

CITY'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

# MAPLEWOOD LIVING

December 2021



## End of Year report

By Melinda Coleman, City Manager

Thanks to our dedicated, professional staff – from front line employees to department directors – the City has been able to navigate the last two years of uncertainty, adjustments, and new norms.

Most planned projects have stayed on pace while we've adjusted to accommodate new initiatives. Here's a snapshot of what we've accomplished in 2021.



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### North Fire Station:

Last August, construction crews broke ground on a 35,000-square-foot state-of-the-art fire station at the site of the old station, 1530 County Road C. The new North Station will house seven firefighters 24 hours a day and will serve as the department's new administrative home. It will feature seven apparatus bays, office space, firefighter living quarters and a community space. The station is being built to address the two leading causes of firefighter death -- occupational cancer and cardiac-related deaths. The department is on track to move in early summer of 2022

### Fire Department's Equity and Inclusive Hiring Initiative:

When it comes to hiring firefighter-paramedics that better reflect the community's demographics, traditional recruitment strategies fall short. The pool of pre-certified firefighters of color and women is low. That's why in 2020, Fire/EMS started its Cadet program. It seeks highly motivated employees who possess tremendous work ethic and attitude that show interest in Fire/EMS as a career.

[ continued page 3 ]

## Elected Officials

- Marylee Abrams: Mayor (612) 322-1620  
[marylee.abrams@maplewoodmn.gov](mailto:marylee.abrams@maplewoodmn.gov)
- Rebecca Cave: Councilmember (651) 399-1779  
[rebecca.cave@maplewoodmn.gov](mailto:rebecca.cave@maplewoodmn.gov)
- Kathleen Juenemann: Councilmember (651) 771-3670  
[kathleen.juenemann@maplewoodmn.gov](mailto:kathleen.juenemann@maplewoodmn.gov)
- Bill Knutson: Councilmember (612) 290-9778  
[bill.knutson@maplewoodmn.gov](mailto:bill.knutson@maplewoodmn.gov)
- Nikki Villavicencio: Councilmember (651) 558-7662  
[nikki.villavicencio@maplewoodmn.gov](mailto:nikki.villavicencio@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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The Cadet Program supports employees as they learn about the profession and earn necessary certifications and licensure to secure full-time employment. It's helped us build a bench that has led to the successful hiring of two full-time firefighters in 2021. Last month the department hired two additional Fire/EMS Cadets.

**Public Safety:** One advancement which has made the City especially proud has been the expansion of the Public Safety Department's Mental Health Outreach Team (MHOT) to include embedded social workers. Through a Ramsey County partnership, social workers, with wider access to care and social services records, now work directly with police and community paramedics to address calls from people experiencing a mental health crisis. This approach highlights the program's emphasis on focusing on ensuring that community members are assisted with the appropriate level of care while freeing emergency responders to handle other community issues.

The Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) continued advancing with more in person and hands-on activities. Voices of MAC members were critical in helping rapidly establish a new command staff after a wave of anticipated retirements, which made way for new Public Safety Director Brian Bierdeman, a new Deputy Chief, three new Lieutenants and several officers promoted to Sergeant.

**Community Development:** In addition to a new fire station, Maplewood saw several redevelopment projects, including major reconstruction of nearly every public school in the city, the grand opening of a HyVee grocery store at Maple Ridge Center and a Raising Cane's Chicken on White Bear Ave. Staff has also done critical zoning work to prepare the North End for future redevelopment. The City sold the Londin Lane fire station, helping ensure the construction of a 148-unit apartment project that will fill critical affordable housing needs.

Maplewood's efforts to ensure all renters have safe and suitable living conditions is becoming a reality with 2021 being the first year the city licensed all rental properties.

The city also adopted an administrative citation program, a nuisance abatement process, and improved practices to ensure code enforcement is more responsive to neighbors' concerns and complaints.

**DMV:** While the DMV is still requiring appointments for Driver's Licenses, in 2021 we were excited to once again open the front doors to walk-up customers looking for tabs, titles and DNR transactions.

**Public Works:** The Public Works department completed two road reconstruction projects, replaced the last wooden bridge in the city, and performed vital maintenance work on the City's infrastructure necessary to ensure reliable service for our residents and businesses. When neighbors see something that seems out of order with Maplewood's critical infrastructure, such as streets, lights, or



playground equipment they can more easily report the issue through our new online portal -- Fix It. The Public Works Department's online reporting systems allows community members to send a photo and provide basic details of the issue. It automatically goes to the correct division in charge of maintaining the infrastructure. Community members can track the progress of their reported issue and see the progress of other issues throughout the city.

**Parks and Natural Resources:**

In 2021, the Parks and Recreation Department transitioned into the Parks and Natural Resources Department, with their main hub located at the Maplewood Nature Center. This has allowed the City to reopen the Nature Center building to the public for restrooms and occasional on-site educational programming.

The Parks and Natural Resources Department will continue a programming partnership with the Maplewood YMCA as well as a new venture with Revolutionary Sports (see p 5-6). Community outreach events will resume citywide next spring and summer.

