

NEWSLETTER

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MAYOR JOHNSON'S LETTER

It is hard to believe that the major part of summer is over. The great 'Minnesota Get Together' is over and broke a new attendance record. All the students are back to school and in our part of the country people are reaping a bounty from their gardens again this year.

We've had our share of rains which has kept everything green all summer and mostly missed damaging weather. It is hard for me to comprehend the devastation and emotional trauma that people are feeling as a result of the hurricanes that came ashore. Fortunately, we have ways to help them without being there in person!

I want to personally thank all those who hosted a "Night To Unite" event this past August. Because we had so many events hosted in the city, it was impossible to stop at each one. Sorry, if I didn't make your event, but "Thank You". **Letter continued on page 2.**



Mayor

Marvin Johnson

2040 Comprehensive Plan Update

Thank you to all who attended the first few Comp Plan meetings for the City of Independence! We appreciate the huge response to our Community Survey- 421 of you responded!

If you'd like details of the survey results, please visit the web-site and click on the link. Our web-site also has the Planning Commission meeting minutes from the July 18th and August 15th meetings.

At the August 15th meeting, residents present broke into four groups. Each group drew on one map how they perceived the future of Independence to look. If you would like to participate the next meeting will be held October 17 at 7:30 pm at Independence City Hall. Please join us!

MEETINGS

City Council

1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

Planning Commission

3rd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Workshops are posted

as scheduled

independence.govoffice.com

Fall again brings to mind another election cycle locally. November 7th is election day for our City and some of the School Districts. It is very important to vote even though there may not be competitive races this fall.

We are working on our budget for 2018 for the City with all its departments and contracts. Probably before you get this newsletter the council will have already voted on an estimated levy for next year's taxes. This budget will continued to be reviewed until our final December 2017 council meeting at which time the council can only vote to reaffirm the original budget or reduce it.

Continuing through this fall and into next year we will be having meetings regarding the City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan for 2040. The visioning sessions, up to the present time, have surfaced only minor changes to the present plan. By the fall of 2018 we need to complete our plan and present it to the Metropolitan Council for approval.

As you have noticed we had road resurfacing projects completed within the City. The County Road 92 north of County Road 11 and County Road 90 between U.S. Highway 12 and County Road 6 had additional width added to the pavement surface while County Road 110 south of County Road 6 was just resurfaced. What a nice job the county did. The roads are so smooth now you have to be careful of your speed.

We've commented before about the money the Legislature and MNDOT designated for U.S. Highway 12 improvements. Those improvements won't happen immediately. There will be highway designers and consultants working on the projects, then public hearings/open houses and finally approval by the City, County and MDOT before the projects can be let out for bid. There may have to be some "Right Of Way" purchases too.

Coming soon all of our Fire Departments will be having their 'Open Houses' Try to stop in if your available. We do appreciate all the members of our local departments; Delano, Loretto and Maple Plain for their dedication to serve the community as first responders and giving of their time for continuous training. "Thank You"! If you can't stop by, why not send a note of Thanks!

Until the next newsletter, Enjoy Fall!

Marvin D. Johnson, Mayor

Maple Plain Fire Department

Steak Fry & Silent Auction– Oct. 7th

Open House 1:00-4:00

Steak Fry 4:00-7:00

Silent Auction 1:00-7:00

Fire Truck Rides, Smoke Maze, Air Care Helicopter & Auto Extrication

Loretto Fire Department Open House

October 14th from 4-8 pm

There will be a pig roast dinner (free will offering), games and inflatable, silent auction, face painting, fire truck rides, demonstrations, free drawings and more! Meet the fire fighters and tour the station!



West Hennepin Public Safety

West Hennepin Public Safety News: WHPS has joined a pilot program for a weapon mounted camera system developed by Viridian Weapon Technologies of Maple Plain. The unique technology attaches directly to an officers weapon and activates automatically once the weapon is drawn from the holster.

Chief Kroells stated, "The officer does not have to push a button to turn on the camera or remember to turn it on during a high stress encounter. "If you take your gun out of your holster the camera turns on, with audio", said Chief Kroells.

