

# MAPLEWOOD LIVING

May 2017



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### Wakefield Park

The City of Maplewood is known for its outstanding park system and one of the things that makes our parks so strong is you, our passionate residents. The city is exploring potential improvements to Wakefield Park and is eager to hear from residents. **Please take a short survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZGTQCXV](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZGTQCXV) or complete the survey attached inside!**

## City of Maplewood's Bond Rating Affirmed AA+ By S&P Global Ratings

S&P Global Ratings agency affirmed its AA+ rating, with stable outlook, to the City of Maplewood's General Obligation Bonds, Series 2017A and 2017B. This is the second highest rating possible; however, it is the highest rating typically assigned by S&P to a local government with Maplewood's demographics.

The excellent rating reflects S&P's opinion of the city's strong economy, strong management, adequate budgetary performance, very strong budgetary flexibility, very strong liquidity, weak debt and contingent liability position, and strong institutional framework. S&P cited these reasons in a public statement issued prior to the bond sale.

The 2017A General Obligation Bonds will help finance two major street reconstruction projects and improvements to the City's recreational facilities. Streets to be reconstructed are located in the Hillwood/Crestview Area and the Pond/Dorland Area. Other revenue sources being utilized to finance the projects include gas franchise fees, utility fund reserves and special assessments. The Maplewood Community Center will undergo \$1,542,000 in capital improvements over a two-year period. The Maplewood Nature Center will receive much needed updates with \$228,500 in bond proceeds.

The 2017B General Obligation Refunding Bonds will refinance the 2007B and 2009A Street Improvement Bonds. The City expects to save approximately \$142,000 over the life of the bonds by refunding these bonds at current interest rates.

The City of Maplewood is carefully planning for the future and managing its debt profile to ensure strong bond ratings in the future. An excellent bond rating will allow Maplewood to benefit from the lowest interest rates possible.

## City Council Proclaims May 6 Arbor Day!

The Maplewood City Council has proclaimed Saturday, May 6 as Arbor Day in Maplewood! Arbor Day was first celebrated in Nebraska in 1872 as a day for planting trees. National Arbor Day is the last Friday of April and May is Arbor Month in Minnesota. Communities vary their Arbor Day date to coincide with planting times and community activities.

*-continued on page 4*

## 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](http://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](mailto:heidi@careycommunications.org).



## Archaeology Sites of Maplewood

Submitted by the Maplewood Area Historical Society



**Pottery Shard from Fish Creek**

How do we know there were pre-historic peoples living in Maplewood if they kept no written records? The answer is underground, where their artifacts are buried. The retrieval and interpretation of these artifacts is the role of an archaeologist who registers each site with the Office of the State Archaeologist. There are five sites registered for Maplewood. The most numerous sites are from the Woodland peoples

who lived here 1,000-2,800 years ago. Many of these sites are mounds that were highly visible above ground and thus

were easily found, surveyed and documented in the 1800s.

In Maplewood, two mounds were surveyed in 1882 on the east shore of Keller Lake. They have since been destroyed during construction of Hwy. 61. There are two sites at Fish Creek that had lithics (flakes from stone tools) and ceramics (shards of broken pottery pots) from the Woodland culture.

If we consider the two sites along Fish Creek and a private collection of Woodland arrowheads from where Fish Creek flows from Carver Lake, we realize there may have been a corridor along Fish Creek by which early peoples walked through the bluffs from the Pig's Eye river flats to Carver Lake. Carver Lake may have been a seasonal hunting or fishing site and the river flats would be ideal for raising vegetables, fishing and traveling on the river.



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# Q&A with Maplewood City Councilmember Kathleen Juenemann



**Q:** What recent Council decisions do you think have been particularly important?

**A:** In the past three months I find two decisions that were particularly important to our city: the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the Health Partners

residential treatment center on Upper Afton Rd., and the licensing/operating sanctions on the Stargate Night Club. I believe the results of both of these decisions illustrate the value of the council working together, listening to all impacted stakeholders, and putting together a project that works best for everyone.

The first issue was the consideration of a CUP for the operation of the Health Partners Intensive Residential Treatment Services Program on Upper Afton Road.

