



FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER

MAYOR JOHNSON'S LETTER

Greetings! It is hard to believe 2022 summer is coming to an end and the "Great Minnesota Get Together" (State Fair) has started. Likewise, many colleges and schools are ready to open their doors for a new school year.

What is an early spring practice for the City is to add treatment to our gravel roads for dust control and material preservation. That ended up taking weeks to get completed simply because of transportation issues getting the materials transported here. Sorry for the delays!

We are getting anxious to see U. S. Highway 12 open for traffic through the City. The Highway Department is telling us of that possibility by mid-September. The bridge over U. S. 12 and the railroad is completed. As soon as the



HWY 12
Independence
Updates

Highway 12 roadbed and roundabout is finished, the highway will be open to thru traffic. However, the links to both north and south County Road 92 will not open until late fall. (Of special interest to those traveling west: You *will* be able to bypass the 'roundabout' by staying in the *right* lane). Check <https://www.hennepin.us/countyroad92safety> for updates.



Marvin D. Johnson
Mayor

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MEETINGS

City Council

1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission

3rd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Workshops are

posted as scheduled.

www.ci.independence.mn.us

Thank You to those who hosted a "Night to Unite" event. We had eight in Independence. It was a hot humid evening, but a great opportunity for neighbors to meet. Our City Council members tried to visit as many of the locations as possible but were not able to make them all. Brad Spencer and I arrived at the sixth location with the Delano Fire Truck after everyone had dispersed.

Staff and Council has been busy preparing our budget for 2023. With inflation at an all-time high, it makes budgeting even more difficult. Administration, Public Works, Public Safety, and our Fire Contracts are all separate budgets that must be approved by the Council under one budget. That budget will determine the Levy we will set with the County

in September for next year's taxes. That levy can be reduced in December but not increased. Our school districts and Special Taxing Districts must do the same.

Just an interesting point of reference: Four years ago this fall, I participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Haven Homes in Maple Plain.

Tuesday, November 8th is our next major election which will be for our U. S. Congressional seat, State candidates, (Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Auditor, Senator, and Legislator), County Attorney, and County Sheriff as well as some school levy votes.

I'm hoping that we can end our summer with enough rain so we can enjoy green rather than brown scenery until fall colors shows its brilliance. Enjoy fall!

Marvin D. Johnson, Your Mayor



Congratulations to Officer Jon Howes who was recently promoted to Patrol Sergeant at West Hennepin Public Safety. During his 17 year career at West Hennepin, Sgt. Howes has served as a patrolman, a general investigator, and as an agent on the West Metro Drug Task force from 2013 to 2017. Sgt. Howes manages the evidence room and coordinates the annual Citizens Police Academy. He resides locally with his two daughters.



Sergeant Jon Howes

"I have enjoyed all 17 years working at West Hennepin Public Safety and look forward to many more. I have developed lifelong memories and friendships while working with these two communities. I am excited to continue to serve the citizens of Maple Plain and Independence in this new role.

Ways to Support West Hennepin Public Safety Officers



Come on out Thursday, **Sept. 8th at 6pm** to show your support of our awesome Police and Maple Plain Fire first responders and see if WHPS will keep the trophy or if Fire will be *on fire!*

Another way to show appreciation is by participating in **McGarry's Pub Charity Golf Premiere** on Saturday, **Sept. 24th**. Register at McGarry's Pub via credit card or talk to James when calling #763-479-4031. Questions? Contact Bob Hughes #651-322-0779 bobhughesigh@gmail.com.



THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR PROPERTY

Mark Kaltsas, City Administrator/City Planner

There is a wide array of information available relating to your property. When considering any property related improvement (i.e. home addition, shed, or accessory building construction, fence installation), it is recommended that you understand several key aspects of your property.

The first piece of information that you would want to understand is your **property boundaries**. This information can be found in several places in varying forms of accuracy.

The most precise property boundaries can be found on a **certificate of survey**. This document is prepared by a licensed surveyor and will provide a detailed description of a property and property boundaries. A certificate of survey can also depict existing structures, easements or encroachments, topographic information - contours or elevations, wetlands, woodlands, lakes, rivers, streams, and creeks.

The City of Independence may have a copy of your certificate of survey on file. It should be noted that the City does not have a survey for every property in the City, and many older properties may have been developed prior to the establishment of current requirements.

