks to all!

Fall season - home repairs and maintenance checklist

- Cool, dry fall days are a great time to paint both the interior and exterior of your home. Porch steps should be repainted every year or two. Remember to mix special grit into your paint for a non-skid surface.
- Turn off valves that extend to outside faucets, cover or cap off outside faucets.
- Before rough winter weather sets in, remove screens from windows and doors and put up storm windows.
- Check caulking around windows and do touch ups to conserve energy and natural resources.
- Inspect and maintain your heating system. Check your heat pump or furnace and change the filter. Make repairs if needed. Did you know that the pilot light on your furnace should appear mainly blue with a hint of yellow/orange? If the color is not right have it checked before winter.
- Clean and reverse the ceiling fans.
- Replace the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors and test them.
- Replace raised deck nails
- Apply weather stripping to windows
- Fix up your gutters

Resource tip: Did you know about the **50/50 Sidewalk Repair Program**? This Village of Maywood program allows you to spend half of the cost in fixing your sidewalk. One square of sidewalk is likely to cost you only \$55 under this program. The program has not always been offered in recent years. Take advantage of it now to save money and improve your property. Call Trina Mangrum at 708-450-6307 to find out details.

Message from the President, *Continued from Page 1*

- 6) Although we have limited funds, we supported charitable groups within Maywood.
- 7) As always, we provided a forum for special announcements by members for projects around the community and often times stepped up with volunteers.
- 8) Made our voices heard at Village Board meetings through Public Comment time; these are valuable inputs that our elected officials need to know.

In moving forward, I encourage all of you to step up, come to meetings and get involved. Bring family members and neighbors, and become part of the group that is effecting positive change in the community. We need everyone to pitch in and help and you will have fun too.

Our meetings will continue to be the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7PM at the 1st Congregational Church at 5th Avenue and Erie Street. Please come be part of the exciting activities and help make Maywood an even better place to live.

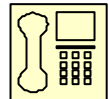
Tom Kus, President of NoMCO

Neighborhood Parents

How can our neighborhood organization better help families to connect with each other and with the community? We welcome your ideas on what issues we should be addressing. For example we've held forums to hear from school board candidates and make endorsements. We've created family volunteer opportunities such as the canoe river clean-up and the Prairie Path clean up. Would you be interested in collaborating with officials from the library, schools and recreation agencies? What other types of events or issues should we be focusing on?

Meanwhile we realize that our Thursday night monthly meeting falls right in the middle of bath and bed time for the little ones. But we really want you to become involved. So please give us your ideas about how to make your involvement in NoMCO easier. For example, if we offered babysitting at the meetings, would you bring your kids? Would you be interested in joining a special NoMCO parents meeting on Saturday mornings where kids could come and play with each other while the adults met?

Call Stacy Saunders at 450-9727 to express your ideas.



Know the Code...

According to Maywood's Code department, here are the top 11 items which are cited most often by the department:

1. No address on building (*This is a safety issue-- so emergency vehicles can find homes immediately when called to the area*)
2. Cars parked on grass
3. Inoperative cars on property
4. No grass or ground cover (just dirt)
5. Debris and storage clutter.
6. Peeling paint
7. Accessory structure condition: fence, garage
8. Overcrowding
9. Damaged entry stairs
10. Broken doors
11. Roof damage, leaks

Contact the Code department at 450-4405 if you have questions about the housing code.

