

MAPLE PLAIN

and



INDEPENDENCE



SHARED CITY NEWSLETTER

TWO CITIES: SHARING SERVICES FOR THEIR RESIDENTS

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CITY OF INDEPENDENCE - Page 13

- Salvation Army Drop Box
- 2014 Recycling Statistics
- New Public Works Employee

CITY OF MAPLE PLAIN - Pages 14-15

- City of Maple Plain on Facebook
- 2015 Utility Billing
- New Councilmember

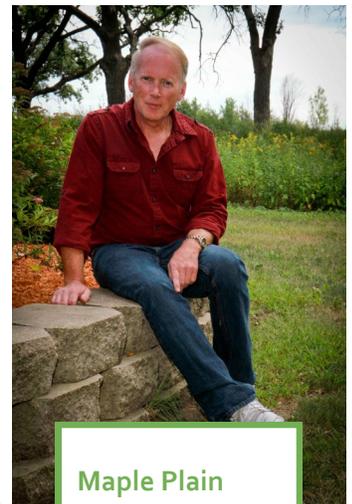
Highway 12 Rumble Strip Installation
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LETTER FROM MAPLE PLAIN MAYOR YOUNG

As we begin 2015, I am looking the future of our great City with a renewed sense of hope and excitement. 2014 was a tough year for the City of Maple Plain as we dealt with many uncomfortable situations and continued to feel the effects of the economy. However, we are a strong Council and plan to focus on all the great accomplishments of our residents, businesses and communities in 2015.

Before I review some highlights of the past year and talk about some of the exciting projects planned for 2015, I would like to congratulate and welcome our newest Councilmember, Julie Maas-Kusske. Julie officially took office in November. She brings with her enthusiasm and a love of Maple Plain. See an article from Julie on page 15.

Young's letter Continued on page 2



Maple Plain Mayor Young

LETTER FROM INDEPENDENCE MAYOR JOHNSON



Independence Mayor Johnson

It is hard to believe, but in we are in 2015. It seems like a short time ago that our world was concerned that a computer crash would happen when we went from year 1999 to 2000. However, at that time we never dreamed of the World Trade Center disaster, and only the older generation could warn us about a stock market and real estate crash that we have experienced the last few years.

Hopefully 2015 will be a good year! The State and Federal elections are over and our desire is that something good gets accomplished this year both in Minnesota and at Washington D.C.

Johnson's Letter Continued on Page 3



LETTERS FROM OUR CITY COUNCILS



LETTER FROM MAYOR YOUNG (CONTINUED...)

She is joining Councilmember, Mike DeLuca, who was reelected to a four-year term and Councilmembers Dave Eisinger and Justin McCoy. Our Councilmembers all give a tremendous amount of time, energy and talent to make Maple Plain a great place to live, play and work.

Economic Development

The City Council and its Economic Development Authority (EDA) have begun to work closely with our existing businesses to help ensure that they can accomplish their expansion goals while maintaining and expanding job opportunities in our City. It is our intent that a new Business Assistance Loan program will help businesses make necessary exterior improvements. In addition, the EDA and Council have created a Business Retention and Expansion program to help us get to know our existing businesses and help form healthy relationships and provide assistance.

Parks and Trails

To respond to a petition from several residents, and after receiving a very economical bid, the City Council decided to have the trail at Rainbow Park paved. We hope that residents enjoy this new amenity throughout the year. In addition, the City joined the sport of Pickleball trend and added lines to the Rainbow Park tennis courts. Keep the ideas coming into us as we continue to maintain and build upon our parks and trails system.

Financial Condition

After many years of maintaining a conservative budget without any increases, the City Council made a difficult decision in 2014 to increase the budget to pay for some past debt and to create a pavement maintenance and renewal program. We understand the dire state of our infrastructure and are committed to making improvements that address storm water issues, maintain or replace water and sewer service lines, and improve the condition of roads.

Conclusion

During my 14 years of involvement with the City, I am more convinced than I ever have been that government, at the local level, has the most significant impact on the quality of life in the City. I take great pride in the fact that the City of Maple Plain is becoming more innovative and working with surrounding cities to share services and create better service products in a more economic manner. We will continue to become innovative and provide high quality services at the most economic cost. Council and staff will continue to communicate and build relationships with residents and businesses. We want to hear from you, we want to enter 2015 together.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank out many committees and commission volunteers who provide sound recommendations and advice to the City Council and our community organizations, such as the Maple Plain Historic Library, Heartsafe, West Hennepin Chamber of Commerce, the Maple Plain Days Planning Commission, and City staff who are committed to providing high quality public services to our residents.

