

SPRING 2016

# MAPLE PLAIN

and

## INDEPENDENCE

### SHARED CITY NEWSLETTER

#### TWO CITIES: SHARING SERVICES FOR THEIR RESIDENTS

**Public Safety News** - Pages 4

**Community News** - Page 5

**Clean Up Day** - Page 6

**Step To It Challenge** - Page 8

**Maple Plain Days Update**  
Page 9

**Delano Senior Center** - Page 10

**Maple Plain Auxiliary Poppy  
Day and Legion Memorial Day  
Service** - Page 11

**CITY OF INDEPENDENCE**  
- Pages 12-13

- Wenck and Fisher Honored
- Letter from Ray McCoy
- Stolen Bell

**CITY OF MAPLE PLAIN**  
- Pages 14-15

- Looking for Election Judges
- Hydrant Flushing
- Utility Billing Changes
- Compost Site Reminders
- Budd Reconstruction Project

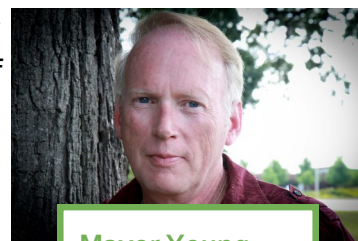
**CodeRED Notification** -  
Page 16

#### MAPLE PLAIN: YEAR IN REVIEW

As we begin 2016, I am grateful to be part of the City Council. 2015 proved to be a year of great changes. Those changes could not have happened without a united team and a road map. In 2015, the Council had a goal setting session and where we prioritized projects and goals for the City. In looking at the 2015 accomplishments, I believe we had a great year and 2016 will prove to be as successful if not more.

##### **Become a destination City**

- Though implemented in 2015, we hope that in 2016, we can grant a Business Improvement loan to assist some of our businesses in upgrading their façade.
- This year we hope to move the Museum to Northside Park and create a Veteran's Memorial. None of this could be accomplished without the amazing partnerships that the City has with community members. In the end, we all truly work together to create a great City for people to live, work, play and visit. **Continued on page 2**



Mayor Young

#### LETTER FROM INDEPENDENCE MAYOR JOHNSON



Mayor  
Johnson

When this newsletter is in your hands, hopefully spring weather is close at hand.

When I am writing this article, a 58 degree day is with us in February, and some people are already gathering maple sap. It is early, but the sap starts running when temperatures are above freezing and nights are below freezing.

This is also the day when Vinland Center has their annual fundraiser "Winter Walk About" in the snow with skis and snowshoes, but this year it will be a spring walk on their paths to stay out of mud.

When I am writing this, we are anticipating a big turnout at the Minnesota political caucuses and by the time you get the newsletter it will be 'old news'. **Johnson's letter Continued on Page 3**



# LETTERS FROM OUR CITY COUNCILS



## 2015 YEAR IN REVIEW AND GOALS FOR 2016 CONTINUED...)

### **Strengthen Relationships Between Citizens and Government**

The key to building strong relationships is communications. In 2015, we improved our communications with Facebook and our electronic sign. In 2016, we will add CODERED, which is an emergency notification system, that allows staff to pick the audience and the residents the ability to choose their preferred communication method.

Maple Plain Days proved to be a huge success in a new location and we hope it continues to grow. It is our partnerships with community members and groups like the American Legion and Auxiliary, Maple Plain Museum, Chamber and our sponsors that allow us to generate successful events and ideas that improve the quality of life in Maple Plain.

### **Create and Maintain a Cost Effective Approach to Government**

The City Council has made some great strides in this area by sharing services with the City of Independence. In addition, the City continues to work with its partners to create a more effective and efficient way to provide services. Through innovation, we have been able to keep our general fund at a zero percent increase.

### **Maintain a High Level of Public Safety**

I believe that we can all be proud of our great public safety. A hot issue facing Maple Plain is the safety of Highway 12. The Highway 12 Safety Coalition proved to be successful in getting state and local agencies to work together and make a difference in the lives of our residents. In 2016, we will continue to be dedicated to achieve our 12 months without any fatalities along Highway 12.

West Hennepin was recently ranked the third safest community in Minnesota.

### **Maintain Infrastructure for Future Generations**

In 2015, the City completed the overlay of asphalt and some additional restoration work to improve our streets and infrastructure. Through the Council's Pavement Improvement Plan, we are dedicated to addressing our infrastructure now and in the future. In 2016, the City will complete reconstruction of Budd Street, Maple Avenue and Main Street near the downtown development.

### **Create and Maintain a Thriving Business Community**

The City and Chamber of Commerce welcomed some new businesses to Maple Plain that provide convenience and services to our residents. In order to develop, the City must experience some change. We did say goodbye to Olson's Market, but we look forward to what will come in 2016. We anticipate downtown development concept plans to come before the Planning Commission and City Council this Spring.

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 and City staff who are committed to providing high quality public services to our residents.



