

# MAPLE PLAIN

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## Summer 2020 Newsletter



Mayor Julie Maas-Kusske

Greetings Neighbors,

I recently heard a song and a particular line keeps playing over and over in my head, “people, come together, strangers, neighbors, our blood is one.” The past three months have been turbulent and challenging for many as we continue to fight the COVID -19 global pandemic, seek to address racial disparities brought to the forefront by the protests, adjust to summer schedules with limited opportunities for youth and children, canceled festivities, working virtually, practicing social distancing, and the list could go on. Amidst the chaos and unknown, I am constantly reminded that together we are better, and I am grateful for the rays of hope that were and still are evident today throughout our community.

- A free little pantry on Main Street and the “Giving Wagon” on Budd Street, offer an opportunity for people to receive donated food, toys, books, personal care items, etc.
- The graduating class of 2020 organized a food donation drive for Minneapolis residents before their parade.
- Our firefighters and police officers serve hours on end; they run towards danger to keep us safe and help us.
- The list of volunteers who were and still are willing to help others during this time was so large not every volunteer was needed.
- McGarry’s Pub, in partnership with their insurance company, blessed our police officers at West Hennepin Public Safety and healthcare workers at Haven Homes with a delicious lunch.
- Our Maple Plain Fire Department hosted a mask collection drive and then donated the mask to Haven Homes senior living facility.
- The Rotary has organized a Gather & Give program with city hall as a drop site.



These are just a few of the ways I have seen our incredible community to come together. I imagine you would be able to add to this list as well. Whether we are strangers or neighbors, our blood is one and together we are better.

As you are around town, take time to look at the new Haven Homes care facility taking shape off of Baker Park Road. See where Gateway Boulevard, the future site of the park & ride, is going in between Baker Park Road and Howard Avenue. Once completed it will have all the infrastructure and be “build-ready” for new business. The new memorial, bandshell, and playground at Veteran’s Memorial Park are under construction and will be a wonderful area for memories to be made for years to come. Please take a few minutes to read the newsletter so you are up to date with things happening in town. As always, if you have any questions or concerns please don’t hesitate to reach out to me, the council, or staff. You can find our contact info on the back cover.

Take care and enjoy your summer!

*Mayor Julie Maas-Kusske*

**Primary Election Day is Tuesday, August 11, 2020.** Maple Plain residents vote at City Hall, located at 5050 Independence Street, in the Council Chambers. 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](http://www.mnvotes.org), scroll down and click on "Check my registration". Here you will also find information about how to REGISTER TO VOTE, ELECTION DATES, ABSENTEE VOTING, and VIEW 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**. This will reduce the number of voters on election day and 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 both the Primary Election on August 11th and 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.
- Pre-registration deadline is Tuesday, July 21, 2020 (you can also register on Election Day).

In addition to State, Federal, and Judicial offices, there will be an election for Mayor and two City Council seats in November. Residents interested in running for City Council or Mayor must file an Affidavit of Candidacy and pay a \$2 filing fee at City Hall. Filing dates are July 28, 2020 through August 11, 2020.

Contact Sharon Spicer, Assistant to the City Administrator at 763-479-0515 or by email at [sspicer@mapleplain.com](mailto:sspicer@mapleplain.com) if you have any questions!



## Absentee Voting - A Good Option

Due to the Covid-19 virus, Hennepin County has given cities the option to conduct the 2020 **Primary** absentee voting only by mail. **In order to protect the public and city staff, absentee balloting will NOT be available at City Hall for the Primary Election.**

Maple Plain voters have the option to request an absentee ballot to be mailed to them for the Primary Election on August 11th and 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.

**Requesting your absentee ballot is EASY and SECURE!** Go to [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org) and select "other ways to vote" to request your absentee ballot. **Or**, you can pick up an absentee ballot application at City Hall and mail it to Hennepin County. 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.

See the city website or the fall newsletter for updates on absentee voting for the **General Election**.

