

CITY'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

MAPLEWOOD LIVING

August 2021



Construction begins on a new North Fire Station

After standing at the corner of County Road C and Hazelwood 45 years, the North Fire Station came down in just a few hours. Construction on a modern station to meet growing community demands, including 24-hour shifts and best practices in safety, is underway.

The new station will be equipped to support firefighter safety, wellness, administrative, operational, living and apparatus needs.

Back in 2016, our public safety professionals sought to address a trend of rising call loads that would continue as our population ages and our residents' needs become more diverse.

They formed a citizen-led task force, which included health care professionals to help examine the issue and find solutions.

We also hired an independent consultant who conducted a comprehensive study of our Fire/EMS operations and made several recommendations. They included:

- Transitioning to a fulltime department and reconfiguring command staff to ensure the proper level of supervisory skills on all shifts. Both of which have been carried out successfully.
- Reconfiguring our fire station locations to improve efficiency. This included the new North Fire Station.

Total cost for the project is about \$13 million, which is offset by \$3 million in the sale of former fire stations and a \$500,000 sales tax exemption on construction and building materials thanks to the leadership of our state legislative delegation.

We anticipate opening the new station next summer.



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Elected Officials

- Marylee Abrams: Mayor (612) 322-1620
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- Nikki Villavicencio: Councilmember (651) 558-7662
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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
- 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 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.

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Hosted by the Maplewood Area Historical Society
At the Bruentrup Heritage Farm
 2170 East County Road D, Maplewood

Saturday, September 11, 2021
11am - 4pm

40+ Vendors!

New & Vintage, hand-made art, crafts, estate & garage sale items
Deep fried tacos + more!



Live Country & 50's Music

Overflow parking is located at Harbor Pointe, 2079-2127 County Rd D, Maplewood
www.MaplewoodHistoricalSociety.org

Maplewood's
Flea Market & Craft Fair



Help support Maplewood's climate adaptation efforts

By Kathy Juenemann, Council member

Out of control West Coast and Canadian wildfires; severe drought in the Midwest, threatening food, water and energy supplies; torrential rains in the southeast U.S. and Europe, wiping out entire towns and killing more than 100 people – what's happening?

What's causing these weather extremes? How do we name the cause—climate change, global warming, temperature and precipitation extremes, cyclical weather patterns, Mother Nature? It doesn't matter what we call it. How we react, how we handle the circumstances and prevent and avoid future danger and damage is what matters.

As a city, we are responsible for the health and safety of our community. This is why the City Council recently approved Maplewood's Climate Adaptation Plan (CAP). It's a comprehensive set of strategies to help us survive future crises, prioritize sustainable uses of land and water, reduce waste, and support improved equity and livability.

Here are some actions Maplewood is taking to prepare for those changes:

- Mitigating flooding by constructing roads to meet the City's Living Streets policy.
- Expanding local food production by lifting barriers to urban agriculture.
- Reducing Green House Gas emissions through the purchase of cleaner fleets and building materials.
- Protecting wetlands, lakes, and rivers from severe storms and heavy rain by establishing and preserving native and natural vegetation near shorelines.

Here are ways you can help:

- Take the rain ready assessment: cnt.org/tools/my-rainready-home-assessment-tool
- Plant native plants: They provide food for pollinators, do not require fertilizer, require less water than non-native plants, and reduce water runoff.
- Increase energy savings by scheduling a Home Energy Squad visit, call 651-328-6220 or mncee.org/hes
- Contact your state representatives about environmental issues important to you.

For more about our CAP and what you can do to support our climate adaptation efforts, visit maplewoodmn.gov/climateadaptation. Our community's long-term community sustainability and health (physical, mental, and economic) needs all of us to participate. Thank you for helping us become a more climate ready and resilient city.



Nature Center to reopen, under new Parks and Natural Resources Department

With the help of the City's Nature Center task force and key staff leadership, Maplewood is carrying out a plan to reopen the Nature Center in late summer/early fall. Under the plan, we have merged Parks and Recreation and the Nature Center into the Parks and Natural Resources Department. It includes relocating parks, natural resources and environmental planning staff in the Nature Center building, allowing people enjoying the pond and trails to use the restrooms during business hours and bringing back some environmental and natural resources programing.

When COVID-19 forced the shutdown of this facility, we made a commitment to continue our City's pursuit of wildlife and natural resources protection and education. With the help of our environmental and natural resources staff, we were able to continue that mission. The Nature Center's reopening and merger into Parks and Natural Resources, helps ensure we'll deliver these services more efficiently and at a better value to our taxpayers.

On behalf of the community and city staff, we appreciate your patience through this reorganization.



City of Maplewood

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www.maplewoodmn.gov

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Guide Maplewood's future; join a citizen advisory committee

Maplewood has several current openings for residents looking to help advise City Council on development, natural resources and historic preservation initiatives.

The Community Design Review Board (CDRB) needs to fill two vacancies. The five-member advisory board reviews building design, site plans, and landscaping for proposed multi-family, commercial and industrial development. One vacancy must be filled by a design, construction or property professional. The other must be filled a layperson. Both must be Maplewood residents.

Openings are also available on the Environmental and Natural Resources Commission and the Heritage Preservation Commission.

Apply at <https://forms.maplewoodmn.gov/Forms/BACA>.