

CITY'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

MAPLEWOOD LIVING

July 2020



COVID closures, other issues lead to tough budget choices

By Melinda Coleman, City Manager

COVID-19 has made a significant impact on the City of Maplewood's budget due to program and event cancellations and shifts in how we deliver services. That along with several other factors has led to the difficult decision not to resuming Park and Recreation and Nature Center programming.

Here's the budget situation. The City of Maplewood is looking at significant cuts to its 2021 budget. This includes anticipated loss of property tax revenue and an additional unexpected \$500,000 increase in worker's compensation premiums and debt service obligations. City Council has also directed department heads to deliver a 0% increase in the 2021 tax levy to ease the financial burden on homeowners.

When the pandemic first hit, we took several budget measures, including furloughing all part-time Police Department Community Service Officers. We offered early retirement incentives and stopping overtime, except for public safety or health emergencies. The city has also put off vehicle purchasing. Unfortunately, of all the services Maplewood provides, Nature Center and Parks and Recreation were the most impacted and felt the biggest fiscal losses.

We have put off the most painful decisions until we truly understood long-term budget impacts. Canceling programming in Parks and Recreation and not reopening the Nature Center was a difficult decision but was done to prevent deeper cuts to core city services while easing the burden on city taxpayers. Resuming programming under the current conditions would have significantly reduced capacity and come at a higher cost because of mandatory social distancing and constant sanitization.

While under the federal Cares Act, the city is eligible for up to \$3 million, there are strict guidelines that state the funding must be used for expenses directly related to responding to COVID-19. Funding cannot be used to reimburse lost revenue due to COVID-related programming cuts or to replace unpaid property tax revenue.

It cannot be used to cover the costs of virtual programming. Funds must be expended in 2020 and do not impact the 2021 budget.

Any unused portion of our funding must be forwarded to Regions Hospital or a major hospital serving Maplewood. While this funding will help us recover some of our COVID expenditures, it cannot be used to save the nature center or park and recreation programming.

At the direction of council, staff is in the process of putting together working groups to explore new uses for Nature Center building and a new model for Park and Recreation programming. There are hopeful signs for regional participation.

Maplewood's nearly 50 parks, trails and preserves—including the Nature Center pond and trail—will continue to be maintained and open for people to enjoy. Our summer community events will resume when health officials deem larger gatherings safe.



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
bryan.smith@maplewoodmn.gov
- Bill Knutson: Councilmember (612) 290-9778
bill.knutson@maplewoodmn.gov
- Sylvia Neblett: Councilmember (651) 766-3851
sylvia.neblett@maplewoodmn.gov

City Manager

- Melinda Coleman: City Manager (651) 249-2055
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 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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Primary Election – August 11, 2020

The primary ballot includes US Senator, US Representative, State Senator and local offices.

Early/Absentee Voting June 26 – August 10

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 or submit your completed absentee ballot application to Ramsey County Elections by mail, email, in-person, or fax. Directions are on back of application.

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 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Hours will be extended on Saturday, August 8 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Monday, August 10 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Additional voting locations for in-person absentee include Ramsey County Elections at 90 Plato Blvd W. Other sites may be available, check Ramsey County Elections website for locations and hours.

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

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maplewoodcarecenter.org | homesteadatmaplewood.org




Big Red Barn Sale



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



Saturday, July 18, 2020
11am - 5pm

30+ Vendors!
New & Vintage, hand-made art, crafts, estate & garage sale items
Deep fried tacos + more!
Live Country & 50's Music
from 11am to 3pm




Entrance by reservation only!
Reservations at www.MaplewoodHistoricalSociety.org
* Masks Required*

Maplewood's Flea Market & Craft Fair



City of Maplewood

1830 County Road B East
Maplewood, MN 55109
Phone: (651) 249-2000
www.maplewoodmn.gov

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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

Discover YOUR Parks!
PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT

July 1 – July 31, 2020

JULY IS NATIONAL PARKS & RECREATION MONTH!

Maplewood Parks & Recreation is hosting a
Photo Scavenger Hunt!

People of all ages are invited to visit 5+ of our beautiful parks, preserves and open spaces throughout Maplewood and take a picture at each site. The person who submits the top voted photo will receive a Parks & Rec Swag Bag!

• **We are specifically looking for nature/scenery photos that don't include people**

Visit www.maplewoodmn.gov/pr for contest details and a registration form

