

NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MAYOR	2
WHPS	3
PUBLIC WORKS	4
FIRE DEPT	5
DISCOVERY CENTER	6
CITY INFO	7
WECAN	8

MAYOR JOHNSON'S LETTER

Two years ago, we had the rainiest spring in history. Last year we were just beginning to open a little bit from the Covid "stay at home" order and now this year times are beginning to be a little more normal, except for the lack of spring rains. Every year is different!

Congratulations to all the new graduates from High School and College. At least most of you were able to have a commencement ceremony this year, but your final two years of training have been far from the traditional. I wish the best for you as you choose your employment future or plan for advanced education. The opportunities seem to be beyond imagination.

For several years we have been talking about road construction. The U.S. Highway 12 projects at County



Mayor
Marvin Johnson

MEETINGS

City Council

1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

Planning Commission

3rd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

**Workshops are posted
as scheduled**

www.ci.independence.mn.us

City Election in November

The City of Independence will be accepting Affidavits of Candidacy for the November 2, 2021 General Election. Two (2) City Council members will be elected to terms of four (4) years. The filing period will open on July 27 at 8:00 a.m. Filing will close at 5:00 p.m. on August 10; with a two (2) day withdrawal period. There is a \$2 filing fee due at the time of filing.

Council member's Brad Spencer and Lynn Betts' terms will be up this December 31, 2021.

Road 90 and east of Maple Plain should be completed in September. The weather has certainly been in their favor! Highway 12 will be open to thru traffic again until next spring when work begins at the intersections of County Roads 92. All design work has been completed on that project and bids will soon be requested for next year's construction.

Renovation at City Hall is nearing completion. It took much longer than anticipated, but material delay is the common thread for excuses in building delays these days. We are very anxious to get back to normal business hours and in person meetings at City Hall.

What will be most noticeable will be the number of windows in the remodeled area. Thanks for your patience during the inconveniences and telephone interruptions we have experienced during the Covid shut down and the remodeling.

June and July have usually been very busy months for me, not only because of hay harvest, but because I usually attend three or four day conferences for the League of MN Cities and the National League of Cities at various locations. However, for the second year now these conferences are being held virtual. I do miss all the interaction between elected and appointed officials in the State and Nationally. In the interim, we have had lots of conference calls as well. I'm betting that all future conferences will end up being a hybrid of some kind.

Our council just had our annual City Audit Review. Again we had a clean audit - the best you can get. We appreciate the great work our 'in house and outsourced staff' do in accounting and managing our city's financial resources.

Another meeting I just had was with the Hennepin County Assessor. We are all aware of the crazy demand and quick sales in the housing market with sales routinely over the market value of the home. This in turn increases the value on every ones property. At the same time, many of the large buildings in downtown Minneapolis are having major reductions in their property value. I am very fearful of what that shift will do to our taxes in Hennepin County next year since we no longer have the circuit breaker law. Stay tuned!

We hope to have our Night to Unite parties again this fall. This will give you time to think about hosting one. Also this fall we have our City elections. Two council seats will be on the ballot along with some of our school districts boards.

Again, thanks for your patience as we try to bring City Services back to normal. Have a good safe summer!

Marvin D. Johnson, Mayor



Burn Permits

Burn permits are issued through West Hennepin Public Safety.

You may come in or call 763-479-0500 for more information.

**Chief Gary Kroells**

PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS CHIEF'S DESK

WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

Director Gary Kroells

Join neighbors across Maple Plain and Independence on Tuesday, August 3rd, 2021, for the 12th Annual Night to Unite in Minnesota. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 in 2020 we were not able to unite. Let's make up for lost time and come together in 2021! Sponsored by the Minnesota Crime Prevention Association, AAA of Minnesota/Iowa, and local law enforcement agencies, Night to Unite will celebrate and strengthen neighborhood and community partnerships.

Night to Unite is designed to:

1. Get to know one another in your neighborhood.
 2. Build neighborhood involvement by bringing police and communities together; and
- Bring awareness to crime prevention and local law enforcement efforts!

Chief Kroells said, "A safe community is a top priority for our department. One of the best crime prevention tools is neighbors looking out for each other. If people know their neighbors they can better identify suspicious activity and call 911 to report it. Night to Unite events are an opportunity for neighborhoods and communities to join, enjoy a summer evening and get to know who belongs in their neighborhoods."

West Hennepin Public Safety would like to encourage neighborhoods to get together between 6:00 and 9:00 p.m. on August 3rd, 2021, to fight crime and take back our neighborhoods. The best crime prevention tool for our communities is "the eyes and the ears of citizens looking out for each other," says Director Gary Kroells.

If you or your neighbors host a neighborhood Night to Unite event, West Hennepin Police Department and the local fire department will make a visit to your event. West Hennepin will provide crime fighting tips and recent fraud trends and the fire department will provide fire safety tips for your group. Now more than ever we are asking residents to take the initiative and organize your neighborhood event. Get involved and take this opportunity to meet your neighbors.

