

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council
FROM: John Nephew, Councilmember
SUBJECT: **Maplewood Monthly Council Corner**
DATE: June 29, 2009 for the July 13 regular council meeting

At our council meeting of June 22nd, the City Council received a petition signed by approximately 40 residents. In response to our residents' petition, I submit the attached resolution for the council's consideration. Also attached for reference is the petition itself.

This resolution differs from what the petitioners proposed in two respects.

First, as a matter of simplicity and fairness I am proposing that we suspend the monthly column for all councilmembers, whether or not we are candidates this year, for the duration of the campaign season.

Second, the petitioners request that we prohibit advertising by councilmember-candidates in the city newsletter. If the newsletter sets policies about its sales of paid advertising, whatever those policies may be, I think that in fairness they should apply to everyone, regardless of whether or not a specific advertiser is or is affiliated with a current elected official.

REQUESTED ACTION

Approve the attached resolution, suspending the city council column in the August, September, October and November 2009 issues of *Maplewood Monthly*.

**Resolution Suspending *Maplewood Monthly* Council Columns
During the 2009 Election Campaign Season**

WHEREAS, the year 2009 is an election year for two City Council seats and the position of Mayor in the City of Maplewood; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy and practice of the City Council of the City of Maplewood to have columns in the city's newsletter, known as the *Maplewood Monthly*, written by individual councilmembers and the Mayor on a rotating basis; and

WHEREAS, the Maplewood City Council received a petition from residents on the 22nd of June, 2009, asking for a modification of said policy during the 2009 election campaign season; and

WHEREAS, the *Maplewood Monthly* is a taxpayer-funded publication, which ought not to be used to advocate for or against political candidates; and

WHEREAS, during an election campaign, councilmember columns in the city newsletter may give the appearance of use of the *Maplewood Monthly* for personal and political advantage, in violation of the public's trust; and

WHEREAS, the practice of sitting councilmembers using the *Maplewood Monthly* as a means to transmit campaign material directly to voters, city-wide, at taxpayer expense, would give incumbents an unfair advantage over challengers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Maplewood hereby directs that the *Maplewood Monthly* column written in rotation by the mayor and councilmembers shall be suspended for the months of August through November, 2009.

Passed and adopted this 13th day of July, 2009.

Mayor:

Attest:

City Clerk

Submitted by
Judith Johansen
1610 Woodley Ave E.

For The Permanent Record

Meeting Date: 6/22/09

Agenda Item#: F. Visitor Presentation

We, the undersigned, petition the Maplewood City Council to make an adjustment to the practice of having the five members of the council write articles for the city newsletter, the Maplewood Monthly. Currently, council members take turns writing articles whose content has varied from issues of public concern to personal views about their own actions or about council activities.

In some instances, especially in an election year, such comments can give the appearance of use of the Maplewood Monthly for personal and political advantage. The taxpayers of Maplewood pay for the publication of the Maplewood Monthly; it is a violation of their trust if and when that publication is used for one individual's political campaign.

In addition, such a practice gives the five council members an unfair advantage over any other candidates for city office. Those other candidates do not have a citywide, taxpayer-paid medium for publicizing their individual campaigns.

We ask specifically:

- 1) That the city council require that all council members who are or will be candidates for city office in a given election year not be allowed to publish any articles, statements, or advertisements in the Maplewood Monthly for the duration of the campaign season, i.e., from the opening of filing for office in July through election day in November.
- 2) That the city council require that all council members who are not candidates for office refrain from using the Maplewood Monthly to campaign for anyone who is a candidate for office.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>MAPLEWOOD RESIDENCE</u>
1. Bob Hulet, Bob Hulet	2021 Kenwood Dr. W.
2. Jeanette Hulet, Jeanette Hulet	2021 Kenwood Dr. W. Maplewood
3. Judith I. Rojas, Judith I. Rojas	711 Skillman Ave. E
4. Guillermo Rojas, Guillermo Rojas	711 Skillman Ave. E
5. Leon O. Bonrud, Leon O. Bonrud	2030 Kenwood Dr. E.
6. Elizabeth W. Bonrud, Elizabeth W. Bonrud	2030 E. Kenwood Dr.
7. Paul H Hahn, Paul H Hahn	2010 Greenbrier St
8. Vonna M. Hahn, Vonna M. Hahn	2010 Greenbrier St
9. B. Gregory Tueremann, B. Gregory Tueremann	721 Mt. Vernon Ave. E.
10. Marlene Palkovitch, MARIENE PALKOVICH	2116 GREENBRIER ST.
11. DONALD PALKOVICH, Donald Palkovitch	2116 Greenbrier St.
12. DUANE E BREKKEN, Duane E Brekken	2135 GREENBRIER ST.
13. Carol M. Brekken, Carol M. Brekken	2135 Greenbrier St.

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>MAPLEWOOD RESIDENCE</u>
1. Lamar + Patricia Zollinger Zollinger	2138 Greenbrier St. Maplewood, MN.
2. Anita Anfang - Anita Anfang -	2137 Greenbrier St. Maplewood, MN.
3. Warren B. Nentwig	749 E Eldridge Ave Maplewood MN.
4. Jerome M Hughes	1978 Payne Ave
5. Audrey M. Hughes	1978 Payne Ave Map/wd. 55117
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<u>NAME (PRINT + Signature)</u>	<u>MAPLEWOOD RESIDENCE</u>
1. Charlotte Brooker <i>Charlotte Brooker</i>	2172 Woodlynn Avenue
2. Gene MAHREDA - <i>Gene Mahreda</i>	2172 Woodlynn Avenue
3. JOAN Schroeder <i>Joan Schroeder</i>	1611 Woodlynn Ave
4. <i>Judith Johannessen</i> JUDITH JOHANNESSEN	1610 Woodlynn Ave E 55109
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6. Helen Hall <i>Helen Hall</i>	1634 Woodlynn Ave Maplewood
7. James H. Jones <i>Jim Jones</i>	204 Birch St Maplewood 55109
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	<u>NAME (PRINT + Signature)</u>	<u>MAPLEWOOD RESIDENCE</u>
(2) 1.	LuAnn Perrotto	113 Glenwood St N
2.	Doreen Williams	113 GLENWOOD ST N DOREEN WILLIAMS
3.	Conny Spenner	1166 Grendon St N
4.	Brenda Spenner	Brenda Spenner 1166 Grendon St N
5.	Christeen Stone	Christeen Stone 2727 Hazelwood Ave
6.	John Mashey	John Mashey 3042 Walter St - Maplewood
7.	Carol Mason	Sherrill Carol Mason 2384 Nebraska E.
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9.	Irene Le Claire	1602 Woodlyn Ave #3 55109 Irene Le Claire
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NAME (PRINT + Signature)	MAPLEWOOD RESIDENCE
1. Marcella Scheesz - Marcella Scheesz	1737 Ger Vals Ave Unit #1
2. Caitie Sherrill (Caitie Sherrill)	2384 Nebraska Ave E
3. Herbert Engelmayr (Herbert Engelmayr)	2371 Nebraska Ave E. 55119
4. Nancy Sogabe (Nancy Sogabe)	2371 Nebraska Ave E. 55119
5. Braden Adams (Braden Adams)	2383 Nebraska Ave E
6. John Hanse	2389 Nebraska Ave E
7. Karen J. Harris	2376 Nebraska Ave.
8. David Sherrill (DAVID SHERRILL)	2384 NEBRASKA AVE EAST
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