# City Administrator Update

When you stop by City Hall or call you may see a new face or hear a different voice. Bobby Schoen is no longer employed by the City of Maple Plain. The Council thanks Bobby for his four and a half years of service and wishes him well on his future endeavors.

For the time being, Mark Kaltsas, our city planner will serve as our Transition Coordinator until we hire an Interim Administrator. Mark can be reached at [mark@terra-mark.com](mailto:mark@terra-mark.com) or 612-567-8786. After an interim is hired, we will begin the search process for a new City Administrator. We expect the entire process to last three to six months. Our Assistant to the City Administrator Sharon and our Administrative Assistant Jill are available to serve you as well during these transitions.

Thank you in advance for your patience during this time.



## 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.

## Seeking Good Neighbor Award Nominations



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 exhibits a lifetime 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 online at [www.mapleplain.com/good-neighbor-award](http://www.mapleplain.com/good-neighbor-award) or at City Hall. Nominations will be accepted until October 12th.



Step to it is a family-friendly activity challenge that motivates people of all ages and abilities to become more physically active from May 1-28.

Anyone can join and participate individually or in a group. Schools, workplaces, faith communities, and neighborhoods can form a group and participate together. Find others using the hashtag #StepTolt on social

media like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

This year, Maple Plain had 13 participants. The high stepper in the 18 and under age category was **Gavin Shafer with 573,039 steps**. In the 19-64 age category the high stepper was **Peter Keding with 1,004,905 steps**. Congratulations to both of you!

[www.steptoit.org](http://www.steptoit.org)

# New Haven Homes Update

Progress as of June 30, 2020



## Independent living

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Level – Ongoing taping and finishing drywall at units and common areas
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Level – Install of sheetrock at units and common areas to be completed end of week 6/29
- 1<sup>st</sup> Level – We will be coming back to the 1<sup>st</sup> level units at the senior wing after we transition to the skilled nursing wings.

## Skilled Nursing building:

- Mechanical, Electrical, and plumbing rough-ins completed. Week of 6/29 beginning to install insulation. Will begin sheetrock install at units and common areas the week of 7/6
- Area E – Completing framing punch list items. Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing rough-ins to begin the week of 7/6

## Building Exterior

- We have 99% of all the vinyl windows installed. The few we have left to install will wait until we are done completely stocking the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors.
- The roof is completely dried-in for the building. Install of river rock completed on the flat EPDM roof areas
- Siding install slated to begin the week of 7/6

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).



### Did you know?

Approximately 98 percent of wildfires in Minnesota are caused by humans.

Smokey Bear was created in 1944 and reminds us that "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires."

More than 50 wildfires are started each year in Minnesota by campfires that are not completely extinguished, too large or unattended.

### CAMPFIRE SAFETY

- Use a fire ring and build your fire at least five feet away from any combustible material.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby to put out the fire.
- Keep a kid-free zone of three feet around the campfire.
- Never leave your campfire unattended.
- Check burning restrictions with the DNR before starting your campfire.



WWW.MAPLEPLAINFIRE.COM

1645 Pioneer Avenue, Maple Plain, MN 55359 Telephone: 763-479-0520

## Fireworks Safety

- ♦ Only non-aerial and non-explosive fireworks are legal in Minnesota.
- ♦ Never permit children to light fireworks.
- ♦ Allow no horseplay and keep bystanders at a safe distance.
- ♦ Never light fireworks after drinking alcohol.
- ♦ Fireworks should never be lit in a container.
- ♦ Keep a bucket of water nearby for emergencies.
- ♦ If a firework doesn't go off after it is lit, do not re-light it. Soak it in water and throw it away.
- ♦ Flammable liquids, such as gasoline, should be kept at a safe distance.

