

MAPLEWOOD LIVING

March 2017

Maplewood Seasons Inside!



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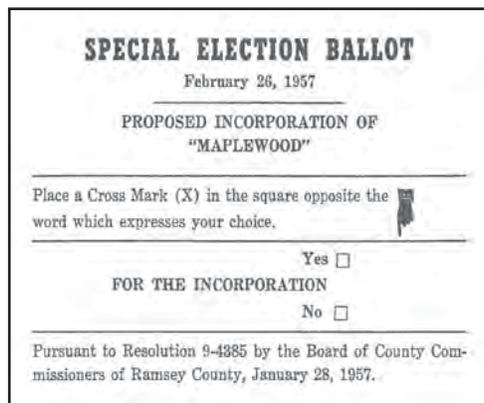
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Maplewood Spring Clean Up

Dispose or recycle items that are not accepted in the regular trash service during the City of Maplewood's annual spring clean up on Saturday, April 22, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Aldrich Arena (1850 White Bear Ave.) Visit www.maplewoodmn.gov/cleanups for more information.

The Maplewood Area Historical Society Presents: The Birth of Maplewood



Feb. 26, 1957 was a momentous day for Maplewood – it was the day the city was born. Previous to that day, the residents were part of New Canada Township, a local government unit created in 1858 when Minnesota became a state.

To prevent annexation by Saint Paul for the land that 3M had moved on to, the volunteer fire departments canvassed the township to obtain signatures to

hold an election on incorporating as a village – thus blocking annexation. The successful election occurred on Feb. 26, 1957. An election was held on March 19, 1957 and Waldo Luebben was elected as the first mayor. In 1974, the Minnesota legislature made obsolete the term village and required that Maplewood become a city.

To learn more about Maplewood incorporating as a city, visit the Bruentrup Heritage Farm on July 9, 2017 for the unveiling of 3M and Maplewood: Magically Adhered, a professional exhibition.

Maplewood PD Welcomes New Officer

Ashley Bergeron was sworn in as a member of the Maplewood Police Department at the Feb. 13 City Council meeting. Ashley's uncle, Maplewood Police Sgt. Joe Bergeron, was killed in the line of duty of May 1, 2010.



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
 Bryan Smith: Councilmember(651) 888-0085
 bryan.smith@maplewoodmn.gov
 Tou Xiong: Councilmember(651) 444-0531
 tou.xiong@maplewoodmn.gov

City Manager

Melinda Coleman: City Manager(651) 249-2055
 melinda.coleman@maplewoodmn.gov

Frequently Called Numbers

City Hall	(651) 249-2000
Maplewood Community Center	(651) 747-0922
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.



Engage with the PD

Are you following the Maplewood Police Department on Facebook and Twitter? Our Police Department has recently enhanced its use of social media in an effort to engage with residents and show what day-to-day life is like for officers and law enforcement personnel. On Facebook, the Department is at www.facebook.com/maplewoodpd and follow @maplewoodpolice for the Department's latest Tweets. In this photo, posted on social media, an officer stopped traffic to help a flock of wayward turkeys cross the road!



The Maplewood Area Historical Society
with Oliver Hudson Kelley Grange, No. 834 present

Farm-to-Table Day Camp

**Make butter, ice cream, and play
old-time games at the
Bruentrup Heritage Farm!**

Choose one of two weeks...

**July 10-13 / July 17-20
August 7-10**

Monday - Thursday 9am - 4pm

All four days only \$150 per child

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Visit [www. MaplewoodHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.MaplewoodHistoricalSociety.org)
 2170 East County Road D, Maplewood, MN 55109
 (651) 748-8645

EASTER EGG HUNT

Ages 3-8

AT EDGERTON COMMUNITY GYM
 1929 EDGERTON ST.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

PRE-HUNT ACTIVITIES • 10AM

HUNT: AGES 3-5 (11AM)
AGES 6-8 (11:30AM)

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MAPLEWOOD STORIES!