A second source of information that can provide an approximation of your property boundaries is the **Hennepin County Property Interactive Map** (online mapping tool provided by Hennepin County). The online mapping tool can provide a plethora of information about your property including property boundaries, topographic information, and wetlands. <https://gis.hennepin.us/property/>

The second piece of information that you would want to understand is your property's **zoning**. Each property in the City is given a zoning classification based on specific zoning districts that are unique to Independence.

Independence has three (3) primary zoning districts (AG-Agriculture, RR-Rural Residential, and CLI- Commercial Light Industrial).

The City maintains a **zoning map** that can be found online using the link below. https://www.ci.independence.mn.us/files/388/8/298/INDEPEND_CI_MN_ZoningMap_36x42P1.pdf

How a property is zoned will impact things such as permitted uses, conditional uses, building setbacks, building height and size of an accessory building.

The third piece of information that you would want to understand is how your property is guided by the City's **Comprehensive Plan**. The City of Independence is required to establish and adopt a Comprehensive Plan every ten years in accordance with the Land Use Planning Act. The plan provides a road map for the future development of the City by designating the future land use for each parcel in the City. This type of long-range planning provides for future growth and or preservation of land and natural resources within the City. It should be noted that the Comprehensive Plan is administered by the Metropolitan Council (a regional planning authority) and can be amended from time to time either by the City or by a property owner requesting an amendment.

The City most recently adopted the **2040 Comprehensive Land Use Plan**. A copy of this plan can be found using the link below. <https://www.ci.independence.mn.us/government/2040-comprehensive-plan>

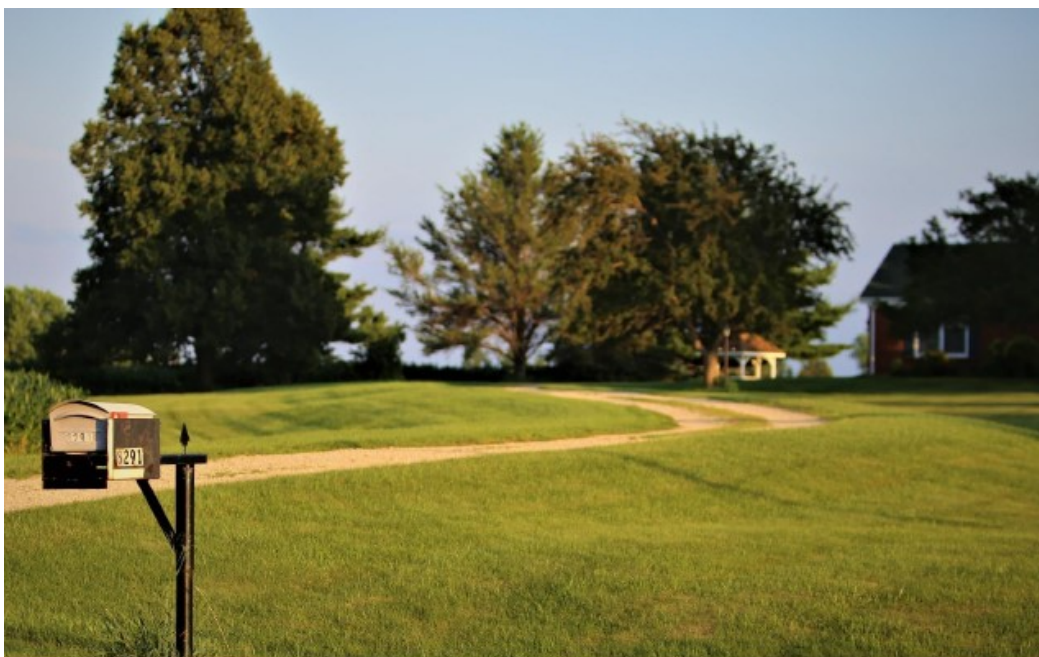
Each property in the City is guided for a future land use (different than zoning category). The future land designation can only be changed following the review and approval of the City Council.

Organics Recycling Guide



All organics brought to the City must be properly bagged in decomposing bags. Nothing can be dumped from residents pails directly into our collection bins.

The back of the City Hall is extra busy these days (Police, Public Works, and other construction vehicles), so it remains vitally important that before coming by to drop off any organics recycling, all participants must come sign-in at City Hall during our business hours (Monday—Thursday, 8-4:30pm/ Friday, 8-noon) and we will direct you then. A few organics recycling bags, which are mandatory for your materials to be deposited in, will be given out each time. We will email participants updates as information changes. Hennepin County offers recycling drop-off locations, visit <https://hennepin.us/organics>.



