

# MAPLE PLAIN

## WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER



Mayor Julie  
Maas-Kusske

Greetings Neighbors and Business Owners,

Winter is upon us, even though the grass is brown and we have been enjoying unseasonably warm temperatures. Winter parking restrictions are in effect November 1, 2023 through April 15, 2024. This means there is no parking on any city street between the hours of 1am to 7am. In addition, on-street parking is prohibited any time three or more inches of snow has accumulated, until after the street has been completely plowed. To ensure prompt fire service and mail delivery, please keep the areas by your mailbox and around the fire hydrant clear.

Speaking of mail delivery, the city staff and some of your local officials have been receiving multiple phone calls and emails regarding no or inconsistent mail service. The USPS is a Federal Government entity, and the city has no control over the services they provide. I encourage you to reach out to them directly with questions or concerns. I did reach out and they shared they are short staffed. They are doing the best they can, especially at this extra busy time of year in the postal service industry. The postmaster has even been out delivering on Sundays.

At our December 18th Council meeting we approved the final levy and budget for 2024. Council and staff work hard on your behalf to maintain a reasonable and responsible budget. Also, you may have noticed that the land preparation has begun for the five Villa Homes being built off of Baker Park Road.

There are so many opportunities this time of year to celebrate the season both with your family and community. One of my favorite traditions is View Santa, sponsored by the West Hennepin Public Safety Department Reserve Officers. I have been attending this event since I was a child. I love how it brings the community together, all while helping others at the same time.

Sign up today for the upcoming Citizens Police Academy and learn more about what our officers do and how the Police Department operates.

At the November 27th council meeting we presented the Good Neighbor Award to Anne Rothstein. The Good Neighbor Award 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 of service and dedication through volunteerism, virtue, civic engagement, and creativity to meet community needs. Congratulations, Anne and thank you for your continued service and commitment to this community.

At that same meeting our City Administrator Jacob Kolander was recognized by Luke Fisher, Executive Director of League of Minnesota Cities for his service on the LMC Board of Directors.

Enjoy the winter season! I am looking forward to 2024 with anticipation of more good things to come.

Together, we are better!

*Mayor Julie*



Orono Community Education provides a multitude of services, supports and connections to Orono students and families. If you would like more information about resources, please contact:

**Genna Torney**

[genna.torney@orono.k12.mn.us](mailto:genna.torney@orono.k12.mn.us) | 952-449-8360

**Donna Ostvig (Habla español)**

[donna.ostvig@orono.k12.mn.us](mailto:donna.ostvig@orono.k12.mn.us) | 952-449-8362

## Delano Senior Center

The Delano Senior Center is looking for a Maple Plain resident to serve on the Friends of Senior Center Board. Currently, Mayor Maas-Kusske has been filling this volunteer role for the last three years. The board typically meets the last Wednesday of the odd months from 9 - 10:30am at the Delano Senior Center. Contact Mayor Julie (763-479-6010) or Nick Neaton (763-972-0574) for more information.



## Rental Permits Required in Maple Plain Starting June 1st

Landlords in the City of Maple Plain are advised to take note of new rental licensing regulations under City Code Section 4-541, effective January 1, 2024. These changes are intended to streamline processes, enhance property compliance, and ensure the safety and well-being of residents.

### KEY ACTION ITEMS FOR LANDLORDS

#### 1. Mandatory Licensing and Inspections

- Landlords must ensure that no tenant occupies a rental dwelling unit without a valid rental license issued by the City for that unit.
- To obtain or renew a license, landlords must submit a comprehensive application and fees to the City office.

#### 2. License Application Requirements

- Landlords must submit a fully completed license application, including:
  - a. Owner's contact information (name, address, email, and telephone).
  - b. Details of any owner's agent responsible for property management.
  - c. Legal address of the rental dwelling unit.
  - d. Number and type of dwelling units.
  - e. Additional information as requested by the Code Official.