1. New State Farm office in Maplewood

Congrats to Ty Haschig and his State Farm team for taking over the office at 1700 Rice Street from the retiring Dave Abraham. Ty has been with State Farm for eight years. "Running my own business is a dream come true," Ty said. "We're loving it here in Maplewood."

2. See you next winter

It's been a great winter of skating and hockey but Mother Nature has deemed that it's time to close Maplewood's skating rinks and warming houses. So now might be a good time to oil your baseball glove and make sure the soccer ball is inflated!

3. Four-legged officer ready for duty!

During the Feb. 13 City Council meeting, Maplewood Police Officer Todd Langner introduced his partner and the PD's newest K-9 officer, Kody.

4. A decade of service

Ginny Yingling was recognized for her 10 years of service on the Maplewood Environmental Commission at the Feb. 13 City Council meeting. (Pictured from right to left: Councilmembers Bryan Smith and Marylee Abrams, Ginny Yingling, Councilmember Kathy Juenemann, Mayor Nora Slawik, and Councilmember Tou Xiong.)

5. Thank you Schmelz Countryside

John Schmelz, of Schmelz Countryside Volkswagen, was honored with a Special Recognition at the Feb. 13 City Council meeting for his dealership's many years of support to the Maplewood Police Department. John, center, is pictured with Police Chief Paul Schnell and his son, Jonathan Schmelz.

6. You can see it taking shape

Aldi Foods is coming to Maplewood at White Bear Ave and Woodlynn Ave. With its convenient location and unique business model, Aldi will be a welcome addition to Maplewood's retail community.

Edgerton Community Garden Plots Available For Rent

2017 season: April 28 - Oct. 25

Grow your own local organic food! Rent a 12' x 15' plot for the 2017 garden season. The City will manage registration, stake the plots, and provide a water tank. Renters agree to plant, maintain, and harvest their plots using organic (chemical-free) methods.

Garden location:

Corner of Roselawn & Edgerton, in Edgerton City Park, north of Edgerton Elementary.

Registration:

Returning gardeners: Wednesday, Feb. 22
 New gardeners: Wednesday, March 8
 (Register early, plots fill quickly)

Fee:

\$25/plot for the entire 2017 garden season:
 April 28 - Oct. 2

Online Registration:

www.maplewoodmn.gov/communitygarden

Garden Questions:

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

Garden open house:

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 4:30-6:30 p.m. At Edgerton Community Garden: Corner of Roselawn & Edgerton, north of Edgerton Elementary

All are welcome to drop-in on opening day and take a tour of the Edgerton Community Garden. Poor weather back-up location inside Edgerton school gym. Meet other garden enthusiasts, share garden plans and ideas, and get gardening information from a master gardener.





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Seasons

The Greening of Maplewood

Spring 2017

A Great Place to Live, Work, and Do Business

By Michael Martin, Economic Development Coordinator

The Twin Cities has emerged as a world-class metropolitan area – a great place to live, work, and do business. The region is thriving with nearly three million people living in 186 communities across the seven-county area. The Twin Cities is forecasted to increase its population by almost 30%, and the amount of jobs will grow by 36% by 2040. In addition to these increases, the overall population is expected to become older and more diverse. These forecasted demographics will have significant impacts on how the metro and Maplewood plan for the next 20 years.

Mahatma Gandhi famously stated “The future depends on what we do in the present.” Metropolitan regions and cities prepare for the future by creating a comprehensive plan - a road map that looks 20 years into the future. Every ten years the City updates its comprehensive plan as required by state law.

Comprehensive plans identify a community’s long-term vision, goals, policies, and strategies for guiding future changes and investments. Maplewood’s last major comprehensive plan update was complete in 2010 and is referred to as the 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

The City is gearing up for the 2040 Comprehensive Plan which will set the stage for Maplewood’s growth and development. The plan will address future land use, transportation, housing, neighborhoods, economic development, parks, natural resources, environmental initiatives, and city services/facilities. Existing conditions, challenges, and opportunities in these areas are outlined in the articles within this newsletter.

