

Maplewood LIVING



DECEMBER 2016



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It's Taco Time!

The new Taco Bell on County Road D, near the Maplewood Mall, is open and ready to help you fill your taco cravings. The new restaurant features a modern and fresh design, as well as an outdoor seating area with a fireplace.

Serenity In The City



The new Fish Creek Trail winds through woodlands and grasslands on city and county land.

While Maplewood has plenty of places to enjoy a great meal or a night out with friends, it also has numerous spots to enjoy nature and channel your inner Henry David Thoreau. In fact, at a place like Fish Creek, it can be easy to forget you're in the heart of a major metropolitan area of nearly three million people.

Recently, City and County officials visited the Fish Creek site to check out the new walking and biking trail, and to learn more about future plans for the preserve. The City's 70-acre Fish Creek site is adjacent to 140 acres of open space owned by Ramsey County. The City and County have worked together on plans for trails and restoration.

Fish Creek features dense woods and beautiful rolling hills. A prairie restoration that was seeded in 2015 led to this year's lush and colorful wild flowers and prairie grasses.

Thanks to its unique terrain and mixture of woods, water, and prairies, the Fish Creek site is a haven for eagles, hawks, song birds, deer, fox, coyotes, and other wild critters.

Ginny Gaynor, Maplewood's natural resources coordinator, said the trail has been well used during recent warm fall days.



City officials visit Fish Creek

"It's a beautiful new trail," she added. "It's here for the public to use so they can enjoy this unique area and so far people are really taking advantage of both the weather and the trail."

City Manager Melinda Coleman expects Fish Creek to become a destination spot for area residents. "It really is a unique piece of land," she explained. "To have a place that includes water, woods, and prairie is uncommon. I think Fish Creek is going to play an important role in our community for generations to come."

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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
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 Melinda Coleman: City Manager(651) 249-2055
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 Bryan Smith: Councilmember(651) 888-0085
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 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.



Fixing More Streets in Maplewood!

By Michael Thompson, Public Works Director michael.thompson@maplewoodmn.gov

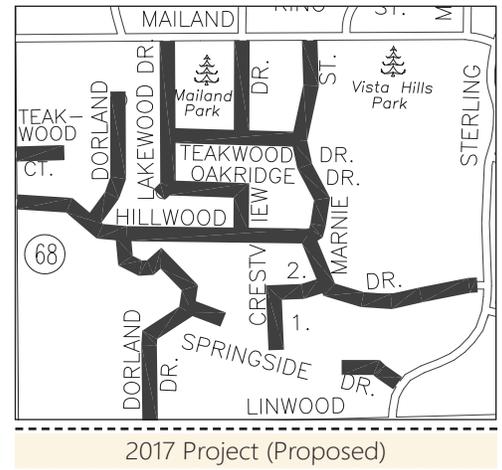


In response to a resident led effort for additional street paving the City worked through a public process in 2014-15 to determine how to fund such an initiative. Pros and cons of various options were explored and the franchise fee model was determined to be the best fit.

Beginning in October of 2015 a franchise fee was established on utility bills (gas). The City is required to publish, per the adopted ordinance, the revenue collected for the past year and the projects that were delivered.

From October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016 \$437,500 was collected from utility users. This funded a sizeable local neighborhood pavement rehabilitation project (shown below) that would not have been possible without this revenue source.

Similar to the 2016 project, a new project for 2017 is in the queue that will fix streets in the Hillwood/Crestview area as highlighted at right. This will be the second pavement rehabilitation project that the



City is able to deliver as a result of this additional annual franchise fee revenue.

The City still maintains its base level street reconstruction program which was of critical importance to residents. Our residents made it clear that they did not want to swap funding and keep the project load the same, but wanted more projects with the new franchise fee revenue to help improve pavement conditions throughout the City. As part of the normal street program, the following streets are proposed for improvements in 2017: Boxwood Ave (McKnight to Dorland), Dorland Rd (Boxwood to Carver), Dorland Rd (Carver to Heights), Heights Ave (Dorland to cul-de-sac), Overlook Circle, Pond Ave (McKnight to Dorland), Dorland Rd (Londin to Mailand).



