

CITY'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

MAPLEWOOD LIVING

June 2023



Welcome to the Community, Kitchen Zone

The new restaurant had its grand opening ceremony Wednesday, May 17th. It occupies the old Perkins just off White Bear and Ripley Ave. It's an extension of Unison Restaurant and Banquet.



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Why I voted in favor of closing the Maplewood DMV?

by Mayor Marylee Abrams

In preparation and planning for our 2024 budget, we took a deeper look at the financial sustainability of the Maplewood DMV and Passport services.

We knew the DMV and Passport reimbursement rates from the state and federal government were insufficient to pay for the services we were providing, but we were hopeful with the large state surplus, the DMV rates would be increased to cover our costs.

We kept DMV/Passport services open during the pandemic to provide continued services during a challenging time. I personally have used the DMV and passport services many times and have appreciated their convenience and professionalism.

Looking back five years, the Maplewood DMV/Passport center has lost 1.3 million dollars, representing the difference between the reimbursement rates provided by the state and federal government, and the actual cost to Maplewood to provide the services. Based on the losses and the future projected losses, it was time to evaluate whether the Maplewood DMV was sustainable.

As I see the issue, we had three options: 1) close the DMV and stop any further financial losses, 2) continue to operate the DMV/Passport services and account for the losses by a dedicated annual 2% property tax increase to be paid by our residents and businesses, or 3) make some other deep cuts in essential city services in measure with the annual DMV losses.

After much thought, many emails and phone calls about the DMV, I decided closing the DMV was the only choice that made sense. Providing DMV and Passport services are not core city functions.



[continued page 3]

Elected Officials

- Marylee Abrams: Mayor (612) 322-1620
marylee.abrams@maplewoodmn.gov
- Rebecca Cave: Councilmember (651) 399-1779
rebecca.cave@maplewoodmn.gov
- Kathleen Juenemann: Councilmember (651) 771-3670
kathleen.juenemann@maplewoodmn.gov
- Chonburi Lee (651) 321-2299
chonburi.lee@maplewoodmn.gov
- Nikki Villavicencio: Councilmember (651) 558-7662
nikki.villavicencio@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 Natural Resources (651) 249-2111
- 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.



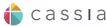
Approach banking with a fresh perspective. Think Pink.

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Michele.Gorden@CassiaLife.org
651-488-6658 

HarmonyGardensSenior.org
1438 County Road C East | Maplewood, MN 55109



MAYOR'S MESSAGE continued]

They are state and federal functions that were provided at our Maplewood city hall for convenience. Our core city functions include public safety, roads, parks and trails, and city infrastructure.

It is not fair to ask Maplewood residents and businesses to continue to subsidize the operation of DMV and Passport services. In reaching my decision I thought of our Maplewood seniors on fixed incomes, and young families struggling with high inflation and increased gas, food, and childcare costs. I thought of business owners still struggling to recover from the pandemic. They all would directly bear the burden of a dedicated 2% property tax increase each year.

Operating DMV and Passport services created a large hole in our budget that the City Council had to address. We don't have any fluff in our budget, and I oppose cutting any essential city services in favor of continuing a convenience service that is outside a core city function.

Our budget simply can't absorb losses of between \$200,000.00 to \$300,000.00 dollars each year.

Serving as an elected city representative means I must prioritize how we spend our resources.

The fact closing the DMV/Passport center would result in staff layoffs was the hardest part of the decision for me. We had excellent staff who worked hard and offered great customer service. That part of the decision weighed heavily on me but was somewhat offset by the help and support the city offered to the impacted staff, the fact some were able to bump into other city positions, and the fair severance packages we provided.

Serving as the mayor of Maplewood means that sometimes I must make difficult decisions. Voting to close the DMV was tough, but I know it was best for Maplewood's long-term sustainability.



Making a renewable energy conversion easier in Maplewood

Shann Finwall, Environmental Planner

A recently updated ordinance should help Maplewood residents more easily install renewable resources, such as solar, wind, and geothermal. The ordinance removes most permitting barriers and lowers permitting fees. One example is a \$200 flat fee for residential solar installation, instead of charging based on the total project cost.

