

# MAPLE PLAIN

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## Fall 2020 Newsletter



Mayor Julie Maas-Kusske

Dear Neighbors,

I hope this finds you and your loved ones well, as we are all learning to confront our new normal and adjust accordingly. As an extrovert, I have found these past six months to be extremely challenging and, if I am completely honest with you, at times even a bit lonely. As we navigate this pandemic together, rather than social distancing, I prefer to say physically distancing. Whether we like it or not, we need each other to be healthy, functioning human beings. I was listening to Rob Ketterling and he said, “we grow in circles, not in rows.” When I think of that analogy it is very powerful and once again reminds us that together we are better neighbors.

Nominations are currently being accepted for the Maple Plain 2020 Good Neighbor Award. Please take a moment to consider who has been a good neighbor to you and nominate them before October 12th. You can find more information on how to do that in the newsletter.

Just as the seasons are changing so is the look around our city. Veteran’s Memorial Park, located under the water tower, is nearing completion. Gateway Boulevard, our new road located between Howard Avenue and Co. Rd. 29, is also nearing completion. Both of these projects will enhance our city and there was no additional expense to taxpayers. I hope the park will be a place where many will make memories for years to come; I can’t wait to host the next Party in the Park event there. Since Gateway Boulevard will be “build-ready”, I anticipate that it will spur development in our gateway area. This is complicated by the fact the city doesn’t own the land, but the good news is the EDA, Planning Commission, and City Council are welcoming to new business. Since our last newsletter, we welcomed Frank Boyles to our staff as our interim city administrator. Frank has over forty years of experience working in city government. When you stop by city hall make sure to say hello and introduce yourself. Frank, with the help of Baker Tilly Search and Staffing, will lead us through the process of hiring a new city administrator.

As Americans, we have the incredible privilege of voting. Make sure to continue reading the newsletter to find voter information. May Maple Plain continue to be a community that supports its neighbors and surrounding communities, because together we are better!

Take care and enjoy the beautiful fall season!

*Mayor Julie Maas-Kusske*

**Last week for curb-side yard waste / leaf pickup!**

**NOVEMBER 16TH**

**See Page 7 for Details**



**General Election Day is Tuesday, November 3rd, 2020.** Maple Plain residents vote in the Council Chambers at City Hall located at 5050 Independence Street from 7am to 8pm. If you voted in the last election and haven't moved or changed your name, you should be pre-registered to vote in this year's elections. **It's easy to check if you're registered** – go to **www.mnvotes.org**, scroll down and click on "Check my registration". Here you will also find information about REGISTERING TO VOTE, ELECTION DATES, ABSENTEE VOTING, and VIEWING THE BALLOT. There is a wealth of information and it is a very user-friendly website.

### COVID-19 CONCERNS

- The best thing you can do to protect your community is to **VOTE ABSENTEE BY MAIL**. You can vote in the privacy and safety of your own home. This will reduce the risk for you and for our election judges and staff. **See below for detailed information.**
- In-person Election Day voting will take place for the General Election on November 3rd. Measures will be in place to limit exposure to the corona virus for voters and election judges and staff.
- Voters on election day are asked to wear face coverings and bring your own pen (black ink is best.) Face coverings and pens will be available at the polls as well.



In addition to State, Federal, and Judicial offices, there will be an election for Mayor and two City Council seats , as well as a school district funding question on the November ballot.

Questions? Contact Sharon or Jill at 763-479-0515 or [sspicer@mapleplain.com](mailto:sspicer@mapleplain.com)

## Absentee Voting - A Good Option

Maple Plain voters have the option to request an absentee ballot to be mailed to them for the General Election on November 3rd. By choosing to vote absentee, you reduce community exposure to the Covid virus and ensure that your vote is counted no matter what the weather or other circumstances in your life. You do not need a reason to vote absentee - any Minnesota voter may use this method to vote.



**Mail-In Absentee Voting - Requesting your absentee ballot is EASY and SECURE!** Go to [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org) **ASAP** and select "other ways to vote" to request your absentee ballot. Your ballot will come by return mail with instructions and a return envelope. You can also track your mailed ballot on the [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org) website to ensure that your vote has been counted. **DO NOT WAIT TOO LONG TO REQUEST YOUR BALLOT. MAIL YOUR VOTED BALLOT BY OCTOBER 26TH, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.**

**In-Person Absentee Voting** - Absentee voting at Maple Plain City Hall, 9 am to 4 pm, begins September 18th. In-person Direct Balloting begins October 27th. During Direct Balloting voters will feed their ballot directly into the ballot counter at City Hall instead of using the envelope system. In addition to regular hours, extended absentee voting hours will be available on Saturday, October 31st from 10 am to 3 pm and on Monday, November 1st from 8 am to 5 pm.

