

MAPLEWOOD LIVING

December 2017



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Truth in Taxation Public Hearing 2018 Budget and Tax Levy

December 11, 2017 at 7:00 PM at Maplewood City Hall, 1830 County Road B East

By Ellen Paulseth, Finance Director

The Maplewood City Council will hold a public hearing to receive input on the proposed budget and tax levy for taxes payable in 2018. In September, the Council adopted a preliminary property tax levy of approximately \$21.5 million. The preliminary levy represents a 3.5% increase over 2017, which amounts to roughly \$17 per year for the median value (\$209,600) home. Interested taxpayers should attend the public hearing at City Hall on **December 11, 2017 at 7:00 PM.**

Budget Initiatives for 2018

The property tax levy will fund city operations for next year, as well as pay for the city's debt obligations and meet a number of capital needs. New initiatives for 2018 include:

- Eradicating emerald ash borer
- Improved communications between the City and residents
- Improved General Fund balance
- Retaining competent staff by providing a 2.5% inflationary adjustment
- Implementing new technology for Building Department efficiencies
- Lower taxes through continued debt reduction strategies.

Budget and Tax Levy

The Council will adopt the final budget and levy after the public hearing. The preliminary levy cannot be increased; however, the city council may decrease the levy before final adoption. Components of the property tax levy are shown below:

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%



Top left: The Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD) recognized Ginny Gaynor (Outstanding Partner Award) and Ann Hutchinson (Youth Engagement Award) at its Nov. 8th banquet.

Top right: RWMWD recognized Maplewood couple Mike and Michelle Majeski (Landscape Ecology Program Award) for their extensive native planting and woodland restoration at their Battle Creek-area home.

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 Welcomes New HealthEast Clinic Featuring Integrated Primary and Specialty Care

by Communications Staff



Mayor Nora Slawik, members of council and other city leaders joined Health East officials in cutting the ribbon on a new

specialty center, which provides Maplewood residents greater access to high-quality integrated care.

The state-of-the-art facility, located across the street from St. John's Hospital on Hazelwood Street, expands St. John's reach in our community, bringing the convenience of having primary, outpatient and specialty services under

one roof. It also serves as a support unit for St. John's Hospital, especially as it seeks more efficient discharging processes.

"We're fortunate to have a locally-based partner like St. John's building facilities to exceed our community's health care expectations," said Mayor Slawik. "St. John's is well-recognized for quality care, its cancer center, and a very busy maternity unit."

It also has a robust pediatric team providing care for infants through young adulthood.

Additionally, the facility brings jobs that pay well at all skill levels and bolsters the goals in Maplewood's 2040 comprehensive plan designating that section of the city as a job-growth zone.

Emerald Ash Borer Management Underway

In December and January, Maplewood Public Works crews will remove up to 50 park and boulevard ash trees that are in very poor condition. While the city has confirmed only one case of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), it is likely other trees are infested but haven't yet shown symptoms. Maplewood's EAB Management Plan calls for removing some ash trees before they have EAB to spread out costs and workload. Starting with trees in poor condition makes the

most sense.

If a boulevard ash in front of your home or business is being removed, you will be notified via letter. Visit www.maplewoodmn.gov/eab for information on EAB.



Highlighting Maplewood's 2017 Accomplishments

by Melinda Coleman, Maplewood City Manager



From a comprehensive business retention and growth strategy to stronger community policing to greater transparency and stability in our finances, the City of Maplewood has maintained steady progress in 2017 and looks forward to continued growth in 2018.

Economic Development: While Maplewood had a number of

bright spots in 2017, one of the most exciting came from the Business Engagement Survey, where some of the city's key companies and organizations reported Maplewood provides a strong, stable business environment. Our Environmental and Economic Development Department (EEDD) partnered with the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce to form a Business Engagement Program. They met with more than two dozen employers deemed to be community anchors, legacy organizations or growing businesses. These firms generally felt Maplewood was an excellent place to do business, highlighting a strong K-12 system, access to transportation infrastructure, and a highly professional and responsive public safety department.

