



# CITY'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER MAPLEWOOD LIVING

February 2024



## Training and innovation keep our public safety response sharp

By Rebecca Cave, Councilmember



Maplewood has a chance to be on the forefront of something unique for Minnesota. We're planning to expand the current East Metro Public Safety Training Facility. The vision is a campus that fully integrates opportunities to include joint exercises among police, fire, emergency medicine and social workers.

Aided by state bonding dollars, architectural firm Leo A. Daily is working with stakeholders from Maplewood and the other jurisdictions that co-operate the current training facility.

While the initial plan is impressive, I'm particularly excited about the facility's dedication to our first responders' wellness. They see and deal with the most horrific and extreme circumstances daily. It is critical we provide them with resources to recover from these incidents and maintain peak physical and mental wellness.

If you're interested in seeing the planning team's full presentation to council visit: [vod.maplewoodmn.gov](http://vod.maplewoodmn.gov), then click on the "City Council workshop - January 8th"

Ultimately, we're seeking additional state funds in the upcoming legislative session to complete this expansion. It's a regional benefit to the more than two dozen agencies currently using the facility.

While the training facility expansion is a highlight to watch in 2024, I'd also like to point to the Public Safety Department's newly released 2023 annual report. There are a number of accomplishments for us as a council and city to brag about.

One new initiative is the unmanned aerial vehicle unit. "It's been a valuable resource helping us more safely search for and apprehend people wanted in shootings and other violent felonies," according to the report. Among its assets have been reductions in uses-of-force and finding missing and vulnerable people.



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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)
- Chonburi Lee: Councilmember (651) 321-2299  
[chonburi.lee@maplewoodmn.gov](mailto:chonburi.lee@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 please contact:  
 Joe Sheeran  
 (651) 249-2061  
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[ **Public Safety** continued from page 1 ]

Our Fire-EMS Department recently hired a new cadet, who will help build the bench as we look to expand the department’s capabilities. The cadet program gives hard-working people from backgrounds underrepresented in the fire-EMS profession on-the-job training while they pursue their formal training.

I’m also heartened by the expanded outreach to the Karen community. Last summer, we hosted an outing that featured fire safety information in Karen. It was just one of more than 100 outreach events our staff either hosted or attended, racking up nearly 3000 hours of combined staff outreach time. The Public Safety report is on our website.

I’d like to thank our community for their on-going support and cooperation and the public safety staff who are true professionals, serving with dedication to the community.

## Nominate someone for the Maplewood Heritage Award

The Maplewood Heritage Award recognizes an individual who has significantly contributed to the preservation of Maplewood history or historic sites through research, preservation, or education and outreach.



### Eligibility:

Any person who has contributed to preserving Maplewood history or historic sites is eligible, whether they are a Maplewood resident or not.

Not eligible: elected city officials, current Heritage Preservation Commission members, current City staff members.

### Apply at:

[maplewoodmn.gov/HeritageAward](http://maplewoodmn.gov/HeritageAward) or contact Joe Sheeran, HPC Liaison [joe.sheeran@maplewoodmn.gov](mailto:joe.sheeran@maplewoodmn.gov) or (651) 368-2951

## Join the Heritage Preservation Commission

The Maplewood Heritage Preservation Commission is dedicated to preserving Maplewood’s history or historic sites. We are currently working through or looking at projects that include an inventory of mid-Century modern structures, 100-year structures, and preserving the history of refugee and immigrants into Maplewood in the period of 1960 – early 2000’s.

Apply at: [maplewoodmn.gov/Commissions](http://maplewoodmn.gov/Commissions) or contact Joe Sheeran, HPC Liaison [joe.sheeran@maplewoodmn.gov](mailto:joe.sheeran@maplewoodmn.gov) or (651) 368-2951.

## 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



## Arbor Day Tree Sale!

**Online ordering starts March 4, at 8:00 a.m.**

Maplewood is teaming up with Tree Trust, a local non-profit, subsidizing tree costs for our residents to plant on Maplewood properties.

Even though the City removes diseased or dying trees from parks and boulevards, residential property trees make up a considerable portion of our urban forest and hold the greatest potential to maintain our tree canopy.

### Sale details:

- \$40/tree
- A variety of species, including at least one fruit tree
- Trees range from 4'-12' tall
- Residents may order up to 2 trees

### Order on-line:

Early online viewing of available trees starts February 26.

Online orders start March 4th at 8:00 a.m. and continue through May 3, or until sold out. Some species sell out in hours; order early for best selection.

Order via mail: Order forms will be available February 12 at City Hall or by calling (651) 249-2111. Forms are due to Tree Trust by 4:00 p.m. February 28.

