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- Mayor letter

- The days are growing longer and brighter and the first signs of spring have begun to appear. Just yesterday, I saw a large flock of robins. Spring brings a sense of renewal and possibility. We are fortunate to live in this great community; where neighbors look out for one another, we have numerous parks to enjoy, exceptional public safety services, delicious locally owned restaurants, and numerous volunteer organizations. A special thank you to everyone who is currently sharing their time and talents to help make our city a better place, you are appreciated!

Spring Cleanup Day is just around the corner on May 2nd. This event is a wonderful opportunity to clear out clutter, recycle responsibly, and help keep Maple Plain looking its best. I encourage everyone to participate, whether you're dropping off items or lending a hand to a neighbor who might need assistance. This season also offers a perfect chance to get involved. Maple Plain thrives because of residents who volunteer their time, talents, and ideas. Whether serving on a commission, assisting at community events, or participating in local service projects, your involvement makes a meaningful difference. If you've been considering volunteering or want to learn more about opportunities, I encourage you to reach out to city staff or me. Community engagement is an important part in shaping Maple Plain's future.

The city continues to make steady progress on several important projects, ongoing work within our street improvement plan, development projects, and collaboration through the Citizens Advisory Group. We remain committed to investing in the infrastructure and public spaces that support a strong, connected community. These efforts are guided by resident input, long-term planning, and a shared commitment to keeping Maple Plain a place we are proud to call home.

As spring unfolds, I hope you'll join us in celebrating the spirit of community that defines Maple Plain and find ways to be engaged.

Together, we are better!

- Highlights/community calendar

- April 15th State and Federal Taxes Due
 - April 20th Earth Day
 - May 1st May Day

- May 2nd Spring Clean-up Day
- May 10th Mother's Day
- May 25th Memorial Day (City Offices Closed)
- June 6th Party in the Park
- June 14th Father's Day
- June 19th Juneteenth (City Offices Closed)

- Page 2: Community news

- **Party in the Park**

- Save the date! The 2026 Party in the Park, hosted by the Orono Rotary, will take place on Saturday, June 6, from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at Maple Plain's very own Veterans Memorial Park. This annual community celebration brings neighbors, families, and friends together for an evening full of fun, connection, and summer spirit.

Guests can look forward to live music throughout the evening, a variety of amazing food options, and activities designed for all ages. Whether you come to relax and enjoy the entertainment, grab dinner with friends, or let the kids take part in the festivities, there will be something for everyone.

Mark your calendar now and plan to join us for one of the area's favorite summer traditions. Stay tuned for more details on performers, food vendors, and special activities as the event approaches. We look forward to seeing you at Veterans Memorial Park on June 6!

- **2026 Steet & Infrastructure Project**

- Two street and infrastructure improvement projects will take place in Maple Plain this year.

The first project is located on Industrial Street. The existing infrastructure was originally constructed in the 1960s, and the street was last repaved in 1989. This project will include pavement resurfacing, minor curb and drainage improvements, and full replacement of the watermain.

The second project will occur in the downtown area, primarily on Main Street East between Maple Plain Public Works and the Hennepin County Library. Additional improvements will extend to Pioneer Avenue, Delano Avenue, Maple Avenue, Marsh Avenue, and Spring Avenue. Infrastructure in this area was originally constructed between the 1930s and 1960s. The project will involve full reconstruction of the street, watermain, and sanitary sewer lines. New sidewalks and additional street lighting will also be installed to enhance accessibility and safety.

Construction for both projects is anticipated to begin in May or June and conclude in the fall.

- **Council contact info**

- Page 3: Police

- **Recognition Ceremony recap**

- West Hennepin Public Safety hosted a department Recognition Ceremony on Monday, February 2. During the event, Sergeant Shawn Ebeling and Officers Micah Vorderbruggen, Dan Lueth, and Avery Freeman took their formal oath of office. While all members had previously been sworn in when hired or promoted, this was an opportunity for them to formalize their commitment to serving Maple Plain and Independence in a professional and compassionate manner. We are honored to have them on our team!

- attached a group photo from the Recognition Ceremony. L-R: Mayor Julie Maas-Kusske, Chief Matt DuRose, Officer Avery Freeman, Officer Micah Vorderbruggen, Officer Dan Lueth, Sergeant Shawn Ebeling, Mayor Brad Spencer.

- **Polar Plunge**

- The Cool WHPS squad took the plunge into Lake Minnetonka to benefit Special Olympics Minnesota on Saturday, January 31. This may have been the first time WHPS has been represented in the plunge, but it definitely won't be the last! The team, made up of WHPS staff and supporters, raised over \$1900 for the event.

- Attached polar plunge. No names are needed.

- **Safety messaging**

- As the days grow longer and the weather begins to warm, we are reminded why spring is such a special time in our community. We want to wish everyone a safe, active, and enjoyable season.

Spring brings more people outdoors—walking, biking, jogging, and gathering in our parks and neighborhoods. With that increased activity, please stay mindful of safety. Please slow down in residential areas, watch for children at play, and share the road responsibly with cyclists and pedestrians. If you're planning home improvement projects or spring travel, remember to secure your property, lock vehicles, and report any suspicious activity promptly.

Public safety is a shared responsibility. Stay safe, and enjoy the season ahead.

- Page 4: Fire

- **A New Chapter: Maple Plain Fire Joins West Suburban Fire District**

- As of January 1, 2026, the Maple Plain Fire Department officially joined the West Suburban Fire District, marking an important step forward in strengthening fire and emergency services across our region.

