Winter 2016

# MAPLE PLAIN and INDEPENDENCE

## SHARED CITY NEWSLETTER

**TWO CITIES: SHARING SERVICES FOR THEIR RESIDENTS**

**Public Safety News** - Pages 3 - 4

**Environmental Reminders** - Pages 5-7

**Community News and Events -** Pages 8- 10
- Eagle Project Pioneer Park
- Volunteer with CAPSH
- Horse Certificate Course
- Heart Safe Information
- City of Independence Sign

**Delano Senior Center -** Page 11

**CITY OF INDEPENDENCE-** Page 12
- Weir Replaced
- Derek Spencer Eagle Court

**Contact Information** - Page 13

**CITY OF MAPLE PLAIN -** Page 14

**Winter Reminders -** Page 15

**Orono Schools Early Learning** Page 16

## LETTER FROM INDEPENDENCE MAYOR JOHNSON

Mayor Johnson

As we come to the end of 2015, we can say this has been a "wonderful" year weather wise. It was a beautiful long fall with heavy rains and warmer temperatures. From the city perspective, we have saved a lot of wear and tear on our equipment by not having to remove snow and ice from the roads.

The new year brings some changes to the Council table. Congratulations are in order for Ray McCoy and Steve Grotting for their successful election to the City Council. I am confident they will represent the City well! Retiring from the Council are Norm Wenck and Brad Fisher. Both served the City for many years as Planning Commissioners and Council members and their expertise will be missed. We want to thank them for their dedicated service to Independence. Thank you for your confidence in reelecting me as Mayor! Cont. p.2

## LETTER FROM COUNCILMEMBER MIKE DELUCA

Maple Plain Councilmember DeLuca

The end of the calendar year brings an opportunity to reflect back on the previous year. And, what a year it has been.

The largest road and infrastructure improvement in the history of Maple Plain finished this spring. I hope you would agree that the new and improved Rainbow and Main Street project looks marvelous. What you might not know is that aging sewer pipes in that area were costing the city a lot of money as ground water would seep into the sewer line, and we were charged for the extra water. By keeping clean water out of the system everyone wins. The infiltration of clean water into our system is significantly lower than prior to the project.

After years of delayed maintenance on our city streets, we implemented our new street maintenance plan and began systematic improvements to the streets. You probably noticed the improvement earlier in the summer on many of the city streets. And, we will responsibly continue these improvements into 2016 and beyond. Cont. p2

# LETTERS FROM OUR CITY COUNCILS

## LETTER FROM MAYOR JOHNSON (CONTINUED…)

The 2016 budget was finalized at the Council meeting on December 8th. The final figure is $2,517,559.00 for general City operations and debt service and $64,270.00 for the Pioneer/ Sarah Creek Watershed district levy. The general levy is nearly 2% lower than what was proposed in September and what appeared on your tax statements this fall.

The major change on tax statements is due to the Delano School District bonds that passed in November. That increase will start on your 2016 taxes and is significant. Hennepin County had proposed a 4.48% increase this year.

Valuation for Independence increased 1.19% this past year compared to 5.23% last year. Commercial and agriculture land dropped a little and housing (except lake properties) remained flat.

Probably before the next newsletter is printed the local 2016 election cycle will have begun. Up for election this year will be all the State Senators and Representatives and U.S. Congress Representatives. Political party caucuses are scheduled for Tuesday, March 1st.

Our City staff, Public Works employees and Public Safety Staff have had a busy year and an excellent safety record. We are fortunate to have such capable and dedicated employees that serve the City with pride. Thank You!

Enjoy the Christmas Season with all its charm, music, family and church gatherings and may 2016 be another good year for us all.

## LETTER FROM COUNCILMEMBER DELUCA CONTINUED…)

In 2016 we intend to begin improvements on Bud and Main street in 2016.

After moving into our new offices at the Discovery Center in 2014, efforts continued this fall on the development of the downtown area. We sadly said goodbye to Olson's Market and the old city hall to make room for the new development. Maple Plain has been dreaming of a downtown development for as long as I have been on the council. What a pleasure it is to see this progress being made. Construction should begin in 2016.

