

# NEWSLETTER

## MAYOR JOHNSON'S LETTER

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<b>MAYOR</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>WHPS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>SENIOR CENTER</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>DISCOVERY CENTER</b>	<b>7</b>

With summer over, all the students are back in school, the Minnesota Great Get-To-Gather (the State Fair) is past with its record setting attendance, we now hear the statement or similar comments over and over again—"where did our summer go..."?

For me, this summer was extremely busy. The priority was hosting the Small Cities Council as its Chairman for the National League of Cities the last week in July. Members came from across the United States; from Florida to Washington D.C., from Alabama to Illinois, from the States of Washington, Oregon, Wyoming and South Dakota to name a few. The actual conference was held in our City Hall and conferees stayed at the Grand Stay Hotel in Delano. The first day I gave a narrated tour of the City via bus and had the evening dinner at Windsong Golf Club. (Our city is very different from most cities so the real curious group of elected officials asked a lot of questions).

The second and third day all our invited speakers came to City Hall and gave outstanding presentations. The first speaker explained the 'Blue Light' concept at signaled intersections. Viridian gave a demonstration on the new technology for a camera and flashlight attachment to our Public Safety Officer's weapons which fascinated our guests. The Landscape Structure Park Equipment designs amazed everyone. Cont.



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

[independence.govoffice.com](http://independence.govoffice.com)

## New City Website!

[www.ci.independence.mn.us](http://www.ci.independence.mn.us)

The new website is your access to news and events, permits, links to WHPS and Maple Plain Fire Department and more!

The complete City Code is also available and searchable.

The City of Independence has a Facebook page too!

[www.facebook.com/independenceminnesota/](http://www.facebook.com/independenceminnesota/)

## Utility Customers

**Never write another check?**



You don't have to when you pay online at [www.ci.independence.mn.us](http://www.ci.independence.mn.us) or

Download "PSN Payments" from the App Store or Google Play.

\* Also, many building permits are payable online as well\*



The final day of the conference the Mayor of Little Rock, Arkansas and the current President of the National League of Cities spoke. The business portion of the conference was wrapped up by Congressman Tom Emmer, former Independence City Councilmember.

Thursday night we took everyone to the Guthrie Theatre to "West Side Story", and Friday night we had dinner on Lake Minnetonka with a presentation from the Minnehaha Watershed District.

The success of this conference was the result of the hard work of our City Staff and others, donations from several individuals and businesses, and all of our Councilmembers participation during the entire event. My chairman position for the Small Cities Council will conclude next March at the Congressional Cities Conference in Washington D.C.

Thanks to everyone who hosted a neighborhood 'Night to Unite' event. We had eight of them in Independence this year on a very beautiful evening. I'm disappointed I could not make it to every location.

The next events coming very soon will be the Delano, Loretto and Maple Plain Fire Department fall Open Houses. Show your appreciation for our Fireman's dedication. A couple departments have a fund raising meal scheduled.

For some time the staff, other agencies and the Council has been preparing a budget in preparation for the 2019 tax levy. The public hearing for the final levy will be at 6:00 p.m. on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Hennepin County's hearing will be November 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the Hennepin County Government Center. I usually attend that hearing.

I was encouraged by the number of people who voted at the Primary Election this year compared to some of the past Primary Elections. Now the important date to remember is November 6<sup>th</sup>. We will be voting on two U.S. Senate positions, the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Congressional Seat, the Governor and all the State-wide offices, and our local State Representative. Delano School District also has a School Board election. Rockford School District has two questions: one regarding school district referendum revenue authorization and the other asking for Capital Project Levy authorization to fund technology. I hope we can have 90% or better voter turnout again this year.

Until the next newsletter, have a wonderful fall!

***Marvin D. Johnson, Mayor***



WeCAN is hosting ***WineFest 2018*** on Saturday, Oct. 6, at the Voyageur Environmental Center in Minnetrista. If you've attended

this event in the past, you already know how much fun it is! If you haven't attended, here's your chance! Tickets are \$50 each. Just make a credit card donation in the amount of the number of tickets you need and type the number of tickets into the notes section. Or mail a check to 5213 Shoreline Drive, Mound, MN 55364. Hope you can join us! Contact WeCAN at 952-472-0742 for more information.

