

MAPLEWOOD LIVING

June 2018



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Randy Lindblom, a senior engineering technician (left), and **Bryan Nagel**, a Public Works superintendent (right), celebrated 30-year anniversaries with Maplewood. They joined 14 other employees at a May recognition lunch celebrated significant anniversaries, ranging from 10 to 30 years of service.

Funding street repair projects more equitably, fiscally responsible

By Ellen Paulseth, Finance Director, Steve Love, Public Works Director

What's the current condition of Maplewood's streets?

More than a quarter of Maplewood's roads are in immediate need of repair or nearing their life expectancy. Our winters take their toll. Fourteen percent are in fair condition, with reconstruction expected in a decade. Here's the good news, 60% of Maplewood streets are in good to excellent condition.

What's the plan to fix Maplewood streets most in need of repair?

Put simply, the City wants to ensure it has better streets at a lower cost to taxpayers.

Maplewood is embarking on a long-term plan that would allow the City to fund more street repairs. Failing to reconstruct streets as they approach the end of their lifespan decreases the quality of life for residents and property owners. Maplewood is proposing a new street repair funding model, which is more fiscally responsible and equitable. It emphasizes a pay-as-you-go plan and reduces the City's dependence on long-term borrowing. To generate more up-front revenue, the City proposes raising the natural gas and electric franchise fees.

What is a franchise fee?

Utility and cable providers are allowed to run their lines in the public right-of-way. Federal law allows cities to charge these



Notice of Public Hearing

June 25, 2018
7 p.m.

City Council Meeting
Maplewood City Hall

The City of Maplewood is proposing to increase the gas and electric franchise fees to better fund street repairs and lower long-term borrowing costs.

companies for working in the right-of-way. The utility and cable providers often pass these charges on to the customer.

Who pays the fee in Maplewood?

Unlike other funding sources, everyone who pays a gas and/or electric bill from a utility company is charged a franchise fee in their monthly statement. This helps ensure that everyone is helping keep our City's streets in good condition.

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



To advertise in this newsletter call Joe Sheeran at (651) 249-2061 or email joe.sheeran@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.

Recreational Fire Safety

- 3'x3'x3' burning area using clean, dry wood
- 25 feet from structures
- Near a water source
- Supervised at all times
- Burned between 10am - 11pm
- Burning trash or yard waste is prohibited

YOUTH SOCCER

at Hazelwood Park

Partnership with NEU (USSF and US National Youth Soccer licensed coaches)

Co-Ed Fall Soccer League

Saturday Games ~ September 8 - October 13, 9am-12pm

COST: \$65.00
Reg. Deadline: Aug. 1

- One practice and one game per week
- Boys & Girls • U9/10 (2008 to 2009) • U11/12 (2006 to 2007)
- An adult volunteer coach is needed for each team (coaching clinics provided)
- Weekly training sessions led by NEU coaches to work with teams or answer questions

Fall Soccer Starter Clinic

Monday OR Wednesday, September 10 - October 17, Hazelwood Field 1

COST: \$65.00
Reg. Deadline: Aug. 24

- Co-Rec, with kids split between Mondays & Wednesdays
- 3V3 Format ~ AGE 4, 6:00pm - 7:00pm • AGES 5-6, 6:00pm - 7:00pm
- 4V4 Format ~ AGES 7-9, 7:15pm - 8:15pm
- Sessions are a combination of skill development and game play
- An adult volunteer coach is needed for each team, NEU coaches will work with teams / provide instruction

Simplify Your Student Loans.

Making multiple student loan payments each month?

Refinance your loans into one student loan with one low rate at City & County.

Apply online at ccu.studentchoice.org

CCCU.COM | **CITY & COUNTY CREDIT UNION**

By refinancing federal student loans, you may lose certain borrower benefits from your original loans, including interest rate discounts, principal rebates, or some cancellation benefits that can significantly reduce the cost of repaying your loans. Rates and terms are subject to change at any time without notice. Rate reduction may be available when payments are applied automatically. Other restrictions may apply. \$5,000 minimum with maximum loan amount of \$75,000. City & County Credit Union membership required.

