



AGENDA
TOWNSHIP OF MAPLEWOOD
Thursday, January 1, 2026
Zoom Registration Link: <https://www.maplewoodnj.gov/Zoom>

(Prelude music - Bruno Lee on Trumpet) - 1:30pm

1. Conference - 1:30 P.M.
2. Meeting Called To Order
By Township Clerk - 2:00 P.M.
3. Reading of Opening Statements (EJF)
Read by Township Clerk
4. Presentation of Colors (MH)
Led By Scouting America Troop 77
5. Salute To American Flag (MH)
Led By New Jersey Assemblywoman Garnet Hall
6. Roll Call (EJF)
7. Singing of National Anthem (JC)
By Judette Elliston

Judette Elliston is a Haitian-Canadian vocalist, composer, and sound artist based in New York.

8. Invocation (JC)
By Pastor Terry L. Richardson, First Baptist Church Of South Orange
9. Dedication of Meeting (EJF)
 - 9.a 2026 Dedication To Rent Party (NA)
[Rent Party - Reorg 2026.docx](#)
10. Memorial Prayer (VD)
By Rabbi Sholom Bogomilsky, Maplewood Jewish Center

11. Memorial List & Moment of Silence (EJF)
Citizens deceased in 2025 who were active in community life - Read By Township Committee Members
 - 11.a 2025 Memorial List (TC Members)
[2025 MEMORIAL LIST - FINAL \(EJF\) 12.30.2025.docx](#)
 - 11.b Memorial Song (JC)
Bridge Over Troubled Water by Judith Elliston, Soloist
12. Oath of Office
by the Township Clerk
 - 12.a Jane Collins-Colding
13. Remarks By Jane Collins-Colding
14. Election of Chair for 2026 #1
By The Township Clerk
15. State of the Township Message
By Mayor
16. Election of Deputy Chair for 2026 #2
By Mayor
17. Youth Singers (MH)
Marianna Daley, Marlo Goodrich, and Leila Springer
Columbia High School Students Performing "Winter Song"
18. Resolution (Read by Title) (Res. No. 1-26) Re: Adopting the By-Laws of the Township of Maplewood (NA/DD)
 - 18.a RESOLUTION NUMBER 01-26
BY-LAWS OF THE MAPLEWOOD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
19. Resolution (Read by title) (Res. No. 2-26) Appointing Municipal Prosecutor (Annette DePalma) and Substitute Municipal Prosecutor (Gracia Montilus) (DD/MH)
 - 19.a RESOLUTION NUMBER 2-26
RESOLUTION APPOINTING MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR AND SUBSTITUTE
MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR 2026
[2-26 Appoint_Prosecutor_Resolution.docx](#)
20. Election of: Representative to the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties (DD/JC)
#4

By the Township Clerk

21. Election of: Board of School Estimate
#5

By Mayor

22. Consent Agenda (MH/NA)

22.a 2026 Staff Appointments
[2026 APPOINTMENTS.docx](#)

22.b Appointment To Zoning Board of Adjustment

Glenn Merry – Board Member (Thru 12/31/2029)
Greg Drechsler – Board Member (Thru 12/31/2029)
Rebecca Gannon – Alternate #1 (Thru 12/31/2027)

22.c RESOLUTION NUMBER 3-26
Appointing Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator
[03-26 Resolution Appointing Deputy OEM Coordinator.docx](#)

22.d RESOLUTION NUMBER 4-26
2026 Township Committee Liaison and Committee Assignments
[4-26 2026 Township Committee Liaison and Committee Assignments.docx](#)

22.e RESOLUTION NUMBER 5-26
Appointing TapInto and Village Green As Digital Newspaper
[5-26 TAPinto_Soma_2026_Resolution.docx](#)

23. Invitation to Address the Committee

24. Benediction (VD)
By Pastor Terry L. Richardson, First Baptist Church Of South Orange

25. Closing Song (VD)
"God Bless America" by Former Vice-Mayor David Huemer, Soloist and Bruno Lee on Trumpet

26. Post Colors (VD)
By Scouting America Troop 77

27. Adjournment
The Township Committee is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 7:30 PM at the Maplewood Municipal Building, 574 Valley Street, Maplewood, NJ.

