

MAPLEWOOD LIVING

October 2017

Maplewood Seasons Inside!



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Maplewood Changes To Even Year Elections

No, you're not missing anything, the City isn't conducting a municipal general election this year. Former Citizen Services Director Karen Haag presented the plan to the Council in 2016 to change the election schedule in a cost savings and efficiency measure. The change was approved through an ordinance revision. Learn more details about elections at www.Maplewoodmn.gov/elections.

Community Engagement Breakfast Aims to Shape Maplewood's 2040 Comprehensive Plan

October 11, 7:30 am - 9:00 am Maplewood Community Center, Room C
 Seats still available. The event is **FREE** but registration is required.
 Please visit MaplewoodMN.gov.



Find out more about and weigh in on what the City of Maplewood could look like by 2040 at our third annual Community Engagement Breakfast, hosted by Maplewood's Housing and Economic Development Commission and City Council.

Currently, a 22-member steering committee, comprised of councilmembers, business

people, health care representatives, citizens, faith leaders and other government representatives, is evaluating the existing Comprehensive Plan—which runs through 2030—and determining what needs to be updated to meet the needs for Maplewood through 2040. In addition to the steering committee, all city volunteer boards and commissions have been involved in the review and evaluation process.

There are several opportunities for people living in Maplewood to get involved. At the Community Engagement Breakfast, city staff will have a booth set up for community feedback. There is also an interactive Shape My City map connected to our website. Simply head to www.Maplewoodmn.gov/shapeyourcity to give us feedback. There, you can drag an issue button to a specific location and post a comment about city needs. Issue buttons include safety concerns, housing concerns, commercial improvements, and what you like about the city and want to see more of.

City planners appreciate all of the productive Shape My City map feedback, which has included the need for sidewalks along the busier corridors, discussions about the future of Maplewood Mall, and kudos for trails and recreational improvements.

- Continued on page 6

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.



Maplewood Nature Center Getting a Facelift and Environmental Improvements



When the Visitors Center (or is it called the interpretative center?) at Maplewood’s Nature Center reopens in the middle of October, you’ll notice major improvements before you walk in the door, as the building’s siding and roof will be upgraded with more durable surfaces.

Inside, new LED lights will help maximize the building’s solar power generation. They’ll also upgrade the furnace. New flooring and carpets and a fresh coat of paint will help spruce up the place.

The renovation will also correct a flooding issue that stemmed from the building’s air flow return being constructed under the building. This will eliminate the amphitheater’s sunk in floor, a unique feature.

Nature Center staff tediously removed and stored a variety of taxidermy and other exhibits to prepare for the work in early September.

From October 11-13, the Visitor’s Center will have limited hours. Self-guiding groups must call ahead to see if there will be access to the amphitheater and restrooms; please call (651) 249-2170.

The Nature Center and visitors building are open Tuesday through Saturday, all year from 8:30am – 4:30pm. They host various educational opportunities and self-guided tours for all ages. It’s also available to rent out for children’s birthday parties school programs and youth groups.

Council Adopts Modest Preliminary City Levy Increase for 2018

In 2018, the City of Maplewood will embark on several important and exciting initiatives. They include:

- Ensuring the city's Comprehensive Plan meets the long-term needs of our growing and changing community
- Combating Emerald Ash Borer, which has recently emerged in the city
- Improving how the city communicates with residents
- Upgrading technology for more efficient building permitting
- Maintaining competitive wages for city staff to attract and retain a highly-skilled and courteous workforce
- Reducing long-term borrowing costs

To accomplish this ambitious agenda, city council has approved a modest 3.5% preliminary levy increase (for a total levy of \$21,465,600) for taxes payable in 2018.

If adopted as preliminarily approved, taxpayers with a median value home (\$209,600) would see a \$17 per year increase to the city portion of their property tax bill. Below are tax estimates for a variety of Maplewood property values.



This increase isn't definite. City Council will hold a public hearing Monday, December 11, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Maplewood City Council Chambers to receive public input on the proposed budget and tax levy. Before final adoption, the city council may decrease the levy; however, it cannot raise its preliminary approved levy.

City taxes account for approximately 32% of the total property tax bill, which also includes taxes for the county, school district, and special districts. Only the city budget and tax levy will be discussed at the city of Maplewood's public hearing. Interested taxpayers should attend the December 11, 2017 public hearing.