I'd also like to say thank you to a very dedicated staff and council. We are truly blessed as a city to have Tessia and her team working for our residents and businesses. Additionally we have a gifted and committed city council. They each bring unique gifts to the table. As a group we keep our eye on the future. We learn from the past, we listen to each other, and to you the residents and businesses. We make tough decisions. At times we don't agree on everything. That is OK. We have worked through some very complicated issues, and we always seem to come up with the best solutions to the challenges placed before us. It has been a privilege serving you on this council with a group of dedicated public servants. Thank you Jerry, Dave, Justin and Julie.

May 2016 bring you and your family peace and joy. Please let any of your city council and staff members know if there is anything we can do for you.

### City of Maple Plain Meetings

City Council: 2nd & 4th Mondays at 6:30 PM
Council Workshops: 4th Monday at 5:30 PM
Economic Development Authority: 2nd Monday at 5:30 PM
Planning Commission: 1st Thursday at 7:00 PM
Parks Commission: 3rd Monday at 7:00 PM

### City of Independence Meetings

City Council: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 7:30 PM
Planning Commission: 2nd Monday at 7:30 PM

# PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS

## HIGHWAY 12 SAFETY COALITION UPDATE

WHPS Director Gary Kroells

Over the next 12 months West Hennepin Public Safety Department, MN State Patrol, Wright County Sheriffs Office, Hennepin County Sheriffs Office, Medina Police Department, Orono Police Department, Howard Lake Police Department and all public safety entities within the 38 mile corridor of the Highway 12 Safety Coalition are challenging drivers to Go '12 for 12.'

'Going 12 for 12' simply means that in this Highway 12 corridor, we are asking motorists to have a goal of zero fatal accidents over the next 12 months.

On November 30, 2015, a press conference was held at West Hennepin Public Safety Department with all members of the coalition, the local fire department and law enforcement standing side by side to challenge the public to 'Go 12 for 12'. We've made tremendous strides to improve safety and save lives but people continue to die along Highway 12. Over the past 12 months we have lost six people to unnecessary crashes along Highway 12.

On August 22, 2015, Chelsea Langhans was killed when a driver crossed over the centerline, striking her vehicle head on. Her sister, Liz Squire, addressed the media and members of the Highway 12 Safety Coalition and said, 'No family should have to know how it feels to lose a loved one so suddenly in a crash.'

In order for our communities and family members to stop dying along Highway 12, we must work together to solve this problem. We must slow down, wear our seatbelts and be responsible when driving. We MUST put down the cell phone while driving. 'Going 12 for 12' is going to put additional law enforcement along Highway 12 to prevent people from driving distracted and keep our roads safer.

Other goals of the Highway 12 Safety Coalition include funding for a concrete median barrier along the new Super 2, intersection management through Maple Plain, intersection realignment and a traffic control device at County Road 90 and County Road 92 in Independence.

With all these safety improvements, the Highway 12 Safety Coalition has been in contact with MN-DOT and the funding is simply not there. Senator Osmek and Representative Hertaus have worked with the Highway 12 Safety Coalition. We recently spent time with Transportation Commissioner Zelle to express our need for safety improvements along Highway 12. Senator Osmek and Representative Hertaus will be working with the legislature in the upcoming session to find funding for Highway 12 safety improvements.

I want the citizens and our community members to know that West Hennepin Public Safety is committed to making Highway 12 safer for all of us. Together we can work to reduce the number of fatal crashes along Highway 12 along with our partners in MN-DOT, Hennepin and Wright County and our elected officials. Please like us on Facebook at the Highway 12 Safety Coalition!
www.facebook.com/hwy-12-safety-coalition.com.

# PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS

## WHPS RESERVE OFFICERS

Director Gary Kroells, Officer Ben Anderson, Reserves from left to right are: Jeff Strand, Blake Tyra, Angela Grabowski, Lisa Schreier, Craig Hertog, Brandon Snetsinger, Dillon Field, Phil Beck, Sgt Rick Denneson Second row: Santa

On Saturday December 5, the West Hennepin Public Safety Reserve Officers hosted the popular event “View Santa” in Maple Plain and Independence. The Police Reserves escorted Santa in his sleigh around town to visit with and see children throughout many neighborhoods. In doing so they collected food for the Maple Plain Area Food Shelf.

