

MAPLE PLAIN

WINTER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Greetings Neighbors and Business Owners,

Typically, when I put together my newsletter it's filled with things happening in the city and other valuable information I want to make sure you know. Those messages are important and good. Today, I would like to pause and reflect on the past year and publicly say thank you to those who help make Maple Plain a great place to live, work and play.

Thank you to everyone who serves on a commission.

Thank you to all our Maple Plain firefighters and our West Hennepin Public Safety officers for serving and protecting our great city 24/7. Thank you to their families for supporting them, encouraging them, and making sacrifices.

Thank you to each person who picks up trash, cleans a storm sewer, and shovels a path to a fire hydrant. It makes a big difference and does not go unnoticed.

Thank you to all our staff who do their part to ensure the city is in good working order.

Thank you to the West Hennepin Chamber of Commerce for building community among our business and their leadership with the HWY 12 Construction Task Force.

Thank you to the Paul Stinson American Legion and Auxiliary for leading the Memorial Day and Veterans' Day programs, appropriately retiring flags, presenting the colors, etc.

Thank you to those that attend city meetings, watch them on-line and ask questions. Your engagement is crucial.

Thank you to our faith community for your prayers and taking care of those in need.

Thank you to the Maple Plain Museum volunteers for being the keepers of our history.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your mayor and represent our great city. I appreciate your grace when I make mistakes.

As you can see the list is long and I have not even included everyone. Whatever role you play, thank you, you are appreciated!

Wishing you all a safe, happy, and healthy 2022. Together we are better!

Mayor Julie Maas-Kusske

**Complete the 2022 Maple Plain Community Survey.
Visit www.mapleplain.com/survey for more information.**



Take a look inside the brochure!
Pick up a copy at the Discovery Center in Maple Plain.

Winter Spring

CLASSES & PROGRAMS

Over 150 opportunities to choose from
for youth & adults!

STEM - Art, Dance & Theater - Sports & Aquatics

Special Interest & Academics - Preschool

Adult Classes - and more!

REGISTER

www.oronocommunityed.com

952-449-8350

ORONO Community
Education
Orono Public Schools

2022 Community Survey

Enclosed in this month's utility bills is a copy of the 2022 Maple Plain Community Survey. In an effort to obtain the most valuable feedback possible, the survey is a bit more in-depth this time around; however, it still only takes about 5 minutes to complete.

This survey will be a crucial part of understanding what community policies residents and business owners support. The more responses we receive, the better informed we will be to address key issues about our city services and how to spend your tax dollars. For instance, due to a number of factors, the city will need to increase public safety expenditures in the coming years to maintain the service levels that we currently receive. In addition, the City continues to catch up on street and infrastructure maintenance and reconstruction. A preliminary long-term forecast of expenditures shows maintaining these services and plans may result in increases to the levy of around 4-7% for the next three years. Your survey responses will help us determine if the community is supportive of maintaining our services or if we need to rethink any portion of our current strategy.

The survey is available online at www.mapleplain.com/survey. One response per person, please. Paper copies of the survey are available at City Hall. Please complete the survey by February 28, 2022.

With the recent tragic deaths in Minnesota from carbon monoxide poisoning it's a good reminder to check the carbon monoxide alarms in our homes. Test them and check the date of manufacture. If over ten years old replace them immediately.



Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

If your carbon monoxide alarm activates, please evacuate your home and call 911. Maple Plain Fire Department will respond and check your home or place of business with specific air testing equipment.

For more information, visit www.mapleplain.com/carbonmonoxide.

Snowplowing Reminders



We hate to say it, but winter is upon us, and with it the joys and sorrows of a 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!

High Heating Bills?

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) can help you pay energy costs, such as a water bill, between October 1, 2021 and May 31, 2022. If you qualify, you could receive a grant to cover some of your energy expenses.

This grant is paid directly to your utility provider, to reduce your utility bill. For info or application call **952-930-3541** or see caphennepin.org/what-we-do/energy-assistance.html



ARE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD FIRE HYDRANTS ACCESSIBLE?