RECYCLING and UTILITIES:

The City of Independence is contracted with Republic (formerly known as Randy's Sanitation) for complementary recycling pickup. Independence residents are welcome to receive services with other companies at their own expense if they desire. Check our Utilities page under our Community tab for other utility and service providers.



UTILITIES

Did you know?

Firefighters can't help if they can't find you.

Your safety in an emergency depends on responders' ability to find you quickly.

Saving lives and property can come down to a matter of seconds.

Emergency vehicles need to be able to see your address day or night.

ADDRESS SAFETY TIPS

- House numbers should be visible from the street.
- If your house is set back, affix numbers to a mailbox or post that can be seen from the public road.
- Trim any greenery and remove decorations that may block clear view of your address.
- If possible, post your address near a porch light, or at least use reflective numbers.
- House numbers should be at least 4 inches tall.



EMERGENCY CALL 911

1645 Maple Ave, Maple Plain, MN 55359 Telephone: 763-479-0520

IMPORTANT SEASONAL MESSAGES

CULVERTS— Why should I be concerned about the ones near my property?

Fall is the time that the ends of culverts located on or near your property must be cleaned out. Doing so now allows for proper water flow when the spring thaws. Uncleared culverts potentially prevent drainage allowing water to flow as it should and avoids ponding up.

As the landowner, which are my responsibility?

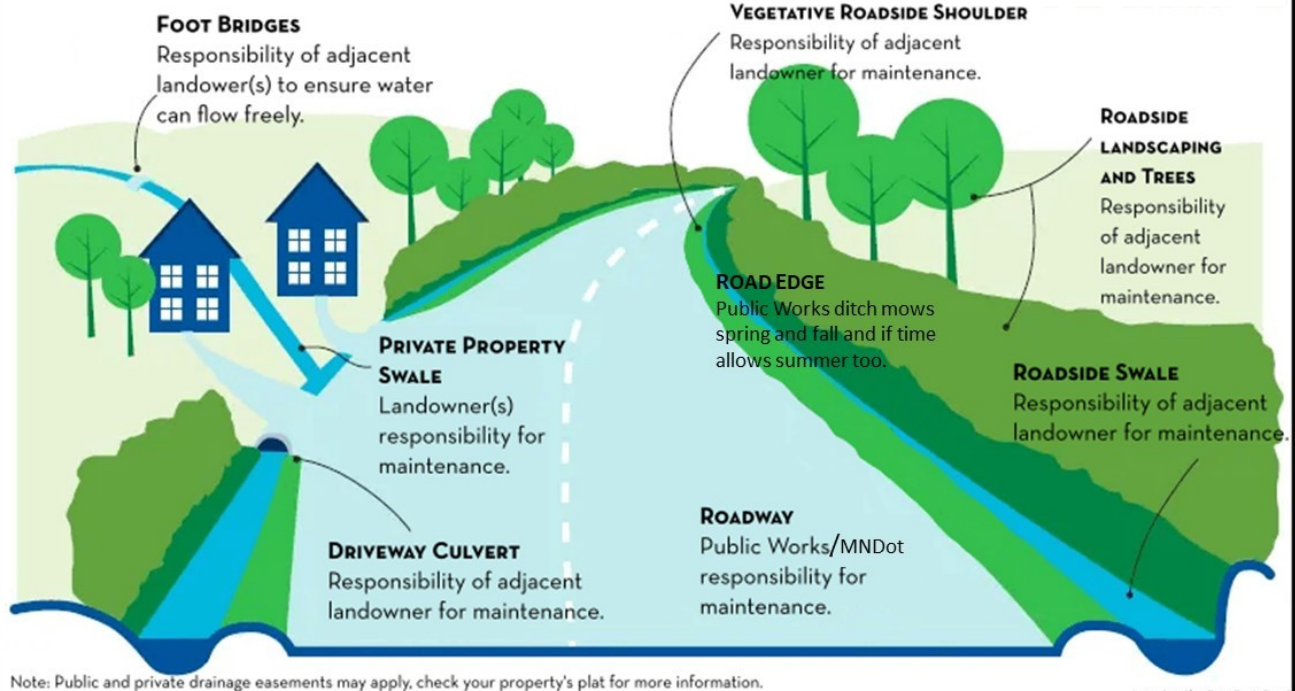
You are responsible for driveway culvert maintenance. Culvert maintenance involves keeping both the inlet and outlet of the pipe free of debris so that it works properly, including removing snow and ice during the winter months whenever possible. To further clarify who is responsible for what, this image shows which are the landowner's, adjacent landowner's, and Independence Public Works' responsibilities.



