

CITY'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

MAPLEWOOD LIVING

October 2020



Watch for our Community Survey It won't take much of your time to make a big difference!

With the COVID-19 pandemic weighing heavily in our lives, it is important for City leaders to continue to understand the broader needs of our community. About 2200 households have been randomly selected to participate in the survey about our community. Look in the mail for a post card with a link to the digital survey. A physical copy of the survey will also be sent. Please fill out only one version.



Absentee/Early Voting now through November 2

All voters can vote early by absentee ballot (AB) in Minnesota.

Vote by Mail: Voting by mail is safe and convenient. Apply for your absentee ballot at mnvotes.org. Please return it in the mail promptly. Or voters may personally return their mail absentee ballot to the In-person AB voting locations (listed below).

Maplewood City Hall can only receive Maplewood residents' ballots. All ballots should be returned inside the building where an election judge will verify the voter information is complete. **Ballots should not be placed in any document drop boxes or payment boxes.**

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

- Monday – Friday: 8am - 4:30pm
- Saturday, October 31 from 10am - 3pm
- Monday, November 2 from 8am - 5pm.

Additional in-person AB voting locations available to Maplewood voters - check Ramsey County Elections website for hours:

- Ramsey County Elections - 90 Plato Blvd W.
- Ramsey County Library-Roseville - 2180 Hamline Ave N
- New Brighton Community Center - 400 10th St NW

Early In-person Voting: Starts October 27, voters can directly feed their ballot into the ballot counter. Check Ramsey County Elections for locations.



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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
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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Seasons

The Greening of Maplewood

Fall 2020



TURN THIS



INTO THIS

Solid Waste Under Quarantine

By Shann Finwall, Environmental Planner

With the pandemic and resulting quarantine, our homes have become our offices, schools, and social spaces. Because of it, we're throwing away more trash at home.

The City has seen a 13 percent increase in residential trash weights since the quarantine. That means trash trucks fill up faster, adding additional routes, and requiring additional drivers to accommodate the increase. Maplewood's residential trash contractor, Republic Services, was able to handle the added demand. Other cities and haulers temporarily suspended yard waste and bulky item collections to ensure the trash was collected on time.

Recycling weights increased 22 percent in April 2020 compared to April 2019.

People are also cooking more at home, and taking advantage of Ramsey County's food scraps recycling drop-off location the Maplewood YMCA Community Center.

It's one of the County's busiest sites, with about 100 tons of food scraps recycled in the first year of being open. The County anticipates curbside food scraps collection in 2023. Food scraps will be placed in a durable compostable bag in your trash container and sorted at the Recycling and Energy Center.

In the first months of the quarantine people were cleaning out basements and garages, resulting in a 44 percent increase in Maplewood's bulky item collection during the spring and summer months. Part of this increase was likely due to the cancelation of our Spring Clean Up.

The City and Republic Services are partnering again this month for a Fall Clean Up Campaign, with reduced price curbside bulky item collection. The City will also be hosting a shredding event so residents can safely dispose of confidential documents on October 10. More information on both of these events can be found on page 2.

These are more good reminders of why we should look to reduce what we buy, reuse when possible and look for ways to recycle, including food scraps.

Fast Facts about Food Scraps Collection

By Joe Sheeran, Communications Manager

- Twenty percent of our trash contains food scraps that could be recycled into compost.
- To attain a proper blend of usable gardening compost, mix one-part food scraps with about 25 to 30 parts yard waste (branches and leaves). These are heated to 140 to 160 degrees, with the full breakdown process lasting about six months.
- Maplewood's food scraps collection drop-off site helps divert about 100-tons of material yearly from the trash. We still have a long way to go considering Maplewood's trash hauler collects about 8,000 tons of trash yearly.
- Start dropping off your food scraps at our collection site by the Maplewood Community Center. Pick up your food scraps collection kit at City Hall by calling 651-249-2000.



REPUBLIC SERVICES



**October
5 - 30**

Fall Clean Up Campaign

Reduced Price Curbside Bulky Item Collection

Republic Services offers year-round curbside bulky item collection, but the prices are reduced by 20% during the Fall Clean Up Campaign. Call Republic Services to schedule your collection at 651-455-8634.

Appliances	\$28	End Table	\$16	Recliner/EZ chair	\$16
Bathtub (cast iron)	\$28	Charcoal Grill	\$28	Roll of carpet	\$28
Bathtub (Steel or Fiberglass)	\$16	Gas Grill	\$28	(per room size 12'x12')	
Bed – Headboard/Footboard	\$16	(no propane tanks)		(5' max length; cut/rolled)	
Bed Frame	\$16	Hutch	\$28	Tire	\$8
Bookcase	\$16	Kitchen Chair	\$8	Tire with rim	\$16
Couch	\$28	Kitchen Table	\$28	Toilet without tank	\$8
Couch w/ hide-a-bed	\$28	Lawnmower/Snowblower	\$28	Toilet with tank	\$16
(mattress is separate item)		(liquids must be drained)		Other items	\$16
Desk	\$28	Loveseat	\$28	(surcharge: TVs larger	
Dresser	\$16	Mattress/box spring	\$28	than 26" screen, console	
Electronics	\$28	Office chair	\$8	TVs and rear-projectors)	
(TV under 27")					

Prices reflect 20% discount from contracted prices. No tax.

