CITY'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

MAPLEWOOD LIVING

January 2024

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Looking ahead, requires a look back

By Marylee Abrams, Maplewood Mayor

Happy New Year! To appreciate where we are today and where we're headed, it's important to look back at 2023.

Council and staff have worked hard over the last decade to ensure Maplewood offers high-quality amenities at an affordable rate for home and business owners.

We've done this by concentrating on core services that sustainably support health, safety and quality of life for all.

This includes a properly funded public safety department that works with the community to prevent and address a variety of issues, including crime and medical emergencies. We've invested in well-maintained roads and infrastructure. Our parks and open spaces are clean, safe, and fun for all people.

We're a strong city because we work to our employee's Strengths.

Gallup's Strength Finder has employees take a brief assessment to identify their top 5 strengths out of 34. Understanding these strengths, staff has a better idea of what motivates co-workers, how they work best and "what's right about them." We're one of the only municipalities that I know of to fully implement Strengths.

Strengths – which our retiring City Manager brought to the organization seven years ago – is part of a comprehensive employee engagement and retention initiative to ensure the best and brightest are efficiently serving Maplewood. Employees' cultural agility has increased through training and community outreach to provide relevant services to Maplewood's changing demographic.

Community Inclusiveness is an important initiative for the City. I want to thank our Parks and Natural Resources, Public Safety and Public Works departments for how they've created organic and relevant opportunities to engage people living in and visiting Maplewood.

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Maplewood LIVING

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: Councilmember (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 please contact:
Joe Sheeran
(651) 249-2061
joe.sheeran@maplewoodmn.gov

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[**Looking Ahead** continued from page 1]

In addition to creating community, we've worked hard to ensure our workforce better mirrors our community. Maplewood teamed up with Roseville to host a booth at the People of Color Career Fair, we were one of only a few suburban communities to do so.

Starting in January, new fire/EMS cadets will be embedded in the department with mentors. The program, now in its fourth class, gives hard working, dedicated people generally underrepresented in the profession a hands-on opportunity to learn about the job while earning a salary. We've had several people complete the program and become full-time firefighter – paramedics.

Training is critical at all levels of the profession, that's why we're working with our legislative partners to secure state bonding money to expand the Fire-EMS training facility on Century Avenue to include more space for joint police-fire-EMS training. More than 25 local agencies already use the facility. Joint training would better prepare Maplewood and surrounding communities to co-respond during a critical incident.

Last year our police department launched an unmanned aerial vehicle program. It's been highly successful, helping us in a variety of cases, including locating those wanted in shootings, apprehending a would-be sex predator and limiting use-of-force incidents. We follow a long list of state and local regulations to ensure general privacy and prevent misuse.

The police department also helped make our roadways safer with the addition of a grant-funded traffic enforcement officer and two auto theft detectives.

Our Parks and Natural Resources department completed a number of projects, including Goodrich Park improvements, a new Sherwood Park playground and numerous resource protection projects.

We did have to make a few difficult decisions this year. After consistently losing money, Maplewood shut down our DMV and Passport operation at City Hall. These are state and federal government operations, respectively. It was unfair to continue asking Maplewood property owners to subsidize a service that the state and federal governments provide at other nearby locations.

We also had a robust conversation about the future of the Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit running along the Bruce Vento Trail. Based on our discussions, Ramsey County agreed to re-evaluate the possibility of running the line on White Bear Avenue, a better option for businesses and multi-family buildings in that area.

It seems each of the last few years, I've had important St. John's Hospital news to announce. This year is no different. Based on preliminary meetings I've attended, St. John's is preparing for a massive expansion, including a new labor and delivery center, intensive care unit and intermediary care unit. It will double both the number of operating rooms and emergency room bays and make general improvements to administrative areas. With each upgrade, St. John's is elevating its services from a community hospital to a regionally significant medical hub. I look forward to the public engagement around these expansions.

Across from the hospital, you may have noticed the Birch Run shops getting a facelift. We welcome the investment from the new owner.

It also appears most of the school construction has wrapped up. These new facilities add curb appeal to an old stock of buildings. The North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School District's expanded interiors are now equipped with facilities to meet 21st Century learners' needs.

City staff and our partners have given me a lot to boast about heading into the new year, but don't take my word for it. Maplewood's transparency software allows anyone in the community to track progress on our strategic plan goals. Just visit the portal on our website (MaplewoodMN.gov).

I'm tremendously proud of how we're shaping Maplewood for the future. I appreciate all of your community feedback and support. Happy New Year! I'm excited for what's ahead in 2024.

2024 Presidential Primary Information

Minnesota established a presidential nomination primary (PNP) in 2016 to replace the presidential caucus. Precinct caucuses for other elected offices will still take place on Feb 27, 2024.

