

The Maplewood Holiday Tree Lighting

Information Guide



By



**Together
We Bloom**

CONNECTION • COMMUNICATION • COMMUNITY

About Information Guides

Information guides are accessibility tools that provide logistical information for events or challenging situation. They help the reader know what to expect and provide options for support.

Anyone can benefit from learning about situations ahead of time, but these guides are often particularly helpful for neurodivergent individuals including Autistic people or people with anxiety.

Info Guides should be used as a tool to empower and support inclusion and access, not to force compliance with social norms.

This information guide was created by Together We Bloom because we believe community celebrations will be better for all of us when we prioritize accessibility and expand inclusivity of our disabled neighbors.

Together We Bloom is a local 501(c)3 nonprofit with a mission to empower young children with disabilities and their families through equitable access to connection, communication, and community.

To learn more or support our work for inclusion please visit: www.TogetherWeBloom.org

Maplewood Community Holiday Tree Lighting: Event Information Guide

Event Details & Schedule

Date & Time

December 13, 2025

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Location

Outdoors, at the gazebo outside the Hilton Library
(Maplewood, NJ)

Activity

Community celebration and the lighting of the
decorated tree

Attire

Please dress for outdoor winter weather.



Event Highlights

The Tree Lighting is a community-focused celebration that features several activities leading up to the main event:

- **Musical Performances:** Local choirs will perform holiday songs at the gazebo. A DJ will also play music.
- **Character Meet-and-Greets:** Costumed characters, including The Grinch, Santa, and Elf will be walking around the event.
- **Crafts:** There is a table for crafts and activities.
- **An artist will be creating an ice sculpture with a chain saw during the event.**
- **Tree Lighting Ceremony:** The lighting of the large evergreen tree will happen around 5:30 PM, when it is dark. The ceremony involves a countdown and cheer when the tree lights.



Event Details

- **Parking:**
 - **Street Parking:** Available on nearby side streets. Please observe all local signage.
 - **Metered Parking:** Available on Springfield Avenue.
 - **Parking Lot Access:** The parking lot of Maplecrest Park is free.
 - There is accessible parking at the Hilton Library parking.
- **Refreshments:**
 - Hot cocoa, fruit, and waffles will be available for free.
 - Guests are also permitted to bring their own refreshments.
- **Bathrooms:**
 - Bathrooms are available inside the Hilton Library next to the event.



Accessibility and Inclusion Features

This event prioritizes inclusion and accessibility, thanks to a partnership between the Township Department of Community Services and Together We Bloom.

- **Sensory-Friendly Quiet Space:** Located inside of the Hilton Library, this dedicated space provides a low-stimulation retreat. It includes soft lighting, a cozy tent, sensory toys, and books for attendees who may feel overwhelmed.
- **Noise Reduction Support:** Ear defenders are available to borrow at the event, located in a basket on the snacks table (by the food trucks) and in sensory-friendly quiet space. This is provided for individuals who find the crowd noise overwhelming.
- **Flexibility and Choice:** Attendees are encouraged to listen to their individual needs and stay as long as they like. All are welcome to come as they are.



I am an important part of my community.

**Winter Fun and Community are for everyone!
Maplewood is for everyone!**





Special thanks to the Maplewood Township Department of Community Services for partnering with Together We Bloom to increase disability inclusion for this community event.

We believe that our community will be richer and more just by embracing our neurodiversity, celebrating our difference, and prioritizing belonging and equity for individuals with disabilities.



To learn more about our values and our work in the community, please visit:
www.TogetherWeBloom.org

Please stay in touch!



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Together We Bloom is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.