Highlights of the year include new basketball and tennis courts at Vista Hills Park, new bridges, deck and walkways at the Nature Center and a banner year for rentals of athletic fields and community facilities. The environmental planning division completed the City's Climate Adaptation Plan and updates to the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Ordinance.

**Finance:** The city took advantage of historically low interest rates to re-finance several bonds, saving nearly \$1 million in interest. During the process, the independent rating agency working on the refinancing said Maplewood has strong fiscal management policies and practices. S&P Global said the City's work to ensure a significant surplus and reserve fund, will help us recover well from the COVID downturn.

I'm proud of our 2021 accomplishments. On behalf of the City and its staff I'd like to thank our community for your patience and understanding and express my gratitude to our City Council, Boards and Commissions for their work, unwavering support and confidence.

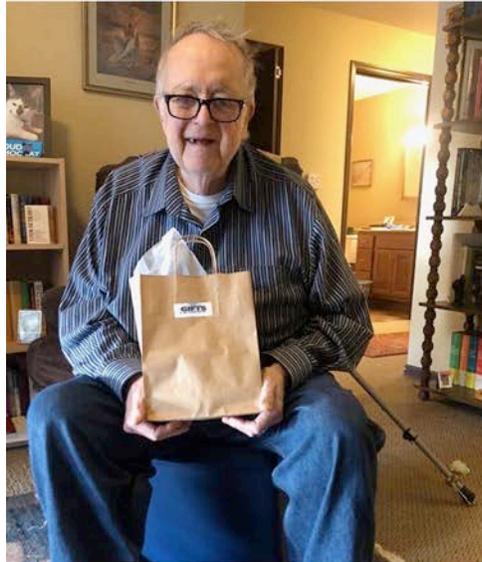


## Maplewood's new Assistant City Manager brings experience, energy

The City of Maplewood welcomes Mike Darrow to our team. Mike will serve as the Assistant City Manager and Human Resource Director (he started Monday, November 15).

"I am excited to be a part of this team," Mike says. "Maplewood provides an impressive array of public services to our residents and I look forward to being a part of this community."

Prior to joining the City, Mike served as a City Administrator in New Richmond, Wisconsin and most recently was the owner of a small consulting firm assisting municipalities and non-profits in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois. Mike received his undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota and has a Master's Degree from Minnesota State University. In addition to his professional background Mike is most proud of being a dad to his teenage daughter and enjoys kayaking the Upper St. Croix, camping in the BWCA, hiking and is a certified yoga instructor.



## Gifts for Seniors

The Maplewood YMCA is a collection site for Gifts for Seniors. You can drop off NEW, UNWRAPPED items in the collection barrel at the YMCA's front desk on the lower level.

Your gift can make a world of difference to someone! For a list of the items most requested and online delivery options go to: [giftsforseniors.org](https://giftsforseniors.org)





## RevSports coming to Maplewood in 2022

Maplewood is partnering with Revolutionary Sports (RevSports), a group of committed coaches that teach sports in a fun, active, age-appropriate way. They've been offering programs in the Twin Cities for more than 20 years. Sessions are designed to learn fundamental skills, practice skills in fun activities, and play a game at the end of each day.

Edgerton Community Gym | \$59/session

Register at [Maplewood.Revsports.org](http://Maplewood.Revsports.org)

### THURSDAY Sessions Court #1

- S1: Volleyball January 20, Feb 3, 10, 17
- S2: Volleyball Feb 24, Mar 3, 17, 24
- S3: Basketball Mar 31, Apr 7, 14, 21
- S4: Basketball Apr 28, May 5, 12, 19

#### Times/Ages:

- Ages 4-6 5:30-6:10 pm
- Ages 6-9 6:15-6:55 pm
- Ages 9-11 7:00-7:40 pm
- Ages 10-14 7:45-8:25 pm

### SATURDAY Sessions Court #1

- S1: Basketball January 22, 29, Feb 5, 12
- S2: Basketball Feb 19, 26, Mar 19, 26
- S3: Lacrosse Apr 2, 9, 16, 23
- S4: Soccer Apr 30, May 7, 14, 21

#### Times/Ages:

- Ages 3-5 \* 9:00-9:40
- Ages 4-6 9:45-10:25
- Ages 5-7 10:30-11:10
- Ages 6-9 11:15-11:55

### SATURDAYS Sessions Court #2

- S1: Ninja Warrior Fitness January 22, 29, Feb 5, 12
- S2: Ninja Warrior Fitness Feb 19, 26, Mar 19, 26
- S3: Floor Hockey Apr 2, 9, 16, 23
- S4: Baseball Apr 30, May 7, 14, 21

#### Times/Ages:

- Ages 2-3 \* 9:00-9:25 am
- Ages 3-5 \* 9:45-10:25 am
- Ages 4-6 10:30-11:10 am
- Ages 5-8 11:15-11:55 am

\* Parent participation required

## Neighborhood ice rinks and warming houses

Maplewood maintains 13 skating rinks at 9 parks with four of those locations offering supervised warming houses. Rink and warming house locations, operating dates and times, closure policy and more are below.

### WARMING HOUSE SEASON SCHEDULE

All dates are weather permitting. See closure info.