“This year was an exceptional year with many people coming out to visit Santa and making donations to the local food shelf. The Police Reserves collected over 1,187 pounds of food and $200.00 in cash donations” said Director Gary Kroells. “The Volunteer Reserve Officers of WHPS have been hosting this event for 35 years and it is a very special program for our small communities”.

“Without our Volunteer Police Reserves this wonderful event would never take place. By working together, our citizens and your police department filled the food shelf to provide to others who need it most. It is a wonderful event that most communities don’t have,” said Director Kroells

*If you are interested in becoming a West Hennepin Police Reserve please contact Reserve Coordinator Ben Anderson at (763) 479-0500.*

# ENVIRONMENTAL REMINDERS AND UPDATES

## TOILETS ARE NOT TRASHCANS!

### Flushable Wipes Not Flushable!

Public Works would like to send out a reminder to please not flush "flushable wipes"! Disposable wipes which are essentially baby wipes designed for adults are wreaking havoc on sewer systems nationwide. The majority of the wipes don't biodegrade quickly enough to avoid clogging sewer pipes. Many cities across the world are in lawsuits with wipes manufacturers and are demanding clear labeling of the products. Even a few flushed wipes can create a blockage for a single home resulting in an expensive service call to have the drain snaked. Municipal sewer systems are only able to handle items that break down relatively easily so even a few homes flushing wipes can result in a very expensive breakdown for cities.

*** Side note: please do not dump grease in the kitchen sink as this also causes sewer problems!**

### What to do with Unwanted Medicine!

Do you have prescriptions you no longer need or perhaps a bottle of cough syrup you want to throw away? Maybe you have over the counter medicine or prescriptions that have expired and wonder what is the proper way to dispose of them? The old advice was to flush them down the toilet or throw them in the trash but it has been proven that medicines flushed down the drain can contaminate our lakes and streams and ends up in our drinking water! Doing this also hurts fish and other aquatic wildlife! Municipal systems cannot remove medications from the water. Following are places you may dispose of medications safely:

- **Check with your pharmacy**– as of 2015 new regulations allow them to collect

## RECYCLING TO BE REQUIRED IN COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS IN 2016

In 2014, the Minnesota Legislature expanded recycling requirements to include commercial buildings. Owners with commercial buildings in the seven-county metro area –that also generate four cubic yards or more of trash per week – must be recycling at least three materials by January 1, 2016.
**Who must collect recycling?** Property owners with commercial buildings (including multi-family buildings) located in Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott or Washington counties.
**What must be collected?** A minimum of three broad materials must be collected for recycling. Possible material types include paper, cans, glass, plastic, metal, cardboard or organics. Single-sort recycling collection with 3+ materials included meet the requirement.
**Businesses can get funds, recycling bins and advice from Hennepin County** Hennepin County Environment and Energy has staff available to help make business recycling efforts a success. Businesses can get funds, bins, signs and onsite assistance here: www.hennepin.us/businessrecycling.

# ENVIRONMENTAL REMINDERS AND UPDATES

MAPLE PLAIN
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## RECYCLING GUIDE

# Recycling Guide

## Paper

- Mail, office and school papers
- Magazines and catalogs
- Newspapers and inserts
- Phone books
- Shredded paper in closed paper bags

Boxes:

- Cardboard
- Cereal and cracker boxes
- Shoe boxes, gift boxes and electronics boxes
- Toothpaste, medication and other toiletry boxes

## Cartons

- Milk cartons
- Juice boxes
- Soup, broth and wine cartons

## Glass

- Food and beverage bottle and jars

## Plastic

Bottles & jugs:

- Water, soda and juice bottles
- Milk and juice jugs
- Ketchup and salad dressing bottles
- Dishwashing liquid bottles and detergent jugs
- Shampoo, soap and lotion bottles

Cups and containers:

- Yogurt, pudding and fruit cups
- Disposable cups and bowls
- Margarine, cottage cheese, and other containers
- Produce, deli and take out containers

Packaging:

- Clear packaging from toys and electronics

## Metal

- Food and beverage cans

**Don't recycle:** Styrofoam™, plastic wrap, microwaveable food trays, paper soiled with food, paper plates and towels, drinking glasses, dishes, mirrors and containers that held hazardous products.