2016 Project (Completed)



Moreland Ct. (New Pavement)

For more information, call (651) 249-2403 or email michael.thompson@maplewoodmn.gov.

The Savory Smells of Fall

Hundreds of hungry foodies arrived at the Maplewood Mall on October 22nd for a 16-vendor food truck event that allowed gourmands to sample savory items from well-known and emerging culinarians. The beautiful fall weather led to long lines, but the savory smells and the sounds of the University of Minnesota football game filling the air, lent a festive mood to the proceedings.

Mayor Nora Slawik enjoyed a bite from Tot Boss, a vendor that's become a staple at food truck events throughout the region.

"The Loaded Tots were amazing," she said. "They were covered in cheese sauce, bacon crumbles, sour cream, and chives. They were so good and delicious!"

Maplewood Police Commander Michael Shortreed met colleague Sgt. Paul Thienes for lunch at the event.

"It's not every day that we get to sample fine dining from a food truck!" Shortreed said. "I was amazed at the early crowds that seemed to grow exponentially as time went on."

The Commander sampled chicken and fries from Curbside Chicken, which he said were very good.

"Then I had a club Panini from Panini Pinups, which was absolutely wonderful," he said.



When Shortreed and his two dogs left the event, at about 12:45 pm, the lines at most of the trucks were more than 100 people long.

"Events like this one are great for community spirit," City Manager Melinda Coleman said. "But they're also important because people come from across the area and that gives us an opportunity to show visitors all that Maplewood has to offer."

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- cont. from pg 1: *Serenity in the City*



Fish Creek

Gaynor noted preserving the land south of Carver Road had been the vision of residents for more than 20 years.

After a planned development of the site fell through, the Conservation Fund agreed to purchase and hold the site until Maplewood and its partners could raise the \$2.2 million needed for the land.

"The project has benefitted from partnerships between the City, Ramsey County, and the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District," Gaynor said. "We've also received funding and support from the 3M Foundation, Friends of the Mississippi River, Great River Greening, and many individuals."

She noted the project also received grant money from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund, as well as state bonding money that was secured with the efforts of Maplewood's five state legislators: Sen. Chuck Wiger, Sen. Susan Kent, Rep. Leon Lillie, Rep. Peter Fischer, and Rep. JoAnn Ward.

"Ultimately, the project will better protect Fish Creek while providing really great animal habitat and public access to the area," Gaynor added.

Right now, visitors need to park on the street, but Gaynor hopes the next round of funding will lead to a parking lot.

Mayor Nora Slawik said she was thrilled that the trail is truly available to all visitors. "I think it's important that the trail fits within the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act," she added. "The trail has a controlled level of steepness for wheelchairs and bikes and that's something that's vital for many of our residents and visitors."

For the Mayor, the City's unique mix of development and open space, is a source of pride.

"Maplewood residents love the fact that we have so many amenities and that we're close to both downtowns," Mayor Nora Slawik said. "But they tell us, often, that they also love green space where they can hear the birds chirp, and hear the wind rustle, and literally stop and smell the flowers."

Visit www.maplewoodmn.gov/fishcreek for more details.



WINTER SKATING RINKS & WARMING HOUSES

Maplewood maintains nine skating rinks throughout the City, four of which have supervised shelters. Shelters will not be open when temperatures reach -10 degrees or the wind-chill reaches -25 degrees. Shelters will also be closed until the rinks are cleared following snow and when warm temperature softens the ice. Call the weather information hotline for closure details: (651) 249-2190. Warming houses are scheduled to be open December 26 - February 12 (weather permitting). Closed December 31 and January 1.

