

MAPLE PLAIN

SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

Greetings Neighbors and Business Owners,



Mayor Julie
Maas-Kusske

As I write this we are once again in a winter weather advisory. With all the snow and ice, winter felt particularly long to me this year. I certainly hope by the time you receive this in your inbox or mailbox that the snow has melted and the robins have returned. It was an especially fun season for many of the Orono winter sports teams and student organizations making it to state. Thank you to everyone who kept the sidewalks and fire hydrants clear this past winter. Your effort is appreciated. A special thanks to everyone who stopped by Muffins with the Mayor. I love visiting with residents, hearing your stories, and listening to your suggestions.

Signs of spring are beginning to show up all around us. Road restrictions are in place. Please make sure to honor them to help preserve the life of our city streets. Potholes are back and with a vengeance. In Maple Plain please call or text 763-479-9250 to report a pothole. Eighteen trees will be planted in our parks this summer. If you are interested in helping plant them please reach out to our Assistant to the City Administrator, Grant MacFarlane, at 763-479-0555 or via email Grant@mapleplain.com. City clean-up will be taking place May 20 from 8 AM to Noon. More information can be found inside this newsletter or in the dedicated news post on the City website. Take some time this spring to enjoy our great parks. If you want to host an event at one of the parks, reach out to city hall and staff will be happy to assist you. Spring is also the time when our property valuation statements arrive in our mailboxes from Hennepin County. If you have questions regarding your valuation, please contact the Assessor's office at 612-348-3046. If you still have questions and want to address the Council, contact city hall 763-479-0515 so they can add you to the agenda for the Local Board of Appeals & Equalization Meeting on Tuesday, April 18 at 7:00pm in the council chambers.

Great news, traffic will not be detoured around Maple Plain this spring! Safety improvements are completed at County Rd. 90 and at County Rd. 92. Join us for the upcoming networking event Mocha Morning Mixer sponsored by the West Hennepin Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, April 19 from 7:30 - 9:00am in the council chambers, make sure to bring your business cards.

I hope to see all of you at Party in the Park on Saturday, June 3 at Veterans Memorial Park from 5 - 11pm. The event is sponsored by the Orono Rotary in partnership with the City of Maple Plain. Come and enjoy great music free of charge and visit with your neighbors. Food and beverage will be available for purchase.

I hope you enjoy the brighter, longer days and have a lovely spring!

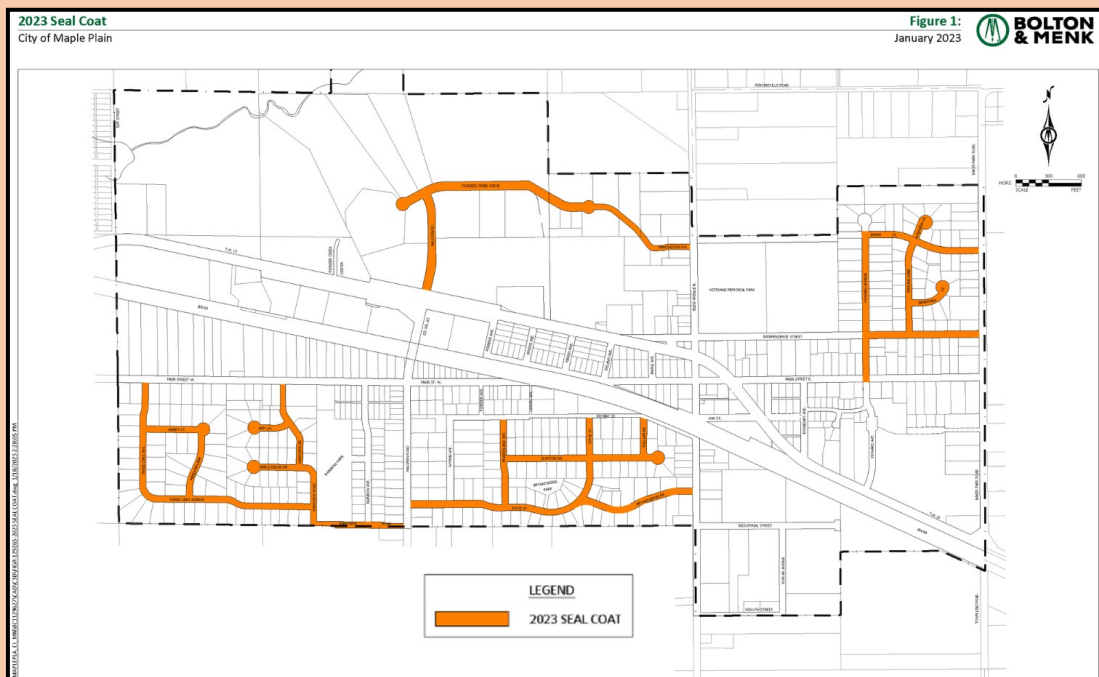
Together we are better! - *Mayor Julie Maas-Kusske*

