



# FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

## MAYOR JOHNSON'S LETTER

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### City Council

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

### Planning Commission

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Workshops are  
posted as scheduled.

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

It is hard to believe that County Fairs, the State Fair, schools, colleges, the University, and organizations are all pulling our attention away from mid-summer activities. Garden produce is followed by fall colors with corn and soybean harvest in just a matter of a few weeks.

We have had our share of activities taking place in the City. Windsong Golf Course is building another 18-hole golf course across the road from their present course. Road construction has taken place on County Road 83 and Town Line Road South. Two new developments are under construction at Koch's Crossing and the Otten Farm on Perkinsville Road and Lake Independence.

Fortunately, the City has been spared from major events that seem to make headlines everyday—riots, fires, floods, tornadoes, shootings, etc. Although, I was almost done with my newsletter article before this one, when the electricity suddenly went off and the computer went dark. It was a strong windy day and a tree fell across my electric line between the transformer and my meter. Five hours later I had electricity, but no newsletter.

Thank you to our 2023 "Night to Unite" party hosts. It was a beautiful evening for such an event. Also, thanks to each who attended one of the events. It is such a good way to meet your neighbors.

The City has just had their 2022 Financial Audit Report completed. We again had the highest rating possible to attain.

Thanks to our City Staff, our outsourced accounting firm, and good council policy that makes this happen. I personally with another council



**Marvin D. Johnson**  
Mayor

member sign every check written.

Talking finances, we are now working on next year's budget. This includes separate budgets from the Fire Departments we contract with, the Public Safety Department, Public Works Department, Pioneer Creek Watershed District, Debt Payments, and Administration. We have until mid-September to determine what our initial levy will be and then the final levy is voted on in December. The December levy can be no higher than our initial established levy in September but can be reduced. When determining our levy, higher home valuations, new building valuations, any monies received from the State are considered.

