

# NEWSLETTER

## MAYOR JOHNSON'S LETTER

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Fall is in the air. Once the sun begins to set, the temperatures drop enough that a light jacket or sweater feels good. The State Fair is past, and the fall colors have begun to appear. The corn and soybean fields are maturing early because of the dry weather, and the golden rod yellow colors are prevalent everywhere. Fortunately, because of the recent rains we have seen, our lawns green up again as well as our hay fields and pastures.

Thanks to those who hosted Night to Unite parties in our city. After last year's cancellations because of Covid, these were welcome gatherings. We had eight locations this year and all were well attended. I was fortunate to spend a little time at six of them. We also appreciate that our Public Safety Personnel and Fire Department Volunteers could be represented at each location.

Our most pressing concern is getting back to normal with our road system. The detours for U. S. Highway 12 have been removed and hopefully traffic is flowing normally. County Road 92 from Lyndale to St. Boni will remain (Continued p.2)



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



closed until early October. We have had some major accidents on the Highway 12 detour, but unfortunately Labor Day week we ended up with a fatal accident right in front of my home. I had left just minutes before to attend our first Highway 12 Corridor Coalition meeting 'in person' at Delano City Hall since the Covid shut down.

Next spring the same detour will go into effect when the County Road 92 intersections and U. S. Highway 12 work begins. That work will conclude later in the fall next year. As a reminder, there will be a bridge built over U. S. Highway 12 and the railroad. The north and south legs of County Road 92 will be joined together not traveling on U.S. Highway 12.

The other project concluding is the work being done in City Hall. It has taken twice as long as anticipated, but it is finally nearing completion. Sorry for the inconvenience for public access during this time. Staff has also had to work with many disruptions including telephone drops and tries their best to meet everyone's needs.

After the council began meeting in person, we had council meetings in our Public Works garage with the garage doors open, in the Public Safety conference room and in the Community Room amid the construction materials. I hope when everyone finally gets to see the much-needed remodeling that you will especially appreciate the windows and natural lighting.

Put November 2<sup>nd</sup> on your calendar. That is Election Day for our City Council. It is very important that you vote! Mound School District residents also have a School Board election with many candidates.

Until our next newsletter, have a wonderful Fall and drive safely on our new stretch of roads including the 'roundabout' near City Hall. Stop in to see the renovated City Hall, vote, and stay healthy.

**Marvin D. Johnson, Mayor**



"The City of Independence, West Hennepin Public Safety, and the Highway 12 Safety Coalition have been working to secure safety improvements along the Highway 12 corridor. The opening of the new roundabout at the intersection of County Road 90 and Highway 12 is representative of the improvements secured by these efforts and marks a significant safety upgrade to the overall corridor. This new roundabout will provide Independence residents with a safe access onto, across and off of Highway 12. To date, Independence has worked to secure more than \$20,000,000 to fund safety improvements specifically for projects in the City."

~ Mark Kaltsas, City Administrator/Planner



## COULD I BECOME A RESERVE OFFICER?



The West Hennepin Public Safety Department is looking for people who are interested in serving their community as Volunteer Reserve Officers. The Reserve program provides individuals with the opportunity to work closely with a police department to gain valuable experience in a rewarding and supportive environment.

Reserve officers work alongside sworn police officers and assist with a variety of non-criminal police functions. They may help with traffic direction and security for public gatherings or traffic control at fire or accident scenes. Upon completion of training and a probationary period, Reserves may drive a marked squad car and provide prisoner transport services for the on-duty officers, as well as assisting with business and residence checks in our cities or other



**Chief Gary Kroells**



routine tasks to aid the department. Reserves also receive monthly training and full uniforms.

Please call or text the West Hennepin Reserve Coordinator Ben Anderson at 763-479-0545 with questions or for more information. Additional information regarding our Reserve Officer Program can be found on our website at <https://westhennepin.com/reserves>

Pictured: Reserve Officer Micah Vorderbruggen in action at our traffic control training event

## West Hennepin Public Safety Officer

On May 3, 2021, West Hennepin Public Safety welcomed Police Officer Scott Isaacson as the newest member to its police force. Director Kroells said, "Officer Scott Isaacson was hired after an extensive job search of a multitude of qualified candidates. He has six years' experience as a Minnesota State Patrol Trooper."