The City’s comprehensive plan must be adopted by the Metropolitan Council by the end of 2018. Through their review process the Metropolitan Council considers each comprehensive plan’s compatibility with plans of neighboring municipalities, consistency with adopted Metropolitan Council policies, and conformance with metropolitan system plans.

Maplewood’s comprehensive plan process will involve a full review and evaluation of the current plan including the identification of specific issues that need updating and in-depth exploration of the City’s primary areas of focus. The City will be working with a planning consultant to assist with the process including the facilitation of community review and input opportunities. A review panel will also be established to guide the project, which will likely include representatives from the City Council and the City’s volunteer board and commissions. The plan will ultimately be reviewed and adopted by the Maplewood Planning Commission and City Council prior to submittal to the Metropolitan Council.

The City is currently in the research stage of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Next step, public engagement and community visioning. Bookmark the City’s comprehensive plan at www.maplewoodmn.gov/2040. Help your community by staying informed and getting involved, the future depends on it.



Maplewood 2040 Challenges and Opportunities



Future Growth



Changing Demographics



Environmental Challenges



Jobs and Economic Growth

Parks – Needs and Trends Determine Future

By Virginia Gaynor, Natural Resources Coordinator

Transitions can bring exciting opportunities. Maplewood's park system is transitioning from a developing system to a mature system. This, combined with demographic changes in the City and



Then: Boys Little League Baseball



Now: Additional Recreation Opportunities - Tuj Lub Court

social trends nationwide, makes it a new era for Maplewood parks. This new phase was ushered in with the adoption of a Parks and Recreation System Master Plan in 2015.

Creating a Parks Plan was one of the goals identified in the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Built on an analysis of existing parks, programs and trends, the planning process for the new Parks Plan included a community survey and extensive public input.

At just two years old, the Parks Plan is fresh and timely, and the vision and goals identified will become a key part of the Parks Chapter of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

During public input for the Parks Plan, residents articulated that taking care of existing parks should be a priority. Developing an Asset Management Plan and replacing older playgrounds are underway, with design for a new multipurpose building at Wakefield Park just beginning.

Some highlights of the Parks Plan include: 1) Divide the city into five service areas and ensure core amenities are available in each area; 2) Connect four sites with trails and make them unique signature parks; 3) Continue to add and connect trails; 4) Ensure protection and stewardship of natural areas; 5) Designate four Neighborhood Preserves as community preserves that will have amenities to support programming; 6) Incorporate arts/culture/history into park facilities and programming; 7) Continue and strengthen partnerships for facilities and programming; and 8) Seek opportunities to engage residents and park users.

The Parks Plan is available at www.maplewoodmn.gov/parkplan. It is full of interesting information and presents a clear vision for Maplewood Parks and Recreation.

Maplewood – A Resilient Community

By Shann Finwall, Environmental Planner

The success of a community lies in its ability to adapt and change over time. A big change in Maplewood's history came during the post-World War II era with rapid growth of homes and commercial developments dependent on the automobile. To lessen the environmental impacts of that land use pattern, Maplewood adopted sustainability goals in the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Those goals were designed to enhance economic opportunity and community well-being while protecting and restoring the natural environment that people, economies, and ecological systems depend on.

Maplewood has made progress toward achieving our sustainability goals. Ordinances that guide change such as the green building code, tree preservation ordinance, and renewable energy ordinance have been adopted. Practices that put the sustainable changes in action include the Living Streets Policy, organized trash and recycling programs, and participation in the GreenStep Cities program.

In the 2040 Comprehensive Plan the Metropolitan Council is encouraging communities to address how they can become more resilient in the face of a changing climate. The US National Climate Assessment reports that since 1951 our region has experienced a 3.2°F increase in annual average temperature; 21% increase in annual precipitation; 58% increase in heavy precipitation events;

and a 16-day increase in the growing season. The projected changes to Maplewood's climate will create stress on the environment and people, and add costs to public facilities and services.

Goals and mitigation strategies crafted during this comprehensive planning process will help us address those problems. Promoting smart land use and development patterns, identifying local measures that reduce energy use, promoting renewable energy resources, fostering healthy communities, and reducing green house gas emissions are ways to address resiliency.

