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MEETINGS

CITY COUNCIL

1st & 3rd Tuesdays 6:30pm

PLANNING COMMISSION

3rd Tuesday 7:30pm

City Officials

Mayor Brad Spencer

City Council

Lynn Betts

Brad Fisher

Ray McCoy

Steve Grotting

Planning Commissioners

Robert Gardner, Chair

Anita Volkenant

Leith Dumas

Hal Tearse

Steve Thompson

Jon-Paul Story, Alternate

Timothy Usset, Alternate

2026 GRAVEL ROAD PROJECT

Gravel Road Improvement Project

The City of Independence is dedicated to enhancing our community's infrastructure and ensuring safe and reliable roadways for all residents and visitors. In 2026, we are excited to commence year two of our five-year gravel road improvement plan. Gravel roads that will be improved in 2026 are as follows:

2026 Roadway Segments Included in the 2026 Gravel Road Improvement Project:

- County Line Road
- Dean
- Maple Ponds Trail
- Valley
- Turner Road

Chip Seal Improvements:

Chip Seal enhancements to the roads will include the following:

- Copeland near the Pioneer Creek Golf Course
- East end of Turner
- Saddle Ridge Trail
- Wild Oak Trail
- Timber Trail
- Creekview Green
- Polo Club
- Anderson Estates
- Macallister

Dust Control:

The roads listed below will receive dust control:

- Burr Oak Lane
- Hart Street
- Lake Sarah Road
- Pagenkopf Road
- Copeland Road
- Ihduhapi Trail
- Lyndale Avenue
- Pioneer Creek Road
- Dean Lane
- Ingerson Road
- Main Street
- Quaas Cutoff
- East Lake Rebecca Road
- Kuntz Drive
- Moline Road
- Turner Road
- First Avenue
- Kutz Crossing
- Nelson Road
- Valley Road
- Fogelman Road
- Lake Haughey Road
- Old Post Road
- Game Farm Road

The city will send individual notices to residents that live on the impacted roads. The notices will provide additional information relating to timing and impacts. Please contact City Hall with any questions relating to the gravel road project.



Mayor Brad Spencer

MAYORS MESSAGE

As summer begins, our community has much to celebrate. The past months brought meaningful progress in public safety, infrastructure advocacy, and community engagement – made possible through strong partnerships and resident participation.

Spring's Cleanup Day was a tremendous success. A total of 399 vehicles passed through the gate, marking one of the highest participation levels to date.

A special Thank you to Mike Barfnecht and Mikie's Landscaping without whom this event would be impossible and to the many volunteers from First Presbyterian Church of Maple Plain who volunteered and served lunch!

Six months after the merger of the West Suburban Fire District and Maple Plain Fire, early results continue to be very positive. The combined department has improved coordination, strengthened staffing capacity, and enhanced service coverage, all while maintaining strong response times for residents.

Strong First Year for Public Safety Leadership

West Hennepin Public Safety Director, Matt DuRose recently marked a successful first year in the role. We appreciate our first responders!

The city has remained active at the State Capitol advocating for needed transportation investments. I was allowed to testify twice before the Minnesota House Capital Investment Committee and twice before the Senate Transportation Committee in support of funding to improve Highway 12 and the RR X-ing at Townline Road. Thank you to Sen. Limmer and Rep. Robbins for sponsoring our funding requests

This summer offers plenty of opportunities to gather, celebrate, and support meaningful causes. June 17, 2026 – Fox 9 Town Ball Tour. The Loretto Larks will be featured as they take on the Howard Lake Orphans. Let's show strong community support and cheer on local baseball under the lights.

August 2, 2026 – 37th Annual Polo Classic - an initiative of This Old Horse, Inc., supporting its mission to provide care and support for retired and rescued racehorses. A long standing summer tradition with a purpose.

August 4, 2026 – Night to Unite. Start planning your neighborhood gatherings now. Night to Unite is a great way to connect with neighbors, strengthen community ties, and partner with public safety.

August 17, 2026 – Golf Fundraiser for First Responders. Hosted by James Leeder Botnan, owner of McGarry's, this golf fundraiser supports area first responders. Stop by McGarry's to learn how you can participate or contribute.

Coming This Summer – West Hennepin Public Safety will debut a new Cops & Bobbers fishing with kids event designed to build positive connections between youth and officers. Watch for more details coming soon.

Hoping you enjoy a fun, safe and successful summer with family and friends!

Brad Spencer, Mayor

Cloudpermit Inspections

BUILDER, CONTRACTOR, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

We are excited to announce that City of Independence Building Department is moving to a fully digital, 24/7 building permit system called CloudPermit.