2023 Sealcoating Project

The City Council of Maple Plain awarded the 2023 Sealcoating Project to Pearson Brothers at the March 27, 2023 City Council Business Meeting. Bolton & Menk, the City's engineering contractor, recommended that Pearson Brothers be awarded the project after reviewing the three submitted project bids. This will be an extensive project, including all of the new pavements that have been constructed in our community over the past few years, that will extend the life of those streets.

Sealcoating is a process of distributing bituminous oil, or liquid asphalt, on the street surface and then covering it with small rock chips. After the rock has been allowed to work into the oil for approximately 10-14 days, the excess rock is swept up and the sealcoat provides the street with a new water-proof surface and uniform look.

A map showing the streets that will be involved in the 2023 Sealcoating Project is below:



Property Valuation / Board of Appeals and Equalization

Property valuation notices were mailed out in March. Most cities in Minnesota are seeing increases in property values. Overall, Maple Plain's single family homes experienced an average total market value increase of 2.9%. Maple Plain industrial properties experienced 56% growth in value and commercial property values increased by 13.5%. The Maple Plain Board of Appeal & Equalization meeting will be on April 18. If you plan to appeal your valuation, please contact Hennepin County directly at 612-348-7050 or via email at countyvalueappeal@hennepin.us **as soon as possible** for a review and property visit. Find out more at mapleplain.com/assessing.

January	Assessments Complete
March	Property Valuations Mailed by Hennepin County Assessor
March - April	Property Owners should contact Hennepin County Assessor with questions/concerns regarding your valuation
April 18, 2023	7 pm - Maple Plain Board of Appeal & Equalization Meeting
September	Preliminary Levy set by City Council
November	Truth in Taxation Statements mailed
December	Truth in Taxation Public Hearing / Final Budget & Levy set by City Council



2023 - 2027 Utility Rate Study

The City commissioned a Utility Rate Study from Abdo, a certified public accounting firm, to look at the utility rates in Maple Plain at the end of 2022. The Utility Rate Study is intended to give a big picture view of the financial status of the Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Enterprise funds as they stand currently and how forecasted assumptions will change things five years from now. The Study incorporated assumptions on inflation and interest rates to best determine these forecasts.

Utility rates have remained largely unchanged over the past several years, with recent rate increases occurring in 2011, 2012, and 2022. The City has continued to perform large infrastructure projects every one to two years in accordance with the Capital Improvement Plan. This has resulted in a steady increase in debt obligations payable from utility charges.

It is for these reasons that the following changes to utility rates have been made:

- 10% increase to fixed and volume prices of water,
- 5% increase to fixed and volume prices of sewer,
- 5% increase to stormwater fees.

The entire 2023—2027 Utility Rate Study can be viewed on the Finance page of the City website.