These conversations also revealed the city needs more transit options and that technical education should better align with available jobs. This feedback has been extremely valuable in formulating the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

The city has also made significant progress redeveloping the Gladstone neighborhood. Phase two of Frost-English Village, a 107-unit market-rate senior housing complex, is currently under construction. The city has purchased two vacant lots in the neighborhood and contacted owners of key properties to start a conversation about further re-development.

In 2018, the EEDD will be leading the implementation of the city's new land management software, a robust system that integrates several departments and improves our customers' experiences. It streamlines the review of planning and permit applications. It connects code enforcement and the city clerk's offices with licensing and fire department permits and inspections. The system allows any employee to access it to gain a full understanding of what's going on at each property.

Parks and Recreation: Maplewood installed its first universally designed playground at Goodrich Park. Staff also made improvements and added a themed playground to the Gladstone Savanna. At Nebraska Park, the neighbors

played a huge role in designing the new playground the city installed.

Parks and Recreation partnered with North East United Soccer Club (NEU) to completely revamp its fall soccer league, greatly improving the program. The Nature Center continued its leadership in environmental education, completing its grant commitment to bring 800 school kids to Fish Creek to learn about pollinators.

One of the most exciting developments for 2018 is the completion of the Wakefield Park Improvements Project, which includes constructing a Wakefield Park Community Building. After extensive community engagement, staff is now working with the consultants on final design. We're anticipating a spring groundbreaking.

Public Works: Public Works is plowing through a full inspection of the city's core infrastructure. Phase one has evaluated the condition of streets and sewer infrastructure. Phase two is examining sidewalks, parks and open spaces. Also in 2017, Public Works completed the second round of a gas franchise fee street rehabilitation project, which helped rehabilitate streets quicker.

Next year, it will be easier for residents to help maintain all of our key infrastructure via a new smart phone app that allows you to report (and submit a picture of) a pothole or needed repair. The software will automatically route the problem to the right department and the sender can monitor our progress.

Public Safety: Maplewood's Police Department saw a big change in 2017 when Chief Paul Schnell resigned and Columbia Heights Chief Scott Nadeau replaced him as Public Safety Director. Chief Nadeau brings a significant record of accomplishment from his prior department, which served an extremely diverse community, with a large Somali and Hispanic population.

In just his first four months, Chief Nadeau has made a strong push for broader community policing and problem solving strategies in the field.

In an initiative started under Chief Schnell and supported by Chief Nadeau, the police department hired two new officers from diverse backgrounds through the Pathways to Policing program, which sought out desirable non-traditional law enforcement candidates who could assist our police in better reflecting the community they served.

- *Continued on page 4*

Cont. from pg 3 - Maplewood's 2017 Accomplishments

At the end of 2017, members of the department will have completed the first department-wide strategic plan. One of its main goals is for our department members to reach out to different groups, especially those who have not historically been involved with police or have had negative interactions with police. The strategy engages people in relaxed settings to develop partnerships and community connections that more efficiently address public safety.

Other goals aim to train beyond the basics, especially in the area of de-escalation, assure officer accountability, and improve our officers' wellness.

The Maplewood Fire Department continues offering programs to keep seniors safe and in their communities. In 2018, the department will work on ensuring fiscal sustainability as it serves more residents in need of emergency medical care.

Financial Management and Administration: For the first time in 2017, the Finance Department prepared long-term financial plans for all major city funds, which incorporate the city's 10-year debt schedules, capital improvement plan and operating projections. The city is also working on a debt reduction strategy.

In 2018 the Finance Department will implement new investment management software for more efficient tracking and improved yields and will continue an aggressive plan to convert existing paper records to an electronic format.

The city is also preparing for a wave of retirements in the coming years, with expected openings for up to half of our supervisory positions. We're proactively identifying the next generation of leaders and implementing a professional development track to prepare them for a new role. This will ensure the city continues delivering high quality services through this transition.

Finally, the city has expanded its communications division to provide more timely and relevant city news and information to residents, businesses and visitors. A new emphasis on social media and videos will complement our traditional publications to ensure we're reaching all residents in a format most convenient to them.