This program went live on April 1, 2026, all building permit applications and contractor registrations must be submitted through our new online portal, Cloudpermit. You can find this on our city website under app/forms/building Permits and Handouts.

This upgrade replaces paper applications and our old online website system, allowing you to submit plans, track application status, and schedule inspections from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

- **Apply Anytime:** Submit building applications 24/7 without visiting the municipal office.
- **Contractor Registration:** Contractors can easily register, update licensing, and insurance documents online.
- **Real-Time Tracking:** Receive automatic email updates on your application's progress, from submission to approval.
- **Faster Inspections:** Request inspections online and receive results after inspection are done.
- **Secure Payments:** Pay for permit fees securely online via credit card.

If you have any questions regarding our new system, please contact City of Independence City Hall at 763-479-0513



HOW DOES A PERMIT HELP YOU AS A PROPERTY OWNER

Your home or business is an investment...

1. **Property Value:** If your construction project does not comply with the codes adopted by your community, the value of your investment could be reduced.
2. **Insurance:** Property insurers may not cover work done without permits and inspections.
3. **Property Sale:** If you decide to sell a home or building that has had modification without a permit, you may be required to remove the unpermitted work, leave it unoccupied, or perform costly repairs.
4. **Safety and Health:** Your permit also allows the code official to protect the public by reducing the potential hazards of unsafe construction and ensuring public health, safety, and welfare. It's Required by state law for most work to safeguard public welfare.
5. **Codes Compliance:** Verifies adherence to Minnesota State Building Codes and local zoning (setbacks, height).

A Property owner who can show that requirements were strictly and consistently met, as demonstrated by municipality's carefully maintained records, has a strong ally if something happens to trigger a potentially destructive lawsuit.

By following code guidelines, your completed project will meet minimum standards of safety and will be less likely to cause injury to you, your family, your friends, and future owners. This will also ensure projects meet state codes for structural integrity, fire safety, plumbing, electrical, and mechanical system, protecting occupants.

To obtain information on State Licensed Contractors you may visit the Department of Labor of Industry website at www.dli.mn.gov. The Building Department also has Codes and guidance www.ci.independence.mn.us and library.municode.com/mn/independence/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CHIVBUHOCORE_S400BUCO_400.01STBUCO

If you have any questions regarding permits requirements for your specific projects, please call us at. (763-479-0513)



TOUR DE TONKA - 2026

Aug 1 2026 - All Day

The annual Tour de Tonka bike ride has become a staple of the west metro community, growing from 819 riders in its inaugural year of 2006 to nearly 3,500 riders annually. Riders from more than 166 Minnesota cities, 73 counties and 42 states have participated in the event. Countless riders from across the state tell us each year that Tour de Tonka is Minnesota's Ride.

Who Rides in Tour de Tonka

"Bicycle riders participate in Tour de Tonka because it is pure fun," Tim Litfin, Tour de Tonka Director, said. "All ages and all abilities- from families and recreational bicyclists to cycling teams and serious athletes can successfully ride and enjoy the beautiful scenery and be part of this highly organized event."

A Benefit for the Community

Tour de Tonka partners with the ICA Food Shelf to give participants an opportunity to make an impact with their ride. A portion of each rider's registration fee is donated to the ICA. Since 2006, Tour de Tonka has raised over \$83,000 to support the ICA. Riders can also donate money or non-perishable food items on or before the day of the ride. Remaining proceeds support Minnetonka Community Youth Education and Early Childhood Programs.

www.bikemn.org/events/tour-de-tonka-2026



Tuesday August 4

Join neighbors across Maple Plain and Independence on Tuesday, August 4th, 2026, for the 17th Annual Night to Unite in Minnesota. 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 get to know one another in your neighborhood, build neighborhood involvement by bringing police and communities together, and to bring awareness to crime prevention and local law enforcement efforts! If you want to set up a party in your neighborhood, please register by Tuesday, July 28th, 2026 with West Hennepin Public Safety Department: www.westhennepin.com/night-to-unite

Chief Matt DuRose, "The community's safety is the top priority for our department and 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 give opportunities for neighbors to get together, enjoy a summer evening, and get to know each other and their local first responders."

West Hennepin Public Safety would like to encourage neighborhoods to get together between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on August 4th, 2026. The best crime prevention tool for our communities is "the eyes and the ears of citizens looking out for each other," says Matt DuRose.

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! If you or your neighbors host a neighborhood Night to Unite event, West Hennepin Public Safety and the local fire department will visit your event and share crime prevention tips, recent fraud trends, and fire safety tips for your group.

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 Ben Raskin or email him at braskin@westhennepin.com. 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.



