

# NEWSLETTER

## MAYOR JOHNSON'S LETTER

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As I write this article, foliage is still abundant on trees and the grass continues green and growing because of all the rain and cool weather this summer and fall. It is hard to believe, but the calendar is telling us that fall is coming with its colored leaves. If you believe the "Farmers Almanac", we should be preparing for lots of snow and really cold days ahead. Regardless, let's try to enjoy fall!

Thanks again to those who hosted a Night-To-Unite event. It was a great evening and the neighborhood turnout at each location was super good.

I also saw many of our Independence residents at the groundbreaking ceremony of the new Haven Homes in Maple Plain and the pig roast dinner at Haven Homes present facility. The new complex should be a wonderful addition to the community.

The Council just approved an amendment to our Metropolitan Council Sewer Agreement which will allow the City of Loretto to



**Mayor**  
**Marvin Johnson**

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## MEETINGS

### City Council

1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

### Planning Commission

3rd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Workshops are posted

as scheduled

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

## 2020 Census

The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States. As mandated by the U.S. Constitution, America gets just one chance each decade to count its population. The data collected by the decennial census determines the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as districts for state government, and is also used to distribute billions of dollars in federal funds to local communities.

This Census data is very important for several reasons. It guides federal spending allocation of approximately \$589 billion to local communities every year. It is used to help plan roads, schools, hospitals, Continued p.2

hook on to our sewer pipe and become a part of the Metropolitan Waste Management Commission. Until now, Loretto has been self-contained.

The Council and Staff have been busy preparing for the 2020 budget. We hope to have little or no increase in our proposed levy. By the time you get this newsletter, the Council will have set the Maximum Levy. There will be four months of review and then we will have a public hearing in December and the final levy approved. The County will be doing the same. They are looking at maybe a 4.5% increase. No unit of government can increase their budget from the September proposed levy amount.

You have been hearing and reading a lot about U.S. Highway 12. The City Council, Staff and Public Safety officers are making a special effort to work with the County, Metropolitan Council, State and Federal Officials, and Transportation professionals to secure more funds committed to get the Highway 12 corridor and County road 90 and 92 intersection projects done and built right for the long term. Work is to begin in 2021 and there are some major gaps in what we think needs to be done. Please visit the City web-site at [ci.independence.mn.us](http://ci.independence.mn.us) and click on the link for 'Highway 12 Project Updates'.

We do have a City election this fall. The Mayor and two Council seats are up for election for four-year terms. The incumbents filed. Orono School Board has an election as well as a vote on a proposed levy. Mound School Board also has an election and a proposed levy. Enjoy fall and vote on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Continued from p.1 (Census)**

senior centers, and emergency services to best serve changing populations. Businesses are also assisted in locating factories and stores, recruiting employees, and conducting market research.

Every household will receive an invitation to respond either on-line, by phone, or a paper questionnaire.

***Stay tuned for more information detailing this very important responsibility of all U.S. residents!***



WeCAN is hosting ***WineFest 2019*** on Saturday, Oct. 5th, at the Voyageur Environmental Center in Minnetrista. The event will feature

wine tasting, small bites, a silent auction and an exciting live auction. All proceeds will benefit WeCAN to support our programs for low-income residents.

Tickets are \$50 per person and can be purchased by contacting WeCAN at 952-472-0742 or online at [wecanmn.org/donate](http://wecanmn.org/donate).

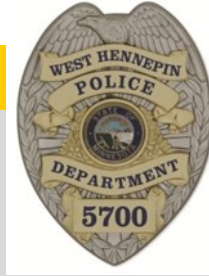
**Loretto Fire Department Open House**  
**Saturday, October 12th from 4-8 pm**  
**259 North Medina St., Loretto**

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





**Chief Gary Kroells**



## Should I call 911?

Community Members,

I write this Facebook Post to help people understand the proper use of 911 vs. calling the West Hennepin Police Non-emergency line (763) 479-0500. Over the past month we have seen a dramatic increase of calls coming into our non-emergency line vs. when that person should have called 911. Examples are traffic complaints of people driving all over the road, domestics issues between family members, runaways, civil issues, and suspicious activity in progress.

If you need a police officer to respond to your location or need to speak with a police officer, it is proper procedure to call 911. Calling 911 is the most efficient system to get an officer response. People are hesitant to call 911 because they are “not sure if its and emergency”. If you need a police officer call 911 vs. taking the time to locate a non-emergency number. By calling the non-emergency line it dramatically slows down our response time.

Additionally, people have been reporting burglaries, thefts, and suspicious activity on community Facebooks accounts without ever calling the police to report such incidents. Facebook is not the correct place to report these types of crimes. We need you to call 911 and make a report so our officers can be proactive in our patrols.