# LETTERS FROM OUR CITY COUNCILS



## LETTER FROM MAYOR JOHNSON (CONTINUED...)

However, the National Political Conventions will be gearing up for their delegate conventions. This year we elect a U.S. President, our U.S. Congressperson, our State Senator and State Representative. No state-wide offices.

When I am writing this article, the Legislature has not yet convened. However, by the time you get the newsletter we will have a pretty good idea what the legislature is going to do with the projected surplus. Lower taxes, spend money on ongoing programs or spend the surplus funds on one-time fixes such as road, structure or infrastructure improvements.

We are hoping to get funding for upgrades on both Highway 12 and Highway 55. As noted in the media recently, Highway 12 is one of the most dangerous highways in the State.

Also, I have not received my 2016 Tax Statements yet, but we will have them before the newsletter comes out. One thing I can tell you is that our City Council reduced the levy from the original levy guesstimate last September, but for those in the Delano School District, you will see a major increase because of the two bond issues that passed in the November election.

Also arriving soon will be your annual valuation notice prepared by our Hennepin County contracted assessor. If you feel your valuation is not correct, be sure to call them. If you are still not satisfied, you can appear before the Council on April 12<sup>th</sup>. That is only for valuation, not for taxes.

The next two or three months the Planning Commission and Council will be developing an ordinance dealing with Solar Energy. Green energy is another term. We have nothing in place, not even for roof panels, so we want constructive dialogue in getting a good ordinance written.

With High School wrestling, hockey, and basketball tournaments taking place in March as well as all the other High School and College Arts Events competitions and Easter early, it will be a busy Spring. Enjoy it!

**Marvin D. Johnson, Mayor of Independence**

### UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND TOWN

- **April 13: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Loretto Fire Department Breakfast (Page 4)**
- **May 7: 9:00 a.m. - noon. - Annual Clean-Up Day at Independence City Hall (For Maple Plain and Independence residents) (Page 6)**
- **May 1-28: Step To It Challenge Kick Off at Maple Plain City Hall (Page 8)**
- **May 15: Poppy Day Sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary (Page 13)**
- **May 30: 10:30 a.m. - Maple Plain Memorial Day Service at Lewis Cemetery (Page 15)**

#### City of Independence Meetings

City Council: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 7:30 PM  
Planning Commission: 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 PM

#### City of Maple Plain Meetings

City Council: 2nd & 4th Mondays at 6:30 PM  
Council Workshops: 4th Monday at 5:30 PM  
EDA Meetings: : 2nd Monday at 5:30 PM  
Planning Commission: 1st Thursday at 7:00 PM  
Parks Commission: 3rd Monday at 7:00 PM



# PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS

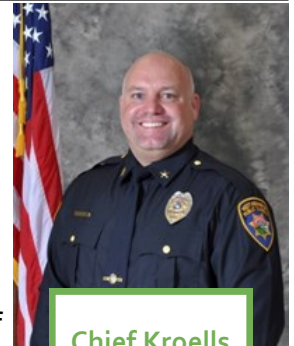


## IMPROVEMENTS TO WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY'S EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC)

As we dig out from winter and spring arrives so does road construction season. Numerous road construction projects will soon start all over the metro area and Highway 12 is no exception. Please pay attention while driving, put the cell phone away and focus on your task at hand – that is to drive safely to your destination. We value your life!

In working with MnDOT, the Highway 12 Safety Coalition has scheduled safety improvements for Highway 12 at County Road 92 North and South in Independence. These safety improvements are likely to begin in early summer of 2016. Included are:

- New LED intersection lighting throughout Independence on Highway 12
- Left hand turn lanes at County Road 92 North and South
- Flashing LED divided highway sign for westbound Highway 12 as you enter into Orono



Chief Kroells

The section of Highway 12 that runs through City of Independence and Maple Plain is a unique highway with very high traffic volumes for its intended design. It is an outdated road that needs to be redesigned and replaced. Rep. Jerry Hertaus and Sen. Dave Osmeck have introduced legislative bills Senate File 2467, Senate File 2502, and House File 2847 seeking 15 million dollars for three areas that were identified on the MnDOT safety audit that can save lives today if implemented. The three areas identified are:

- Realignment at the intersections with Hennepin County State-Aid Highway 92
- Realignment and safety improvements at the intersections with Hennepin County Road 90
- Concrete median and safety improvements from the interchange of 394 in Wayzata to one-half mile east of the interchange with Hennepin County State-Aid County Road 6

Now is the time for “Everyone” to get involved and improve the safety of Highway 12. How does “Everyone” get involved? Help support the bills by contacting your elected officials:

MnDOT Transportation Commissioner Charles Zelle, [charlie.zelle@state.mn.us](mailto:charlie.zelle@state.mn.us)  
 Senator Scott Dibble [kyle.olson@senate.mn](mailto:kyle.olson@senate.mn), (651) 296- 4191  
 Senator Tomassoni [laura.bakk@senate.mn](mailto:laura.bakk@senate.mn), (651) 296-8017  
 Senator David Senjem [sen.david.senjem@senate.mn](mailto:sen.david.senjem@senate.mn), (651) 296-1117  
 Senator Stumpf [jeri.wenzel@senate.mn](mailto:jeri.wenzel@senate.mn), (651) 296-8660  
 Senator Lyle Koenen [sen.lyle.koenen@senate.mn](mailto:sen.lyle.koenen@senate.mn), (651) 296-5094  
 Senator Bruce Anderson [sen.bruce.anderson@senate.mn](mailto:sen.bruce.anderson@senate.mn), (651) 296- 0769  
 Senator David Osmeck [sen.david.osmek@senate.mn](mailto:sen.david.osmek@senate.mn), (651) 296- 1282  
 Representative Jerry Hertaus [rep.jerry.hertaus@house.mn](mailto:rep.jerry.hertaus@house.mn), (651) 296- 296-9188  
 Representative Joe McDonald [rep.joe.mcdonald@house.mn](mailto:rep.joe.mcdonald@house.mn), (651) 296- 4336

West Hennepin Public Safety and the cities of Independence and City of Maple Plain are all committed to making Highway 12 safer for the citizens within our jurisdictions as well as the motorists who travel Highway 12 through all cities. Help us get the needed improvements.

KSTP recently did a great news story regarding these bills and the much needed safety improvements along Highway 12. Visit our webpage for the entire story.





## COMMUNITY NEWS



### WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY HIRES OFFICER

On March 1, 2016, West Hennepin Public Safety Department welcomed the newest member of the police force, Officer Shawn Ebeling.

Director Kroells stated, "Officer Shawn Ebeling was hired after an extensive hiring search with a multitude of qualified candidates applying. Officer Ebeling came out on top due to his experience as a licensed police officer for the Cottage Grove Police Department."

While working at Cottage Grove, Officer Ebeling served as a police officer for nine years, is a licensed paramedic, field training officer, firearms instructor, and served as a detective for two years.

Director Kroells, "Officer Ebeling is a real asset to our communities and we are pleased he has joined our team".



Officer Ebeling

### FUNDING FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS ALONG HWY 12 BILL UPDATE

The Bill for Funding for Safety Improvements along Highway 12 passed its first hearing. Thanks to Chief Kroells for his presentation and all of the families of victims for attending the hearing and testifying. The support of this bill is amazing and is needed to continue to gain support and hopefully create necessary safety improvements.

### HEART SAFE

Volunteers/Co-Chairs, Julie Maas-Kusske, Carol Cheswick and Retired North Memorial Paramedic, Paul Mendoza provided AED Training to 16 individuals on February 25, 2016.



Currently over 10% of the community have been trained in the usage of AED's. A waiting list of those who would like to attend the next training session has already been started. We are waiting for you to be placed on the list. Please contact Julie at 763-479-6010 – email: [jmkfpc@gmail.com](mailto:jmkfpc@gmail.com) or Carol at 612-759-9908 – email: [cheswickcarol@gmail.com](mailto:cheswickcarol@gmail.com).

**Volunteers are needed** to assist in the training. Trainings are held at least two times a year, last approximately 90 minutes, and supplies are provided. If you are interested or would like additional information, contact Julie or Carol.

### 6TH ANNUAL ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT PANCAKE & FRENCH TOAST BREAKFAST



Sunday, April 3  
8 am to 12 pm

Adults \$8, Children \$5

**LORETTO FIRE DEPARTMENT**

259 North Medina Street - Loretto, MN



# ENVIRONMENTAL REMINDERS AND UPDATES



**MAPLE PLAIN AND INDEPENDENCE SPRING CLEANUP DAY– MAY 7, 2016**

**1920 County Rd 90, Independence**

**9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Noon)**

***\*You will need to show proof of residency for Independence or Maple Plain. Please no bills larger than \$20 and checks should be made out to City of Independence.***



**ACCEPTED Materials:**

**Air Conditioners: \$25.** No gas air conditioners or refrigerators unless you pay \$200.

**Appliances: \$20.** Includes dehumidifiers, heat pumps, water heaters, microwaves, washers, dryers, refrigerators, etc.

**Carpet: Small roll \$15. Large roll (greater than 5'x8') \$25.**

**Construction Material/Debris/Junk: \$20/cubic yard.** Includes concrete, doors, lumber, fences, tile, sheetrock.

**Mattresses, Box Springs, Upholstered Furniture: \$25.**

**Scrap Iron/Metal: No Charge.** All plastic to be removed. Tanks/Barrels must be cut in half.

**Tires: \$5/car, \$10/semi, \$20/tractor.** With or without rims.



## LIMITED HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

*Must show ID within Hennepin County.*

**ACCEPTED Materials:**

**Auto, Vehicle, and Household Batteries - FREE**

**Electronics - \$5 to \$45 (depending on item and size).**

**Fluorescent Tubes/Bulbs: DO NOT** tape together. In original packaging or surrounded by cardboard. Must be taken apart and ballasts disconnected from housing unit.