Hydrant Flushing & Street Sweeping: April 24th - April 28th



Each year, Public Works flushes the fire hydrants to ensure their reliability and to remove any mineral buildup in the system. Though flushing may occasionally discolor the water for a bit, it is safe to drink. Residents may notice discolored water for a short period after nearby hydrants have been flushed. Although the water is safe for consumption, you may want to reschedule laundry or other work that may be affected by the discolored water. If the water is discolored, run your **COLD** water until it is clear. This may take a few minutes. For more information call Public Works at 763-479-9250.



WEST HENNEPIN CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

MOCHA MORNING MIXER

Wednesday, April 19, 7:30 am to 9:00 am
City of Maple Plain Council Chambers,
Discovery Center in Maple Plain
5050 Independence St.

This is an "Open House" format, so come when you can and stay as long as you like!

Let's get to know other businesses in our community and beyond. Please come and enjoy a cup of coffee, some sweet treats and networking with other area businesses. There will be no formal meeting, just a quick gathering at around 8:15 to give time for everyone in attendance to introduce themselves and make any announcements.



Elevate Business - A Free Business Oriented Program!

Elevate Business is an exciting program being offered to local entrepreneurs and business owners through Hennepin County. This free program serves as a hub where business owners can come together to learn through one-on-one services from trusted consultants and advisors. Elevate Business offers free services for entrepreneurs, including:

- 25 hours of business advising,
- Peer-to-peer roundtables,
- Topic driven webinars and events
- Regional resources, all in once place.



More information on this program can be found at
www.elevatebusinesshc.com.

Step to It 2023 - A Community Challenge

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—May 28. The program is free, open to everyone, and a great way to get active after the long winter.

Join the challenge on behalf of your community, school, workplace, or group home! The challenge is not just about walking, you can convert a variety of activities into steps including running, cycling, dancing, and more! The most active communities and individuals are recognized and awarded with prizes.



Registration begins April 1, 2023 and will run for four weeks. Get inspired, find more information, and register for the challenge by visiting step toit.org.

Focus on a Fire Fighter - Jessi Heitz



Jessi Heitz' journey to joining the Maple Plain Fire Department began at the age of 14 when she attended her first Maple Plain Fire Explorers event. Invited to the group by former fire fighter Dave Eisinger, Heitz joined the MPFD Explorers and trained alongside official fire fighters during their dedicated training nights. It only took one night of training in the Explorers program for Jessi to realize that serving the community as a fire fighter was her true calling in life. She would go on to join the Maple Plain Fire Department on December 7, 2009.

Heitz is a longtime member of the Maple Plain community, having grown up in the City of Independence and graduating from Orono Public Schools in 2008. Jessi serves our community outside of her time with the MPFD as well, as she currently works full time for Orono Public Schools as a custodian in addition to helping out a few of the local citizens with various tasks/needs.

In her free time, Jessi enjoys spending time in the outdoors. Some of her biggest hobbies include fishing and hunting. Jessi can also be found spending time with her dog, Ella.

Thank you for your dedication to the Maple Plain community, Jessi!

MAPLE PLAIN RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Upcoming Recycling Weeks are on the following dates:

- April 17
- May 1
- May 15
- May 29
- June 1
- June 12
- June 26
- July 10

The full 2023 Recycling Schedule can be viewed online at:
www.mapleplain.com/recycling



WHPS Welcomes a New Officer - Nick Eldred!

West Hennepin Public Safety is proud to introduce the newest member of team, Nick Eldred, as our new Patrol Officer. Nick graduated with a Law Enforcement degree from the Alexandria Technical College in 2002. Nick comes to us from the Wright County Sheriff's Office where he worked as a Patrol Deputy, Field Training Officer, Detective, and Taser Instructor for the past 18 years. Nick resides in the City of Annandale with his wife, and three children. Nick is a firefighter in Annandale and enjoys time golfing, boating, fishing, and swimming with his family.



