



CITY'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

# MAPLEWOOD LIVING

August 2020



## Help guide the direction of Maplewood's Parks and Recreation and Nature Center programing; join a task force

With COVID-19 and 2021 budget concerns, the city decided not to reopen the Nature Center or resume Parks and Recreation programing until a more fiscally sustainable model with a regional approach is in place (Just a note, the pond and trail at the Nature Center remain open and our crews will continue to operate and maintain all of our parks, playgrounds and open spaces.)

To move this conversation forward, the City Council has voted to convene two task forces—one for the Nature Center, one for Recreation—consisting of staff and partners from a variety of stakeholder groups, including Maplewood community members and program participants.

With support from a staff facilitator, each task force will review existing programming, services, and operating budgets, review possible programming alternatives, and identify possible funding partners with a regional focus. Another goal includes ensuring future programming is culturally relevant to the diverse members of the east metro community.

Task force members will meet at least once every few weeks, with meetings expected to last up to 2.5 hours. By December, each task force will present findings and recommendations to council.

Apply for one of the task forces by going to: [maplewoodmn.gov/taskforce](http://maplewoodmn.gov/taskforce).



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## Elected Officials

- Marylee Abrams: Mayor (612) 322-1620  
[marylee.abrams@maplewoodmn.gov](mailto:marylee.abrams@maplewoodmn.gov)
- Kathleen Juenemann: Councilmember (651) 771-3670  
[kathleen.juenemann@maplewoodmn.gov](mailto:kathleen.juenemann@maplewoodmn.gov)
- Bryan Smith: Councilmember (651) 888-0085  
[bryan.smith@maplewoodmn.gov](mailto:bryan.smith@maplewoodmn.gov)
- Bill Knutson: Councilmember (612) 290-9778  
[bill.knutson@maplewoodmn.gov](mailto:bill.knutson@maplewoodmn.gov)
- Sylvia Neblett: Councilmember (651) 766-3851  
[sylvia.neblett@maplewoodmn.gov](mailto:sylvia.neblett@maplewoodmn.gov)

## City Manager

Melinda Coleman: City Manager (651) 249-2055  
[melinda.coleman@maplewoodmn.gov](mailto:melinda.coleman@maplewoodmn.gov)

## Frequently Called Numbers

- City Hall (651) 249-2000
- Maplewood Community Center (651) 747-0922
- Parks and 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).



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## Reserve your fall buckthorn pick up

Maplewood residents who remove enough buckthorn to fill a pick-up truck from their properties will qualify for free curbside pick-up this fall (no other trees or shrubs will be picked up). If you do not have enough buckthorn to qualify, recruit your neighbors and we will include your block.

### Pickup is scheduled for the week of October 26

Register by 3:00 pm, Friday, October 23 by emailing: [emily.dunlap@maplewoodmn.gov](mailto:emily.dunlap@maplewoodmn.gov) or by calling 651-249-2416.

## Attend a free Buckthorn removal demonstration

**Saturday, Sep 12, 10am-noon** at the Applewood Preserve

Learn to distinguish between buckthorn and beneficial look-alikes, best management practices, and safe herbicides. This is a hands-on demonstration. Participants must wear personal protection equipment: safety glasses, long pants, long sleeved shirt, shoes plus long socks; and chemical resistant gloves.

We will stay COVID safe, socially distant and require masks. Tools will be sanitized prior to use.

Register online by **Friday, September 4** at [maplewoodnaturecenter.com](http://maplewoodnaturecenter.com), click RegisterOnline-Go, or call 651-249-2170.

### MAPLEWOOD BUCKTHORN HERBICIDE COUPON

Join the City's effort to manage buckthorn in Maplewood. To help with this community environmental issue, these businesses are offering Maplewood residents a discount on buckthorn herbicide products. We recommend Triclopyr products at 8% or 8.8% if treating before September 1. Use water-safe formulations for use within 15 feet of water, wet areas or storm drains.