On behalf of the entire city staff, it has been an honor serving you and we look forward to making Maplewood an even more vibrant place to live, work, and play in the year ahead.

Holiday Package Delivery

Depending on the estimate, thieves steal anywhere from 11 million to 23 million packages a year. These "porch pirates," as one report calls them, tend to trail delivery trucks looking to strike.

What to do:

- Have packages delivered to your work, a friend or neighbor who is generally at home.
- Ask a neighbor to look out for expected deliveries.
- Request that you receive an email and require a signature when the package is delivered.

For additional alerts on specific thefts or crime follow the Maplewood Police on Twitter or our Facebook Page.



Residential Christmas Trees Collection

Residents with trash service through the Maplewood Trash Plan are eligible for one free Christmas tree pick up. Natural trees will be collected by Republic Services the weeks of January 8 & 15. Remove ornaments and lights and place your tree at the curb on your trash collection day. Do not wrap the tree in a plastic bag. Contact Republic Services for more information at (651) 455-8634 or visit www.maplewoodmn.gov/trash.

Recycle Your Holiday Lights

The City of Maplewood is collecting broken, old, or unneeded holiday lights.

December 16 through the end of January

Drop off sites:

- Maplewood Community Center (lower level east entrance)
- Public Works (1902 County Road B East)
- City Hall (1830 County Road B East)

For more information, call (651) 249-2305 or email chris.swanson@maplewoodmn.gov.

Brewing Better Police Community Relations

by Sgts. Joe Steiner and Daniel Busack, Maplewood Police Department



Since the summer, our officers have been holding Coffee with a Cop sessions throughout Maplewood, meeting a diverse range of citizens in a relaxed non-enforcement setting. The goal is to create positive connections with officers and police leaders to build broad community trust.

While all of the events are important and valuable, our October meeting with the Muslim community at the Assalam Mosque was particularly significant. It was timely because an August bombing at a Bloomington mosque had put the community on edge. This meeting created an opportunity for the police and fire departments to meet informally with leaders for a conversation over our collective needs and wants. For some of us, the Mosque event also provided a chance to meet with young people and

understand their views on a wide range of topics.

Ideally, we don't want our first meeting or interaction with any community to come during crisis or after a critical incident. Developing a positive relationship on the front end helps avert, mitigate, or deal with community issues more smoothly.

In November, we kicked off a Coffee with a Cop series at the YMCA's ForeverWell program. It provided a chance to meet with 50 seniors in a discussion on protecting yourself from financial scams. We'll continue these Coffee with a Cop meetings the second Wednesday of each month and have a new public safety topic relevant to them.

Events at the Caribou on White Bear Ave and the new Tim Horton's on Rice Street gave us a chance to meet people on their everyday travels. Some folks came specifically to talk about policing issues. Others stumbled upon the meeting. Either way, it was a success because we had great conversations about policing and other topics with people from all backgrounds. It gave the community an opportunity to see a different side of Police Officers, which humanizes us. We'll be meeting at Tim Hortons every other month.

If you want to host Coffee with a Cop, contact Lt. Kerry Crotty (Kerry.Crotty@maplewoodmn.gov) at (651) 249-2605.

JAM THE GYM

KIDS IN GRADES K-5

PARENTS DROP OFF THE KIDS AND ENJOY A NIGHT OUT!

FRIDAYS • 6PM - 8PM

DEC 15 • FEB 16 • APR 13 • MAY 18

At Carver Community Gym

2680 Upper Afton Road
\$5.00 per Child
Concessions available for purchase

FLOOR HOCKEY • BASKETBALL
VOLLEYBALL • JUMP CASTLE • ACTIVITIES
MUSIC • GAMES

THESE EVENTS ARE DROP-IN PROGRAMS. NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED. CALL 651.249.2121 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Holiday Tea