The amendments were based on a zoning review conducted by the City's Environmental and Natural Resources Commission to assess for any obstacles, gaps, and changes in technologies since the original 2011 renewable energy ordinance was adopted. Amendments include allowances for community solar gardens, solar canopies, and battery storage of excess energy from renewable energy sources.

The Federal Government is also making renewable energy and energy efficiency more achievable with the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The IRA is the largest clean energy investment America has ever made. It includes home energy offerings for upfront discounts, tax credits, and low-cost financing to help convert households to clean electricity and renewable energy sources.

The IRA targets the most money to low- and moderate-income households (homeowners and renters) who can least afford to upgrade to electric or renewable energy, yet stand to benefit the most from the lower operating costs. Rewiring America, an electrification nonprofit, offers a calculator to determine how much money your household could qualify through the IRA. The median household income in Maplewood is \$77,300, which would qualify for \$16,150 to \$23,250 in up-front costs, for tax credits, and energy savings! See what energy programs and amounts your household can qualify for at rewiringamerica.org/app/ira-calculator.



In partnership with ISD622 Community Education, we're hosting the following courses at the Maplewood Nature Center.

Nesting Bird Walk

Saturday, Jun 17th
6:00 - 8:00 a.m.

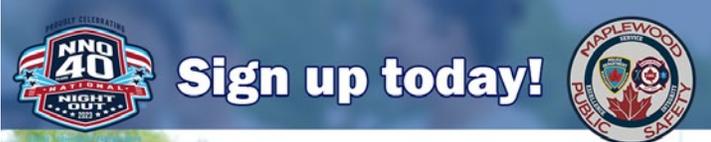
At this time of the year, migration is mostly done, and the birds have set up for the season. We'll walk the trails in search of evidence of nesting: anything from paired-up birds, courtship behavior, nests, and perhaps even some young already hatched from the earliest nesters!

Wildflower and Critter Treks

Tuesdays: June 13th, July 18th
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

The trails in the Maplewood Nature center offer a great opportunity for viewing wildflowers, native vegetation and animals that call this urban forest home. Each month the experience will be different even though the trails are the same.

To register for the courses above, visit: maplewoodmn.gov/971



National Night Out
August 1st 5pm - 9pm

Register your party online by July 26th

maplewoodmn.gov/NNO

THE MAPLEWOOD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(651) 748-8645

MaplewoodMuseum.org



The Big Red Barn Farmers Market

FIRST MARKET: Sunday, June 4, 9am -1pm!

Every Sunday, June - September, 9am-1pm

At the Maplewood Area Historical Society



SUMMER TEAS

JUNE 25 & JULY 30

3PM - 5PM

To purchase tickets, email
Events@MaplewoodMuseum.org





2023
LIGHT IT UP MAPLEWOOD!

JULY 4TH 4-10 P.M.

HAZELWOOD PARK
1663 COUNTY ROAD C

FOOD TRUCKS
FAMILY GAMES/ACTIVITIES
INFLATABLES, \$5/PERSON: 4-8:30PM
ADULT BEVERAGES
MUSIC BY SKITZO FONIK, POP/ROCK
FIREWORKS AT 10PM
NO COOLERS PLEASE

Maplewoodmn.gov/july4th

HOSTED BY:



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Summer - Fall 2023 RevSports

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

maplewoodmn.gov/2068/RevSports-Classes

Sessions take place at Edgerton Gym or Edgerton Park

Rate: \$65/Session
\$75/Ninja Warrior

To Register: Maplewood.Revsports.org

RevSports Contact: Info@RevSports.org or 612-234-7782



Thursday Sessions:

Session 1: June 15 - July 13 (No class July 6)

Session 2: July 20 - August 10

Session 3: August 17 - September 7

Session 4: September 14 - October 5

Baseball

Session 1, 2, 3

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------|--------------|
| TotStars, T-Ball | Ages 2-3 | 5:30-5:55 pm |
| PreStars, T-Ball | Ages 3-5 | 6:00-6:40 pm |
| KinderStars, Coach Pitch | Ages 4-6 | 6:45-7:25 pm |
| MightyStars, Coach Pitch | Ages 6-9 | 7:30-8:10 pm |