Hennepin

**Hennepin County**
Environmental Services
612-348-3777
*www.hennepin.us/recycling*

# 2016 RECYCLING SCHEDULE

## City of Maple Plain & City of Independence

### 2016 RECYCLING SCHEDULES

| | |
|---|---|
| | Maple Plain Recycling Week |
| | North of HWY 12 and East of Co Rd 90 Recycling Week |
| | South of HWY 12 & North of HWY 12, West of Co Rd 90 Recycling Week |

Holiday

Friday pickup will be delayed until Saturday on the weeks of:

January 1, May 30, July 4, September 5, & November 24

**JANUARY**

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**APRIL**

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**MAY**

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**JUNE**

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**JULY**

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**AUGUST**

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**OCTOBER**

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**NOVEMBER**

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**DECEMBER**

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# COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

## EAGLE PROJECT IN PIONEER PARK

Those of you who have explored the back part of Pioneer Park may have noticed a new 'Nature walk' kiosk. This is part of the long range plans to add trails and a boardwalk to the wetlands surrounding Pioneer Creek.

The Kiosk provides visitors with the opportunity to learn more about the birds, animals and trees around the park. Other posted information, a small library of books, and a treasure hunt based on what can be found in the park are also in the kiosk.

Several bird, bat, and duck houses were placed near the kiosk and river as well. Families of bluebirds and wrens inhabited the birdhouses within the first week and a chickadee claimed a duck house as its own.

You'll also find newly planted trees that tolerate wetland or floodplain conditions, such as River Birch, Willow, Red Maple and Hackberry. In all, 82 trees were planted this spring.

The kiosk and the trees were planted as part of an Eagle Project by Martin Eichers, of Boy Scout Troop 273 from Delano. Martin is completing his Eagle Scout requirements and hopes to achieve this goal in the coming weeks.

***Congratulations Martin Eichers on this wonderful project!***

**Volunteer with Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin (CAPSH).**

Interested in a volunteer opportunity with direct client engagement that makes an immediate impact? Volunteer with Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin (CAPSH). CAPSH's Free Tax Assistance program helps low to moderate income individuals and families file their tax returns. This year CAPSH served 738 households, returning a total of $1,263,300 in federal, state, and property refunds to our community members. You do not need to prepare taxes to help in the Tax Assistance Program, bring your skills to the program!

Contact Beau Henkels at **952-697-1316** or bhenkels@capsh.org to find out more.

# COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

## WHPS ANNOUNCES THE 2016 POLICE ACADEMY

**West Hennepin Public Safety's 2016 Citizens Police Academy** will start on February 18, 2016, and will end with graduation on April 7, 2016. The Academy runs for eight weeks, one day a week, Thursday nights, from 7 –10 p.m.

The **Citizens Academy is a FREE 24-hour block of instruction, sponsored by the Crime Fund**, designed to give citizens knowledge about how your public safety department operates, our policies, procedures, programs and challenges. In addition, you will be introduced to government officials and staff and learn about the responsibilities of their respective office.

The Citizens Police Academy was designed to create a better understanding of law enforcement through education. The Citizens Police Academy participants are presented with realistic hands on information, which will help each participant better understand the police department functions. The classroom and hands on information covers: **DWI** and **traffic enforcement**, **home security**, **use of deadly force, which includes a demonstration of the Taser gun and FATS training (firearms simulation)**, **Hennepin County Dispatch Center**, **court procedures including testifying before a Judge, K-9 demonstration, narcotics investigations** and many other areas related to law enforcement. This is a great opportunity to meet your peace officers, fellow citizens, and other members of government to learn why we do what we do. At graduation you will receive a certificate and become a member of the Citizens Academy Alumni network.

We believe an informed citizenry will enhance public safety, make better decisions about how to protect themselves and their business, understand law enforcement strategies to problem-solving and provide leadership to other areas of government. This class is a must for those people who live or work within West Hennepin Public Safety Department's jurisdiction, but is open to citizens from around the area. The recommended attendee age is 18 years and older. Please contact WHPS at **(763)479-0500** between 9a.m.– 4p.m. to register.

