CITY'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

MAPLEWOOD LIVING

January 2018

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Ice Rinks Open: Pg 4

What do you want Maplewood to look like in 2040?

By Michael Martin, Economic Development Coordinator

How do we make Maplewood a great place to live?

What do businesses need to thrive?

How do we best protect our natural and historic resources?

These are just a few of the questions the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, currently under development, seeks to address as our community evolves over the next 20 years. In total, the plan will include recommendations in the areas of land use, housing, economic development, natural resources, parks and trails, historic resources, sustainability, transportation, and infrastructure.

The plan also will include strategies in all of these topic areas to ensure the City is a leader in addressing equity, health, and resilience to ensure Maplewood is an attractive place to live, work, shop, and recreate throughout all stages of people's lives.

Community feedback has been positive. The City is committed to proactively ensuring future public and private investment initiatives help us achieve the high quality of life the community expects. Some examples identified include: long-term planning for the Maplewood Mall area, allowing a mix of uses in aging commercial nodes to support reinvestment, trail and sidewalk construction to address gaps and safety issues, and park reinvestment.

We still are seeking the public's help to ensure the recommendations in the plan address the needs of the community today and into the future. Community members are invited to learn more about the 2040 Comprehensive Plan by reviewing plan highlights or individual plan chapters at the City's website at maplewoodmn.gov/2040. Input on the recommendations can be provided electronically through the online survey or by sending comments to 2040@maplewoodmn.gov or by calling (651) 249-2040.

The City will also hold two open houses in January where attendees will learn about the Comprehensive Plan, review the key recommendations in each topic area, and provide feedback. Attendees will have the opportunity to arrive when their schedule permits and focus on boards in their area of interest. City Staff and consultants will be available to answer questions.

OPEN HOUSES

Jan 25, 2018, 6:30 pm at
Carver Elementary School
2680 Upper Afton Road

Jan 30, 2018, 6:30 pm at
Maplewood Community Center
2100 White Bear Avenue

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.

City on Right Path for Growth and Economic Development

Mayor Nora Slawik will lay out the City's bold vision for 2018 and recount its 2017 accomplishments in her annual State of the City address this month. One of the many 2017 bright spots comes from a Business Engagement Survey of 25 legacy and growing organizations and companies that say Maplewood is a good place to operate. This outreach initiative will continue into 2018.

The luncheon will also feature Angelia Millender, Century College President. She'll address higher education's rapid evolution and collaboration to meet business demands.

Three Maplewood businesses will be honored for their work in the areas of entrepreneurship, sustainability, and community contributions.

Congratulations to our 2018 State of Maplewood Awardees: Premier Bank, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, and Maplewood YMCA.

Special thanks to the following State of Maplewood Luncheon sponsors:

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Real People. Real Solutions.

THE Linn COMPANIES

HealthEast Care System

CROOKED PINT ALE HOUSE

Wishing You A Happy 2018!

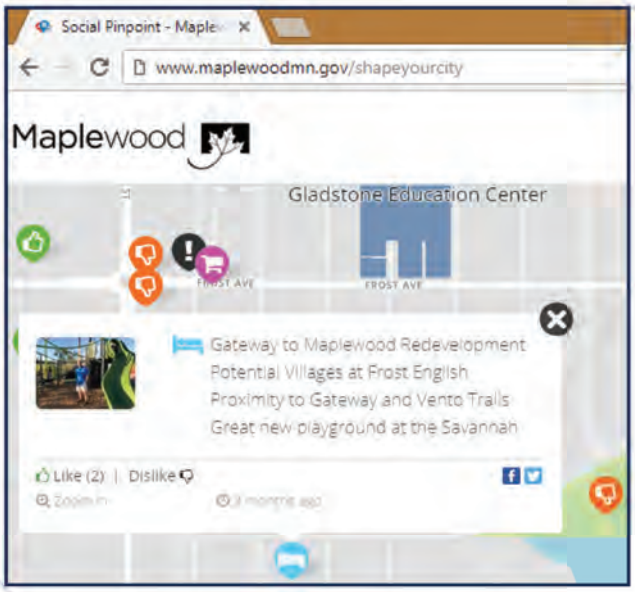
by Nora Slawik, Maplewood Mayor

I'd like to wish all of our residents in Maplewood a very Happy New Year! My New Year's resolution is to make 2018 a great year to live, work, play, shop and dine in Maplewood.