In winter, the deep snow often makes it difficult for firefighters to find the buried fire hydrants. In an emergency we must have clearly marked and accessible fire hydrants. It normally takes a firefighter less than a minute to connect a large fire hose to a fire hydrant, but if it is buried under a pile of snow, the time involved can double or even triple. Maple Plain Fire asks neighborhood volunteers to help clear the snow from around fire hydrants to maintain the fire department's response time efficiency in the event of an emergency. If you are unable to clear the snow from a fire hydrant in your neighborhood, please call City Hall at 763-479-0515 and arrangements will be made to have it cleared. Thank you for your assistance!

A GREAT BIG THANKS TO EAGLE SCOUT ALEK SHURSON!

At the November 22nd City Council meeting Alek was congratulated on a job well done in the construction of the new Gaga Ball pit in Rainbow Park. After 8 hours of on-site work, many prep hours, and with 5 other scouts assisting, the new pit was ready. Alek said the biggest challenge was the board-length precision required for use with the brackets.

Will it be used? The answer was a resounding YES! Alek said there were kids asking to play before it was even finished. Way to go, Alek!



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Maple Plain Recycle Schedule

Recycle Week Holiday

Pickups that fall on or after a holiday will be serviced one day late.
Holidays that fall on Saturday or Sunday do not cause any delays

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| MAY | | | | | | |
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| JUNE | | | | | | |
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FOCUS ON A FIREFIGHTER - LUCAS MCKOWN



Lucas McKown joined Maple Plain Fire Department on May 4, 2020. Lucas grew up and currently resides in Independence. He attended Orono High School, graduating in 2014. Lucas has deep family roots in Independence. His great grandparents, Ira & Jean McKown moved to Independence in 1941. His parents, grandparents, and extended family members currently live in Independence and Maple Plain. Lucas grew up attending the Maple Plain Fire Department open houses every fall, listening to Maple Plain Fire Fighters give fire prevention talks at school and getting the inside scoop from his MPFD firefighter great uncle Roger Meyer and auntie Pat Meyer.

Lucas has completed his Fire Fighting I & II training, EMT and Hazardous Material training. When asked why he applied to be a firefighter, Lucas stated, "I was motivated by the desire to serve others and to be part of the firefighting family."

When asked what he loves most about being a MPFD firefighter Lucas responded, "Responding to assist people on their worst day and an opportunity to make it better."

When not working or responding to calls for service, Lucas enjoys CrossFit, hunting, fishing, hiking and most anything outdoors. Lucas is engaged to Kaylee Dorn and they are planning an April 10, 2022 wedding.

Chief Ray McCoy commented, "Lucas McKown is a tremendous person and great asset to our fire department. He serves our community well."

Good Neighbor Award Winners Chuck & Judy Sutherland



Since 2017, the Maple Plain City Council has sponsored the Good Neighbor Award, the highest award granted by the Council to an individual, organization, or business in Maple Plain. The Good Neighbor Award honoree exhibits a lifetime of service and dedication through volunteerism, virtue, civic engagement, and creativity to meet community needs.



JoAnn Ree was thrilled to nominate Chuck and Judy Sutherland for this award and to share their numerous achievements including:

- * Lifetime Maple Plain residents and business owners for 60 years
- * Hosts of Night to Unite in their neighborhood
- * Judy has volunteered for Maple Plain City Days and the Trails to the Libraries program.
- * Judy was an original member of the Maple Plain Historical Committee, editor of the Maple Plain Museum History Handout, and fundraiser with the creation of the museum pin, seller of engraved bricks, and coordinator of the museum cookbook.

- * Chuck has maintained the flowers and shrubs around the museum, decorates for the holidays, makes repairs, and even built a scale replica of the museum.
- * Judy is often found attending City Council meetings to keep updated and informed of current decisions.

We thank the Sutherlands for their many years of service to the community of Maple Plain and are proud to award them the 2021 Good Neighbor of the Year Award!

COOKIES WITH COUNCIL

Wednesday, March 9th
4:00 - 6:00 pm

City Council Chambers
5050 Independence St., Maple Plain

Come and chat with Mayor Julie Maas-Kuske and City Administrator Clarissa Hadler. Bring your toughest questions and your best ideas! Refreshments will be served.

DELANO SENIOR CENTER

The Delano Senior Center and Senior Dining Program is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am- 4:30 pm and Fridays 8:00 am-2:00 pm. All seniors are invited to participate in the Senior Center's programs, special events, and nutritious, tasty, dinners served at noon every day! (Bus service for MP is available.) Come visit us today!
www.delano.mn.us/services/senior-center



234 2nd Street N
Delano, MN 55328
763-972-0574

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.