Proclamation

RECOGNIZING RENT PARTY

WHEREAS, Rent Party has, since 2009, presented live music events throughout the NJ/NY area to raise funds to fight hunger and strengthen community; and

WHEREAS, inspired by the “rent parties” of 1920s Harlem, Rent Party carries forward a proud tradition of neighbors coming together through music to support one another in times of need; and

WHEREAS, Rent Party supports a number of vital community initiatives, including:

- **BackPack Pals**, which provides weekend meals to approximately 100 food-insecure children each week during the school year; and
- **Rent Party Garden**, a 27-bed community garden that produces over 2,000 pounds of fresh produce each season for local food pantries and community organizations; and
- **Kids First**, which partners with SOMA School Supplies to ensure that hundreds of children receive new backpacks filled with school supplies so they can start the school year prepared and confident; and

WHEREAS, Rent Party Pantry, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization, providing residents with meaningful opportunities to volunteer, donate, attend events, and directly support food-security efforts in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Maplewood recognizes Rent Party’s extraordinary dedication to addressing hunger, supporting children and families, and strengthening the social fabric of our community through creativity, compassion, and collective action;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Nancy Adams, Mayor of the Township of Maplewood, on behalf of the Township Committee, do hereby recognize and honor Rent Party for its longstanding commitment to fighting hunger and supporting Maplewood and the greater SOMA community, and encourage all residents to learn more about their programs, attend an event, or support their mission at rentpartylive.com.

Maplewood Clerk

Mayor of Maplewood

2025 MEMORIAL LIST - FOR THE 2026 ANNUAL REORGANIZATION MEETING ON JANUARY 1, 2026

1. Anthony Garubo – Business owner 50 years in Maplewood Village- Salon.
2. Robert F. Noesner – Retired Maplewood Code Enforcement – Fire Inspector. Maplewood resident 47 years.
3. Carol Barry-Austin – Founding Trustee of the SO/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race and Community Volunteer.
4. Marilyn Schnaars – active in Maplewood Seniors as Officer and Trip Chairperson, SOMA lifelong resident.
5. Jolene Corry – current Maplewood employee – Crossing Guard 2009-present. Tuscan School corner -Harvard and Osborne. Maplewood resident.
6. Dr. Jane Ann Bean-Folkes – SO/Maplewood as a K-12 English Language Supervisor for SO/Maplewood Board of Education.
7. Jonathan Kohn – Maplewood resident, and Columbia High School graduate. Lifelong SO/Maplewood resident.
8. Thomas Nevius – 45 year resident of Maplewood, dedicated Coach for girls softball, and soccer. Building and re-building replicas of buildings for Dicken’s Village, including the Women’s Club replica.
9. Jennifer Howard Wilson – beloved Sister of former Deputy Mayor Jamaine Cripe.
10. Ruth Perlmutter – Maplewood volunteer, Jersey Animal Coalition, long time resident and animal lover.
11. Jean Prince Alvarez Sheldon – beloved Mother of South Essex Fire Department Chief Joseph Alvarez and Grandmother of South Essex Fire Department Firefighter/EMT Patrick Alvarez.
12. Edward Thomas Starzynski -50 year Maplewood resident and Coach, and beloved Father of Edward Starzynski, Township Clerks Office.
13. John C. Granz, Jr. – retired Maplewood Department of Public Works Automotive Mechanic Foreperson for nearly 40 years. Father in Law of Anthony Tafro, Automotive Mechanic in Maplewood DPW.

14. Giovanna Baratta Loffredo – Business owner of Roman Gourmet in Maplewood Village 1971-present and former Maplewood resident.
15. Jay Todd Lamm – retired Department of Public Works Foreperson in the Shade Tree Division 1994-2012, then Township Arborist, and Landscaping at the Durand-Hedden House and Garden for a number of years.
16. Allene Johnson – Long time Hilton Neighborhood Association Executive Board Member.
17. Retired South Orange Fire Chief Jeffrey Markey.
18. Joseph Foligno, suddenly, current Director of South Orange Public Works Department. Rose thru the ranks from seasonal employee to Director.