Chief DuRose attended the MN Chiefs of Police Association "Day at the Capitol" on Thursday, April 23rd, where he heard legislators from across the state highlight the work there are trying to accomplish related to public safety.

He was able to take a moment for a picture with Representative Kristin Robbins and Senator Warren Limmer.

Photo: from Representative Robbins, Facebook



SOLICITORS' INFORMATION

The City of Independence requires all solicitors to fill out permit applications. Solicitors, peddlers, transient merchants and food trucks are required to carry a permit approved by the city. If someone approaches you at your home or if someone is selling at a location (parking lot, street corner), you can ask if they have a permit from the city. If they do not have one, call the non-emergency West Hennepin police number (952)-258-5321 to report them.

Each approved solicitor will be issued a city badge with the following information on the badge: License number, expiration date, company they are representing and their name.



SCAM PREVENTION TIPS

It seems as though every week we learn of new ways that scammers use to target our communities. While we can't list every scam we know of - we know that nearly all scams begin the same way - with an unexpected phone call, email, text message or piece of mail. Scammers often attempt to build trust or create a sense of urgency before requesting money through a variety of schemes.

The good news is that staying informed and remaining cautious can significantly reduce your risk of becoming a victim. The following tips can help protect you and those around you:

- Be suspicious of anyone unexpectedly requesting money over the phone, by mail, or by email. Take time to verify the identity of anyone who claims they need payment.
- Legitimate businesses, government agencies, and service providers will never request payment in gold, silver, gift cards, cryptocurrency, wire transfer, or other unusual currency.
- If you are contacted by anyone soliciting money - especially if the request feels rushed, unusual, or threatening - please call the police. We are here to help you determine whether the communication is legitimate.

We encourage you to share this information with your family, friends, and neighbors. Talking about these scams is one of the strongest tools we have to keep our community safe.

Together, we can help stop scams before they happen.



SHIPPING CONTAINERS PROHIBITED IN THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE

As a reminder to all residents and property owners, shipping containers — including intermodal containers and CONEX boxes — are not permitted within the City of Independence. This applies to all properties, and all uses, whether temporary or permanent storage. If you have questions or concerns, please contact City Hall at [763-479-0513] or visit www.ci.independence.mn.us. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our community safe and beautiful.

Thank you, City of Independence City Hall



Thanks to all who supported our clean up event!
A total of 399 vehicles passed through the gate, marking one of the highest participation levels to date.



McGARRY'S
PUB

5th Annual
McGarry's Charity
Golf Event

August
17



11am Shotgun Start
Pioneer Creek
\$125 Golf and Buffet
763.479.4031

Proceeds benefit
West Suburban Fire
West Hennepin Public Safety
mcgarryspub.com



The West Suburban Fire District (formerly the Loretto and Hamel Fire Departments and now including Maple Plain) is made up of members who proudly serve the communities of Loretto, Hamel, Maple Plain, Medina, Independence, Corcoran, and Greenfield.

We are a paid on-call department with all training and events paid along with a retirement pension.

Join us at: westsuburbanfire.org/join



SAVE THE DATE!

Please join us on August 2nd, 2026!

This is the preeminent polo event in the Twin Cities with a rich history of exciting competition and unique events. The Polo Classic is an initiative of This Old Horse, Inc., with the mission of providing support through this annual event for retired and rescued racehorses.

Join us to watch exciting polo matches while enjoying a day of picnicking, tailgating, champagne sipping, divot stomping, and more!

This is a rain or SHINE event!

About General Admission

You will get an email confirmation of your order. No tickets will be issued. You and your guests will check in at the event entry gate. If you are a guest at a private tent, check in at registration with your host's name. If you need assistance, please contact us at info@thisoldhorse.org. Thank you!

About Private Reserved Tent

The Polo Classic provides an elegant and exciting venue at the Twin City Polo Club for private and corporate groups to gather and watch a champion polo match and enjoy pre-game and halftime events. High peaked canopies on the club house side offer close encounters with the fast paced energy of a professional polo match. Reserved space is offered in 10' sections. The covered area is 20' deep, front to back with an additional 10' in front of the section for seating. Each 10' section provides 15 tickets, 15 chairs, two high top tables and one 8' banquet table. Each host provides hospitality for their guests.

About Sponsorships

Sponsors underwrite the costs of producing the event and contribute to the success and support of the This Old Horse mission. If you have an idea for a custom sponsorship that is not listed, we are all ears! Thank you!



MATERIALS DROP OFF

SET and **The Mulch Store** locations (in Empire Township and Minnetrista) accept yard waste, wood waste, soil, and sod for drop off during normal business hours. In addition, the Empire Township location accepts commercial and residential organics for recycling. We are experts in Minnesota yard waste disposal.

