



City's Official *NEWSLETTER*

MAPLEWOOD



February 2016



Living



Maplewood is Strong

By Melinda Coleman, City Manager



When Mayor Nora Slawik was first elected mayor she talked with Council and staff about holding a State of the City event. On Thursday, January 14th that became a reality when the first State of the City luncheon was held in Maplewood. In attendance were members of the business community, area legislators, school district representatives, City Council members and City staff.

The theme of the mayoral address was Maplewood Strong. The Mayor is committed to a bright new future for the City of Maplewood. Maplewood Strong is a commitment to three important concepts for the City: Innovation, Infrastructure and Inclusion.

Maplewood Strong is Innovation

When Innovation is brought up in our city, people immediately think of 3M, the biggest corporation who has their headquarters in Maplewood. 3M recently completed their 400,000 square foot, \$150 million Research and Development facility. Our Council and senior staff recently toured this amazing state of the art building. This building is a phenomenal place where scientists can share and collaborate on products, ideas and technologies from different divisions of 3M.

A second Innovation for Maplewood is the creation of new partnerships to maximize efficiencies. An example is the recent partnership forged between the Maplewood Community Center and the YMCA for the management of our Aquatics Center and swim programs. Another partnership that the City is a part of is the new East Metro Public Safety Training Facility located on Century Avenue and Highway 5. Our Fire Chief Steve Lukin worked with Century College, and fire chiefs from communities across Ramsey and Washington Counties to open the joint powers facility that meets the training and capacity building needs of neighboring communities and serves as an incredible example of intergovernmental collaboration.



YMCA Swim Instruction at the Maplewood Community Center

A third Innovation is about learning to communicate better.

In This Issue

- 2 Community Garden Plots
- 3 Energize Maplewood!
- 3 Election Judges Needed
- 4 Council Corner
- 6 Racial Equality Effort
- 8 Private Social Network For Neighborhoods

- continued on page 5

Elected Officials

Nora Slawik: Mayor(651) 738-7099
 nora.slawik@maplewoodmn.gov
 Marylee Abrams: Councilmember(651) 249-2000
 marylee.abrams@maplewoodmn.gov
 Kathleen Juenemann: Councilmember(651) 771-3670
 kathleen.juenemann@maplewoodmn.gov
 Melinda Coleman: City Manager(651) 249-2055
 melinda.coleman@maplewoodmn.gov
 Bryan Smith: Councilmember(651) 888-0085
 bryan.smith@maplewoodmn.gov
 Tou Xiong: Councilmember(651) 444-0531
 tou.xiong@maplewoodmn.gov

Frequently Called Numbers

City Hall	(651) 249-2000
Maplewood Community Center	(651) 249-2230
Recreation	(651) 249-2120
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 Heidi Carey at (952) 212-7333 or email heidi@careycommunications.org.



REGISTRATION FOR 2016 COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOTS AT EDGERTON

Grow Your Own Local Organic Food! The City will stake the plots, and provide a water tank. Renters agree to plant, maintain, and harvest their plots using organic (chemical-free) methods.

Season begins on Friday, April 29 and goes through Wednesday, October 21, 2016.

- Plots are 12' x 15'
- Returning Gardener registration begins Wednesday, February 17, 2016
- New Gardener registration begins Wednesday, March 9, 2016
- Online Registration: www.maplewoodmn.gov (type 'community garden' into the search bar)
- Fee: \$25/plot for the entire 2016 season

Garden Questions: (651) 249-2173 or help registering online: (651) 249-2170

Garden Location: Corner of Roselawn & Edgerton in Maplewood, north of Edgerton Elementary

Open House: Friday, April 29, 4:30-6:30pm

Other Nearby Community Gardens:

- ISD 622 Community Education Gardens www.isd622.org/communitygarden
- Harvest Gardens www.harvestgardens.org





Energize Maplewood! Team Energy Challenge

What do "What the Watt," "JJ's Jolt of Joules," and the "South Maplewood Energy Misers" have in common? They are just 3 of the 12 teams competing for the title "Biggest Energy Losers" and the \$500 grand prize in the City of Maplewood's *Energize Maplewood!* Team Energy Challenge. You, too, can be part of this fun, City-wide Challenge to save energy at home. Join any of the 12 teams or create your own with friends, family, co-workers, church members... Even Mayor Nora Slawik is competing. "I joined the Team Energy Challenge to make my new, old home energy smart and comfortable, and to help my team become the biggest energy losers!"

While the Challenge officially started tracking energy of participating households on January 1, it's not too late to join. Registration is open until February 29, and the Challenge runs through May 31, 2016. There will be plenty of opportunities to earn points for your team, attend

events, and learn how to make your home more comfortable and healthy, all while saving energy and money. Join now on the *Energize Maplewood!* Team Energy Challenge webpage at www.maplewoodmn.gov/energychallenge or contact Cindy Ojczyk, Energy Program Coordinator, at cindy.ojczyk@maplewoodmn.gov or (651) 249-2306.