DON'T LET  
*Oooo's & Ahhh's*  
TURN INTO  
*Ow's and Oh no's*

Always be safe and leave  
Fireworks to the professionals





# WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

From Chief Gary Kroells - June 30, 2020

Following the death of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, Minnesotans, our country, and the world were horrified and appalled by his death. West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) is committed to working with our state lawmakers, stakeholders, and police commissioners to review our use of force policies and procedures. We must make real changes to ensure excessive and inappropriate use of force does not occur at WHPS.

To keep current on best practice policies and changes in Federal, State and Tribal policies, WHPS has utilized Lexipol Policy Services since 2013. They also review all changes in state legislation, case law and evolving best practices throughout the country. Lexipol utilizes Minnesota state-specific policies vetted by public safety attorneys and law enforcement professionals. Over 3,000 law enforcement agencies among 35 states use Lexipol, including 84 out of 87 County Sheriff Offices in Minnesota. WHPS is committed to transparency with our policies and have posted our complete policy manual on our website [www.westhennepin@westhennepin.com](http://www.westhennepin@westhennepin.com).

In reviewing use of force incidents between 2015-2019, WHPS Officers handled 39,610 incident reports, arrested 1,207 individuals, and helped 496 people during a mental health crisis. In these five years WHPS averaged 12 use of force incidents per year with a total 58 use of force cases. Thirty-three (33) incidents involved soft empty hand control escorts, 3 hard empty hand, 6 display Taser incidents, 18 display weapon cases, one taser deployment on a suicidal male who rushed officers and wanted to end his life, and zero cases involving deadly force. In all 58 response to resistance documented cases by WHPS Officers, not one single complaint of excessive force was received.

As required by law, the Minnesota Board of Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) regulates the licensing for every law enforcement officer in Minnesota. Officers are required to have 48 hours of training every three years to maintain an active peace officer license. That continuing education averages out to 16 hours per year.

On July 1, 2018, the chief law enforcement officer for every state and local law enforcement agency is required to provide training in the areas of crisis intervention and mental illness crisis, conflict management and mediation and recognizing and valuing community diversity and cultural differences to include implicit bias. Each officer is required to attend 16 hours of training in these categories every three years.

In review of our training record between 2015-2019, each WHPS Officer trained over 60 hours per year, far exceeding the POST Board requirements. Training is vital to the growth of our officers' skills. We will continue to push for increased training focusing on de-escalation involving use of force.

WHPS has utilized mobile video recorders in our patrol squads for over twenty years. In 2018 WHPS added Viridian FACT DUTY Weapon Mounted Cameras to each patrol officer's duty weapon. When our officers remove their weapon from their holster the incident is recorded by a weapon mounted camera. In 2019 all patrol squads were updated with new video recorders. Our agency is actively researching the addition of body cameras for each patrol officer.

WHPS Officers are proud and honored to serve the citizens of Maple Plain and Independence. Our agency will continue to evaluate our policies and procedures and will work tirelessly to provide the best police services to our communities.



## NIGHT TO UNITE HAS BEEN POSTPONED!

Save the **NEW** date October 6th, 2020



Please join the Minnesota Crime Prevention Association and hundreds of communities throughout the State of Minnesota for the annual Night to Unite (NTU), Minnesota's statewide celebration which normally takes place on the first Tuesday of August of every year has been delayed until the fall due to COVID-19. **West Hennepin Public Safety and the State of Minnesota has delayed the celebration until the first Tuesday in October due to the COVID-19 pandemic. More information to follow in the coming months from West Hennepin Public Safety and the City of Maple Plain.**



# Residential Utility Rates - How They Stack Up

The City's utility billing includes charges for water, sewer, and storm sewer drainage.

Rates for all utilities are based on the funding required to cover operation, maintenance, and capital costs of the utility infrastructure which includes lift stations, water treatment plant, water mains and pipes, a water tower, sanitary sewers, and storm water management. Current utility rates are listed below.

