CITY'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

MAPLEWOOD LIVING

JANUARY 2019

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Thank you for the privilege of serving

By Mayor Nora Slawik

On a Saturday night in mid-December, I received a call I believe validates the planning, fiscal stewardship and economic development we've been working on in Maplewood.

Then Governor-elect Tim Walz was on the line with the Lieutenant Governor and the Chief of Staff offering me the position of Metropolitan Council Chair, which oversees policy and development for infrastructure, transit, and housing in the Twin Cities region.

He felt a mayor was best suited for the role because we have experience working with our communities, counties, the state, and the Metropolitan Council to build roads, expand economic development opportunities, ensure diverse and adequate housing options and maintain other infrastructural assets.

I believe our progress in Maplewood is one of the reasons for Governor Walz's decision in making this appointment -- after three rounds of interviews. While several exciting City projects are slated for 2019, it took years of planning and working collaboratively with residents, businesses and community leaders to get us this far.

CONTINUED / 4

Council Adopts 2019 Budget and Property Tax Levy

By Ellen Paulseth, Finance Director

Two new police officer positions, DMV service improvements, and more assurances for safer rental housing are a few of the new features in the 2019 Budget Maplewood's Council adopted in December.

Ramsey County's lowest property tax levy increase

Part of the overall budget comes from a roughly $22 million property tax levy for 2019. That's a three percent increase over 2018, the lowest in Ramsey County and one of the lowest in the metro. Someone with a median value home will see annual property taxes go up about $33 for the city portion of their tax bill.

The levy represents only a portion of the city's overall operating and capital budget, which totals roughly $70 million.

CONTINUED / 3

Budget Priorities

- Lowest levy in Ramsey County, among metro's lowest
- 2 new police officers
- Street improvements
- Improved DMV service

Maplewood LIVING

Elected Officials

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

The process to select a new Mayor and Councilmember will be discussed at the **January 14** council meeting.

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.

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.

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Kindergarten Info Night
Weds, Jan 16th 6:30pm

All School Open House
Sun, Jan 27th 11:30am-1pm
Tour Our PreK-8 School
Free Indoor Inflatables for Visitors!

- 4 Star Rated Preschool for 2-5 y/o's
- Faith Formation
- High Parent Satisfaction Rating
- Caring & Nurturing Learning Environment
- Financial Aid & Transfer Grants

1695 Kennard St, Mplwd presentationofmaryschool.org

More police officers

Maplewood's City Council hopes to ensure community and officer safety by putting two new officers on the street in 2019. The police department has been operating with two officers short since 2011, when the recession drove significant City budget cuts. New officer positions will help relieve the overtime budget and allow the department to become more proactive with community policing efforts.

Street and capital improvements

The budget funds major street reconstruction projects in the Ferndale/Ivy and Gladstone areas. A pavement project is also planned for the Mailland/Crestview/Forest area. Maplewood will work jointly with other agencies to improve the intersection at Roselawn and Edgerton. Improvements will also take place on Lake Boulevard, as part of a joint project with North St. Paul. Funding is also available to purchase properties in need of rehabilitation in an effort to help revitalize the Gladstone area.

Rental housing inspection program

Council is one step closer to achieving its goal of keeping rental housing units in the City safe and sanitary. It approved a budget for a rental housing inspection program to maintain livability standards, protect against blight, and ensure housing code compliance.

Improved service at the Motor Vehicle License Division

Long licensing lines have frustrated customers and DMV workers. The State of Minnesota, who runs the system, doesn't appear to have a software solution coming in the foreseeable future. The 2019 budget funds a part-time clerk position to help shorten the lines. An additional express line will be created to keep those lines moving.

Provide for inflationary increases and technology improvements

To retain and attract a talented and versatile city workforce in a tight job market, the budget allows for City employee general wage adjustments. It also accounts for anticipated fuel price increases and technology improvements. The City will increase the fund balance in the General Fund to ensure adequate cash flow.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the budget contact City Manager Melinda Coleman (651) 249-2055 or Finance Director Ellen Paulseth (651) 249-2902.

Don't be alarmed, don't be a nuisance, don't park overnight (without a permit)

New ordinances for 2019

On street parking permits:

As family and household dynamics continue to change, municipalities must also adapt. In December, Council adopted an ordinance that allows those with a demonstrated hardship to apply for an overnight on-street parking permit, lasting up to one year. To qualify you must prove why you have to park on the street overnight and then apply at the police department and pay a fee per vehicle. The city already allows parking on the street for up to 14 days for free if you register and that provision will not change. Even with a permit, you can't leave a vehicle on the street more than 24 hours at a time. You must also remove the vehicle from the street between 2am and 6am during a snow emergency.

