

MAPLE PLAIN

WINTER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Grateful Heart



Mayor Julie Maas-Kusske

As 2022 comes to an end, I am reflecting on the past year with gratitude. On October 31, we celebrated the opening of the realigned County Road 92 north and south. These new safety improvements will save lives. They would not have happened without the partnerships of various groups; state, county, Hwy 12 Safety Coalition, elected officials, residents, and local leaders collaborating, advocating and working together. I am grateful that there are no more foreseen closures on Hwy 12, especially for our businesses who have persevered these past three years through a pandemic and two Hwy 12 closures.

Thank you to those who serve in official capacities on behalf of the residents: the Economic Development Authority with Jack Henrich, Adam Warden and the Council and the Planning Commission made up of Commissioners Stephen Shurson, Barb Rose, Mardelle DeCamp, Mike Melton, Jared Betterman, Adam Ruhland, and our newest Commissioner Nick Altavilla who was appointed in October. A huge thank you to Michelle Bliss (former Planning Commission Chair) for her years of service on the Planning Commission. Also thank you to City Councilmembers John Fay, Mike DeLuca, Caitlin Cahill, and Connie Francis. A special thanks to outgoing Councilmember Cahill for her years of service. A warm welcome to Councilmember-Elect Andrew Burak and congratulations to Councilmember Francis for being elected. (See article for more information regarding Cahill and Burak.) The hours you each spend reading packets and preparing for meetings does not go unnoticed.

To the Maple Plain Historical Museum leaders and volunteers, thank you for all you do to preserve our history and share stories. Thanks to the West Hennepin Chamber of Commerce for all that your members do to promote business and community events. The Paul Stinson American Legion Post #514 for their commitment to remembering and celebrating Veterans in so many different ways. (See the Good Neighbor Award article.) To those who give of your time and energy volunteering, thank you. Whether you officially serve on the Maple Plain Volunteering group, keep your fire hydrant clear, pick up trash when you are out walking, shovel your sidewalk, plant and maintain planters on city property, clean your storm sewer, flood the ice rink – every act of service helps to make our city great and is appreciated. If you are considering serving in an official capacity, see the article regarding the new Citizens Advisory Panel on Public Spaces.

Our staff and consultants are invaluable. We may be a small city but we have many of the same issues as the large cities and work with multiple agencies: county, state, railroad, watershed, and Met Council. We could not do it without their commitment to the residents of Maple Plain. This past year we welcomed Grant MacFarlane to the new full time position of Assistant to the City Administrator. The staff work tirelessly and are innovative on our behalf

I would be remiss if I failed to mention my gratitude for our public safety staff and volunteers. We are fortunate to be served and protected by West Hennepin Public Safety and the Maple Plain Fire Department 24/7/365. Soon North Memorial Ambulance Service will be housed out of the new public works/public safety building at our neighboring city of Independence as well. This past year we were ranked the third safest city. I sincerely applaud our public safety staff for this. You can learn more about what our police officers do on a daily basis by attending the Citizens Police Academy. (See article for more information.)

It takes a lot of people and a great deal of resources to make sure we can safely travel on our roads, drink our water, flush our toilets, and to feel and know we are safe. Whatever your role in making our city a success, I am grateful for you and your service. As we look ahead to 2023 may we all do our part to continue to make Maple Plain a great place to live, work, and play. I wish you all peace, happiness, and good health!

Together we are better! - Mayor Julie Maas-Kusske

Thank You, Councilmember Caitlin Cahill!

The City of Maple Plain would like to thank Councilmember Caitlin Cahill for her six years of service on the City Council. During her tenure she served as Chair of the Fire Commission, Vice Chair of the Watershed Commission, liaison to the Planning Commission, and member of the Fire Relief Association, Personnel Committee, West Hennepin Chamber of Commerce, the Suburban Rate Authority, and the Economic Development Authority. Councilmember Cahill was awarded the Women In Minnesota Government's Elected Leader of the Year award in 2021.

“Councilmember Cahill has been a valuable asset to the council and the residents and business owners of Maple Plain. She was committed to her role and made personal sacrifices to serve. Councilmember Cahill was consistent, informed and always did her diligence before making an educated decision. I found her passion for the environment, public safety and policy to be inspiring. She took the time to reach out to residents and listen to them. Her perspective has been invaluable. I am grateful for her commitment and service to our community and beyond and will miss her leadership on the council.” - Mayor Maas-Kusske on Caitlin Cahill

Thank you, Caitlin, for five years of serving Maple Plain!

