



CITY'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

# MAPLEWOOD LIVING

AUGUST 2019



## Gov. Walz visits Maplewood; shares vision to build stronger communities

By Joe Sheeran, Communications Manager

In a packed room of east metro business, education and community leaders, Governor Tim Walz explained how education and transportation are his keys to driving our regional and state economy. The City and White Bear Area Chamber of Commerce partnered to co-host the mid-July address at the Maplewood YMCA Community Center.

Governor Walz stressed education isn't just about schools, saying this year's education budget started with a discussion on stable housing.

"I know this as a geography teacher, if you slept in a car the night before, in the middle of a Minnesota winter, you're not very interested in the geography of South America," said Gov. Walz. "You have other issues."

He pointed to the achievement gap between white students and students of color as a complex economic problem that needs to be rectified through a broad range of social and economic policies, telling the audience a significant portion of their workforce will come from communities of color in the next 25 years.

Pointing to one of the City's banners that reads: "Maplewood, a welcoming diverse community, Governor Walz said, "inclusivity isn't just a nice thing to say. It's ethically the right thing to do," it will help us build economically strong communities.

*"inclusivity isn't just a nice thing to say. It's ethically the right thing to do"*

Moving to his other key economic theme, Gov. Walz said his biggest disappointment was not getting something more significant done on transportation. Minnesota is among the nation's top five for the number of

road miles, on par with Texas, California, and Pennsylvania because previous generations invested in connecting the state. It's led to a higher standard of living, higher incomes and safer roads, Walz noted. He vowed to continue working to ensure this generation builds on the commitment of previous generations for modern, well-maintained, connected transportation infrastructure.

Despite that sticking point, he said, Minnesota's divided legislature serves as an outlier for a functional, cooperative government in a hyper partisan national political climate.



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## Elected Officials

- Marylee Abrams: Mayor (612) 322-1620  
marylee.abrams@maplewoodmn.gov
- Kathleen Juenemann: Councilmember (651) 771-3670  
kathleen.juenemann@maplewoodmn.gov
- Bryan Smith: Councilmember (651) 888-0085  
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- Bill Knutson: Councilmember (612) 290-9778  
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- Sylvia Neblett: Councilmember (651) 766-3851  
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## City Manager

- Melinda Coleman: City Manager (651) 249-2055  
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## Frequently Called Numbers

- City Hall (651) 249-2000
- Maplewood Community Center (651) 747-0922
- Recreation (651) 249-2120
- Public Works (651) 249-2400
- Police Non-Emergency (651) 767-0640

Visit the City website at [www.maplewoodmn.gov](http://www.maplewoodmn.gov) for the meeting schedule of the City Council, Commissions and Boards.



To advertise in this newsletter call Joe Sheeran at (651) 249-2061 or email [joe.sheeran@maplewoodmn.gov](mailto:joe.sheeran@maplewoodmn.gov).

# CELEBRATE

# SUMMER

**August 21, 2019**  
6:00pm - 7:30pm • Edgerton Park • 1929 Edgerton St.

**FREE FAMILY EVENT!**  
JOIN US FOR  
**Our Final Summer Get-together!**

- Games
- Inflatables
- 3M Visiting Wizards
- Nature Center Activities
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- & Much More!!



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Please Consider Donating Back-To-School Items



# FALL SOCCER

**Co-Rec Soccer Starter Program for ages 4 - 9**

Mondays or Wednesdays  
Hazelwood Park

Weeks of **September 9** through **October 16**

Register by August 23

**4 yr: 6:00 - 7:00pm**

**5 yr: 6:00 - 7:00pm**

**7-9 yr: 7:15 - 8:15pm**

**\$65**



**Register: 651.249.2111**  
[apm.activecommunities.com/MaplewoodHome](http://apm.activecommunities.com/MaplewoodHome)



## Council Corner

by Bryan Smith

A City Council meeting may seem like a simple thing, there is an agenda, minutes, and rules on process and order. We mostly handle zoning, local development, street construction projects and public safety issues.