WHPS VIEW SANTA PARADE WAS A SUCCESS!



Chief Gary Kroells

On Saturday December 4th, the West Hennepin Police Reserves and Officers held the 41st Annual View Santa parade through the cities of Independence and Maple Plain. This program started 41 years ago with the Police Reserves decorating a trailer and a parade of police cars touring around the communities. With Santa on top of the trailer in a sleigh, music playing and flashing red lights of the Police cars, the Police Reserves walk around the route handing out bags of treats and small toys to the boys and girls along the way. For several years now, the Police Reserves have collected food for the local food shelf. This year was one of the best with 1450 pounds of food and \$575.00 of cash collected. The food and money donations were dropped off at the Delano Helping Hands food shelf.



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY ANNOUNCES THE 2022 CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The Citizens Police Academy will start on February 17, 2022 and will end with graduation on April 7, 2022. The Academy runs for eight Thursday nights, from 7 - 10 pm. The Citizens Police Academy is a FREE 24-hour block of instruction designed to give citizens knowledge about how the police department operates, policies, procedures, programs, and challenges. Participants will commit to meeting 3 hours, one night a week for 8 weeks.

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, personal security, use of force, including 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** and many other areas related to law enforcement. (See video at www.westhennepin.com/citizens-police-academy.) At graduation you will receive a certificate and become a member of the Citizens Academy Network Alumni.

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 in or near the West Hennepin Public Safety Department's jurisdiction. The West Hennepin Public Safety Department is currently establishing a list of participants who would be interested in the next class. The recommended attendee age is 18 years and older. If you are interested in attending, contact West Hennepin Public Safety at (763) 479-0500 or email us at westhennepin@westhennepin.com.

Lynda Franklin Retiring from WHPS

Lynda Franklin has announced her retirement from West Hennepin Public Safety as of January 31, 2022. We thank Lynda for her 22 years of Records Service and dedication to the cities of Maple Plain and Independence. Per Lynda's request, a decision was made not to host an open house honoring her retirement due to the increase of COVID and concern for others' safety.

"I am very thankful for my career at West Hennepin Public Safety. I will miss the contacts and interactions with our residents as well as the many that voiced and showed appreciation for our Public Safety Department Officers and staff. It has been a privilege and a joy to visit with each of you. Thank you to the cities of Independence and Maple Plain and residents for your support. A Special Thank You to Chief Kroells, Sgt. Denneson, Officers and Staff for your support, your humor and for making many days rewarding." — Lynda



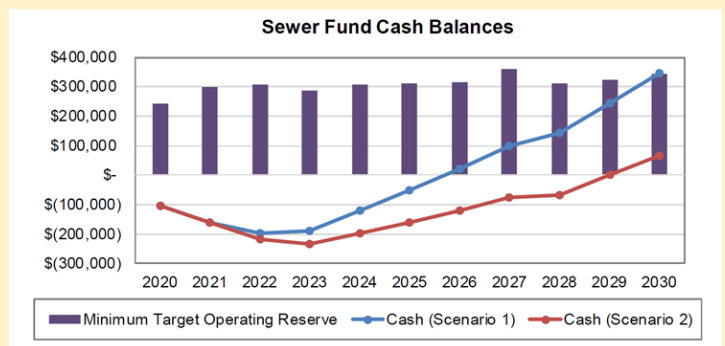
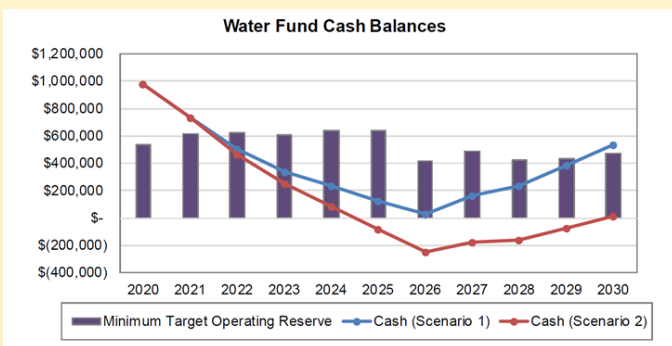
UTILITY RATES

In 2021 the City of Maple Plain commissioned a Utility Rate Study to analyze the current rate structure and future outlook of the utility funds. The study was performed by the City’s accounting firm, Abdo.