#### Gertens: 25% OFF!

Bonide® Brush and Stump Killer (8% Triclopyr)

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## Maplewood advances GreenStep City goals

With the bar rising every year, Maplewood has had to work harder and become more innovative to meet our GreenStep Cities program goals. To maintain our top-tier status for this year's award, we improved energy savings, greenhouse gas reduction, and green community innovation in the following areas:

18% reduction in greenhouse gas assessment for City operations

Installed 20 additional solar sites; increasing solar generation

Reduced energy used for street lights by more than 150kwh

Residents used 6 fewer gallons of drinking water

Reduced overall energy use in City buildings

4% increase of City Facilities' LED lights

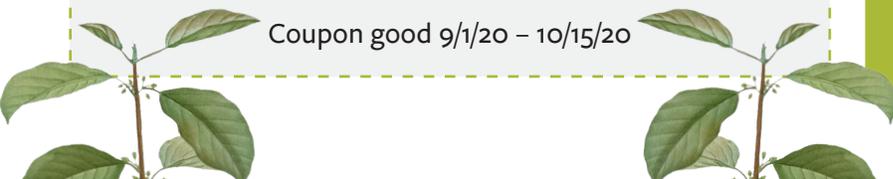
Reduced City vehicles' MPG's by nearly 1/3 of a gallon

Improved 1 impaired waterway (Beaver Lake)

Added 4 electric vehicle charging stations

Planted 42 new trees in public spaces

28% increase in composting





## Life at the Mall

By Joe Sheeran, Communications Manager

The Maplewood Mall is back open for business. And while closed during COVID-19's peak, it still served as a space to fulfil community needs, hosting blood drives, food drop offs and other activities.

“Once the governor announced his shutdown order, we started a communications campaign to let people know the mall had space for organizations looking to conduct events that required social distancing,” said Paula Mueller, Maplewood Mall’s General Manager. “We felt this was a way to use our resources to help the community.”

A variety of organizations have reached out to use space, including places of worship, food vendors and the Red Cross. While the mall was closed, they hosted at least three blood drives, one of which being Maplewood Public Safety Department’s Battle of the Badges. Canine Officer’s from across Minnesota used the mall to train. Early on, the mall was a hub for school buses to hand out food to children’s families. Mall staff also continued its KidX Club virtually, having children create and send cards and letters to residents at Maple Hills Senior Living.





With the mall (about 95% of stores) and food court (take out only) open, its offer to host socially-distanced gatherings for local partners continues. Through the summer, they've allowed food trucks to spread through their parking lot and hope to expand as health guidelines allow.

Inside the mall, they're offering rental space to local businesses looking to start up or relocate after being displaced by COVID or recent civil unrest.

"We are a community hub and want to draw people into the space in a variety of ways," said Mueller. "We'll continue being inventive about our retail, entertainment and social offerings."

In the near future, the mall is looking to beautify its common spaces and exterior walls by featuring local artists whose work highlights the diverse cultures of the Maplewood community.

If you are interested in requesting space at the mall contact general manager Paula Mueller at: [paula.mueller@washingtonprime.com](mailto:paula.mueller@washingtonprime.com)



## Hope in the Struggle

Wednesday,  
September 16  
6:30 -8 p.m.

As part of our year-long celebration of 100 years of the League of Women Voters, the League of Women Voters of

Roseville Area is honored that Dr. Josie Johnson will speak at our September 16 meeting, co-hosted by the Roseville Ramsey County Library on Zoom. Dr. Johnson's esteemed career includes being a long-time member of the Minneapolis League and serving on the national League board in the 1970s.

Her remarks will feature stories from her newly released book, Hope in the Struggle, that include her role in the League and elsewhere advocating for voting rights, including making brave trips to the South to register voters during the heat of the Civil Rights Movement. Co-author Carolyn Holbrook, adjunct professor of creative writing at Hamline University and recent author of Tell Me Your Names and I Will Testify, will join her in presenting. League member Marquita Stephens will moderate.

Books will be available for purchase online through Subtext Books after the 6:30 p.m. virtual meeting that is free and open to the public. Registration can be made through the Ramsey County Library website [rclreads.org](http://rclreads.org).