To apply for the up to 365-day parking, contact the police department at 651-249-2600.

Repeat nuisance call fees

Helping ensure people and businesses are taking more responsibility for nuisances they can reasonably prevent on their property, the City will begin imposing fines when police respond three or more times to a nuisance call within a 365-day period. Fees start at $250.

Activities like drug dealing, vagrancy, noise violations are among the more common forms of nuisance calls.

Fees will not apply to emergency response calls, such as domestic violence or child abuse, or for matters where it would not be in the public interest to charge such a fee.

After the first and second nuisance call, the city will send a written notice to the property owner to start a dialog in hopes of remedying the situation. Council and the Department of Public Safety believe the new ordinance will improve overall livability and maximize valuable police resources.

No need to register home alarm systems

In 2018, the city examined its ordinances, looking for fees that no longer made sense. One such fee that's been eliminated is for those who have coin-operated machines. It also became apparent that there was no longer a need to charge for or have people register their home alarm systems.

False alarm calls are still a nuisance, however. While the city is waiving the $10 registration fee it is raising the fine for the third false alarm call from $50 to $100, with a sliding fee scale for additional false alarms.

Redeveloped Frost Avenue at English Street roundabout, looking west at the newly constructed Frost English Village

One of the initiatives I'm most excited about is our work to reimagine the North End. It currently includes a significant retail and health care sector and houses the Maplewood Mall, St. Johns and several newer residential developments. Our City's Community Development Department has engaged stakeholders and business owners to find modern uses that involve entertainment, housing, and government services to complement the area's retail, dining space and growing health care sector.

Planning and design firm Perkins + Will, which helped craft the Rice Larpenteur Vision, is assisting us with this important undertaking. I've been impressed with the attendance, enthusiasm and ideas from the community at the initial meetings.

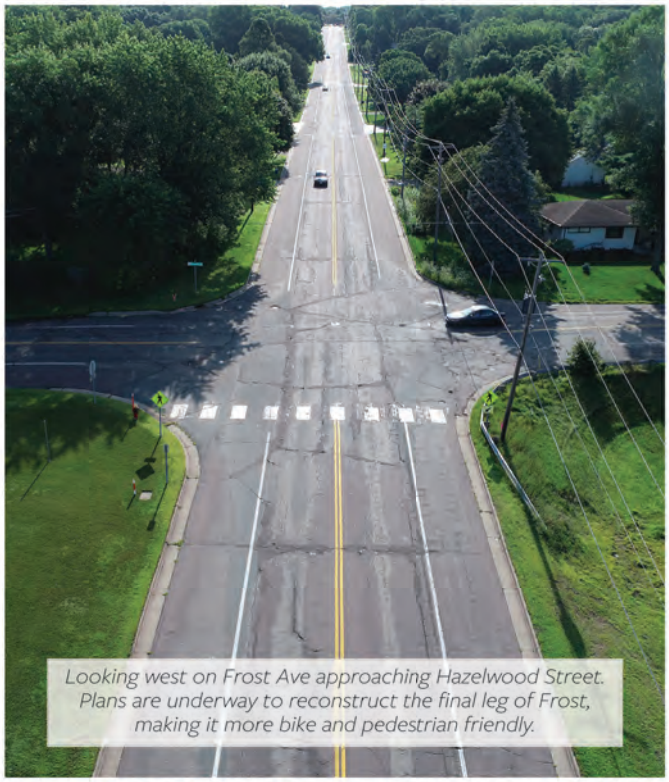
In the heart of Maplewood, the Gladstone corridor is progressing well. In the next few months, council will review and hopefully approve plans for the final leg of Frost Avenue. It will include more green space and be more bike and pedestrian friendly. These improvements will also help us make significant progress toward cutting runoff into Wakefield Lake.

At Wakefield Park this spring, we'll cut the ribbon on a new multi-use community building with a warming house and facilities for the city to host educational and recreational programing. It's also set up to rent for family outings and community gatherings. Other park improvements feature upgraded athletic amenities and an inclusive, ADA-accessible playground.