No other product captures video from the direction an officer is pointing his weapon or what the officer is confronted with during a critical time when use of force is deployed.

West Hennepin is currently developing written policies on the use of cameras and the storage of the data. Chief Kroells stated, "The video data is password protected and will only be handled by a supervisor in all use of force events.

Kroells stated, "The camera allows for human error or mistakes to not occur, we are all human and in this particular case anytime you pull your weapon out it could be a deadly force situation so we'd like to capture that on video."



The Ultimate Sacrifice



As law enforcement professionals you never know how each day or each call will turn out. Police Officers are the peace keepers of our communities and are tasked with handling many difficult incidents each and every day. "Police Officers are human and we want what everyone else wants. To safely go home and enjoy our families", said Chief Kroells.

Wayzata Police Officer William Mathews was tragically killed on Highway 12 when he was struck by a vehicle while trying to remove a piece of metal from the roadway. Officer Mathews gave the ultimate sacrifice and was killed in the line of duty on Friday September 8, 2017.

West Hennepin Public Safety Department would like to extend our entire department's sympathies and thoughts for the family, friends and fellow brothers and sisters of the Wayzata Police Department during this difficult time. Officer Mathews leaves behind a wife and seven year old son. If you would like to contribute to his memorial fund you may do so at; www.youcaring.com/williammathewsfamily-943716

For all the latest WHPS news visit www.westhennepin.com

Independence has two new Eagles!

Nathan and Alexander Moe of Independence were simultaneously awarded the highest rank in scouting at a ceremony at City Hall on August 4, 2017. As with almost everything in the Moe's twins lives, Alex and Nathan have spent their entire scouting career in the same Den, Pack, Patrol and Troop. Scouts since first grade, their adventures and experiences have been many but included Philmont, Seabase and Many Point.



Of the requirements to advance to Eagle, the community service project is paramount. The scout must demonstrate his ability to plan, organize, and lead a significant service project to completion. Nathan's Eagle project involved rehabilitating the landscaping and public areas surrounding the Delano Public Library. Nathan aspires to work for the FBI in the field of forensic science. Alex's Eagle project involved renovating the dugouts at Delano's municipal ballfield. Alex's goals for the future involve attending college in Massachusetts to study Law and Criminology. After college, he hopes to work as a Special Agent in the field for the FBI.

Congratulations to Alex and Nathan on this impressive achievement!

Don't Let Leaves Litter Lakes and Cause Stormwater Pollution!

Leaves fall and decompose but if there is no soil to land on they end up washing down streets and into storm drains. From there they go directly into lakes and rivers where the nutrients will feed unwanted algae growth next summer. In addition to a major "ick" factor, the algae dies and decomposes at the bottom of the lake where it uses up oxygen that fish and native plants need.

In the Mississippi River-Twin Cities watershed 87 of 180 lakes studied didn't meet water quality standards because of excess nutrients– that is about half the lakes! Leaves are a major source of the problem. Depending on the lake, leaves might account for 60% of the excess nutrients in these lakes.

One of the best ways to use leaves is to compost them in your backyard. Whole or shredded leaves may also be used as mulch for your garden. Mulch benefits the soil and reduces weeds. It is illegal to add leaves to your regular trash and burning them releases large amounts of air pollution!

The City of Delano has a punch card available for purchase for residents outside of the city limits. The card is \$50.00 for five punches and certain conditions apply. Contact the City of Delano for more information.



Halloween Safety

Did you know?

Only 1/3 of parents talk to their kids each year about Halloween safety.

Twice as many kids are killed as pedestrians by cars on Halloween than on any other day of the year.

Suspicious fires and arson fires skyrocket around Halloween.

- Avoid costumes with long or billowing fabric-it can be a fire hazard.
- Use battery operated candles or glow sticks inside jack-o-lanterns.
- Teach children to stay away from open flames and to stop, drop and roll if their clothes catch fire.
- Keep decorations like hay and corn stalks away from any ignition source.