Since joining the Council, I have learned how critical it is that our city staff works diligently to prepare and present these issues to us. The better the staff is at their jobs, the easier it looks and the better we're able to serve you. It is the second most important aspect aside from hearing directly from you. Accurate research, data, recommendations from other peer cities, external experts, as well as our staff factor into every council decision.

Here's a brief peek into our preparation for a standard city council meeting.

One important aspect of conducting our business as a council is adhering to Minnesota's open meeting laws. When I was a new council member, I was surprised by how these laws impact the way we conduct all council business. First and foremost, the council does not discuss any city business outside of public meetings. There are executive sessions with in a council meeting for things like personnel decisions, which are held outside the council chamber, but are audio recorded for later public viewing. Unlike my work in the private sector, there can be no "meeting before the meeting" to align approaches. What you see at our meetings is the first time we have had these conversations. This makes our preparation that much more important for having deep and informed discussions.

Each meeting, we receive an agenda (which is set about two weeks prior) with a large packet of information. This packet is on the city website prior to our meeting – usually by the Wednesday before a Monday meeting – so you can see the same information we see. This packet is often several hundred pages and can be daunting. It must not only include staff reports, but also all supporting documentation, evidence, public feedback, and any presentations the staff wishes to give. Council Members spend significant time reviewing these packets to inform their decisions and prepare for a rich discussion at the meeting. These materials represent weeks and even months of staff time. Staff must also anticipate questions and concerns council members may have and be prepared with answers, which they typically are.

Frequently an issue needs to route through one or more city commissions before coming to the council, and staff prepares similar packets for the commissioners.

The decisions we make as a council are often difficult, and sometimes involve spending millions of taxpayer dollars. Our decisions also shape the future of neighborhoods and how housing, transportation, parks, and more may evolve over decades. Our staff's high-quality work, preparation and ability to satisfactorily answer probing questions for projects or initiatives gives me confidence in the decisions I make. They are the unsung heroes whose efforts go unacknowledged and unrecognized by most but are critical to how our city progresses. Please join me in offering our dedicated city staff our gratitude for the hard work they do to help us make Maplewood a great place to live, work, and raise our families.



### Governor Walz | continued

“This legislative session proved there are compromises to be found,” said Gov. Walz. “There can be respectfulness in the debate.” There are counter-intuitive coalitions that are building around issues like keeping health care and social services funded.

We have to stop oversimplifying our politics, he stressed, and oversimplifying the issues as having just one or two solutions. These days, parties paint the other side as not only wrong, but evil.

He addressed other topics, such as making government more innovative and owning mistakes fast and correcting them, using the troubled MNLARS licensing system as an example.

Success at the local level, in places like Maplewood and our school districts, is the core to a prosperous state, he acknowledged. We are all connected and must move forward together to keep Minnesota among the most well-educated, healthiest, connected and economically strong states in the nation.



## Reaching out; coming to your community

Expanding on Coffee with and Cop and our Public Safety Presents informational series, the Maplewood Department of Public safety in coordination with Parks and Recreation and other public partners has been hosting a series of community engagement events in high-resident communities. Here are some snap shots from the events.

We like to thank Metro Transit, Ramsey County, and the U.S. Census Bureau for supporting and partnering in these events to ensure we're able to bring key resources directly to people in their communities.

## Cops and Bobbers

What a joy to see a youngster catch his or her first fish. This second annual event brought a large and diverse crowd to Spoon River where officers and firefighter/paramedics helped participants hook their bait and find a good fishing spot. Thanks to our event sponsors and supporters Cabela's, Joe's Sporting Goods, Costco, and Buddy Martin-Country Financial.



**Remaining Community Engagement Events:**  
**August 13 (5-7pm) – Mississippi Street Apartments**  
 2000-2160 Mississippi St. North  
**August 27(5-7pm) – Gold Star Apartments**  
 315-321 Larpenteur Avenue East

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# Top of the GreenStep

By Meg Hannasch, Sustainability Intern

It's not easy being a GreenStep City, especially maintaining top-tier status. To keep Step 5 recognition – the highest in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency program – a City must show improvements in core sustainability metrics.