Barb Anderson  
Communications Chair  
League of Women Voters Roseville Area

## Primary Election – August 11, 2020

All Maplewood precincts will be open on August 11 from 7:00am until 8:00pm.

Great care is being taken to provide a safe voting experience for election judges and voters. Voters are encouraged to wear masks, maintain distancing and follow other provisions such as the use of hand sanitizer at the polls.

### Early/Absentee Voting now through August 10

There is still time to vote absentee either by mail or in person. All voters can vote early by absentee ballot in Minnesota. You do not need to provide a reason for voting early.

**Vote by Mail:** Voting by mail is safe, easy and convenient. You can request your ballot now for both the state primary and general election. Apply for your absentee ballot at [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org). Registered voters do not need a witness for the 2020 State Primary.

**Vote In-Person Absentee:** Maplewood residents can cast an absentee ballot in-person at Maplewood City Hall, 1830 County Road B East.

- Voting hours are M - F from 8am - 4:30pm, Saturday, August 8 from 10am - 3pm and Monday, August 10 from 8am - 5pm.
- Starting August 4 – voters can directly feed their ballot into the ballot counter.
- Additional in-person absentee voting locations available to Maplewood voters - check Ramsey County Elections website for hours:
  - o Ramsey County Elections - 90 Plato Blvd W.
  - o Ramsey County Library-Roseville - 2180 Hamline Ave N
  - o New Brighton Community Center - 400 10th St NW

## Maplewood Offices on Primary ballot

### Mayor - 2 year Special Election

Top two advance to November General Election  
Marylee Abrams  
Margaret (Meg) Sletten Behrens  
Bob Cardinal

### Councilmember - two 4 year terms, vote for 2

Top four advance to November General Election  
Anand Balar                      Rebecca Cave  
Garrett Krueger                Sylvia Neblett  
Nikki Villavicencio

### Councilmember - 2 year Special Election

Top two advance to November General Election  
Tyler Hamilton                Bill Knutson  
Diana Longrie                 David Singleton



## Voting in the Time of COVID-19

Tuesday, August 18, 2020, 6:30-8 p.m. / Zoom webinar co-hosted by Ramsey County Library-Roseville and League of Women Voters of Roseville Area. Both national and local elections are being held in November 2020, but this is no ordinary election year. The health and safety demands of the coronavirus pandemic are affecting both voters and those planning and administering elections. Secretary of State Steve Simon will speak to the practicalities of administering an election in the time of COVID-19. What is the status of voting by mail in Minnesota? How do municipalities recruit and protect election judges? What accommodations and adjustments are being made this year? Listen and learn. Questions can be submitted by chat. Registration can be made through the Ramsey County Library website [rclreads.org](http://rclreads.org).



## New Multicultural Advisory Committee kicks off with Floyd, modern-policing discussion

By Chief Scott Nadeau, Public Safety Director

The police department's initial Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) meeting featured a variety of new and diverse community members, which included Karen Community members, African-American people, Native Americans, and members of our Mosque. The conversation was honest, candid, and mostly positive. People were eager to talk about police-community relations, especially in light of the George Floyd death and nationwide protests. I'm looking forward to continued dialogue among our MAC members in the months ahead.

The MAC model originated in a number of Hennepin County communities, and has now expanded into Anoka, Ramsey, and Washington County communities. It is recognized as a best practice for police agencies that want to partner with diverse communities. The goal for Maplewood's MAC is to build a stronger bridge between our police and the community through:

- Targeted Outreach to underserved populations intended to increase communication and build understanding as well as trust and transparency
- Community forums
- Training for both the police and community
- Broader partnerships with a variety of stakeholders



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**Join a Commission**

The City of Maplewood has several openings on our commissions. Please apply at <https://forms.maplewoodmn.gov/Forms/BACA>.

**Environmental & Natural Resources Commission** – 2 openings

**Heritage Preservation Commission** – 2 openings

**Housing & Economic Development Commission** – 1 opening

**Planning Commission** – 1 opening