I look forward to working with you during 2015. Thank you for listening and Happy Holidays.

Jerry Young, Mayor of Maple Plain



LETTERS FROM OUR CITY COUNCILS



LETTER FROM MAYOR JOHNSON (CONTINUED...)

At this time of year, the City, School Districts and the County have been busy working on their 2015 budgets and holding public hearings. By the time this newsletter is in your mailbox, most all of the final tax levy decisions will have been made. In Independence, we have made a slight increase, but I anticipate that that increase will be lower than our original estimate in September. It is still much lower than it was in 2008 and 2009.

Some interesting statistics: In Independence, the median estimated market value of a single family residence this year is \$356,000. The high was in 2007 when it was \$472,000. That value has been dropping every year with the lowest value at \$337,000. This year the value increased \$19,000. In suburban Hennepin, the median is \$235,800 and the median in all Hennepin County is \$219,600. The highest median value in Hennepin County is Minnetonka Beach with \$980,000 followed by Greenwood with \$726,000 and Woodland with \$719,000.

The total estimated market value for the 2014 assessments in Independence is \$625,935,800. This is a 5.23% increase over last year with total home values increasing 6.06% and farm values increasing 4.33% and industrial values decreasing 7.98%.

In Independence, building permits were issued to 63 for new construction or major renovations with values totaling \$4,986,000.

Hopefully this newsletter finds you thankful for what we have and may I wish you a "Happy New Year".

Marvin D. Johnson, Mayor of Independence

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND TOWN

- **West Hennepin Public Safety's Citizens Academy**
- **Independence and Maple Plain City Halls Closed - Martin Luther King Jr Day - January 19, 2015**
- **Independence and Maple Plain City Halls Closed - Presidents Day - February 16, 2015**
- **Annual Clean-Up Day at Independence City Hall - May 2, 2015 (For Maple Plain and Independence residents)**

City of Independence Meetings

City Council: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 7:30 PM
Planning Commission: 2nd Monday at 7:30 PM

City of Maple Plain Meetings

City Council: 2nd & 4th Mondays at 7:00 PM
Council Workshops: 4th Monday at 5:30 PM
Economic Development Authority: 2nd Monday
at 5:30 PM
Planning Commission: 1st Thursday at 7:00 PM
Parks Commission: 3rd Monday at 7:00 PM



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS



THANK YOU TO SANTA AND WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY RESERVES

On Saturday December 6, the West Hennepin Public Safety Reserve Officers hosted the popular event “View Santa” in Maple Plain and Independence. The Police Reserves escorted Santa in his sleigh around town to visit with and see children throughout many neighborhoods. In doing so they collected food for the Maple Plain Area Food Shelf.

“This year was an exceptional year with many people coming out to visit Santa and making donations to the local food shelf. The Police Reserves collected over 1,200 pounds of food and \$350 in cash donations” said Director Gary Kroells. “The Volunteer Reserve Officers of WHPS have been hosting this event for 34 years and it is a very special program for our small communities”.

“Without our Volunteer Police Reserves this wonderful event would never take place. By working together, our citizens and your police department filled the food shelf to provide to others who need it most. It is a wonderful event that most communities don’t have,” said Director Kroells



West Hennepin Public Safety
Police Reserves

SNOWMOBILE RIDER INFORMATION

The Minnesota DNR states you may ride:

- In the bottom or outside slope of a ditch of a county or state road
- In the same direction as road traffic in the ditch from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise (other than this time, you can ride in either direction).
- One-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise on two-way snowmobile trails that are located within the ditches or adjacent to streets or highways when specifically permitted by the road authority.
- On a bridge, other than a bridge that is part of the main-traveled lanes of an interstate highway, in order to avoid obstructions to travel when absolutely necessary
- On state and local trails
- On iced-over waters that have legal access (if not restricted by law or local ordinances)
- On township roads when not restricted by local ordinance
- On public lands that are open to motorized vehicles. Land uses vary. (Be sure to check all federal, state, and local ordinances.)
- On your own land

Inside the seven-county metro area, you may ride:

- On land that is posted with signs stating “snowmobiles allowed”
- On land other than your own, with written or spoken permission
- Of the landowner, occupant, or lessee
- On the groomed area of a snowmobile trail.