#### 3. Bi-annual Licensing

- All rental dwelling units must be licensed before being rented.
- Licenses will expire bi-annually on June 1 of even-numbered years.
- Landlords must submit renewal applications with fees by April 15, with inspections completed by May.

#### 4. License Fee and Record Retention

- License fees, as per the fee schedule, must accompany applications.

#### 5. Important Dates

- Initial rental permits must be submitted by June 1, 2024
- Initial rental permits will remain in effect until June 1, 2026.
- Bi-annual licensing renewals will begin June 1, 2026.

Landlords are urged to proactively address these requirements to ensure compliance. Applications for the upcoming licensing period ending on June 1, 2024, must be submitted in a timely manner.

For further information or clarification, landlords are encouraged to contact the City directly.



**2024 Presidential  
Nomination Primary (PNP)  
March 5, 2024**



The process to select major-party presidential candidates will take place at the PNP in March and will look much like it did in 2020. Instead of straw polls taken at the political caucuses, the state will hold a nomination primary election on Tuesday, March 5th. The presidential primary process ensures that more people are able to participate in the nomination process. Absentee voting for the PNP begins January 19th. Information on everything elections can be found at: [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org)

**HELP WANTED:** Maple Plain is looking for a couple of election judges to ensure full coverage this year. You can commit to a half day or full day and training is provided, all with pay. If you want to be involved in the election process contact Maple Plain City Hall at 763-479-0515 or email [jnorlander@mapleplain.com](mailto:jnorlander@mapleplain.com).

# Independence “Airport” Development Anticipated

**In response to a number of calls received at Maple Plain City Hall, an explanation of the application and review process is provided below.**



The City of Independence is anticipating the submittal of a concept plan review application for the subdivision of the “Airport” property on the southern border of Maple Plain. The process would likely take between 8-18 months depending on a wide array of factors that are not wholly controlled by the City of Independence. This would generally include the following:

1. A concept plan is prepared by the developer and submitted to the City for feedback. It is then presented to the Planning Commission and City Council providing feedback to the developer who can then determine if or how to move forward.
2. If the developer chooses to proceed with the project they would submit the following applications:
  - Rezoning (from AG-Agriculture to Low Density Residential)
  - Zoning Ordinance Amendment to Create Low Density Residential Zoning District
3. If the rezoning and zoning ordinance amendments are approved, the developer would submit the following applications:
  - Preliminary Plat
  - Site Plan Review

The City would provide feedback and the developer would likely revise plans and provide additional information.

4. A Public Hearing would be held by the Independence Planning Commission (with notification sent to **all property owners** within 350 feet of the development area.) The Commission’s recommendation would be forwarded to the City Council for consideration.

Should the rezoning, ordinance amendment, site plan review, and preliminary plat be approved, the applicant would be required to submit final plat application.

- Plans will be submitted to Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.
- Final plat is reviewed at regular meetings by the Planning Commission and City Council. (No further public hearings are required.)

The following Items will be required by the City of Independence during this process:

- Wetland delineation
- Traffic Impact Analysis
- Hennepin County review and approval of road connections and intersections
- Metropolitan Council involvement pertaining to the sanitary sewer connection to the regional system
- Water system – verification and approval of water system connection or development
- Stormwater plans and watershed approvals
- Park/trail plans

Questions or comments should be addressed to the  
City of Independence City Manager Mark Kaltsas  
mkaltsas@ci.independence.mn.us  
763-479-0044

## Congratulations to New Firefighter Cooper Tokar

On December 18th the Maple Plain City Council welcomed Cooper Tokar as a full-fledged Firefighter to the Maple Plain Fire Department. The oath was administered by Chief McCoy and Cooper was pinned by his mother, Nancy Tokar.

This ceremony formalizes Mr. Tokar's role within the department and acknowledges his dedication to public service and contribution to the overall strength of the fire department.

**Congratulations, Cooper!**



## Help! I Think I Have a Leak!

A leak in your house can waste hundreds of gallons of water. You'll also be paying for water that you aren't even using! Here is how to find out if you have a leak at your house:

If you know you are currently not using any water, go and check the water meter. The Badger meter has a small red pinwheel on the face. If the pinwheel is moving, that indicates water is currently going through the meter and you have a leak.