Yard Waste, Wood Waste, Soil & Sod

Prices listed are for residential customers. Contractors should contact us online for pricing.

- Leaves & Grass (\$13.00/cubic yard or \$3.00/kraft paper lawn bag)
- Brush (\$21.00/cubic yard)
- Logs (\$21.00/cubic yard)
- Stumps (\$40.00/cubic yard)
- Wood/Tree Service Chips (\$12.50/cubic yard)
- Sod and Soil (\$10.00/cubic yard)

Useful Measurement References

- 1 yard is approximately 6 full wheelbarrows of material
- A medium size pickup holds approximately 1.5 yards of material level with the side rails
- A full-size pickup with a regular box holds approximately 2 yards of material level with the side rails
- A full-size pickup with an extended box holds approximately 2.5 yards of material level with the side rails

Questions about Minnesota yard waste disposal or drop-off? Work with us to dispose of leaves and grass, brush, logs and stumps, wood and tree chips, sod, and soil. If you have questions about how to dispose of a specific material, please contact our experts today to discuss your project.

Visit: [add website here](#) or [add website here](#) for more information.

NEW REQUIREMENT FOR PROPERTY SALES: SEPTIC SYSTEM INSPECTION

The City of Independence has adopted a new ordinance (Ord. No. 2025-03) requiring that properties with an on-site septic system (also called a Subsurface Sewage Treatment System, or SSTS) undergo a compliance inspection before the property is sold.

What This Means If You're Selling Your Home

If your property has a septic system, you are responsible for having a licensed inspector complete an MPCA compliance inspection and providing the results to both the City and the buyer at or before closing. If the system is found to be non-compliant, it will need to be brought up to current standards.

If a compliance inspection has not been completed before closing, an escrow account must be established to secure the cost of any needed repairs or replacement. The system must then be brought into compliance within 12 months of the closing date.

Winter Sales

If frozen ground prevents an inspection before closing, an escrow account (current escrow is \$45,000) must be established, and the buyer is responsible for completing the inspection by June 1st of the following year.

This Requirement Does Not Apply To:

- Vacant land with no structures or plumbing
- Properties connected to a municipal sewer system
- Transfers between spouses
- Foreclosures or tax forfeitures (for the initial transfer only)
- Refinances

Questions?

Questions about the ordinance or the inspection process can be directed to City Hall.



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

PRSR STD
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Permit #32324
 Twin Cities, MN

City Staff

Administrator, City Planner	Mark Kaltsas
Admin. Services Dir.	Amber Simon
Public Works Supervisor	Ben Lehman
Building Official	Bruce Satek
Permit and Utility Analyst	Carrie Solien
Receptionist	Katie Powell

Summer Program Highlights

TRY-IT CAMPING

Friday, June 5–Sunday, June 7
 Friday, June 19–Sunday, June 21
 Friday, July 17–Sunday, July 19
 Friday, August 7–Sunday, August 9
 Friday, August 21–Sunday, August 23

Baker Campground at Baker Park Reserve, Maple Plain. \$90/site plus tax.

AXES, ARCHERY AND CROSSBOWS

Sunday, June 21 | 3–5 p.m.
 Baker Outdoor Learning Center, Baker Park Reserve, Maple Plain. Ages: 12+. \$12/person.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS LOG ROLLING

Saturday, June 27 | 2–3:30 p.m.
 Baker Park Reserve, Maple Plain. Ages: 5+. \$6/person.

SATURDAY MORNING ON THE FARM

Saturdays through September 26
 9:30 a.m.–12 p.m. Gale Woods Farm, Minnetrista.
 The first Saturday of each month will include make & take fiber craft activities available for purchase on the day of the program for an additional \$3-6 per craft. Ages: All. \$6/person; children under 2 are admitted free.

ADULT ARCHERY

Sunday, July 12 | 4:30–6 p.m.
 Baker Outdoor Learning Center, Baker Park Reserve, Maple Plain. Ages: 18+. \$12/person.

**CAMPFIRE COOKING:
 FARMERS MARKET EDITION**

Sunday, July 19 | 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
 Baker Outdoor Learning Center, Baker Park Reserve, Maple Plain. Cost: \$14 for ages 16+; \$10 for ages 3-15; children under 3 are admitted free.



As we look ahead to summer, I'm excited to highlight the many activities and opportunities waiting for you at Baker Park Reserve. It is one of our area's true gems.

Wishing you a safe, active, and joyful summer!

Warm regards,
 Marge Beard
 Three Rivers Park District Commissioner

Call Guest Services at 763-559-6700 or register online at ThreeRiversParks.org