### **Loretto Fire Department Open House**

**October 13th from 4-8 pm**

There will be a delicious dinner (free will offering), games and inflatables, silent auction, face painting, fire truck rides, demonstrations, free drawings and more!





THE WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY RESERVES ARE SPONSORING THE 38<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL "VIEW SANTA" PROGRAM. IT WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. THE RESERVES WILL ALSO COLLECT NONPERISHABLE FOOD DONATIONS FOR LOCAL FOOD SHELVES.

SANTA WILL BE STOPPING AT NORTHSIDE PARK AT AN EARLIER TIME THIS YEAR.

COME TO THE INDEPENDENCE CITY HALL PARKING LOT (1920 COUNTY ROAD 90) FROM 3:45 TO 4:15 P.M. OR TO NORTHSIDE PARK (1664 BUDD AVENUE, MAPLE PLAIN) FROM 4:40 TO 5:20 P.M. TO MEET SANTA AND TAKE PHOTOS, OR SEE SANTA ON HIS ROUTE THROUGH TOWN.

**SANTA'S ROUTE AND SCHEDULE ARE:**

<u>3:45-4:15 p.m.</u> INDEPENDENCE CITY HALL	<u>5:20 p.m.</u> INDEPENDENCE ST. HOWARD AVE. DRAKE STREET	<u>5:40 p.m.</u> BUDD AVE. BRYANTWOOD DR. JOYCE ST.	<u>6:00-6:15 p.m.</u> WYMAN AVE (Haven Homes)	<u>6:45 p.m.</u> MAIN ST. WEST HALGREN RD. PARKVIEW RD. RAINBOW AVE.
<u>4:15 p.m.</u> PAGENKOPF RD. 4:25 at BECKER RD. 4:30 at INDEPENDENCE RD. 4:35 at NORTH BUDD AVE.	<u>5:30 p.m.</u> PERKINS LANE INDEPENDENCE ST. HOWARD AVE. MAIN ST. EAST	<u>5:50 p.m.</u> BRYANT ST. PRAIRIELAND AVE. JOYCE ST.	<u>6:15 p.m.</u> BRYANT ST. PIONEER AVE.	<u>7:00 p.m.</u> MAIN ST. WEST PARKVIEW RD. THREE OAKS AVE.
<u>4:40-5:20 p.m.</u> NORTHSIDE PARK				

THESE TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE DUE TO CHANGES IN THE ROUTE.





PTS Products is in the Spotlight this month as a locally owned and operated business. The company was founded in 2001 by Paul Soberg and moved into the present location at 6511 Highway 12 in Independence in 2015. PTS is a contract manufacturing company that builds electrical control panels, electric assemblies, wire harnesses and cables for OEM's and end users. The new location in Independence provided the optimal space to improve workflow, add more quality checks and increase throughput.

PTS currently employs 32 employees and is growing. The highly trained staff has the expertise to build electrical panels directly from the customer schematics and drawings. The company focuses on enclosures and panel building which includes panel design, programmable logic and motion control programming, cable harnessing, and printed circuit-board assembly. The expansion and current location have allowed PTS to take on more customers and provide services to other panel shops.

Soberg said the best part about being a business in Independence is the community and rural atmosphere while still having convenient access to the 494 loop. Most of the employees live on the west side of the metro so they appreciate not having a difficult commute. Being located on Hwy 12 has been a real advantage to promoting our business and it has drawn in many applicants. We have a highly visible sign that can promote our business and employment openings. We really value being able to hire within the community as well as utilize local businesses.