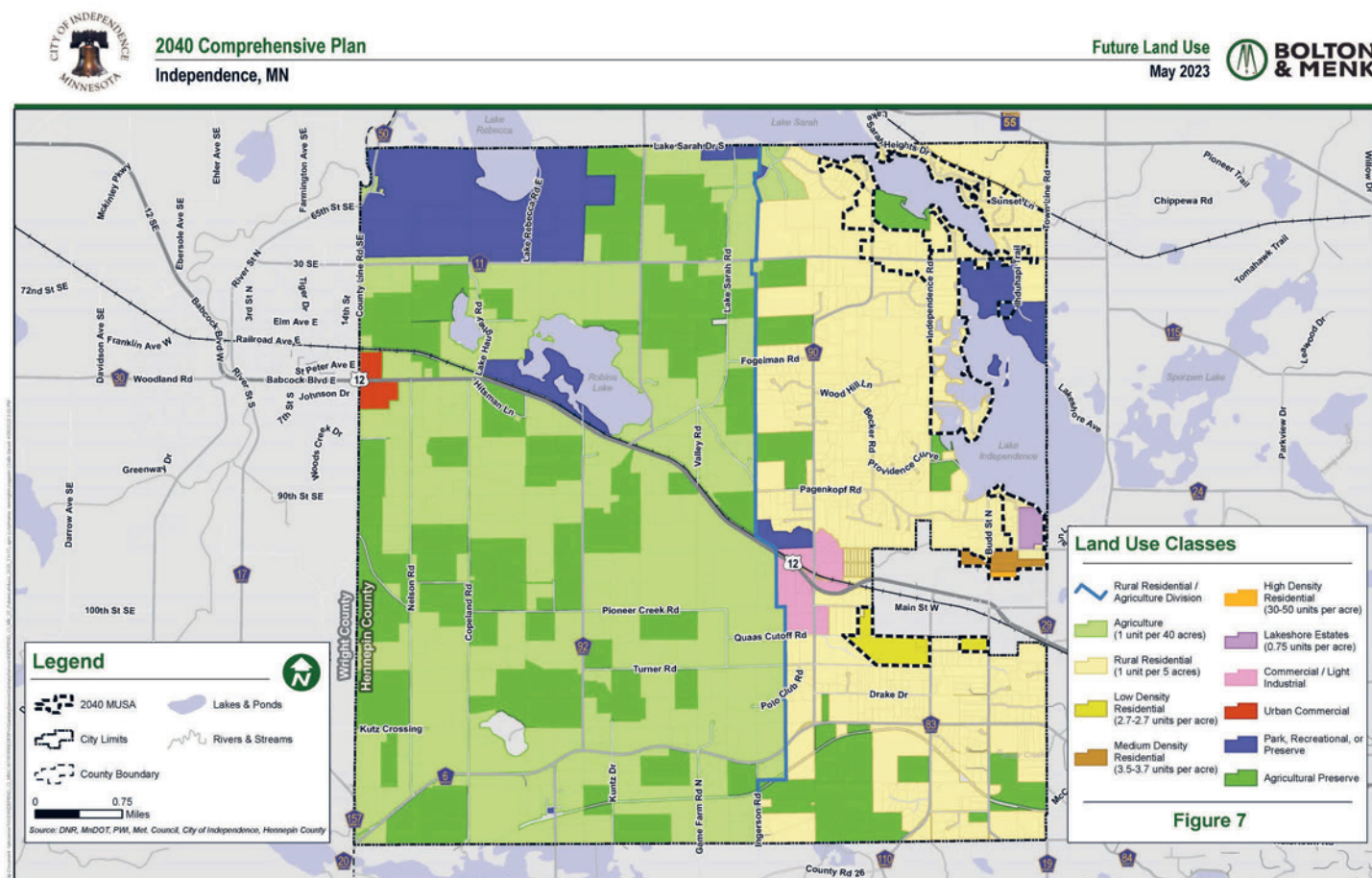
Some current considerations: Our contract for Recycling ends December 31<sup>st</sup>. Costs have changed tremendously. Stay tuned!

We are studying being a member of a Fire District rather than the Fire Contract method. We may also change the boundary lines for our Fire Departments.

We are short one person in our Public Safety Department. New qualified people are hard to come by.

Funding for Highway 55 for four lanes from County Road 19 east with the "Corridors of Commerce" fell just short because of other big projects like I94. We are urged to pursue that funding again. Enjoy fall!

*Marvin D. Johnson, Your Mayor*



(continued on page 3)



*There is a wide array of information available relating to your property. When considering any property related improvement (i.e. home addition, shed, or accessory building construction, fence installation), it is recommended that you understand several key aspects of your property.*

In response to the 2040 issuance of the regional system statements by the Metropolitan Council and in accordance with the Land Use Planning Act, the City of Independence is required to update its local comprehensive plan every ten (10) years. The comprehensive plan update ensures that the City of Independence is planned in accordance with the most recently adopted regional plans and policies. The Comprehensive Plan guides the City's land use through the year 2040. Due to changes in population forecasts, growth, and housing trends, it is imperative that the City evaluate its past and ensure that it is prepared to secure its future.

The City's Comprehensive Plan consists of many different focuses, that when combined, provide the City with a map which will guide future development. There are several key aspects of the plan that are most often referenced and applied during consideration of new development/redevelopment within the community. The portion of the plan that is most widely used and or referenced by the City on a day to day basis is the Land Use Plan. There are several key aspects of the City's plan that should be noted as follows:

The City is divided by a north south line (eastern 1/3 of City and western 2/3 of City – blue line on map) that distinguishes land that is guided for long-term agriculture and land that is guided for residential or rural residential development.

The plan was designed to concentrate residential development in locations directly adjacent to Maple Plain where existing utilities can potentially support growth and can most economically be provided (see brown, orange and yellow

areas on map).