# GREETINGS FROM CITY HALL!

Interim City Administrator Frank Boyles

Your city council is composed of citizens who want the City of Maple Plain to be the best it can be. In fact, when I first came here in July, there were so many projects identified for completion that I did not know where to start. So, the city council prioritized the list. Each council member identified their five top priority items. Easy huh? Not really. Building a city is a very difficult business. I have been fortunate enough to be in the city government business for 45 years and there are always challenges. That is why I love it!

For the next six months to a year our focus will be to accomplish the following five priorities:

**Hire a New City Administrator** - Your city council members understand that the city administrator converts policy into production. Working with the city council, staff, residents, and businesses to get things done in a way that is both budget wise and orderly is why the administrator is a key community element. The recruitment process has begun and is expected to be concluded at the beginning of 2021.

**Improvement Projects** - Various important improvement projects are underway, not the least of which is the Veterans Memorial Park improvement next to Timpe Baseball Field. Expected to be completed by this month, this project includes a new major play area, equipment for kids, beautiful outdoor stage/music center and a memorial to our armed forces who protect our freedoms daily.

**Fire Department** - Our-paid-on-call fire department serving Maple Plain, Independence, Baker Park and Medina does an outstanding job. The city council believes we can improve our communications, so a listening session has been scheduled for just that purpose.

**Staff Roles and Standards** - A new personnel handbook is being reviewed by the city council to assure that personnel matters are legal, equitable, and properly performed.

**Public Works** - Maintenance calendars are being updated for posting on the city website so you can be aware of public maintenance work planned and underway.

Stop by city hall. I would like to meet you! More important, cast your vote early in the November 3, 2020 general election.

I am honored to be a part of your community, even if only for six months. As your motto says,

**Maple Plain: Proud Past, Prosperous Future.**

## Gather & Give



In response to the many needs in our area, Orono Rotary has created the Gather & Give program to have a more direct impact on the individuals and families in the Orono School District community that are most in need as a result of the pandemic. Some of the more urgent needs include: Printer paper, printer Ink, cleaning & paper supplies, art supplies, games & activities, masks, gift cards (especially for food), monetary contributions. THIS IS AN ONGOING PROGRAM WITH NO SET DEADLINE.

### Collection Sites:

- Orono Police Station: 2730 Kelley Pkwy, Long Lake, MN 55356 (M-F 8-4:30)
- Maple Plain City Hall: 5050 Independence St., Maple Plain, MN 55359 (M-F 9-4)
- Mint Roofing: 2285 Daniels St., Long Lake, MN 55356 (M-F 8-4:30)

### Tax-Deductible Monetary Donations (Gift cards and checks can be mailed or dropped off at the collection sites)

- By mail: Checks can be mailed (earmarked for the Gather and Give program) to: Orono Rotary Foundation, P.O. Box 162, Long Lake, MN 55356
- By phone: Call Michele Krolczyk for credit card payments at 612-751-2965

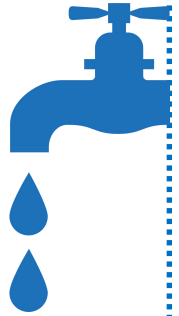
**We need many hands to meet the many needs of our community.**

# Consumer Confidence Drinking Water Report

Each year, the City of Maple Plain issues the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period from January 1 to December 31.

The purpose of the report is to advance consumer's understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

The 2019 Consumer Confidence Drinking Water Report can be seen in its entirety on the City's website at <https://www.mapleplain.com/departments/PublicWorks/water-sewer>. If you would like a hard copy mailed to you, contact City Hall at 763-479-0515.



## Snowplowing Reminders

Winter will be soon upon us with the wonders (?) of a good winter snowfall. Make this season as painless as possible by following Maple Plain winter parking restrictions. Here's a quick overview:

- Parking is not allowed on any street November 1 to April 15 from 1 am to 7 am. This policy is in effect even when there is no snow.
- After a 3 inch (or more) snowfall parking is not allowed on any city street until that street has been plowed full width.

**Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!**

## Good Neighbor Award Nominations Due October 12th



The Maple Plain City Council is accepting nominations for the 2020 Good Neighbor Award. This is the highest award granted by the Maple Plain City Council to an individual, organization, or business in Maple Plain. The Good Neighbor Award nominee exhibits a lifetime of service and dedication through volunteerism, virtue, civic engagement, and creativity to meet community needs.

If you know an individual, organization, or business that fits this description, fill out the nomination form available at City Hall or online at [www.mapleplain.com/good-neighbor-award](http://www.mapleplain.com/good-neighbor-award). Nominations will be accepted until October 12th.