ENVIRONMENTAL REMINDERS AND UPDATES



2015 RECYCLING SCHEDULES

City of Maple Plain & City of Independence 2015 RECYCLING SCHEDULES



	Maple Plain Recycling Week
	North of HWY 12 and East of Co Rd 90 Recycling Week
	South of HWY 12 & North of HWY 12, West of Co Rd 90 Recycling Week



Holiday

Friday pickup will be delayed until Saturday on the weeks of:

January 1, May 25, September 7, November 26 & December 25

JANUARY						
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DECEMBER						
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ENVIRONMENTAL REMINDERS AND UPDATES



RECYCLING GUIDE

Recycling Guide



Paper

- Mail, office and school papers
- Magazines and catalogs
- Newspapers and inserts
- Phone books
- Shredded paper in closed paper bags

Boxes:

- Cardboard
- Cereal and cracker boxes
- Shoe boxes, gift boxes and electronics boxes
- Toothpaste, medication and other toiletry boxes



Cartons

- Milk cartons
- Juice boxes
- Soup, broth and wine cartons



Glass

- Food and beverage bottle and jars



Plastic

Bottles & jugs:

- Water, soda and juice bottles
- Milk and juice jugs
- Ketchup and salad dressing bottles
- Dishwashing liquid bottles and detergent jugs
- Shampoo, soap and lotion bottles



Cups and containers:

- Yogurt, pudding and fruit cups
- Disposable cups and bowls
- Margarine, cottage cheese, and other containers
- Produce, deli and take out containers

Packaging:

- Clear packaging from toys and electronics

Metal

- Food and beverage cans



Don't recycle: Styrofoam™, plastic wrap, microwavable food trays, paper soiled with food, paper plates and towels, drinking glasses, dishes, mirrors and containers that held hazardous products.



Hennepin County
Environmental Services
612-348-3777
www.hennepin.us/recycling



COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS



COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF SUBURBAN HENNEPIN OFFERS ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Are you struggling and juggling to make ends meet? Are energy expenses putting a strain on your budget? Let the Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin help you. This program is sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Commerce and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

For more information, or to apply your energy bill supplement, call 952-930-3541 or e-mail eap@capsh.org.

*Community Action Partnership
of Suburban Hennepin*

CLASSES AND EVENTS FOR ALL FAMILIES WITH YOUNG KIDS



Monday "Pop In & Plays Gym Times"

Orono Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) program at the Discovery Center invites you to get those wiggles out and meet some new friends on Monday mornings, 10:00 -11:00 a.m., in the East Gym. Parents are asked to stay with children during this free event. (No Pop In: Jan. 9, Feb. 16, March 23)

ECFE Family Nights - Family Nights meet on the first Monday of each month, through

April, from 5:15-6:45 p.m. Parents meet for Parent Discussion from 5:15-6:00 p.m. while the children stay and play with staff. After a pizza dinner in the Lunchroom, kids and parents enjoy activities and the famous ECFE "circle time". **The January 5th class will be a Pajama Night for the Kids**



OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

- The annual **Scholastic Book Fair** will be held at the Discovery Center: **Monday, January 26 - Friday, January 30, 9 a.m. -6 p.m. and Saturday, January 31 10 a.m. -11:30 a.m.**
- **"Cookies with Clifford" Super Saturday, January 31 - 10-11:30 am** – Bring your infants, toddlers and preschoolers for fun crafts, a picture with Clifford, Storytime and to eat some cookies!
- **Orono School District Incoming Kindergarten Parent Meeting: Thursday, February 26 - 7-8 p.m.** at Schumann Elementary. For more information – Call 763479-1530, Option 3, or e-mail: EarlyLearning@orono.k12.mn.us.



Orono Community Education Catalogs

If you have not received your Winter/Spring Catalog, pick up your copy at the Maple Plain City Hall or call 952-449-8350. The 2015 Summer program will be available mid-March. There will be more than 350 camps and programs available for youth of all ages.