Maple Plain Fire Steak Fry & Silent Auction!

Saturday, October 7th

<i>Open House</i>	<i>1:00-4:00 pm</i>
<i>Steak Fry</i>	<i>4:00-7:00 pm</i>
<i>Silent Auction</i>	<i>1:00-7:00 pm</i>

Air Care
Helicopter!

Fire Truck
Rides!

Auto
Extrication!

Smoke
Maze!



City Snowplow Policy



West Hennepin Public Safety, Public Works, and the Hennepin County Highway division would like to caution residents that it is unlawful to dump, plow or push snow from private driveways onto highway or city streets whether you are plowing your driveway or you have hired someone to remove snow.

Snow dumped on highways or street right-of-ways can create a hazard not only for motorists, but also for snowplows. Even heavy snowplows have been ditched and damaged when hitting compacted and frozen snow. The person responsible for depositing snow on roadways may also be liable in a civil lawsuit if damages or injuries occur as a result of this action.

The violations are considered a misdemeanor, punishable by a maximum \$700 fine and/or 90 days in jail. Independence Public Works and WHPS will be enforcing these laws.



Public Works strives to clear snow and ice from City roads as soon as possible. Delays may occur in the event of extreme weather or equipment breakdowns. The safety of the Public and City employees is a top priority. The City has more than 56 miles of roads, and 60 cul-de-sacs that are maintained by the Public Works Department. The criteria for the decision to begin snow and/ or ice removal are as follows:

- ⇒ Snow accumulation of two inches or more warrants the plowing of asphalt roads, two to four inches warrants the plowing of both asphalt and gravel roads dependent on road conditions. Start time for removal is normally 2:00 a.m. when practical.
- ⇒ High volume major collector roads and roads with steep hills and curves receive first priority.
- ⇒ Safety of the plow operators and the public are important. Snowplowing may be terminated after 12-14 hours to allow personnel to rest. High winds creating white out conditions may also suspend plowing until weather improves.
- ⇒ **The City will assume no responsibility for damage to underground lawn sprinkling systems, exterior lighting systems, and similar landscaping installed in the public right-of-way.**

Garbage Can Driveway Location! Please place garbage cans inside your driveway perimeter on pick-up days. Garbage containers should never be placed on roadways.

Mailbox Reminder! Ensure your mail box posts are sturdy and set solidly in the ground. The City is not responsible for mailboxes damaged by snow being pushed off roads!



ECFE Parent-Child Classes

Registration is open for all 2017-18 ECFE classes starting in September or October. ECFE classes include parent-child activity time, circle time, parent discussion time and children's activity time. Classes available for children ages birth - Pre-K. Parent-only ECFE options also available starting in October and February.



Los Chiquitos Spanish! Ages 3-5

Using books, games, songs and crafts, the Los Chiquitos Spanish class provides a dynamic introduction to the Spanish language. Your child will learn how to ask and answer basic questions in Spanish, count from 1-20, recognize colors and family members in Spanish y mucho más! Register at www.oronocommunityed.com. **Tuesdays, Oct. 10 - Dec. 19, 12:45 - 1:30 pm.** Discovery Center Rm. 204.

Super Saturday Costume Party!

Join us for a SPOOKTACKULAR good time on **Saturday, October 28** 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

Confident Parenting Using Love & Logic by Karen Pennaz

Join us on **Tuesday, October 3** from 6:30 - 8:30 pm! Ditch the nagging, drop the threats, and lose the stress: you can raise great kids with techniques that are practical, proven, and fun! Children learn the best lessons when they're given a task and allowed to make their own choices (and fail) when the cost of failure is still small. Love and Logic uses humor, hope, and empathy to build up the adult/child relationship. \$7/person at the door at the Discovery Center. Child care available, pre-registration required (\$5 per child).



Overindulgence by Karen Pennaz

On **Tuesday, November 14** from 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Karen Pennaz will discuss ways to teach children the difference between wants and needs, help cultivate patience, and give them opportunities to develop responsibility, self-discipline, and integrity. Saying "no" is a parenting strategy. \$7/person at the door at the Discovery Center. Child care available, pre-registration required (\$5 per child).