Chief Kroells stated, "We are very fortunate Nick joined our team. Finding an experienced well rounded police officer has provided very challenging these past few years. Officer Eldred is a top candidate that has a positive demeanor that citizens and staff will find rewarding".

Officer Eldred stated, "I am excited to continue my Law Enforcement career at West Hennepin Public Safety Department. I look forward to meeting the citizens of Maple Plain and Independence, along with variety of emergency service partners we have. Please feel free to stop and introduce yourselves anytime you see me out and about."

The City of Maple Plain welcomes you, Officer Eldred!

Be on the Lookout - Ponding Areas

Please keep an eye out for ponding areas this spring as snow melts and we experience drenching rains. The City is investigating excess sources of rain water making its way into the sanitary sewer system. The main thing to look for is an area that ponds and then recedes, but not into a storm sewer inlet.



Storm Sewer Inlets



Report ponding areas to City Hall at 763-479-0515 so we investigate.

Cookies with Council

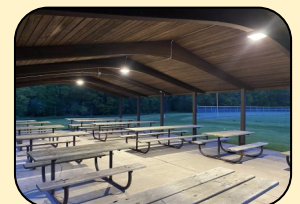
4 - 6 PM | June 12, 2023
City Council Chambers
5050 Independence Street

Come chat with Councilmember Connie Francis! Bring your toughest questions, your best ideas, and anything else you'd like to share! Refreshments and cookies will be served.

Park Shelter Reservations

Are you planning a big event, reunion, or get together? There are two shelters available for reservation in Maple Plain, one at Rainbow Park and one at Veterans Memorial Park. Reserving them is FREE for Maple Plain residents and businesses! Visit mapleplain.com/Reservations for more info.

To reserve a shelter, contact City Hall at 763-479-0515 to verify availability!



Spring & Summer 2023

CLASSES & PROGRAMS

Over 300 offerings for all ages!

STEM - Art & Theater - Sports & Aquatics
Special Interest & Academics - ECFE & Preschool
Adult Enrichment & Recreation - and more!

REGISTER NOW!

oronocommunityed.com
952-449-8350

Orono Community Education
Orono Public Schools

ROW Tree Trimming

Maintaining tree branches in our community rights-of-way (ROW) is an important step in ensuring resident safety and the preservation of City equipment.

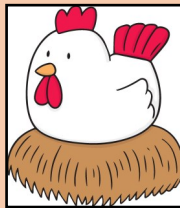


Overgrown and low hanging tree branches can cause an obstruction to safety signs in our community, such as a blocked stop sign. Low branches may also damage City trucks and increase the frequency of repairs to these vehicles. Branches in the public ROW should be maintained to a height of at least 16 feet.

This year, the City plans to proactively trim trees in public ROWs to prevent these issues. Residents are still welcome to maintain their own trees in public ROWs, and the City would like to thank those that have continued to maintain them!

Chicken Permits

Every Spring, residents contact the City to inquire about owning chickens. Section 92.09 of the Maple Plain City Code addresses the requirements for keeping chickens, ducks, and geese. You must obtain a permit to possess these animals.



There is a limit of 5 chickens, ducks, or geese in any combination (roosters are not allowed). You can read the City Code, find additional information, and view the permit application at:

<https://www.mapleplain.com/permits-licenses>

Sign-Up for the Leaflet!

The Leaflet is Maple Plain's bi-weekly newsletter covering City news, events, Council decisions, and more! To sign-up for The Leaflet, as well as to see all previously published Leaflets, use the link below:

www.mapleplain.com/Leaflet



Keep Our Lakes and Rivers Safe!

Did you know that storm drains send water directly into neighborhood ponds, lakes, and rivers? That means anything entering the storm drain with the water also ends up in our community waterbodies.

With a few exceptions, an **illicit discharge** is anything that enters a storm drain that is not rainwater or snowmelt. Basically, an illicit discharge is water pollution.