**Bulbs 4' and under .50, over 4' - \$1, ballasts - \$2 and light fixtures - \$10.**

**Propane tanks – under 3' - \$5, over 3' - \$10**

**NO CURBSIDE RECYCLABLES OR YARD WASTE!**



## NEEDLES AND SHARPS FROM HOUSEHOLDS NOW ACCEPTED AT HENNEPIN COUNTY DROP-OFF FACILITIES

Starting March 1, 2016, needles and sharps will be accepted from households for disposal at Hennepin County's Drop-off Facilities in Brooklyn Park and Bloomington. For proper prep and directions, go to [www.hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide/items/needles-sharps](http://www.hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide/items/needles-sharps).

### How to Prepare your needles and sharps

- Store in a rigid, puncture-resistant container with a screw-on lid. Examples include empty laundry detergent bottles with screw-on lids. You can also purchase a sharps disposable container from a pharmacy.
- Label the empty container, "Do not recycle: Household sharps"

\*Hennepin County does not accept needles and sharps from businesses—which includes healthcare facilities, pharmacies, pharmaceutical representatives, doctors' offices and veterinary clinics.

\*\*Hennepin County does not accept medicines or unused medicines contained in sharps (epi-pens) at the county drop-off facilities.



# COMMUNITY NEWS



TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2016, 4-6 PM

## NETWORKING EVENT!

### WHCC CHAMBER MIXER!

Networking and Social Event.

**LOCATION:** McGarry's Pub, Maple Plain

This event is set up for all WHCC members, non-members, community members and those from the surrounding communities. We want to get to know more people in the area in a relaxed environment and get in touch with those that may not be able to attend our regular meetings.



## BE ON THE ROAD SAFELY



Whether you are walking, jogging or biking, please be responsible by wearing reflective gear. It is recommended that walkers and joggers travel against traffic, and bikers go with traffic. Also please try to stay as far to the side of the road as possible. We want to keep everyone safe and drivers, please respect the walkers, joggers and bikers.

## UPCOMING EARLY LEARNING CLASSES AND EVENTS FOR FAMILIES

### Kindergarten Registration & Kindergarten Connection Classes!

Will your child be 5 years old by September 1, 2016? It's time to get registered for Kindergarten! Registration for the April 7 & 14 classes or the April 18 & 25 classes is available online at [www.oronocommunityed.com](http://www.oronocommunityed.com) or call 763-479-1530 Option 3. Child care is available for siblings for \$10 per child.



### 2016-17 Preschool & Practice Preschool Registration

Now is the time to get registered for Preschool and Practice Preschool! The Orono Schools Early Learning program has a 4-Star Parent Aware Rating and NAEYC Accreditation – the highest possible rating. Visit [www.oronoeearlylearning.com](http://www.oronoeearlylearning.com) for more information or call 763-479-1530 Option 3 to schedule a tour. Register online at [www.oronocommunityed.com](http://www.oronocommunityed.com).

### "Good Nutrition for the Brain" presented by Margie Johanson-Kong, Providers Choice Trainer

Join us on **Monday, April 4** from 6:30-8:30 pm for an Early Learning speaker night. Margie Johanson-Kong will speak on nutrition and how it's one of the best ways to support healthy brain development for young children. This training is free and will be held in Room 102 at the Orono Discovery Center in Maple Plain.

### Mondays "Pop In & Play Gym Times"

Do you have kids? The Discovery Center invites you to get those wiggles out and meet some new friends on Monday mornings, 10-11 am, or evenings, 5-6 pm, in the East Gym through Monday, April 25. It's free – we just need parents to stay with their children and supervise. Please bring your ID and check in at the front desk. (No Pop In & Play: Mar. 21 & 28)





## COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS



### 2016 STEP TO IT CHALLENGE: MAY 1 - MAY 28

Do you have a competitive spirit? Do you want a fun and easy way to get in shape this spring? Then the four-week Step To It Challenge from May 1–May 28. is for you!

#### Get active Maple Plain and Independence!

The Step To It Challenge is a fun, lighthearted way to connect with family, friends, and neighbors, and get moving again after a long winter. Twenty-three communities will compete to see which one has the most active residents. Participants from each city will have a chance to be honored by Hennepin County and the Minnesota Twins at a Twins home game during the 2016 season.



#### How does it work?

As a Step To It participant, you will keep an ongoing total of the steps you take during the challenge. Using an activity conversion chart at [www.steptoit.org](http://www.steptoit.org), other activities such as biking, skateboarding, Tai Chi, or even just mowing the lawn can count toward overall steps. The website will allow you to record your steps online, or your step total can be called in or faxed. Best of all, it's FREE!