For more leak detection tips visit: <https://www.mapleplain.com/departments/PublicWorks/checking-for-leaks>

## Snow Management Protects Our Waters

Snowflakes bring beauty and enjoyment to our Minnesota landscape. They also bring slippery conditions. Unfortunately, the products we use to treat ice run off into our lakes, streams, wetlands, and groundwater with the melting snow. Deicers, like salt, applied to roads and sidewalks pollute our lakes and streams. Just one teaspoon of salt permanently pollutes five gallons of water. Deicers impair our waters, harm fish and other aquatic life, degrade infrastructure, damage vegetation, and even injure the paws of our pets.

Always shovel first before snow turns to ice. The more snow you remove manually, the less deicer is needed. Many times, the sun will take care of the rest. If you do use salt, treat only the high-traffic areas. It takes less than you think when treating your sidewalk. Only 1-4 pounds (1-4 coffee mugs) of salt per 1,000 square feet is recommended. Remember that deicers take time to work, especially as the temperature gets colder. Salt is ineffective when pavement temperatures are below 15 degrees, and should not be used. Other products may work at colder temperatures but have their own environmental impacts. Use all products sparingly and remember to sweep up any material remaining on the pavement once the snow and ice have cleared. Be patient and plan ahead to keep safe during winter conditions.



2024

# Maple Plain

## RECYCLING COLLECTION CALENDAR



Sustainability in Action

  Holiday - Service is delayed one day      Recycling

JANUARY						
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FEBRUARY						
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OCTOBER						
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DECEMBER						
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29	30	31				

## We Recycle! (Do Not Bag Your Recyclables)



### Plastics Bottles & Jugs

Water, soda and juice bottles, dish soap bottles, shampoo bottles, soap and lotion bottles, and detergent jugs (empty and clean/rinse, and dry; caps on)



### Plastics Cups & Containers

Yogurt cups, pudding and fruit cups, clear disposable cups (no straws), margarine/whipped cream tubs, cottage cheese and similar containers, clear produce, deli and take-out containers (empty and rinse; lids on)



### Boxes (Flattened)

Cardboard, cereal, cracker, pasta and tissue boxes, shoe, gift and electronic boxes, toothpaste and other toiletry boxes



### Cartons

Milk cartons, juice cartons, juice boxes, soup, broth and wine cartons (empty and clean/rinse, and dry; caps on)



### Paper

Mail, office and school papers, magazines and catalogs, newspapers and inserts, phone books (clean; staples OK)



### Metal

Food and beverage cans (empty and rinse; labels OK)



### Glass

Brown, green and clear bottles and jars (empty and rinse; no lids)

## 2024 CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY



West Hennepin Public Safety announces the 2024 Police Academy starting on February 15th and ending with graduation on April 4th. The Academy runs for eight Thursday nights, from 6-9 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.

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](http://www.westhennepin.com/citizens-police-academy).) At graduation you will receive a certificate and become a member of the Citizens Academy Network Alumni.

This class is a must for those people who live or work in or near the West Hennepin Public Safety Department's jurisdiction. 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](mailto:westhennepin@westhennepin.com).

## VIEW SANTA EVENT - A COMMUNITY SUCCESS!

The West Hennepin Public Safety Department hosted the 43<sup>rd</sup> annual View Santa event on December 2, collecting 1,437 pounds of food and \$745 in cash for Western Communities Action Network (WeCAN). Pictured, from left, are WeCAN Mobile Market Coordinator Katie Wahlund, Police Chief Gary Kroells, and Sergeant Rick Denneson. WeCAN is grateful for the amazing community support.

March is FoodShare Month. WeCAN will be hosting a variety of opportunities to contribute to a 6-week campaign to stock our food shelf. Watch our website for more information – [wecanmn.org](http://wecanmn.org).