- The City will limit and concentrate commercial and industrial development to key areas. Commercial development is not permitted outside of these strategic locations and is intended to diversify the local tax base where feasible, but not at the peril of Independence's high quality and rural character. There is an existing "Commercial Light Industrial" area located at the intersection of Highway 12 and County Road 90 and an "Urban Commercial" area at the intersection of Highway 12 and County Line Road, adjacent to Delano's commercial district (see pink and red areas on map).
- The plan will also facilitate the following goals:
  - Establish a visual identity in harmony with the physical context that reflects and respects the City of Independence's rural characteristics, historical past, and future with design solutions that are innovative, efficient, durable, beautiful and economically viable.
  - Foster a harmonious, convenient, compatible, workable relationship among a balance of all land uses and local supporting services within the community.
  - Preserve and enhance local property values. Maintain local land use controls to ensure that the City can grow and develop in accordance with the unique qualities of this community.







## Maple Plain Fire Department Continues Multi-Generational Service

Thank you to the generations of firefighters serving our communities since 1930. Current Firefighters Cory Schultz, Lt. Zach Christianson, and Chief Brad Couser continued their families' legacy as well as Chris Doyle and his sons Joe and Brian and Ray McCoy and his sons Jay and Justin.



Doyles: Joe - Chris - Brian

Chris commented, "It is rewarding to serve with my sons on the fire department. To serve our communities side by side is so awesome, and I'm so blessed to serve and watch my sons serve."

Ray commented "It is a privilege and honor to serve our citizens and communities with my sons. Seeing the passion they have for service is humbling."



McCoys: Jay - Ray - Justin



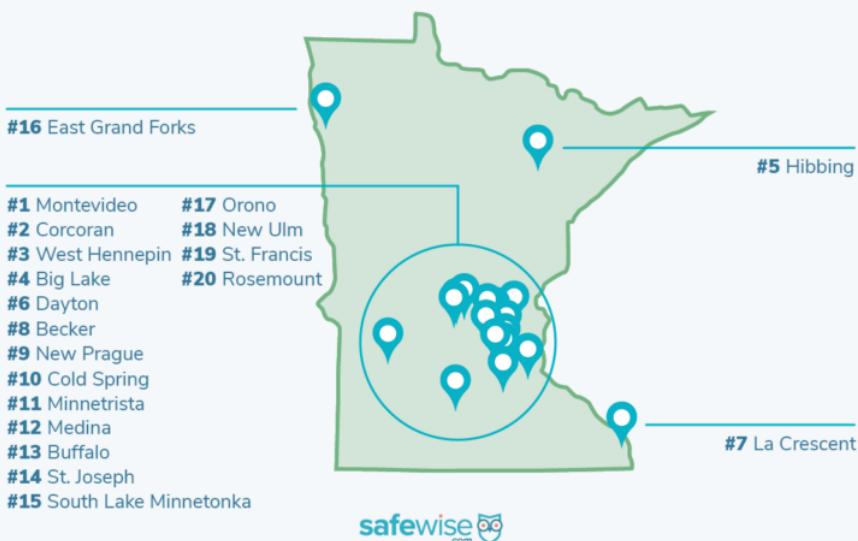
## WHPS Named 3rd Safest MN City

Congratulations to West Hennepin Public Safety/ WHPS, who provides police services to the cities of Independence and Maple Plain, for earning us Safewise's "3<sup>rd</sup> Safest City in Minnesota" recognition!

We want to thank our residents who are the eyes and ears of our community!

"Everyone, continue to stay safe and call if you need us! You can reach our office at 763-479-0500. For emergencies, call 911 immediately."

## The safest cities in Minnesota in 2023



## Full-Time Police Officer-Lateral or POST Eligible

Have you ever wanted to work at a small-town rural police department that is still within the metro area where the citizens support and honor their police officers? Then look no further! West Hennepin Public Safety Department is seeking to hire a full-time police officer and encourages laterals and POST eligible candidates to apply.