As I am out talking to neighbors at various events, I keep hearing positive comments that our residents are excited about our new businesses. Places like the AT&T Store and Chick-fil-A on White Bear Avenue made their first Maplewood footprints in late 2017. Long-time Maplewood business HealthEast expanded its operation in the city with the Clinic and Specialty Center. Plus we have new housing options. Conifer Ridge opened its first of three new 50-unit apartment buildings this fall and phase two of the Frost English Village – a 107-unit market rate senior building – should be complete in late summer of 2018.

These economic investments confirm what many of our long-time and growing businesses told city and regional development leaders in the 2017 Business Engagement Survey: Maplewood is a good place to operate. We've worked hard to build great relationships with entrepreneurs and corporate leaders. Our City outreach strategy will continue in 2018 as we strive to ensure our residents have exciting and convenient places to live, work, shop and dine in our community.

In 2018, a big focus will be community engagement with our residents and businesses to seek feedback on our 2040 Comprehensive Plan. This plan will guide Maplewood's planning around economic development, housing, natural resources, transportation and other critical community assets over the next 30 years. The dates for the next two meetings are in this month's cover story. You can also go to our website to give us your feedback, at maplewoodmn.gov/2040.



The Comprehensive Plan and our Strategic Priorities focus on ensuring Maplewood is an inclusive community, especially when it comes to housing needs. The City has established a racial equity working group among the staff and is ramping up our community engagement. One example is the Wakefield on Wednesday (WOW) events, which provide residents, council members and other city leaders a chance to talk in a fun, relaxed setting to discuss what's going on. We're also working on ways to build a city staff that reflects Maplewood's diversity. In 2017, our police department collaborated with several other metropolitan law enforcement agencies on the Pathways to Policing program, which is geared toward attracting non-traditional candidates to the profession. Through the program, Maplewood hired two female officers with diverse backgrounds.

Maplewood city staff and the police department are also coordinating with our local schools to ensure we're addressing the needs of all students, especially those from diverse backgrounds and cultures.

Better communication with the community:
Our Council and staff are working to better communicate with residents. In 2017, the city expanded the communications division to include a digital media specialist and hired a new communications manager.

The team has hit the ground running, producing a number of videos featuring residents, introducing our staff to the community and better explaining what we're doing as a city.

The city is also introducing technology in our Public Works Department that will allow you to report needed community repairs – like pot holes and utility issues – in real-time through your smart phone. The Planning Department's new software will allow you to more efficiently apply for and receive permits for building and home improvement projects.

2018 opens with promise for Maplewood. As your Mayor please let me know how I can help improve our city. I have appreciated the many calls with questions about roads, business openings and a variety of other matters. Together, we can make Maplewood a fantastic city to live, work, play, shop, and dine!

Winter Skating Rinks & Warming Houses

Maplewood maintains ten skating rinks throughout the city, four of which have supervised warming houses. Warming houses will not be open when temperatures are -10° or the wind chill reaches -20°. Warming houses will also be closed until the rinks are cleared following snow, and when warm temperatures soften the ice. Call the hotline for closure details: (651) 249-2190.

Warming houses are scheduled to be open December 26 - February 11 (weather permitting). Warming houses will be closed December 31 and January 1.

Warming House Hours:
Monday - Friday, 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Saturday and Sunday, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Rink Locations:
Afton Heights (WARMING HOUSE) • 63 N Sterling Street
Four Seasons (WARMING HOUSE) • 1685 Gervais Avenue
Gethsemane (WARMING HOUSE) • 2401 E 7th Street
Wakefield (WARMING HOUSE) • 1590 Frost Avenue
Edgerton • 2001 Bradley Street
Harvest • 2561 Barclay Street
Kohlman • 1000 County Road C
Maplecrest • 2101 Arcade Street
Playcrest • 2390 Lydia Avenue
Pleasantview • 1100 Marnie Street

Conversations With Constituents

My Vote Counts! And So Does My Voice

Making Your Voice Heard!

