



From the Mayor's Desk... By Mayor Diana Longrie

Greetings! I recently attended the Living Green Expo held at the State Fair Grounds with my good friend, Carolyn Peterson. While there, I stopped at many of the booths and visited with the vendors, refocusing on the ins and outs of how I, as an informed citizen and an

elected official, can make day to day choices that have a positive impact on our environment.

So, what IS "Living Green"? Living green means making choices each and every day that enhance, rather than just reduce, our impact on the environment. Living green moves us in the direction of a long term lifestyle that is ecologically sound, economically viable, socially just, and humane. These practices can save us money and time while improving our health and overall quality of life. Further, our development of public policies supporting sustainable lifestyle initiatives today allows our future generations to lead a healthy, quality life tomorrow.

Although "Living Green" has been popping up as the "trendy" buzz word of the day, the desire to live a lifestyle that is less impactful on our environment has already touched many people, myself included, some time ago. As you know, I grew up in northern Minnesota, on Deer Lake, spending many a day tramping around the woods, playing with turtles, driving garter snakes around in my Tonka trucks, and observing the workings of nature right outside my back door. It was not uncommon to turn over fallen logs and simply sit still - watching the bugs for an hour as they carried on their busy lives. Being that my mother was an amateur horticulturist and naturalist who loved plants, birds, and animals of all kinds, I grew up knowing many of the common names for the birds, plants, insects, trees, and other wildlife found in our woods.

As your Mayor, I look around and ask, what can we do today that allows our future generations to lead a healthy, quality life tomorrow? Make no bones about it, the public policy initiatives that we put in place for our community today can make a difference.

Over the past several months, the Maplewood Council has

implemented a number of public policy initiatives to 1.)promote safety within our community; 2.)to better ensure fiscal accountability in our local government; 3.)to protect private property rights; and 4.)to minimize the risk of litigation for the city, to name a few. Now, the Council has turned its attention to what we can do to bolster our public policies impacting our environment and Maplewood's natural resources.

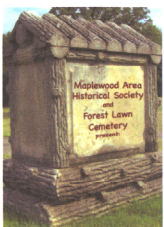
Back in January 2004, the previous Council formed the Environmental Committee as an ad hoc committee to advise the city council on matters relevant to the environment such as city wide recycling practices. Today our Council is establishing, by ordinance, the Environmental and Natural Resources Commission as an advisory commission to the Council whose focus shall be to monitor, promote, and plan for changes, improvements, and innovations in the field of solid waste management, environmental protection, and sustainable practices that are environmentally conscious and economically sound.

Additionally, our Council is revising Maplewood's existing tree ordinance to make it a stronger, better tool to protect the trees in our community. Trees not only add value to our quality of life, but they enhance our property values, keep our homes cool in the summer and protected in the winter, aid in keeping our air clean and breathable, and are instrumental to the development of a sustainable lifestyle model for future generations. Protecting and preserving our trees is a necessary step in walking the walk and talking the talk when establishing "Living Green" public policies for our community.

The next ten years will witness a race between more development, including in-fill development, and our community's efforts to preserve Maplewood's natural resources. However, I believe that we have the strategic direction, community support, and the positive momentum to ensure that our preservation efforts out pace the pressures of development.

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. Call me at 651.774.1490 or email to mayorlongrie@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Events & Courses!



Forest Lawn Cemetery Walking Tour Of Historic Gravestones A Maplewood Historical Society Event

Sunday, September 10 1:00 pm, 1:30 pm, 2:00 pm, 2:30 pm

Join a guided tour of gravestones which were hand-carved to resemble trees and branches. See costumed characters perform graveside sketches. Refreshments will be served in the Cemetery chapel following each tour. Fee is \$10/person. Please call Carolyn at 651.748.9009.

FREE! Self Defense/Threat Awareness Class

Learn to identify threats, react appropriately, and use different tools for self-defense. Receive a quick study of local crime trends used on people. Learn "hands-on" defense tactics and the correct frame of mind to survive. *New! See video clips and learn new defensive maneuvers.*

Date: Thursday, September 19 Time: 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Instructor: Scott Steffen, Maplewood Police Department

Location: Maplewood Community Center 2100 White Bear Avenue Activity # 0026.402

Register at the Maplewood Community Center or call 651.249.2100 x0.

Buckthorn Herbicide Coupon

Join the City's effort to remove buckthorn from Maplewood. To help with this important community environmental issue, local businesses are offering Maplewood residents a discount on buckthorn removal products. Please check your buckthorn brochure for chemical/brand name equivalents.

Bachman's: 20% OFF! (Maplewood store only)

Vine-X® (13% Trichlophyr)

651.770.0531

Linder's Garden Center: 20% OFF!

All Glyphosate products and Brush-B-Gone®

651.488.1927

Coupon is good 9/1/06 - 10/15/06

For more information on buckthorn, call the buckthorn hotline at 651.249.2188.

www.ci.maplewood.mn.us (click on nature center)