4 Community Theatre Presents "Private Lives"

The next production is "Private Lives" to be staged at the Orono Middle School Auditorium on February 13, 14, 20 and 21 at 7:00 p.m. There will be a matinee performance on February 15th at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are available at www.4communitytheatre.org.



COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS



WINTER PLOWING: KEEPING THE ROADS CLEAR AND SAFE

Winter is here. . . and when the snow flies, Maple Plain and Independence Public Works mobilize to provide you with a clear path to get to work, to the store, or to your favorite winter activity destination. Here are a few reminders to help with the winter plowing.

How much snow is needed before the plows begin?

Two inches of continual snow fall, drifting snow, or unsafe road conditions due to ice or freezing rain.

Do we have parking restrictions during the winter months?

Between November 1 and April 15 of each year, no vehicle shall be left standing or parked between 1 a.m. and 7 a.m. on any street, state highway or county road within the city limits. West Hennepin Public Safety is permitted to ticket and tow all vehicles, at the owner's expense, in violation of the city's parking ordinance.

What is our snow removal policy for sidewalks, trailways, bikeways and walkways for residents and businesses?

Snow and ice must be removed from public sidewalks, trailways, bikeways and walkways 12 hours after snow has ceased to fall.

What if my mailbox is damaged during the snow removal?

Even under the best of circumstances and extreme care on the part of plow operators, damage to mailboxes due to snow plowing and ice removal is possible. However, the City is only responsible if damage to a mailbox is the result of being struck by the plow blade, wing or other piece of equipment. Damage caused by snow or ice is the responsibility of the property owner.

Will snow plow operators clear off my driveway?

The City's first priority is to clear streets as efficiently as possible. City snowplow operators recognize the inconvenience of a plugged driveway and so they make every attempt to minimize these occurrences. Unfortunately, this is not always possible.

Any final advice on making this a safe winter season?

A final word of caution: If you encounter a snowplow, please provide the operator enough room to maneuver the equipment. Due to the size of these vehicles, it may not always be possible for operators to see vehicles following too closely. So be sure to leave a safe distance and always pass a snowplow with extreme care.

Snow removal reminder

As a reminder, Minnesota State Law and local ordinances prohibit the deposit snow in any way onto public streets. Depositing snow onto a public road can result in a misdemeanor. Help keep our roads safe and City equipment intact.





COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS



CONTACTS

Nick Neaton
Senior Center
Coordinator

Linda VanLith
Senior Center Assistant
Coordinator



DELANO SENIOR CENTER 234 2nd Street North

Office: 763.972.0574 Fax: 763.972.9034

The Delano Senior Center and Senior Dining Program is open Mon. - Thur. from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Fridays 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. All seniors are invited to participate in the Senior Center's programs and nutritious, tasty dinner served at noon every day! The center van is also available to bring seniors to the center and for other trips.

Legal Aid Help*	1st Mon. of each month	1:00 and 1:30 p.m.
Eye Glass Repair	1st Tue. of each month	11:30 a.m.
Blood Pressure Clinic	Tuesdays	Noon - 2 p.m.
Exercise	Wed. & Fri.	11:20 - 11:40 a.m.
BINGO	Mon 11:15 a.m./Fri. 12:40 p.m.	
500 Cards	2nd & 4th Wed.	1:00 p.m.
Bridge	2nd & 4th Mon.	1:00 p.m.
Farkel	1st & 3rd Tue.	1:00 p.m.
"Mexican Train" Dominos	2nd & 4th Tue.	1:00 p.m.
Cribbage	1st & 3rd Wed.	1:00 p.m.
Choir	Practices every Mon.	10:00 a.m.
Storytheater	Will practice as performances are requested.	TBD
Writer's Group	1st & 3rd Thur.	10:00 a.m.
Book Club	3rd Wed. of each month	10:30 a.m.
Birthdays Celebrated	2nd Mon. of each month	Noon
Parkinson Support Group	3rd Thur. of each month	1:30 p.m.

**Movie Club is held
Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.**

Upcoming Dates:

January 8
January 15
January 22
January 29
February 5

SPECIAL EVENTS

Buffalo Shopping Trip and Wright County History Center "Festival of Trees"

Wed. Jan. 7 @ 9:00 a.m.
\$6.00 bus fee

Lunch With Grade 4

Tues. Jan. 13 @ 12:00 p.m.