When this issue first came to us, there were many concerns by the neighbors and parents of Carver Elementary School students. Following extensive council discussion, listening to neighbors and the Carver PTO group, and a necessary (if slightly belated) meeting between the neighbors and Health Partners representatives, we were able to grant the CUP for this much needed mental health facility in our city.

The second issue was evaluating the operation of a small business and its impact on the health and safety of residents of our community and neighboring cities.

Following the Feb. 18, 2017, incident at Stargate (at Rice St. and Larpenteur Ave.) where 70 shots were fired in and around the club, an immediate and important decision had to be made. The council, with assistance from public safety and code enforcement staff, had to determine the best course of action for the community and the business owners.

After serious consideration of the required operational conditions and security issues that were not followed by club management, numerous health and building code violations, episodes of violence on site, outstanding assistance from police department staff and increased

police presence, our only choice was to insist on a "hard closing," which means no business until all code and health violations are corrected, safety and security issues resolved, responsible management and site control established and maintained.

The decision was a good one for our community, neighboring communities, and the business owner. (Shortly thereafter, the owners pulled their liquor license and Stargate Night Club was closed.)

**Q:** Is there an issue coming before the Council in the next few months that you're eager to work on?

**A:** In the near future I am looking forward to the recognition/re-establishment of the "Use of Force Workgroup," a very dedicated volunteer group of Maplewood citizens who, after many hours of meeting and studying, formulated a prologue to the police department's policy manual.

Their well-crafted document includes their expectations of respect, fairness, sensitivity, and competence from our police department as they follow the task force's directives on 21st century policing.

The council and several members of the workgroup indicated the need for a community group/advisory committee to be formed and continue on for the purpose of review and oversight of police staffing, budget, incidents, crime analytics, substantial policy changes, etc. The main goals of this group would be to build trust, support the police department in its mission and share the responsibility of keeping our community safer for everyone.

**Q:** What kinds of comments have you been hearing recently from residents?

**A:**

- Thanks for a council that listens and works together.
- The MCC/YMCA partnership is working.
- People are pleased with the city and the police department in areas of safety and responsibility.
- Numerous residents are sad to be losing Police Chief Paul Schnell, and I couldn't agree more!



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# Cont. from cover - May 6 Arbor Day

## Tree purchase rebate program

Consider planting a tree this year! The City of Maplewood is once again offering a purchase rebate to residential and commercial property owners for planting shade trees on landscaped property in Maplewood. The tree purchase rebate was established to encourage planting shade trees on private property. It also helps property owners replace trees lost to disease.

How does the program work? When you purchase a shade tree for your yard, the city will reimburse you 50% of the price of the tree up to \$100 per tree. For each household, up to four trees may be purchased, at a total maximum reimbursement of \$200.

See the Tree Purchase Rebate Form for details before purchasing your tree, since there are some restrictions on species and a receipt is required. Forms are available at [www.maplewoodmn.gov/trees](http://www.maplewoodmn.gov/trees) or call the Maplewood Nature Center at (651) 249-2170.

## On the lookout for oak wilt and Emerald Ash Borer

The city's contracted forester will be inspecting for oak wilt and Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) on public and private lands in Maplewood this year.

**Emerald Ash Borer.** EAB has not yet been detected in Maplewood. But it is near our borders so we're fairly



certain it is here, just not yet detected. These non-native insects bore into trees and proliferate. They eventually disrupt the flow of water and nutrients in the tree, which leads to the tree's death. Ash trees are often completely infested before they are diagnosed with EAB. One of the key symptoms to look for is lots

of woodpecker activity in an ash tree. EAB is most active May 1 through Sept. 30 so avoid pruning or removing ash trees during that period. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has some on-line videos about EAB at: [www.mda.state.mn.us/emeraldashborer](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/emeraldashborer).

**Oak wilt.** One of Maplewood's most revered natural resources is its oak woodlands. Unfortunately oak wilt can wreak havoc on oaks young and old, destroying dozens of trees in a neighborhood in a given year. Oak wilt is a fungus, which is spread from tree to tree by beetles, or which travels between oak roots grafted together underground. Symptoms include leaves wilting and dying, starting high in the canopy. To help prevent the spread of oak wilt, avoid pruning oaks during the growing season (unless a limb or tree is hazardous). After a tree is infected, removal of the tree and severing the root grafts through vibratory plowing are key to help prevent the spread of the fungus.

