

MAPLEWOOD IN

MOTION

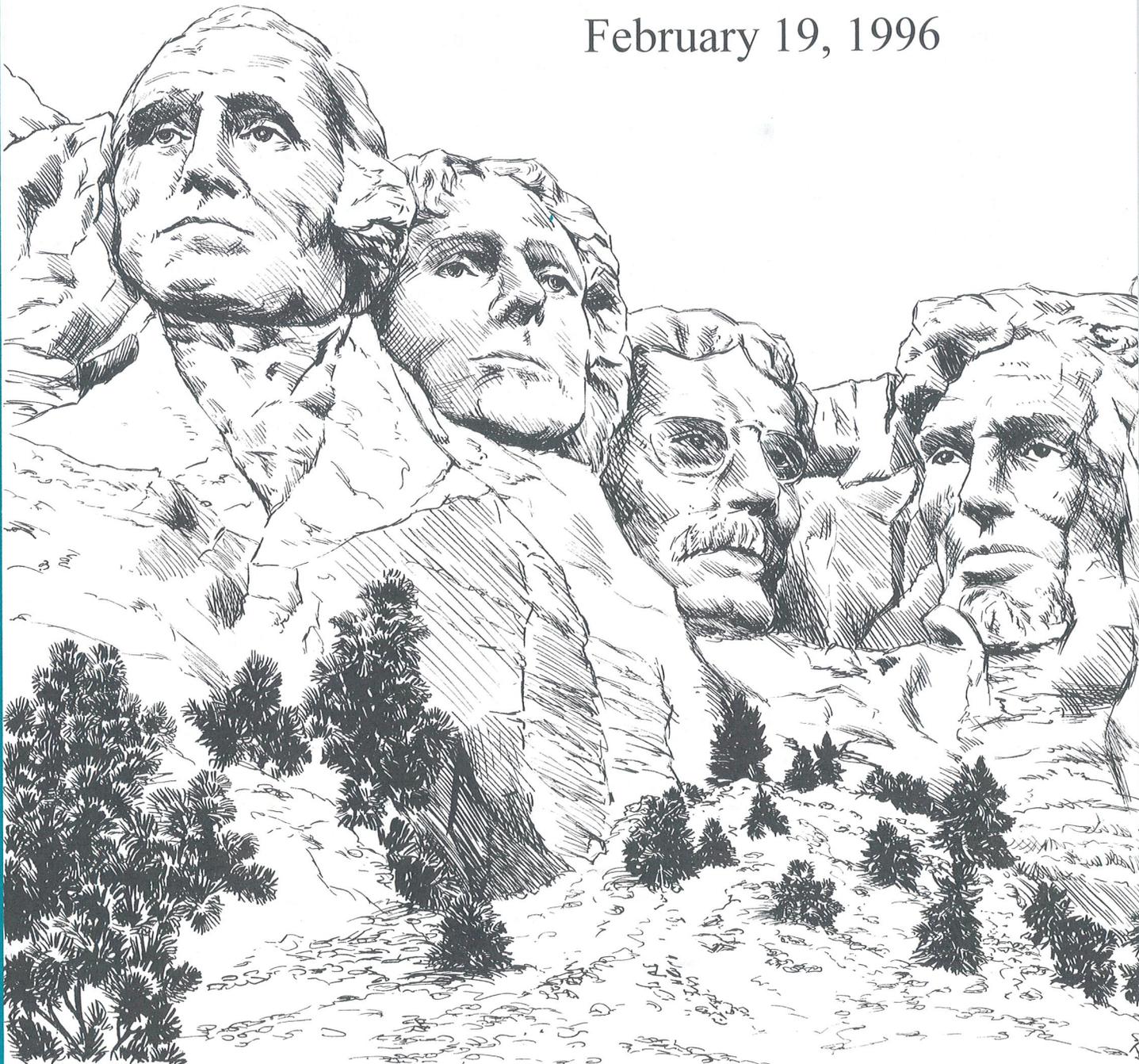
Volume 5, Number 2

Official City Newsletter

February 1996

PRESIDENTS' DAY

February 19, 1996



Administration

Dear Neighbors:

Because of the deadlines for publication, this letter is always written a month before it arrives in your home. At this time, the federal budget crisis is still being debated and compromises on the federal issues pending. Since that is the top (in some people's opinion) of the government "food chain", the impact on state, county, school districts and local programs is still up in the air.

We shouldn't see any direct impact as a result of the cuts made at the federal level on our city's budget and tax levy. The indirect impact will come as a result of the State Legislature changing funding levels for the various school, welfare and property tax relief programs. Less state aids to cities means we either reduce programs, increase property taxes, increase fees and licenses, or some combination thereof.

The units of government closest to the people, the taxpayers, are the last to have a say in program and funding issues. I have long had the opinion that city and township government is the closest to the people. When you leave a city council meeting, you know the immediate impact on your person and property. We provide roads, water pipes, sewer, parks, building permits, zoning laws, and so on and on. If you don't like what we do, you can call, write, show up at a council meeting, or at a Mayor's Forum, or catch us at the stores where we shop.

The Legislature has mandated that we hold a hearing each year. This hearing is the *Taxpayer Right to Know* hearing where our budget and tax levies are reviewed and discussed. Our 1995 hearing was held on a Saturday, rather than a work night meeting. We thought that might facilitate more people attending and discussing our *1996 No-Increase Levy Budget*. We had an audience of three.

We broadcast our meeting live on our local cable channels. Our Cable Commission, on which I serve as Maplewood's representative, offers **free government channel access**. Only five homes out of 6,000 have taken up the offer. The installation is free also.

We send out *Maplewood in Motion* twelve times a year to keep you informed about the city's activities and actions. I hold a monthly Forum at rotating places throughout the city.

What I'm saying is, we want your scrutiny and involvement. We want your ideas and for you to express your concerns. Use whatever means you have available. Volunteer and be a part of the solution.

Sincerely,

Gary Bastian
Mayor

P.S. February 12-19, 1996 is *Random Acts of Kindness Week*. Think of something you can do for someone and Do It!

MAPLEWOOD GOVERNMENT CHANNEL

The City has a government channel on cable TV which operates 24 hours a day. If you have basic cable service, current City information and programs can be viewed on **Channel 16**.

Mondays, February 12 and 26 at 7 p.m. – City Council Meetings – cable cast live from City Hall.

Thursdays, February 15 and 29 at 7 p.m. – Rebroadcast of the City Council meeting that was conducted on the previous Monday.

If you are interested in a special viewing of the City Council meetings, contact the City Manager's office. Tapes of the meetings are kept for 30 days.

