



from the Mayor's Desk...

First, I want to thank all of the people of Maplewood and Maplewood's community partners and adjoining neighboring cities such as St. Paul, North St. Paul, Oakdale, Roseville, Woodbury, and Vadnais Heights that have called, sent e-mails, cards, or letters in support of our

Mayor Diana Longrie
Maplewood Council. As a public servant, it is heart warming and energizing to receive such positive feedback.

Our Council and the Interim City Manager Copeland, along with his Department Heads, are currently working on an action plan for the 2007 annual city budget. The process includes setting priorities, maximizing our resources, and leveraging money from other sources to make your tax dollar go further. As we continue to cautiously manage our financial resources, we do not want to stifle opportunities and adversely impact the first class essential services our citizens have come to expect. Setting priorities, planning, and visioning is a community process. What ideas do you have? We must seek solutions for which we are willing to be a part. Our work is to focus on renewing our vision of preserving the best of Maplewood, enhancing our strengths, building upon our sense of community, and establishing policies that will propel and support a prosperous future for Maplewood. To this end, we are developing and seeking ways to reach out to the businesses and citizens of our community.

We are pushing the doors of city hall wide open! When change is in the air, it's natural to be uncomfortable. Some may even dig in their heels, sounding a hew and cry that the sky is falling. I believe everyone on the Council is empathic to this. I also realize that some people may have butterflies in their stomach when change occurs even though they don't necessarily oppose change. Do you remember your first day of school? I do. But, I also remember that taking that first step, making it through the first days, led to enrichment and concrete results for a bright future.

In the big picture, my vision is for our Maplewood residents to have a quality, safe, affordable, welcoming community where there is pride in our "home town".

- I believe it is essential to preserve neighborhood identity. This is critical in preserving a sense of community, pride in ownership, and helps to minimize citizen apathy. As a corollary to this, I believe it is important to improve the connectivity between the various neighborhoods so that while they have their own distinct character, they are not islands separate from each other. This builds a broader sense of community.
- I believe it is important to encourage private investment in our communities.
- I believe White Bear Avenue is MORE than simply a transportation corridor - it has the potential for becoming the "destination" that it once was. Developing White Bear Avenue into a prosperous, thriving destination for people to shop, live and congregate benefits Maplewood.
- I believe increased accessible housing options must be considered an essential part of our public policy considerations when looking at future multi unit housing proposals and redevelopment.
- I believe that while it is important to incorporate the concepts of a walkable, livable community into our long range planning, it is equally important to be cognizant of the business community needs for parking, visibility, signage, and security issues.

In five months, with a new generation of leadership on the Maplewood council, we have taken steps to direct more money to our parks; we have made more information available to the public though the web site; citizen participation in municipal affairs is at an all time high; we have enacted several public policy resolutions which serve to minimize the risk of litigation for the City of Maplewood; and we have raised the hopes and expectations of the "little guy" that their voice can be, and will be, heard. As always, I welcome one and all to attend the monthly Mayor's Forum held the first Saturday at Maplewood City Hall in the Maplewood Room from 10:00 a.m. to noon.



Plastics Recycling...What's All the Fuss About?

By DuWayne Konewko, Environmental Manager

Plastic is light, easy to store and transport, comes in an endless variety of textures and shapes, and can hold almost anything - from ketchup bottles to disposable utensils, plastic is everywhere. Despite promotion of plastic recycling, plastic production has outpaced recycling by five times over the past decade. Recycling as much plastic as possible has become a better option than incinerating or burying plastic in a landfill, since both options release harmful chemicals into our air and water. Unfortunately, plastic is much more difficult to recycle than glass, aluminum or paper.

Our current recycling partner, Eureka Recycling, is committed to only collecting materials that they can recycle. The only plastics collected and recycled are bottles with necks that are marked with a #1 or #2 enclosed by the "chasing arrows" symbol, found on the bottom of the bottle. Technically, all plastics can be recycled, but only #1 and #2 bottles have had the infrastructure, supply and market conditions to make recycling feasible.



Questions? Call 651.222.7678