### University of Minnesota Online Horse Pasture Establishment and Management Course

The Online Horse Pasture Establishment and Management Certificate Course is a semi self-paced, six week certificate course focused on establishing and managing horse pastures in the upper Midwest. Topics include pasture layout and design, pasture establishment, pasture management, estimating pasture intake, managing diseased horses on pasture, pasture resources, and pasture research updates. $75 per person. Online registration required by noon on Sunday, January 10, 2016.

Register online at http://z.umn.edu/horsecourse
Questions call **612-301-4357** or help@umn.edu

# COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

## HEART SAFE MAKES GREAT STRIDES IN 2015

As we reflect back on the year 2015, it was a successful year of business involvement and placement of **18 AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators)** throughout the community.

Are you familiar with the locations of AED's in Maple Plain? As you shop, look for the AED locator sign within the following businesses:

**Maple Plain Fire Department, Maple Plain Food Center, McGarry's Pub, Monies, Monique Donaldson (residential), Christ Lutheran Church, City of Independence Community Center, Discovery Center, Elim-Haven Homes, Herculift, Jerry and Lynda Brown (residential), Maple Plain Community Church, UFC Farm Supply, Pioneer Creek Golf Course, Protolabs, Rod Grandstrand (residential), Wind Song Golf Course and Maple Plain Library.**

***Your knowledge of the location may save a life!***

**How can you help to keep Maple Plain a Heart Safe Community?**

- Join as a volunteer to educate the community
- Consider a donation. Donations, small and large, are used to assist small businesses that are not able to afford the purchase of an AED and for the educational training.

  If you as a resident or have a business in the community and would like to know more about AED's, please contact Julie at 763-479-6010 – email: jmkfpc@gmail.com or Carol at 612-759-9908 – email: cheswickcarol@gmail.com.

♦

***NOTE:*** *The Heart Safe Co-Chairs, Julie Maas-Kusske and Carol Cheswick have recently had health issues which has kept them both from holding training sessions. If you have requested to be put on the list for training, as soon as they are able, they will be contacting you with information. The training sessions are open to the public, last 1-1 /2 hours and there is no charge. If you would like to be placed on the list, contact Julie or Carol.*

## Make your mark on Independence!

**The City of Independence wants your ideas for a new City sign!**

Many thanks to Jordan Spencer and the Spencer family for the wonderful job of sprucing up and maintaining the current sign! They noticed on the last coat of paint this fall that it was indeed time to look at a replacement sign. We would love to hear your ideas! Perhaps a sculpture from a local artist, a child's vision or a collaboration of ideas from everyone? Should we keep the same design and use new materials? Should we use a real bell or change from the bell image? The possibilities are many! Please submit your creative ideas by April 1st to:
tbemmels@ci.independence.mn.us

# DELANO SENIOR CENTER

234 2nd Street North senior@delano.mn.us Office: 763-972-0574

**Dining Program** Nutritious noon hour meals prepared Monday through Friday. Meals on Wheels are also available to homebound seniors.

## Special In-House Events

**Wed., Jan. 27:** Old-time music with Cletus Goblirsch – 11:15 a.m.

**Thursday, Feb. 4:** "A New Look at the Old West" cowboy show with Lyndon Griffin – 11 a.m.

**Wednesday, Feb. 17:** Music with "one-man band" Lyndon Peterson: 11 a.m.

**Thursday, Mar. 24:** *Statue of Liberty: Two Decades of Effort, Almost Impossible Odds* with historian David Jones – 11 a.m.

## Health & Education

**Legal Aid:** available by appointment every 1st Monday of the month
**Eyeglass small repair & adjustment:** 1st Tuesday of the month at 11:30
**Blood Pressure Clinic:** Noon-2:00 every Tuesday
**Exercise:** 11:20-11:40 every Wednesday & Friday
**Chair Yoga:** 9:15 every Wednesday
**Book Club:** 10:30 every 3rd Wednesday of the month
**Parkinson's Support Group:** 1:30 every 3rd Thursday of the month
**Writers Group:** 10:15 every 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month

