

NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MAYOR LETTER	2
AWARD	3
WHPS NEWS	4
NEIGHBOR NEWS	5
SENIOR CENTER	6
DISCOVERY CENTER	6
VOTING	7

MAYOR JOHNSON'S LETTER

It is hard to believe that the last time I wrote an article was in early spring and I mentioned corn was already knee high in early June. Now summer is over, many students have been in school for a month, the State Fair is over and we are counting down until Thanksgiving and Christmas. Wow!

The City Council and staff have been working hard on preparing the 2017 budget and approved a preliminary levy of \$2,689,000 and a Pioneer Creek Watershed levy of \$66,200 at our September 13th meeting. This levy is up from last year but \$300,000 less than what we levied in 2009 at the beginning of the 'bust'. These numbers can only be reduced up until the final levy is established in December. Our City's hearing will be Tuesday, December 13th. The Hennepin County hearing will be on Tuesday, November 29th.

(continued page 2)



Mayor

Marvin Johnson

MEETING INFO

City Council Meetings-

2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Planning Commission Meetings-

3rd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Workshops are posted as scheduled

independence.govoffice.com



Primary Election –Thank You Judges!

The Primary Election was held at Independence City Hall on Tuesday, August 9. Polls were open from 7:00 a.m. 8:00 p.m. The day began slowly since there was only one question on the ballot.

We ended the day with 84 voters. While it wasn't busy, it gave the Election Judges an opportunity to 'practice' on the new poll books. The poll book is similar to an iPad which has replaced the paper roster list. The judges did a great job!

The November election will include the Presidential, Congressional Representative, our local Senator, and Representative. Orono School District residents will be voting on a facility bond issue and a levy question, and Rockford School District residents will be voting on a levy question and a technology question. Mound School District residents approved a bond question this spring that will show up on the 2017 tax statements.

Since the State bonding bill and tax bill were never signed by the Governor and no special legislative session was called, our concern was what will get done on U.S. Highway 12. Fortunately, the Transportation Department found some money to do some minor improvements at the two County Road 92 intersections. This will be safer for those making left turns, but by no means a final solution for those intersections. The change to be made on the Long Lake bypass came from a different source of funding and we hope will make that area safer as well.

As some are aware, there used to be a 'Lion's Club' in the area. In fact, they donated approximately \$150,000 towards building our present City Hall. A couple of St. Michael's Lion's want to help organize a club again in the Independence/Maple Plain area. If interested, contact City Staff or myself, and we will make the proper connections. Lion's members have been wonderful community project supporters.

Have a wonderful fall and be prepared to vote on November 8th.

Marvin D. Johnson, Mayor

CITY OF INDEPENDENCE SEEKS PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER

The City of Independence is now seeking applications for the City's Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission conducts public hearings and makes recommendations to the City Council concerning land use issues, including rezoning, ordinance amendments, subdivisions and variances. The Commission typically meets the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. This is a three-year term.

Those interested in serving can call the City Office at 479.0527.



Steak Fry/ Silent Auction

October 8, 2016

Open House: 1:00-5:00 PM

Steak Fry: 4:00-7:00 PM

Silent Auction: 7:00 PM

The Maple Plain Fire Department hosts this annual event with many fun activities for the entire family!

1645 Pioneer Ave, Maple Plain

Congratulations to Police Chief Gary Kroells!

Chief Gary Kroells has been selected as the recipient of the Distinguished Public Leadership Award from the Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) program. His passion, leadership and dedication to traffic safety, especially his work with the Highway 12 Coalition, are being recognized by the TZD leadership.

Chief Kroells will be presented with this award and honored at the awards ceremony during the statewide TZD Conference on Wednesday, November 16 from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center in Duluth.

Thank you to Chief Kroells for his vision and hard work to reduce traffic fatalities in our community!



WHPS Director

Gary Kroells

The Salvation Army Box Is Gone!

As many of you have noticed, the Salvation Army box is no longer at City Hall. The Salvation Army is a non-profit agency, and often has had to pay for donated items that they cannot use or became damaged when exposed to snow and rain. Hauling and disposal of old mattresses, couches and TVs and old electronics that were dropped by the box became expensive and unmanageable. They may bring it back in the future if we can find a way to prevent these unwanted items from accumulating.

In the mean-time, here is some information regarding places you can dispose of unwanted items.

For useable household items in small bags limited to clothing and textiles there is still a drop box in the MPFC parking lot. <http://www.usagain.com/what-we-collect> All items must fit into the donation box!

Furniture in good condition or for home pickup of useable household items call the Salvation Army at 1-800-SA-TRUCK (800-728-7825) <http://minneapolis.satruck.org/> .

Another local charity accepting donations by dropoff or appointment is **LOVE INC.**, Delano 763-972-6547 <http://www.loveinheartland.org/> .