If you suspect your tree has one of these pests, call the Public Works Department at (651) 249-2400. Information on these diseases is available on the city's website at [www.ci.maplewood.mn.us/trees](http://www.ci.maplewood.mn.us/trees).

**Firewood quarantine.** With the onset of fine weather, trips up north are on the rise and with that the temptation to bring along your own firewood. But tree pests such as Emerald Ash Borer and Gypsy Moth can be transported in firewood. The metro area is under an ash tree and a firewood quarantine. It is illegal to take hardwood firewood out of this area without a permit from the state. For more information visit: <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/~//media/Files/plants/eab/firewoodalert.pdf>

**Licensed tree contractors.** If you are planning on contracting out tree care, please note that Maplewood requires tree companies working in the city to be licensed with the city. A list of tree contractors licensed in Maplewood is on the city website at: <http://www.maplewoodmn.gov/1072/Hiring-a-Contractor>.

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**Silent Auction to benefit the  
Maplewood Area Historical Society**



# Get Ready for WaterFest 2017!

"Make Waves" at WaterFest 2017. This free, family festival celebrating our clean lakes offers fun and an opportunity for outdoor hands-on learning about clean water, wildlife, and land and water conservation. WaterFest is slated for Saturday, June 3, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Lake Phalen Park. The event will be held rain or shine.

Begin the day with a voyageur canoe ride, paddle a canoe, kayak or paddleboat, learn to fish or participate in a fishing contest.

For landlubbers, the fun continues with Farnsworth Marching Band, water games, a water arcade, climbing walls, jump castle, native plant giveaway, Passport Odyssey with great prizes, live animals, landscaping, watershed and art exhibits, music and dance, lakeside yoga, food for purchase and lots more!

In April 2016, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District received the Sustainable Saint Paul Environmental Education Award for WaterFest. It was noted as "an event for all ages, with the vision that everyone can play a role in protecting our water resources." The City of Saint Paul

combines their "National Get Outdoors" celebration with WaterFest, sponsoring arts and crafts, the jump castle, climbing wall, archery and face painting.

WaterFest is sponsored by Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District with the cities of Saint Paul, Maplewood, Roseville, Little Canada, Shoreview, White Bear Lake, Landfall and North St. Paul, Capitol Region Watershed District, Ramsey County, Met Council Environmental Services, Barr Engineering, MN Native Landscapes, MN Water Well Association and other partners. Visit [www.rwmwd.org](http://www.rwmwd.org) for more information.



Canoeing at WaterFest



Dad & Daughter Fishing at WaterFest

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# Another Great Day of Laughter and Camaraderie

by: Shari Aronson Z Puppets Rosenschnoz, Creative Director



Thank you to everyone who came out to the second annual Kid City Laugh In and Joke Swap Challenge! Maplewood Parks & Recreation and Z Puppets Rosenschnoz hosted the free event at the Maplewood YMCA on Saturday, April 1. Just in time to celebrate April Fool's Day, the event was part of the Kid City

goal to bring people together with the power of playfulness.

More than 250 community members turned out to share laughter, jokes and spring cheerfulness! They laughed along with Mayor Nora Slawik, City Council Members Tou Xiong and Bryan Smith, Police Chief Paul Schnell and several police officers, including K-9 Kody. The event was made possible by support from the Minnesota State Arts Board Arts & Cultural Legacy Funds, Bigelow Foundation and St. Paul Foundation.

As soon as the doors opened at 4 p.m., the Maplewood Police Department and City Council launched their friendly competition to find the best joke in Maplewood. Anyone present could enter a joke and choose to drop it in either the box for the police or the council. While the Laugh In roared on, both teams selected three jokes to present to the audience in the Community Talent Showcase.

Meanwhile, Z Puppets Rosenschnoz gave tours of a Laughter Museum, a playful interactive display featuring recordings of laughter from people of all ages across Maplewood. Z Puppets' performers were on-hand to collect laughter and silly faces to feature in this summer's Laughter Museums, which will be popping up around the city.

Maplewood Parks & Recreation Manager Audra Robbins doled out free ice cream sundaes and root beer floats. Outside the YMCA, the Tot Boss kicked off the food truck season, serving up his gourmet potato delicacies.