Three Easy Ways to Register

- In Person: Maplewood Parks & Rec, 1902 Count Road B East
 By Phone: 651.249.2111
 Online: <https://apm.activecommunities.com/Maplewoodmn/Home>

MAPLEWOOD PARKS & RECREATION
 City Center • 1902 Count Road B East



Community-based solutions to improving Maplewood's government

By Melinda Coleman, City Manager

When you're helping lead a City government serving 40,000 community members and thousands more workers and visitors, a lot of people want to contribute to the policy debate.

While business leaders, civic groups and other organizations provide a valuable voice, sometimes you just want to hear what everyday citizens think.

When I first heard of the Minnesota Community Assembly, I was intrigued by what it set out to accomplish – get two dozen or so average community members from diverse backgrounds in a room, provide a primer to local government, and through discussion and debate have them devise a set of recommendations for local leaders to improve government.

Through a grant, Hamline University Professor David Shultz piloted the initiative in Red Wing, Wilmar and Brooklyn Park. I reached out to see if there was interest in a Maplewood Assembly. By design, host cities have nothing to do with running the event. Council members and most city staff were barred from participating or even attending our two-day session. My only role was to provide a brief overview on Maplewood and its departments. Council and staffers were invited to hear the group's proposals for the last hour of the session.

Here's is my disclaimer: *These ideas were generated by everyday Maplewood citizens, not City staff or council. Some ideas the City has implemented or is working toward in some form, others are worth exploring, and a few would need more discussion and refining before consideration by the Maplewood staff and City Council.*

Sustainability:

- Provide children/schools land and resources to grow fresh foods
- Provide forgivable loans to average- and low-income residents to install solar and other energy upgrades in their homes



- Establish a green mini-bus system to transport seniors
- Consider long-term savings when evaluating City projects that improve sustainability

Building Trust:

- Establish geographic Council districts
- Establish liaisons to City Hall in each of Maplewood's 13 neighborhoods

Participation:

- City Hall open houses/tours
- More general listening sessions/meet-and-greets with city's frontline staff
- New resident welcome packets
- More frequent social media reminders of city events and meetings

Equity:

- Re-launch/create welcome committee for new residents and businesses
- Provide more about Maplewood history
- Provide more information about recreational and engagement opportunities
- Help boost business opportunities, especially for small and minority companies

Transparency:

- Create "Night Out Events" for departments in addition to Police and Fire
- Allow more citizen input in Maplewood Living newsletter
- More citizen review of overall policies and day-to-day work

Strategic Vision: Annex neighbors

- Look for efficiencies in services and municipal labor talent
- Help City grow and establish more re-development opportunities
- Consider opportunities and decisions with passion and emotion aside

On behalf of City Council, I'd like to thank those who dedicated a beautiful April weekend to listening and thinking about ways to improve Maplewood. I appreciate their passion, time and input. I'd also like to thank Hamline University, Professor Schultz and their partner The Wilder Foundation, who facilitated the discussion.

How much would this cost me?

Under the proposal, a residential rate payer will likely see the franchise rise a total of \$2.25/month (Gas (\$0.50) + Electric (\$1.75)) as of October 2018.

Why use franchise fees?

Money collected through franchise fees will go directly to funding street improvement. This money will decrease the overall amount of money that the City would need to borrow to fund projects. Cutting long-term borrowing costs ensures your dollars pay for more street repairs and other city services rather than interest payments to lenders.

Why is Maplewood changing its street repair financing plan?

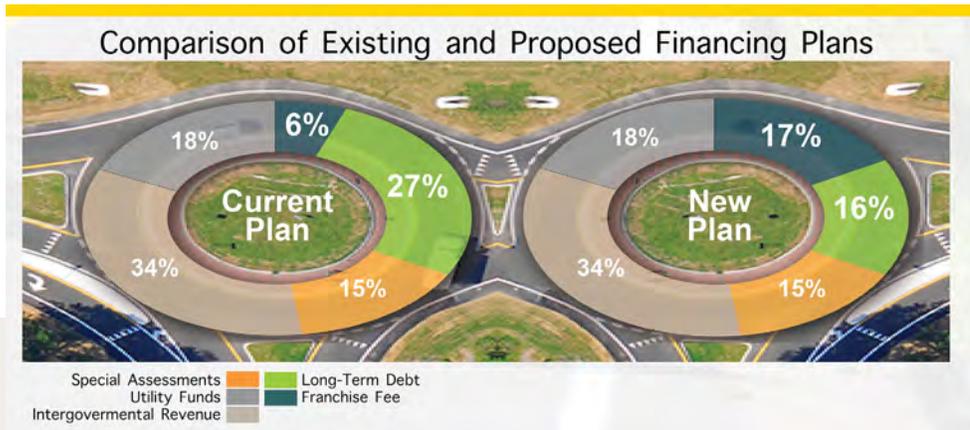
City Council requested staff study the City's street inventory and recommended methods to finance improvements. The study indicated that the City's current level of borrowing for street repairs was unsustainable and would result in a higher than desired level of outstanding debt, especially as long-term borrowing costs are beginning to rise. Staff ultimately recommended an adjustment to the current franchise fees as a mechanism to help fund needed street improvements while reducing the City debt level. This increase will help provide a solid and sustainable foundation for funding street improvement projects.