Director Kroells stated, "Officer Isaacson is a great person with an exceptional work ethic and will provide a high standard of community service to the citizens of Maple Plain and Independence." West Hennepin Public Safety officially welcomes Officer Scott Isaacson as our newest police officer for the Patrol Division.



**Officer Scott Isaacson**





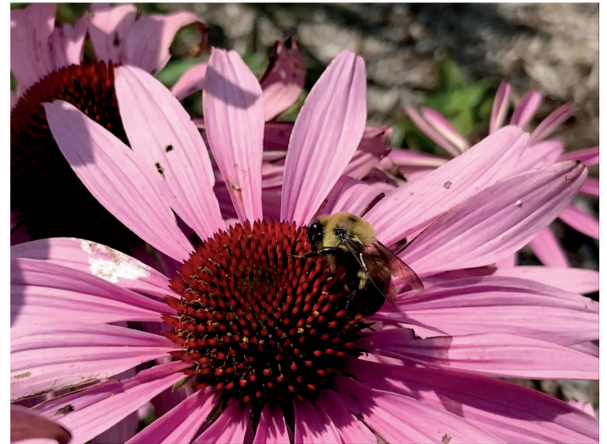
## Christian Eichers and the Beautiful Wildflower Garden at Pioneer Park

Who had visited the pollinator wildflower garden and the nature kiosk in Pioneer Creek Park when many of the wildflowers were at their peak colors in August?

We can thank Christian Eichers, a Junior at Delano High School and an Eagle Scout in Delano Troop 273, along with many volunteers' help and several local businesses' support. The pollinator garden was planted in July 2019 and it has really taken off! Christian's brother Martin led the kiosk work as part of his Eagle Scout project in 2015, and this year Christian gave it a fresh coat of stain as part of a National Honor Society project. He will also be replacing all the signs on the kiosk as well. Finally, as all gardens need freshening up, he did some weeding and topped it all with fresh mulch.



**Christian Eichers Freshening Up The Kiosk**







**Join us for the 6th Annual WineFest 2021**  
*"A VIRTUAL TOAST TO COMMUNITY"*  
**October 2**

**\$50 TICKET INCLUDES TASTING BASKET  
 VIRTUAL TASTINGS  
 ONLINE AUCTION/FUND-A-NEED CAMPAIGN  
 VISIT WECANMN.ORG**

WeCanMN's online auction and fund-a-need campaign begins on Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup> when your basket will be available for pickup, too. Virtual tasting video will be emailed on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.




**Maple Plain Fire Department**

**OPEN HOUSE**  
 October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021  
 11am – 4pm

- » **Meet the firefighters!**
- » **Fire truck rides!**
- » **Food truck!**
- » **Ice cream!**
- » **Games!**
- » **North Air Care Helicopter!**

*Fire Station*  
 1645 Pioneer Ave  
 Maple Plain, MN 55359

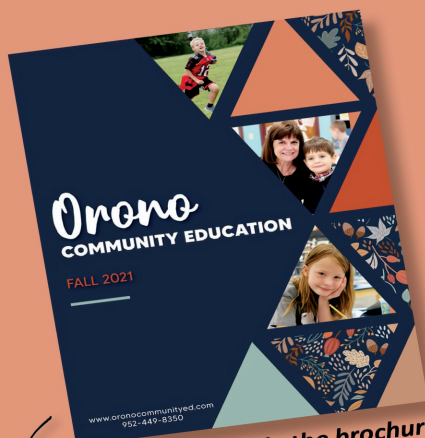
Follow Us:  



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

**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.



Take a look inside the brochure!  
 Pick up a copy at the Community Ed office in Long Lake.

# Fall

## CLASSES & OFFERINGS

**Over 200 opportunities to choose from!**  
 STEM - Art, Dance & Theater - Sports & Aquatics  
 Special Interest & Academics - Preschool  
 Adult Classes - and more!