In addition to the State-required Truth-in-Taxation hearing, the City Council conducted two regular meetings during December 1995. Among the highlights of those meetings, the Council:

- Adopted the 1996 Budget (\$34.41 million) and certified the 1996 property tax levy (\$8.57 million). There will be a zero increase in the amount of property tax revenues the City will receive in 1996. Most homesteaded properties will see a slight decrease in the City's portion of the property tax. The City receives 16 percent of the property taxes paid within Maplewood.
- Appointed Maria Costilla to serve on the Human Relations Commission.
- Presented Todd Sandell a certificate of appreciation for his service on the Planning Commission.
- Authorized purchase of approximately thirteen acres of open space at 2413 Carver Avenue for \$120,000.
- Approved funding to upgrade the Deputy Registrar area so that it complies with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Heard a proposal to construct a Holiday Station Store in the southeast corner of Lower Afton Road and McKnight Road. It scheduled further action on the requested land use plan and zoning amendments and conditional use permit for January 8, 1996.
- Adopted a resolution stating Maplewood's goals for participation in the Metropolitan Livable Communities Act.
- Acknowledged AT&T's withdrawal of an application to build a 150-foot-high cellular telephone tower at 1840 English Street.
- Enacted a moratorium on construction of antenna towers so that a new ordinance may be developed to regulate their location and design.
- Adopted ordinances raising rates for sewer and recycling services in 1996.
- Asked for broader support of the City's request that MnDOT allow a roadway connection of Hazelwood Street at Highway 36.
- Approved the final plat of the Mapleleaf Estates Second Addition, a 20-lot single-family residential subdivision east of Cypress Street and north of Gervais Avenue. Mapleleaf Estates, which is a redevelopment of the Mapleleaf Drive-In Theater site, will have 60 residential lots when it is completed.
- Approved a three-year labor agreement with LELS Local 153 (police officers).
- Approved changes in plans for improvements on White Bear Avenue from County Road C to I-694.

MAYOR'S FORUM

**BE INFORMED
BE INVOLVED**

Come meet the Mayor at this month's Forum. Bring a friend or neighbor.

The Mayor's Forums are held the first Saturday of the month. This month's Forum will be held on:

February 3, 1996
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Maplewood Community Center
Community Room C
2100 White Bear Avenue
Maplewood, MN 55109

At this month's forum, each of the City's Advisory Boards and Commissions will have an opportunity to meet jointly with the City Council. The schedule is:

9:00 a.m. Community Design & Review Board
9:30 a.m. Housing & Redevelopment Authority
10:00 a.m. Planning Commission
10:30 a.m. Parks & Recreation Commission
11:00 a.m. Human Relations Commission
11:30 a.m. Police Civil Service Commission

Finance

1996 Utility Rates

Maplewood utility bills consist of charges for sewer service, hydrants and recycling. In 1996, the quarterly bill for an average home will increase by \$2.25. This is an increase of 5.4%. The largest component of the utility bill is for sewer services and most of the revenue collected is for the Metropolitan Waste Control Commission (MWCC). Maplewood's sewage system delivers waste into the MWCC lines. This agency bills Maplewood for sewage treatment, and these costs account for 79.4% of the City's expenses for sewer services. Sewage treatment costs for 1996 are 5.6% more than 1995. Sewer service charges also finance the cost to operate and maintain Maplewood sewer lines and pumping stations and administrative expenses related to the sewer system.

1996 Property Taxes

The 1996 Budget adopted by the City Council at a public hearing on December 18th will result in a decrease in City taxes of \$1 on an average home which has a value of \$88,200. The tax levy adopted by the Council was the same amount as 1995. Also, it was the same amount that was used to calculate estimated 1996 property taxes listed on the notices mailed to residents by Ramsey County in November. (City taxes will account for approximately 16% of the total property taxes a homeowner pays.)

Please contact the school district and Ramsey County for further information on how their adopted tax levies compared to the estimated tax levies.

1996 Budget

The City Council adopted the 1996 Budget at a public hearing on December 18th. The following is a breakdown of the 1996 Budget by section and the percent change over the 1995 Budget:

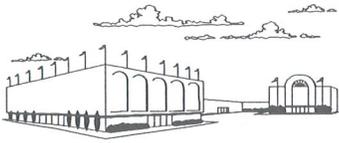
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Change</u>
Operations	\$20,746,270	- 0.4%
Capital improvements	5,334,550	- 27.6%
Debt service	<u>8,330,260</u>	<u>+ 32.1%</u>
Totals	\$34,411,080	- 0.3%

The operations portion of the budget covers basic city services such as police, fire fighting, street maintenance, recreation programs, park maintenance, planning, building inspections, recycling and utility maintenance. The decrease in the budget for operations is due to a decrease in water system costs. This is due to a delay in Maplewood assuming responsibilities from St. Paul for the operation of the Maplewood water system. The delay is intended to provide additional time to negotiate a new agreement. Excluding this item, the increase is 5.0%, which is near the total of the projected 1996 inflation rate (3.1%) and anticipated population growth (1.5%). If the Community Center operating expenses had been excluded from the budget, the 1996 budget would be 3.3% higher than 1995.

Most of the capital improvements portion of the budget is for the public improvement projects and a new fire station. Debt service costs in the budget are for payment of principal and interest on the City's bonded indebtedness. The large increase in debt service is to pay off old bonds that have a high interest rate and refinance them with new bonds at a lower interest rate.

A copy of the 1996 Budget is available at the Ramsey County Public Library located on Beam Avenue. For further information on the 1996 Budget contact the Finance Director at 770-4510.

Mall Area Traffic Improvements Scheduled for 1996



During 1989, our city council recommended that current and

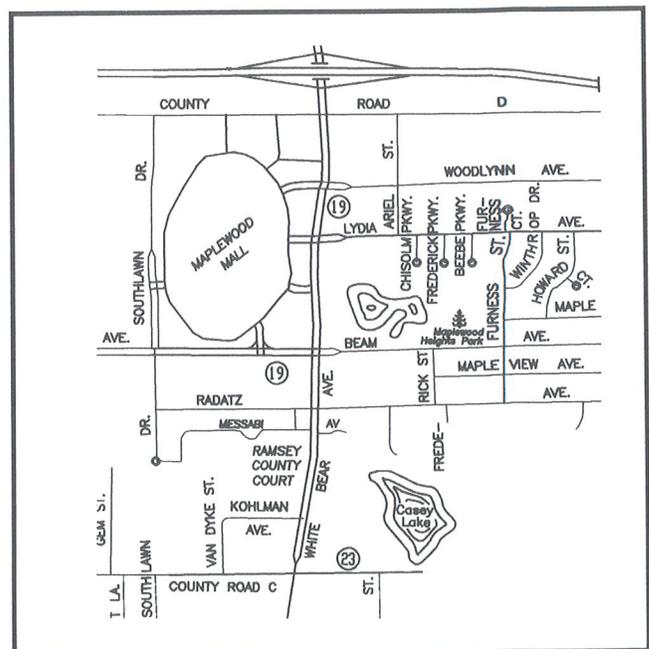
future traffic congestion problems in and around Maplewood Mall be studied. The consulting firm of SRF Consulting Group, Inc. was retained for their expertise in traffic engineering.

