

RUMOR MILL

APRIL 2026 EDITION



City Administrator's Report

Once again, many projects are in the cue and ready to go when the ground thaws. The largest of these is the reconstruction of 4th Street NE from 3rd Avenue to Warner Road. This project will replace old water main, sanitary sewer main, storm sewer, sidewalks, curb & gutter, and streetlights. This is a cooperative project with Todd County as this is a County State Aid Highway. Construction will begin in late April and continue through the fall with finishing touches in 2027. There will be some inconvenience created during construction, but the result will be well worth it. Please pay attention to construction signage as the project progresses and visit the City of Staples Facebook Page for project updates. Thanks for your patience.

Mid-Minnesota Federal Credit Union will be starting construction on their new building along Highway 10 soon. Their new facility will continue the redevelopment of the Highway 10 corridor through Staples. Staples Eye Clinic will soon be moving into the Lakewood Plaza and nearly doubling their square footage to meet customer demand. This will allow Lakeland Dental to grow as well. All great news for our community.

The Staples Community Center is under construction! The locker rooms are being totally renovated and will be open for use again in mid-May. You won't recognize the space when you go in! New boilers and water heater were installed last fall. This is all thanks to the Sales Tax Referendum that was approved by voters in November 2022.

City Cleanup Day will be held on Friday, May 29th from 3:00 to 7:00 at the Street Shop located at the corner of Michigan Avenue and 12th Street. Please form the line on 12th Street. This is a great opportunity to conveniently dispose of unwanted items. Details on the costs are shown in the sidebar of this newsletter. Household Hazardous Waste will not be accepted this year. Please transport HHW items directly to the Browerville Transfer Station.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out. - Jerel Nelsen

Help Uphold Democracy by Becoming an Election Judge
Ensure voter rights and play a vital role on August 11th and November 3rd. Mark your calendars, save the dates, and make your voice heard. Your involvement as an Election Judge or a voter is crucial for our vibrant community. For more information, call Tara at 218-541-5004

2025 Water Consumer Confidence Report
The City of Staples is issuing the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2025 in the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). The purpose of the report is to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources. The CCR will not be published or mailed but is available at <https://bit.ly/3PYSLeR>. You will find the report on this page. If you would like a paper copy of the report, you may call City Hall at 218-894-2550 and request one. If you have questions, you can call Scott Grabe

Community and Economic Development
Ready to spruce up your commercial building? Did you know, the Staples EDA offers low-interest loans for exterior improvements to commercial buildings. Projects that qualify for funding include new windows, doors, signs, paint or other facing needs.

4th Street NE Reconstruction Project

The City of Staples and Todd County are starting a major street & utility project on 4th Street NE (CSAH 43) from 3rd Ave NE to Warner Road.

What's happening: • New sanitary sewer, watermain & storm sewer • Full street & sidewalk reconstruction • New street lighting

Timeline: April 27, 2026 – July 16, 2027

Work began at the south end (3rd Ave to Park Ave) on April 27. Phases 2 & 3 will follow (north end after school is out). Local traffic will still have access to homes and businesses. A temporary water system will keep service going during construction.

Questions or concerns?

• Project Manager Bryan Drown: 218-821-5242 • On-site Rep Brandon DeWolf: 612-750-0353 • Contractor (Blombeck Construction): 218-371-9105

Compost and Brush Pile Site

South of the Sewer Plant (at Michigan Avenue NE and 12th Street NE), the City operates a compost site for grass clippings. City residents may also dispose of larger plant material—such as tree branches, stumps, and shrubs—at the brush site. This material is mulched annually.

Please use the correct site for your yard waste and keep grass clippings separate and clean. Do not mix in plastic bags, sticks, or other debris, as these items interfere with the composting process.

Community Cleanup Day

When: Friday, May 29th from 3:00 to 7:00pm

Where: Public Works Street Shop
12th Street NE & Michigan Ave. NE
Line forms on 12th Street NE
not Michigan Avenue NE

Fee Schedule

FREE: Car Batteries, Scrap Metal

FREE: Non-freon household appliances

\$10.00 Freon appliances

\$.10 per pound refuse/junk

\$5.00 Propane tanks - 20# and larger

Furniture

\$14.00 Most furniture

\$18.00 Mattresses/Box springs

Electronics

\$25.00 TV/Monitor

\$10.00 each most common electronics

\$10.00-30.00 per copier

FREE: Laptop and CPU

Lighting

\$1.00 Fluorescent tubes

\$5.00 Metal halide, high-pressure sodium, mercury vapor, high intensity discharge bulbs

Tires

\$10.00 each passenger vehicle w/o rim

\$15.00 each passenger vehicle w/ rim

Questions? Contact Jerel Nelsen at 218-894-2550 x3

WIPES CLOG PIPES!