### **CodeRED: GETTING EMERGENCY INFORMATION TO YOU**

The **CodeRED** system serves as the backbone of the city's emergency planning and communications outreach to both citizens and staff. The system sends telephone calls, text messages, emails and posts to social media channels to inform residents of emergency information, road closures and watermain breaks. Registering for **CodeRED** is quick, easy, and FREE! Your **CodeRED** subscription is protected data and will not be sold. **Sign-up today** by visiting the City of Maple Plain or West Hennepin Public Safety website and clicking the **CodeRED** icon or contact City Hall for assistance.



# New Haven Homes Update



To see how the site currently looks, you can access a webcam at this address: <https://app.oxblue.com/open/AC/cassiamaple>

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the project, contact **Therese Cain** at (952) 855-5189 or [therese.cain@cassialife.org](mailto:therese.cain@cassialife.org).

- Independent Living:

**Second and Third levels:** The kitchen and bathroom cabinets and tile and carpet flooring is installed. Electricians are installing unit electrical panels, outlets, and light switches.

**First level:** We are insulating walls and ceilings and will complete sheetrock installation by the end of August.

- Skilled Nursing building:

**The units** are all primed and we will begin to apply the first coat of paint.

**The corridors:** The mechanical/plumbing company will soon finish running piping and ductwork in the ceiling spaces of the corridors.

**Common spaces** have been sheet rocked and will start taping/finishing common areas soon.

- Town Center/Commons Area:

**The lobby, dining rooms, and commercial kitchen** sheetrock is completely installed. All mechanical and plumbing are to follow behind and install their ductwork and piping. The aluminum windows are all installed.

- Exterior

**The siding** is almost complete. We are about to begin painting the exterior of the building.

**The stone install** is ongoing and should be complete by early September.

We will begin to start shaping and pouring patios at the courtyards.

- Lower Level:

**Parking Areas:** We are routing the plumbing piping throughout the garage ceiling.

**Common Areas:** framing of the staff training and maintenance areas is being done.



## Veterans Park Grant Approved

The Orono Rotary Club, in partnership with the City of Maple Plain, was successful in securing a \$10,000 Rotary grant to compliment \$14,800 worth of improvements to Veterans Memorial Park. The money will be used to create additional memorial benches to honor the five branches of the military and one to recognize the Orono Rotary Club. It also allows the flying of multiple US flags on holidays such as Veterans' Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day and/or Fourth of July. Construction began Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup> with a contingent of volunteers from the following Rotary Clubs: Buffalo, MN Veterans, Monticello, Orono, and Plymouth. Completion is expected by October 31<sup>st</sup>.

The partnership between the Orono Rotary and the city has been invaluable. Together, we've hosted the Party in the Park community event in 2018 and 2019, raising \$20,000 for improvements to the park.

The park is nearing completion with the finishing touches recently completed on the playground equipment and bandshell. It will be great when we can celebrate the grand opening of the park!



## PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS CHIEF'S DESK

WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

### Director Gary Kroells



I am commonly asked, 'Who is West Hennepin Public Safety Department?' and 'What police department do you work for?'

West Hennepin Public Safety Department is a local police department that provides law enforcement services for the City of Maple Plain and the City of Independence. West Hennepin was formed in 1979 when the two cities decided to enter into a joint powers agreement to form their own local police force. The named their local police force '**West Hennepin Public Safety Department**'. Over the years people driving through our great cities or who are new to the area have often asked, 'What is West Hennepin Public Safety Department?' It is the local police for Maple Plain and Independence. It is not part of Hennepin County Sheriff's Office.

West Hennepin Public Safety Department is located at 1918 County Road 90 in Independence. It employs ten full time police officers: Police Chief Gary Kroells; Second in Command Sergeant Rick Denneson; one full time criminal investigator; one full time narcotics agent; six patrol officers and two administrative assistants. West Hennepin Public Safety Department is governed by a Police Commission made up of the Mayors of Maple Plain and Independence and one appointed council member from each city.

Historically, West Hennepin Public Safety handles approximately 7,000 calls a year, 583 a month, or 19 calls per day. Throughout the summer months of May through August 2020 , West Hennepin Public Safety Department has handled 3,546 incidents.

West Hennepin Public Safety's Mission Statement is '*To protect and serve the citizens of Maple Plain and Independence in a professional and compassionate manner.*'

Our philosophy, vision and expectation for West Hennepin Public Safety are, '*To advocate professional law enforcement services. We shall strive to encourage all police personnel to achieve and maintain the highest standards of ethics, integrity, community interaction, professional conduct in providing police services to the citizens of Maple Plain and Independence.*

*To be a progressive, active, and effective police department, we must serve with professionalism and exhibit diversity, tolerance, and sustained high standards in police work each and every day. We must continue to develop strategies, combine resources, utilize partnerships, and execute programs designed to improve police services to our citizens and the profession of law enforcement.*

Chief Kroells stated, "West Hennepin Police Officers are here to protect our citizens from criminals who are looking to take advantage of others."