Shelter Hours

Monday - Friday, 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Saturday and Sunday, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Rink Locations

Afton Heights (shelter) • 63 N Sterling Street
Four Seasons (shelter) • 1685 Gervais Avenue
Gethsemane (shelter) • 2401 E 7th Street
Wakefield (shelter) • 1590 Frost Avenue
Edgerton • 2001 Bradley Street
Harvest • 2561 Barclay Street
Kohlman • 1000 County Road C
Maplecrest • 2101 Arcade Street
Pleasantview • 1100 Marnie Street

Warming House attendants needed. Apply online at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/maplewoodmn/jobs/1569758/warming-house-attendant>

Benchmark Your Business

The City of Maplewood, in collaboration with the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and Xcel Energy, is offering a solution to help businesses measure and manage their energy use. Benchmark Your Business is a free program available to all Maplewood businesses, large and small.

Sign up by December 31, 2016, and your business will receive:

- Free on-site energy assessments and energy benchmarking.
- Free assistance identifying energy saving projects eligible for rebates and financing.
- Incentives to reduce the cost of ENERGY STAR® certification for buildings who have a qualifying ENERGY STAR score.

Sign up at maplewoodmn.gov/benchmarkyourbusiness



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Maplewood Fire/EMS Enters into Contract with Regions Hospital EMS to Provide Medical Direction for EMS Providers

By Michael Mondor, Chief of EMS michael.mondor@maplewoodmn.gov



In January of 2016 the Maplewood City Council authorized the formation of a Fire/EMS workgroup to study the City's current Fire/EMS delivery model. The committee met from February through May of 2016 and ultimately developed a strategic framework for the delivery of emergency medical services in our

community. The framework was presented to the City Council on May 9 2016. Department staff subsequently began to operationalize the workgroup's strategic framework. (The presentation is available for public viewing on the Fire Department's webpage)

Minnesota State Statute requires that "an ambulance service shall have a medical director who is a licensed physician in the State of Minnesota. During the Fire/EMS workgroup's meetings, there was a clear desire to ensure that Maplewood Fire/EMS continues to deliver the appropriate fire or EMS resource, for the right reason in the appropriate amount of time.

While staff was working to operationalize the Fire/EMS workgroup's strategic framework, it was clear that a partnership could address capacity within the department while enhancing service delivery. The fire department sent out a Request for Quote (RFQ) in June of 2016 and ultimately chose to enter into negotiations with Regions Hospital EMS to provide medical direction and associated services. The contract was approved by City Council on August 16, 2016. Regions Hospital EMS began providing medical direction to all Maplewood Fire/EMS providers on September 12, 2016.

What this means for the Fire Department

The contract with Regions Hospital EMS creates a partnership that will provide medical direction, EMS education, and supply chain management support. Regions Hospital EMS will also provide support in quality assurance/quality Improvement activities, representation of Maplewood EMS in the broader EMS community, enhance pre-hospital research opportunities and provide administrative support to ensure that the department is implementing industry best practices in the delivery of pre-hospital care.

This partnership will allow Fire and EMS administrative staff to focus on improving service delivery and operationalizing the strategic plan as set forth by the Fire/EMS Workgroup.



What this means for residents

Maplewood EMS will have access to a team of physicians who will provide medical direction to staff and who will occasionally respond to incidents within the community. The department's lead Medical Director is Dr. Bjorn Peterson. Dr. Peterson is an Emergency Department Physician for Health Partners working at Regions, Hudson and Lakeview Hospitals. Dr. Peterson partners with a group of three other Medical Directors who provide services to much of the east metro.

Partnering with Regions Hospital EMS to provide medical direction increases access to physicians which leads to improved continuity and quality of care from the patient side to the emergency department.

This partnership will also lead to increased access to injury prevention and community outreach. The fire department has partnered with Regions Hospital EMS on several injury prevention activities in the past. The formalization of the partnership will augment the availability of programs available to the community. Those programs include but are not limited to:

- First Aid, CPR and AED training for community members and businesses
- Child passenger safety seat clinics
- School age safety programs
- Fire and fall prevention programs for seniors

The City of Maplewood and Maplewood Fire/EMS would like to welcome Regions Hospital EMS back into our community. We look forward to improving the health and wellness of the community through this partnership.

Fire and EMS Welcome Back a Familiar Face



Eric Zappa

Eric Zappa is the newest member of Maplewood's Fire and Emergency Medical Services team. While Eric is new to the job, he isn't new to Maplewood. He did his internship with the City a few years ago and that's given him a level of comfort that's sometimes unusual in a new role.