Place these items in the **TRASH** and **NOT** the toilet:

- Disinfecting Wipes
- Paper towels
- Baby Wipes



Online Utility Portal – Track Your Usage & Save!

We're excited to share our Smart Meter Access Portal, allowing you to track your electric and water usage online! Thanks to the new electric meters and water nodes we've been installing, electric customers can see hourly updates, while water customers get daily insights—helping you spot unusual spikes and manage consumption more efficiently.

By signing up online, you can:

Monitor your utility usage in real-time

Set up alerts for potential leaks

Make easy online payments and enroll in e-billing

Access our Tips to Save to help lower your bills

Haven't received your new meter yet? Contact us today at 218-894-2550 ext. 6 to schedule your upgrade and unlock all these great features!

Sign up now at <https://staplesmn.municipalonlinepayments.com/staplesmn>

Energy Rebates Available Through Bright Energy Solutions

Bright Energy Solutions offers energy efficiency programs to help both residential and business customers in Staples reduce energy use and lower utility costs. Rebates are available for a wide range of upgrades, including appliances, lighting, heating and cooling systems, and more. Commercial customers can also find incentives for equipment such as refrigeration, food service, compressed air systems, and electric forklifts.

To explore available rebates and start saving, visit:

<https://www.brightenergysolutions.com/members/staples-water-light>

Parks and Recreation

Staples Area
BIKE Rodeo
Everyone must wear a helmet to participate in this event
@ Staples Community Center
Back Parking Lot
May 28th, 2026
5pm-7pm
F Food & Fun
R Bike Repairs
E Obstacle Course
E Prizes
E Road Safety
Win A New Bike!
Call: Staples Parks & Rec @ 218-894-2553

Summer Swim Lessons

American Red Cross

learn to swim program

Pre-Beginner-Level 6 (M-F):

June 8-18, June 22-July 2

July 20 - 31

Preschool:

June 9-25 (T/Th 6-7 p.m.)

July 7-23 (T/Th 5-6 p.m.)

Parent/Child Lessons:

June 9-25 (T/Th 5-6 p.m.)

July 7-23 (T/Th 6-7 p.m.)

Register by calling

218-894-2553

PARKS OPEN MAY 8TH

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP SUPPORT PROGRAM

Staples Motley Beyond Poverty group will be accepting applications to assist community residents with:

Loading | Hauling | Disposal fees



An application for assistance can be found at City Hall or on the City of Staples website under news and information

Connect with us!

City of Staples

122 6th Street, NE
Staples, MN 56479
218-894-2550
staples.govoffice.com

Administration:

Administrator | Jerel Nelsen
jnelsen@ci.staples.mn.us

City Clerk | Tara Greer
tgreer@ci.staples.mn.us

Utility Billing | Stephanie Lenk
slenk@ci.staples.mn.us

Secretary | Mercedes Harris
mharris@ci.staples.mn.us

Department Leads:

Economic Dev. | James Hanson
jhanson@ci.staples.mn.us

Public Works | Scott Grabe
sgrabe@ci.staples.mn.us

Com. Center/Parks | Lacey Aguirre
laguirre@ci.staples.mn.us

Police Chief | Missi Larson
mbirkholtz@ci.staples.mn.us

Fire Chief | Cole Yungbauer
cyungbauer@ci.staples.mn.us

Find us on Facebook @

City of Staples
Staples Community Center
Staples Parks and Rec

City Council:

Mayor | Ron Murray
rmurray@ci.staples.mn.us

Council | Doug Case
dcase@ci.staples.mn.us

Council | Blake Gerard
bgerard@ci.staples.mn.us

Council | Mary Jo Goff
mgoff@ci.staples.mn.us

Council | John Jewison
jjewison@ci.staples.mn.us

Council | Roy Miles
rmiles@ci.staples.mn.us

Council | Mary Theurer
mtheurer@ci.staples.mn.us

JOIN US!

National Night Out

August 4, 2026

Do you have expired or unwanted medications in your home?

Bring them to the drop box located in the lobby of the Staples Police Station.

Leave prescription and over the counter medications in their original container and remove your personal information.

NO NEEDLES, SYRINGES, OR LIQUIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED

Questions? Contact the Staples Police Department at 218-894-1841