### Tree pick up:

You will receive a postcard with pickup instructions. Pickup will be on Saturday, May 18 (9:00 a.m. - noon) or Monday, May 20 (5:00 - 7:00 p.m.) at the Public Works Building, 1902 County Road B East. Trees not picked up will be forfeited.

For details or to order a tree, visit:  
[maplewoodmn.gov/treesale](http://maplewoodmn.gov/treesale)



## Edgerton Community Garden plot registration begins in March

The garden supports local growth of healthy organic food. It is located at Edgerton Park, 2001 Edgerton Street North.

### 2024 Registration

Returning gardeners – Friday, March 1, 8 a.m. to Friday, March 15, 4:30 p.m.

New gardeners – Wednesday, March 20, 8 a.m.

	Resident	Non-resident
Raised Bed Garden	\$30	\$35
In-Ground Garden	\$35	\$40

*Reduced rate for low income households available.*

For more information and to register visit  
[maplewoodmn.gov/communitygarden](http://maplewoodmn.gov/communitygarden)

Garden plots include 12' x 15' in ground, 4' x 8' raised beds, 3' x 5' ADA raised beds

Garden season runs April 26 to October 16

For garden questions contact Shann Finwall, Environmental Planner (651) 249-2304, [shann.finwall@maplewoodmn.gov](mailto:shann.finwall@maplewoodmn.gov)



## ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

Thank you for your support! We have welcomed many new residents over the past year, and we still have availability for additional neighbors!

Independent & Assisted Living  
 Assisted Living Memory Care  
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**Learn More Today!**  
[Michele.Gorden@CassiaLife.org](mailto:Michele.Gorden@CassiaLife.org)  
 651-488-6658



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

# 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](http://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](http://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](http://Maplewood.Revsports.org)

**RevSports Contact:** [Info@RevSports.org](mailto:Info@RevSports.org) or (612) 234-7782

## Thursdays

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 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 2: Feb 24, Mar 2, 9, 23 (Skip Mar 16)

Session 3: Apr 6, 13, 20, 27

### Basketball: Session 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 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)



## High School Students

We need your help designing more culturally relevant outdoor space and recreational opportunities for your peers and our changing community.



Apply to be a Parks and Recreation Commission student-member. *It looks great on a college application.*

# Winter Gnome Challenge

## February 17 - March 2

Maplewood Nature Center | 2659 East 7th Street

Look for gnomes while enjoying a FREE, self-guided walk on the Nature Center trails.

- Take a picture of your favorite gnome and submit it for a prize drawing! Prizes include: Tickets for two to Snake Discovery and \$5 Dairy Queen gift cards.
- Humans do not need to be in the photos. By submitting a photo, you give permission for its publication, including the people pictured.
- Photos may be submitted to [maplewoodnature@gmail.com](mailto:maplewoodnature@gmail.com).
- All ages may enter. You may submit as many photos as you like, but there will be only one entry per person.
- Winners will be contacted via email or Facebook Messenger in early March.

Visit the Friends Facebook page or website for additional details.

[FRIENDSOFFMAPLEWOODNATURE.WORDPRESS.COM](http://FRIENDSOFFMAPLEWOODNATURE.WORDPRESS.COM)

All gnomes are visible from the trails. You do not need to go off-trail to find the gnomes.

Gnomes are happiest in their natural setting. Please leave them so other people can visit them.



## Bird walks for early 2024

All courses are at the Maplewood Nature Center

\$15/person

Register at: [Maplewoodmn.gov/971](http://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.



Photo: Jim Williams  
Star Tribune

### Bluebird monitor training

Friday, March 1, 6 - 8 p.m.

Maplewood Nature Center  
2659 7th St. E

After seeing a significant population dip, a special effort across Minnesota has helped the Bluebird population recover. Help us keep the trend going by volunteering to become a monitor. Monitoring takes place in Maplewood Neighborhood Preserves with bluebird houses and is a great way to get outdoors. Families and friends welcome! This is a weekly commitment from March - September.

Register at: [maplewoodmn.gov/971](http://maplewoodmn.gov/971) or contact Carole Gernes [carole.gernes@maplewoodmn.gov](mailto:carole.gernes@maplewoodmn.gov)



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# Summer Day Camps

• AT THE BRUENTRUP HERITAGE FARM •

*Camps run June - August.  
Grades ranging from 1st - 9th.*

- Farm-To-Table Camp \* Folk Arts Camp
- History Detectives Camp \* Culinary Camp
- One Room Schoolhouse Camp
- Recess Camp \* Naturalist Camp
- Creative Writing Camp
- Little House on the Prairie Camp

[MaplewoodMuseum.org/Daycamps](http://MaplewoodMuseum.org/Daycamps)

(651) 748-8645 info@maplewoodmuseum.org