West Hennepin Public Safety Department is a local police department providing emergency services to the cities of Maple Plain and Independence along Highway 12. West Hennepin Public Safety is not the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office.

Our top patrol pay for 2023 is \$94,306 plus longevity, and our Patrol Officers have every other weekend off. We cover full medical premium costs and contribute \$3,000 to a Health Savings Account. Visit our website for the complete job posting, application materials, and additional benefits information.

Interviews will be conducted every Wednesday at 1 pm at West Hennepin Public Safety. Apply today at <https://westhennepin.com/employment>

## JOIN OUR TEAM



HONOR • COURAGE • COMMON SENSE • RESPECT & DIGNITY • LOYALTY • FAIRNESS • TRUST

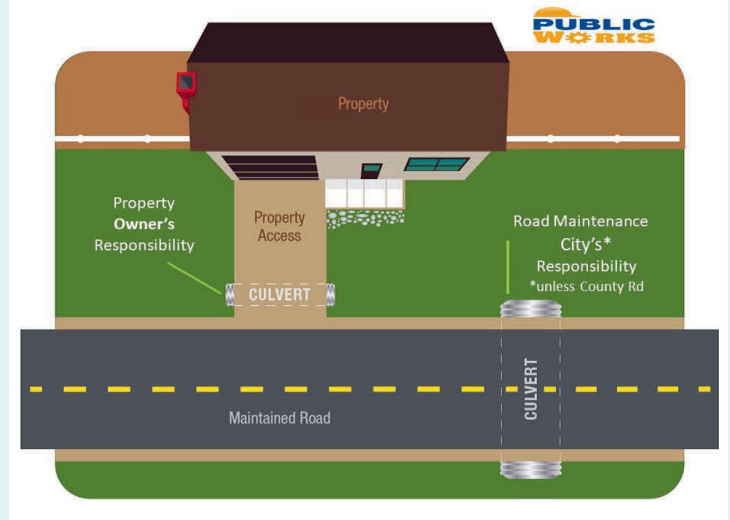
# IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROPERTY OWNERS

**CULVERTS—** Why should I be concerned about the ones near my property?

Fall is the time that the ends of culverts located on or near your property must be cleaned out. Doing so now allows for proper water flow when the spring thaws. Uncleared culverts potentially prevent drainage allowing water to flow as it should and avoids ponding up.