EJF/FINAL
(12.30.2025)

TOWNSHIP OF MAPLEWOOD



RESOLUTION NO. 2 – 26

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR AND SUBSTITUTE MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR 2026

WHEREAS, the provisions of N.J.S.A. 2B:12-27 provide that the Governing Body of a municipality may employ an Attorney at Law as a Municipal Prosecutor; and

WHEREAS, Annette DePalma, a New Jersey Attorney at Law, has agreed to serve as the Township's Municipal Prosecutor and Gracia Montilus, a New Jersey Attorney at Law, has agreed to serve as the Township's substitute Municipal Prosecutor as needed,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Maplewood, County of Essex, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. Annette DePalma, Esq. be and is hereby appointed as Municipal Prosecutor of the Township of Maplewood for the year 2026;
2. Gracia Montilus, Esq. be and is hereby appointed substitute Municipal Prosecutor of the Township of Maplewood for the year 2026; and
3. Ms. DePalma and Mr. Montilus shall proceed under the supervision of the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey and the Essex County Prosecutor and may represent the State of New Jersey, County of Essex or Township of Maplewood in any matter within the jurisdiction of the Maplewood Municipal Court, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 2B:25-1 et seq.

I, Elizabeth J. Fritzen, Township Clerk of the Township of Maplewood, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Maplewood, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, at a regular meeting of said Committee held on January 1, 2026.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Township of Maplewood in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey this 1st day of January 2026.

Elizabeth J. Fritzen, R.M.C., C.M.C.
Township Clerk

TOWNSHIP OF MAPLEWOOD



2026 Staff Appointments

Business Administrator	Patrick Wherry
Assistant Business Administrator	Miriam R. Perez
Court Administrator	Ryan Bancroft
Director of Community Services	Melissa Mancuso
Director of Community Development	Annette DePalma
Director of Public Works/ Township Engineer	Paul Kittner
Health Officer	Candice Davenport
Township Attorney	Jennifer Credidio
Treasurer	April Miller
Public Defender	Dennis Cleary, Sabrina Ruggiero
Registrar of Vital Statistics	Edward Starzynski
Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics	Elizabeth J. Fritzen
Tax Searcher	Irma Weir
Custodian of Township Records	Elizabeth J. Fritzen
Deputy Custodian of Township Records	Chief Albert Sally
Deputy Custodian of Township Records	Fire Official Anthony Bianchi
Board of Health (3 Years)	Jane Collins-Colding
Qualified Purchasing Agent	April Miller
Tax Collector	Irma Weir
Tax Assessor	Thomas DeKorte
Supervisor of Certifying Agent – Pension Funds	Diana Davila
Certifying Agent – Pension Funds	April Miller
American's Disability Act Coordinator	Patrick Wherry

Public Agency Compliance Officer	Patrick Wherry
Municipal Housing Liaison	Patrick Wherry
Designated Employer Representative	Paul Kittner

TOWNSHIP OF MAPLEWOOD



RESOLUTION NO. 03-26

RESOLUTION APPOINTING DEPUTY EMERGENCY MANAGENT COORDINATOR

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A App A:40.1 et seq, municipalities may appoint a municipal Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, the position of Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator serves a one-year terms and there is a need to appoint a Municipal Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator from January 31, 2026 to December 31, 2026, and

WHEREAS, Police Chief Sally posses the necessary qualifications to serve as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee wishes to appoint Police Chief Sally as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for this term.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Township Committee of the Township of Maplewood, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, that:

- A. Maplewood Police Chief Sally is appointed as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for the Township of Maplewood for a period of one (1) year from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026.

I, Elizabeth J. Fritzen, Township Clerk of the Township of Maplewood, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Maplewood, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, at a regular meeting of said Committee held on January 1, 2026.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Township of Maplewood in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, on this 1st day of January, 2026.