"It's definitely a nice perk to come into a new job and see people you've worked with before," Zappa said.

In addition to his full-time role in Maplewood, Zappa works part-time for the Plymouth Fire Department and Lakes Region Emergency Medical Services. Additionally, next March he'll celebrate his 10th year as a member of the Army National Guard.

Given his positive experience as an intern, Zappa noted he was always on the look-out for an opportunity to join the City on a permanent basis.

"It's definitely something I was always interested in," he said. "My internship here went really well and overall I just had a great experience in Maplewood."

For his part, coming to work every day with an opportunity to help people, is what makes his career so rewarding.

"You're there for people in their time of need," he explained. "It's rewarding to be in a position to do a lot of good for other people."

EMS Chief Michael Mondor said Zappa will be a great addition.

"We got to know him well when he was an intern," Mondor said. "To have an opportunity to bring a quality person back to the department is really exciting."



1 out of 4 people who
voted in Maplewood
voted absentee.



1,892 by mail
3,431 in person

That's up 271% from
the 2012 election

City Reaches Agreement with YMCA

On October 17th, the Maplewood City Council approved an agreement with the YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities, a leading nonprofit dedicated to youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, that states the YMCA formally assumed operations of the Maplewood Community Center (MCC) on November 1.

The City and the YMCA developed a strong working relationship last year when the YMCA took over the MCC's aquatics operations.

"We're confident this agreement does right by the City and the MCC," Mayor Nora Slawik said. "It will allow the City to move forward with other vital projects while also providing the MCC an opportunity to grow under vibrant new management."

While the MCC has played a positive role in the community for more than two decades, the financial burden of operating the facility was significant and used funds the City could have dedicated to other projects. For example, City officials have discussed using some of the MCC cost savings on park improvement projects.

Apart from capital expenditures, the MCC generally had a yearly operational loss between \$250,000 and \$450,000. Additionally, a 2014 study indicated the MCC needed significant capital improvements, including air handling and a roof replacement. The City and the YMCA will work on these projects together.

"The YMCA clearly has a level of expertise and success in running facilities like the MCC that we simply can't match," said City Manager Melinda Coleman. "I think members are going to enjoy better programming and a better facility."

The YMCA is not purchasing the MCC outright. Rather, the City and the YMCA will jointly fund a capital improvement fund. For its part, the YMCA will assume the MCC's future financial risk and will take on all programming and operational responsibilities.

Under the agreement, Maplewood residents will keep their special pricing for three years with annual increases capped at 3 percent. Residents will also be able to upgrade their memberships to gain access to YMCAs throughout the Twin Cities.

During the coming weeks, the City and the YMCA will continue to share new details about the agreement directly with members and with the broader community.

"I'm confident this agreement puts the MCC in a position to create a more exciting future, with stronger, and more innovative programming offered in a better building," Slawik added. "The MCC will continue to serve as a community cornerstone for years to come."



Public Hearing for 2017 Budget and Tax Levy

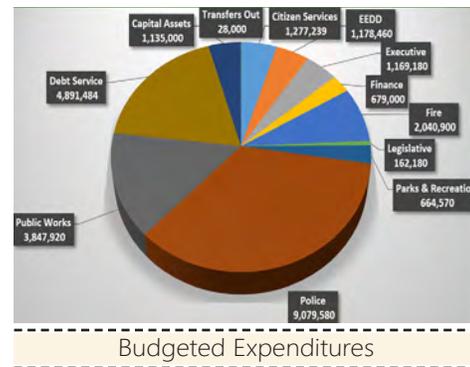
The Maplewood City Council will hold a public hearing to receive input on the proposed budget and tax levy for taxes payable in 2017. The Council adopted a preliminary property tax levy, in the amount of \$20,738,833, in September. The preliminary levy is 5%, or \$987,563, more than the levy adopted by the council last year. Interested taxpayers should attend the public hearing at City Hall on December 12th at 7:00 pm.