**Bingo!** Mondays at 11:15 & Fridays at 12:40
**Bridge:** 1:00 every 2nd and 4th Monday
**Farkel:** 1:00 every 1st and 3rd Tuesday
**Mexican Train:** 1:00 every 2nd and 4th Tuesday
**Cribbage:** 1:00 every 1st & 3rd Wednesday
**Cards-500:** 1:00 every 2nd & 4th Wednesday
**Movie Club:** 1:00 every Thursday
**Choir:** practices every Monday at 10:00
**Storytheater:** practices as needed

## Day Trips

**Thursday, Jan. 7:** Buffalo shopping trip - 9 a.m., no cost

**Wednesday, Jan. 13:** James J. Hill House trip, St. Paul – 8:45 a.m., $15

**Thursday, Jan. 21:** Shopping trip to HyVee in New Hope – 9 a.m., $6

**Thursday, Jan. 28:** *The Wedding Singer* musical at Old Log Theater – 11 a.m., $58

**Wednesday, Feb. 3:** Jewish Deli Food at Cross-roads Deli in Minnetonka – 10:15 a.m., $6

**Thursday, Feb. 11:** Buffalo shopping trip - 9 a.m., no cost

**Thursday, Feb. 11:** Diamond Jo Casino trip (Northwood, Iowa) – 7:30 a.m., $23

**Wednesday, Feb. 24:** *Sister Act* at Chanhassen Dinner Theater – 10:30 a.m., $65

**Thursday, Feb. 25:** Ridgedale shopping trip – 9 a.m., $6

**Thursday, March 3:** Mexican food at El Mocajete restaurant in Buffalo – 10:30 a.m., $6

**Wednesday, March 9:** Buffalo shopping trip - 9 a.m., no cost

**Wednesday, March 16:** *Blithe Spirit* at Old Log Theater – 11 a.m., $53

**Friday, March 18:** Ring of Kerry Irish music at St. Cloud Paramount Theater – 12:00 p.m., $30

**Wednesday, March 23**: Southtown shopping trip – 9 a.m., $6

# CITY OF INDEPENDENCE

## Independence Weir Replaced

On Saturday morning October 10, 2015, the outlet control (weir) on the west side of lake Independence was replaced under MN DNR permit #2014-0199. The project was completed entirely with local talent and volunteers saving the community several thousands of dollars. The cost of the project will be shared by the cities of Independence and Medina, Three Rivers Park District, and the Pioneer Sarah Creek Watershed District.

The weir, located under the bridge on Independence Road, is a wooden dam structure previously installed in 1977, which was worn and damaged. It was scheduled to be repaired following the recent outlet channel restoration that was completed in 2014.

The top boards of the weir were replaced with two 25' long 3" thick white oak planks (each weighing about 150 #) custom cut by Timm's Lumber & Sawing (County Rd 6) and covered by a custom made 3/16" plate steel cover formed by Schoening (County Road 90). All components were welded and prepared by Larry Ende, City of Independence Public Works Director.

The new weir was installed by Larry Ende (Director - Independence Public Works), Joe Baker (Pioneer Sarah Creek Watershed Commissioner), Derek Spencer (Delano Troop 273 Eagle Scout) , Mike Peterson, and Brad Spencer (Independence City Councilmember). Project Engineering services by Craig Jochum (Hakanson Anderson Inc.)

## Derek Spencer Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony

On Sunday, November 22, 2015, there was an 'Eagle Court of Honor' ceremony awarding Derek Spencer with his Eagle Scout badge. This is the highest advancement rank in Boy Scouting. To earn this rank, a Boy Scout must progress through six levels of rank and earn 21 merit badges. They also need to serve six months in a troop leadership position; plan, develop, and give leadership to a service project for any religious organization or school or community; take part in a Scoutmaster conference; and successfully complete an Eagle Scout board of review.