In addition to the street and park upgrades, many new housing and retail developments are emerging to help modernize the area. I'm thrilled that after many years of planning and construction, the City will have reinvented the core of the Gladstone neighborhood from Highway 61 to Frost Avenue.

The Maplewood Nature Center, a true asset to carrying out the City's mission of environmental education and stewardship, will embark on its Master Plan as it looks to expand its programming and regional prominence.

Some of these projects, especially in transit, I'll continue to work on in my new role. I look forward to bringing Maplewood's spirit of being a welcoming diverse community to regional planning. I truly appreciate Maplewood's City staff; they are dedicated professionals. I thank my fellow council members for their insight, guidance and professionalism. I am also so grateful to all of the citizens, community leaders and businesses who have supported and helped us in making Maplewood a great place to live, work, and raise a family.



Looking west on Frost Ave approaching Hazelwood Street. Plans are underway to reconstruct the final leg of Frost, making it more bike and pedestrian friendly.

Detective Derek Fritze shows folks a squad car at National Night Out, one of many community gatherings in which the City participated.

Middle stages of construction on the new Wakefield Park Community Building and ice rink.

Looking southwest down Frost Avenue from above E Shore Drive. Development along this portion of the Gladstone Corridor is one example where members of various commissions worked with staff and council to make it a reality.

Shape Maplewood's future; join one of our commissions

Help us make Maplewood a great place to live, work and visit by serving on one of our eight commissions. With the guidance of Maplewood City staff, you will be part of the first civic body that vets proposals and recommends changes for new business and housing developments, parks, recreational facilities, environmental initiatives and many other key city functions. Which of these areas you're working on depends on which commission you apply for and are appointed to. Commissions can serve as a stepping stone on a run for council or elected office.

Generally, City Council looks to the work of these commissions for direction in whether to approve, amend or reject major city projects.

Our current commission openings include:

- Community Design Review Board
- Environmental & Natural Resources Commission
- Housing & Economic Development Commission
- Planning Commission

To complete your application, please visit: bit.ly/mpldcommish

The deadline to apply for current positions is **January 31, 2019**. Interviews will be held in February or early March.

If you are interested in joining one of our other commissions, you may submit the application above at any time. Applications will be considered if openings occur.

A faster way to respond in emergencies

By Steve Lukin Fire Chief and Michael Mondor, Chief of EMS

Maplewood's strange shape means sometimes our Fire/EMS crews are closer to an emergency in St. Paul, Roseville, North St. Paul or White Bear Lake than their own crews. In other cases, their units might be closer to us.

So why not send the closest unit?

To improve emergency outcomes, the Ramsey County Fire Chiefs Association entered into a joint powers agreement, bringing the collective strength of 10 departments to ensure the closest unit, regardless of their home city, responded to life threatening calls. Maplewood's Fire/EMS Department had a leading role in the project.

The Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota recently honored the initiative with its top prize in Local Government Innovation. "Closest Unit Dispatching" came in first in the City Category, which included four other honorees. Other categories included innovations at the County, School and Native Nations level.

Sitting among our fellow first responders, this just seemed like a smart way to pool resources. We were able to strike a compromise by keeping the response limited to fire, cardiac arrest, person location searches and water rescue.

We asked: "When your house is on fire or someone's having a heart attack, does it really matter which city's name is on the side of the truck?"

We're thrilled the Humphrey School – a national leader in public policy planning – recognized this effort.

North End planning nearing second phase

By Michael Martin, Interim Community Development Director

Over the past few months, the City of Maplewood has embarked on the North End Vision Plan Project which is a bold and strategic effort to look at the 400-acre area anchored by Maplewood Mall and St. John's Hospital. The area is roughly bounded by Interstate 694 on the north, White Bear Ave on the east, Beam Avenue on the south, and the Bruce Vento Trail on the west.

In addition to being a vital economic generator, the area is a premier activity center for the northeast metropolitan region. It includes over two million square feet of retail space and encompasses over 5,000 jobs with 40 percent of those jobs being in the healthcare industry.

The area is poised for further improvements as the City continues working with Ramsey County and the Metropolitan Council on planning for a new multi-million-dollar Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line - the Rush Line - with two stations serving the North End and three more serving other parts of Maplewood.

The City is working closely with Perkins+Will on public and stakeholder engagement. North End business and landowners, residents and policymakers, and others are providing input to re-invent the area. In August, the City held an Open House to kick off and explain the project.