We have challenges ahead, but Maplewood is a resilient community. We will build on our strong foundation of environmental sustainability, creating new goals and strategies that will enable us to adapt to the changing environment.



Then: Full Dependence on Coal and Gas Energy Resources



Now: Promoting Renewable Energy Resources

Good Transportation Planning

By Michael Thompson, Public Works Director

Having an effective transportation system provides the foundation for our region's residents and businesses to prosper. Moving people to jobs and schools, and moving goods to market, is essential for competing in the regional economy.

There are several major highways in Maplewood including I-35E, I-94, I-494, I-694, and Highway 36. These automobile thoroughfares allow easy access to and from the area, but they also experience congestion and backups. The 2040 Comprehensive Plan will focus on managing congestion and working to provide alternatives to auto-oriented traffic.

Alternatives currently in the early phases of planning and development include the Rush Line (Bruce Vento corridor) and Gold Line (I-94 corridor). These potential bus rapid transit corridors will require close coordination with citizens and stakeholders as part of the comprehensive planning process. The plan updates will also include improvements to the City's bikeways, establishing a network of on-street bikeways and off road trails to improve conditions for bicycle transportation at the regional level.

Good transportation planning resulted from the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Maplewood was one of the first cities in Minnesota to adopt a Living Street Policy in 2013. The policy guides new or reconstructed streets toward multi-model transportation, creating good mobility for users and also ensuring safe enjoyable neighborhoods. Maplewood Mall area transit improvements improved safety and traffic flows for development and investment into the community. Developments in that area that are complete or under development since the improvements include CarMax, Costco, Hazelwood Medical Building, and Conifer Ridge Apartments.

How was all this possible? Good transportation planning. Much planning goes unseen until the projects finally hit the ground. The important takeaway is that the comprehensive planning process is the basis for policies or projects of the future.



Then: Suburban Streets Designed for the Automobile Only



Now: Living Streets Policy Guides New or Reconstructed Streets Toward Multi-Model Transportation

Protecting Our Water Resource

By Steven Love, City Engineer

The wetlands, ponds, and lakes of Maplewood seem quiet in the frozen winter, under a blanket of snow. But the City is continuously vigilant in protecting our water resources through stormwater planning, a component of the comprehensive plan also known as the Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP). The SWMP is the City's framework for managing both the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff within the City. This plan helps protect and improve the quality of our existing water resources and minimizes the impacts of stormwater runoff from development and redevelopment.

As the earth's climate continues to change and alter weather patterns, these changes can have an effect on stormwater systems. One trend that has been documented is the increase in high intensity rainfall events. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration established new precipitation frequency data estimates for the Midwestern States. This data is the basis for designing storm sewer systems. In our area the data shows an increase in the intensity of storm events, resulting in an increase in the amount of stormwater the City's storm sewer system has to handle. To adapt to the increased precipitation and potential for flooding, Maplewood adopted the new precipitation frequency data in 2013 for all stormwater design.

The federal Clean Water Act created a national program to address pollution from stormwater runoff. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) administers the program, requiring cities to obtain a stormwater permit to meet the program requirements. The comprehensive plan and SWMP guide us in reducing pollutants and stormwater volume to meet the requirements of the MPCA's permit, plan for future stormwater challenges, and protect our valuable water resources.



Then: Less Hard Surfaces and Lack of Stormwater Management Lead to Muddy Roads



Now: New Stormwater Design Standards Reduce Runoff and Protect our Water Resources

What's New in Natural Resources?

By Ann Hutchinson, Lead Naturalist

Worldwide human population is predicted to reach more than 8 billion by the year 2030. How will we balance all the needs and wants of a "civilized" world with protecting and preserving our natural resources?

Two natural resource issues that were not addressed in the 2030 Comprehensive Plan have emerged front and center in the national conversation – climate change and pollinator decline. These will have a place in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The City has been addressing them in recent years, in stormwater policy (see page 3) as well as in studies and monitoring underway at Maplewood's Fish Creek Natural Area.