***Congratulations Derek on a worthy accomplishment!***

# CONTACT INFORMATION

| Independence | City Council | | 1920 County Rd 90, Independence |
|---|---|---|---|
| Marvin Johnson<br>Independence Mayor | 6325 County Road 6 | 763.479.2274<br>612.840.3433 | marvdjohnson@gmail.com |
| Lynn Betts<br>Independence Council | 6050 Pagenkopf Road | 763.479.2789 | bettslynn@gmail.com |
| Steve Grotting<br>Independence Council | 6064 Drake Dr | 952.451.8800 | steve@windsongrealtors.com |
| Brad Spencer<br>Independence Council | 4510 Shady Beach Cir. | 612.616.7548 | B.spencer@lakesarah.com |
| Ray McCoy | 435 County Road 110 | 612-328-3853 | mccoy5701@gmail.com |

| Maple Plain | City Council | | 5050 Independence St, Maple Plain |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jerry Young | 1554 Parkview Road | 612.237.3115 | Centricsoftware@yahoo.com |
| Justin McCoy | 1459 Prairieland Ave. | 763.200.4026<br>763.238.6375 | justinhmccoy@gmail.com |
| Dave Eisinger<br>Maple Plain Council | 5785 Main Street W | 763.479.2732<br>612.670.4140 | dlzinger@frontiernet.net |
| Julie Maas-Kusske<br>Maple Plain Council | 1489 Three Oaks Ave. | 763.479.6010 | JulieMaasKusske@gmail.com |
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## Independence Staff

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**Beth Horner, Administrative Assistant**
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**Mark Kaltsas, Interim City Administrator**

**Office Hours:**
Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m. - Noon

## Maple Plain Staff

**Tessia Melvin Administrator-Clerk**
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**Matt Morris, Public Works**
**Harry Stricklen, Public Works**
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**Office Hours:**
Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

# CITY OF MAPLE PLAIN

## ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE: HELP RECOGNIZE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The Maple Plain City Council is looking for residents, business owners and community members that help make Maple Plain a great community to live, play and work in. Each month the City Council recognizes contributions and achievements of our community. Nominations should be sent to Tessia Melvin at tmelvin@mapleplain.com or dropped off at City Hall.

## MAPLE PLAIN DAYS SET FOR AUGUST 20, 2016

Mark you calendar for Saturday, August 20, 2016. Maple Plain Days will be hosted again at Northside Park. We are looking for volunteers for the committee, entertainment ideas and volunteers to help on the day. For more information, contact Tessia Melvin at tmelvin@mapleplain.com.

## STREET SWEEPING TO OCCUR IN APRIL

The City implements an annual street sweeping program that helps protect water quality by keeping sediment-filled runoff from entering the storm water system and therefore out of the local ponds and wetlands.

Spring street sweeping, weather depending, is done as a means to remove residual sand and salt from past snow plowing events. The City plans to sweep the streets in April. Street sweeping is necessary for a number of reasons. It helps keep vehicles and pedestrians safe by keeping debris off the roadway, it helps keep streets well maintained and it helps protect surface water quality and the environment.

## BECOME A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION!

Paul Stinson Post 514 of Maple Plain is looking to add more members in 2016. The Post's goals are to gain younger Veterans and their families, reinstate past Legion members and welcome home others who wish to transfer back to their hometown legion. We currently are growing again and recently met our 2015-16 goal. The post has no Post Home, we meet officially twice yearly. Commander Gary McPherson and Post Adjutant Jim Meyer are concerned about the need for additional levels of participation and the adding of younger veterans would be welcomed.

We currently are involved in burial rites of our Veteran friends, the Memorial Day service at Lewis Cemetery and other sites, Maple Plain Days, Orono Homecoming Game, Flag Retirement Ritual, Veterans Day with a visit to ElimCare Nursing Home in Maple Plain and an Outdoor Long Lake event. We network with each other at The Blackwater café on most Tuesdays around 9:00 AM.

Interested veterans are asked to call **(Gary) 612.804.8315** or **(Jim)763.742.3706** with questions you might have about our Post.

# WINTER UPDATES

## WINTER SNOWPLOWING REMINDERS!

When the snow flies, Maple Plain and Independence Public Works mobilize to provide you with a clear path to get to work, to the store, or to your favorite winter activity destination.

**How much snow is needed before the plows begin?**
Two inches of continual snow fall, drifting snow, or unsafe road conditions due to ice or freezing rain.

**What is our snow removal policy for sidewalks, trail ways, bikeways and walkways for residents and businesses?**
Snow and ice must be removed from public sidewalks, trail ways, bikeways and walkways 12 hours after snow has ceased to fall.