Dining Site Volunteer Training/Appreciation

Tues. Jan. 13 @ 1:00 p.m.

Super Moon Buffet Lunch Trip

Wed. Jan. 14 @ 10:00 a.m.
\$6.00 bus fee

Senior Center Advisory Board Meeting

Tues. Jan. 20 @ 10:30 a.m.

Speaker Scott Gotschalk - "Are Angels For Real?"

Tues. Jan. 20 @ 1:00 p.m.

Southtown Shopping Trip

Thur. Jan. 22 @ 9:00 a.m.
\$6.00 bus fee

Minnesota History Center Trip

Wed. Jan 28 @ 9:00 a.m.
\$15.00 - Includes museum
admission

Downtown Minneapolis Building Tours

Thur. Feb 19 @ 8:00 a.m.
\$20.00 - Includes admission



COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS



HEART SAFE UPATE

The purpose of Heart Safe is to make the community a safer place to live, work and play by being prepared to reduce the number of deaths and disabilities associated with Sudden Cardiac Arrest.

2014 has been a very successful year. Accomplishments include the City of Maple Plain receiving Heart Safe certification and signs from North Memorial, hosting training seminars for citizens, and locating available AED's throughout the City by contacting businesses. Maps indicating the location of AED's throughout town were created and provided to West Hennepin Public Safety and the Maple Plain Fire Department.

While we are proud of these accomplishments, there is still more to be done.

How can you help to make Maple Plain a Heart Safe Community?

- ♥ By attending a training session
- ♥ By becoming a trainer and training others
- ♥ By helping to maintain community AEDs
- ♥ By making a financial donation for the purchase of AEDs and continued training



The West Hennepin Chamber of Commerce will be hosting training sessions in 2015. If you are interested and would like to be contacted when the date(s) have been determined, contact Julie at 763-479-6010 or by email at jmkfpc@gmail.com or Carol at 612-759-9908 or by email at cheswickcarol@gmail.com. Training sessions are no longer than 1 to 1 1/2 hours. There is no charge for the training.

Please leave your name, contact information, and the number of attendees.

MAPLE PLAIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM COMMITTEE DECORATES MUSEUM

Members of the Maple Plain Historical Museum Committee decorated the historic museum in Downtown Maple Plain.

The Committee is dedicated to preserving Maple Plain's history. Keep updated on their upcoming events and learn more about the history of Maple Plain in the Laker-Pioneer.



From Left to Right (Standing) Roberta Rott, Mary Couser, Peg Hokanson and Judy Sutherland

From Left to Right (Seated) JoAnn Ree and Mardelle DeCamp



CONTACT INFORMATION



Independence City Council 1920 County Rd 90, Independence

Marvin Johnson Independence Mayor	6325 County Road 6	763.479.2274 612.840.3433	marvdjohnson@gmail.com
Lynn Betts Independence Council	6050 Pagenkopf Road	763.479.2789	bettslynn@gmail.com
Brad Fisher Independence Council	3670 Lake Haughey Rd	763.972.6251	fisherbradford@gmail.com
Brad Spencer Independence Council	4510 Shady Beach Cir.	612.616.7548	B.spencer@lakesarah.com
Norm Wenck Independence Council	4025 Windmill Drive	763.479.4200	nwenck@wenck.com

Maple Plain City Council 1620 Maple Avenue, Maple Plain

Jerry Young Maple Plain Mayor	1554 Parkview Road	612.237.3115	Centricsoftware@yahoo.com
Justin McCoy Maple Plain Council	1459 Prairieland Ave.	763.200.4026 763.238.6375	justinhmccoy@gmail.com
Dave Eisinger Maple Plain Council	5785 Main Street W	763.479.2732 612.670.4140	dlzinger@frontiernet.net
Julie Maas-Kusske Maple Plain Council	1489 Three Oaks Ave.	763.479.6010 763.350.2921	JulieMaasKusske@gmail.com
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Independence Staff

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763.479.0525



CITY OF INDEPENDENCE NEWS



SALVATION ARMY DROP BOX

The Salvation Army has a drop box located in the City Hall Parking Lot. This is an easy way to donate gently used items. However, please note that if they cannot sell an item, they have to dispose of it. Therefore, they ask that you help keep our costs down by only donating useable items.

