



CITY'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

# MAPLEWOOD LIVING

December 2022



## Year End Message

by Melinda Coleman, City Manager

I love solving problems. It's part of what has drawn me to public service. Public policy solutions help improve lives and ensure communities thrive.

This past year brought one of the biggest challenges any organizational or business leader could face in a career -- retaining talented workers and replacing those retiring or moving on in a turbulent, unpredictable job market.

Solving the problem took a team approach, embracing new ideas, and trust. Through our employee surveys, we had a sense of what kept people coming to work every day, energized to serve the city. City leaders ramped up our emphasis on being a family-first organization that prioritized work-life balance and flexibility.

We enhanced employee wellness and professional development initiatives. That helped us attract experienced and talented professionals. We created an in-depth, hands-on orientation program to set new employees up for success.

Maplewood also examined compensation to ensure wages were competitive.

These efforts paid huge dividends, especially in our police department.

### Public Safety

At the end of 2021, the police department faced an unprecedented staffing shortage. Unwilling to compromise standards, it created a new process and dedicated resources to recruiting and hiring the best available candidates. Hard work and dedication from many has led to 12 new officers joining the department!

They come from a variety of cultural and professional backgrounds, including college recruits, former police supervisors, and veteran out-of-state officers.



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## 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 Natural Resources (651) 249-2111
- 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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2023**



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**612-895-7200** 

[HarmonyGardensSenior.org](http://HarmonyGardensSenior.org)

1438 County Road C East | Maplewood, MN 55109



Our new officers universally attribute the Maplewood Police Department's unique culture as the biggest draw, something every officer wearing our badge can be proud of.

Our fire/EMS department has also seen success with its innovative cadets program. The two recruits completed firefighter and EMT training. One is now advancing through paramedic school. This program is an important career pathway for applicants that are traditionally underrepresented in the fire service.

### Community Outreach

In addition to family-first, staff, especially in public safety and parks and natural resources, are attracted by our commitment to community outreach. In 2022, we continued that work hosting more than 100 community events. They ranged from small scale outings to major events such as the 4th of July Light it Up event and Trunk or Treat.

Our public safety department has been active in the schools with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, FUN'd Walk and Giving Tree.

### Community Development

The fire department opened its state-of-the-art North Station, replacing a 40-year-old facility. This completes a recommended reconfiguration of department resources to better meet community response needs. The new station can house up to 11 firefighters per 24-hour shift and has become the department's new headquarters. The station is designed to focus on firefighter health and wellness with attention on cancer reduction and cardiovascular health.



Construction costs were offset by the sale of the old Londin Lane fire station, future site of a new apartment complex. It was one of several ground breakings and business openings in 2022.

### Public Works

Setting the stage for future development included more than 5 miles of major street and underground infrastructure upgrades along Cope Avenue, McMenemy Street, and in the Gervais neighborhood. Highlights include new trails, ADA upgrades, and better storm water draining to reduce flooding.

The public works department also launched a new online system for community members to report issues on their mobile device or computer called Fix-It.

### Parks and Natural Resources

Parks and open spaces saw landscaping and other improvements. You may remember this summer we had goats helping clear buckthorn at the City Hall campus, thanks to Great River Greening's grant funding. Other pollinator-supporting efforts took place at Applewood and Carver Preserves through a Friends of the Mississippi River partnership.

We began replacing the playground equipment at Sherwood Park and making improvements at Goodrich Park to include a new lot and picnic shelter.

In addition to our current partnerships with the YMCA and RevSports for recreation programming, we expanded our community partnerships with ISD622 Community Education and Ramsey County 4H for outdoor and nature-based programs.



### Fiscal Stewardship

After more than 30 years in public service, our finance director, Ellen Paulseth, is retiring. The team spent the year preparing for this transition. Finance also completed the administration of the \$4.6M federal ARPA funding grant. The department facilitated the Opioid settlement agreement with the Minnesota Attorney General, which could result in approximately \$400,000 for Maplewood over the next 16 years.

### Elections

Thanks to the work of our dedicated staff and more than 150 community members who worked the polls, the 2022 primary and general elections went smoothly. With a full slate of state and local races on the ballot, including mayor and council, and lengthy absentee balloting periods, turnout was robust.