Tax Estimates For A Variety of Maplewood Property Values

Value of Property for Pay 2017	Value of Property for Pay 2018	Taxable Market Value Pay 2018	2017 City Property Tax	2018 City Property Tax	\$ Amount Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
\$ 95,700	\$ 100,000	\$ 71,800	\$ 324	\$ 335	\$ 11	3.3%
\$ 143,500	\$ 150,000	\$ 126,300	\$ 574	\$ 588	\$ 14	2.4%
\$ 200,550	\$ 209,600	\$ 191,200	\$ 872	\$ 889	\$ 17	1.9%
\$ 239,200	\$ 250,000	\$ 235,300	\$ 1,074	\$ 1,093	\$ 19	1.7%
\$ 382,800	\$ 400,000	\$ 398,800	\$ 1,825	\$ 1,851	\$ 26	1.4%

2018 Preliminary Tax Levy

Fund	2017	2018	% Change
General Fund	\$ 14,418,079	\$ 15,351,530	6.5%
Debt Service Funds	4,891,484	4,894,070	0.1%
Special Revenue Funds	205,000	200,000	-2.4%
Capital Project Funds	335,000	420,000	25.4%
Enterprise Funds	800,000	500,000	-37.5%
Economic Development Fund	89,270	100,000	12.0%
Total Levy	\$ 20,738,833	\$ 21,465,600	3.5%

Maplewood Fire Department Offering Two Free In-home Fire Prevention/Mitigation Services

By Chief Michael Mondor, Maplewood Fire Department

Want to get an expert's opinion on your home's level of fire protection? Two free programs are available through the Maplewood Fire Department and State Fire Marshall's office.

One program is the Home Safety Survey

MFD Firefighters will check your living areas for proper working smoke and CO alarms. Thanks to a partnership with the Red Cross, residents can receive up to three smoke detectors, if needed. The goal of the program is to create an opportunity for firefighters to talk one-on-one with people about fire safety and provide on fire escape planning and safe cooking habits.

Surprisingly, many small fires go unreported. After taking this survey, participants are asked to report any fire that may be experienced in their home. Statistics gathered will be used to determine if any products or education provided during the survey were a factor in reducing any damage of the fire, or had increased resident's safety in any way.

All Information obtained will allow the MN State Fire Marshal Division to enhance their understanding of what products may help reduce fires and fire related injuries.

Surveys Are voluntary and any products you receive from the MN State Fire Marshal's office or the Maplewood Fire Department has been paid for by the FAIR Plan Grant.

Call (651) 249-2801 for appointment:

Maplewood Fire Department
1955 Clarence Street Maplewood, MN 55109

The second Free Service is the Remembering When Program

Remembering When Program is a comprehensive fire and fall prevention program developed by the National Fire Protection Association, aimed at people ages 65 and older.

Why is this necessary? Statistics show that people at age 65 are twice as likely to die in a fire as is the general population at large. That number triples at age 75, and quadruples at age 85.

What could be the reason for this? One reason is that as you age, you become less mobile and more susceptible to falls. In fact, one in four Americans aged 65+ falls each year, every 11 seconds, an older adult is treated in the emergency room for a fall; every 19 minutes, an older adult dies from a fall, and falls are the leading cause of fatal injury and the most common cause of nonfatal trauma-related hospital admissions among older adults.

How can the Maplewood Fire Department help prevent falls and fires?

Maplewood Fire Department has partnered with Regions Hospital to provide both large group and one-on-one presentations to Maplewood residents ages 65 and older. Our staff will come to your location and share with you eight fire prevention messages and eight fall prevention messages, and will be available to provide in-home safety assessments, free of charge!

Request an appointment (651) 249-2801

Please note that both the Home Safety Survey and the Remembering One Program can be done in the same visit.

Maplewood Fire Department Community Paramedic Program

The Maplewood Fire Department Community Paramedic program was created to provide on-going care to high utilizers of the EMS system in hopes of improving overall patient health, reducing strain on the EMS system, and promoting community public health. Community Paramedics work with clients to better manage their chronic health problems, help find solutions to social needs, and empower clients to live healthy and fulfilling lives.

Heartsafe Community Initiative

The department will be canvassing the city in the fall and early winter of 2017 locating and mapping public access Automated External Defibrillator's (AED's).

If your business, church, etc has a public access AED please contact us so that we can ensure that your AED is located on our citywide map. Location of AED's is one of the steps to becoming a Heartsafe Community.