Community groups also hosted activity stations. The 3M Visiting Wizards led hands-on science fun. The Maplewood Nature Center had a reptile meet and greet. Family Fun Twin Cities created a reading corner with children's books in several languages. Ramsey County Child/Teen Check Ups, Cavity Free Kids, and Grade Power Learning were also on-hand to give out free info and surprises.

At 4:30 p.m. Mayor Nora Slawik opened the Community Talent Showcase with a flourish: "Whereas laughter is

powerful force of bringing people together, I, Nora Slawik, Mayor of the City of Maplewood, do officially proclaim April 1, 2018 as the 2nd annual Day of Laughter in Maplewood."

Z Puppets' emcees Ricardo Vazquez and Ifrah Mansour deftly segued between a diverse line-up of talent, including the Weaver Elementary School Choir, junior pageant queen Miss Lilah Lee presenting a Bollywood-style dance, comedian Amy Corbecky and Nkauj Ntxaum Dej (NND) from the Lao Dan Dance Studio wowing the crowd with their unique blend of traditional Hmong and modern dance.

The showcase culminated with the police department and the council announcing the top three jokes each team selected from the Joke Swap. The teams invited the youth who contributed the joke to come up to bask in their glory (and, in some cases, deliver the punchline). The audience voted for their favorite by applause.

This year's Joke Swap Challenge winner was 9-year-old Rena Donahue, who once again earned the Maplewood police department the Joke Swap Championship over the council. Rena's winning joke?

Drumroll please ...

"You must be really into cows ... because you are always looking at my calves!"

Rena received a Splash Bash birthday party at the Maplewood Community Center YMCA while five very worthy finalists went home with skate passes to Saints North Roller Rink and a tub of cotton candy.

Youth that stayed through to the last laugh got an extra bonus as Z Puppets and Parks & Rec staff gave away balloons from the fabulous balloon sculptures. CTV North Suburbs community cable channel videotaped the whole event and conducted interviews to be cablecast later this spring.

The fun will continue this summer as Z Puppets will keep instigating playfulness across Maplewood. Watch for a special Laugh Line (a phone number to call to hear laughs the artists collected in Maplewood), Laughter Museums and participatory arts activities at the Maplewood Parks & Recreation summer WOW Events.

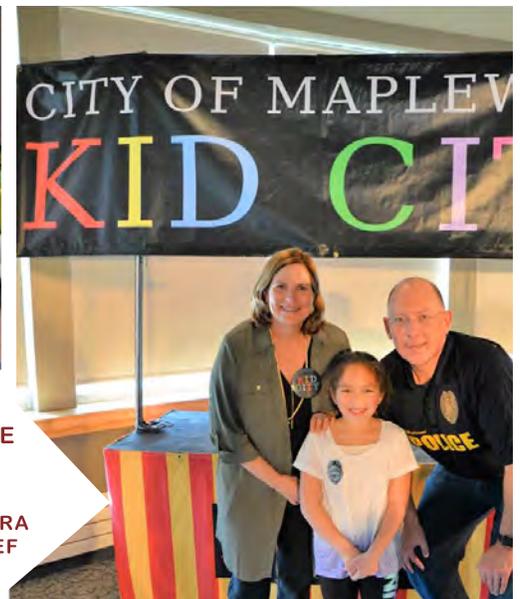
Let's keep laughing together, Maplewood!



# CITY OF MAPLEWOOD **KID CITY** APRIL 1, 2017



THE WINNER OF  
 THE 2ND ANNUAL JOKE  
 SWAP WAS  
**RENA DONAHUE,**  
 PICTURED WITH MAYOR NORA  
 SLAWIK, AND POLICE CHIEF  
 PAUL SCHNELL



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## Mayor Nora Slawik Greet's Moose Governor at Maplewood Icon



Maplewood Mayor Nora Slawik recently greeted Franz "Fritz" Griswold, the 128th Supreme Governor of the Moose International, at the Maplewood Lodge, as he did his year-long tour across the country.

The 114 year old #963 Lodge located at 1946 English Street has been a Maplewood icon since 1964. Prior to its Maplewood relocation, the lodge was located at 1019 Payne Ave. (currently the Salvation Army building) in St. Paul. It has about 390 members with 600,000 worldwide members.

Pictured along with the Supreme Governor Griswold (second on left) and Mayor Slawik are Lodge officers Kent Wilcox, John Rheinberger and Tim Slabik.

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