**As the landowner, what are my responsibilities?**

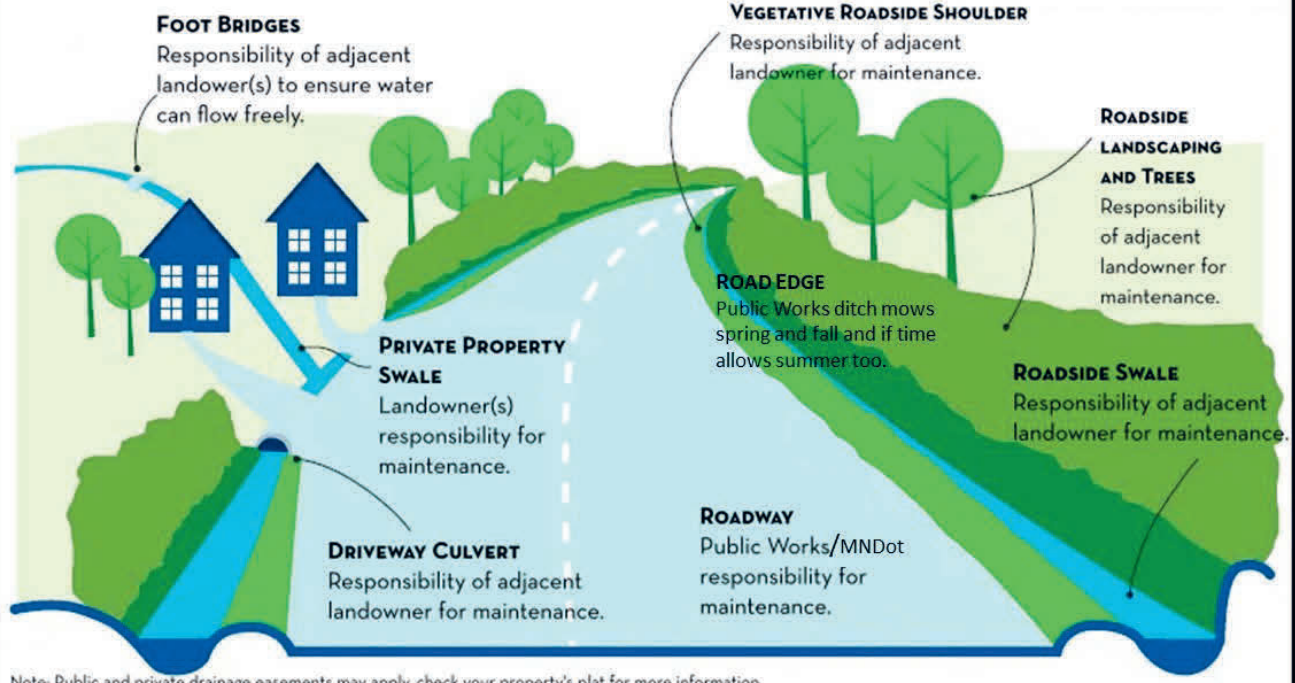
You are responsible for driveway culvert maintenance. Culvert maintenance involves keeping both the inlet and outlet of the pipe free of debris so that it works properly, including removing snow and ice during the winter months whenever possible. To further clarify who is responsible for what, this image shows which are the landowner's, adjacent landowner's, and Independence Public Works' responsibilities.



## CLEANING MASONRY FIREPLACES AND FURNACES—

A pro tip from Forbes Advisor says, “The best time to clean chimneys in your home is in the warmer months, between spring and late summer” when chimney cleaners are less busy. A clean chimney improves the energy efficiency of your home and may help you save on your energy bill).

## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT?



NOTE: Sprinkler heads are not allowed in the right of way (ROW). During snow plowing season, if the City hits them, the City is not responsible for replacing them.





**FIRST RESPONDER SOFTBALL GAME**

WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY  
- VS -  
MAPLE PLAIN FIRE DEPT

7 September 2023  
6 PM - 8 PM

VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

WWW.MAPLEPLAIN.COM  
WWW.CI.INDEPENDENCE.MN.US

TH 7<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm First Responder Softball Game  
WHPS vs. MP Fire Dept—Veterans Memorial Pk  
All are welcome to come cheer on our beloved first responders at a fun softball game.

F 8<sup>th</sup> 10am Vietnam Veteran Commemoration Ceremony Rep. Dean Phillips will pay tribute to Vietnam war-era veterans in our community.  
[www.phillips.house.gov/vietnam/](http://www.phillips.house.gov/vietnam/)

SAT 9<sup>th</sup> 3-12am Loretto Fun Fest & 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Loretto Fire Dept—Bring food drive donations to entrance. Inflatables, kiddie train, face painting, and carnival games are free! Bands begin at 4pm and fireworks at 8:30pm. Scan QR code to learn more or buy tickets before event.




**VIETNAM VETERAN COMMEMORATION Ceremony Invitation**

10 am, Friday  
Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Veterans Memorial Park  
5190 Independence St.

TH 28<sup>th</sup> 5-7pm Art in the Park - Veterans Memorial Park. Hands-on fall art projects, music, dance performances, & food trucks.

T 26<sup>th</sup> 4-5:30pm Space Engineers Hands on Art—Maple Plain Library. Grades 1-5. Learn how to make a scale model of your spaceship design using recycled materials which transports people to the Andromeda Galaxy! Free; registration required.