(The Energy Challenge is sponsored by the City of Maplewood and Xcel Energy. While it targets Maplewood residents, anyone that is an Xcel Energy electric and natural gas customer is eligible to participate.)



BECOME AN ELECTION JUDGE

Election Judges who operate the polling place are a very important part of the electoral process. Judges are responsible for administering the actual voting procedures in each precinct and without these individuals, it would be impossible to conduct elections.

The ideal election judge will be able to endure long hours on Election Day (about 14 hours) and will deal courteously and patiently with the public and co-workers. They represent the entire electoral process and may be the only person a voter has contact with when exercising his or her voting rights. Therefore, the Election Judge must be reliable, courteous, and able to follow procedures and, above all, possess good judgment.

The City of Maplewood needs more than 200 Election Judges for the Federal Presidential Election. You can join this team of dependable and caring individuals who help ensure this basic right of U.S. citizenship: to vote in fair and free elections.

Additional information can be obtained from the City's website at www.maplewoodmn.gov/94/Election-Judge or by calling Deb Schmidt at (651) 249-2003.



COUNCIL CORNER

The Council Corner is a space that is rotated monthly between the Mayor and Council members. Editorial views expressed are those of the author and may not necessarily represent or reflect the views and opinions of the City of Maplewood.



Councilmembers Smith and Abrams, Mayor Slawik, Councilmembers Xiong and Juenemann

By: Councilmember Marylee Abrams



The snowiest month of the winter is still to come. But, after the snow melts and we all thaw out from another Minnesota winter, we should see some exciting new changes around our city. Along with the coming of spring crocuses, tulips, and daffodils, new businesses will be popping up and the redevelopment of vacant buildings will be evident. A fun part of serving you as a City Council member is to be one of the first to know what is happening around the city. I wanted to let you all in on the good news.

Medical

- Minnesota Women's Care medical clinic at 2603 White Bear Avenue is under construction and scheduled to more than double in size.
- Prairie Care, a psychological counseling clinic for adolescents is new construction and scheduled to open in the spring on Beam Avenue just off White Bear Avenue.
- Maplewood Pediatric Dentistry located at 1915 County Road D is currently under construction in the old Good year Tire location. This project fits well with the Council's strategic objective to put vacant buildings back on the tax roll and into use.

Restaurants

- Jersey Mike's is a new restaurant under construction in an existing space at 2645 White Bear Avenue.
- Tokyo Sushi located at 1935 Beam Avenue is another new restaurant under construction in an existing space.

Housing

- The Villages at Frost and English is a new 50 unit apartment building under construction. It will be the flagship project in the redevelopment of the Gladstone neighborhood. I am very pleased to say the building will also meet the Maplewood Green Building Program.
- Conifer Ridge will break ground in the spring providing 150 new market rate apartments just off County Road D, near the Maplewood Mall.

And that's not all. There are quite a few other new businesses expressing interest in locating in Maplewood. They are in the early planning stages and discussions with city staff, and can't be mentioned yet. This year I will be the Council liaison on the Housing and Economic Development Commission and also the Planning Commission. I can't wait to see these other new businesses proceed through our City Commission process and am looking forward to new grand openings in 2016. New businesses mean more jobs and more security for families. Both new development and redevelopment of our city are part of the Council's strategic priority for the coming years. This is truly an exciting time to be living in Maplewood.

- Councilmember Marylee Abrams

**MAPLEWOOD
STRONG**



Continued from cover... Maplewood is Strong



New City Webpage Design

Council and staff have worked with our City information technology team, Chad Bergo and Mychal Fowlds, and over the past few months they've implemented a complete overhaul of the City's webpage.

Information and resources are easier to find for individuals and businesses alike. We are also upping our game on the social media front. We've coordinated the City's social media presence to more efficiently share information across all of our social platforms. Whether you are interested in connecting via Twitter, Facebook or NextDoor.com, we are actively working to meet residents and businesses where they are with social media.

Maplewood Strong is Infrastructure

A number one concern of all metro area cities is an aging, underfunded infrastructure of roads, bridges and housing. This is especially true for fully-developed, first ring communities like Maplewood. We know safe well-maintained roads are vital to strong neighborhoods and businesses. Last year, our Public Works Director Michael Thompson suggested a way to diversify revenues to commit an additional \$1 million per year for the next twenty years to fix deteriorating pavement on local streets. This, combined with the implementation of a "living streets policy," demonstrates Maplewood's leadership in infrastructure design and management.