Budget and Tax Levy

The Council will adopt the final budget and levy after the public hearing. The preliminary levy cannot be increased;

however, the City Council may decrease the levy before final adoption.

The property tax levy supports budgeted expenditures in the amount of \$26,153,513. The details of these expenditures are shown on the following graph:



Public Works Department Earns High Praise



Maplewood Staff: Steve Love, City Engineer, Michael Thompson, Public Works Director, Ellen Paulseth, Finance Director, Mike Funk, Asst City Manager.

You might not know their names but you certainly know their work. And it's that work that recently led the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce to present the Maplewood Public Works Department with this year's Leaders in Local Government Public Works Award.

Chosen from among four finalists, Maplewood was praised for its snow plowing, park maintenance, Living Streets initiative*, commitment to storm water sustainability, and its comprehensive asset management.

U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum was the event's keynote speaker and presented the City with the award.

Michael Thompson, the city's public works director, gave the credit to his team of 36 employees.

"Without them our ideas and initiatives couldn't be implemented," he said. "They do a great job each and every day."

Thompson added public works departments generally only

hear from the public when someone is upset, so an award like the one from the Chamber is an important accomplishment.

"You never get a call when the streets are in good shape," he added with a laugh. "On a daily basis, we have people down manholes, inside pipes, standing in water, you name it. I'm really proud of the team we have here."

City Manager Melinda Coleman praised Thompson and his staff.

"We see the great work they do every day throughout Maplewood," she explained. "I'm thrilled for the entire Public Works team for their achievement and for being recognized as leaders in our region."

Mayor Nora Slawik said the award from the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce is a testament to the City's commitment to maintaining excellent services.

"The award really is a big deal," she explained. "Our Public Works Department is fantastic and they play a key role in making Maplewood the kind of place that people are happy to call home."

**The general nature of the Living Streets Policy is to enhance biking and walking conditions, enhanced safety and security of streets, calm traffic, creative livable neighborhoods, improve storm water quality, enhance the urban forest, reduce life cycle costs, and improve neighborhood aesthetics. The Living Streets Policy is a guide for accomplishing these goals through: setting construction guidelines for rebuilding streets, updating the city code, creating a city wide Tree Plan, and providing additional incentives for participating in the raingarden, for example. The policy was created with input from city boards and commissions, task force and working group, and general citizen input.*

A New Day for a Buffet



Maplewood's Golden Corral buffet is slated to open December 8th in the former Old Country Buffet on White Bear Avenue. Currently, remodeling is happening at a steady pace in

order to get the restaurant ready to go for its grand opening. When the restaurant is open, it will provide as many as 125 jobs.

"Things are going very well, we're making great progress," said Dale Maxfield, who owns the location along with his wife Tari. "It's going to be just ninety days from when we took over the old space to when we open the Golden Corral."

The Maxfields also own the new Golden Corral in Maple Grove as well as three others out of state. The Maple Grove location opened September 1st and to say it's been a hit would be an understatement.

"We've done three times the business we were expecting," Maxfield said. "It's been very exciting and rewarding."

Interestingly, before his involvement with Golden Corral,

Maxfield was an executive at Old Country Buffet. While he still has fondness for his old company, he explained customers will notice an upgrade when the doors open in Maplewood.

"We really focus on quality and variety," Maxfield said. "We're in the category of a Red Lobster, Outback, and Olive Garden."

Yet, Maxfield added, there's also a commitment to making sure Golden Corral is affordable.

"We do an all you can eat prime rib and shrimp night and our price is still \$13.95," he said. "People expect high quality and a good value, and that's the niche we really fill. It's the law of averages. We serve good food, and that gets people through the door, and that helps us keep prices down."

Maxfield also noted the vast majority of Golden Corrals are franchised, meaning that in many cases ownership is nearby rather than in a distant corporate boardroom.

"That makes a big difference," he explained. "It makes a difference when you're hiring people, it makes a difference when you're dealing with landlords, and it makes a difference in how you're able to serve your community."

