

# town square

## MAPLE GROVE

### Residents have mostly positive things to say

Maple Grove residents to the city: Love the schools, safety and services. Now let's talk about the traffic ...

Maple Grove, with the help of the National Research Center, recently completed a telephone survey of 401 residents. The response rate was 35 percent, and the margin of error is plus-or-minus 5 percentage points.

Nearly all respondents (96 percent) rated their overall quality of life in Maple Grove as "very good" or "good." The same percentage rated the city a "very good" or "good" place to raise children, and 82 percent said the city is a "very good" or "good" place to work.

Respondents' ratings of "community characteristics" such as trails, sports fields and pedestrian travel were similarly high. The highest: Cleanliness, at 96 percent "very good" or "good." The lowest: Availability of affordable housing, at 46 percent "very good" or "good," with 21 percent of residents rating it as "bad."

They also spoke of the city's

challenges — unprompted — and the most often mentioned was traffic congestion. That was also respondents' biggest concern back in 2001, when the city last did a survey. The percentage who noted it jumped, however, from 11 percent in 2001 to 38 percent in 2008.

To read the full report, visit [www.startribune.com/a4451](http://www.startribune.com/a4451).

## MINNETONKA

### Author to speak

Matthew Sanford, author of "Waking: A Memoir of Trauma and Transcendence," will present a free inspirational program at 6:30 p.m. June 18 at The Marsh, 15000 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka.

Sanford was recently named a winner of the 2008 Volvo for Life Awards in recognition of his work, and his nonprofit, Mind Body Solutions, wants to thank the community for supporting him in the competition.

His book, recently released in paperback, tells the story of how he was paralyzed in a car accident at age 13 and went on to develop a program using yoga to help himself and others better understand the mind-body connection.

Space is limited, so sign up by Monday. Call 952-935-2202.

## Canoes on the creek

Minnetonka Recreation Services offers a canoe shuttle on Minnehaha Creek on Saturdays and Sundays for as long as the creek's water level remains adequate. Friday service may be added if there is enough demand.

The cost is \$40 for three hours of use of a rental canoe and the shuttle service, or \$20 per canoe for the shuttle service alone.

For advance reservations, call 952-939-8203. For same-day reservations, call 612-360-8235.