Help us protect our ponds, lakes, and rivers by reporting these discharges! Some of the most common storm drain pollutants are:

- Pesticides and fertilizers
- Paints and solvents
- Laundry wastewater
- Motor oil
- Grass clippings and other yard waste
- Dirt and sediment from construction sites

Suspect an Illicit Discharge? Report it!

During business hours,
call City Hall at **763-479-0515**

After hours, call Non-Emergency Police
Dispatch at **763-479-0500**

Call **911** to report a major spill or
active illegal dumping.



REPORT A POTHOLE

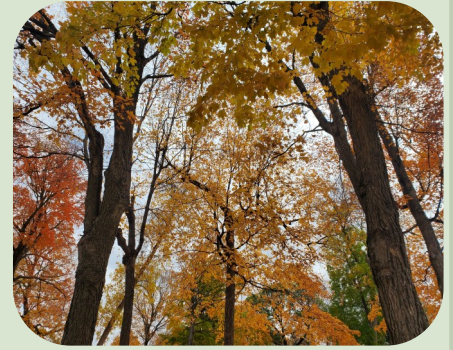
Call or text the
location to
763-479-9250

Maple Plain Tree Planting Volunteers Needed

The City of Maple Plain is seeking volunteers to assist with tree planting in May of 2023. Nine diseased and dead ash trees were removed from community public parks as a part of the Preparing for Emerald Ash Borers grant that was awarded to the City in 2022 by the Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources.

Eighteen new trees will be planted to replenish the nine removed trees, a replacement rate of 2:1. This volunteer opportunity is an excellent way to help the community and to get involved in a project that will have long lasting impacts in Maple Plain.

Those interested in volunteering should email Grant@mapleplain.com or call City Hall at 763-479-0515.



Spring Road Restrictions



State, County, and local highway authorities impose axle weight restrictions during the Spring thaw to protect their roadways.

Weather and traffic remain the two primary causes for premature deterioration of asphalt streets. The load carrying capacity is impacted during the seasonal thaw as frost leaves the ground, causing high levels of moisture in the gravel under the street. Weight restrictions are imposed to prolong the service life of streets and highways during the times they are most susceptible to load damage. The exact dates on which seasonal limits begin and end vary depending on annual temperature and weather variations.

See the City Website at mapleplain.com/spring-road-restrictions for specific restrictions.

Winter Parking Restrictions

The City is happy to announce that winter parking restrictions will be lifted on April 15th, 2023.

Winter parking restrictions entered into effect on November 1st, 2022. Parking restrictions disallowed parking on City streets between 1 AM—7 AM. These restrictions ensured that our streets remained free of cars during the snowy winter months, enabling plow truck drivers to clear streets to full-width without obstruction.

Residents may resume parking on all City streets during any period of the day beginning April 15th, 2023. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this past winter!



Help Preserve Our Sewer System!

Many products labeled as “flushable” do not degrade in the sewer systems. Flushing improper items can clog pipes, pumps, and lift stations. This may also cost taxpayers and residents lots of money in additional maintenance costs.

Please refrain from flushing:

- Flushable Wipes
- Facial Tissues
- Napkins
- Baby Wipes
- Paper Towels
- Sanitary Products
- Paper



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)
gmacfarlane@mapleplain.com (Grant)
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/calendar



City Council

Julie Maas-Kusske, Mayor

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

Andrew Burak, Councilmember
andrewburak@mapleplain.com

Connie Francis, Councilmember
1445 Halgren Road
612-554-6193
conniefrancis@mapleplain.com

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

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

Community Calendar

April 9 Easter

April 28 Arbor Day

May 14 Mother's Day

May 20 Spring Clean-Up

May 29 Memorial Day

June 3 Party in the Park

June 18 Father's Day

June 19 Juneteenth

July 4 Independence Day

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

STAY CONNECTED



"Like" us on facebook.com
www.facebook.com/CityofMaplePlain



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