The original concept was to improve the traffic flow on White Bear Avenue from County Road C to the I-694 ramps through geometric revisions and signal systems modifications. However, the mall area traffic study has since evolved and expanded significantly in scope. Due to increased governmental cooperation, the cities of Maplewood and White Bear Lake, Ramsey County, the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration have come together to address a number of traffic safety considerations.

Based on additional physical testing, Ramsey County decided to replace the original pavement on White Bear Avenue south of I-694 to County Road D, and north of I-694 to White Bear Court in White Bear Lake. This segment of pavement dates to the original construction of I-694. This initiative by Ramsey County has afforded the opportunity for Mn/DOT to significantly improve the I-694 ramp geometrics and widths, including the addition of an HOV (high occupancy vehicle) lane on the west bound I-694 entrance ramp.

The project is scheduled to be let this month and will include the following traffic signal, roadway, and geometric improvements to be constructed this summer:

- ◆ Roadway reconstruction–White Bear Avenue between County Road C and Beam Avenue
- ◆ Roadway reconstruction and signal modification–White Bear Avenue and Beam Avenue
- ◆ Roadway reconstruction and signal modification–White Bear Avenue and County Road D
- ◆ Roadway reconstruction and signal modification–White Bear Avenue and the I-694 south ramps
- ◆ Roadway reconstruction and signal modification–White Bear Avenue and the I-694 north ramps
- ◆ Roadway reconstruction–White Bear Avenue between I-694 north ramps and White Bear Court



Administration

Open Space

In a November 1993 referendum, Maplewood residents sent a strong message about how they valued the environment. They approved the issuance of \$5 million in bonds to buy land for open space preservation. Since then, the City has acquired 139 acres for just under \$4 million.

The City Council appointed an Open Space Committee in 1992 to identify these unique lands remaining in Maplewood. The Committee undertook a very extensive and thorough study of open spaces in the community. It developed 54 criteria to evaluate 66 sites that could be considered for protection. In its final report, the Committee recommended 19 top sites that the City should pursue for open space acquisition.

After the referendum, the City contacted the owners of each property and indicated the City's interest in acquiring their land. In the end, the City negotiated with owners of six sites who were interested in selling at what the City considered to be reasonable prices. The City, in some cases with the assistance of the Trust for Public Land, has fully or partially acquired these properties:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Price</u>
1. SW corner, Larpenteur & Century	39	\$1,205,600
2. SW corner, Frost & English	24	808,300
3. S. of Co. Rd. B, E. of Soo Line (Tri-District School property)	7	0
4. S. of Linwood, E. of Sterling	16	416,500
5. N. of Spoon Lake, E. of Arcade	17	378,000
6. E. of Ariel, S. of Co. Rd. D	23	663,800
7. N. of 2413 Carver Ave.	13	120,000

The Tri-District School has given the City a seven-acre conservation easement as it constructs the new school on Site 3. The City is still pursuing acquisition of 11 acres on Site 5 and additional acreage on Site 7.

Even though the list of top properties has been exhausted, the city is considering new sites which may be offered by property owners. The City Council makes an initial review to determine if a site meets with the intent of the criteria developed by the Open Space Committee. The Parks & Recreation and Planning Commissions review the properties and forward their recommendations to the City Council. The Council then holds a public hearing to decide whether the land should be rezoned to "open space", a classification which essentially precludes future development of the land. It is likely that the City will be looking to acquire several smaller parcels so that the sense of open space is present throughout Maplewood.

What is the goal of open space protection? It is to provide opportunities to appreciate Maplewood's natural heritage which pre-dated European settlement in the mid-1800s. The City is developing a management plan for open spaces which will emphasize the restoration of the natural landscape and an ethic which lets nature take its course. The open spaces will be passive, low-impact areas for Maplewood residents to enjoy for generations to come.

 **Handicapped Parking Information**

In Minnesota, physically handicapped drivers are legally entitled to certain parking privileges, including free parking in metered spaces and the right to park in designated handicapped spaces.

Minnesota Statute 169.346 requires that persons who park illegally in handicapped parking spaces shall be fined not less than \$100 or more than \$200.

Vehicles parked in handicapped spaces must display handicapped license plates, or, until such plates are received, a 30-day, temporary handicapped permit, or a temporary or permanent Identifying Certificate issued by the Division of Driver and Vehicle Services.

The law also states that Identifying Certificates must be *prominently displayed* for the purposes of handicapped parking. "...a certificate is prominently displayed if it is displayed so that it may be viewed from the front and rear of the vehicle by hanging it from a rearview mirror...If there is no rearview mirror, the placard must be displayed on the dashboard. No part of the certificate may be obscured." If the vehicle owner or operator fails to properly display their handicapped plates or certificate, the vehicle may be tagged and the operator or owner may have to pay a fine or appear in Court to explain their failure to properly display their plates or certificate.

Only vehicles being operated by or actually used to transport handicapped persons can be parked in handicapped parking spaces. It is illegal for persons who are neither handicapped nor transporting handicapped persons to use a handicapped parking space, even if the vehicle they are driving displays a valid certificate or license plates.

Parking After A Snowfall

Maplewood City Ordinance 18-26 states that after a snowfall, the parking of any vehicle on any street or roadway between the end of the snowfall and the plowing or removal of snow is prohibited.

Overnight Parking

As a reminder to all residents, Maplewood City Ordinance 18-27 prohibits the parking of any vehicle upon any street or road for more than two hours between the hours of 2:00 and 6:00 am. This ordinance stays in effect throughout the year.

Growing to Serve You

With the assistance of a recent grant from the U.S. Justice Department, a new police officer will join the Department early in 1996. Additionally, an officer is also being hired to replace an officer, who retired in 1995. These welcome additions to the force will enable us to better serve the citizens of Maplewood during 1996.

Entertainment Central – Maplewood Community Center



George Maurer –
Pianist, Keyboardist, Composer
Thursday, March 14, 1996 – 7:30 pm

If you enjoy the music of Lorie Line and George Winston, be prepared to be swept away by this young, inspiring musician. A graduate of St. John's University in Collegeville, George incorporates the influences and sounds of this beautiful part of Minnesota into his music. Join in the anticipation of spring as George paints musical imagery that will soothe your spring fever.