Free Shredding Event for Maplewood Residents

Saturday, October 10, 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Maplewood Public Works Building – 1902 County Road B

Items accepted – confidential paper documents only

Items not accepted: • Cardboard • 3 ring binders • Plastic materials such as CDs and thumb drives, etc.

Documents will be shredded on-site by ShrednGo. Limit of six boxes weighing no more than 30 pounds each.

Participants must unload boxes/bags from their car into the cart. Limited staff assistance available for unloading for those with physical limitations.



Reuse Your Yard Waste

By Emily Dunlap, Natural Resources Coordinator

Do you dread fall yard cleanup? There's good news, it may be easier than you think!

Instead of raking those pesky leaves, mulch the leaves with your lawn mower into small pieces that fall into your lawn's canopy. It's great for your lawn and the soil because nutrients and organic matter from the leaves are recycled.

You can also start a home compost pile or bin for leaves and weeds to use next season in your garden. Ensure your compost is at least five feet from the side or rear property line, and not in the front yard to comply with City code.

If you want the leaves gone, you have options:

Ramsey County has several free yard waste sites. It's recycled into compost for use in gardens and landscaping. For a location near you, visit [RamseyRecycles.com](https://www.ramseyrecycles.com)

You may also sign up for seasonal yard waste collection through Republic Services.

Remember, Minnesota law prohibits adding yard waste to your regular trash and City code prohibits raking or blowing your yard waste into the street.



Solid Waste Solutions at a Glance



Hazardous Waste: If a container has the words caution, warning, danger, or poison on the label and still has product inside, it is household hazardous waste and does not belong in the trash. Dispose of those products for free at the Ramsey County – Maplewood HHW collection site throughout October, Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



([RamseyRecycles.com/HHW](https://www.RamseyRecycles.com/HHW))

Medications: Safely dispose of unwanted, expired and unused medicines for free at the Police Department's drop box, 1830 County Road B. ([RamseyRecycles.com/Medicine](https://www.RamseyRecycles.com/Medicine))



Reuse: Before throwing something in the trash, consider if it can be repaired, donated or sold. ([RamseyRecycles.com/Reuse](https://www.RamseyRecycles.com/Reuse))

Who Knows? Not sure what to do with an item? Check out Ramsey County's A to Z Recycling Guide. ([RamseyRecycles.com/AtoZ](https://www.RamseyRecycles.com/AtoZ))

Green Newsletter: Stay in the know about waste, recycling, energy and other environmental health issues by signing up for the Green Ramsey E-newsletter. ([RamseyRecycles.com/GreenRamsey](https://www.RamseyRecycles.com/GreenRamsey))

Recycling Carts: Do you have the correct sized recycling cart? Tennis Sanitation offers recycling carts in three sizes: 35, 65, or 95 gallons. All cost the same monthly price of \$4.41 (recycling fee is added to your water bill). To switch cart sizes contact Tennis Sanitation at 651-459-1887.

Multi-unit Recycling Dumpsters: New in 2020, the City will add recycling dumpsters to its cart option for multi-family units. ([maplewoodmn.gov/multifamilyrecycling](https://www.maplewoodmn.gov/multifamilyrecycling))

Business Recycling: BizRecycling offers resources and grants up to \$20,000 to help multi-unit properties manage recycling and organics better. ([BizRecycling.com](https://www.BizRecycling.com))

If your business has been negatively impacted by Covid-19 or recent civil unrest, you may be eligible for a BizRecycling Relief Grant. Get up to \$10,000 to support operational expenses related to managing waste and recycling effectively. Apply by October 31. ([BizReliefGrant.com](https://www.BizReliefGrant.com))

Small businesses and places of worship can opt into the City's residential recycling program. Two 95 gallon carts collected weekly for \$4.41 a month, or a recycling dumpster for \$45 a month. ([maplewoodmn.gov/businessrecycling](https://www.maplewoodmn.gov/businessrecycling))



Nature's Recyclers

By Ann Hutchinson, Lead Naturalist

Living things die. And most dead things rot. Rotting is nature's way of recycling. Bacteria, fungi, and a variety of invertebrates make up nature's team of recyclers. As yucky as they may seem, they play a vital role in breaking down dead plants and animals into nutrients. Living plants and animals can use these nutrients to grow. Fungi in particular are instrumental in the life cycle of the forest.



Dead logs consist of cellulose and lignin (compounds in wood that make it hard). We've all seen colorful mushrooms growing on logs and tree stumps. It's underneath these fruiting bodies where the chemical magic happens. Tiny hair-like structures called hyphae release enzymes that deconstruct complex molecules into usable glucose, carbon, phosphorous, and nitrogen.