This year, Maplewood improved in eight areas:



Number of electric vehicle charging stations



Number of new trees planted in public spaces



Residential solid waste generated per resident per day



Commercial solid waste generated per job per day



Recycling Percentage



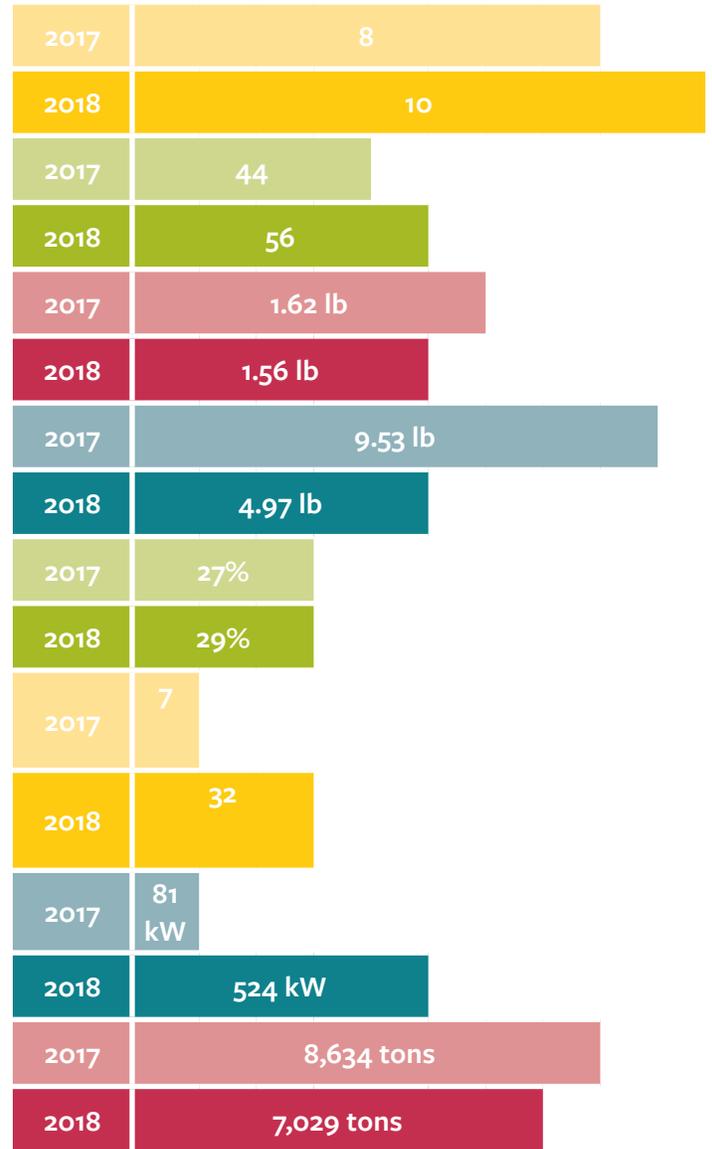
Renewable energy generation sites



Generation capacity of city-owned and private renewable energy generation sites



Greenhouse gas emissions from waste



“This award is a great achievement for Maplewood,” said Mayor Marylee Abrams of Maplewood. “By being part of the program, Maplewood and our peers are helping make Minnesota more resilient while helping our cities thrive economically.”

As one of 127 cities and tribal nations participating in GreenStep Cities, Maplewood is helping lead the way in sustainability. The program focuses on actions that save money, energy, and natural resources and encourages conservation and civic innovation.



City Council Member Bill Knutson and Assistant City Manager Mike Funk accept Maplewood's Step 5 GreenStep City Award at the League of Minnesota Cities banquet in June.



## Pasta and Pizza

Noodles and Company on White Bear and Beam re-opened this month, after a fire closed the restaurant 13 months ago. Thanks for re-building and being dedicated to Maplewood.



You don't have to travel all the way to Passyunk Avenue in Philly to get a decent cheese steak, just go to the newly opened Tono Pizzeria + Cheesesteaks at 3088 White Bear. The shop's owners have roots in the City of Brotherly Love and offer a wide selection of pizzas and sandwiches.

