

MAPLEWOOD LIVING

November 2017



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Maplewood Mayor Nora Slawik (left) and Councilmember Marylee Abrams join Bob Lee, franchisee of the city's first Chick-Fil-A at the restaurant's opening last month. Lee, who is from the east metro, says his mission for opening the restaurant is to develop his team members, build their leadership skills, and use proceeds to give back to the Maplewood community. He commended the city for its straightforward and efficient permitting and businesses startup process.

Maplewood Part of a Collaborative Creating a New Pathway to Policing

By Joe Sheeran, Communications Manager



Officer Rachel Murray, Officer Emily Burt-McGregor, Chief Scott Nadeau

Graduating from Winona State University with a communications and English degree, Emily Burt-McGregor looked forward to a career in market research. She quickly realized the job wasn't for her. She became a mail carrier, a position she loved because it was active and put her in contact with the community. A few promotions later she had an office position and started looking for work that would put her back in the community, interacting with residents.

She considered law enforcement, but there were several barriers, including the cost of going back to school and taking the necessary skills courses to qualify for a peace officer's license.

Minnesota is unique. The cost of schooling and skills training fall on the applicant, in most cases, before she or he begins applying for police officer positions. Also, Minnesota is the only state in the U.S. that mandates officers have at least a two-year degree specifically in law enforcement studies.

That makes it tougher for people with life experience that would be valuable to the profession to make a mid-career transition to policing.

Rachel Murray started thinking more about becoming a police officer after the deadly attack on law enforcement officers in Dallas. Murray, who is a Marine, was appalled someone would target police here at home.

Like Burt-McGregor, the recent Minnesota State, Mankato graduate didn't want to take on more schooling expenses.



Officers Rachel Murray (left) and Emily Burt-McGregor officially pin on their badges for the first time after being sworn in.

- 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 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's Community Engagement Breakfast Celebrates Positive Outlook on Business Expansion and Job Growth in 2018



Maplewood is a growing community with a bright future. That was one of the main themes coming out of the city's recent Community Engagement Breakfast in October.

opportunities, highway infrastructure, the police and fire department's responsiveness and professionalism, and the city's outreach efforts to engage in helping retain and grow their operations in Maplewood.

"One of the impressive data points is that more than three-quarters of survey takers identify their business as a Maplewood business versus a St. Paul business," said DuWayne Konewko, Maplewood's Environmental and Economic Development Director.

This positive outlook comes in the form of a joint city and St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce survey of 25 businesses that serve as community anchors or show growth potential.*

About one-third of companies plan on hiring in the next year; only five percent plan to reduce their workforce. Close to 70 percent of businesses surveyed plan to hire in the next two to five years.

Business leaders highlighted strong K-12 educational

- Continued on page 4



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We'd Rather Give You Advice Than Take A Theft Report

By Officer Alesia Metry



An elderly Maplewood couple put an ad online to sell jewelry. Two men came to their home to look at the jewelry. Instead of paying the couple, the men just grabbed the goods and ran out of the house. They haven't been caught.

Last month a Maplewood citizen got a

bad feeling about a transaction he was making. The person responding to his Craigslist ad for a piece of musical equipment sent him a check for \$750 over his asking price. The buyer wanted him to deposit the check and send back the difference. The seller astutely contacted the bank and the police. Good thing he did. The check was a fraud.

These are just two of many examples the Maplewood Police Department sees where crooks try using online classifieds to rip people off.

That second example is fairly common, and is a variation of an old email scam. (Really who besides your grandmother sends you free money?)

Craigslist reports over 60 million people in the United States use its service each month and over 80 million ads are posted. While online classified services are a great way to turn unwanted stuff into cash (or find a good deal), buyers and sellers need to do their homework.

Craigslist claims that if you follow one rule, you can avoid 99% of scam attempts: **"Deal locally, deal face to face."**

Here are other tools to protect yourself:

Meet with the buyer or seller at a safe place, like the lobby of City Hall or another public place. Do not have the person come to your home if possible. Why invite a stranger into your home to see all of your valuables, who lives in your home and what type of a security system you have?