Welcome, Nick Altavilla!

My name is Nick Altavilla and I recently joined the Planning Commission.

I currently work at United Healthcare in Small Business Sales selling health insurance and have been there for just over 5 years! I am originally from Lakeville and I graduated from North Dakota State University in 2014 where I played baseball for the Bison. I enjoy golf and pick-up hockey, but my real passion is for the outdoors. We have a family cabin in Ely, MN where fishing, grouse hunting, and days spent in nature's beauty take priority. In 2020, while working from home, I finally had the time needed to properly train a bird dog which lead us to finding our Small Munsterlander named Olive.



My wife Abbie and I recently moved to Maple Plain from Maple Grove and we are thrilled to be a part of the community! We immediately felt right at home with the small town feel and close proximity to work, family, parks, bars/restaurants, and outdoor activities. We are expecting our first child in June, so house updates and baby room have been our main focus at the moment. We're both very excited about the new challenges and joys that we will experience once our little one arrives!

We see ourselves in the community long-term and that's what led me to join the Planning Commission. I want to see the community continue to grow upon its already charming vibe and I am excited for our community's future. If you ever see us out and about, be sure to say hello as we would love to meet you!

Welcome, Councilmember Andrew Burak!

The City of Maple Plain welcomes Andrew Burak as the newest member of its City Council. Burak ran for City Council during the November 7th, 2022 General Election and will take an opening on Council created by the departure of Caitlin Cahill, who did not seek re-election.

Andrew Burak grew up in the City of Minnetonka Beach and has lived in Maple Plain for 4 years. After graduating from Orono High School, Andrew went on to work in the construction trade as a job site foreman. Andrew currently works at the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community as a Property Services Supervisor and has been in this position since 2015. When Andrew is not working, he enjoys spending his free time learning new skills to increase his ability.

Andrew has a history of volunteering within the Maple Plain Community, serving as the Merit Badge Counselor for first aid and fire safety for his son's Boy Scout Troop. He became interested in the Maple Plain City Council to bring a different perspective on achieving the goal of government. Andrew is excited to meet more of the residents of Maple Plain and to make sure that their comments, questions, and concerns are heard by the City Council.

Connie Francis was also on the November 7th ballot and was reelected to her seat on the Maple Plain City Council. Francis, appointed to her seat at the May 23, 2022 City Council meeting, will be serving in her first full term with the City of Maple Plain. More information on Connie Francis may be found in the Summer 2022 Newsletter. The City Council will host its first meeting with new members on January 9th, 2023 at 5:30 PM.

January Christmas Tree Collection

Republic Services is continuing the tradition of picking-up non-artificial (live) Christmas trees in the City of Maple Plain during the first two weeks of January, 2023! Trees will need to be set out to the curb without bags and must be free of all ornaments, tinsel, garlands, and lights. Trees longer than 8 feet must be cut into sections.

The dates for Republic's Christmas Tree Collection 2023 are:

Monday, January 2nd & Monday, January 9th



Muffins with the Mayor

4 - 6 PM | March 8, 2023

**City Council Chambers
5050 Independence Street, Maple Plain**

Come chat with Mayor Maas-Kusske. Bring your toughest questions and your best ideas! Refreshments and muffins will be served!

Snowplowing Reminders

The most wonderful time of the year is finally here, and it has brought all of our favorite activities with it: ice skating, snowball fights, and... large snowfall events. Make this winter season as simple as possible by reviewing the Maple Plain winter parking restrictions:

- Parking is not allowed on any street from November 1 to April 15 between 1 AM & 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 it has been plowed **full-width**.



Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

WHPS View Santa Event was a Success!

On Saturday, December 3, the West Hennepin Reserves and Officers held the 42nd Annual View Santa parade through the cities of Independence and Maple Plain. View Santa began 42 years ago with the Police Reserves decorating a trailer and a parade of police cars to tour around the communities. With music playing, the flashing red lights of the Police cars, and Santa himself sat atop the trailer in his sleigh, the Police Reserves walk around the route handing out bags of treats and small toys to the boys and girls along the way. This year also continued the tradition of the Police Reserves collecting food for the local food shelf.



MAPLE PLAIN RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Upcoming Recycling Weeks are on the following dates:

- **January 9**
- **January 23**
- **February 6**
- **February 20**
- **March 6**
- **March 20**
- **April 3**
- **April 17**

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

Ready, Set, Shovel!