A few unique facts about the PNP:

- Voting will only be for presidential candidates from a major party.
- Each major political party will have a separate ballot.
- A voter must request the ballot of the party of their choice. If a voter refuses to select a party, they will not be able to vote in the PNP. A voter's party choice is private data and will only be provided to the chair of the respective political party.
- The PNP results must bind the election of delegates in each party.

Maplewood voters have several options for voting in the PNP:

Mail-In Absentee Voting through Ramsey County

In-person Absentee/Early Voting at Maplewood City Hall from January 19 through March 4. (Ramsey County Elections at 90 Plato Blvd W and other locations are also available to Maplewood residents.)

Election Day at your precinct polling location on March 5, 2024

Significant Election Dates in 2024:

Presidential Nomination Primary (PNP) – March 5, 2024

Primary Election – August 13, 2024

General Election – November 5, 2024

State of Maplewood

with Mayor Marylee Abrams

Featuring farewell tribute to retiring City Manager Melinda Coleman

Mayor
Marylee Abrams

City Manager
Melinda Coleman

February 21, 2024 at 9:30am

Maplewood YMCA Community Center
2100 White Bear Avenue
*Light refreshments available

Register at maplewoodmn.gov/state

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Youth Sport Classes with RevSports

Winter 2024 RevSports class sessions!

For more on the classes and for scholarship information visit: maplewoodmn.gov/2068/RevSports-Classes

Location: Edgerton Gym or Edgerton Park
Rate: Classes beginning Jan 1-March 31: $65/Session; $75/Ninja Warrior
Classes Beginning April 1 or later: $67/Session; $79/Ninja Warrior

To Register: Maplewood.Revsports.org
RevSports Contact: Info@RevSports.org or (612) 234-7782

Thursdays

Session 1: Jan 11, 18, 25, Feb 1
Session 2: Feb 8, 15, 29, Mar 7 (Skip Feb 22)
Session 3: Mar 21, 28, Apr 4, 11
Session 4: Apr 11, 18, May 2, 9 (Skip Apr 25)

Volleyball: Session 1, 2, 3

5:30 - 6:10pm	MightyStars (Ages 6-9)
6:15 - 6:55pm	SkillStars 1 (Ages 8-11)
7:00 - 7:40pm	SkillStars 2 (Ages 10-14)

Baseball: Session 4

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

Saturdays

Session 1: Jan 20, 27, Feb 3, 10
Session 2: Feb 24, Mar 2, 9, 23 (Skip Mar 16)
Session 3: Apr 6, 13, 20, 27

Basketball: Session 1, 2

9:15 - 9:40am	TotStars (Ages 2-3)
9:45 - 10:25am	PreStars (Ages 3-5)
10:30 - 11:10am	MiniStars (Ages 5-8)
11:15 - 11:55am	MightyStars (Ages 6-9)

Floor Hockey: Session 1, 2

9:15 - 9:55am	PreStars (Ages 3-5)
10:00 - 10:40am	MiniStars (Ages 5-8)
10:45 - 11:25am	MightyStars (Ages 6-9)

Soccer: Session 3

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

Ninja Warrior Fitness: Session 3

9:15 - 9:40am	TotStars (Ages 2-3)
9:45 - 10:25am	PreStars (Ages 3-5)
10:30 - 11:10am	MiniStars (Ages 5-8)
11:15 - 11:55am	MightyStars (Ages 6-9)

Bird walks for early 2024

All courses are at the Maplewood Nature Center

$15/person

Register at: Maplewoodmn.gov/971

Winter Bird/Owl Walk

Tuesday, February 20

4:30 - 6:00pm

Owls can be evasive, but a walk around dusk can increase your odds of hearing and seeing these majestic birds. Dress for the weather as class is held outside. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Spring Migration Walk

Wednesday, March 6

8:00 - 10:00am

By March, birds have begun their long journeys north, some already claiming their nesting territories. This family-friendly walk will explore a variety of habitats to see what "early birds" are passing through or setting up their home base for the season. Dress for the weather, as classes will be held outside.

Neighborhood Ice Rinks and Warming Houses

Maplewood maintains 13 skating rinks at 9 parks with four of those locations offering supervised warming houses. Weather permitting, skating rinks and warming houses will be open when weather conditions are appropriate.

For full skating rink information including locations, operating dates and times, closure policy and more, visit our website: maplewoodmn.gov/221.

WARMING HOUSE LOCATIONS/HOURS			
PARK	ADDRESS	WEEKNIGHT	WEEKENDS
Warming houses closed Dec 31 and Jan 1			
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

PLEASURE RINK LOCATIONS *No warming houses at these locations	
PARK	ADDRESS
Edgerton	2001 Bradley St
Kenwood	1864 W Kenwood Dr
Kohlman	1000 County Rd C
Playcrest	2390 Lydia Ave
Pleasantview	1100 Marine St

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Thank you for an amazing 2023!

Over 13,000 folks just like you made the Bruentrup Heritage Farm their family farm this year!

We can't wait to see what 2024 has in store!

Maplewood Area Historical Society
MaplewoodMuseum.org