CLEANING MASONRY FIREPLACES AND FURNACES—

A pro tip from Forbes Advisor says, "The best time to clean chimneys in your home is in the warmer months, between spring and late summer" when chimney cleaners are less busy. A clean chimney improves the energy efficiency of your home and may help you save on your energy bill).

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT?



NOTE: Sprinkler heads are not allowed in the right of way (ROW). During snow plowing season, if the City hits them, the City is not responsible for replacing them.

FALL COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR ALL AGES!

SEPTEMBER



Many thanks to all the Independence neighborhood Night to Unite hosts!
We look forward to having even more for our 2023 14th annual gatherings!

TH 8th 6-8pm First Responder Softball Game
WHPS vs. MP Fire Dept—Veterans Memorial Pk
All are welcome to come cheer on our beloved first responders at a fun softball game and find out if the trophy will stay at West Hennepin Public Safety or not!

SAT 10th 4-9pm Loretto Fun Fest—Bring food drive donations to entrance. Inflatables, kiddie train, face painting, and carnival games are free! Fireworks at 8:30pm.

W 21st 12-2pm Gillespie Classic Country Jam - Musicians play and jam. (If coming for lunch, please register 2 days prior.) This repeats monthly on the 3rd Wednesday.



Gillespie Events

TH 22nd 5-7pm Art in the Park

SAT 24th 1pm Shotgun Start for
McGarry's Pub Charity Golf Premiere – WHPS & MP Fire Dept Fundraiser

Support Maple Plain Fire Department and West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) in the McGarry's Pub Charity Golf Premiere at Pioneer Creek Golf Course - 705 Copeland Road, Maple Plain MN. Hole sponsorships (4, 7, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17) along with golf entries are available. To get your registration form and all the details, please contact James Leeder-Botnan, McGarry's Pub General Manager at james@mcgarryspub.com or Bob Hughes at #651-322-0779 or bobhughesigh@gmail.com.

F 30th –Feed My Starving Children MobilePack @ Trinity Long Lake and ending Sun., Oct. 2. Register yourself or group for a 2-hr shift to pack nutritious, dry meals to support hungry kids around the world. Sat. AM childcare.



Trinity FMSC MobilePack

OCTOBER

WeCAN's October Coat Drive

WeCAN will host a coat drive during October collecting new and gently used coats and new hats and mittens throughout the community. Distribution begins week of Nov. 1st at the WeCAN office, 5213 Shoreline Dr., Mound, MN 55364. Visit wecanmn.org for details.

23rd Annual Loretto Fun Fest

September 10, 2022

at the LORETTO BALL FIELDS



Event Schedule



Art in the Park

SAVE THE DATE!

Free art event for the community

Thursday, September 22

5 - 7 pm

Veterans Memorial Park
5050 Independence St., Maple Plain

in partnership with

Orono Community Education

Fall

2022

CLASSES & PROGRAMS

Take a look inside the brochure!
Or pick up a copy at the Community Ed office in Long Lake.

Over 200 opportunities to choose from!

STEM - Art, Dance & Theater - Sports & Aquatics

Special Interest & Academics - ECFE & Preschool

Adult Classes - and more!

SCAN ME

REGISTER STARTING AUGUST 16

www.oronocommunityed.com

952-449-8350

Orono Community Education
Orono Public Schools

SAT 1st WeCAN's Annual WineFest Fundraiser

TH 6th League of Women Voters School Board
Candidate Forum @ Orono HS

SAT 8th 11-4pm MP Fire Dept Open House –
ice cream, food truck, games, fire truck rides,
& meet your firefighters!

W 19th 12-2 pm Gillespie Center Classic Coun-
try Jam & Lunch. Musicians play and jam, sign
up for lunch 2 days prior.

SAT 29th WHCC Truck or Treat 11:30-2pm

NOVEMBER

T 8th General Elections 7am–8pm at City Hall

F 11th Happy Veterans Day! Honoring all who
have served and all who are serving today!
Thank you for your service, veterans!