# Winter is coming.

Are you ready to enjoy it?



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## Buckthorn Removal Demonstration

- Learn to identify common and glossy buckthorn
- Discover best management practices after removal
- Learn which herbicides work best and how to use them safely

**Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00am - 12pm**

At Applewood Park  
822 Sterling St S

**Free**

*Participants must wear personal protection equipment: safety glasses, long pants, long sleeved shirt, shoes plus long socks; and chemical resistant gloves.*

Applewood Park - 822 Sterling Street South  
Register by September 4 at [maplewoodnaturecenter.com](http://maplewoodnaturecenter.com)  
or call (651) 249-2170 (activity #16531)

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## Creative approach to reduce auto theft

By Sgt. Mike Nye

Maplewood Police hope a fulltime investigator, funded by a Department of Commerce grant, dedicated to auto thefts will help cut the number of stolen cars and items stolen out of vehicles in the city.

In recent years, the city has seen an uptick in auto thefts due to a variety of factors. We have had modest success combating the problem using bait cars, partnerships with neighboring jurisdictions and the newly created Street Crimes Unit. However, staff solely dedicated to proactively targeting and prosecuting prolific offenders is necessary to sustain auto theft reduction.

“Auto theft and items stolen out of cars inflict tremendous pain on families and people who rely on their cars to make a living, get to school, and attend important appointments and events,” said Chief Scott Nadeau, Maplewood’s Public Safety Director. “These types of crimes erode the perception of community safety and our region’s high quality of life.”



The State’s Commerce Fraud Bureau grant will allow Maplewood Police to launch the Intense Targeting of Recurring Automotive Crimes (I-TRAC) initiative, which includes a fulltime investigator for two years. The investigator will focus heavily on proactive enforcement and preparation for prosecution. Continued collaboration with the Street Crimes Unit, patrol, neighboring agencies and data-driven strategies will be a top priority.

Data suggests just a few thieves are responsible for the majority of stolen cars and thefts from vehicles, which makes having a dedicated investigator critical to gathering evidence and presenting a solid prosecution when we catch a habitual offender.

One of our key non-governmental partners has been Maplewood’s auto dealers. In preparing the grant application several wrote letters of support. We’d like to thank Carmax, Kline Auto World, Maplewood Toyota, Schmetz Countryside, and Sparkle Auto Sales for helping us make the case that this unit is a valuable use of state funding.



# MAPLEWOOD NATURE CENTER TURNS

# 40

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1:00 - 3:30 PM**

*Celebration festivities include:  
Games • Face-painting • Live Folk Music  
“Waterways and Otterways” Puppet Show  
Fresh Apple Juice*

*View historic photos and add your memories to our storyboard!*



**City of Maplewood**

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**Upcoming Events**

<b>August 13</b>	<b>Movie at the Farm</b> 5:30 – 8:30PM Bruentrup Heritage Farm
<b>August 21</b>	<b>End of Summer Celebration</b> 6 – 7:30PM Edgerton Park
<b>August 24</b>	<b>Bi-lingual Monarchs/ Monarcas presentation,</b> 1:00 – 2:30PM Nature Center
<b>September 21</b>	<b>Nature Center 40th Anniversary Celebration</b> 1:00 – 3:30pm
<b>September 28</b>	<b>Maplewood Rec Run 3K/5K</b> MCC/YMCA

Go to **MaplewoodMN.gov**.  
Our home page calendar has details  
on upcoming events.



**Visit Maplewood at the Fair**

The City of Maplewood has been invited to the Great Minnesota Get Together for being a Clean Energy Community.

**The Eco Experience**  
(corner of Cooper and Randall)

**Thursday, August 29; 9am - 9pm**

The Department of Commerce chose Maplewood to be an exhibitor for a day because of the City’s work on expanding solar, finding ways for residents and business to save energy, and creating a plan for climate adaptation.

Eleven communities across the state will be featured throughout the Fair at Commerce’s exhibit. Displays include posters of clean energy success stories, community ‘trading cards’ describing clean energy projects, and a mini-movie theater-style display.