ELIZABETH J. FRITZEN, R.M.C.

Township Clerk

Resolution 4-26

2026 Appointments of Standing Committees: (Chair in bold).

Code Committee:

Dean Dafis, Nancy Adams, Jane Collins-Colding

Communications Committee:

Malia Herman, Victor De Luca

Committee on Entrepreneurship and Economic Development:

Victor De Luca, Dean Dafis, Nancy Adams

Engineering, Public Works and Planning Committee:

Nancy Adams, Victor De Luca, Malia Herman

Finance Committee:

Victor De Luca, Jane Collins-Colding, Nancy Adams

Health, Community Services and Arts & Culture Committee:

Jane Collins-Colding, Malia Herman, Dean Dafis

Public Safety Committee:

Malia Herman, Dean Dafis, Victor De Luca

2026 Appointments of Committee Liaisons:

All Access: Malia Herman

Affordable Housing: Victor De Luca

Arts Council: Dean Dafis

Black History Month: Jane Collins-Colding

Cannabis Review: Victor De Luca, Nancy Adams

Citizen Emergency Response Team: Victor De Luca

Community Coalition on Race: Jane Collins-Colding

Community Board on Police: Dean Dafis

Community Garden: Jane Collins-Colding

Durand-Hedden: Nancy Adams

Environmental Advisory: Nancy Adams

Fourth of July: Victor De Luca

Hispanic Heritage Month: Malia Herman

Historic Preservation Commission: Victor De Luca

Holocaust Remembrance: Malia Herman

Juneteenth: Jane Collins-Colding

Maplewoodstock: Nancy Adams

Maplewood Memorial Park Conservancy: Nancy Adams

Maplewood Village Alliance: Dean Dafis

Master Plan Implementation Working Group: Dean Dafis
Municipal Drug Alliance: Jane Collins-Colding
Municipal Partnership: Victor De Luca and Malia Herman
Office of Emergency Management: Victor De Luca
Open Space Trust Fund: Dean Dafis
Planning Board Class 3: Dean Dafis
Pride Month: Dean Dafis
Rahway River Mayors: Victor De Luca
Recreation Advisory: Malia Herman
Rent Leveling Board: Dean Dafis
Seniors Advisory: Malia Herman
Springfield Avenue Partnership: Victor De Luca and Jane Collins-Colding
South Essex Fire Department: Victor De Luca and Malia Herman (alternate)
SOMA Two Towns: Victor De Luca
Sustainable Maplewood: Victor De Luca and Nancy Adams
Swimming Pool Advisory: Malia Herman
Women's History Month: Nancy Adams, Malia Herman and Jane Collins-Colding
Youth Advisory: Malia Herman
YouthNet: Jane Collins-Colding

TOWNSHIP OF MAPLEWOOD



RESOLUTION NO. 05 - 26

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING TAPINTO SOMA AND VILLAGE GREEN AS “ONLINE NEWS PUBLICATIONS” UNDER THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

WHEREAS, the Maplewood Township Committee wishes to enhance transparency; and

WHEREAS, the Maplewood Township Committee wishes to provide as many residents of the Township of Maplewood ("Township") as possible with notice of the activities of the Township and the Township Committee; and

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2025, the State of New Jersey enacted P.L. 2025, c. 72 (the “Act”), providing that public notices may be published online under certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Act sets forth certain criteria for a media outlet to qualify as an “online news publication”, as such term is defined in the Act,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Maplewood, County of Essex, State of New Jersey that:

Subject to demonstration of their respective compliance with the conditions of the Act to qualify as “online news publications”, the Township hereby designates TAPinto SOMA and the Village Green as online news publications in which Township notices may appear.

I, Elizabeth J. Fritzen, Township Clerk of the Township of Maplewood, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Maplewood, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, at a regular meeting of said Committee held on January 1, 2026.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Township of Maplewood in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey this 1st day of January 2026.

Elizabeth J. Fritzen, R.M.C., C.M.C.
Township Clerk