**REGISTER**

**www.oronocommunityed.com**  
**952-449-8350**

**ORONO** Community Education  
 Orono Public Schools

**WINTER**  
 is Coming!

Registration Opens  
 Tuesday, December 14





### It's Not Too Late To Re-Secure Your Mailbox!

Whether or not you rely on Farmer's Almanac tips, a little forethought pays off before weather changes! Now is a perfect time to ensure that your mailbox posts are sturdy and set solidly in the ground and 42"- 44" above the road.

If you've installed yours with a 36" swing away kit, you're enjoying the benefits already! These kits are designed to withstand severe impact from snowplows and harsh winter conditions. The City is not responsible for mailboxes damaged by snow being pushed off roads!



Scan to get helpful mailbox specs, permit applications, & forms.

## Stay Ahead of the Season! 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 - 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.
- ⇒ Plow operators and the public safety 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.



# Elections 2021



General Election: Tuesday, November 2

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

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

## Absentee voting – Sept. 17–Nov. 1

Vote absentee either in-person at Independence City Hall or vote by mail.

**City Hall Absentee Voting** – Mondays–Thursdays, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. and Fridays 8 a.m. – noon.

**Direct balloting** – Beginning Tuesday, Oct. 26, voters can place their ballot directly into the tabulator.

**Extended hours** – Saturday, Oct. 30 (10 a.m.–3 p.m.) and Monday, Nov. 1 (8 a.m.–5 p.m.)

- See "Absentee voting in-person or by mail" below for more details.

## Nov. 2, 2021 Election Day – Voting Hours

7 a.m.– 8p.m. Being in line at 8 pm allows you to vote.

## Absentee vote in person– Sept. 17–Nov. 1

Beginning Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 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.

If you are a new Independence resident or did not vote in the last election, you can pre-register to vote now! If you are not yet 18 but will be 18 years old on Election Day, you may now also pre-register to vote. 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.

## 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.

## When You 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.



# Sample Ballots

INDEPENDENCE P-01 ISD 277 1150	INDEPENDENCE P-01 ISD 278 883 1150	INDEPENDENCE P-01 ISD 879 1150
<b>City Offices</b>	<b>City Offices</b>	<b>City Offices</b>
<b>Council Member</b> City of Independence Vote for Up to Two	<b>Council Member</b> City of Independence Vote for Up to Two	<b>Council Member</b> City of Independence Vote for Up to Two
<input type="radio"/> Margie Ritter <input type="radio"/> Brad Lee Spencer <input type="radio"/> Linda Betts <input type="radio"/> _____  write-in, if any <input type="radio"/> _____  write-in, if any <input type="radio"/> _____	<input type="radio"/> Margie Ritter <input type="radio"/> Brad Lee Spencer <input type="radio"/> Linda Betts <input type="radio"/> _____  write-in, if any <input type="radio"/> _____  write-in, if any <input type="radio"/> _____	<input type="radio"/> Margie Ritter <input type="radio"/> Brad Lee Spencer <input type="radio"/> Linda Betts <input type="radio"/> _____  write-in, if any <input type="radio"/> _____  write-in, if any <input type="radio"/> _____
<b>School District Offices</b>		<b>School District Questions</b> <b>Independent School</b> <b>District No. 879 (Delano)</b>
<b>School Board Member</b> Independent School District No. 277 (Westonka) Vote for Up to Three		<p>To vote for a question, fill in the oval next to the word "Yes" on that question. To vote against a question, fill in the oval next to the word "No" on that question.</p>
<input type="radio"/> Rachael Myers <input type="radio"/> Loren D. Davis <input type="radio"/> Katie Holt <input type="radio"/> Brian Carlson <input type="radio"/> Gregory Snyder <input type="radio"/> Gary W. Wollner <input type="radio"/> Kathleen A. Olesinski <input type="radio"/> _____  write-in, if any <input type="radio"/> _____  write-in, if any <input type="radio"/> _____  write-in, if any <input type="radio"/> _____		<p><b>School District Question 1</b></p> <p><b>Revoking Existing Referendum Revenue Authorization; Approving New Authorization</b></p> <p>The board of Independent School District No. 879 (Delano Public Schools) has proposed to revoke the school district's existing referendum revenue authorization of \$374.89 per pupil, and to replace that authorization with a new authorization of \$970 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would increase each year by the rate of inflation and be applicable for ten years beginning with taxes payable in 2022, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.</p> <p>Shall the school district's existing referendum revenue authorization be revoked and the increase in the revenue proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 879 be approved?</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Yes  <input type="radio"/> No         </p> <p><b>BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.</b></p>