For early learning information – Call 763-479-1530 Option 3



234 2nd St N, Delano, MN 55328

763-972-0574

New this fall!

Tai Chi: Sometimes called 'moving meditation', this ancient form of movement helps improve balance by moving the body slowly, gently, and precisely while breathing deeply. The "Yang 10" form of tai chi can be done standing or sitting and is adaptable for people of all ages & abilities.

Tuesdays 9-10 a.m. (suggested donation of \$3-\$5 per session)

HALO's Group: Helpers of Aging Loved Ones

This new group is for caregivers and relatives caring for aging loved ones. We will have a monthly topic, as well as time for open discussion among participants. Possible topics may include: dealing with memory loss, legal and end-of-life issues, hospice, senior safety, caretaker self-care, etc. Please RSVP if you are interested in attending to senior@delano.mn.us or call **763-972-0574**.

Second Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Day Trips!

Thursday, October 5: *Aladdin* musical at Orpheum Theater– 12:30 p.m., \$90

Wednesday, October 11: National Weather Service– Chanhassen Tour– 9:15 a.m., \$8

Thursday, October 12: Taylors Falls River Cruise– 9 a.m., \$35

Thursday, October 19: Austin, MN Day Trip– 7:30 a.m., \$20

Wednesday, October 25: Monticello Shopping Trip– 9 a.m., \$6

Thursday, November 2: Lunch Around the World: Himalayan food in Minneapolis– 10 a.m., \$6

Tuesday, November 14: Twin Cities Bookstore Tour– 9:15 a.m., \$6

Thursday, November 16: Turtle Lake Casino Trip–7:30 a.m., \$5

Wednesday, November 29: New Hope Shopping (HyVee and more)- 9 a.m., \$6

Special In-House Events!

Wednesday, October 4: Oktoberfest Celebration: German music and food– 11 a.m.

Thursday, October 26: Animal Ambassadors: live, exotic animals– 11 a.m.

Tuesday, October 31: Halloween Celebration with Old-Time Music by Lowell Schubert– 11 a.m.

Wednesday, November 8: The Immigrant's Story: Found in Translation– 11 a.m.

Thursday, November 9: AARP presents- "Staying Sharp: Brain Games"- 12:45 p.m.

Thursday, November 30: "The Great Upper Midwest White Pine Fires" w/ Dan Hartman –11 a.m.



The Delano Senior Center is a gathering place for people of all ages. We offer classes, special events, and– of course – great coffee and conversation!

Come join us!

CITY OF INDEPENDENCE

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City Officials

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Marvin Johnson

City Council

Brad Spencer

Lynn Betts

Ray McCoy

Steve Grotting

City Officials

Planning Commission Chair

Carl Phillips

Planning Commissioners

Robert Gardner

Leith Dumas

Tom Palmquist

Steve Thompson

City Staff

Administrator/City Planner

Mark Kaltsas

Public Works Director

Larry Ende

Building Inspector

Bruce Satek

Administrative Asst.

Beth Horner

Administrative Asst.

Trish Bemmels

CITY ELECTIONS



As our Mayor mentioned in his article, November 7 is Election Day! Incumbents Brad Spencer and Lynn Betts are running for the two open City Council seats. The Mound School District has a referendum renewal question and School Board Member positions, the Orono School District has School Board Member openings, and the Rockford School District has a referendum as well as a capital project levy. By the time you receive this Newsletter absentee balloting will have begun. Voters can visit City Hall if unable to make it on November 7th. City Hall is open Monday-Thursday's 8:00-4:30 pm, and Friday's 8:00-noon.



Check out the NEW Website!

www.mapleplainfire.com

Upcoming Events

Donate & Support

Learn about our History

Find out more about joining MPFD

Highway 12 Safety Coalition

The Highway 12 Safety Coalition meets the first Thursday, every other month at 3:00 p.m. at Delano City Hall. The next meeting will be November 2nd.