**CELEBRATE 75 YEARS OF THE LORETTO FIRE DEPARTMENT**

AND THE INTEGRATION OF THE WEST SUBURBAN FIRE DISTRICT

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH 2023**  
IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN LORETTO 3PM-12AM

JOIN THE LORETTO FIRE DEPARTMENT IN CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF SERVICE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ANNUAL LORETTO FUN FEST

**SPECIAL PERFORMANCES FEATURING:**  
4:00PM-6:00PM - STAMPEDE  
6:30PM-8:00PM - SHANE MARTIN  
9:00PM-MIDNIGHT - POPROCKS

Inflatables, Face Painting, Games, Food Trucks  
Fireworks at 8:30pm

SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE AND PURCHASE TICKETS BEFORE THE EVENT

## OCTOBER

### WeCAN's October Coat Drive

WeCAN will host a coat drive during October collecting new and gently used coats and new hats and mittens throughout the community. Distribution will be on Nov. 7-8<sup>th</sup> at the WeCAN office, 5213 Shoreline Dr., Mound, MN 55364. Visit [wecanmn.org](http://wecanmn.org) for details.

SAT 1<sup>st</sup> 11-4pm MP Fire Dept Open House & "Cooking Safety Starts With YOU!" Educational Week— 1645 Pioneer Ave. Activities, cookies, coffee/water, food trucks, games, fire truck rides, & meet your firefighters!

T 3<sup>rd</sup> 2-3pm Fraud & Scams Targeting Seniors at Maple Plain Library. Join an interactive presentation on how to identify and avoid scams, including Medicare & health care fraud, identity theft, & "phishing" schemes. Funded by the MN Board on Aging.



**Art in the Park**

FREE art event for the whole family!

**Thursday, September 28**  
5 - 7 pm • Veterans Memorial Park in Maple Plain

MUSIC & DANCE PERFORMANCES • HANDS-ON FALL ART PROJECTS • FOOD TRUCKS

**W 11<sup>th</sup> 10-10:45am Petite Concerts** - Maple Plain Library. Led by early childhood music specialists for 0-age 5 and caregivers. Collaborator: MacPhail Center for Music. Registration required.

**TH 12<sup>th</sup> 4-6pm WeCAN's Open House**  
Meet staff, tour facility, learn about WeCAN's community work, and purchase a tasting bucket of products.

**SAT 28<sup>th</sup> 11-1:30pm WHCC Trunk or Treat!**

## NOVEMBER

**T 7<sup>th</sup> Mound-Westonka School District Election**  
(2 questions & 4 board members) <https://www.westonka.k12.mn.us/election2023>

**T-W 7-8<sup>th</sup> WeCAN Winter Coat Distribution**

**SAT 11<sup>th</sup> Veteran's Day program** Orono HS

**TH 16<sup>th</sup> Give to the Max Day** Help WeCAN maximize the community's benevolence! Find out more: <https://www.givemn.org/donate/Western-Communities-Action-Network>

**M 27<sup>th</sup> - W 12/13 Toys 4 Tots Collection at City Hall** Only new unwrapped toys (Nerf guns, action figures, dolls, baby toys, puzzles, and non-realistic looking weapons) are accepted; no homemade toys. Gift cards are acceptable, however, they won't be given as a gift but will be used to purchase toys for distribution. We do not accept clothes, food, used or open toys, liquid products (such as cologne, perfume, body wash, lotion, toothpaste etc.). If you desire to donate these items, please find a charity in your local area that will accept them.

## A DECEMBER sneak peek

**SAT 2<sup>nd</sup> - 43<sup>RD</sup> Annual "View Santa" Fundraiser for Local Food Shelves.**

Come enjoy cookies, cocoa, and pictures with Santa at the Independence City Hall Atrium from 3:30-4:15pm, to Veterans Memorial Park (1664 Budd Ave., Maple Plain) from 4:45 - 5:30 pm, or see Santa on his route through town! Thanks to West Hennepin Reserve Officers for faithfully getting non-perishable food donations to the local food shelves again this year!



