



Hilton Neighborhood Association Celebrates Women's History Month

ZOOM Meeting
Thursday, March 18th at 7:30pm

The Women Who Built the Maplewood Library

Sarah Lester, Director of Maplewood Library, will profile the women who led the way in constructing Maplewood's two library buildings in the 1950s and 60s. Sarah will be joined by current and former Library Trustees to discuss the important roles women have played in our libraries and in the plans to build the new Library for the 21st Century.

Go to www.ZOOM.com
Click on join a Meeting
Meeting ID: 925 2373 0606
Password: 341239



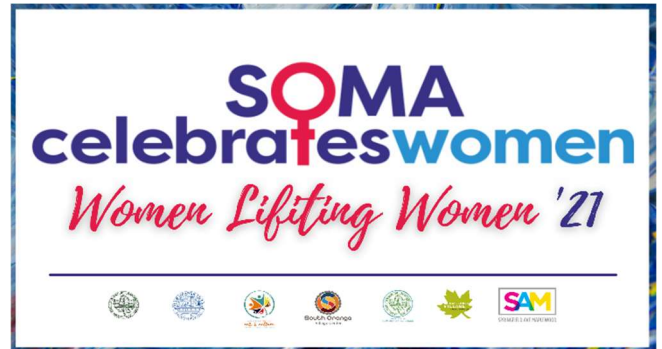
From the Editor

Hello! Winter may still be here, but spring is just around the corner and it can't come soon enough. Here are a couple of other things happening this month to get excited about: for one, it's time again to pull out your green colors to celebrate St. Patty's Day. Secondly, March is Woman's History Month – a month-long celebration honoring the strong, caring and beautiful women in our lives.

What else is on the agenda for this month? Well, it's not too early to start your spring cleaning and make plans for sprucing up your garden and the outside of your home. And, don't forget to turn your clocks **ahead** on March 14th at 2:00 am. Aren't all of these things and the prospect of Spring enough to get you excited? I think so.

Sheron Hansel

Women's History Month



To view the calendar of events, visit <http://www.maplewoodartsandculture.org/>



Township Update

By Township Committeeman Vic De Luca

The Township Committee met for three Saturdays with the municipal department directors and representatives from the Maplewood Village Alliance, YouthNet, Springfield Avenue Partnership and Community Coalition on Race to discuss the 2021 Township budget.

Budget 2021

Similar to cities and towns across the county, COVID-19 has a devastating impact on Maplewood's revenues, including recreation fees, parking and jitney fees, municipal court fines, public facility rentals, constructions permit fees, and pool memberships. Roughly \$1.5 million in projected income was not received in 2020 and a similar amount will not be received in 2021. At the same time, 2021 costs are going up for personnel, employee pensions and recycling. The Township Committee will be working through March and April to cut expenses and look for ways to raise additional revenue. One area is a new medical marijuana local sales tax of 2% which could bring in about \$20,000 this year.

One bright spot might be President Biden's American Rescue Plan, which includes funding for state and local governments.

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The Hilton Neighborhood is HOME to Some Very Talented People!

This was evident during our February Zoom meeting when local residents, including students of all ages, joined us in our celebration of Black History Month.

These residents recited poems they wrote themselves and one read selections from her favorite book. We were also treated to an original father/son jazz composition. If you missed it, visit our Facebook page to see for yourselves! And thanks to Susan Ryan and Kat Alexander for doing a fantastic job putting this event together and for hosting!

A Big Warm Welcome to Our New HNA Members

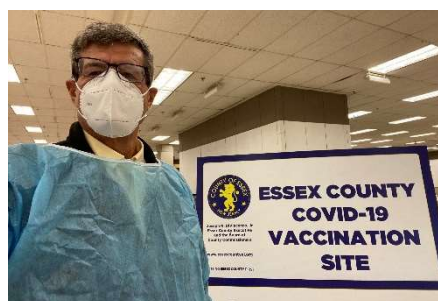
Patrick & Michelle Aylward, Tiara Bonet, Kate Burke, Dean Dafis, Maria Del Naja, Christine Obiajulu-Skinner and Jeff Skinner, Annette DePalma, Tracy Sham, Matt Dujnic, Frank McGehee, Etsuyo Watanabe, Maria Del Naja, Rick and Jamaine Cripe.

We are delighted to have our new friends join us (and some old ones too) and we look forward to seeing everyone very soon at our upcoming Zoom Meeting.

Under this economic stimulus plan, Maplewood is in line to receive \$4.6 million. It is expected that the final bill will be passed by Congress and signed by the President in mid-March.