Open to the Public

Officials invited: Mayors: of Maplewood, Roseville, Little Canada, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale; County Commissioners: Blake Huffman, Mary Jo McGuire, Victoria Reinhardt, Janice Rettman; State Legislators: Jason Isaacson (Senate 42), Jamie Becker-Finn (House 42B), Chuck Wiger (Senate 43), Peter Fischer (House 43A), Leon Little (House 43B), John Marty (Senate 66), Alice Hausman (House 66A)

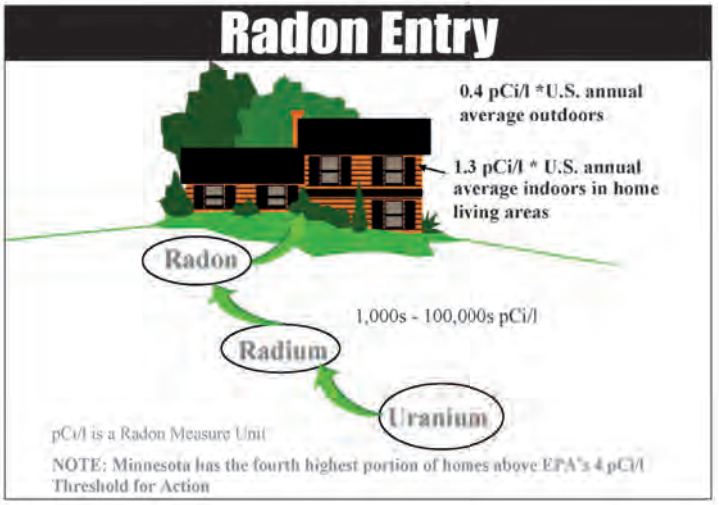
Tuesday, January 23
6:30 Meet & Greet
Program: 7:00 – 8:30
Maplewood City Hall (1830 Co. Rd. B East)

LWV League of Women Voters ROSEVILLE AREA
Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Little Canada, Maplewood, Roseville
lwvrosevilleareo.org

JANUARY IS NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH

Test Your Home. Protect Your Health.

Radon is a cancer-causing, radioactive gas that can be found in homes across the U.S. Minnesota is at especially high risk because of our geology, climate, and housing stock. Radon in homes can present an unhealthy environment. Radon concerns are not dependent upon the age of a home, and it can affect expensive and affordable homes alike, making it an equal opportunity hazard.



The only way to know the radon level in your home is to test. Testing is easy and inexpensive. You can purchase a radon test kit from Ramsey County. A short-term radon test can be conducted in 3 to 7 days, costs $9, and gives you a snapshot of your home's radon level. A long-term radon test can be conducted in 3 to 12 months, costs $20, and gives a seasonal average level of radon.

For more information visit Ramsey County's Healthy Homes webpage at ramseycounty.us/radon or call (651) 266-1199.

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A Glimpse into the Future of Driverless Vehicles

by Steve Love, Public Works Director

As technology advances, autonomous vehicles inch closer to Maplewood streets. In December, MnDOT invited Public Works crews statewide to an autonomous shuttle bus test at its MnROAD facility off of I-94 near Monticello. This shuttle bus can carry 12 passengers, 6 standing and 6 sitting, and has a built in wheelchair ramp. There is no steering wheel or seat for a driver. The vehicle is programed to operate on pre-mapped routes and detects obstacles, such as pedestrians, and then slows down or stops for them if needed. This was one of a few MnDOT tests for operation in cold weather. MnDOT will also conduct demonstrations for the public on Nicollet Mall during Super Bowl week.

There are two Maplewood connections to these developments. First, it's exciting our state's main transportation agency is sharing its knowledge with local road planners for future road engineering and construction. Second, Maplewood-based 3M is part of a group working to improve sensor performance in adverse winter weather conditions: Learn more here http://bit.ly/2oeGLbg.

Should your community become a pioneer for implementing autonomous vehicles?

Join the discussion hosted by the White Bear Area Chamber of Commerce

January 16, 8:00-10:00 am

Maplewood Community Center, 2100 White Bear Ave.

Panelists include: Thea Walsh, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, Sue Mulvihill, MnDOT Chief Engineer, and a Lyft representative.

Admission is free and includes a continental breakfast. **Registration is required at: whitebearchamber.com/events or call Shari at (651) 429-8593.**

Floor Hockey

AT CARVER COMMUNITY GYM

Come learn the basics of floor hockey. This clinic is a great way to fine tune your floor hockey skills just before the floor hockey league gets underway. Learn the basics of passing, shooting, and teamwork through drills and fun mini games. Players will also learn how to play every position.

THURSDAYS, JANUARY 18 - MARCH 8

(No class February 15 & 22) *Clinic T-shirt included

Cost: $55.00

Clinic Times:
Ages 4-6: 5:30PM-6:30PM
Ages 7-9: 6:30PM-7:30PM
Ages 10-12: 7:30PM-8:30PM

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

MAPLEWOOD PARKS & RECREATION

Reduce Your Winter Salt Diet

Here are some facts and tips to protect our waters from over salting:

Shovel early to avoid using salt.