Items not accepted include:

- Appliances older than 10 years
- Computer monitors
- Cribs and Play pens
- Electronics older than 7 years
- Hazardous & toxic waste
- Mattresses & Box springs
- TVs older than 5 years

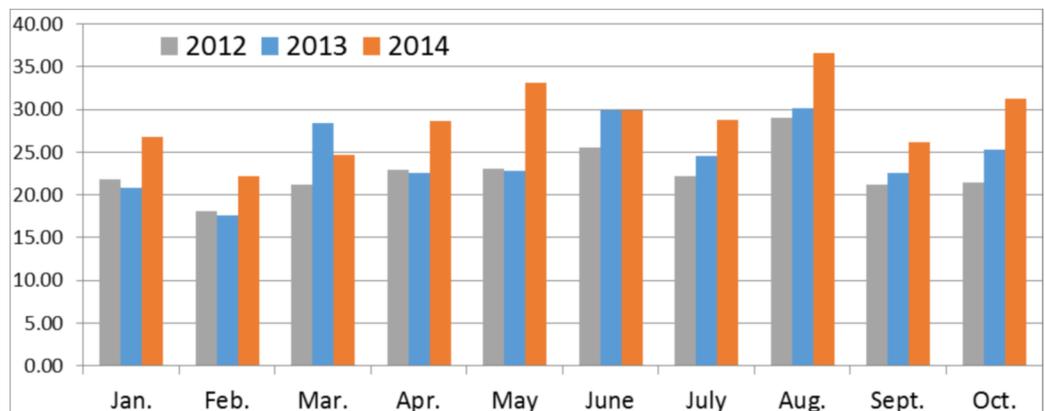
THE CYCLE OF CHANGE



For a full list of items or to schedule a pick up please see their website at <http://minneapolis.satruck.org/> or call 1-800-SA-Truck

INDEPENDENCE RECYCLING 2014

2014 was a big year for recycling for Independence. This was the first year that single-sort recycling was an option and that has made a big difference. Recycling has increased by an average of 18%. The environment thanks you!



CITY OF INDEPENDENCE HIRES A NEW PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE

The Independence Public Works Department welcomes Terry Reid. He has been hired as the new sewer/light equipment operator. We welcome him to our team.

THANK YOU TO THANKSGIVING DINNER VOLUNTEERS

A special thanks goes out to Terry Kruger and all the volunteers that helped host another successful Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Independence City Hall on Thanksgiving Day. Over 100 people attended the dinner this year. In addition, a special thank you to Dobo's Café for helping to make the dinner a success.



CITY OF MAPLE PLAIN NEWS

STREET SWEEPING TO OCCUR IN APRIL

The City implements an annual street sweeping program that helps protect water quality by keeping sediment-filled runoff from entering the storm water system and therefore out of the local ponds and wetlands.

Spring street sweeping, weather depending, is done as a means to remove residual sand and salt from past snow plowing events. The City plans to sweep the streets in April. Street sweeping is necessary for a number of reasons. It helps keep vehicles and pedestrians safe by keeping debris off the roadway, it helps keep streets well maintained and it helps protect surface water quality and the environment.



BOYSCOUT EAGLE PROJECT



Are you a boy scout looking for possible Eagle Project ideas? The City is looking to collaborate with boy scouts on several upcoming projects. For more information contact City Hall at 763-479-0515.

MAPLE PLAIN FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ACCEPTING BOOK DONATIONS

Donations of gently used books will be accepted beginning April 2, 2015 at the Hennepin County Library in Maple Plain.

An on-duty librarian will be available to accept donations during regular library hours.

Maple Plain Friends of the Library will reuse the books for their 2015 Used Book Sale on Thurs May 14 from 9:00 - 5:00 p.m. and Sat. May 16 from 9:00 -4:30 p.m.. Proceeds go to kids summer reading programs at the library.



UTILITY DROP BOX NOW AVAILABLE AT NEW CITY HALL LOCATION



Utility payments will no longer be accepted at the old City Hall location located at 1620 Maple Avenue. A new drop box has been installed outside the Discovery Center/City Hall entrance located at 5050 Independence Street. For all payments made before or after hours, please use this drop box.

The City of Maple Plain is now on Facebook. Like our page and get updates on upcoming City events.