Invertebrates including flies, beetles, and more are the secondary act in recycling. Blow flies lay eggs in dead animals, attracted by the odor of decay. Their larvae (maggots) eat putrefying flesh. Later carrion beetles and dermestid beetles arrive to chew on skin and ligaments. The common housefly regurgitates saliva onto organic matter to help soften it. Houseflies can only drink liquid items and do not bite. They can carry bacteria and microbes on their legs and bodies and deposit their eggs onto a variety of decaying

Photo: Rich Lindell

debris including food waste, carrion, and manure. Amazingly they have taste buds on their legs that are very sensitive to sugar.

Shredders such as millipedes and sowbugs use their mouths to rip up leaves and other dead organic matter. They help things recycle by carrying microbes and fungus on their exoskeleton and in their digestive system. Millipedes that live here are harmless and curl up in a ball when feeling threatened.

Many recyclers live in soil and are too small for us to see. A teaspoon of healthy soil can have up to 11,000 species including up to 10 billion individual microbes! Creatures such as nematodes, protozoa, and tiny mites work together in a complex soil food web to assist plant roots to take up nutrients. You can find out what recyclers are lurking in your soil by making a trap (xerces.org/publications/scouting-guides/beneficial-insects-for-natural-pest-control-soil-scouting).



Congratulations Ann Hutchinson on 33 years of service to the Maplewood community, as the Nature Center's Lead Naturalist.

Ann is extremely passionate about environmental education and natural resources protection. She loved teaching young people about the animals, plants and waterways in our community. From the annual Voyagers Fur Trade event to the many school field trips, Ann, alongside a dedicated team of naturalists and volunteers, has taught tens of thousands of metro-area students in her career.

Her work was instrumental in establishing the City-wide buckthorn eradication program, various rainwater garden projects, planting with students and volunteers over 60,000 perennials in various city raingardens and neighborhood preserves. She coordinated the City's tree education and tree rebate program. Her work also helped Maplewood become one of only 12 Minnesota cities to reach top status in the state's Green Step City program. And she oversaw the construction of sustainable trails, boardwalks and bridges at the Nature Center.

Some of her lighter moments include staging hundreds of puppet shows, inadvertently scaring the management staff by bringing a snake to a meeting for a live demo, and falling into Wakefield Lake.

On behalf of all the people impacted by her work, the City staff would like to thank Ann and wish her an enjoyable retirement.



General Election **November 3, 2020**

All Maplewood precincts will be open on November 3 from 7 am until 8 pm.

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.

Maplewood Offices on the General ballot

Mayor 2 year Special Election

Marylee Abrams Bob Cardinal

Councilmember two 4 year terms – vote for 2

Rebecca Cave Garrett Krueger Sylvia E. Neblett Nikki Villavicencio

Councilmember 2 year Special Election

Bill Knutson Diana Longrie

Some might see a slight city property tax decrease in 2021

The Maplewood City Council adopted a 0% preliminary property tax levy for taxes payable in 2021. If Council adopts the preliminary levy at its December 14th meeting, most Maplewood taxpayers will see a slight decrease in city property taxes. If not for the City's spending restraint, many homeowners would have seen a tax increase because of rising home values.

Market Value for Pay 2020	Market Value for Pay 2021	Taxable Market Value for Pay 2021	City Tax \$ Amount 2020	City Tax \$ Amount 2021
94,200	100,000	71,800	298	301
141,200	150,000	126,300	530	529
235,400	250,000	235,300	994	985
245,400	260,700	246,900	1,043	1,034
376,600	400,000	398,800	1,691	1,669

Fund	Adopted 2020 Levy	Preliminary 2021 Levy
General Fund	\$ 17,481,000	\$ 17,324,330
Debt Service Funds	4,682,300	4,909,890
EDA Fund	120,000	100,000
Capital Project Funds	934,000	883,080
Total Levy	\$ 23,217,300	\$ 23,217,300

Proposed final adoption of City Tax Levy:

December 14, 2020

Council Meeting, 7pm.

You may provide input on the city's proposed budget and tax levy by calling in at (312) 626-6799 or (888) 788-0099 or by attending the meeting in person at City Hall.

City taxes account for less than 33% of the total 2020 tax bill. The property tax bill also includes taxes for the county, school district, and special districts, which include Regional Rail Authority, Watershed Districts, Metropolitan Council, and Mosquito Control. The final budget hearing will not cover these other taxing districts.



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Maplewood Area Historical Society invites you to our...

Summer EXHIBIT OPEN HOUSE



October 11-12

11 am to 2 pm - Admission is FREE
Bruentrup Heritage Farm, 2170 E. County Road D, Maplewood, 55109

Learn the history of Maplewood and the Bruentrup dairy farm!

- Check out exhibits on Gladstone & New Canada Township
- Interact with the 3M "Magically Adhered" exhibit
- See a 1923 Pirsch fire truck
- Get a guided tour of the 1912 farmhouse & buildings
- Bring a picnic lunch and play!



Please observe COVID requirements:

- When outdoors, please observe 6' social distancing or wear a mask.
- When indoors, wear a mask.
- We will be checking temperatures, so if you have a fever or illness, please stay home.

For additional information contact us at (651) 748-8645 or visit us online at www.MaplewoodHistoricalSociety.org



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