Council Chamber Remodel Completed

After 15 years, Maplewood's City Council Chamber underwent a basic facelift, giving it a modern look and feel. Crews also made basic A/V improvements, such as mounting larger display screens in more prominent places for public viewing and installing acoustic tiles for better listening.

This was part of an overall City Hall renovation to improve lobby access for members of the public doing business at the City. We thank you for your patience during construction.



Smart financial management, robust city economy lead to high marks from rating agency

For 2018 street improvements, Wakefield Park construction and other projects, the City will be borrowing at some of the best rates on the market, thanks to S&P Global Ratings affirming the AA+ rating with a stable outlook. That is one notch below AAA.

The AA+ rating reflects, in part, S&P's opinion of Maplewood's:

- Strong economy, with access to a broad and diverse metropolitan statistical area (MSA);
- Very strong management, with sound financial policies and practices under S&P's Financial Management Assessment (FMA) methodology;

- Strong budgetary performance, with a slight operating deficit in the general fund but an operating surplus at the total-governmental-fund level in fiscal 2016;
- Very strong liquidity, with total government available cash at 76.5% of total-governmental-fund expenditures and 2x governmental debt service, and access to external liquidity considered strong.

S&P upgraded Maplewood's financial management assessment from good to strong because the city has adopted a formal debt management policy that is more restrictive than state law and limitations.



Other reasons, in part, include management's:

- Realistic and well-grounded assumptions about the annual budget;
- Monthly monitoring of budget-to-actual performance;
- 10-year financial forecast that projects out general fund revenue, expenditures, and assumptions;
- Formal debt-management policy that is more restrictive than state law and limitations.

The full report is available on the city's website.



Who are we?

By Tou Xiong

Diverse, connected, centrally located. These are just some of the many words and phrases we've heard people use to describe Maplewood. They came up in a recent brainstorming session city council held with department heads during our annual retreat, which focused on branding and communication.

In that discussion, we identified other descriptions of our city that some community members might not be so quick to embrace, such as perceptions around the quality of our schools, housing stock and safety.

Overall, as a recent community survey shows, Maplewood is a great place to live and raise a family. It's relatively safe with a high quality of life. But as we examine the image of our city, especially as we position it to grow and attract new residents, we must understand what's driving some of these perceptions. In many cases, we need to correct the record. For example, our Winter 2018 community survey shows 90% of respondents report they feel safe in their neighborhood and 85% feel safe in commercial areas.

In some cases, we need to highlight the positive aspects from perceived challenges. Yes, Maplewood's housing stock is older. But with most metro-area starter homes unaffordable to young working families, they can find value in a similar house here in Maplewood.

When it comes to our schools, the North St Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale District has a diverse learning community. They have engaged, dedicated teachers and a strong, forward-thinking superintendent. In the last school year, more than 65% of seniors completed college credit courses, saving families \$1.26 million in higher education tuition. Both high schools have state-of-the-art, hands-on STEM education facilities. The district's elementary assessment growth outpaced several neighboring districts. For the second straight year, Carver Elementary has won the Minnesota's Future Award from the Minnesota Business Partnership. This is a school that came back from being on the "No Child Left Behind" watch list.

As Maplewood positions itself as a place for young families, we are also working to ensure our long-time community members have resources to age in place. The City has forged strong bonds with health care providers, such as Health East and St. Johns. It's repositioned the Fire Department's EMS unit to better respond for the projected increase in medical calls.

There's still a lot of work to do as we strive to ensure the rest of the region knows what a great place Maplewood is. But the City now has a great team in place to carry out the operational and communications mission.