#### Registration begins April 1

You can register or get more information on the event by going to the Step To It Challenge Web site at [www.steptoit.org](http://www.steptoit.org).

Staff is working on the kickoff event for this year, so stay tuned.

**Please note that if you are an Independence resident, you can register under the City of Maple Plain to participate in the event.**

### FILE FOR LIFE: BE PREPARED FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

The **File of Life** is a nationally recognized program and provides citizens with a means to disclose vital personal data such as medical conditions, medication information and emergency contacts via a highly visible red magnetic folder which is placed on the outside of their refrigerator. The File of Life enables medics to obtain a quick medical history when the patient is unable to offer one. **Who benefits** from the File of Life? Individuals, Children, Parents, Grandparents, Friends, Babysitter, Family

The kit includes a **magnetized refrigerator folder** and a **medical card** for each person living in the household, a **wallet/purse folder and card** and an **outside weather-proof door/window decal**. Additional or replacement cards are available. Kits are available at the Maple Plain City Hall and are **FREE**.

Please contact Julie at 763-479-6010 – email: [jmkfpc@gmail.com](mailto:jmkfpc@gmail.com) or Carol at 612-759-9908 – email: [cheswickcarol@gmail.com](mailto:cheswickcarol@gmail.com)





# COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS



Stop by and cheer on the Maple Plain Town Team.

5/08/2016	2:00 p.m.	Home	St. Louis Park
5/15/2016	2:00 p.m.	Home	Delano
5/22/2016	2:00 p.m.	Home	Mound
5/29/2016	2:00 p.m.	Home	Cokato
6/05/2016	2:00 p.m.	Home	Hutchinson
6/12/2016	2:00 p.m.	Home	Dassel Cokato
6/22/2016	6:30 p.m.	Home	Montrose
7/10/2016	2:00 p.m.	Home	Howard Lake
7/17/2016	2:00 p.m.	Home	Loretto
7/20/2016	6:30 p.m.	Home	Mound
7/22/2016	6:30 p.m.	Home	Montrose
7/24/2016	2:00 p.m.	Home	Buffalo

For more details and a full game schedule, visit

[www.mapleplainbaseball.com](http://www.mapleplainbaseball.com).

## FORMER MAPLE PLAIN DAYS, WITH INDEPENDENCE AS A NEW PARTNER AUGUST 19 AND 20 NORTHSIDE PARK

### Be Part of the Fun

The Committee is working hard at preparing for this year's event. This year, all events will be held at the Northside Park, including Friday night movie and picnic. Want to join in the planning fun or want to volunteer on the day of the event, contact Maple Plain City Hall at 763-479-0515 or Independence City Hall at 763-479-0527.

### Name the Event

With Independence as a new partner, a naming and logo contest will be held. Mark your calendars for all of the fun. Send us your ideas and logos to [tmelvin@mapleplain.com](mailto:tmelvin@mapleplain.com).

### Looking for Local Talent

Do you live in the community and have a band? Let us know, we are looking for local talent.

## WHAT TO EXPECT AT OUR COMMUNITY FESTIVAL?

**GREAT FUN FOR ENTIRE  
FAMILY**

**Barrel of Fun Run/Walk  
5K**

**Bean Bag Tournament  
Beer Tent  
Bingo**

**Classic Car Show  
Community Blood Drive**

**Farmers Market**

**Kids Activities**

**Movie in the Park**

**Gaming Truck**

**Music (Ladies of the 80's)**

**Parade**

**Local Entertainment**

**Softball Tournament**





# 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

All are welcome at the Delano Senior Center. The coffee's always on and the company is the best. Open M – TH 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Fri 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

### “Like” us on Facebook!

The Senior Center is now on Facebook. “Like” us to see updates on upcoming events, fun photos, and much more.

## Ongoing Events

**Writers’ Group** – Do you love to write and want some company? Writers of all abilities are invited to the writers’ group, which meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month at 10:30 a.m. at the Senior Center. This group is for story tellers and anyone who has a story to share.

**Delano Senior Singers** – Are you a born singer? The Delano Senior Singers is a choral group that practices Mondays at 10 a.m. at the Senior Center. They perform at various events in the community. Come join the fun!

**Cards and Games** – The Senior Center hosts different games throughout the month. Stop in for 500, Pfeffer, cribbage, Mexican Train dominoes, Farkel, bridge, and many more!

**Ready Readers Group** – Join us on the third Wednesday of each month for a discussion around the month’s book. March: *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins. April: *Mrs. Lincoln’s Dressmaker* by Jennifer Chiaverini.

**Parkinson’s Support Group** – Patients and caregivers are invited to attend this growing support group covering a variety of topics. Third Thursday of each month at 1:30 p.m.

**Crocheting & Knitting Group** - Needleworkers of all abilities are invited to sit & stitch every Thursday from 9 – noon.