Warming Houses Open	Monday, December 27
Warming Houses Close	Sunday, February 13
Warming Houses Closed	December 31 and January 1

### Warming house locations with hockey & pleasure rinks

PARK	ADDRESS	M - F	Sat / Sun
Afton Heights	63 N Sterling St	5:30-8:30pm	1-4pm
Four Seasons	1685 Gervais Ave	5:30-8:30pm	1-4pm
Gethsemane	2401 E 7th St	5:30-8:30pm	1-4pm
Wakefield	1860 Hazelwood	5:30-8:30pm	1-7pm

### Pleasure rink locations: no warming houses

PARK	ADDRESS
Edgerton	2001 Bradley St
Harvest	2561 Barclay St
Kohlman	1000 County Rd C
Playcrest	2390 Lydia Ave
Pleasantview	1100 Marine St

## Rink Closure Policy

Weather Hotline (warming house status): 651-249-2190

### Rinks may close under the following conditions:

- When the temperature reaches -10 degrees
- When the windchill reaches -20 degrees
- Until snow is cleared after a snowfall
- When warm temperatures soften ice making it unsafe



## Recreational opportunities

Maplewood Partners with the YMCA Community Center, area associations and other local governments to provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities and arts programming.

Visit [maplewoodmn.gov/programs](http://maplewoodmn.gov/programs)

**YMCA programs** Offered at Maplewood YMCA Community Center

Session 1: January 10 – March 6  
Registration Opens December 21

Youth Volleyball Leagues (Grades 5-8)

Youth Futsal Leagues (Grades 1-8)

Youth Basketball Leagues (Grades 1-8)

Youth Tumbling (Pre K and K)

Adult Volleyball Leagues

Register at [ymcanorth.org/kid\\_\\_teen\\_activities/sports](http://ymcanorth.org/kid__teen_activities/sports)

Or call 612-230-9622.

## YMCA ForeverWell

Designed for ages 55+, the program includes a monthly calendar of social events and variety of exercise classes available on the Group Exercise schedule.

Register at [YMCANorth.org](http://YMCANorth.org) (Search for ForeverWell)



## Recycle holiday string lights and extension cords

**Ramsey County Household Hazardous Waste**

5 Empire Drive, St. Paul (Fri. and Sat. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.)  
or **Environmental Center**, 4039 Cottage Grove Drive, Woodbury (Tues. 11 am to 7 pm, Thurs. and Fri. 8 am to 4:30 pm, and Sat. 8 am to 2 pm).

For a full list of participating locations featuring their own light recycling program visit

[recycleminnesota.org/recycle-your-holidays](http://recycleminnesota.org/recycle-your-holidays)

## Recycle your Christmas tree

Residents with trash service through the City's trash plan are eligible for one free live Christmas tree pick up during the first three weeks of January. Contact Republic Services for more information at (651) 455-8634.

You can also recycle your live tree at one of the Ramsey County Yard Waste sites ([RamseyRecycles.com/YardWaste](http://RamseyRecycles.com/YardWaste)).

Learn more at: [MaplewoodHistoricalSociety.org](http://MaplewoodHistoricalSociety.org)

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## 2022 Residential Solid Waste Rates

Service, Hauler, Cart Size, and Collection Schedule	Billing Rate
20 gallon every other week	\$24.90
20 gallon every week	\$26.00
35 gallon every week	\$28.10
65 gallon every week	\$40.00
95 gallon every week	\$50.00
Yard Waste - Republic Services	Yard Waste Rates Billed Seasonally
95 gallon cart with up to five compostable bags every week April through November	\$129.80
Recycling – Tennis Sanitation	Billed Quarterly on Water Bill
Choice of 95, 65, 35 gallon cart every week	\$16.56

For more information visit [www.maplewoodmn.gov/solidwaste](http://www.maplewoodmn.gov/solidwaste) or contact Shann Finwall, Environmental Planner, 651-249-2304, [shann.finwall@maplewoodmn.gov](mailto:shann.finwall@maplewoodmn.gov)



### Garbage cart storage reminder

On non-collection days, trash and recycling carts are required to either be stored in your garage, in the side or back yard of your home or screened from view from the street. Carts are not permitted to be stored in the front yard or driveway. On your trash and recycling collection day, please place your carts at the curb by 6 a.m. and place carts at least three feet apart and clear of obstructions. Please ensure carts do not extend out into the roadway. After collection, carts are then required to be removed from the curb by 6 a.m. the day after. Trash and recycling is collected once a week on your neighborhood's scheduled collection day (Monday through Friday). You can find the collection schedule at [www.maplewoodmn.gov/solidwaste](http://www.maplewoodmn.gov/solidwaste).



**City of Maplewood**

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# Santa PARADE

## The Stops

- CONIFER RIDGE (PLAYGROUND)
- EDGERTON PARK (PLAYGROUND)
- CATHOLIC CHARITIES
- HARRIET TUBMAN
- NEW CENTURY BLVD S. (PLAYGROUND)

For a full route map visit: [maplewoodmn.org](http://maplewoodmn.org), city hall, Maplewood YMCA, or a fire station