**What if my mailbox is damaged during the snow removal?**
Even under the best of circumstances and extreme care on the part of plow operators, damage to mailboxes due to snow plowing is possible. However, the City is only responsible if damage to a mailbox is the result of being struck by the plow blade, wing or other piece of equipment. Damage caused by snow or ice is the responsibility of the property owner. Replacement policy details are available by contacting City Hall and maximums do apply.

**Any final advice on making this a safe winter season?**
Please provide snowplow operator's enough room to maneuver the equipment. Due to the size of these vehicles, it may not always be possible for operators to see vehicles following too closely; so be sure to leave a safe distance and always pass a snowplow with extreme care.

**Will snow plow operators clear off my driveway?**
The City's first priority is to clear the streets as efficiently as possible. Snowplow operators recognize the inconvenience of a plugged driveway and so they make every attempt to minimize these occurrences. Unfortunately, this is not always possible.

**Snow removal reminder**
Minnesota State Law and local ordinances prohibit the deposit of snow in any way on public streets. Please help keep our roads safe for all.

## WINTER PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Between **November 1 and April 15** of each year, no vehicle shall be left standing or parked between 1 a.m. and 7 a.m. on any street, state highway, or county road within the Maple Plain city limits. West Hennepin Public Safety is permitted to ticket and tow all vehicles, at the owner's expense, in violation of the city's parking ordinance.

## KEEP FIRE HYDRANTS CLEARED DURING THE WINTER

Don't let a blocked hydrant add seconds during a fire call, be a good neighbor to the Maple Plain Fire Department and help keep all fire hydrants cleared of snow during the winter season.

US POSTAGE
PAID
PRSRT STD

PERMIT #75

ORONO SCHOOLS Early Learning
ECFE - Preschool - Child Care

*Upcoming Early Learning classes and events for all families with young children - mark your calendars!*

Mondays "Pop In & Play Gym Times"
Do you have young children? Orono Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) program at the Discovery Center invites you to get those wiggles out and meet some new friends on Monday mornings, 10-11 am, or evenings, 5-6 pm, in the East Gym through Monday, April 25. It's free – we just need parents to stay with their children and supervise. Please bring your ID and check in at the front desk. *(No Pop In: Dec. 21 & 28, Jan. 18, Feb. 15, Mar. 21 & 30)*

ECFE Family Nights – It's not too late to sign up! Family Nights meet on Monday nights January 11 - February 8 from 5-6:30 pm. Parents meet for Parent Discussion with an ECFE Parent Educator from 5-5:45 pm while the children stay and play with an ECFE Children's Teacher. After a pizza dinner in the lunchroom, kids and parents enjoy activities and the famous ECFE "circle time." Reserve your spot by registering online at www.oronocommunityed.com. #EC711. $80 for session - includes pizza dinners.

"Parent-Child Book Club" for 2-5 year olds – "A child who reads will be an adult who thinks." Join our hometown hero librarian, Roberta Rott, for special story time activities on Friday mornings Jan 8 – Feb 26 from 10:30-11:30 am at the Discovery Center. Cost is $40/family. Register online at www.oronocommunityed.com, or contact the Early Learning Office (phone and email listed below). (*No class Jan. 29 & Feb. 26)*

January 19-25 – We LOVE Books! The annual Scholastic Book Fair will be held at the Discovery Center and is open to the entire community. Find great books for every age! Tuesday through Friday 9 am-6 pm, Saturday 10-11:30 am, and Monday 9 am-1 pm.

January 23 – Everyone's Invited to the Dr. Seuss Super Saturday, 10-11:30 am – Bring your infants, toddlers and preschoolers to see the "Mad Scientist," enjoy activities, a treat and story time!

February 25 – Orono School District Incoming Kindergarten Parent Meeting, 7-8 pm at Schumann Elementary Children are eligible for Kindergarten if they are 5 years of age by September 1, 2016. Attend to learn important information about Kindergarten at Schumann Elementary. Kindergarten registration forms will be mailed out in early February and can be turned in at this meeting. If you did not receive one for your child, you can pick one up at the Discovery Center. The meeting is for parents only. Child care is available for $5 per child, registration required - call 763-479-1530, Option 3 by Monday, Feb. 22 for reservations, or if fee is difficult to pay.