For old TVs and electronics, hazardous waste, old mattresses, fluorescent bulbs, batteries, etc. your best choice is Hennepin County's drop off facility. Check the Hennepin County recycling website, email environment@hennepin.us, or call 612.348.3777.



Night to Unite 2016 was a great success!

West Hennepin Public Safety and the Maple Plain Fire Department would like to say thank you to everyone who joined us for this year's "Night to Unite." It was a tremendous success with Independence hosting 7 parties and Maple Plain hosting 3! We would like to double our parties in 2017! Please consider hosting as this is a great opportunity to build community and work together to prevent crime. West Hennepin PSD and the local fire departments attend each party and offer tours of squad cars and fire trucks!

Next year's Night to Unite will be August 1, 2017.



The City of Independence has a small sewer system currently servicing approximately 260 properties. In addition to those properties currently hooked up to sewer there are approximately 30 more that have sewer availability. It was anticipated when the system was built in 1985, 1994 and 2012 that all of the properties that had sewer availability would be connected within a ten year time frame. Many of those properties with availability have not connected at this time. The age of the system and cost to maintain the infrastructure is not being met with the current fees being collected by those with sewer and the annual cost of those with sewer availability. In an effort to stabilize the sewer fund and continue to maintain the system the rates are anticipated to be increased in 2017. The City will host several open houses in October/ November to provide more information on why the rates will be increased and what that will look like going forward. Please check the City website independence.govoffice.com or the City's Facebook page for more details as dates are announced.

NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS

The City would like to extend a special thank you to Ray Flemal for the use of his equipment to replace the City Flag as needed. This is a volunteer effort and the support is much appreciated!

Contact:

Ray's Tree Service
at 612-508-9955

thank
you!



Natural Shore, a design-build ecological restoration company in Independence, donates their time and resources to maintain the rain garden at City Hall. The City truly appreciates their efforts

in making our grounds beautiful! For more information check out their website at www.naturalshore.com

612-703-7581

1480 County Road 90

BUCKLE UP!

Painted reminders to fasten your seatbelts were recently added to strategic driveway exits around the Maple Plain and Independence area. The awareness program, part of MN DOTs Towards Zero Deaths initiative was brought to the community as part of the Highway 12 Safety Coalition and its chairman, West Hennepin Public Safety Director Gary Kroells.

The reminders were spray painted with permission of the property owners on August 31, 2016 by National Honor Society students as one of their Community Service projects. Headed by NHS student Derek Spencer with Nathan Moe and Cameron Baker, Derek's team painted 17 of the reminders in 12 separate locations. The stencil was supplied by MNDOT, the paint was provided by RBC Wealth Management in Minnetonka.

Chief Kroells stated, " With the hard work of these National Honor Society Students and the leadership of Brad Spencer these buckle up reminders were placed around our communities to save lives".



Left to Right: Front Row: Nathan Moe, Derek Spencer, Cameron Baker, West Hennepin PSD Chief Gary Kroells

Back Row: Public Works Director Larry Ende, West Hennepin PSD Sgt. Rick Denneson,

City Administrator Mark Kaltsas, Council Member Brad Spencer and Administrative Assistant Beth Horner.



DELANO SENIOR CENTER– DAY TRIPS

Wednesday, Oct. 5: Science Museum and Omnitheater trip – 9 a.m., \$23

Monday, Oct. 10: Buffalo shopping trip - 9 a.m., FREE

Tuesday, Oct. 11: Diamond Jo casino trip – 7:30 a.m., \$23

Thursday, Oct. 13: *Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee Story* at History Theater – 8:30 a.m., \$30

Wednesday, Oct. 19: Ridgedale shopping trip – 9 a.m., \$6

Thursday, Oct. 20: Red Wing day trip – 8 a.m., \$15

Wednesday, Oct. 26: *Camelot* at Chanhassen Dinner Theater – 10:45 a.m., \$70

Thursday, Oct. 27: *Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee Story* at History Theater – 8:30 a.m., \$30

Wednesday, Nov. 2: New Germany bologna dinner – 10:30 a.m., \$6

Monday, Nov. 7: MN's Largest Candy Store in Jordan – 8:30 a.m., \$6

Thurs., Nov. 10: Eden Prairie Center shopping trip – 9 a.m., \$6

Wed., Nov. 16: U.S. Bank Stadium Tour – 10 a.m., \$22

Tuesday, Nov. 22: *The Orphan Train* play at History Theater – 8:30 a.m., \$30

The Delano Senior Center offers many services including legal aid help, eyeglass repair, blood pressure clinic, chair yoga, choir, bingo, book club, writer's group, cribbage, far-kel, story theater, birthday celebrations and Parkinson's Support Group. For a complete listing and event times please contact the Center at (763) 972-0574.