Admission: \$8 in advance for adults,
\$10 at the door
\$8 MCC Members and Seniors
\$6 Students and Youth

A Stoney Lonesome County Gospel Weekend –
Friday, April 5, 1996 – 7:30 pm
Saturday, April 6, 1996 – 7:30 pm

Minnesota's premier bluegrass band will present their annual Easter Weekend show. Nationally known for their frequent appearances on MPR's "A Prairie Home Companion." Stoney Lonesome features sweet vocal harmonies and the hottest in bluegrass picking and fiddling.

Admission: \$8 in advance for adults, \$10 at the door
\$8 MCC Members and Seniors
\$6 Students and Youth

Ticket Office Hours

Tuesday-Thursday – 6 pm to 8 pm
Saturday – 9 am to noon
Sunday – 1 pm to 3 pm

Information Line – 779-3540
Ticket Order Phone – 779-3555

Administration

City Goals for 1996

On a cold, windy Saturday morning on the ninth of December, the City Council held its Truth-in-Taxation hearing. A few residents braved the elements, but they were able to gain an understanding of the City's 1996 budget and question City officials about the services to be provided. At the request of Mayor Bastian, department heads related their major activities or changes planned for 1996.

*City Manager: Begin Maplewood 2020 community visioning process; identify and implement changes suggested by 1995 community survey; continue open space acquisition; implement fire department consolidation; negotiate Saint Paul water contract; pursue improvements to the management information system (MIS).

*Human Resources: Settle labor agreements; revise performance appraisal and merit pay systems; update all job descriptions to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements; revise personnel policies; implement federally-required drug and alcohol testing program for employees using commercial drivers licenses.

*City Clerk: Conduct elections during a presidential election year; update the City Code; improve records retrieval system; make changes at the deputy registrar counter.

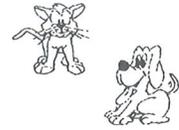
*Community Development: Streamline processing of applications; explore cost-effective revisions to recycling program; conduct process to consider organized collection of refuse.

*Finance: Pursue 12 performance objectives for 1996; consider proposals for auditing services in 1997 as the contract with the firm that has performed the City's audit for the past 13 years is expiring. (Mayor Bastian noted that since 1985, the City has annually received Awards of Excellence for Budget and Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.)

*Parks & Recreation: Add programming and maintenance responsibilities at the new satellite community centers at Carver and Edgerton elementary schools; redesign outdoor facilities at the satellite community centers; shift the emphasis in program offerings to the Community Center, and Carver and Edgerton centers; achieve financial stability and break-even operations at the Community Center; increase fees; undertake a marketing program; improve the scholarship program; reduce the schedule at the Nature Center from seven to six days per week.

*Police: Add one police officer for community-oriented policing through federal COPS grant; expand DARE program to include parents; create Community Districts in which one officer will be assigned to a district and will work with neighborhoods; look at providing dispatch and records services to other cities; in animal control, develop a pet owner awareness program.

*Public Works: Operate with significant cut in budget and continue a high level of service; reconfigure snowplowing routes and practices; continue aggressive program of crack sealing and sealcoating streets; consider change in design of street signs; make modifications to the City's Municipal State Aid Street (MSAS) system; work with Ramsey County on transferring responsibilities for certain County roads; address clean-up issues at the former City landfill site.



Licensing Your Dog or Cat

Maplewood ordinance requires licensing of all cats and dogs over three months of age which are kept in the city. If you have not already licensed your pet and it is not convenient for you to come to city hall, you may obtain the license by mail. Complete the form below—be sure to indicate whether it is for a cat or dog. Mail the form, along with the appropriate payment and the original signed certificate of rabies vaccination from your veterinarian to:

City Clerk's Office
City of Maplewood
1830 East County Road B
Maplewood, MN 55109

This form may be copied if you need to license more than one animal. The Certificate of Vaccination will be returned to you with the license and your receipt of payment. **REMINDER:** If you have more than two cats or two dogs, it is required that you obtain a kennel license. Call 770-4521 (City Clerk's Office) for further information and an application form.



**CITY OF MAPLEWOOD
APPLICATION FOR CAT/DOG PERMIT
For the year ending 2/28/97**

FEE:

- \$16.00 Male
- \$16.00 Female
- \$13.00 Spayed or Neutered

ADD \$1.00 PENALTY FOR LICENSES PURCHASED AFTER MARCH 31

I, _____, residing

at _____, Maplewood, MN ZIP _____

Telephone (H) _____ (W) _____ hereby apply for a permit to keep the below-described cat/dog and do agree to comply with the rules and regulations duly adopted by the lawful governing body of the City of Maplewood and the provisions of Municipal Code 1101, and subsequent amendments and any other applicable state and local laws.

Cat _____ Dog _____ Rabies Shot Date _____ NEXT DUE _____

Breed _____ Name _____

Age _____ Color _____

Application Date _____

Signature of Owner

Emergency Management

Sheltering-In-Place...A Definition

Previous articles discussed what to do in the event of a hazardous materials release affecting your area. The first article, titled *Before the Siren Sounds*, briefly looked at the process of evacuation and sheltering-in-place. The second article, titled *Which Protective Action – Evacuation or Sheltering-In-Place*, gave insight into decisions public safety officials must make and our vulnerability to such occurrences. In this third article we will take a closer look at sheltering-in-place.

When a hazardous materials incident occurs anywhere, life safety is the number one concern. If the spill results in a toxic vapor cloud drifting over an area, then public safety officials have three basic options to insure life safety: 1) Keep people from entering affected area; 2) Evacuate the population if time permits; and 3) Shelter-in-place, meaning to advise people to stay in their homes until the danger passes.

In reality, all of these options are usually used at a major incident. First, people must be kept from entering the affected area through the use of street barricades, police patrols, ropes, barrier tape, etc. Secondly, those already affected either in or near the site must be evacuated to a place of safety. This may involve transportation and care of a large number of people until the area is safe for reentry. Thirdly, there may not be sufficient time or manpower available to evacuate everyone. The only reasonable alternative then is to get into your home or other building that can be "sealed off" to some degree.

The process of "sealing off" a home or other building is the basis of sheltering-in-place. It's effectiveness is based on the fact that there is enough breathable air in the average home to support several people for many hours, if infiltration of outside air can be stopped. Thankfully, it's not too difficult to keep out the "bad" air. Below are ways of sealing out the "bad" air, if and when you're told to do so.

1) Gather your family and pets, go indoors, close and lock all doors and windows.

2) Turn off all gas appliances like stoves, water heaters and furnaces.

3) Turn off pilot lights (or main gas supply valves) on all gas appliances that are not the automatic ignition type. The gas that runs these appliances also consumes oxygen. **CAUTION** Gas appliances may require relighting of pilot lights at the end of the incident. If you are unsure about how to relight pilot lights, contact a qualified service person.