If you are buying something that could possibly be stolen like: a computer, a bike, a cell phone etc. ask to see the seller's ID and take a photo of it or write down their information. If the item is stolen you can show police that you bought the item and point them in the direction of the criminal. Be leery of sellers who do not want to provide

their information.

Don't accept checks or money orders as they may be fake. A bank will accept them when you make a deposit but will hold you responsible if they are bad. Checks and money orders take up to 10 days to clear.

If you are buying an item online, insist on seeing the item before you turn over the money. According to the Better Business Bureau, up to 80 percent of internet PETS FOR SALE ads may be fraudulent. People see the adorable puppy on line, send the money and never receive the puppy. Most of the victims of this scam are young adults.

If you think a deal may be a scam, investigate. Bankers are a great resource, as they can verify checks and money orders. They can also assist customers who have been scammed; many have their own criminal investigators. You can also call your police department. We would prefer to give recommendations about a transaction rather than take a report after a person has been scammed. Once the transaction is complete, it is unlikely we will be able to locate the thief or recover the stolen money as many thieves operate outside Minnesota or internationally. The internet can be a great way to buy and sell items, but take steps to guard against becoming a theft victim.

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 EXTENDED TO NOV 8!

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

Cont. from pg 2 - Creating a New Pathway to Policing

Both were delightfully surprised to find an ad they saw for the "Pathways to Policing" program, a new initiative developed by the Bloomington and St. Louis Park police departments to attract more diverse candidates to law enforcement. Maplewood is one of six metro agencies participating in the program. Instead of needing a degree in law enforcement, cadets can have a two-year degree in any field of study. Additionally, the agency that selects an applicant covers the state-mandated coursework in law enforcement studies and police skills training, pays her 70% of a first-year officer's salary, and provides benefits.

"There is no way I could have swung this financially if it weren't for the funding," says Burt-McGregor.

"This program is awesome," says Murray, "It's a great opportunity for non-traditional candidates."

They competed against more than 500 applicants for the program's 12 coveted positions and were excited by the chance to work in Maplewood because it's a diverse community and they see opportunities to build relationships with citizens.

Officer Burt-McGregor and Officer Murray were officially sworn in as Maplewood's newest officers in mid-October, after an intense 17-week skills and academic program at Hennepin Technical College and passing their Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) exam. They're currently going through the department's standard field training, which pairs a rookie with a veteran officer to ensure he or she is ready to do the job.

"We appreciate the new officers' diverse backgrounds and extensive life experience," says Commander Michael Shortreed. "Our department looks forward to seeing them put those skills to use serving our citizens."

From the time they were selected for the program through their first few years on the job, both feel a tremendous pressure to succeed. For the majority of Minnesota police agencies, this is a new hiring paradigm and requires significant investment. The new officers fear if they fail, the entire program's reputation is in jeopardy.

"We want to do a good job so the program is available to others who want to make this career transition," says Officer Murray.

"There are a lot of people from my kind of background and education who would make great police officers," says Burt-McGregor. "They realize that too late and don't follow through, assuming they'd have no shot at getting a police position because they're competing against people who have been working toward becoming a cop since they were 18 years old."

The PD will evaluate the program overall and the work of these two officers to determine how much of a role Pathways to Policing will take in future hiring. Maplewood made funding for these two position available through retirements and attrition. This year the Minnesota State Legislature allocated \$400,000 annually, starting in 2019, to reimburse agencies participating in the program.

Cont. from cover - Community Engagement Breakfast



One of the challenges business leaders say they face is access to public transit, especially for their workforce. While they praise the K-12 and higher education system,

businesses see a disconnect in the types of jobs that workers are being prepared for, especially in the areas of technical education and the building trades.

One of the potential growth opportunities businesses see is the community's diversity and how to understand the needs and wants for newcomers to the region.

"I'm excited by these survey results and plan on working with stakeholders to leverage our strengths while addressing the challenges our community and businesses face," said Mayor Nora Slawik. "We're optimistic that the city's collaboration with neighboring communities and the Metropolitan Council on the Gold Line and Rush Line Bus Rapid Transit will connect more people to jobs, Maplewood businesses and recreational opportunities."