LOCAL NEWSPAPERS WILL BE SHARING CANDIDATE INFORMATION DURING THE ELECTION SEASON.



Delano  
Herald  
Journal



Laker  
Pioneer



Crow  
River  
News



## West Hennepin Public Safety Police Reserves' 41<sup>st</sup> Annual "View Santa" & Food Shelf Donation Collection Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

View Santa, get candy, take photos, or see him on his route through town... and continue your generosity! \*Previous years' donations show you are on a roll, so thank you in advance to all of you who faithfully donate! **Reserves will be collecting \*food and cash donations for area food shelves.** For those who prefer donating cash, money can be mailed to or dropped off at the West Hennepin Public Safety office, 1918 County Road 90, Maple Plain MN 55359, by December 4, 2021.

*"Without our Volunteer Police Reserves this wonderful event would never take place. By working together, our citizens and your police department help fill local food shelves to provide to others who need it most. It is a truly wonderful event,"* said Director Kroells. If you'd like to donate to the Reserve Program, checks should be made payable to West Hennepin Public Safety Reserves.

**SANTA'S ROUTE:** 3:00 - 4:15 p.m. at Independence City Hall (1920 County Road 90) and from 4:45 - 5:30 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park (5050 Independence St.). Should anyone have questions regarding this year's program, please contact West Hennepin Public Safety at (763) 479-0500, visit [www.westhennepin.com](http://www.westhennepin.com), or scan the QR code for updates. \*Recent donations: 2020 (1800 lbs. food & \$720), 2019 (Covid), 2018 (1055 lbs. food & \$245)



Email your favorite photo over the years to  
[ljohnson@ci.independence.mn.us](mailto:ljohnson@ci.independence.mn.us).



Thank you to our WHPS Police Reserves!

Save the date:

Saturday, Dec. 4th  
Old Fashioned Christmas  
Downtown Delano



For more events, visit  
[DelanoSeniorCenter.com](http://DelanoSeniorCenter.com)

or scan the QR code  
with your smartphone  
camera.



**TOYS FOR TOTS**

Sponsored by City of Independence

Drop Site:  
**Independence City Hall**  
Nov. 29 – Dec. 16

Mon-Thurs 8:00 – 4:30  
Friday 8:00 - Noon

New and  
unwrapped  
toys for  
children all  
ages are  
accepted



## CITY OF INDEPENDENCE

1920 County Road 90

Independence, MN 55359

Ph.: 763-479-0527

Fax: 763-479-0528

[ljohnson@ci.independence.mn.us](mailto:ljohnson@ci.independence.mn.us)

[asimon@ci.independence.mn.us](mailto:asimon@ci.independence.mn.us)

Pre-sorted  
First Class Mail  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit #32324  
Twin Cities, MN

### City Officials

#### Mayor

Marvin Johnson

#### City Council

Brad Spencer

Lynn Betts

Ray McCoy

Steve Grotting

### 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 Assistants

Amber Simon

Linda Johnson



## LOCAL CITY OF INDEPENDENCE ELECTION INFORMATION

Easily access our City's election details by scanning this QR code with your phone's camera or a QR app.

- Election Dates & Hours
- City Council Candidates
- Sample Ballots
- Absentee Voting
- Election Results



Lynn Betts, Margie Ritter, and Brad Spencer are running for **two** open City Council seats.

Westonka School District No. 277 has three **School Board Members** being elected.

Delano School District No. 879 has one ballot question. Voting "Yes" on your ballot question is for a property tax increase.