F 25th—Sun 12/4: Gillespie Center Holiday
Boutique featuring over 80 vendors and free!

M 28th – TH 12/15 Toys 4 Tots Collection at
City Hall NEW unwrapped toys (Nerf guns,
action figures, dolls, baby toys, puzzles, and
non-realistic looking weapons) are accepted.
Homemade toys are not accepted. Gift cards
are acceptable, however, they won't be given
as a gift but will be used to purchase toys for
distribution.

We do not accept clothes, food, used or open
toys, liquid products (such as cologne, per-
fume, body wash, lotion, toothpaste etc.). If
you desire to donate these items, please find a
charity in your local area that will accept them.

A DECEMBER sneak peek

SAT 3rd - 42ND Annual "View Santa" Fundraiser
for Local Food Shelves.

Come enjoy cookies, cocoa, and pictures with
Santa at the Independence City Hall Atrium
from 3:30-4:15pm, to Veterans Memorial Park
(1664 Budd Ave., Maple Plain) from 4:45 -
5:30 pm, or see Santa on his route through
town! Thanks to West Hennepin Reserve
Officers for faithfully getting non-perishable
food donations to the local food shelves again
this year!



Join us October 1st for the 7th Annual
WineFest 2022
"A Virtual Toast to Community"
\$60 TICKET INCLUDES TASTING BUCKET
VIRTUAL TASTINGS/ONLINE AUCTION
FUND-A-NEED CAMPAIGN
VISIT WECANMN.ORG

WeCAN
Western Communities Action Network, Inc.



Haven Homes is looking for new volunteers to help enhance quality of life for older adults through their presence, varying talents, and friendships. If you enjoy serving others and are interested in learning more information on Haven Homes' volunteer requirements, reach out to Jordan Schilling @ Jordan.schilling@cassialife.org or visit www.havenhomesseniorliving.org.



Drop Site:
Independence City Hall
Nov. 28 – Dec. 15
Mon-Thurs 8:00 – 4:30
Friday 8:00 - Noon

TOYS FOR TOTS

New and unwrapped toys for children all ages are accepted



CITY OF INDEPENDENCE

1920 County Road 90

Independence, MN 55359

Ph: 763-479-0527

Fax: 763-479-0528

ljohnson@ci.independence.mn.us

asimon@ci.independence.mn.us

HOURS:

Monday-Thursday: 8-4:30, Friday: 8-noon

City Officials

Mayor

Marvin Johnson

City Council

Brad Spencer

Lynn Betts

Ray McCoy

Steve Grotting

Planning Commissioners

Robert Gardner, Chair

Anita Volkenant

Leith Dumas

Hal Tearse

Steve Thompson

Jon-Paul Story, Alternate

Timothy Usset, Alternate

City Staff

Administrator/City Planner

Mark Kaltsas

Public Works Supervisor

Shawn Bode

Building Inspector

Bruce Satek

Asst. City Admin.

Amber Simon

Administrative Asst.

Linda Johnson

Carrie Solien



2022 GENERAL ELECTION

Tuesday, November 8th 7 am–8 pm

Pre-Register and Absentee Vote at www.mnvotes.org



Go to MNVOTES.ORG to register to vote, track your absentee ballot, see your sample ballot, or to answer many election questions!

New Independence residents or those who did not vote in the last election can pre-register to vote now! Those not yet 18 but will be 18 years old on Election Day may now also pre-register to vote. Being pre-registered speeds up Election Day by having your name on the registered voters roster. Pre-register at City Hall or on-line at:

<https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationMain.aspx>

To learn more about the election process and your voting privilege, visit: <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/how-elections-work>

ABSENTEE VOTING – Fri., Sept. 23–Mon., Nov. 7

Vote absentee either in-person at Independence City Hall or vote by mail.

At City Hall – Mon.–Thur., 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m and Fri. 8 a.m. - noon.

Direct Balloting – Beginning Tue., Nov. 1, voters can place their ballot directly into the tabulator.

Extended hours – Saturday, Nov. 5, (10 a.m. – 3 p.m.) and Monday, Nov. 7 (8 a.m.–5 p.m.)

Tues., Nov. 8, 2022 Election Day – Voting Hours

7 a.m.- 8 p.m. Being in line at 8 pm allows you to vote.