## AND THE WINNERS ARE .....

We are happy to announce that **John and Nette Timpe** are the winners of the Maple Plain Historical Museum Quilt Raffle. All the money raised will go to rebuilding the little museum.



A great big thank you to all the museum's faithful supporters!!



## Anne Rothstein Receives City of Maple Plain Good Neighbor Award

The Good Neighbor Award 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 of service and dedication through volunteerism, virtue, civic engagement, and creativity to meet community needs.

On Monday November 27th at 6:30pm a reception was held in the council chambers to celebrate Anne! Following the reception during the city council meeting Mayor Maas- Kusske presented Rothstein with a plaque, read her nomination and shared some personal stories from serving alongside Rothstein in various roles through the years.

Anne was nominated by the West Hennepin Chamber of Commerce executive committee. This is what they had to say. "Anne has been an agent with American Family since 2011 and has always been committed to this community. Her Maple Plain location opened their new office on August 1, 2022. Anne is generous with her time and resources. She has been a leader of the West Hennepin Chamber of Commerce and held almost every leadership position. She was one of only four members who believed in and supported the chamber. If not for her dedication and belief in the chamber, it would not be a vibrant organization today. She was a leader on the Maple Plain Centennial Committee and Maple Plain Days Committee. Anne served as the chair of the Highway 12 Construction Task Force, ensuring that people knew Maple Plain was open for business during both of the Highway 12 detours around Maple Plain.



When she built her new office, she included a storage space for the chamber. Anne is the first to offer a helping hand. For all these reasons and more Anne is well deserving of the Maple Plain Good Neighbor Award."

Mayor Maas-Kusske said "Anne is a selfless leader. She is always looking out for the greater good of our community and, on behalf of the Maple Plain City Council, it is my honor to present her the 2023 Maple Plain Good Neighbor Award tonight."



**PARK ALERT!** Due to the Ash Borer Disease in the area and in our parks in particular, there will be a total of 14 trees removed in Bryantwood, Rainbow, and Veterans Memorial Parks. The removal is planned for the end of January; however, it may be delayed with the warm weather until there is frozen ground to protect the lawn from heavy equipment damage.



## City Contact Information

### City Hall

5050 Independence St, PO Box 97  
Maple Plain, MN 55359  
763-479-0515 | [www.mapleplain.com](http://www.mapleplain.com)  
Hours Mon - Fri 9 am - 4 pm or by appt  
Email [cityadmin@mapleplain.com](mailto:cityadmin@mapleplain.com) (Jacob)  
[sspicer@mapleplain.com](mailto:sspicer@mapleplain.com) (Sharon)  
[jnorlander@mapleplain.com](mailto: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](http://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

## Regular 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/rescheduled.

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



## City Council

### Julie Maas-Kusske, Mayor

1489 Three Oaks Avenue  
763-479-6010 Home  
[juliemaaskusske@mapleplain.com](mailto:juliemaaskusske@mapleplain.com)

**Andrew Burak**, Councilmember  
[andrewburak@mapleplain.com](mailto:andrewburak@mapleplain.com)

**Connie Francis**, Councilmember  
1445 Halgren Road  
612-554-6193  
[conniefrancis@mapleplain.com](mailto:conniefrancis@mapleplain.com)

**Mike DeLuca**, Councilmember  
5825 Maple Ridge Drive  
612-801-5533  
[mikedeluca@mapleplain.com](mailto:mikedeluca@mapleplain.com)

**John Fay**, Councilmember  
5819 Three Oaks Avenue  
763-479-1913 Home  
[johnfay@mapleplain.com](mailto:johnfay@mapleplain.com)

## Community Calendar

Jan 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (city offices closed)
Feb 14	Valentine's Day
Feb 19	Presidents' Day (city offices closed)
Mar 10	Daylight Savings Time Begins
Mar 17	St Patrick's Day

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

## STAY CONNECTED



"Like" us on [facebook.com](http://facebook.com)  
[www.facebook.com/CityofMaplePlain](http://www.facebook.com/CityofMaplePlain)



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See the [News & Announcements!](#)  
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[Check the Calendar!](#)



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