St. Thomas University Professor Simon Emms and his students are studying carbon sequestration at Fish Creek. Atmospheric carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming, has increased nearly 30% since the early 1800s. Scientists are looking for ways to sequester carbon – to remove it from the atmosphere and store it in vegetation, soil, oceans, or underground. The study at Fish Creek seeks to better understand how restoring native habitats can offset carbon emissions and act as a carbon sink. Students are measuring depth of microbial activity, amount of organic matter, and the amount of carbon found in roots and soil.

A second study, Assisted Migration of Bur Oak, is being conducted by Dr. Lee Frelich of the University of Minnesota. If the climate changes rapidly, natural migration of oak trees through acorn dispersal may take too much time to preserve our oak forests. At Fish Creek, and other metro area sites, Dr. Frelich's group has planted oak seedlings from three different ecotypes: southern (Des Moines, Iowa), local, and northwestern Minnesota. Students will study the growth rate and survival of each subset of trees.

Pollinator decline is another serious concern. Monarch populations are extremely low. Some species of native bees are disappearing. The Fish Creek Pollinator grant is enabling the City and its partners to look at ways to improve restoration techniques to help protect pollinators. Maplewood Nature Center naturalists are in the second full year of monitoring for bees at Fish Creek with help from citizen science monitors to learn about bee populations.



Bur Oaks Planted at Fish Creek



Some Species of Native Bees are Disappearing

Tree House

Imagine Your City

HEY KIDS! How do you imagine MAPLEWOOD in 20 years? Send us your ideas and/or drawing for a chance to win a police car tour of the City with the Mayor of Maplewood; followed by a treat at Dairy Queen! Cut out this section and mail your thoughts, by April 15th, to: Maplewood Nature Center, 2659 7th St E, Maplewood, MN 55119

Dear City of Maplewood,
In twenty years, I hope our city will have...

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Age: _____ Phone: (____) _____ - _____

The winner will be posted in the June Tree House page.

Spring Programming at the Maplewood Nature Center!

SNAKES ALIVE (All Ages)

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1:30PM - 2:30PM

Meet a live western hognose snake, boa constrictor, egg-eating snake, and lots of other visiting snakes from 'Snake Discovery'! You'll get to see them up close, touch, hold, and even feed some of the program snakes! Snakes play an important role in the ecosystem; discover how to help them. FEE: \$5.00/PERSON. Register by 3/2.

SAP INTO SYRUP FAMILY EVENT (Families & kids 6+)

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2:00PM - 3:30PM

Carry the sap from roots to buds on our 'maple tree'. Get acquainted with the tools and equipment and help tap a real tree. Do a taste test to compare maple sap, imitation, and real maple syrup. FEE: \$5.00/CHILD. Register by 3/16.

NATURE FAMILY FUN WITH ECFE (For children birth - 5 years, before kindergarten) 10:00AM - 11:30AM

MARCH 25 - Maple Sap Into Syrup

APRIL 22 - Honk and Quack Parade

Make nature discoveries, get resources to explore & protect your world together! This class is offered at the Maplewood Nature Center in collaboration with ECFE staff. Parents stay with their child(ren) during the entire class. FEE: \$5.00/CHILD/SESSION. To register, call (651) 748-7280.

IT'S THE BOMB (Adults & Children ages 8+ with adult)

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2:00PM - 3:45PM

Make and take a scented bath bomb using simple, environmentally friendly ingredients. Add a few dried flower petals for some extra pizzazz! Bring home two bombs (one for you and one for a gift), a recipe, handouts and plastic mold. Wear old clothes (we will use food coloring), bring an ice cream bucket or large bowl, large stirring spoon and a Ziploc bag to transport your creations home. FEE: \$6.00/PERSON. Register by 3/29.