4) Shut down ventilation systems like air conditioning, kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans, and clothes dryers, if they are on. These appliances may create negative pressure in the home that can allow outside air to more easily infiltrate indoors.

5) **Thoroughly** extinguish any fires in fireplaces or wood burning stoves. When you are sure they are out, close any dampers in the chimney. Wood fires consume oxygen.

6) Turn on your radio or TV and listen for further instructions from public officials.

Usually these simple tasks are enough to support people in their homes or other buildings until the danger passes or firefighters arrive to assist in evacuation. The objective of sheltering-in-place is to keep you alive and well, not necessarily comfortable.

Suppose, however, that the toxic cloud persists and no one has arrived yet to assist in evacuation. Fortunately, there are additional things you can do.

1) Any kind of pressure sensitive tape, preferably 1" or wider, can be taped over seams around doors, windows or other openings to the outside. Don't bother with large "thermopane" picture windows which are usually sealed in place during installation. Work from the inside only and do not open doors or windows. Remember you are trying to seal up small cracks where outside air can get inside.

2) Larger "cracks," like under doors, can be sealed with plastic film held in place by rugs or towels. Even a dampened or wet towel alone will effectively seal off the areas underneath doors.

Luckily we live in Minnesota where our homes and buildings are well "weatherstripped" to keep out the cold winter blasts. This same weather-stripping also helps keep potentially toxic air out.

After you have done all these things, you may feel like you are living in a sealed cocoon. This is exactly how you should feel. How many recall the vivid TV pictures during the Gulf War that showed Israeli citizens doing these same things in defense against what they feared was poison gas dropped with Iraqi Scud missiles?

If you are in a high rise building you may be told to simply move to the upper floors if the toxic gas is heavier than air and "hugs" the ground. Just the opposite if the toxic gas is lighter than air and envelops the upper floors. In either case, public officials will advise you on what to do.

Is Your House Eligible for the Century Club?

Now that you are "sheltered" in your home, how long can you stay there? Most incidents of this type are usually over in a few hours. Properly sheltered in your home, you should be safe for many hours. Exactly how long depends on too many factors to make a blanket statement. Things like number of people and relative size of the home in cubic feet play the most important part in determining the "safe" length of time.

Make every effort to conserve oxygen. Try to relax. Do not attempt any real physical effort. For example, exercising uses 2-3 times more oxygen from the air than sitting.

Air contains 20% oxygen, 79% nitrogen and 1% other gasses. Of the 20% oxygen in the air you inhale, the body uses 4%; 16% is exhaled.* While 4% does not seem like much, it's more than enough to sustain life. Relaxed breathing reduces the oxygen content in the air of an average sized home very little. Remember, every winter night in your practically air-tight, weatherstripped home, you spend about 8 hours sleeping comfortably. Some fresh air infiltrates the home but this is probably offset by the fact that your gas furnace and pilot lights, unless they are newer models with their own supply of fresh air, are still burning and using oxygen. Yet you wake up mornings feeling fine.

You may gain more confidence in your home as a shelter if you are knowledgeable about cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). When administering CPR, a person is actually using their expelled or "used" air to inflate the victim's lungs. This process works because even exhaled air contains enough residual oxygen (16%) to support human life.

We hope these articles will help increase your **awareness** and **understanding** of what you may be asked to do. They are not intended to frighten you. Instead we hope to better prepare you for what may happen. An informed citizen is better able to protect themselves and their families as well as cooperate with public officials.

Reprints of these articles are available by contacting Maplewood Emergency Management at 770-4547.

*Source: "Emergency Care & Transportation" 4th edition, by The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.



The Maplewood Historical Society is searching for homes built in Maplewood in 1896 or earlier. Homes that are identified in that category will receive a plaque.

Proof of the age of the home can be in the form of an abstract or other supporting information with a date (which can be copied). Complete the form below and send with the verification copy to:

City Clerk's Office
1830 East County Road B
Maplewood, MN 55109.

=====

YES, MY HOUSE IS AT LEAST 100 YEARS OLD.

It was built in _____

Name _____

Street _____

Maplewood, MN _____
(zip code)

Phone _____

=====

Stay tuned to future issues of *Maplewood in Motion* for more information.

Administration

Important City Meetings

Your city council meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, and other meetings as scheduled. The other commissions/boards meet regularly to provide input to the council. All meetings are held at city hall, 1830 County Road B East, Maplewood.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS
7 p.m., February 12 & 26
2nd & 4th Monday

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
7 p.m., February 6
1st Tuesday

COMMUNITY DESIGN REVIEW BOARD
7 p.m., February 13 & 27
2nd & 4th Tuesday

PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION
7 p.m., February 26*
*Note date change due to holiday
3rd Monday

**HOUSING & REDEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY**
7 p.m., February 13
2nd Tuesday

PLANNING COMMISSION
7 p.m., February 5 & 20*
*Note date change due to holiday
1st & 3rd Monday

Committee Seeking New Members

Maplewood Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Committee

The Maplewood Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Committee is seeking members. Maplewood residents who are older adults, or people with disabilities, are needed to serve on an advisory committee to the city council. A metropolitan council survey indicated that most older adults and people with disabilities want to continue to live in their suburban homes but need additional help. This committee assesses needs, identifies resources and makes recommendations to the city council so that these residents can continue to effectively participate in the residential, work, commercial, social and recreational life of Maplewood.

The committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 10am – 11:30am at Maplewood City Hall. Call Tom Ekstrand at 770-4563 if you are an older adult or a person with a disability and are interested in becoming a member of this advisory committee.

Maplewood City Council



Mayor Gary Bastian
Council Member Sherry Allenspach
Council Member Dale Carlson
Council Member Marvin Koppen
Council Member George Rossbach
City Manager Michael McGuire

City Hall
1830 East County Road B
Maplewood, MN 55109
(612)770-4500
TDD-(612)779-4995

Hours:
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Bulk Rate
Car-Rt Pre-Sort
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St. Paul, MN

Residential Customer

Upon request, this newsletter will be made available in alternate format such as large print or audio tape. Contact the City of Maplewood at 770-4500.

DATED MATERIAL
Deliver by January 25, 1996

This brochure is completely recyclable.