We don't have final details of when and how that money will be available but any bit will help.

The Township's 2020 and 2021 capital budgets includes funds to pave Burnett Avenue, install a new roof on the Hilton Branch of the Library, make major repairs to a sanitary sewer line on Boyden Avenue below Jacoby Street and improve access to the Senior Building for those with mobility limitations. The capital budgets also include repairs to public buildings, road paving, new vehicles and equipment, and information technology upgrades.



COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

As of February 28th, Essex County administered over 105,000 vaccinations at its five sites. These include 70,000 first shots and 35,000 second shots. I have been volunteering each Tuesday at the Livingston site and I can tell you it

has been busy. Eligibility is still limited to Group 1A: individuals age 65 and older, persons 18-64 with high-risk medical conditions, uniformed police officers and firefighters and health care workers. With more vaccinations becoming available, it is likely that eligibility will expand. The Township is making plans to undertake a vaccination outreach campaign with a particular emphasis on signing up people of color for the vaccine. The Township is also working with the County on plans to vaccinate special populations of Maplewood residents who we would transport to Livingston by jitney. Stay tuned for more information.

- Vic

Thanks To All the Women Who Kept Me Going!

By Justyna Stec-Matthews

Under normal circumstances Women's History Month would inspire me to talk about women trailblazers, famous scientists, influential artists, or nonconformist feminists. However, this past year made me realize that the women closest to me make history every day. The pandemic left families scrambling and most of the responsibilities fell on women. We have been juggling work (if we were lucky enough to still have it), figuring out remote learning, virtual birthdays, snack meltdowns, all on top of handling the good old "mental load", which could range from scheduling vet appointments, to buying the kids snow pants for that unexpected snowstorm and asking last minute questions on social media for any leads on sleds to borrow. This month I would like to thank all the women who have kept me going, who have laughed with me at this absurd reality, and who have picked me up when I was down. Thank you for sharing your problems with me and making me feel less alone. Thank you to my generous neighbors who drop treats on my doorstep without a reason. To my hilarious book club ladies, who challenge me to read at least one book a month. To my text group gals for their funny memes and can-do perspective. To my coworkers who motivate me and to all my friends around the world who stuck to the recurring and random zoom calls, as well as sending the occasional uplifting card or text message. You are the true "Herases" and I celebrate you this month and all year long for everything you do.

Justyna is Hilton resident and a fellow Board Member. She is a Financial Controller for a New York advertising agency and takes an immense amount of pride in being involved in her local community.

Join the Conversation!

MEDICAL MARIJUANA CENTER OPENING IN MAPLEWOOD IN APRIL

Community ZOOM Meeting
Thursday, March 11th at 7:30pm

Meeting ID: 993 3499 8124

Passcode: 623079

Thinking about an Island Vacation this Year?

Well travelling is back, but you will need to follow the travel protocols and guidelines that are in place. However, taking protective measures doesn't have to take away the fun. Here are some tips if you plan on getting away:

Before you book your flight, check the requirements for the country you plan to visit. Most require a negative Covid test result (within a certain window of time) and some require an approval form, without which, you will not be able to board your flight.

Once your flight has been booked, schedule your test appointment as close as possible to the maximum number of days allowed prior to your travel date.

Make sure to let the lab know you will be travelling in which case they will have your results back to you in 48 – 72 hours, in time for your departure. Should your test results come back positive, most airlines, if not all, will refund your airfare.

Some countries may require that you download an app on your phone so you can be reached if needed.

As a general rule, stick with your party, family members or core group. Follow local curfew guidelines when you're out as well as follow required protective measures, including wearing your masks when out in public or entering buildings.

Upon returning to the US, you may need to quarantine, depending on the state's current requirements.

So, there you have it! Travelling can still be fun you just have to do it a little differently. Now, go ahead, book that island vacation and stay safe! For more information go to [travelweekly.com](https://www.travelweekly.com).

!!MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER!!

Letters and Membership Forms were mailed to all members with a new payment option. If you haven't yet received yours or if you have any questions, please contact us at hna.maplewood@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events & Reminders

- Visit the Maplewood Township Website <https://www.twp.maplewood.nj.us/> to get the latest information on Covid-19 vaccinations or call (973) 762-8120.
- The HNA meets the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7:30pm (for now via Zoom only).

Suggestion Box: Have a request, suggestion or concern? Send it to hna.maplewood@gmail.com.

Did a friend forward you this Newsletter? You can subscribe by emailing: hna.maplewood@gmail.com.

Hilton Neighborhood Association
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