The other part of Infrastructure is housing. In the past year Maplewood continued the second phase of public improvements and infrastructure development in the Gladstone Neighborhood with a public/private partnership that leveraged \$2.2 million in grant funding under the leadership of Nick Carver, our Interim Economic Development Director. Also, Sherman and Associates is constructing a 50-unit multi-family building, which will anchor the

English Street and Frost Avenue intersection. This building is phase one of the Villages at Frost and English project. This development took the former Maplewood Bowl site, which was a dilapidated eyesore, and made it into fresh and current housing stock. Phases 2 and 3 planned for late 2016 and 2017, will include additional housing and retail space. This development is being constructed in accordance with the City's Green Building Code, for which our City has been locally and nationally recognized.

Maplewood Strong is Inclusion

Across our state and nation there is significant focus on the relationships between communities of color and public safety agencies – large and small. Our police and fire departments have taken steps to proactively engage in the often difficult conversations. By actively working with our residents, faith communities, and non-governmental groups Maplewood will be a leader in these efforts. We recently were awarded a grant from the St. Paul Foundation which will help City staff, the City Manager and the Council give needed focus on racial equity. Racial disparities are notable across a wide range of city services, and areas of focus include – policing, hiring processes, recycling, housing, business ownership, recreation, etc. Research indicates that reducing systemic inequities and growing equity across race, class, and gender will not only create a stronger sense of overall fairness, it will ensure our future economic viability.



Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Tuj Lub Courts

Another inclusion idea was brought to us by Senator Fong Hawj. He approached City leaders about the need for dedicated courts for Hmong people to play a native sport called Tuj Lub. City staff worked with our legislative team, Ramsey County and the Minnesota Tuj Lub Association to access money from the state Legacy Funds that the public voted to dedicate a few years ago.

- continued on page 7

Maplewood Initiates Racial Equity Effort

In late 2015, the City was awarded a \$75,000 grant to focus on racial equity. The Saint Paul Foundation grant was a joint collaboration of the Parks and Police Departments. The Saint Paul Foundation has a long history of focusing resources to create a more racially equitable Minnesota. As part of the Foundation's commemoration of its 75th anniversary, they offered grants to applicants who proposed a response to the question: "What will your organization do to advance racial equity in the East Metro? The Foundation received 133 requests from cities, schools, and nonprofit organizations. After review, the Foundation approved seven "Advancing Racial Equity" grants, including the \$75,000 award to the City of Maplewood.

The City's proposal includes staff diversity training, auditing of the city's current racial make-up and understanding, and facilitation of community gatherings between residents, police officers and other City staff all focused on equitable treatment and access. Maplewood, like the entire nation, is becoming much more racially and ethnically diverse. Today, slightly more than 25% of our population is non-white. In recognition of these changes, we've identified an overall goal of providing Maplewood with the tools necessary to strengthen relationships and listen to the voice of diverse communities in an effort to tackle racial disparities that exist economically, educationally, and in access to services.

We believe that Maplewood will be a more viable connected community when inequities based on race, ethnicity, and gender no longer exist.

This effort will not be easy. Over the next two years, City staff and other partners will set out to collect and analyze data to gain deeper understanding of the disparities that exist in our City. We'll engage in deep and challenging conversations with members of the community who have at time not felt as valued or included. We'll provide



There is nothing more unequal than equal treatment of people in unequal circumstances.

-Thomas Jefferson

opportunity for all members of the public to take part in these discussions. Finally, we'll identify strategies to structurally and measurably address inequities.

The Human Rights Commission, which is appointed by the City Council, will be overseeing this project in concert with City staff, submitting periodic reports to the Council and the community. To learn more or get involved call Maplewood Police Chief Paul Schnell at (651) 249-2602 or paul.schnell@maplewoodmn.gov.

Community Safety Survey Results



In late 2015, the police department posted the Third Annual Community Safety Survey. The survey provides those who live, work, or visit Maplewood the opportunity to respond to a wide range of questions pertaining to crime, quality of life, and community safety. The results of the survey are used to develop the department's patrol priorities and areas of emphasis. To see the full results of the survey visit our webpage at: www.maplewoodmn.gov/460/Police.

The YMCA And Maplewood Community Center Have Partnered To Offer Best-In-Class Aquatics Programs For The Entire Family

- Weekday and weekend classes to fit your family's schedule
- Expertly trained certified instructors
- Small instructor-to-student ratios
- Parent/child, preschool, school age, teen and adult classes
- Emphasis on pool exploration, stroke development, and safety techniques

Members - \$64 Non-Members - \$79

Four Ways to Register!

- **Email** Contact Jana Krautkramer at Jana.Krautkramer@maplewoodmn.gov
- **Online** <https://activenet004.active.com/maplewoodmn/>
- **In Person** MCC Customer Service
2100 White Bear Avenue
- **By Phone** (651) 249-2230
MCC Customer Service Hours
Mon 9am-7pm; Tues-Thurs 9am-5pm

REGISTRATION Going On Now!