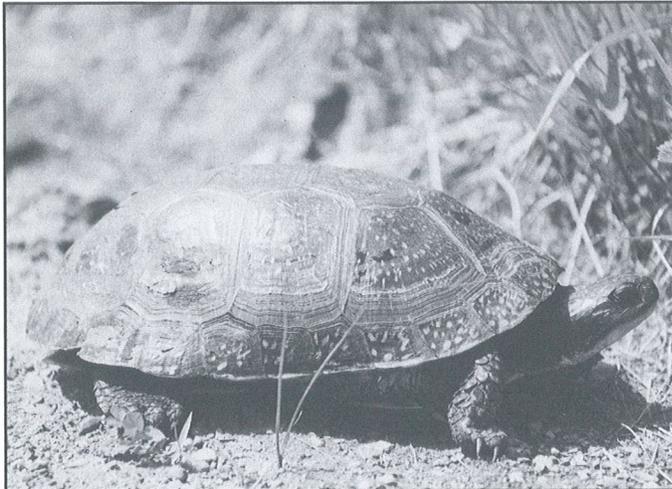
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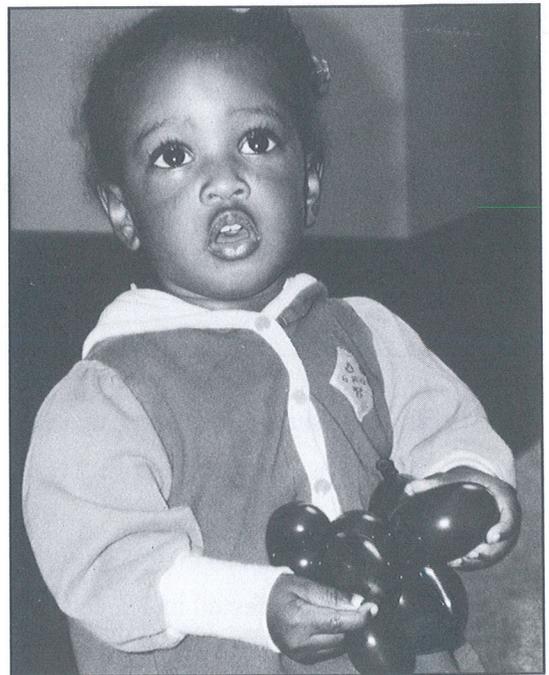
White Oak Seedling

3 Good Reasons to

Reduce,
Reuse, &
Recycle . . .



Minnesota Threatened Species – Blanding's Turtle



Our Future...

See enclosed insert for Earth Day Celebration Schedule of Events.



Dear Neighbors:

In February, the City Council received the results of a community survey conducted by Decision Resources. The survey results were extremely rewarding in terms of how highly Maplewood residents rated their community and the services the city provides. The results place Maplewood in the top ten percent of cities surveyed by Decision Resources. We can all be very proud, but the work and desire for excellence continues.

The survey did reveal some concerns however. People felt the three most serious issues facing Maplewood were: crime (24%), taxes (18%), and schools (17%). Twenty-five percent of survey participants gave no answer.

In terms of crime, Maplewood will continue to support and improve crime prevention programs. These include D.A.R.E., school liaisons, and organizing neighborhood crime watches.

Taxes are always a serious issue. Maplewood residents want value for their tax dollar. The City Council will continue to closely monitor performance objectives for all city departments to be sure your tax dollars are spent carefully.

Like many people, I, too, am concerned with our schools. The Governor and Legislature have been grappling with school reform including school choice, charter schools, competition and vouchers. I believe cities and schools should be working more closely with each other to provide the best possible services for the least dollar. Maplewood has had some success in that we have established satellite community centers at Carver and Edgerton Elementary Schools. We can do more and we can do better. Maybe we need to change the way we deliver school and city services. You need to tell us what your specific concerns are with regard to schools or any other concerns you may have. We can then look at options. Write to us at City Hall or for those of you who are wired, my e-mail address is dhCarlson@aol.com

Finally, next year is the 40th anniversary of Maplewood becoming a city. The exact date is February 26, 1957. We have begun talking of how to celebrate this event. Does anyone have any ideas? One possibility is to have a community festival that would become an annual event. Let us know what you think on this too.

Spring is just around the corner. It will be time to start cleaning up our yards and parks and to start thinking of what plants we are going to grow. Enjoy the spring and I hope to hear from many of you very soon.

Sincerely,

Dale Carlson
Councilmember*

* The Mayor's Message normally appears in this spot. However, throughout the year, Maplewood City Councilmembers will be submitting their messages to the residents of the City. Councilmember Carlson was elected to serve a four-year term from January 1996 through December 1999.

MAPLEWOOD GOVERNMENT CHANNEL

The City has a government channel on cable TV which operates 24 hours a day. If you have basic cable service, current City information and programs can be viewed on **Channel 16**.

Mondays, April 8 & 22 at 7 p.m. – City Council Meetings – cable cast live from City Hall.

Thursdays, April 11 & 25 at 7 p.m. – Rebroadcast of the City Council meeting that was conducted on the previous Monday.

If you are interested in a special viewing of the City Council meetings, contact the City Manager's office. Tapes of the meetings are kept for 30 days.



The Maplewood City Council conducted two regular meetings in February 1996. Among the highlights of those meetings, the Council:

- ◆ Approved land use and zoning changes and issued a conditional use permit for a Holiday Station Store at the southeast corner of Lower Afton and McKnight Roads.
- ◆ Gave approval for development of a Lexus car dealership on the east side of Highway 61 between Beam Avenue and County Road D.
- ◆ Set March 11, 1996, as a public hearing to hear opinions about the advisability of organizing the collection of residential refuse.
- ◆ Approved \$12,000 for expenses for the Maplewood July 4th celebration, and made a commitment of an \$8,000 donation for fireworks during the Ramsey County Fair.
- ◆ Authorized \$75,000 in energy-saving improvements which will have a 3.4-year payback. These improvements will be made with a 0%-interest loan from NSP.
- ◆ Appointed Councilmembers Sherry Allenspach and George Rossbach to serve on the Joint Ice Arena Board, which will govern the indoor-ice facility at Tartan High School.
- ◆ Heard a presentation of findings from the community survey (see related article in this issue of *Maplewood in Motion*).
- ◆ Adopted an ordinance regulating adult uses and restricting their location to the M-1 and M-2 (industrial) zoning districts.
- ◆ Approved a one-year contract with JR's Used Appliance and Parts to pick up residential appliances left at the recycling drop-off center at the Maplewood municipal complex.
- ◆ Adopted an inducement resolution to issue industrial revenue bonds for the Vomela Specialty Company to convert the former Berg-Torseth building for its manufacturing uses.
- ◆ Increased the Park Availability Charge (PAC) on new residential development to be equivalent to \$225 per capita.
- ◆ Revised the policy on awarding grants from the charitable gambling fund, so that grants would be given only for City programs or City-related uses.
- ◆ Discussed the implications of Ramsey County's intent not to renew the City's lease to use Goodrich Park, and the County's desire to convert the park to a driving range.
- ◆ Requested the ISD 622 Board to begin the process to select a name for the new high school that is replacing North High School. The Council favored the idea of a name which reflected all of the communities served by the new high school.