### DMV

Staff processed over 43,000 transactions and continue using an appointments system for driver's licenses to reduce wait times.

Without significant attention on retaining and attracting dedicated and talented staff, we wouldn't have been able to serve our community at such a high level. On behalf of council, I'd like to thank them for another year of hard work. I also want to thank the community for your ongoing support. Have a great holiday season.



## Honoring a career dedicated to environmental stewardship

The Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD) honored City Councilmember Kathleen Juenemann with its Community Conservation Advocate Award. She has played a significant role through her career committed to environmental stewardship, natural resources protection and community engagement.

To be good stewards of the land “isn’t what we do - it has to be what we become,” said Councilmember Juenemann upon receiving the award.

RWMWD Citizen Advisory Committee member Mark Gernes presents the award to City Councilmember Juenemann



## Welcome our new K9 team

Officer Robert Starkey and Kyro recently completed a 14-week training course and will start patrolling this month. The team becomes Maplewood’s 13th K9 unit, a program that dates back to 1977. Learn more about the unit on our Facebook page: [Maplewood Minnesota Public Safety](#).

## Thank you for an amazing 2022!

Over 12,000 folks just like you made the Bruentrup Heritage Farm their family farm this year!



We can't wait to see what 2023 has in store!

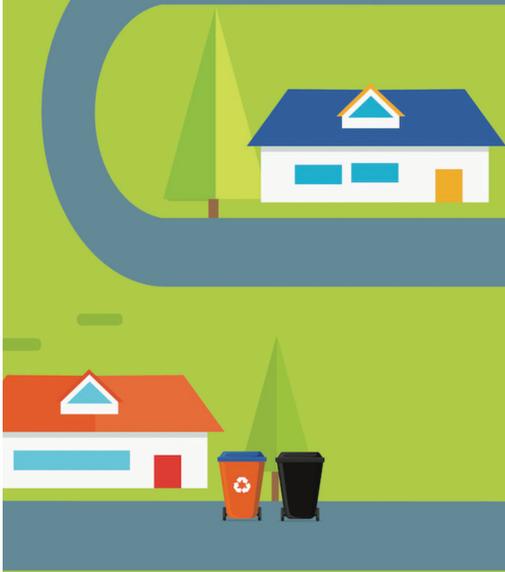
MAHS: Building community through preservation.



From all of us at the Maplewood Area Historical Society, Thank You!

[MaplewoodHistoricalSociety.org](http://MaplewoodHistoricalSociety.org)





## 2023 Residential Solid Waste Rates

Service, Hauler, Cart Size, and Collection Schedule	Billing Rate
<b>Trash Hauling - Republic Services</b>	<b>Billed Bi-Monthly (includes taxes + fees)</b>
20 gallon every other week	\$25.10
20 gallon every week	\$26.20
35 gallon every week	\$29.20
65 gallon every week	\$43.77
95 gallon every week	\$56.00
<b>Yard Waste - Republic Services</b>	<b>Yard Waste Rates Billed Seasonally</b>
95 gallon cart with up to five compostable bags every week April through November	\$134.98
<b>Recycling – Tennis Sanitation</b>	<b>Billed Quarterly on Water Bill</b>
Choice of 95, 65, 35 gallon cart every week	\$17.22

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

# Recycle your Christmas Tree

Residents with trash service through Republic Services, the City's contracted hauler, are eligible for one free live Christmas tree pick up during the first three weeks of January. Place your live tree at the curb on your collection day. Remove ornaments. Do not place tree in a plastic bag.

Contact Republic Services for more information at (651) 455-8634.

Live Christmas trees can introduce pests that affect our native plants. Dispose live trees using a curbside tree collection or bring to one of the Ramsey County Yard Waste sites ([RamseyRecycles.com/YardWaste](http://RamseyRecycles.com/YardWaste) or 651-633-EASY (3279), answered 24/7. For more on managing holiday greenery visit [mda.state.mn.us/holiday-greenery-best-management-practices](http://mda.state.mn.us/holiday-greenery-best-management-practices)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
FOR OUR 2022

**SANTA PARADE**

**SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>**

**9 - 1 P.M.**



Full route map will be posted on [Maplewoodmn.gov](http://Maplewoodmn.gov)

# WINTERWEAR DRIVE

We're collecting all sizes of new and gently used:

- Coats
- Boots
- Snow pants
- Hats
- Scarves
- Gloves



## GIVE THE GIFT OF WARMTH

Drop off items at:

- City Hall (1830 County Road B East)
- Maplewood Costco (1431 Beam Ave)
- Maplewood YMCA Community Center (2100 White Bear Lake Ave)



Thanks to our community sponsors.