Utility Funds – also called Enterprise Funds – are departments within the city which are normally supported exclusively through the activities and revenues of those departments. In Maple Plain, we have a Water Fund, Sanitary Sewer Fund, and Stormwater Fund. While accounted for individually, all of the revenues come from one place – your property’s utility bill.

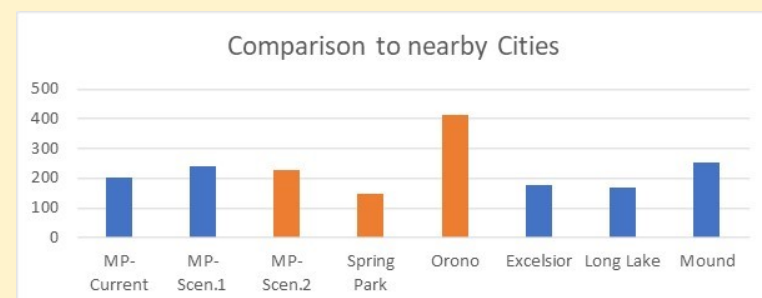
The 2021 Utility Rate Study found that the water and sewer funds have been decreasing in fund balance and will continue to do so unless rate changes are instituted. This is due to the fact that utility rates have not been increased in the past 10 years and have not kept up with normal inflation and recent investments in street & utility reconstructions. The study proposed two scenarios for rate increases to address the revenue shortfalls. The proposed scenarios were for 25% (Scenario 1) and 15% (Scenario 2) in the first year, with smaller increases in subsequent years.

The following tables taken from the study illustrate cash balances in the funds based on the proposed scenarios. The first scenario proposes rate increases sufficient to generate a positive cash balance in the Water and Sewer fund by the year 2026 and meet minimum target cash balance projections by 2030. The second scenario proposes rate increases sufficient to generate a positive cash balance in the Water and Sewer fund by the year 2030.



After discussing the study in detail, the City Council is planning on implementing the Scenario 2 increase of 15% for 2022, with a tentative subsequent 15% increase for 2023, and will revisit the issue later this year to contemplate future increases. The increase will only apply to water, sewer, and storm base and usage rates, not the water treatment plant capital fee, for an average effective increase of 13% on residential accounts. On average, the 2022 rate increase will raise a residential property’s utility charges by approximately \$9 per month. The new rates are planned to go into effect on the First Quarter utility bills which are mailed out in early April.

The table below shows a comparison of the proposed rates to nearby cities. Spring Park and Orono, like Maple Plain, have a water treatment plant (shown in orange). While comparisons are used to gauge our rates relative to the market, these tables don’t fully represent the financial health of those cities’ utility funds, recent construction activity, etc.



A complete copy of the Utility Rate Study may be found at www.mapleplain.com/URS.

The City Council will be hosting a Listening Session on Monday, January 31 at 6:30 pm. Inquiries may also be sent to cityadmin@mapleplain.com, or feel free to call City Hall at 763-479-0515.

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 chadler@mapleplain.com (Clarissa)
sspicer@mapleplain.com (Sharon)
jnorlander@mapleplain.com (Jill)

Public Works

PeopleService 24/7 763-479-9250

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 Meeting Schedule

City Council Workshops

Second and Fourth Mondays @ 5:30 pm

City Council Business Meeting

Fourth Monday at 7:00 pm

Economic Development Authority

Second Monday at 7:00 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.



City Council

Julie Maas-Kusske, Mayor

1489 Three Oaks Ave.
763-479-6010
juliemaaskusske@mapleplain.com

Caitlin Cahill, Councilmember

caitlincahill@mapleplain.com

John DeLong, Councilmember

1487 Meadow Lane
801-755-6892
johndelong@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

Community Calendar

Jan 17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - City Offices Closed
Feb 2 Groundhog Day
Feb 14 Valentine's Day
Feb 21 Presidents Day - City Offices Closed
Mar 9 Cookies with Council 4-6 pm
Mar 13 Daylight Savings Time Begins
Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day

Check the city website & [Facebook](#) for more information and updates.

STAY CONNECTED



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Sign-up for Email Updates!
www.mapleplain.com



See the News & Announcements!
www.mapleplain.com
Check the Calendar!



Sign-up for CodeRED Notifications!
www.mapleplain.com/codered