During the week, the restaurant will be open from 10:45 am to 9:00 pm. On Saturdays and Sundays it will open for breakfast at 7:30 am and will serve until 9:00 pm. As of early November, the restaurant was still a work in progress, with construction equipment and tools outnumbering tables and chairs. However, that wasn't stopping curious, and probably hungry, people from peeking through the windows.

"We've definitely had some curious folks checking us out, and that's been fun," Maxfield said. "It's nice to come into a community like Maplewood, where we know people are excited. We're very happy to be part of this community."

Mayor Nora Slawik said she's been asked about Golden Corral several times while she's been out and about in the community.

"I'm thrilled Golden Corral moved so quickly to fill the Old Country Buffet space," Slawik said. "Most re-development projects have a certain level of excitement around them but I sense that excitement is even more intense with Golden Corral. I think they're going to be very pleased they chose to open in Maplewood."



2 SANTA EVENTS NOT TO MISS! AT THE MAPLEWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER

LETTERS FOR SANTA (Ages 2-10)

Thursday, December 8, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

write your letter to Santa • holiday stories • treats
\$7/child and registration is required.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP PARTY (Ages 3-10)

Thursday, December 15, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Santa visit • treats • music • movies • crafts • stories
Parents drop your children off while you shop.
\$10/child - \$5 for each additional sibling

Bring an unwrapped gift for Toys for Tots!

To register: (651) 249-2120 • maplewood.mn/recreation

Maplewood PD Hopes to Benefit from New Investigative Tool

The Maplewood Police Department has joined the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department's Securonet Virtual Safety Network, a program that offers real-time access to exterior cameras during emergencies and investigations.

With Securonet, businesses, organizations, and citizens, register their exterior camera with the program, allowing law enforcement personnel to access the cameras in critical moments. Those who have registered are contacted before law enforcement accesses a camera.

"It gives law enforcement an edge during an investigation," said Maplewood Police Chief Paul Schnell. "Essentially, this tool allows us to share live or recorded video from exterior cameras. I think it has the potential to help us both solve and prevent crime."

"Right now, law enforcement can access government-owned exterior cameras," Schnell explained. "But for the program to really make a major impact here in Maplewood, we need many businesses and residents to register. A true network of exterior cameras through the City would really be a great help to law enforcement."

With Securonet, a business or resident simply signs up to allow law enforcement personnel to access exterior camera footage when needed. Once you've registered, you'll receive a confirmation email. After that, if law enforcement needs access to one of your exterior cameras, you'll be contacted.



Based in Minneapolis, Securonet integrates public and private security camera locations into a data cloud that offers easy access to law enforcement. Registration for businesses and residents is completely free and secure. The Securonet Virtual Safety Network geo-maps cameras, allowing investigators to quickly hone in on the area of need.

"Other municipalities have had tremendous success using Securonet," said Maplewood Police Commander Michael Shortreed. "It's just one more tool we can use to keep our citizens and businesses safe."

SecuroNet

TO REGISTER VISIT:

WWW.RAMSEYCO.SECURONETSERVICES.COM

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In the event of a fire or medical emergency every second counts. If your address numbers are not visible to emergency personnel, precious time

can be lost as we search for your address.

Maplewood City Code requires that all properties have address numbers clearly visible from the adjoining street.

The building or house numbers shall be no smaller than 3½ inches and no larger than 12 inches high and shall be either painted or made of metal, glass, porcelain or other substantial and durable materials.

The fire department asks that you drive down your street and take a close look at how visible your address really is. Please do this in the dark. If your sign is difficult for you to see, then it certainly will be for us.

Maplewood Fire and EMS is committed to helping you when you need us. Please take a few moments to ensure that your address is visible from the street. The quicker emergency crews can identify your address, the faster we can provide help.

Holiday
OPEN HOUSE
at the Bruentrup Heritage Farm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11
1:00 - 4:00 PM

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MAPLEWOOD, MN

Visit us online at www.maplewoodhistoricalsociety.org to learn more

Holiday Tea
at Bruentrup Heritage Farm
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Saturday, January 14, 2017
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The theme is *All that Glitters*

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