Celebrate the Gateway!

Explore the vision for the Rice-Larpenteur Corridor

Rice-Larpenteur Gateway Celebration

- Interactive stations at the corners of Rice Street and Larpenteur Avenue within each city
- A chance to view the short and long-term vision plans for the Rice-Larpenteur Corridor
- Participation from local businesses
- Kids games and activities
- Treats
- Crossing guards on hand to help you safely navigate the celebration

Thursday | June 7, 2018
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

1700 Rice Street (Maplewood)
1685 Rice Street (Roseville) ■ 1641 Rice Street (St. Paul)



For more information and to view the corridor visioning plan visit www.riceandlarpenteur.com

Dairy Day Ice Cream Social

at the
Bruentrup Heritage Farm
2170 East County Road D



Tue. June 19
4-8pm

Food available for purchase



105th Annual Ramsey County Fair

A longstanding tradition!

July 11-15, 2018

County fairs have been a longstanding tradition, especially in rural areas. While most of the east metro area has shifted from its agrarian roots, the Ramsey County Fair is still a significant part of our community's cultural identity. We're excited to celebrate this 105-year tradition this July 11-15th.

The Ramsey County Fair has worked hard to ensure food vendors and amusements are affordable for families to come and celebrate with their neighbors.

There is something for everyone at the fair -- music, entertainment, food, rides, 4H displays, arts and crafts exhibits and much, much more!

For more information on any events, contests or schedules visit the Ramsey County Fair website at www.ramseycountyfair.org. We'll see you at the fair!



Fire, police, community leaders team up for a safer biking summer

It's always a relief when last year's bike helmet still fits and your child's knees aren't bumping the handle bars. For that extra assurance, dozens of parents and children came out to Maplewood Public Safety Department's annual Bike Rodeo to see just how well the helmets fit and how road-worthy their bikes were.



70
Completed bike rodeo & safety checks

36
Helmets given away

3
Child vehicle booster seats donated

207
Hotdogs served

On behalf of the public safety team, EMS Chief Michael Mondor wants to thank Regions Hospital, Weaver Elementary School and Strauss Skates and Bicycles for their efforts at the rodeo to help ensure a safe summer for Maplewood kids.

CELEBRATE SUMMER FREE FAMILY EVENTS!

TOUCH A TRUCK

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18

6:00PM - 7:30PM @ YMCA/MCC

- Fire Trucks
- Police Cars
- Giant City Trucks
- Ambulance
- Bounce Castle
- Kid City Booth
- 3M Visiting Wizards
- Nature Center Activities
- & Much More!!



FREE Hot Dog, Chips, & Water at BOTH events!

Summer Fun

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22

6:00PM - 7:30PM EDGERTON PARK

- GAMES
- INFLATABLES
- KID CITY LAUGH-IN
- 3M VISITING WIZARDS
- NATURE CENTER ACTIVITIES
- & MUCH MORE!!

MAPLEWOOD PARKS & RECREATION
Creating Community Through People, Parks and Programs



CITY OF MAPLEWOOD
KID CITY

2018

Light It Up Maplewood! July 4th 4-10 PM at Hazelwood Park

1663 County Road C

Hosted by:



New
for 2018

Traditional Family Favorites

Food trucks

Face painting

\$3 Wristbands for giant inflatables: 4pm-dusk

Adult beverages

Music by Good for Gary

Fireworks show at 10:00pm



**Adult Bean Bag
Tournament (18+)**

4:30 pm start

Two-person teams

Call (651) 249-2111 to get
registered by 6/21/18.

No coolers allowed in park



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 www.maplewoodmn.gov

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HOST A PARTY REGISTER NOW!

Questions? Call 651-249-2600
bit.ly/nno2018

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7TH

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
 35TH ANNIVERSARY
 2018
 POLICE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

FOREVERWELL Presents:
Coffee with a Cop

“Remembering When: A Fall and Fire Prevention Program”



This program is designed to help people succeed by remaining in their home free from fall and fire related injuries.

Wednesday, June 13th • 10:30am
Maplewood Community Center • 2nd Floor
FREE Coffee and snacks provided

On the second Wednesday of each month, Maplewood Public Safety personnel will come out to the Community Center at the YMCA to talk about a variety of topics important to seniors & our community.

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