Our non-emergency line is answered by our staff 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. After those time if you call the non-emergency line your call is automatically transferred to Hennepin County Dispatch Center, which is the same location as calling 911.

## Do I need an assembly permit for my gathering?

“Assembly” means a gathering of more than 50 persons at a time. Did you know the City requires a permit for such occasions? There is a simple application on the web-site and in the City Hall office to be completed, and then approved by City Council, West Hennepin Public Safety (WHPS) and a City Official. The intent of this is for WHPS and the City to be aware since the large gathering of people can increase the potential need for fire, police and other public services. The City helps ensure noise, lighting, traffic/parking, adequate restroom facilities etc... are offered and neighboring homes will not extraordinarily be affected. Regulations can be established which protect the health, safety and welfare of all persons within the city. We’ve reduced our prices for these permits. They are as follows:



- 200+ Attendees (Large Assembly) \$100**
- 100+ Attendees (Medium Assembly) \$25**
- 50+ Attendees (Small Assembly) \$25**



## Christian Eichers' Eagle Scout Project~

### A Must See at Pioneer Park!

Last spring the City met with Christian Eichers' as he discussed his scout project ideas with us. He had sketches, plans, and details of what he wanted to accomplish. A few years ago his brother, Martin Eichers', built and put in the park various bird, bat and duck houses as well as a kiosk explaining the various birds and trees around the park. Christian wanted to supplement his brother's nature project with his own idea!

Christian 'broke ground' July 8 and built an approximately 1300 sq. ft. wildflower garden! It is located in the back of Pioneer Park near the bird houses and kiosk. To see it, you can drive to the end of the driveway and walk down the hill following the disc golf course. Christian and his fellow Delano Scout Troop 273 planted 230 different plants-51 species-in and behind the garden including native wildflowers, sedges, grasses and shrubs. Then they planted 4 other species of shrubs and trees throughout the park. Christian updated the kiosk with additional information and facts. There has already been a sighting of honey bees and pollinators! This is truly a spectacular project!



**Assistant City Administrator Horner and Christian Eichers**







## 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 5th**

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

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

*(flag retirement prior to Open House)*

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 2019-20 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 November and March.

### Early Learning Speaker Event

#### *Growing Up Digital* presented by Karen Pennaz

On **Thursday, October 24** from 5:30 – 7:30 pm, Karen will discuss the latest research, how to build positive habits, balancing coping skills, creating tech-free zones and times, the 3 C's (content, context and the child), screen impact on executive functioning skills, choosing apps, and how to avoid using technology to calm kids down. The focus will be on the core ingredients for healthy development in the digital age!

**\$5/person at the door** - Discovery Center in Maple Plain - Child care available for \$5 per child (pre-registration required)

### Super Saturday Costume Party!

Join us for a *SPOOKTACKULAR* good time on **Saturday, October 26 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!

### First Annual Giving Campaign

Be a part of the first annual Early Learning Giving Campaign. **The Giving Campaign will take place October 26 – November 9.** Help raise funds for Early Learning scholarships and curriculum enhancements.

### Early Learning Food Drive

Help us give back to the community! Donate food to our local food shelf during the food drive on **November 11-16**. Non-perishable food donations will be accepted in the front entry of the Discovery Center during this time.

For more information call 952-746-5895 or email: [earlylearning@oronok12.mn.us](mailto:earlylearning@oronok12.mn.us)

### Orono Community Education Fall Programs – A Season for New Learning!

The 2019 Fall brochure is full of classes and programs for all ages, from birth to senior citizens, taking place September - December! Register early as classes are filling quickly. If you did not receive a copy, you can pick one up at the Maple Plain City office, the Discovery Center, or the Orono Community Education office. Register online at

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

call 952-449-8350.



# Elections 2019

General Election: November 5

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 last 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. 20th

Beginning September 20th, 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.
- 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

Steve Grotting

Ray McCoy

#### **Planning Commissioners**

Robert Gardner

Leith Dumas

Tom Palmquist

Steve Thompson

Anita Volkenant

### City Staff

#### **City Administrator**

Mark Kaltsas

#### **City Planner**

Mark Kaltsas

#### **Public Works Supervisor**

Shawn Bode

#### **Assistant City Administrator**

Beth Horner

#### **Building Inspector**

Bruce Satek

#### **Administrative Assistant**

Trish Gronstal

### **Shoot some Hoops!**

The City installed a new basketball hoop at Tamarack Park.

**Come to the  
park and try it  
out!**

**4740 South  
Lake Sarah Dr.**

Basketball

Baseball

Playground



**Tamarack Park**

### **Independence Nice!**

A generous Independence resident put out an offering for passerby's to cut some flowers and make a bouquet to take!

**Spreading Beauty  
+  
Spreading Nice=**

**Another reason to love Independence!**

Take or make a fresh bouquet – summer 2019