MAYOR'S FORUM

**BE INFORMED
BE INVOLVED**

Come meet the Mayor at this month's Forum. Bring a friend or neighbor.

The Mayor's Forums are held the first Saturday of the month. This month's Forum will be held on:

April 6, 1996
10 a.m. - 12 noon
Maplewood Community Center
2100 White Bear Avenue
Maplewood, MN 55109

Important City Meetings

Your city council meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, and other meetings as scheduled. The other commissions/boards meet regularly to provide input to the council. All meetings are held at city hall, 1830 County Road B East, Maplewood.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

7 p.m., April 8 & 22
2nd & 4th Monday

COMMUNITY DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

7 p.m., April 9 & 23
2nd & 4th Tuesday

**HOUSING & REDEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY**

7 p.m., April 9
2nd Tuesday

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

7 p.m., April 2
1st Tuesday

PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION

7 p.m., April 15
3rd Monday

PLANNING COMMISSION

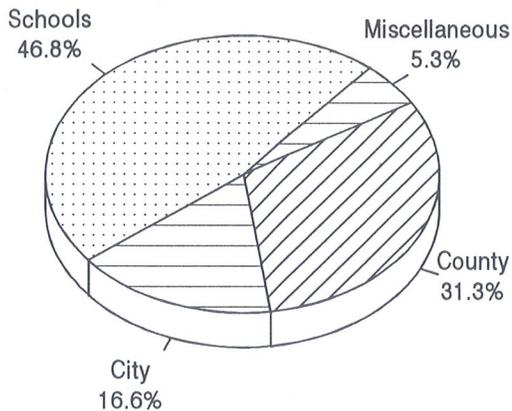
7 p.m., April 1 & 15
1st & 3rd Monday



Finance

Property Taxes for 1996

By now you should have received from Ramsey County your property tax statement for 1996. The allocation of tax dollars for an average home in Maplewood within School District 622 is indicated in the following pie chart:



The miscellaneous category includes the Metropolitan Council, Regional Transit Commission, Mosquito Control, Metro Watershed District and S.I.S.D. #916.

Your Property's 1996 Estimated Market Value

In March you received from Ramsey County a NOTICE OF YOUR PROPERTY'S 1996 ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE. Please read this notice. It will affect how much property taxes you will pay in 1997. If you believe the market value for your property is not correct, you must appeal to the Ramsey County Board of Equalization within 30 days after you receive the notice.



Every year Ramsey County sends you a notice advising you of the estimated value of your property. Since property taxes are based on the value of your property, your property taxes will increase as the value of your property increases. The value on the notice is the amount that the county assessor estimates your property would sell for based on sales of property in your area. Included with the notice is information that explains how you can request a change in the estimated value of your property.

Please read the notice carefully. If you have any questions, call the Ramsey County assessor's office at 266-2141.

Community Development

Committee Seeking New Members Maplewood Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Committee

The Maplewood Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Committee is seeking members. Maplewood residents who are older adults, or people with disabilities, are needed to serve on an advisory committee to the city council. A metropolitan council survey indicated that most older adults and people with disabilities want to continue to live in their suburban homes but need additional help. This committee assesses needs, identifies resources and makes recommendations to the city council so that these residents can continue to effectively participate in the residential, commercial, social and recreational life of Maplewood.

The committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at Maplewood City Hall. Call Tom Ekstrand at 770-4563 if you are an older adult or a person with a disability and are interested in becoming a member of this advisory committee.



Don't Get Scammed!

Con artists and hustlers often resemble classic Minnesota "snow birds," spending their winters in places like Florida, Arizona, and California and returning to our area in the late spring to begin setting up their "cons" for the new season. Now is the time to review measures to protect yourself from such criminals.

Remember, a con artist will *always* want something from you...even if it's only your time! Usually, con artists will present you with some unique opportunity to make or save a great deal of money or to acquire something at little or no cost.

Even if a con artist offers you a deal, he will *always* want something from you...it may be a small amount of money, some personal information such as your Social Security number or phone number, or it may be something that seems totally innocent. Usually this is just the setup for the real sting which comes later.

Remember, if something seems too good to be true....it almost certainly is!

In another common hustle, the con artist asks for your help. Usually, the request will be something simple like helping to find someone or getting a glass of water. Once you agree to help such people, they will take advantage of your cooperation to gain access to your home, your bank account, or other valuables either by simply stealing these items or by obtaining your account numbers and identification.

Con artists often claim to be people you would trust, such as ministers, doctors, lawyers, bank examiners, accident victims, or utility company employees.

How to Protect Yourself

It's harder to fall prey to scams if you follow the advice parents give their children:

- Don't talk to strangers.
- Don't take things from strangers.
- Call a family member, a friend, or a police officer if someone is bothering you.

Con artists particularly like to target retired persons because they usually have cash, often live alone, and are unlikely to confront a swindler or to report being victimized. Basically, such people make good victims.

Simple rules for dealing with con artists:

- Don't let strangers into your house.
- If someone claims to be from the police department, a charity, the phone company, or a utility company, call their employer to verify the visit. Don't use a phone number the person gives you; instead get the number from the phone book or from Directory Assistance.
- Never give your phone number, Social Security number, bank or credit card numbers to someone who calls you on the phone, regardless of their reason for wanting such information. Instead, have them request the information in writing.
- Don't hesitate to say no to an offer, and don't let someone force you to change your mind. If it's a phone call, just hang up.
- Don't hesitate to call a family member, a friend, or the police if you think someone is trying to swindle you or if strangers (on the phone or at your door) will not leave you alone when you ask them to.



Administration

Community Survey

One of the keys in serving the residents of Maplewood is good communication. Maplewood in Motion is one way that the City communicates with residents. But effective communication is a two-way dialogue, and for help the City engaged the services of Decision Resources, Ltd. (DRL). It conducted a community survey to find out what residents thought of Maplewood: How is the City performing its services? Is the City going in the right direction? What are the important current and future issues? What are residents willing to pay for City services?