Additionally, we are looking to conduct more mass training events. If your church, business, school, or social group would like to offer hands only CPR training at an event please contact (651) 249-2801. (Free of Charge)



2017 Political Leadership Award - Rice-Larpenteur Avenue Gateway Area Vision Planning Process



The 2017 Political Leadership Award in the area of Planning, Zoning, and Land Use was awarded to the Cities of Maplewood, Roseville, and St. Paul for the Rice Street - Larpenteur Avenue Gateway Area Vision planning process. The Rice-Larpenteur intersection lives in three cities, all of which have

come together to start the work of developing a short- and long-term vision plan for the area. The project is aimed at understanding and responding to the barriers, challenges, benefits, and opportunities associated with changes in land use, access, transit services and other facilities around key nodes in the corridor. A shared goal is identification of potential redevelopment in the area, and the cities are engaging residents and businesses in a unified vision. Cooperation among the cities is crucial for meaningful change. A public workshop to present and gain feedback on the draft vision plan is scheduled for the evening of Thursday, October 26. Look for those details and more on the Rice-Larpenteur Avenue Gateway Area Vision Plan website: www.riceandlarpenteur.com.



From left to right: Jamie Radel, St. Paul Senior Planner; Kari Collins, Roseville Community Development Director; Shann Finwall, Maplewood Environmental Planner; Lisa Laliberte, Roseville City Councilmember; Dan Roe, Roseville Mayor; Pat Trudgeon, Roseville City Manager; Amy Brendmoen, St. Paul Ward 5 City Councilmember; Jason Etten, Roseville City Councilmember; Kim O'Brien, Councilmember Brendmoen's Legislative Aide

HOLIDAY FUN HOUR
 AT MAPLEWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER • 2100 WHITE BEAR AVENUE

HALLOWEEN SESSION
 THURSDAY • OCTOBER 26, 6:15PM - 7:15PM
 COST: \$7/CHILD

THANKSGIVING SESSION
 THURSDAY • NOVEMBER 16, 6:15PM - 7:15PM
 COST: \$7/CHILD

Register for both sessions & the cost is \$12/Child
 Must register for both sessions at the same time

HOW DO I REGISTER?
 IN PERSON: MAPLEWOOD PARKS & REC, 1902 COUNTY ROAD B EAST
 BY PHONE: 651.249.2120
 ONLINE: [HTTPS://APM.ACTIVECOMMUNITIES.COM/MAPLEWOODMN/HOME](https://apm.activecommunities.com/maplewoodmn/home)

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 Creating Healthy, Active, Thriving Communities

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 KIDS IN GRADES K-5
 PARENTS DROP OFF THE KIDS AND ENJOY A NIGHT OUT!

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At Carver Community Gym
 2680 Upper Afton Road
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MUSIC • GAMES

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MAPLEWOOD PARKS & RECREATION
 Creating Healthy, Active, Thriving Communities

Life is Filled with Problems and Opportunities

By Councilmember Bryan Smith



Life is filled with problems and opportunities. Often those opportunities are hidden in the solutions to the problems we face. When addressing problems, I have found three typical approaches: problem avoiders, problem identifiers, and problem solvers. While there are times it makes sense to be each of these, I do my best to be a problem solver whenever I can.

The problem avoider, an approach I find common in our Midwestern culture, can look like pretending the problem doesn't exist. While much of the time this is an ineffective strategy which will only allow problems to expand, there are times when it makes sense. In my day job, it is important to not get bogged down in fixing everything. Like a good emergency medical team, it is necessary to effectively triage challenges and choose to focus on the ones that will provide the largest impact to the business compared to the effort it takes. This is a good use of the problem avoiding technique - one might even call it prioritizing.

Problem identifying is a role I play and experience from others regularly as a City Council Member. I may ask city staff to help me understand a problem and suggest solutions. I am most often a problem identifier when I

need help to even begin thinking about a solution. I am cautious, however, to not become only a problem identifier. A common pitfall for problem identifiers is to start identifying problems whose solutions are fundamentally contradictory. The same person might say, I want my roads fixed, but I also want to pay less in taxes. Both of these things would be great, but unfortunately, fixing roads is expensive. Public policy is often about weighing competing problems. When we just name the competing problems, it is unlikely we will make much progress to a solution.

I do my best to be a problem solver whenever I can. The majority of the time, I have found the best way to solve a problem is to ask others to collaborate on solutions. My effectiveness in my day job lies in my ability to build teams across the organization to strategize on potential solutions and effectively execute. It's the same as a council member. When I am contacted by residents, I rarely have all the answers. I rely on our staff to help me get answers for residents' problems, because our staff are the people who actually do the work and understand city operations in a way I never will as a Council Member. My role in the solution is to get the right team together.

My wife and I have a saying in our marriage: we make better decisions together. I believe this applies universally. When we approach problem solving as a team - the council, city staff, and our neighbors - I know we will find solutions and make better decisions together.

Cont. from cover - Community Engagement Breakfast

Also at the breakfast, the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce (SPACC) will lead a discussion on what Maplewood businesses say they need to thrive and grow in the city. Over the last several months, city leaders and the SPACC met with and surveyed more than two dozen businesses that have significant growth potential or are large economic contributors to Maplewood. The city council will evaluate these findings for inclusion in the city's comprehensive plan and future policy decisions.

The Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee is set to meet again on November 30, 2017 and February 22, 2018. The plan should be complete sometime in the summer of 2018.

There are still seats available for the October 11th Community Engagement Breakfast. The Event is free, but registration is required. Please visit web.saintpaulchamber.com/events to register.



Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit

Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) will be Minnesota's first BRT line in a 9-mile dedicated lane. These lanes are exclusively for transit buses, and will be built north of I-94 starting in St Paul and continuing east to Helmo Avenue in Oakdale and Bielenberg Drive in Woodbury. Expected to open in 2024, Maplewood will be served by a BRT station located at the 3M headquarters building. There will also be stations located at the Sun Ray Shopping Center in St. Paul, and the Greenway station in Landfall.

From this fall through 2018, community members are invited to help plan for BRT-Oriented Development. (BRTOD) is a type of development approximately 1/2 mile around stations that includes a mix of housing, office, retail, and other amenities within a walkable and bike-friendly neighborhood. BRTOD planning will help improve each communities' access to jobs, housing, daily shopping needs and recreation that enhances the quality of life for people of all ages and incomes.

County and city project partners are committed to working directly with stakeholders throughout the BRTOD process to ensure feedback is understood, considered, and directly reflected in resulting plans. Using stakeholder input with technical and market analyses, the project team will create transit oriented development plans for each station area

that will be reviewed, revised, and adopted by corridor counties and cities.

To learn more and get involved, visit www.thegatewaycorridor.com or email GatewayCorridor@co.washington.mn.us.



Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

- Dedicated lanes exclusively for buses
- Riders pay before boarding the bus
- Platforms provide-level boarding - easier to get on and off
- Real-time departure signs, maps, and signage at stations
- Enhanced security at stations and on buses
- Unique pedestrian and bike aisles with extra doors and ramps

BASKETBALL LEAGUES

- **BOYS & GIRLS IN GRADES 3-8**
- **LEARN BASIC SKILLS/TEAM PLAY**
- **\$135.00/PLAYER**
- **SATURDAYS, DEC-MARCH**
- **MORNING/EARLY AFTERNOON**
- **PRACTICE BEGINS MID-NOVEMBER**
- **SCHEDULES WILL VARY**
- **REGISTRATION DEADLINE OCT 20**

VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED

HOW DO I REGISTER?

- **Online:** <https://apm.activecommunities.com/Maplewoodmn/Home>
- **By Phone:** 651.249.2120
- **In Person:** 1902 County Road B East • Maplewood, MN • 55109

PRESCHOOL GYMBOREE

MAPLEWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER

THURSDAYS, NOVEMBER 2 - MARCH 22

10:00AM - 11:30AM
(No Gymboree November 23 & December 28)

AGES 1-5 COST: \$5.00 (drop-in program)
CHILDREN UNDER 12 MONTHS ARE FREE

Join us in the gym for a roly poly good time. We provide the balls, mats, toys & games - you bring the fun! This is not a structured program and children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Outside equipment must be approved by the gym monitor. Jump Castle is included in admission fee! Call 651.249.2121 for more information.

City of Maplewood

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

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

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Maplewood Fall Recreation Program Fun

Senior High Rec Basketball (Boys & Girls GR 9-12)
Sundays, January 7-March 4, 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm
At Edgerton & Carver Community Gyms and White Bear Lake South Campus

Offered by Maplewood Parks and Recreation, in cooperation with White Bear Public Schools Community Services and Recreation Department.

All players must be in high school and each team must have a parent who is on the bench at each game. Rosters must be handed in one week prior to the team's first game. Fee includes jersey, scorekeeper, and two referees per game. Players on a Varsity, Junior Varsity, or B Squad basketball team are not eligible to play. Team fee is \$575.00, *registration is taken on a team basis*
Registration deadline is December 11.

Girls Leagues: 9-10, 11-12

Boys Leagues: 9-10, 11-12

Youth Lacrosse Clinic (Ages 4-12)
at Carver Community Gym
Thursdays, October 19-November 16

This is a great introductory lacrosse clinic for boys and girls. Participants will learn about the basics of lacrosse from proper stick grip to positioning and work on skills like stick handling, passing, shooting, agility, speed drills, and more. Don't miss this great opportunity for your kids to be introduced to the fast growing sport of lacrosse. No previous experience or equipment needed. Cost is \$55.00, *Clinic T-shirt included.

Ages 4-6 5:15 pm - 6:30 pm

Ages 7-9 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm

Ages 10-12 7:45 pm - 9:00 pm



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Sale Goes Through Nov. 11, 2017



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