Continued from pg 5... Maplewood is Strong

This partnership progressed quickly and we broke ground on the very first Tuj Lub Courts in Minnesota at Keller Park in Maplewood last fall. These courts are also second in the nation to be built and we are proud to have them here in our city.



Public Art Install at Joy Park

Finally, for inclusion, our Council and staff started to look at ways to better connect our community across race, socioeconomic class and gender. Maplewood received a grant of over \$100,000 to fund our Kid City initiative, a collaboration with Z Puppets Rosenschnoz, a multicultural artist team, to design and implement Kid City. This is an exciting afterschool program and summer arts workshops that will bring youth from diverse backgrounds together to laugh, learn, play and create a stronger cross-cultural community in Maplewood. Through our kids we access families and we grow stronger as a City.

In addition to the Mayor's address, the first Maplewood Business Awards were created and three awards were presented. The awards were as follows: Entrepreneurship/Innovation Award recipient was the Linn Companies for the redevelopment of two sites (Hwy 36 and English Street and White Bear Avenue and County Road B), Environmental Sustainability Award recipient was presented to Garden Fresh Farms where plants are grown to produce medical treatments for cancer, and the Community Contribution Award was presented to Second Harvest Heartland for delivering more than 74 million meals to over 1,000 food shelves serving 59 counties in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The State of the City and the Business Awards are going to be a great tradition for the City of Maplewood. It is appropriate to acknowledge the Business Community and to inform our public and partners of the great work and projects happening and the goals for the coming year.

City of Maplewood

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

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #32324
Twin Cities, MN

*****ECRWSS**
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Upon request, this newsletter will be made available in an alternate format.

Printed on 10% post consumer product.

Maplewood Offers Private Social Network for Neighborhoods

The Maplewood Police Department recently established a partnership with Nextdoor (www.nextdoor.com), the free and private social network for neighborhoods, to build stronger, safer communities with the help of residents.

This integration with Nextdoor will enable the City of Maplewood and its police department to communicate online with neighborhoods in our uniquely shaped City.

Nextdoor has proven to be an essential and well-adopted tool, with more than 40% of neighborhoods using Nextdoor across the country.

With Nextdoor, Maplewood residents can create private neighborhood websites to share information, including neighborhood public safety issues, community events and activities, local services, and even lost pets.

The police department is able to share helpful information

with Nextdoor members, such as important crime alerts, emergency notifications, safety tips, and other information regarding activity affecting the local area. However, the Maplewood Police Department staff are not be able to access residents' websites, contact information, or content.

Nextdoor is **free** for residents and the City. Each Maplewood neighborhood can have its own private Nextdoor neighborhood website, accessible only to residents of that neighborhood. Neighborhoods establish and self-manage their own Nextdoor website. All members must verify that they live within the neighborhood before joining Nextdoor. Information shared on Nextdoor is password protected and cannot be accessed by Google or other search engines.

Those interested in joining can visit www.nextdoor.com and enter their address. For more information about Nextdoor, visit the website at help.nextdoor.com.

DIVE INTO MEMBERSHIP SAVINGS!



CHECK OUT EVERYTHING MCC HAS TO OFFER...

- Aquatics Center
- Cardio & Weight Centers
- Drop-In Child Care
- Walking/Jogging Track
- FREE Group Fitness Classes
- Family Friendly Atmosphere

AND SO MUCH MORE!

BUY 3 MONTHS & GET 1 FREE

+ PAY NO ADMINISTRATIVE FEE

**HURRY - OFFER VALID
FEB. 1 - FEB. 29!**

2100 WHITE BEAR AVE • MAPLEWOOD, MN 55109
WWW.MAPLEWOODCOMMUNITYCENTER.COM • 651-249-2230

1% REBATE ON YOUR CREDIT CARD BALANCE TRANSFER

TRANSFERRING IS SIMPLE.

- 1 Open a CCCU Visa® Platinum Credit Card
- 2 Visit a CCCU branch and transfer your credit card balance
- 3 Earn 1% on your transferred balance

APPLY ONLINE, IN-PERSON OR BY PHONE TODAY.

(651) 225-2700
1 800 223-2801
CCCU.COM



1% Balance Transfer promotion ends 3/31/16 and excludes transfers from CCCU Loan account. Balance Transfer Rebate will be deposited to your share account by 4/30/16 and any balance transfers paid in full by that date will not be eligible. Cash advance fee is 2% or a \$2.00 minimum. Foreign Transaction fee is 1% of each transaction in U.S. dollars. See Visa Credit Card Terms & Conditions for complete details.