In addition to revealing the survey results at the Engagement Breakfast, the city also summarized the work of its Comprehensive Planning Committee, which is updating the city's plan to meet the community's needs over the next 40 years.

**Survey participants were chosen based on MN Department of Employment and Economic Development data, Greater MSP's Key Industry designs and companies with a wide footprint on the city. These businesses range from global giants such as 3M to locally owned and operated shops.*

Neighbors Coming Together By Councilmember Tou Xiong



**Councilmember
Tou Xiong**

Sometimes tragic moments ironically bring out the best in people. Awhile back in south Maplewood, a young teenager was struck by a car while crossing the street at night. This unfortunate event occurred right in front of our house. My family became aware of this incident only when my youngest brother came running into the living room informing us that 'a car just crashed' outside.

My dad and I ran outside to find the young man lying on the grass and the driver checking up on him. Our neighbor came over to let us know he had already called 911. We all tried to talk to the teenager to see how bad or serious his condition might have been. All the cars on the street slowed down, and another bystander brought out a blanket from her car.

I was partially thinking about the police response time given the many discussions we have had during City Council meetings, but I was more worried about the kid at that moment. For the most part, I wondered where his family was, what his mom would think, and how we could let them know about the incident. I recall he lived a good distance away. As we were going through this preliminary information, flashing lights from a Maplewood Police squad pulled up. A sigh of relief ushered in among the five to six

bystanders. Moments later, the ambulance arrived. The professionals got moving and they did their job effectively and quickly. The young boy was taken care of and put into the ambulance, and the officer got information from the driver and bystanders. The young boy was taken away and then the driver left also. One by one the bystanders and neighbors left after giving a good word to each other and a slight smile of relief.

As I stood with my neighbor and my dad, I thought to myself. I pondered about the community's desire to help one another and to show common decency to each other. My dad and I were just watching TV and there was a panel arguing about partisan politics. I reflected and thought that we all have our differences, we have our beliefs, and we have our unique perceptions. Given all of the social media and news outlets' commotion and commentary on politics and partisanship, none of that mattered to my neighbors and me during this incident.

I felt the genuine warmth of my neighbors. Their humanity was on display by their soothing words to the young boy and caring actions taken to address this emergency. The cooperation between my neighbor and my dad in front of the young boy was a great display of people's good nature. This served as a reminder that we all have great deeds and goodness within us, and we must not let the difficulties of our surroundings and politics tarnish the common bond among us.

FOREVERWELL Presents its Inaugural: Coffee with a Cop

On the 2nd Wednesday of each month, the Maplewood Police will come out to the Maplewood Community Center at the YMCA to talk about a variety of topics important to seniors and our community.



The topic for this first event is "Protecting Yourself from Financial Scams." The presentation will be about 10-15 minutes followed by a Question & Answer Session. There will be time to socialize after.

Wednesday, November 8th

10:30-11:30am

Maplewood Community Center • 2nd Floor

FREE Coffee and snacks provided

ForeverWell is the Maplewood Community Center's fitness and social program for people 55+ years of age

Public Works by the Numbers:



Steve Love, Public Works Director

At a fall council workshop, newly promoted Public Works Director Steve Love provided an outstanding overview of his department and the role it plays ensuring major pieces of city infrastructure, such as streets, sewer lines and parks are well maintained. The department has 36 full time workers and is split into four main divisions:

- Administration
- Streets, Storm and Building Maintenance
- Sanitary Sewer, Park Maintenance and fleet
- Engineering

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
(651) 249-2121

3,427 Sanitary Sewer Manholes

156 Miles of Sewer Mains

5000 Street Signs

36 Full time Workers

135 Miles of Streets

4,000 Acres of Grass mowed per season

1 Dedicated Department

7,208 Storm Catch Basins & Manholes

190 Vehicles to maintain

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MEET THE TEAM

Maplewood Going Viral: City Bringing Enhanced Approach to Visual Communications

The City of Maplewood's communications division is enhancing how it delivers the latest information about city announcements, events and initiatives. In the coming months, you'll see more videos and social media elements from the city with timely and relevant news on how to get the most out of the programs and services Maplewood provides.