Use traction grit instead.

A 50 pound bag of salt is enough to permanently pollute 10,000 gallons of water.

30% of area water wells have salt concentrations above drinking water standards.

Apply no more than one large coffee mug of salt per 1 1/2 - 2 parking spaces of area.

Renovations Come True at Nature Center

by Ann Hutchinson, Lead Naturalist, Nature Center

Since 1978 the visitor center at the Maplewood Nature Center has been hosting environmental programs for young and old. What do you do with a 40-year-old well-used, well-loved City building? Update it to make it work for today!

This year visitors will notice a change inside the 2,400-square-foot building: the iconic two-step sunken room or "amphitheater" is no longer. "Where's the pit?" is a common question heard as visitors step inside. While it's true a beloved icon has been filled, the touch-and-see room still sports the habitat theme of shallow marsh surrounded by mixed oak woodlands, represented by colorful trees, a crawl-through log, taxidermy owls, songbirds and waterfowl. The level surface and upgraded restrooms improve accessibility so people with mobility difficulties can better enjoy the visitor center and indoor programs.

Energy improvements include a new furnace and venting system, additional insulation, replacing fluorescent lights with LED fixtures, and some new windows. Other interior changes include new paint, carpet, and polished concrete floors instead of laminate tile. The tar and gravel flat roof was replaced with an EDPM membrane (extremely durable synthetic rubber roofing), and a metal roof replaced the former cedar shakes. Wood siding was replaced with maintenance-free cement board siding. Overall, the improvements will reduce maintenance needs and improve the energy efficiency and safety of the building. We hope that you will come to love the renovated building as much as the old, and we invite you to join us this winter for new and old favorite programs!

Nature Center in 1978

Nature Center today following upgrades

Maplewood Approves New Precinct Boundaries

by Deb Schmidt, Citizen Services Supervisor

Changes have been approved to some of the precinct boundaries and polling locations in Maplewood for the 2018 elections. These changes will be in effect when you vote in the August Primary and November General Elections. You may or may not be affected. Realigning precinct boundaries, renumbering precincts and reassigning polling locations were done to allow a consistent distribution of registered voters in the precincts. Some polling locations changes were due to locations no longer being able to host the elections.

Please note your legislative district is unchanged. Maplewood residents are in one of three: 43A, 43B or 53A.

Ramsey County will be mailing blue postcards to all registered voters indicating your polling location for 2018. Most Maplewood voters will have a change from 2016, so be sure to watch for the blue postcard. If you would like to see the changes now, a map with the new precinct boundaries and polling locations is available on the city website at http://bit.ly/2CAps7L.

Community, Police, Firefighters become Anonymous Angels

by Tammy Wylie, Police Department Evidence Technician

The holidays will be a little brighter for more than 50 children in the Maplewood area this season, thanks to a collaboration between our police department, firefighters and community members.

Leading up to the holidays, the Police Department reached out to Maplewood Schools to find out if there were families who needed a little help filling their children's holiday lists. The schools reached out to families for ages, clothing items needed and toys on each child's wish list.

The police department decorated an Angel Tree in City Hall's lobby with special ornaments containing each child's information. People were invited to pull an ornament and purchase the item. While Police and Fire Department staff bought some of the gifts, our community members picked up the majority of items on the wish list.

The Police Department sent the gifts back to the schools to distribute to the parents. The Police Department's wish was to let the parents either hand them out at Christmas from them or from Santa, depending on their beliefs. What's really cool is each child received more than one gift!