Basketball

Session 1, 2

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

Flag Football

Session 3, 4

| | | |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| KinderStars | Ages 4-6 | 5:30-6:10 pm |
| MightyStars | Ages 6-9 | 6:15-6:55 pm |
| SkillStars | Ages 9-11 | 7:00-7:40 pm |

Ninja Warrior Fitness

Session 4

| | | |
|-------------|----------|--------------|
| TotStars | Ages 2-3 | 5:30-5:55 pm |
| PreStars | Ages 3-5 | 6:00-6:40 pm |
| KinderStars | Ages 4-6 | 6:45-7:25 pm |
| MightyStars | Ages 6-9 | 7:30-8:10 pm |

Saturday Sessions:

Session 1: June 17 - July 15 (No class July 1)

Session 2: July 29 - August 19

Session 3: September 16 - October 7

Soccer

Session 1, 2, 3

| | | |
|-------------|----------|----------------|
| TotStars | Ages 2-3 | 9:15-9:40 am |
| PreStars | Ages 3-5 | 9:45-10:25 am |
| KinderStars | Ages 4-6 | 10:30-11:10 am |
| MightyStars | Ages 6-9 | 11:15-11:55 am |

RevSports Summer Camps

Volleyball: June 26-29

Young campers will learn and practice the fundamentals, including passing, setting, serving and hitting.

Soccer: July 17-20

Campers will learn and practice the fundamentals of dribbling, shooting, defending, passing, and more, in a positive and energetic environment. The majority of camp is spent playing active games where kids improve skills, learn the rules and strategy of the sport, and have fun!

Archery: August 14-17

Archery is a great sport to improve focus, hand-eye coordination and confidence and, it's fun and challenging! Young Campers will learn the rules of the sport and practice proper grip, posture, aiming, and releasing.

For full camp descriptions and more information visit: maplewoodmn.gov/2068

All sessions at Edgerton Gym or Edgerton Park

TREASURE HUNT
FIND THE FRISBEE WIN A PRIZE

Saturday, June 10

Clues to find the Golden Frisbee will be posted on our Facebook page beginning at 8:00 a.m.
fb.com/MaplewoodParksandNaturalResources

When you find it call (651) 249-2125 or DM our facebook page.