**Fall 2023**  
**CLASSES & PROGRAMS**

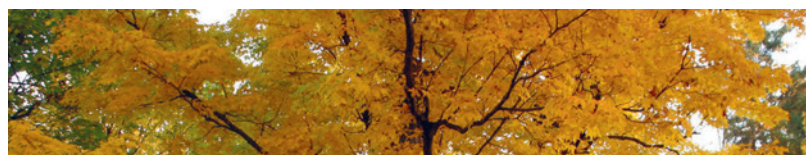
Over 200 opportunities to choose from!  
STEM - Art, Dance & Theater - Sports & Aquatics  
Special Interest & Academics - ECFE & Preschool  
Adult Classes - and more!

Take a look inside the brochure!



**REGISTRATION IS OPEN**  
[www.oronocommunityed.com](http://www.oronocommunityed.com)  
952-449-8350

**Orono Community Education**  
Orono Public Schools

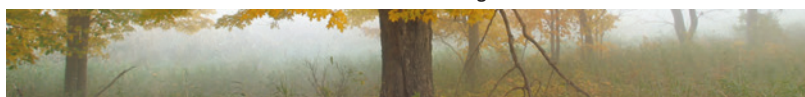


SAVE THE DATE!  
West Hennepin Chamber of Commerce's  
**TRUNK OR TREAT**



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**  
11 AM - 1:30 PM

Watch for details coming soon!




**Drop Site:**  
**Independence City Hall**  
**Nov. 27 - Dec. 13**

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

Unwrapped,  
New Toys for  
Children of  
All Ages are  
Accepted!

**TOYS FOR TOTS**





## CITY OF INDEPENDENCE

1920 County Road 90

Independence, MN 55359

Ph: 763-479-0527

Fax: 763-479-0528

ljohnson@ci.independence.mn.us

asimon@ci.independence.mn.us

HOURS:

Monday-Thursday: 8-4:30, Friday: 8-noon

### CITY OFFICIALS

#### Mayor

Marvin Johnson

#### City Council

Brad Spencer

Lynn Betts

Ray McCoy

Steve Grotting

#### Planning Commissioners

Robert Gardner, Chair

Anita Volkenant

Leith Dumas

Hal Tearse

Steve Thompson

Jon-Paul Story, Alternate

Timothy Usset, Alternate

#### Administrator/City Planner

Mark Kaltsas

#### Public Works Supervisor

Shawn Bode

#### Building Inspector

Bruce Satek

### CITY STAFF

#### Admin. Services Director

Amber Simon

#### Administrative Asst.

Linda Johnson

Carrie Solien

Simple as 1-2-3



#### 1. Know what to throw

Cardboard, paper, metal cans, plastic bottles and jugs



#### 2. Empty. Clean. Dry.™

Keep all recyclables free of food and liquid



#### 3. Don't bag it

Never put recyclables in containers or bags



**NEVER** place these  
contaminants in the  
recycling container



**Plastic Bags  
& Wrappers**



**Styrofoam**



**Greasy Pizza  
Boxes**



**Food**



**Electronics  
& Batteries**



**Yard Waste**



**Diapers**



**Soiled Paper**



**Clothing & Shoes**



**Tools**



**Toys**



**Construction  
Waste**



**Medical**



**Scrap Metal**

Trying to recycle unclean or unrecyclable material causes all kinds of avoidable problems. It increases sorting time, damages the sorting facility's equipment, and contaminates the bales of clean recyclables. When this happens, we have to put the entire load of recyclables into our landfills due to the contamination.

### Empty. Clean. Dry.™

Your recycling container should only contain empty, clean and dry cardboard, paper, metal cans, plastic bottles and jugs.



Empty



Clean



Dry