Lakewood Salvation Army  
Maplewood North Lions Club  
The Rice & Larpenteur Alliance

Midway Mens Club  
Maplewood YMCA/  
Community Center

# Winter 2023 RevSports

## Thursday Sessions:

**Session 1:** Feb 2, 9, 16, 23

**Session 2:** Mar 9, 23, 30, Apr 6

**Session 3:** Apr 13, 20, 27, May 4

### Volleyball: Session 1, 2

Ages 6-9 5:30 - 6:10 p.m.

Ages 9-11 6:15 - 6:55 p.m.

Ages 10-14 7:00 - 7:40 p.m.

Boys Ages 10-14 7:45 - 8:25 p.m.

### Baseball: Session 3

Ages 3-5 5:30 - 6:10 p.m.

Ages 4-6 6:15 - 6:55 p.m.

Ages 6-9 7:00 - 7:40 p.m.

Boys Ages 9-12 7:45 - 8:25 p.m.



For more info on the classes and for scholarship information visit:

[maplewoodmn.gov/2068/RevSports-Classes](http://maplewoodmn.gov/2068/RevSports-Classes)

## Saturday Sessions:

**Session 1:** Jan 21, 28 Feb 4, 11

**Session 2:** Feb 25, Mar 4, 18, 25

**Session 3:** Apr 15, 22, 29, May 6

\*Outdoors

**Session 4:** May 13, 20, June 3, 10

\*Outdoors

### Basketball: Session 1, 2

Ages 2-3 9:15 - 9:40 a.m.

Ages 3-5 9:45 - 10:25 a.m.

Ages 5-8 10:30 - 11:10 a.m.

Ages 6-9 11:15 - 11:55 a.m.

### Floor Hockey: Session 1, 2

Ages 2-3 9:15 - 9:40 a.m.

Ages 3-5 9:45 - 10:25 a.m.

Ages 5-8 10:30 - 11:10 a.m.

Ages 6-9 11:15 - 11:55 a.m.

### Ninja Warrior: Session 3, 4

Ages 2-3 9:15 - 9:40 a.m.

Ages 3-5 9:45 - 10:25 a.m.

Ages 5-8 10:30 - 11:10 a.m.

Ages 6-9 11:15 - 11:55 a.m.

### Soccer: Session 3, 4

Ages 2-3 9:15 - 9:40 a.m.

Ages 3-5 9:45 - 10:25 a.m.

Ages 5-8 10:30 - 11:10 a.m.

Ages 6-9 11:15 - 11:55 a.m.

Ages 9-12 12 p.m. - 12:40 p.m.



## Ice Rinks could open by December 26th *(weather permitting)*

Nine Maplewood parks have city-maintained skating rinks, four of which have warming houses.

To find city rinks and learn more visit:

[maplewoodmn.gov/22](http://maplewoodmn.gov/22).

### Warming House Locations/Hours:

PARK	WEEKNIGHT	WEEKENDS
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 St	5:30-8:30pm	1-7pm

Warming houses closed Dec 31 and Jan 1; rinks may also close if weather conditions are unsafe: Call our hotline to check: (651) 249-2190.

**Maplewood is hiring warming house attendants** (\$13/hr) Apply at: [Maplewoodmn.gov/jobs](http://Maplewoodmn.gov/jobs)



## Hiring for life guards

We're offering a \$200 sign-on bonus. Applicants must complete certificates and trainings and serve at least 40 hours on the job to receive the bonus. Applicants will be paid for training and receive a YMCA membership.

Visit [ymcanorth.org](http://ymcanorth.org) and navigate to "jobs" at the bottom of the page.

## Y Opportunities

### Basketball, Soccer Leagues and Classes, Tumbling Classes Adult Volleyball League

**January 9 – March 5**

December 13: registration begins.

### Swim Lesson Winter Session

**January 9 – February 26**

December 6: registration begins.

Register at: [ymcanorth.org](http://ymcanorth.org)



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