More formally, the North End Working Group has been established to guide the project. It includes the city council, key city board and commission representatives and other community members representing residents, businesses, nonprofits and governmental partners. As part of the next phase, we're anticipating a preliminary set of findings and recommendations in the coming months.

We are extremely grateful to the many volunteers who make up the North End Working Group and to the people who have engaged in the project and provided input thus far.

We want to hear from you. Take the North End Vision Plan survey at maplewoodmn.gov/NEsurvey.

Visit the City's website for more on the project.

Winter/Spring Dance Classes
With Mayer Arts

Wakefield Park Community Building • 1860 Hazelwood St.

Wish Upon A Ballet (Ages 3-5)
Mondays, February 4 - June 3
5:15PM - 6:00PM (No Classes February 18, March 11, & May 27)
Cost is $155.00

Hip Hop and Tap (Ages 5-8)
Mondays, February 4 - June 3
6:00PM - 7:00PM (No Classes February 18, March 11, & May 27)
Cost is $165.00

Ballet and Tap (Ages 8-12)
Mondays, February 4 - June 3
7:00PM - 8:00PM (No Classes February 18, March 11, & May 27)
Cost is $165.00

Pre-Ballet and Tap (Ages 3-5)
Tuesdays, February 12 - May 28
5:15PM - 6:00PM OR 6:00PM - 6:45PM (No Class March 12)
Cost is $155.00

Ballet and Tap (Ages 6-9)
Tuesdays, February 12 - May 28
6:45PM - 7:45PM (No Class March 12)
Cost is $165.00

How do I register for a Maplewood Parks & Recreation program?
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

Snow plow reminders:

- No street parking between 2am – 6am
- Don't shovel snow into the street
- Don't place garbage containers in the street
- Keep children and pets clear of plows
- Give crews space to work
- Be patient

Remember: The state/county plow most major roads

Recycle your holidays

Christmas Tree Collection

Christmas tree recycling is a value-added opportunity to Maplewood's residential trash service. Natural trees will be collected by Republic Services the weeks of January 7 and January 14 during your trash collection day. Remove ornaments and lights and place your tree at the curb on your trash collection day. Do not wrap tree in a plastic bag.

Contact Republic Services for more information at (651) 455-8634 or visit www.maplewoodmn.gov/trash.

PRESCHOOL GYMBOREE

At Maplewood Community Center/YMCA

COME JOIN THE FUN!
~AGES 1 - 5
~THURSDAYS, JANUARY 3 - MARCH 21
~10:00AM - 11:30AM

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED
•BALLS
•MATS
•GAMES & TOYS
•BOUNCE HOUSE

DROP IN PROGRAM
~COST IS $5.00 PER CHILD
~CHILDREN UNDER 12 MONTHS ARE FREE
~CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT AT ALL TIMES

For More Information Call 651-249-2121

MAPLEWOOD PARKS & RECREATION

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

December 3rd - February 1st

Drop off sites are located at:
- Maplewood City Hall 1830 County Road B East
- Maplewood Public Works 1902 County Road B East
- Maplewood Nature Center 2659 East 7th Street

For more information or questions please contact

Shann Finwall at (651) 249-2304 or shann.finwall@maplewoodmn.gov

For more sustainability news visit: e-Seasons at maplewoodmn.gov.

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Call for nominations – Maplewood Heritage Award

Over 15 years, Maplewood resident Steven Carlson cataloged more than 8,000 items related to the City's history. This is just one of his many contributions to preserving Maplewood's past. His collective work earned him 2017's Maplewood Heritage Award.

Do you know someone whose dedication and enthusiasm has excited people about Maplewood history or helped preserve a piece of our past? Maplewood's Heritage Preservation Commission invites you to nominate them for the city's 2018 Heritage Award!

Nominations are due January 31, 2019.
Submit your nomination by going to maplewoodmn.gov/1801/Heritage-Award, or contact Ginny Gaynor at (651) 249-2416.

The Maplewood Heritage Award recognizes an individual who has significantly contributed to preserving Maplewood's history or historic sites through research, preservation, or education and outreach.

Upcoming Events

January 26

Jam the Gym: Kids K-5
6:00 – 8:00 pm
Carver Community Center

February 2

Holiday Fun Hour: Valentines
6:15-7:15 pm
Community Center

Go to **MaplewoodMN.gov**. Our home page calendar has details on upcoming events.