Super Saturday Costume Party!

Join us for a SPOOKTACKULAR good time on **Saturday, October 29 from 10 - 11:30 am** at the Discovery Center! Wear a favorite costume and join us for games and treats, art projects, stories and more. Don't miss this **free** Super Saturday adventure!

Early Learning Speakers:

Film Viewing & Panel Discussion moderated by Melanie DeLuca

Join us on **Monday, October 10** from 6:30-8:30 pm for a film viewing of *Resilience* and a discussion on adverse childhood experiences (ACE's). ACE's are experiences that harm children's developing brains so profoundly that the effects show up decades later. \$10/person and child care available, pre-registration required (\$5 per child).

Confident Parenting: The 5 Basic Needs of Childhood presented by Curt Levang

On **Thursday, November 10**, Dr. Levang will discuss his approach to five basic childhood needs. His approach helps build stronger, more confident parents by helping them understand their own experiences and, in turn, how to meet the needs of their children. \$7/person and child care available, pre-registration required (\$5 per child).

All Aboard Potty Train MN presented by Christine Hendrickson

Whether you are thinking about potty training, just starting to potty train or you have been derailed from potty training, this workshop on **Tuesday, December 6** will help you navigate this important milestone. \$7/person at the door at the Discovery Center. Child care available, pre-registration required (\$5 per child).

For more information – Call 763-479-1530

Option 3, or email:

earlylearning@orono.k12.mn.us

Elections 2016

General Election: November 8
Pre-Register and Absentee vote **NOW** at
www.mnvotes.org

Pre-Register to Vote and Absentee Vote NOW at mnvotes.org

If you are a new Independence resident, or did not vote in the 2014 Election, you can preregister to vote now! If you are not yet 18 but will be 18 years old on Election Day, you may also pre-register to vote now. Being pre-registered speeds up election day by having your name on the roster of registered voters when you go to vote. Pre-register on-line at <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationMain.aspx>, or stop in at City Hall to pre-register. If you have questions, call the City at 763-479-0527.



Absentee vote in person– Sept. 23rd

Beginning September 23rd, you may cast an absentee ballot in person at City Hall during normal business hours. City and County offices are open for absentee voting from 10a.m. to 3p.m. on the Saturday before the election and until 5 p.m. on the day before the election.

Absentee Vote by mail

You may have an absentee ballot sent to you by completing an Absentee Ballot Application, available at mnvotes.org, at City Hall, or at your county's election office. Your ballot will be sent to you when it is ready-starting 46 days prior to the election if you applied for an absentee ballot in advance.

Tips for New Voters on Election Day

- You have a right to time off work to vote, without losing your pay, personal leave, or vacation time.

Sign in or register to vote.

- If you are registered to vote, your name will be on a list of voters. You just need to write your signature next to your name. If you are registered, you do not need to show ID when you sign in.
- If you did not register before Election Day, you must show proof of your current address. You must bring proper ID to register on Election Day. The most common form of ID is a valid Minnesota driver's license, learner's permit or ID. Your ID must have your current Independence address. Go to www.mnvotes.org for ID options.

Vote

- You will vote in a private area, and your vote is secret.
- The ballot instructions will say how many candidates you can choose for each office. Usually it will say to choose one.
- Your ballot will count even if you do not vote on every race or ballot question.
- If you make a mistake, you have a right to ask for a replacement ballot.
- Take your ballot to the ballot box and insert the ballot in the counter machine.

Important Dates!

- September 23-November 7 Absentee Voting period for the General Election
- October 18 last day to pre-register for the General Election
- November 8 General Election Day

We are on the web
independence.govoffice.com

CITY OF INDEPENDENCE

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

MARK KALTSAS- ADMINISTRATOR/ CITY PLANNER
LARRY ENDE- PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
BRUCE SATEK- BUILDING INSPECTOR
BETH HORNER- ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
TRISH BEMMELS- ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Mayor

Marvin Johnson

City Council

Brad Spencer

Lynn Betts

Ray McCoy

Steve Grotting

Planning

Commission Chair

Carl Phillips

Planning

Commissioners

Robert Gardner

Craig Olson

Tom Palmquist

Steve Thompson



The West Hennepin Chamber of Commerce will host the annual "Boo Market" at the Maple Plain Food Center!

October 29th from

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Bring the kids and join in on all the fun!

WeCAN

SIP, SAVOR AND SHOP

WINE TASTING EVENT!

Experience a fun-filled evening with local wineries, food from local restaurants and more! *WeCAN is a community nonprofit that provides support services empowering individuals and families to reach stability and self-sufficiency.

Event Date: Saturday, October 1, 2016

Event Time: 4:00-7:00 pm

Venue: Voyageur Environmental Center

7000 County Road 15, Mound