BIRDS AND BLOOMS OF FISH CREEK (Adults & Children ages 10+ with adult)

AT FISH CREEK (meet at Oakwood Church parking lot, 1388 Point Douglas Road South, St. Paul 55119)

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 6:30PM - 7:45PM

Walk the secret and marvelous canyon of fish creek to search for woodland wildflowers. It will be interesting to see what's blooming after buckthorn removal! We'll look and listen for colorful bird migrants on their way to their northern nesting sites. Bring binoculars and hiking sticks, or borrow from the nature center. The trail is narrow and uneven, wear sturdy shoes and long pants. FEE: \$5.00/PERSON. Register by 5/10.

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Melvin Ashford, MD
Amy Kelly, MD
Andrea Brockberg, CNP
Rachel Snell, CNP
Torri Washington, CNM
Heather DeJarnett, CNM

Chilly Jump, Warm Cause

A team of brave and caring souls from the Maplewood Police Department have been spending some winter afternoons jumping into freezing water. It's not a training exercise, or a test of strength, it's all in support of Special Olympics Minnesota.

The Maplewood Police team, which has dubbed itself Team Bacon Bits, is slated to jump at four plunges: White Bear Lake, Woodbury, Minneapolis, and Grand Rapids. With two jumps down and two more to go, the team has already raised more than \$11,000 for Special Olympics Minnesota!

Team Bacon Bits consists of: Chief Paul Schnell, Commander Michael Shortreed, Officers Tony Gabriel, Jay Wenzel, Jared Peterson, Lon Bakke, Katie Lynch, Steve Heinz (retired) Michael Renner, Justin James, and other friends and family members.



PLUNGEMN.ORG

Our Bacon Bits earned the Top Law Enforcement fundraiser!



MOM-SON BOWLING

At Sunray Bowling Center • 2245 Hudson Rd. • Ages 5-12

SATURDAY, MAY 13 • 4:30PM - 6:30PM

Join us for a great time at our annual mom-son bowling outing. Guys, show your mom's how much you appreciate them by giving her a Mother's Day Out! Each mom will receive a flower and each young man will receive a special prize. Everyone will get to bowl two hours and enjoy a pop/pizza dinner. If you would like to bowl with another couple, please let us know at registration. Please no smoking or alcohol during the event. Register by May 5.

Cost is \$30.00 per couple and \$15.00 for each additional sibling.

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED.



How do I register for a Maplewood Parks & Recreation program?

- By Phone: 651.249.2111
- Online: <https://apm.activecommunities.com/Maplewoodmn/Home>



Daddy Daughter Dance

Friday • May 5 • 6:30PM - 8:00PM
At Maplewood Community Center

Dads, take your daughter out and enjoy great music, dancing, and goodies! Our professional dance instructor will teach everyone a special dance to get the party started. Each young lady will receive a flower. A photographer will also be onsite to take a FREE keepsake picture of your special day!

Dads/Escorts: All Ages - Girls are welcome to bring their favorite guy (uncle, grandpa, family friend, etc).

Ages 5-12
Cost \$25.00 per couple
\$7.00 for each additional child



Space is limited • Pre-registration is Required
Registration Deadline is April 28

Pre-register 651.249.2111 • <https://apm.activecommunities.com/maplewoodmn/Home>

The Power of Positive Communication

By: Councilmember Bryan Smith



I make my living as a corporate marketing professional. While some may think that marketing is synonymous with “advertising,” the core of my job is communications. While true that one aspect of my job is creating marketing messages to sell products, I spend most of my time communicating with key stakeholders who enable projects

to be executed. In order for me to be successful, I need to be effective in coordinating and influencing a wide range of internal colleagues in marketing, sales, operations, finance, legal, engineering, and other departments. Further, I need to manage complex external relationships with hundreds of customers, dealers, vendors, and industry associations. This is by far the most challenging part of my job, and is what often sets the good marketer apart from the great marketer in big organizations.

A little over a year into my first term on the Council, it is clear to me that this sort of communication challenge is just as significant in this role as it is in my “day job.” But the stakes are much higher. In my job, poor communication affects our sales and business relationships. As public servants, our communication impacts public safety, peoples’ livelihoods, quality of life and other critical issues affecting our community. It is critical we get this right.