CITY OF MAPLE PLAIN NEWS

2015 WATER/SEWER UTILITY BILLING



Over the last couple of years, staff has received several requests from residents to consider going to a monthly or every other month billing cycle. After much discussion between Council and staff, it was decided that the utility bills will continue to be sent on a quarterly basis.

As a means to help residents budget, the City makes payment plan schedules available throughout the year. As another option, scheduled automatic online payments can also be made through the City's website, www.mapleplain.com. Payments can be scheduled weekly, monthly, or quarterly basis as a means to budget accordingly. For Example, \$40.00 can be scheduled to be paid every month. Customers will see one change in 2015. The City will no longer be sending out late notices for delinquent bills. Any delinquencies will be reflected on the following bill.

FOUR QUESTIONS WITH NEW COUNCILMEMBER JULIE MAAS-KUSSKE

In an attempt for residents to get to know our Councilmembers better, we are trying to communicate more about them. Julie was recently appointed to a vacant Councilmember seat on November 10. She will be sworn in officially on January 12 as a new Councilmember with a four-year term. We asked Julie a couple of questions.

1. Tell us something about yourself that most residents would not know

I am a fun, loving extrovert who loves to spend time with family and friends. I enjoy taking pictures, creating digital scrapbooks, being outside and riding roller coasters. I have gone cliff jumping and para-sailing and would do it again if given the opportunity. I hope to go white water rafting in the future. I collect stress balls.

2. Describe your family and time spent in Maple Plain

I have lived in the 55359 zip code my entire life. I moved to Maple Plain in 1997 when I married Bart Kusske. We have two sons, Adam and Andrew. We also have a dog named Scruffles. Bart has served on the Maple Plain Fire Department for about 22 years. Family is very important to me and I enjoy spending Sunday afternoons at my parents' house in Independence with my siblings and their families; playing cards, watching the Vikings, playing kickball, watching NASCAR and sharing a meal together.

3. What is your wish for Maple Plain?

My hope and wish for Maple Plain, is that it would be city of destination for families, business owners and shoppers. That people would not just drive through our quaint city but they would intentionally come here.

4. Describe some of your community involvement.

Member of the advisory board for Haven Homes, Elder at First Presbyterian Church of Maple Plain, Committee Chair for Boy Scout Troop 206, Member of Orono Healthy Youth, Community member on the West Hennepin Chamber of Commerce, Curriculum Advisory Council for Orono Schools, Heart Safe Co-Chair, Volunteer at Orono Schools.



Councilmember
Maas-Kusske

RUMBLE STRIPS INSTALLED ON HIGHWAY 12 AFTER DEADLY CRASHES

Work to install a safety feature aimed at reducing crossover crashes was accelerated as a result of the collaborative efforts of the Highway 12 Safety Coalition, Diamond Surfaces, Inc, local law enforcement and the Minnesota Department of Transportation. On Saturday, December 13, six miles of Highway 12 received rumble strips.

The strips were added to two sections of Highway 12:

- From Hennepin County Road 6 in Orono to Hennepin County Road 29/Baker Park Road in Maple Plain.
- From Hennepin County Road 90 in Independence to County Line Road in Delano.



Rumble Strips Added to Highway 12

The project was originally scheduled for summer 2015; however, unseasonably warm temperatures are providing an opportunity for the work to be completed this year. Installing rumble strips is an effective, low-cost way to improve safety on rural two-lane highways. The noise and vibration produced by rumble strips alert drivers when they leave the traveled way.

The Highway 12 Safety Coalition consists of representatives from cities along Highway 12, from Orono to Howard Lake. The Coalition appointed Gary Kroells, West Hennepin Public Safety Director, as Chair and Betsy Stolfa, Delano City Councilmember, as Vice Chair.

“As a resident of the area and as a public safety official, I have seen first-hand how extremely dangerous areas of Highway 12 are,” said Kroells. “This Coalition is going to be a critical piece in moving forward to make Highway 12 safer for residents and commuters. Progress has already been made on identifying specific remedies.”

In addition to representatives from cities along the corridor, officials from the Minnesota Department of Transportation and local law enforcement officials are part of the Coalition. The Coalition is also working to add lighting to the intersections of Highway 90 and 12 and both intersections of Highway 12 and 92. Residents having concerns or suggestions regarding Highway 12 should contact their local representatives.