Maple Plain has a long and proud history of faithful service to its community. That legacy remains an important part of who we are today. By joining the West Suburban Fire District — which was formed in 2023 through the merger of the Loretto and Hamel Fire Departments — we are building on decades of experience, collaboration, and commitment to public safety.

Residents can expect the same dedication, professionalism, and neighbor-helping-neighbor spirit that has always defined Maple Plain Fire, now supported by expanded resources, shared training, and coordinated response across three stations.

Our mission remains simple: to serve with excellence, protect our communities, and be there when you need us most.

- **Join Us for the Annual Pancake Breakfast**

- Mark your calendars! The West Suburban Fire District invites the community to our annual Pancake Breakfast on April 12th 8am-12pm at WSFD Station 1 (259 N. Medina St., Loretto)— a favorite local tradition and a wonderful opportunity to connect with your firefighters.

Bring your family, meet members from all three stations, and enjoy a great meal while learning more about the work happening behind the scenes to keep our communities safe. Events like this help strengthen the relationships that make departments like ours successful — because public safety is truly a partnership between responders and the community.

You'll have the chance to see equipment up close, ask questions, and spend time with neighbors. Whether you've attended for years or it's your first visit, we would love to see you there.

Watch our website and social media for event details, dates, and times — we hope you'll join us!

- Page 5: Public Works

- **Yard waste, brush collection**

- Through Republic Services, yard waste and brush collected at no cost on Mondays from April 13 through November 23, weather permitting. Like regular trash service, all yard waste must be placed at the curb by 6:00 a.m. on your collection day.

Residents may also request on-call yard waste pickup. To schedule service or learn more, please call 952-941-5174.

Accepted Yard Waste:

- Grass clippings
- Straw and hay
- Weeds and garden waste
- Wood chips and mulch
- Tree waste, including leaves, pine needles, cones, spruce tips, acorns, and apples

- Brush, shrubs, and branches less than 2 inches in diameter and no longer than 4 feet (including buckthorn)

Bundling and Bagging Requirements:

- Use kraft paper bags or compostable plastic bags labeled ASTM D6400.
- Color alone does not confirm a bag is compostable.
- Bags labeled “biodegradable” or “degradable” may not be accepted.
- Each bag must weigh no more than 40 pounds.

○ **Hydrant Flushing and street sweeping: Weeks of April 20th and April 27th**

- Each year, Public Works conducts hydrant flushing and street sweeping to maintain water quality, ensure fire hydrants function properly, and keep streets clean. Hydrant flushing helps remove mineral buildup in the water system, which can cause temporary discoloration. While the water remains safe to drink, residents may notice a change in color.

Street sweeping will occur simultaneously to remove debris, leaves, and sediment from the roads, improving safety and water drainage. Please avoid parking on the street during this period to allow for efficient cleaning.

We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our community’s water and streets in top condition. For questions, contact Public Works at 763-479-0555.

○ **Leash laws and pick up**

- The City of Maple Plain reminds all pet owners to follow important rules that help keep our neighborhoods safe, clean, and enjoyable for everyone. The City offers dog tags to help identify pets if they become lost. Dog tags make it easier for West Hennepin Public Safety to return a wandering dog to its owner quickly and safely.

Dogs must be on a leash at all times when on public property. This helps prevent unwanted contact and keeps both people and pets safe. Pet owners are also required to clean up after their animals on both public and private property. Always carry waste bags when walking your pet.

For more information, please visit the City’s website.

● **Page 6: Administration**

○ **Utility Rate Update**

- The City of Maple Plain provides water, sewer, and stormwater services as enterprise operations. This means these services function similarly to private utilities, with costs recovered through user charges such as monthly utility bills. This structure ensures that those who use the services directly support their operation and long-term sustainability. The key factors such as inflation, interest rates, operational expenses, and existing debt obligations were taken into consideration.

On February 23rd, the City Council adoption of the final 2026 enterprise fund budget, the updated rates include a 5% stormwater service rate increase, an 8% water service rate increase, and a 3% sewer service rate increase. The proposed adjustments will take effect in the second quarter and are necessary to sustain high-quality, dependable utility services for all Maple Plain residents.

- **Managed Natural Landscapes**

- The City of Maple Plain has updated its City Code to clarify and strengthen rules related to managed natural landscapes. The changes clearly define the difference between meadow vegetation, natural habitats, ornamental plants, pollinator habitats, rain gardens, and traditional turf grass. The updates also add a no-fee registration requirement for qualifying properties.

The purpose of these changes is to support environmentally responsible landscaping while maintaining clear community standards. These updates correct past gaps in the Code and align with state guidance for planned and intentional landscaping. The registration process helps ensure that natural landscape areas are properly designed, clearly planned, and well maintained in accordance with state requirements. For more information, visit the Maple Plain City Website.

- **Downtown development**

- On February 23, the Maple Plain City Council approved a four-story, 95-unit apartment building in the downtown area. The project is designed to match the character and feel of downtown Maple Plain. The building will include two levels of structured indoor parking, with spaces on ground level and below ground. It will also feature residential amenities, improved pedestrian-friendly streetscape elements, and a fourth-floor Sky Lounge on the southeast corner overlooking Main Street. Construction in the downtown area is expected to begin this spring.

- Page 7: 2026 Spring Cleanup day

- **See Flyer**

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- Half page for mailing
- Half page
 - Council meeting schedule
 - City Contact information