For more information pertaining to Night to Unite or how to get involved contact West Hennepin Public Safety Department at (763) 479-0500 and speak with Night to Unite Coordinator Officer Cody Thompson. You can also visit the West Hennepin Public Safety Department website at www.westhennepin.com or visit our Facebook page for more information on Night to Unite.

" Proudly Serving Maple Plain and Independence "



Clean-Up

Clean-Up Event 2021

This year our clean-up 'day' looked a lot different than in years past. Since we were unable to hold it last year, we thought we would make up for it. It ran from April 26-May 1. We started out with 3 dumpsters in a fenced area. Over the course of the week we ended up swapping out dumpsters and adding a few more dumpsters, 11 times. We hope everyone was able to clean house!

Did you know pet waste that is not picked up can add up to big problems and cost everyone more money? Pet waste contains large amounts of harmful bacteria. When it rains bacteria and nutrients get washed into lakes and streams and can negatively affect water quality. Ever since the Clean Water Act of 1972, Federal and State rules are in place to protect our water quality and keep our waters "fishable or swimmable". When the bacteria reach high enough levels in our waters, it may become unsafe and extra measures need to be taken to fix the problem. Be courteous to your neighbors and help everyone by picking up after your pet. Picking up after your pet is easy, if you're prepared. Simply carry a plastic bag with you on every walk with your dog, and you'll have the equipment to remove your dog's waste. Then throw it in the nearest trash can, and you're done! There are even compact, refillable bag dispensers that you can attach right to your dog's leash. Avoid letting your dog do his business within 200 feet of a water body. And of course, never throw dog waste into a stormdrain!



State law limits City responsibility for sewer back-ups because the City does not have exclusive control of the City's sanitary sewer system. Damage can occur to homes and property for which the City will not be legally liable. As a result, a prudent homeowner may wish to discuss purchasing additional coverage with their homeowner's insurance carrier/agent.

Note to Residents with City Sewer:

***It is urgent that residents on city sewer discontinue the use of "flushable wipes". The system is severely compromised due to the flushing of "wet wipes" or "disposable wipes".** During the past nine months approximately \$4000.00 was spent on the system due to pump damage from wipes.

After wet wipes are flushed they exit to the city sewer system but unlike toilet paper they fail to disintegrate. They clog pumps, causing them to break down and redirect stagnant waste water back into your homes. So-called flushable wipes are a growing hazard to public health across the country.

Please help control the cost of our system as the City is working to maintain our sewer system as efficiently as possible. The only paper that should be flushed is toilet paper.

Additionally, do not dump cooking grease and oils down the drain. Flushing out the grease with hot water will not work either; this only causes a build up further down the drain and eventually contributes to stoppage in the lateral or sewer pipes.

For more information contact Public Works at 763-479-0530.



Did you know?

Approximately 98 percent of wildfires in Minnesota are caused by humans.

Smokey Bear was created in 1944 and reminds us that “Only You Can Prevent Wildfires.”

More than 50 wildfires are started each year in Minnesota by campfires that are not completely extinguished, too large or unattended.

Campfire Safety

- **Use a fire ring and build your fire at least five feet away from any combustible material.**
- **Keep a bucket of water nearby to put out the fire.**
- **Keep a kid-free zone of three feet around the campfire.**
- **Never leave your campfire unattended.**
- **Check burning restrictions with the DNR before starting your campfire.**



WWW.MAPLEPLAINFIRE.COM

1645 Pioneer Avenue, Maple Plain, MN 55359 763-479-0520

**CITY OF
INDEPENDENCE**

**1920 County Road 90
Independence, MN 55359
Ph.: 763-479-0527
Fax: 763-479-0528
bhorner@ci.independence.mn.us**

City Officials

Mayor– Marvin Johnson

City Council

Brad Spencer

Lynn Betts

Ray McCoy

Steve Grotting

City Staff

Administrator/ City Planner– Mark Kaltsas

Public Works Director– Shawn Bode

Building Inspector– Bruce Satek

Assistant City Administrator– Beth Horner

City Officials

Planning Commissioners

Robert Gardner

Leith Dumas

Tom Palmquist

Steve Thompson

Anita Volkenant



**PAY
YOUR SEWER
BILL ONLINE!**

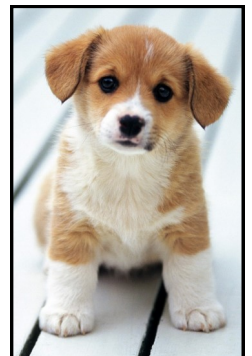
Tired of writing a
check every quarter
of forgetting to send
it and having to

check! Sign up online through “pay bill” on the City
website and schedule your quarterly payments to be sent
automatically.

www.ci.independence.mn.us

**Love your
dog?**

**Get them a
lifetime
license for
\$20!**



*Do you have a new puppy or just have
not yet purchased a license for your
dog? Fill out the application on the city
website to register your furry family
member today!*