Other city staff brightening the holidays

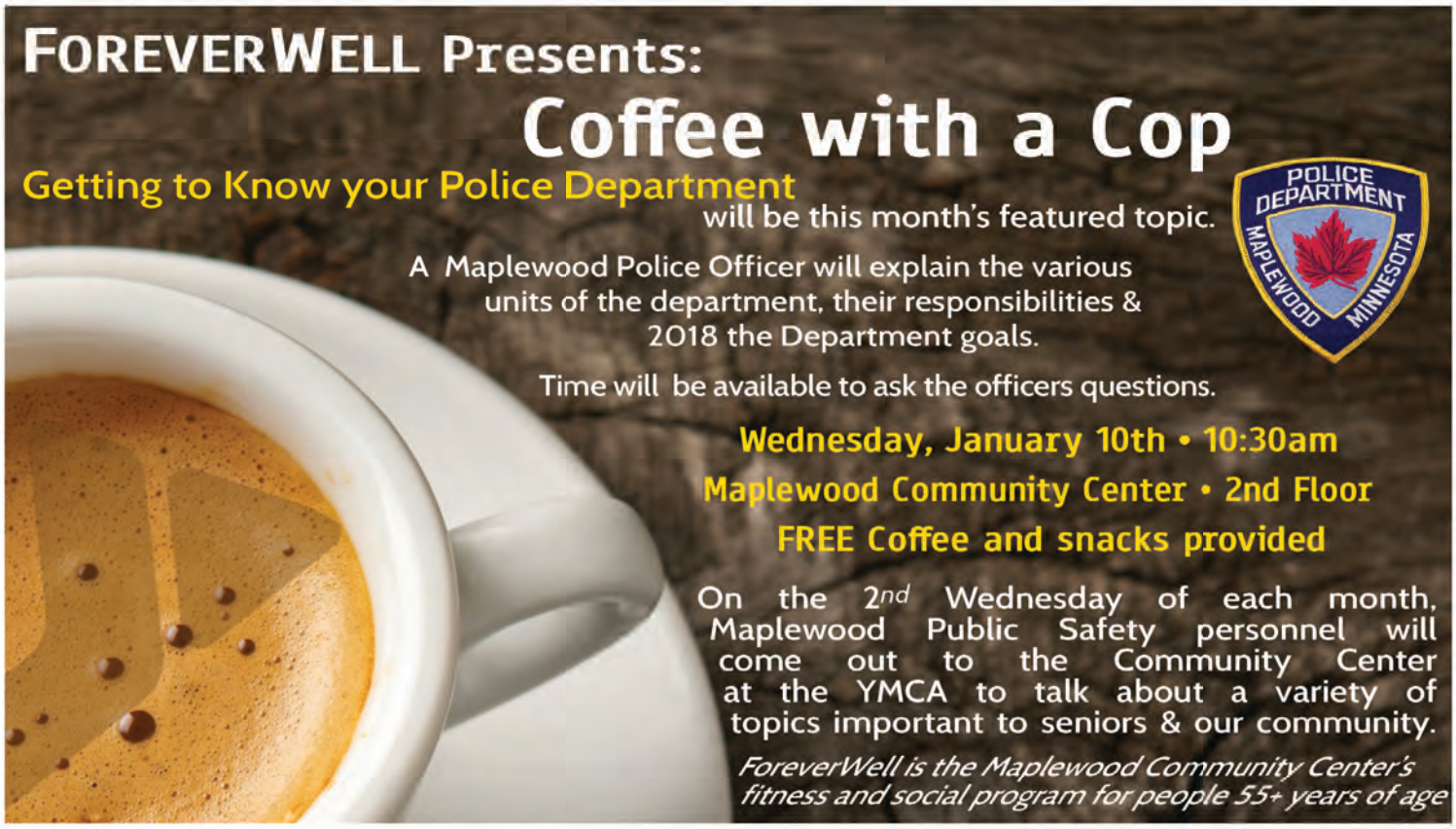
Staff also joined in the City of Maplewood's Partnership with the Salvation Army to assist with their Toy Shop program. It invites underprivileged families to stop in and shop for Christmas gifts for their children. The Twin Cities Salvation Army is one of the largest providers of toys to children who may not otherwise receive gifts. Maplewood's Toy Shop served an estimated 1,000 – 1,200 families this year!

The City's Administration Department shifted its gift exchange to donate money to Second Harvest Heartland. And the Wellness Committee rallied employees to donate several coats for the One Warm Coat Program.

Many of our employees donated food and clothing to St. Jerome School.