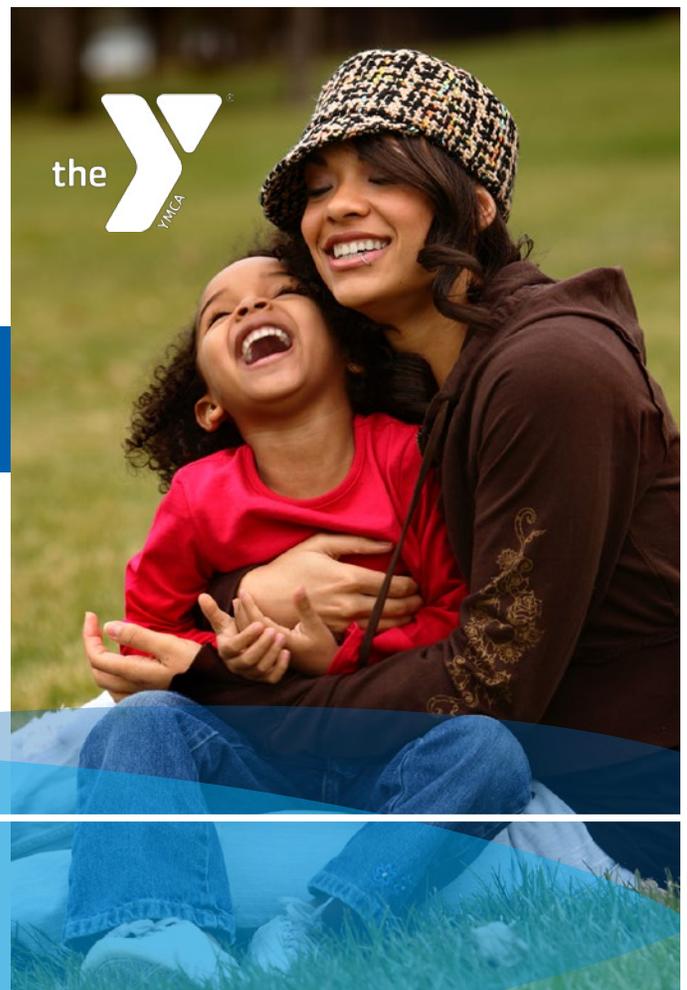


SUMMER FAMILY FUN SERIES

FIRST DAY OF SUMMER - JUNE 8TH 5-7:30
LUAU LAND - JULY 13TH 5-7:30
BLOCK PARTY - AUGUST 10TH 5-7:30

Come join us to have fun doing activities with your family! There will be food, games and prizes, what more could you need!

MAPLEWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER YMCA
2100 WHITE BEAR AVE MAPLEWOOD, MN 55109





City of Maplewood

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

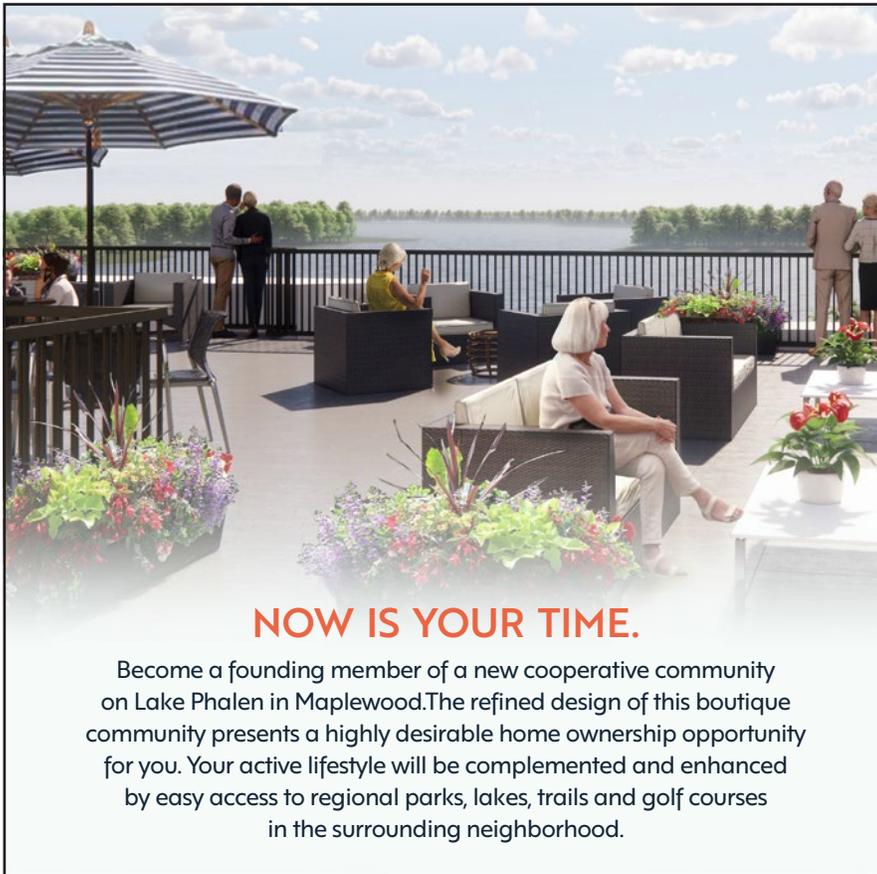
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INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

(or schedule a PRIVATE MEETING)

WHEN: June 7 | 6:00pm

WHERE: Maplewood YMCA Community Center

WHEN: June 14 | 2:00pm

June 28 | 10:00am

WHERE: The American Cooperative Showroom
at the Green Haven Golf Course Clubhouse
2800 Greenhaven Rd, Anoka, MN 55303

RSVP Necessary | Limited Seating Each Session

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