at the

Bruentrup Heritage Farm

2170 East County Road D,
Maplewood

Sat. January 6, 2018

Seatings at 11:30am & 2:30pm

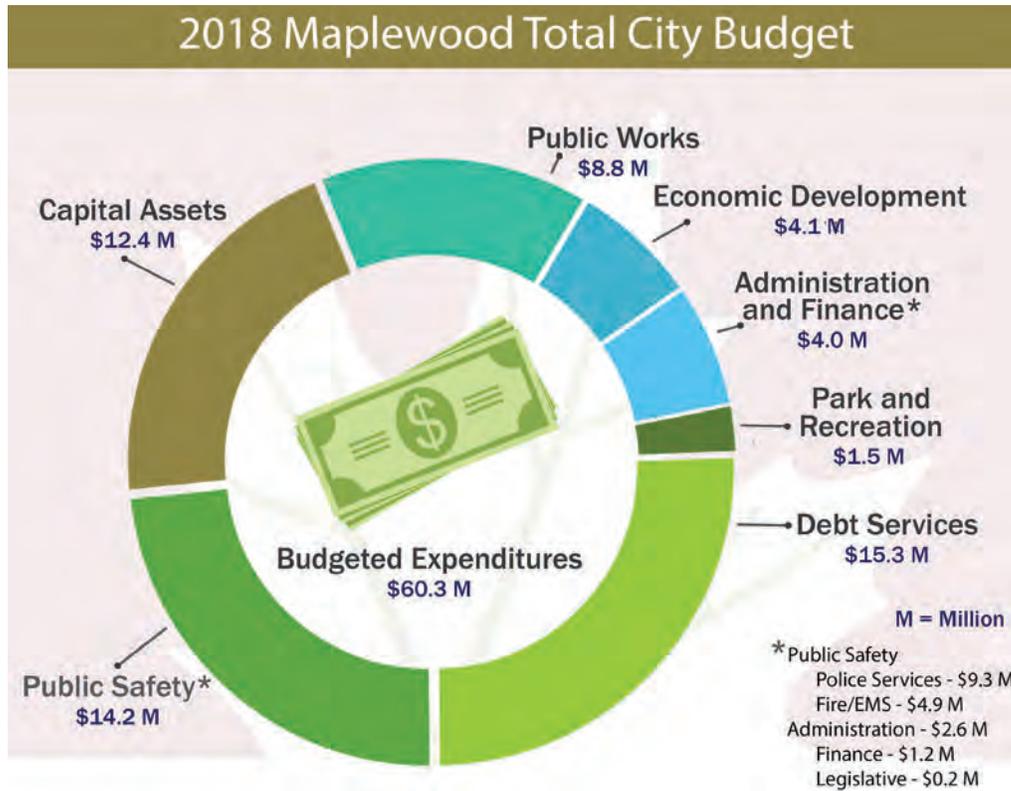
Theme: Ugly Sweaters!
Wear your ugliest sweater.

Tickets \$35

online at: MaplewoodHistoricalSociety.org
select- "Event Tickets & Merchandise"

Questions- Call Raydelle: 651-426-4718

Cont. from cover - Truth in Taxation Public Hearing



The property tax levy supports total budgeted expenditures in the amount of \$60,376,232, as shown in the pie chart to the left.

Impact of the Proposed Budget on Property Taxes

The proposed 3.5% increase in the city levy will have an estimated 1.9% impact on city property taxes, or about \$17 per year for the median valued home. The median value home in Maplewood is \$209,600. Tax estimates for Maplewood property owners with homes valued at various levels are shown in the graph below.

Tax Estimates for Maplewood Property Owners

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%

Your Total Tax Bill

City taxes account for approximately 32% of the total tax bill. The property tax bill also includes taxes for the county, school district, and special districts. The following example approximates the distribution of a typical Maplewood tax bill for a home located in School District #622 last year:

For more information email: ellen.paulseth@maplewoodmn.gov.



Sowing Cultural Awareness and Sustainability

By Joe Sheeran, Communications Manager

Ingredients for growing a more connected community sprouted this season in the Edgerton Community Garden plots. Tomatillos, mustard greens, cilantro, and amaranth were among many of the unique foods representing the cultures of the folks gardening there. Using the plots to explore our diversity is just one of the many benefits they provide.