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

## UPCOMING TRIPS

- Apr. 6: Chaska Curling Club & Lunch at the Crooked Pint Ale House – 10:15 a.m.
- April 7: *Country Roads: The Music of John Denver* at Plymouth Playhouse – 10:30 a.m.
- April 13: Buffalo shopping trip – 9 a.m.
- April 14: Treasure Island casino trip – 7:30 a.m.
- April 21: Eden Prairie Center shopping trip – 9 a.m.
- April 27: New Germany bologna dinner at Heimey’s Place – 10:30 a.m.
- May 9: Dinner trip to D’Vinci’s Restaurant in Watertown – 4:30 p.m.
- June 1: Lunch Around the World – Kobe Japanese Restaurant in Plymouth – 11:30 a.m.

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- March 30: *Minnesota Byways* – presentation by author & photographer Doug Ohman. Hear stories from the lesser-traveled roads of our great state – churches, school-houses, barns, and more. 12:45 p.m., free.
- April 7: “First Thursday” social hour with Delano mayor Dale Graunke. 9 a.m. Pie & coffee for a suggested donation.
- April 28: Puzzle sale & bake sale – 9 a.m. Music with singer/songwriter Bill Mann – 11 a.m.
- May 21: Delano Health & Wellness Expo – 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Please call 763-972-0574 to pre-register for one of our great trips!



# COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS



## MAPLE PLAIN AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY ITEMS NEEDED FOR VETERANS

There are many local MN Veteran's in need of our assistance. You can help by donating:

White crew socks | Flip Flops | Decks of playing cards | Dice

Donated items are used for our veteran's in hospitals to keep their feet warm and clean and to provide entertainment while they recuperate Drop off: at City Hall in Maple Plain, 5050 Independence St.

## MEMORIAL DAY: LEGION SERVICE AND MUSEUM OPEN



The 2016 Memorial Day service will be held on Monday, May 30 at Lewis Cemetery beginning at 10:30 A.M. The service will last about a hour including Guest speaker and A Vocalist. Special music will be provided by the Orono High School Band. Lewis Cemetery is located one mile west of Maple Plain on U.S. Highway 12 at County Road #90.

Post 514 Legion Honor Guard/Firing squad will also salute our departed Comrades with the reading of the Roll Call at Oakland Cemetery at 8:30, Christ Lutheran Cemetery at 9:00 A.M. and in

Loretto at St. Peter and Paul Catholic Cemetery following Mass. Take time to check your history at The Maple Plain Historical Museum and the West Hennepin Heritage Museum in Long Lake, both will be open until 2:00 PM that day.

## MEMORIAL POPPY DAY FOR VETERANS - MAY 15TH

**Corporate Poppy Day (April 15<sup>th</sup>)**: the day local businesses are asked to show their support of our veteran's through monetary donations

**Street Poppy Day (May 20<sup>th</sup>)**: the day, we the People of our communities show our support by donating whatever money we can spare to help those who have given their time, effort and in some cases lives to keep us safe



**Did you know:** Poppies are assembled by disabled and needy veterans in VA Hospitals? And **100%** of the Poppy monies collected goes directly to our veterans program to provide compensation to the veterans who assemble the poppies and it provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs.

## MAPLE PLAIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM: BECOME A MEMBER

If you are not a member yet, consider joining today. Through your generosity and support the museum continues to grow and preserve history. The committee continues to collect photos and memorabilia to add to the museum. Memberships are available at City Hall: Supporting Membership \$20 and Business Membership \$40



City Hall		763-479-0527	
Independence	City Council	1920 County Rd 90, Independence	
Marvin Johnson Independence Mayor	6325 County Road 6	763.479.2274	mjohnson@ci.independence.mn.us
Lynn Betts Independence Council	6050 Pagenkopf Road	763.479.2789	lbetts@ci.independence.mn.us
Ray McCoy Independence Council	435 County Road 110	612.328.3853	rmccoy@ci.independence.mn.us
Brad Spencer Independence Council	4510 Shady Beach Cir.	612.616.7548	bspencer@ci.independence.mn.us
Steve Grotting Independence Council	6064 Drake Drive	952.451.8800	sgrotting@ci.independence.mn.us
City Hall		763-479-0515	
Maple Plain	City Council	5050 Independence St, 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	JulieMaasKusske@gmail.com
Mike DeLuca Maple Plain Council	5825 Maple Ridge Dr.	763.200.6363 612.801.5533	michaeljohndeluca@gmail.com

## COUNCILMEMBERS WENCK AND FISHER HONORED FOR SERVICE



On January 12, 2016, a reception was held before the regularly scheduled City Council meeting to honor out-going Councilmembers Brad Fisher and Norm Wenck. Brad served on the Council from 2011-2015, and prior to that was on the Planning Commission. Norm served on the Council from 2007-2015. Cake and coffee were served, and then a plaque given to Brad at the beginning of the Council meeting. Norm was not able to attend. Their years of service were very highly regarded. Pictured Mayor Marvin Johnson with Brad Fisher.