Our pieces will also introduce you to the frontline workers who protect us, clear our roads, keep our parks in top shape and make your visit to city hall efficient and convenient. The communications team will also use these new media avenues to help keep all of us more connected as a community by highlighting everyday citizens using city services and engaging with each other. (Visit our website, MaplewoodMN.gov, and click the "V" icon on the left menu bar for the latest videos.)

We'll build stronger connections with traditional, main-stream media outlets, such as the Maplewood Review, Pioneer Press, and TV and Radio stations to help highlight what's special about the city as well as getting in front of and being transparent about those stories that might not show the community's best side. In addition to enhancing the digital side of our communications, we are working to make this publication, Maplewood Living, more timely and relevant to your lives. Please look for more visual elements in these pages, from photos to charts and graphs, to help readers better visualize some of the more complex issues. (One example is the infographic on page 6, Public Works by the Numbers.)

Maplewood feels it's vital to ensure every resident is informed as best as possible about how the city is operating and how you can help us improve services wherever possible.

We also want to hear from you. If you have a neighbor doing something extraordinary to make Maplewood a better place to live, work and raise a family, let us know. If there are things the city can and should be doing better, we want to hear that too. Contact the city's new Communications Manager Joe Sheeran: (651) 249-2061 or joe.sheeran@maplewoodmn.gov.



Joe Sheeran, Communications Manager

Joe has served more than 20 years in news and public relations. He joins Maplewood from the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association, where he served as Communications Director. Joe started his career as a reporter in Sioux Falls, SD, with stops in Wichita, KS and Delaware.



Chad Bergo, Communications Coordinator

Chad has been with the City of Maplewood nearly 18 years, serving in roles as Information Technology and managing the City's Geographic Information Systems. He's been responsible for overseeing many website redesign initiatives and is currently managing our cable-TV station and social media feeds.



Kevin Schmitz, Digital Communication Specialist

Kevin has spent most of his career as video journalist, serving several of the Twin Cities' northern metro communities. He's won a number of awards for his public sector video work and has served as a mentor to countless young videographers.

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Maplewood City Council Awards \$30,000 in Charitable Gambling Funds

School music programs, senior services, cultural amenities, and recreational organizations among those awarded



Maplewood, MN — With more than \$72,000 in requests and only \$30,000 available, Maplewood's City Council had some difficult decisions in allocating 2018 Charitable Gambling funding. After carefully evaluating each program, council awarded some level of funding to all 18 entities that applied for a grant.

"Every one of these programs plays a critical role ensuring Maplewood is a great place to live. They are all worthy and deserving of charitable gambling funds," said Mayor Nora Slawik. "We look forward to seeing how each of these groups use the funding."

All entities applying for a grant had to be non-profits with an IRS 501(c) (3) designation and serving Maplewood citizens. Of the 18 groups that received funding, 17 are located in the city, the other is a regional-based program with a strong Maplewood service connection.

"Organizations applying for the grants have become very thorough in their applications, explaining in detail how they will use the funds," said Councilmember Kathleen Juene-mann. "That's helpful when we're trying to envision a fund-ing level that would provide resources significant enough to keep each program going."

The City Council awarded a total of \$30,000 in Charitable Gambling Tax Funds for 2018. For a full list of grant recipients, click the 'News' tab at MaplewoodMN.gov.



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

LETTERS FOR SANTA (Ages 2-10)

Thursday, December 7, 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 14, 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

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APR= Annual Percentage Rate. 2% cash back promotion will apply to net purchases made between 10/1/17 through 12/31/17 for all new accounts opened from 10/1/17 to 12/31/17 or existing Platinum Reward cardholders that opt in, excludes regular Platinum cardholders. The cash back rate will return to 1% cash back on net purchases after 12/31/17. 2% Balance transfer promotion ends 12/31/17 and excludes transfers from CCCU Loan Accounts. Balance Transfer rebate will be deposited to the share account by 1/31/18 and any balance transfers paid in full by 12/31/17 will not be eligible. Cash advance fee is 2% or a \$2.00 minimum. Foreign Transaction fee is 1% of each transaction in U.S. dollars. See MasterCard Credit Card Terms & Conditions for complete details. Excludes Business Credit Cards.