Winter in Minnesota means clearing walkways and driveways. Shoveling early and often is your best tool for preventing slippery situations while also reducing the need to use deicers.

Deicers, like salt, contain the pollutant chloride. *Just one teaspoon of salt permanently pollutes five gallons of water.* Salt does not break down; instead flowing with water melt into our lakes, streams, wetlands, and groundwater. It can impair our water, harm fish and aquatic organisms, damage vegetation, and harm our pets.

Shoveling early and often is the best way to reduce the need for deicers. When deicers must be used, just 1-4 pounds of salt is sufficient for melting ice after shoveling. Salt crystals should be scattered 2-3 inches apart, not in piles. It is also important to always sweep any extra deicers that remain on the pavement after a storm.

Good Neighbor Award Winner 2022 Paul Stinson American Legion Post 514

The Maple Plain City Council has been sponsoring the Good Neighbor Award since 2017. This award is the highest honor 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.



Mayor Julie Maas-Kusske was thrilled to nominate the Paul Stinson American Legion Post 514 for this award and to share their achievements, contributions, and devotion to our community. This organization has long been connected to the Maple Plain community, with their first Commander having been elected in 1925.

The Maple Plain City Council held an award reception on December 19th, 2022 for the group in the City Council Chambers. Numerous members of Paul Stinson's American Legion Post 514 were in attendance, including Commander Jim Meyer who has been serving in this role for 8 years.

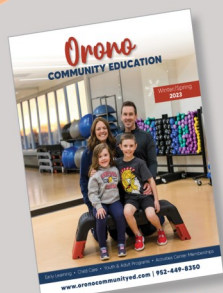
We thank the Paul Stinson American Legion Post 514 for their many years of service to the community of Maple Plain and are proud to award them the 2022 Good Neighbor of the Year Award!

FOCUS ON A FIREFIGHTER - COOPER TOKAR

Cooper Tokar is the newest member of the Maple Plain Fire Department! Cooper joined the Department in November of 2022. Cooper is a long-time resident of Maple Plain and graduated from Orono High School in 2015.

Cooper moved to Grand Junction, Colorado after graduating high school to study Criminal Justice. While attending university in Colorado, Cooper enjoyed playing lacrosse for the school. This is a passion that he continues to hold as he is now Orono High School's junior varsity lacrosse assistant coach.

Cooper was drawn to the Maple Plain Fire Department due to his fondness for working with a team, something he attributed to his time playing lacrosse. Maple Plain is thrilled to have Cooper serving our community. Welcome Cooper!



Winter Spring 2023 CLASSES & PROGRAMS

Over 250 offerings for all ages!

STEM - Art & Theater - Sports & Aquatics

Special Interest & Academics - ECFE & Preschool

Adult Enrichment & Recreation - and more!

REGISTER NOW!

www.oronocommunityed.com

952-449-8350



Scan the code to view the brochure!
Or pick up a copy at the Discovery Center in Maple Plain

ORONO Community Education
Orono Public Schools

Trunk N' Treat - Thank you!

Thank you to everyone that attended this year's Trunk N' Treat event and to everyone that helped organize



and administer the program. Thirty-two donations were received from businesses for the silent auction and nineteen trunks were decorated.

2023 Final Budget

City Council hosted the Truth in Taxation Hearing on Monday, December 5th in the City Council Chambers. Staff provided a presentation for the 2023 budget to all those in attendance and Council allowed time for questions as well.

The Final 2023 Levy is \$1,723,947, an increase of \$155,756, or 9.93%. The Final Budget was approved at the December 19, 2022 City Council Business Meeting.

For more information on the 2023 Final Budget, visit the City Council Budget Webpage at: www.mapleplain.com/departments/Finance/budget

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 Proposed (Sept.)	2022 Draft (TNT)
General + CIP	1,230,273	1,236,700	1,236,367	1,236,367	1,311,376	1,468,741	1,435,957
Debt Service	220,251	229,144	230,142	230,603	256,815	287,990	287,990
Total Levy	1,450,524	1,465,844	1,466,509	1,466,970	1,568,191	1,756,732	1,723,947
<i>\$ Change</i>	<i>(36,510)</i>	<i>15,320</i>	<i>665</i>	<i>461</i>	<i>101,221</i>	<i>188,541</i>	<i>155,756</i>
<i>% Change</i>	<i>-2.46%</i>	<i>1.06%</i>	<i>0.05%</i>	<i>0.03%</i>	<i>6.9%</i>	<i>12.02%</i>	<i>9.93%</i>
5 Year Average					1.12%	4.01%	3.59%