## WELCOME NEW COUNCILMEMBERS



On January 12, 2016, the newly elected Councilmembers, Ray McCoy and Steve Grotting, and Mayor Marvin Johnson were sworn in at the City Council meeting. Marvin Johnson was re-elected again as the Independence City Mayor. He continues to be very involved in the community and local governments. We welcome his return! Ray comes to the Council with 30 ½ years in law enforcement; the last 13 of those years as the Director of West Hennepin Public Safety. He has served on the Maple Plain Fire Department since 1977, with 10 of those years as the Fire Chief. Steve Grotting has been a long time resident of Independence. He has been in Real Estate for 23 years and has owned Windsong Realty since 2011. He has experience coaching baseball and hockey, is involved in a variety of church roles, has been active with 4-H, and is a low-income housing provider and advocate. We warmly welcome Ray and Steve both to the City Council.



# INDEPENDENCE INFORMATION

## SHADY BEACH BELL STOLEN - A DISAPPOINTING DAY FOR HISTORY BUFFS

In late February 2016 a century+ old 26" Blymyer Norton cast steel school bell weighing nearly 200 lbs. was stolen from its home on the shore of Lake Sarah and was taken away by thieves over the lake ice. **A \$500 reward for information leading to the apprehension of the thieves and recovery of the bell is offered by the Spencer family. Please contact West Hennepin Public Safety at 763-479-0500 if you know of the whereabouts of this important piece of local history.**

Carl Scott Zimmerman, Campanologist, identifies the foundry as the Blymyer Norton & Company, Cincinnati, Ohio (which later became the Cincinnati Bell Foundry Co.). A detailed history of this company is not yet known except that it was organized under the corporate name of Blymyer, Norton and Co. on December 15, 1866. Due to successive name changes our best guess is this bell which is clearly marked B.N. & Co, CIN O on the yoke was founded in the period 1866-1890 making it well over 125 years old. The bell is in excellent condition, measuring 26" across the mouth and is cast of steel. This bell was probably originally purchased for a local schoolhouse, one possibility is the Wagner School which maps show was originally located just north of county road 11 and subsequently moved to the southwest corner of county road 11 and Independence Rd. due to flooding. Earl Taylor, curator of the Independence History Museum, says the Wagner School was in existence between 1880-1921 and was closed largely due to the opening of the catholic school in Loretto in 1920. The catholic school today still has its bell, a Blymyer 24" with a rope wheel. Two other schools, Evergreen Grove and Lyndale School, which were in existence at that time were eliminated as a possible source as they still had their bells many years later. The Evergreen bell remains on display by the current residents today. The Wagner School appears to be the only local school which fits our timeline, but hard evidence linking the bell to that origin has yet to be discovered.



Florence Jacobs (Snodgrass) recalled in an interview, the bell being used to call hotel guests to dinner while she and her sisters worked for Mrs. Anderson at the Anderson's Inn before the Depression in the 1920's. Richard Klaers also remembered the bell being used to call people off the lake in the event of oncoming bad weather. Following the sale of the Anderson's Inn (by now named Shady Beach Inn) to the LaMotte's in the 1930's, the bell was primarily rung by Mrs. LaMotte to call her husband up from the resort buildings below or to announce that dinner was ready. At the Shady Beach Inn during that period, as recalled by Eileen Klaers (Grotz), the bell was mounted atop a wooden tower roughly 8' tall that was located 25' or so from the lake facing side of the Inn near the top of the hill and was rung by means of a rope/strap tied to the clapper. Later, photos show the bell mounted to a tree stump in the 1950's. On one occasion, as Frances LaMotte was ringing the bell, it fell from the tower and reportedly broke her foot. The bell was never to hang from the tower again. Frances LaMotte walked with a cane due o e injury until her passing 2 years later. LaMotte's sold the resort in the 1950's to Milton (Mac) Makousky. Mac sold the bell to Marvin Johnston in about 1956. Marvin owned it until his passing in June of 1992. Marvin's son Dennis then inherited the bell. Denny and his wife Jackie displayed it in their beautiful front garden for many years until they put their home up for sale in 2006. Thus it was sold to the Spencer family. The Spencer's wished to retain this unique piece of local history in the Shady Beach area and had since repaired the support, cleaned and repainted the bell and installed it in their hillside overlooking the lake. Sadly it will never ring over Lake Sarah again.



## CITY OF MAPLE PLAIN NEWS

### CITY LOOKING FOR ELECTION JUDGES

The City is seeking Election Judges for the 2016 Primary Election on August 9 and the 2016 General Election on November 8. Election judges are paid positions that supervise and help with the election process at the polls.



Election judges must be an eligible voter in Minnesota and must be able to read, write and speak English. Election judges must complete a two-hour training at City Hall and be able to serve on election days from 6 a.m.—2 p.m. or 2 p.m.—close or all day.

If you are interested, complete an application and return it to City Hall by May 1. Applications are available online or at City Hall.