The Council is making a concerted effort to improve our strategies and tactics in how the City communicates with residents. From my professional experience, I know how difficult this can be. In this age of exploding channels of digital communication, it is critical for the City to embrace new technologies, best practices, and communication channels to reach our residents to keep them apprised of what is happening around our City. Dependence on online news outlets and social media as a news source is increasing while dependence on print is decreasing; meaning we cannot depend solely on print communication anymore, but cannot forgo it either. It is a difficult equation, but one with a big impact and worth every effort to figure out- because good communication makes a difference.

When there are challenges facing our city, it makes it worse when people feel surprised by the news. Early and regular communication on difficult issues allows time for discussion and evaluation, to make compromises, and address concerns. It gives citizens, councilmembers and our business community the opportunity to consider

difficult issues and how they affect themselves, their neighbors, and the City as a whole.

One recent example of the critical need for increased communication is the issue regarding a new health care facility in South Maplewood. There were some reasonable concerns raised by the neighborhood about the location of this facility. In listening to the comments of residents as well as the goals of the healthcare provider, I heard reasonable concerns from residents, and also reasonable reasons to move forward with this facility. Unfortunately a lack of communication between parties early in the process led to misunderstandings, and heightened concerns that the project was either going to be “railroaded through” or “scrapped.” Recognizing that there were reasonable resident concerns and wanting those heard and addressed before proceeding, the Council was able to slow down the process, allow in-depth discussions to take place, and ultimately create a solution that worked for the City, the neighbors, and the new business. I believe that had all parties been more effective communicating in the beginning, this initiative may have been proceeded with less apprehension



Improving communications is an evolution not a revolution. We have made some initial investments and will continue to do so. We need to embrace the reality that the communication required by law is a minimum, not the end-goal. The ways we have communicated through long established channels like newspapers and cable television are losing their effectiveness, and investments in smart, fast, and technologically enabled communication will be of enormous value to the City going forward.

I am looking forward to sharing my experience and working closely with City staff and my colleagues on the Council, particularly Councilmember Marylee Abrams who is leading our innovative communication initiatives, to improve the ways we communicate with you. Stay Tuned!

City of Maplewood

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Adult Summer Softball (AGES 18+)



Summer leagues are available for men's, women's, and co-rec teams. League information is now available and registration is now open. Visit our website or call (651) 249-2204 for more information. Games will begin the week of April 17 (weather permitting) and are played at Goodrich.

www.maplewoodmn.gov/205/Softball

Adult Tennis (AGES 18+)

BEGINNERS AT MAPLEWOOD HEIGHTS

Tues & Thurs, May 2 - May 18, 6:00PM - 7:00PM

This class is for those who have had little to no tennis experience. You'll learn basic strokes and rules and each session will end with group games while emphasizing fun and improving strokes. Students must bring their own racket. Cost is \$60.00.

ADVANCED BEGINNERS AT MAPLEWOOD HEIGHTS

Tues & Thurs, May 2 - May 18, 7:00PM - 8:00PM

This class is for those who want to take their play to a higher level. You'll improve stroke technique, footwork, and serves. Students must bring their own racket and be able to maintain a short rally. Cost is \$60.00.

For more information on Maplewood Recreation Programs call (651) 249-2111 or email: recreationonline@maplewoodmn.gov.

Easter Bunny Breakfast



Hosted by the *Maplewood Area Historical Society*
At the Bruentrup Heritage Farm
2170 East County Road D, Maplewood

Sunday, April 9th

Reserved seating's: 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00

Reserve tickets at maplewoodhistoricalsociety.org
Adults \$12 / Children 4-10 \$8 / 3 & under **FREE**

Brunch includes: Cinnamon rolls and sweet rolls, pancakes, sausage and bacon, eggs, hash browns, fruit and yogurt parfait, coffee, juice, and milk



Easter egg hunt after each seating included in breakfast price.
Candy eggs and bicycles or trikes awarded. Arts and crafts.
Bring your camera for a picture with the Easter Bunny!

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