DRL presented its report on the community survey conducted in February. In December, the firm polled 400 residences randomly by telephone, a sample that would yield reliable results within $\pm 5\%$. In general, residents were very pleased to be in Maplewood. Satisfaction levels on many indicators were among the highest in the metropolitan communities that DRL has surveyed. Among the highlights:

- The most frequently-mentioned images of Maplewood are the Maplewood Mall, home, and parks and lakes.
- Most liked about Maplewood—location and quiet.
- Least liked about Maplewood—Surprisingly, 38% say, “There’s nothing wrong.” Taxes are mentioned by 15%, which is one-half the average in metro suburbs.
- Most important future issues—crime, taxes (in general, not the City’s), and schools.
- 85% thought the City is going in the right direction (metro average is 65%).
- The sense of community is strengthening, and stronger than is typical in other suburbs. Residents feel a stronger tie to their neighborhood than to the community as a whole, but this is a metro-wide trend.
- In rating city services, overall dissatisfaction is low. Only one area of concern would be street maintenance (which includes City streets, County roads, and State highways), but the dissatisfaction level is one-half the metro average.
- In property taxes, by a 2-1 margin residents would be willing to pay more taxes to maintain current array and levels of services; by a 3-1 margin, residents would not want to have their property taxes decreased if it meant services would be reduced.
- Evaluations of City staff rate in the top quartile in the metro area, and the vast majority of residents who work with the staff are satisfied with their experience. Customer service in City Hall has high ratings, although there are some concerns about waiting times.
- The Community Center is a positive effect for Maplewood. About half of the respondents use the Center at some time; the swimming pool and gymnasium are the most popular facilities. Most residents don’t want further property tax subsidies for Community Center operating costs.
- Organized collection of residential solid waste is favored by 56% of respondents; 20% indicate strong opposition to changes in the current system.
- Top public safety problems perceived by residents are juvenile crime and burglary. Overall concern with current crime levels is less than in most communities.
- High ratings are given for the City’s efforts in environmental and open space protection. Residents support the concept of expanding trail and sidewalk systems, but generally do not want them placed next to their individual properties.
- In identifying future development needs, residents want to see more full-time job opportunities, open space, and senior housing.
- Residents are generally opposed to consolidation of services among cities, and to consolidations/mergers of cities. This result is consistent with a public trend not to pursue such consolidations.
- In cable television, 54% of respondents say they subscribed to cable, and 40% of this number indicated they occasionally or frequently view City Council meetings. This viewership level is about twice the metro average.

.....
• Results of the survey provide good baseline information as the City plans for Maplewood 2020, a •
• community-wide process to develop a vision of what Maplewood should be in 25 years and to identify •
• plans to attain it. Maplewood 2020 will begin later this year. •
.....



Tornado Awareness Week April 22 - April 26, 1996

Tornado warnings will echo across our State at 1:45 and 6:55 p.m. on April 25. Sirens will sound, weather alert monitors will be activated and plans will be tested during the annual statewide tornado drill, conducted as part of Tornado Awareness Week activities. The purpose of drills like this is to test and practice plans and procedures, and hopefully work out any "bugs" before a real disaster hits.

Because our entire State is subject to tornados and high winds, we encourage residents and businesses to take this opportunity to conduct tornado drills and review severe weather plans to insure they are current and understood. This type of preparedness activity can reduce losses if tornadoes or other severe weather strike.

Each spring Emergency Management conducts tornado safety presentations and shelter area surveys for nursing homes, day care centers, schools and other businesses. We will also speak to your club or civic group. In addition, we have severe weather safety information available and can assist with developing disaster/emergency plans. Call 770-4547.



Warning Sirens Can Mean Trouble

It's a late Saturday afternoon in May and you have just finished some yard work. The day started out beautiful—warm sun, blue skies, a light southwest breeze—but it was a little muggy as you worked in the garden. But now as you are about to put away the tools, the sky has turned an ominous dark gray in the southwest, blotting out the sun and prompting you to hustle a bit before it rains.

Suddenly, you're startled by the piercing moan of the warning sirens which alert you to the coming of a severe weather condition—maybe a tornado. Thankfully, you recall the purpose of the wailing sirens and check on why they are sounding. You gather your family and head for the basement with your portable radio to await developments.

We wonder how many times this scenario will be played out this "tornado season." We wonder, too, just how many people have misconceptions about the use of our outdoor warning sirens. Let's try to clear up some possible misunderstandings.

1. First, let's understand that the warning sirens are really **OUTDOOR** warning sirens. They are not intended to warn you of coming danger if you are indoors. If one is near your home and you can hear it indoors, that's fine, but it is primarily intended as an outdoor warning system. If you are indoors, you will get the warning from your TV, radio or weather alert monitor at almost the same time.
2. Second, who activates the sirens? In Maplewood the actual "button pusher" is the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department on direct advice from the National Weather Service. This activation is in the form of a special radio signal sent from the Sheriff's station to each siren.
3. If the sirens sound a second time, that means it's all clear. **WRONG!** The alert signal of a steady (—) tone for 5 minutes is used for any type of natural or man-made disaster such as tornadoes, explosions, radiation accidents, chemical accidents, floods, etc. **NO ALL-CLEAR** signal is ever sounded. A second steady tone actually means a second tornado or hazardous incident has occurred. You should turn on a radio or TV for specific instructions. The alert signal of a wavering (wavy) tone for 5 minutes is used only to indicate the imminent danger of nuclear attack and nothing else. Both of these tones are tested the first Wednesday of each month but are sounded for only one minute each for the test.
4. What if a siren doesn't work during the test? Maplewood uses a system of volunteer siren monitors. Each person monitors a siren and reports back to Emergency Management on the status of the siren. In addition, we get a computer printout indicating siren failure from Ramsey County Emergency Management. Either method allows us to arrange for maintenance.

Hopefully we have cleared up some confusion on this subject. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer Siren Monitor, call us at 770-4547.



Community Development

Signs on the Boulevard

People sometimes use the boulevards along city street to post signs. These signs include business advertising, real estate, garage sale and open-houses. Signs in the public right-of-way (boulevards) may block driver visibility and can be unsightly. Signs typically allowed within the public right-of-way are traffic and governmental signs. Two exceptions, however, are garage sale and real estate signs.



Garage Sale Signs

A person may place a 3-square-foot garage sale sign on the boulevard. No part of the sign shall be closer than 8 feet to the street pavement or 2 feet to a sidewalk or trail. All signs shall contain the actual dates of the sale. These signs are allowed only one day before and after the sale.



Real Estate Signs



A person may place a real estate sign on the boulevard. The maximum size is 9 square feet if it is in front of their house, or 3 square feet if it is not; e.g., an open house. These signs must be no closer than 8 feet to the street pavement or 2 feet to a sidewalk or trail. City code requires that open house signs may be used only from Noon to 8 p.m. on weekdays, and from 6 a.m. on Saturday until 8 p.m. on the last day of a weekend.

If you have any questions about sign placement or sign permits in the City of Maplewood, call the community development department at 770-4560.

Maplewood City Council



Mayor Gary Bastian
Council Member Sherry Allenspach
Council Member Dale Carlson
Council Member Marvin Koppen
Council Member George Rossbach
City Manager Michael McGuire

City Hall

1830 East County Road B
Maplewood, MN 55109
(612)770-4500

TDD-(612)779-4995

Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Upon request, this newsletter will be made available in alternate format such as large print or audio tape. Contact the City of Maplewood at 770-4500.

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Deliver by March 25, 1996

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