### SPRINGTIME MEANS HYDRANT FLUSHING AND POTHOLES



Springtime is the season of potholes. Public Works will repair the potholes in an efficient and effective manner. If you notice potholes that need to be fixed, please call Public Works at 763-479-0525.

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 few minutes, 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 water until it is clear. This may take a few minutes. For more questions, call public works at 763-479-0525.

### MONTHLY BILLING REMINDER

The City of Maple Plain will have its last quarterly utility billing sent out in April. Beginning in May, property owners will receive monthly utility billings. The move is to help residents with payment plans, help detect leaks or issues immediately and was a request of many residents.

### CITY CONDUCTS BUSINESS VISITS: LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Maple Plain Economic Development and Authority has begun scheduling business visits in Maple Plain. The intent is to be part of our Business Expansion and Retention program. The City Council is dedicated to listening to businesses, helping provide them resources whether they are expanding their current business or starting a new business.

Two recent visits were to WENCK and PROTO LABS. The City is fortunate to have a gem of businesses in Maple Plain and we want to create healthy communications and relationships. In our next newsletter, we will have a business corner with business updates and a summary of our visits. If your business would like to participate in our program and meet with City Councilmembers, Chamber members and EDA members, contact Tessia Melvin at 763-479-0516 or e-mail [tmelvin@mapleplain.com](mailto:tmelvin@mapleplain.com).





# CITY OF MAPLE PLAIN NEWS

## THINKING ABOUT HOME IMPROVEMENTS: GET YOUR PERMITS



If you are considering home improvements, check with staff to make sure that you have the necessary building permits. If you have questions, call or stop by City Hall at 763.479.0515.

## BUDD STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

The City of Maple Plain will do a complete street and utility reconstruction project on Budd Avenue from the City of Independence to Independence Street. Some of the improvements will include new utilities, improved storm water solutions, new street, additional street lighting and a sidewalk along Northside Park. All construction notices about detours and daily updates will be provided by CodeRED, so register on the City's website. We will provide daily updates on the project.



## COMPOST SITE REMINDERS

The City of Maple Plain provides a free compost site to residents of Maple Plain. Businesses are not allowed to use the compost site.

Permitted items include:

Grass clippings

Leaves and brush (remove from bags)

Please items in designated areas

### Prohibited Items:

Tires, appliances, stumps, limbs over 3" in diameter, garbage of any kinds, landscaping materials such as rock or gravel are prohibited.

The site will be enforced by Public Works and West Hennepin Public Safety. Misuse of the site could lead to possible citations and fines. If you have questions, call Public Works at 763-479-0525.

## SAVE BIG ON BLUE BAG ORGANIC RECYCLING

Residents of Maple Plain. Do you want to help out the environment and take recycling to the next level? Check out the Organic Recycling Blue Bag service with Randy's Sanitation. You can turn your food products into nutrient rich compost. Organic Recycling also removes all food products from landfills which greatly helps the environment. Through a grant, the City will provide a discount to the first 33 residents that sign up for one year, as well as provide a discount to the residents who already belong to the program. For more details, contact Bobby at 763-479-0515 or [bschoen@mapleplain.com](mailto:bschoen@mapleplain.com).



## FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Keep up on City news and events through our Facebook page.





## **CodeRED: GETTING EMERGENCY INFORMATION TO YOU**

In an effort to improve communication, the cities of Maple Plain and Independence have joined with West Hennepin Public Safety to implement **CodeRED**. **CodeRED** is an emergency and mass notification system. **CodeRED** will allow residents to be notified in the case of emergencies such as; evacuations, active shooter, local or state-wide declarations of emergency, shelter or warming locations, missing persons and recoveries and much more. In addition to emergency notifications, the system will be used for notifications of public hearings; road construction progress and other updates that help residents stay in the know of what is happening in their local area.

As a resident, you are in charge of the level of notification you wish to receive and the method. If you would like to be notified only in cases of emergencies you may sign up for that, if you want to know more of what is going on a local level within your city government you may select that criterion as well. You are also able to choose the method of delivery you prefer whether it is through a phone call, text message, email, Facebook or the **CodeRED** Mobile Alert application downloaded to your phone.

**Caller ID** When you see the following displayed, you will know the call is from us. If you would like to hear the last message delivered to your phone, simply dial the number back.

Emergency Notifications

**1-866-419-5000 or Emergency Communication**

General Notifications

**1-855-969-4636 or ECN Community**

**Privacy** Your contact information remains private and will only be used for community notifications.

**Join Our Database** To make sure you receive notifications, please register on your city's website or visit West Hennepin's website.

**Want Help Registering: Stop by Maple Plain City Hall or attend a training on Wednesday, April 6: 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**MOBILE ALERT:  
FREE SAFETY ALERTS ON YOUR  
SMARTPHONE. SO SMART, IT  
FOLLOWS YOU AS YOU TRAVEL.**