Citizens Advisory Panel on Public Spaces

The City of Maple Plain is creating a new advisory panel to help lead the maintenance, management, and development of our community's public spaces. This group, named the Citizens Advisory Panel on Public Spaces, will meet quarterly or as needed and is a great way to help the City establish its public space priorities, recommend ways to beautify the City, and to provide additional deliberation on public space related issues as requested by the City Council.



To learn more about the Advisory Panel position, or to submit an application, visit the following link: www.mapleplain.com/AdvisoryPanel

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

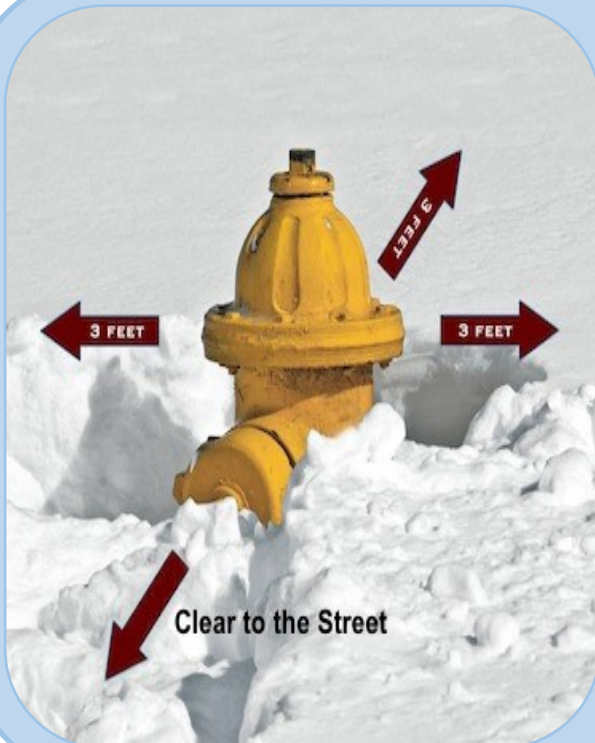


REPORT A POTHOLE

Call or text the location to **763-479-9250**

Are Your Neighborhood Fire Hydrants Accessible?

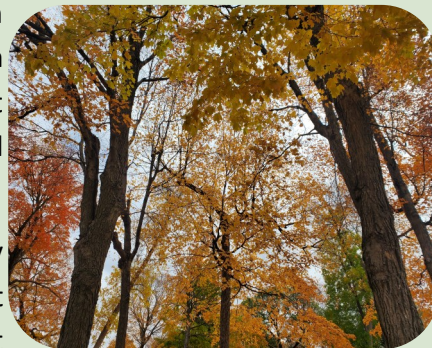
Winter snow can make it difficult for firefighters to find buried fire hydrants. In an emergency, it is essential that fire hydrants be clearly marked and accessible. It takes an average of less than a minute for a firefighter to connect a large fire house to a hydrant, but snow piles that limit access to the hydrant can result in this time being tripled. The Maple Plain Fire Department asks neighborhood volunteers to help clear the snow from the fire hydrants to maintain response time efficiency. 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. We thank you for your assistance in ensuring that our Maple Plain communities can remain safe!



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 Rainbow Park as a part of the Preparing for Emerald Ash Borers grant that the City was awarded in 2022 by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The next phase of this project will be replenishing our natural tree canopy by planting 18 new trees in our community parks. This is a great opportunity to help the community and to get involved in a project that will have lasting impacts in Maple Plain.



Those interested in volunteering should email Grant@mapleplain.com or call City Hall at 763-479-0555.

Thank You to Our 2022 City Event Sponsors

These sponsors made the City of Maple Plain's 2022 city-wide events better thanks to their contributions!



HERC-U-LIFT

Fork & Less
PIZZA | WRAPZ | RIBZ



Bank of Maple Plain

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

Jan 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - city offices closed
Feb 2 Groundhog Day
Feb 14 Valentine's Day
Feb 20 Presidents' Day - city offices closed
Mar 8 Muffins with the Mayor
Mar 12 Daylight Savings Starts
Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day

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

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