## NIGHT TO UNITE - CANCELLED



For the health and safety of our citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic, West Hennepin Public Safety has decided to cancel Night to Unite on October 6, 2020. It was a difficult decision but Night to Unite will come back stronger than ever next year. We look forward to seeing everyone at next year's Night to Unite event on Tuesday, August 3, 2021.

# Yard Waste Deadline - November 16th

Through Randy's Environmental Services, yard waste and brush is collected free of charge on collection day (Monday) from the first full week in April through the third full week in November (weather permitting). Like refuse, yard waste must be placed out for collection by 6:00 am. **The last day for pickup this year is Monday, November 16th.**

**Yard Waste Items are accepted in compostable bags only. This includes:**

- Weeds
- Garden waste
- Grass clippings
- Leaves

**Brush and branches can be bundled as follows:**

- Brush or branches must be cut into 4-foot lengths and bundled with **natural twine** (no plastic).
- Brush and branches shall be a maximum of 2 inches in diameter. Up to 2 bundles can be collected per week.



Compostable bags include kraft paper bags or compostable plastic bags that are usually clear or a tinted shades of green, white, or pink; however, the color is not the sure way of determining the compostability of a plastic bag. Compostable plastic bags must state they meet ASTM D6400 standards for composting and that they are "compostable". Not all bags marked "biodegradable" or "degradable" work.

## Don't Waste Yard Waste!!



The beautiful leaves and other "yard waste" are beneficial items that can add nutrients to the soil. To get the most out of your yard waste....

**Compost** leaves, grass and native plant trimmings as mulch - **Mow** grass clippings and leaves back onto the lawn - **Bag** yard waste for curbside collection - **Adopt** your neighborhood storm sewer drain and clean it regularly to prevent water pollution.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- Oct 26 **Mail in your absentee ballot by today, if possible**
- Nov 3 General Election at City Hall
- Nov 16 **Last Leaf Pickup of the Year**
- Nov 26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday  
City Offices Closed
- Dec 24-25 Christmas Holiday  
City Offices Closed
- Dec 31 & News Years Holiday
- Jan 1 City Offices Closed

## STAY CONNECTED



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# City Contacts

## City Hall

5050 Independence St, PO Box 97  
Maple Plain, MN 55359  
763-479-0515 www.mapleplain.com  
Hours Mon - Fri 9 am - 4 pm or by appt  
Email Sspicer@mapleplain.com (Sharon)  
Jnorlander@mapleplain.com (Jill)

## Public Works

PeopleService 763-479-9250

## Maple Plain Fire Department

Emergency 911  
Fire Station 763-479-0520

## West Hennepin Public Safety

Emergency 911  
Office 763-479-0500  
www.westhennepin.com

## Other Frequently Called Phone Numbers

Delano Senior Center 763-972-0574  
Maple Plain Library 612-543-5700  
Maple Plain Post Office 763-479-1514



## City Council

**Julie Maas-Kusske**, Mayor  
1489 Three Oaks Ave.  
763-479-6010  
juliemaaskusske@mapleplain.com

**Mike DeLuca**, Councilmember  
5825 Maple Ridge Dr.  
763-200-6363, 612-801-5533  
mikedeluca@mapleplain.com

**John Fay**, Councilmember  
5819 Three Oaks Ave.  
763-479-1913  
johnfay@mapleplain.com

**John DeLong**, Councilmember  
1487 Meadow Lane  
801-755-6892  
johndelong@mapleplain.com

**Caitlin Cahill**, Councilmember  
caitlincahill@mapleplain.com

## City Meeting Schedule

**City Council Workshops**  
Second and Fourth Mondays

**City Council Business Meeting**  
Fourth Monday at 7:00 pm

**Economic Development Authority**  
Second Monday at 5:30 pm

**Planning Commission**  
First Thursday at 6:00 pm

Call City Hall or visit the City's website to ensure a meeting is not cancelled or rescheduled.

For the most up-to-date meeting calendar as well as agendas, meeting packets, and minutes, visit [www.mapleplain.com/meetings](http://www.mapleplain.com/meetings)



## Christmas Tree Pickup

Non-artificial (real) Christmas trees are collected free of charge during the first two weeks of January. Trees must be set out curbside without bags and free of all ornaments, tinsel, garland, and lights. Trees longer than 8 feet must be cut into sections .

First recycle pickup day in 2021 is Monday, January 11th. The 2021 recycling calendar is on the city website and will be in the winter issue of the newsletter.

**Happy Holidays!!**