Fixed Fee (per quarter)	
State Water Testing Fee	\$2.45
Water Treatment Plant Charge	\$25.00
Water Fixed Fee	\$8.00
Sewer Fixed Fee (Base charge)	\$74.03
Storm Water Utility Fee	\$8.91 1 lot, \$17.82 2 lot

Water Volume		
Tier 1	0 to 6,000 gallons	\$5.70 per 1,000 gallons
Tier 2	6,001 to 12,000 gallons	\$5.99 per 1,000 gallons
Tier 3	12,001 to 24,000 gallons	\$6.28 per 1,000 gallons
Tier 4	24,001 gallons and above	\$6.91 per 1,000 gallons

Sewer Volume		
Tier 1	1 to 6,000 gallons	\$0.00 (Sewer Fixed Fee Only)
Tier 2	6,001 and above	\$6.10 per 1,000 gallons

Here is an example of how the current rates are applied to a residential property.

**Example:** 1234 Maple Plain Avenue

Water Usage: 8,046 gallons used	Bill Rate: $6 \times 5.70 + 2.046 \times 5.99$	= \$ <b>46.46</b>
State Water Testing Fee	Fixed Fee	= \$ <b>2.45</b>
Water Treatment Plant Charge	Fixed Fee	= \$ <b>25.00</b>
Water Fixed Fee (for infrastructure replacement and repair)		= \$ <b>8.00</b>
Sewer Fixed Fee (treatment costs and infrastructure replacement and repair)		= \$ <b>74.03</b>
Storm Water Fixed Fee		= \$ <b>8.91</b>
Sewer Volume Fee (above and beyond 6,000 gallons)	$2.046 \times 6.10$	= \$ <b>12.49</b>
	<b>Total Bill</b>	= \$ <b>177.34</b>



The State of Minnesota requires watershed organizations to update their management plans at least once every ten years. The Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission's 60-Day Review of the Fourth Generation Watershed Management Draft Plan is available for your review and comment in accordance with Minnesota Statutes

103B.231. You may download a copy of the plan at:

<http://www.pioneersarahcreek.org/management-plan.html>

A virtual discussion will be opened for public comment Thursday, July 30, 2020 at 6 pm. The link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85949276543>

Comments can also be submitted by mail to 3235 Fernbrook Lane, Plymouth, MN 55447 or by email to [judie@jass.biz](mailto:judie@jass.biz).

## 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.**



# congratulations!



**Sutherlands Nursery & Tree Service, Inc. is celebrating 60 years in business in Maple Plain!**

Thank you Chuck and Judy. You make Maple Plain proud!!

## STAY CONNECTED



*“Like” us on facebook.com*  
[www.facebook.com/CityofMaplePlain](http://www.facebook.com/CityofMaplePlain)



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*See the News & Announcements!*  
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[www.mapleplain.com/calendar](http://www.mapleplain.com/calendar)



*Sign-up for CodeRED Notifications!*  
[www.mapleplain.com/codered](http://www.mapleplain.com/codered)

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

July 3 City Offices Closed  
 July 4 Independence Day  
 July 29 Coffee with Council  
           3 - 5 pm at McGarry's  
 Aug 11 Primary Election 7 am - 8 pm  
 Sept 7 Labor Day - City Offices Closed  
 Sept 15 Coffee with Council  
           4 - 6 pm at Iron Exchange  
 Oct 6 Night to Unite - New Date  
 Nov 3 General Election

## DIAMOND DEVILS BASEBALL

July 10 7:30 pm at Hutchinson  
 July 12 2 pm vs. Litchfield at MP  
 July 15 6:30 pm vs. Buffalo at MP  
 July 17 6:30 pm vs. Maple Lake at MP  
 July 19 2 pm at Loretto  
 July 22 7:30 pm at Cokato  
 July 24 7:30 pm vs. Waverly at  
           Howard Lake  
 July 26 2 pm vs. Dassel Cokato at MP  
 Possible home playoff dates Aug 1 & 2