Police Department staff helped wrap and deliver gifts for the Angel Tree Program

The Wellness Committee organized a coat drive for the One Warm Coat Program



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www.maplewoodmn.gov

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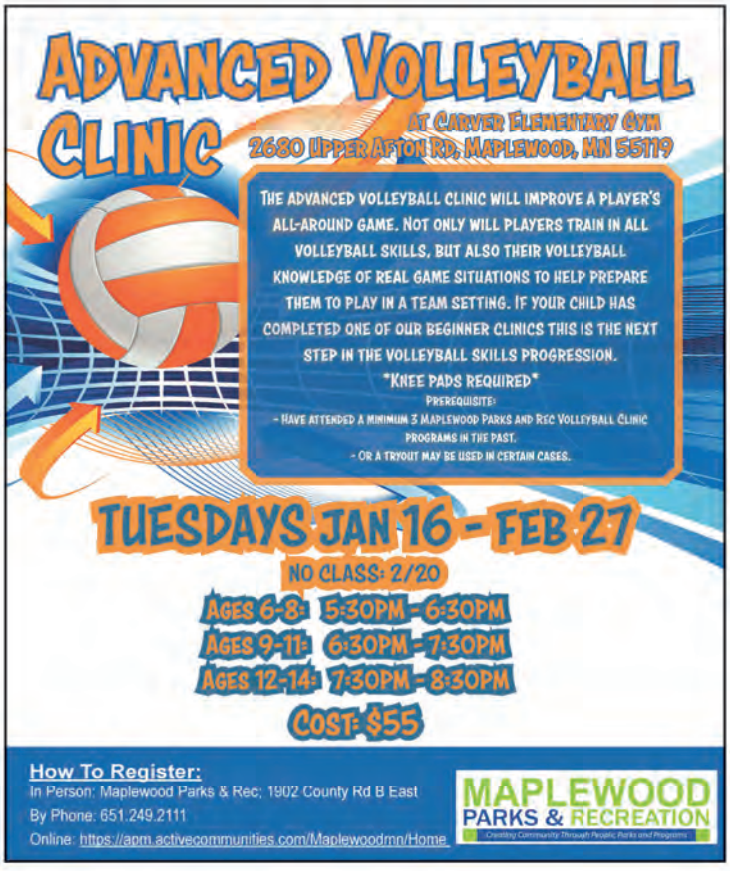
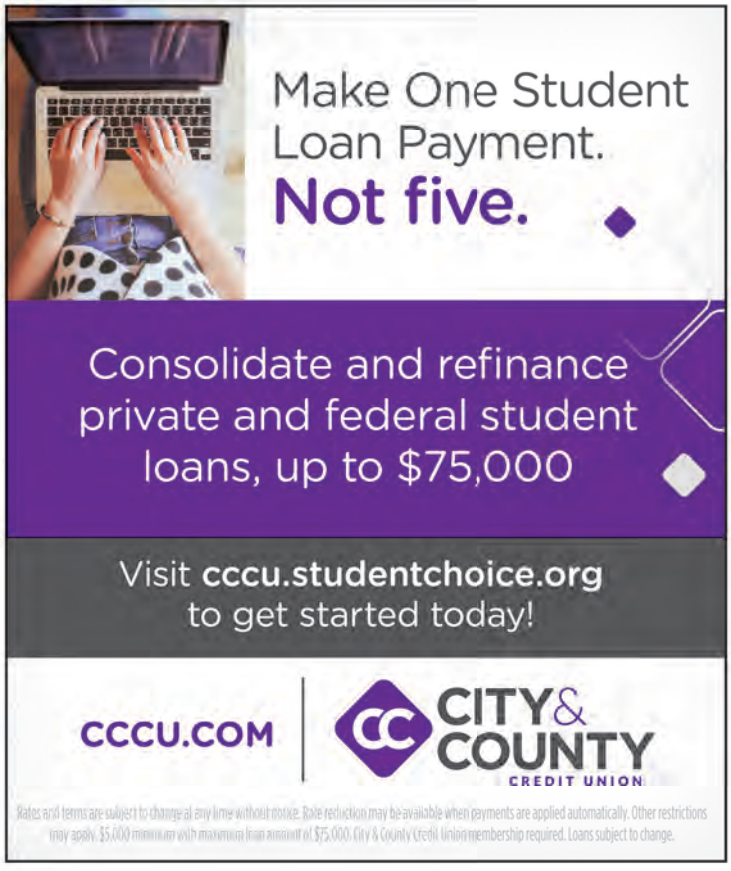
Maplewood Seeking Nominations for Heritage Award

"It's great to live in a community that appreciates historic preservation,"
- Bob Cardinal, Maplewood Heritage Preservation Commission.

The Maplewood Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) invites you to nominate a fellow citizen for the Heritage Award. This award recognizes an individual that has significantly contributed to preservation of Maplewood history or historic sites through research, preservation, or education and outreach.

Nominations due: January 29, 2018 Information and a nomination form is available at: http://bit.ly/2yFke7L. The HPC will review nominations and make a recommendation to City Council. The award will be presented at a City Council meeting in late February or March. Past recipients of the Heritage Award include: George Rossbach (2010), Char Wasiluk (2011), Ann Fosburgh (2012), Bob Jensen (2013), Carolyn Peterson (2014), the Bruentrup Family (2015), and in 2016 Joe Fox, Albert Galbraith and Lois Behm.