For more information on PTS Products, Inc. please visit their website at [www.ptspro.com](http://www.ptspro.com)

## *Hennepin County Lunch Bus!*



The Delano Senior Center is now offering transportation to and from lunch for western Hennepin County residents in Independence, Loretto, and Maple Plain. For a \$2.00 round-trip fare, seniors can ride our Delano Area Transportation van to and from the senior center for lunch. The van will pick up and drop off seniors at their homes, as available. The senior center hosts the Catholic Charities Senior Dining program, which offers a nutritious, tasty meal every day at noon, served in our center where you can eat with friends and neighbors. The cost is a suggested contribution of \$4.00, but no one is turned away for their inability to pay. Transportation dates vary by month. If you are interested in this service, please contact the senior center at 763-972-0574 or [senior@delano.mn.us](mailto:senior@delano.mn.us). October dates include: October 1, October 4, October 17, October 19, October 22, October 25 and October 29. For future dates, please contact the Delano Senior Center.



### *~Book Club~*

Ready Readers Book Club meet the third Wednesday of the month at 10:30. All are welcome, whether you've read the book or not. Upcoming titles:

October 17: Founding Mothers by Cokie Roberts

November 21: American Heiress by Daisy Goodwin

December 19: Poems & Christmas Stories– personal selections





## 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 and Open House!

**Saturday, October 6th**

*Open House* **1:00-4:00 pm**

*Steak Fry* **4:00-7:00 pm**

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-way 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 that 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 City has more than 56 miles of roads, and 60 cul-de-sacs that are maintained by the Public Works Department. Seasonal parking information is as follows:

- ⇒ From November 1 through April 15 of each year and between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. it shall be unlawful to park or permit to be parked, or to continue to park or permit to stand, any vehicle upon any city street.
- ⇒ Following a snow fall of 3 inches or more in depth, it shall be unlawful to park or permit to be parked, or to continue to permit to stand, any vehicle upon any street until the snow has been plowed from the street or the same has been otherwise disposed of.
- ⇒ 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 hour 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 2018-189 ECFE classes starting in 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](http://www.oronocommunityed.com). **Thursday, Oct. 11 - Dec. 20, 12:45 - 1:30 pm.** Discovery Center Rm. 204.

### Super Saturday Costume Party!

Join us for a SPOOKTACKULAR good time on **Saturday, October 27** 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

#### *We Solved the Problem! Conflict Resolution for Young Children presented by Mike Huber*

On **Thursday, November 8** from 6 - 8 pm, Mike Huber will discuss how to minimize conflict in your classroom or home and mediate conflicts when they do arise. Conflict resolution allows children to actively listen, be assertive and learn to solve problems. Mike Huber will share this important information as he has dedicated his life to serving children, families and the field of early childhood.

\$20/person at the door at the Discovery Center. Child care available, pre-registration required (\$5 per child).



#### **Orono Community Education Fall Programs– Experiences That Connect Us Together!**

The 2018 Fall brochure is available by calling the number below or you can pick one up at the Maple Plain City office, the Discovery Center, or the Orono Community Education office.

For early learning information – Call 952-746-5895

or email: [earlylearning@oronok12.mn.us](mailto:earlylearning@oronok12.mn.us)

For a full community ed catalog call 952-449-8350 or online

[www.oronocommunityed.com](http://www.oronocommunityed.com)



# Elections 2018

General Election: November 6

Pre-Register and Absentee vote **NOW** at

[www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org)

## Pre-Register to Vote and Absentee Vote NOW at [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org)

If you are a new Independence resident, or did not vote in the 2016 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. 21st

Beginning September 21st, 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](http://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](http://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.





**CITY OF  
INDEPENDENCE**

1920 County Road 90

Independence, MN 55359

Ph.: 763-479-0527

Fax: 763-479-0528

tgronstal@ci.independence.mn.us

**City Officials**

**Mayor**

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 Gronstal

**Highway 12**

**West Hennepin Safety Improvements**

**OPEN HOUSE**

**4:30-6:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday, October 2**

**Independence City Hall**

Area residents and Highway 12 motorists are invited to learn more about three planned projects on Highway 12.

- Installing concrete barrier east of Maple Plain
- Building a roundabout at County Road 90
- Intersection improvements at County Road 92



**Lifetime Dog License Only \$20!**

The City requires all dogs to be licensed. Applications may be downloaded on the website and mailed in with payment and a copy of vaccinations.

**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 1st.