In a highly urbanized area, the Edgerton Community Garden supplies an oasis for people wanting to grow fresh foods in a sustainable and organic manner. With a significant waiting list for the 2017 planting season, the city added seven raised beds toward the end of the season. Beds allow for more concentrated gardening, getting the most out of the available space.

While the season wrapped up at the end of October, the growing wasn't over -- metaphorically. To prepare the plots for the winter, Maplewood's Nature Center staff teamed up with a biology class from Century College. Students learned about organic gardening and building community through food supplies while winterizing the area. In their lab reports on the project, students made the following conclusions about what they learned:

"Having gardens provides a richer view of the area with different cultures and ideas shown in the gardening styles. Gardening is not just a hobby to grow a community, but also to protect the world."

"I learned that you don't have to use chemicals to prevent weeds. Instead, you can use the effective and efficient method of smothering to safely prevent weeds from growing in your garden."

"Although we weren't really able to see the results of what we did [sic], when spring comes the results will show. It was a fun day and a great learning experience."

"I had a positive experience helping at the Edgerton Community Garden; it's a beautiful place. I understood why we were doing the tasks we did. I hope others appreciate our work as well and that it makes a difference to them and the crops they grow at the garden for years to come."

Thanks to the Century College biology class and city staff who helped ensure the garden's success.



SENIOR HIGH REC BASKETBALL LEAGUE SUNDAYS, JANUARY 7 - MARCH 4

Maplewood Parks & Recreation and White Bear Lake Community Services & Recreation is offering a SENIOR HIGH REC BASKETBALL LEAGUE. This league is available to BOYS and GIRLS in two different divisions: Grades 9/10 and Grades 11/12. Games are played during Sunday afternoon/early evening. REGISTRATION FEE: \$575.00. For more information call Neil Breneman (651) 249-2204. Registration Deadline: December 19



City of Maplewood

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

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2018 Trash and Recycling Collection Rates

The City of Maplewood recently extended its residential trash (Republic Services) and recycling (Tennis Sanitation) contracts until 2020. To keep up with inflation and hauling and disposal costs there is a slight rise in the rates as shown in the chart below.

Total Monthly Trash Hauling Rates				
(\$0.81 cart fee and disposal fee and includes all taxes - 9.75% county and 28% state)				
Amount of Change				
Cart Size (gal.)	2016	2017	2018	(2017 to 2018)
20 (every other week)	\$6.70	\$6.61	\$7.01	Increase \$0.40
20 (every week)	\$9.12	\$8.99	\$9.54	Increase \$0.55
32 (every week)	\$10.44	\$10.32	\$11.03	Increase \$0.71
65 (every week)	\$11.73	\$11.61	\$12.50	Increase \$0.89
95 (every week)	\$13.19	\$13.07	\$14.14	Increase \$1.07
Monthly Recycling Rates				
Every Week Service	\$3.26	\$3.26	\$3.43	Increase \$0.17

The new rates go into effect January 1st, 2018. For questions regarding your trash service, contact Republic Services at (651) 455-8634 or visit www.maplewoodmn.gov/trash. For questions regarding your recycling service, contact Tennis Sanitation at (651) 459-1887 or visit www.maplewoodmn.gov/recycling. For general solid waste information contact City of Maplewood at (651) 249-2305 or visit the City's solid waste webpage at www.maplewoodmn.gov/solidwaste.

Breakfast With Santa & Friends

Hosted by the
Maplewood Area Historical Society
At the Bruentrup Heritage Farm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

Reserved seatings at
9:00, 10:00, 11:00, & 12:00

Purchase tickets online at
www.MaplewoodHistoricalSociety.org

ADMISSION
\$10.00 per person
children 2 & under \$1.00

TICKETS Include:
Full pancake breakfast and art and crafts.

2170 East County Road D, Maplewood
For more information call (651)748-8645

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& upgrade
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\$20,000	\$308.00
\$25,000	\$385.00

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