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MEETINGS

CITY COUNCIL

1st & 3rd Tuesdays 6:30pm

PLANNING COMMISSION

3rd Tuesday 7:30pm

City Officials

Mayor Brad Spencer

City Council

Lynn Betts

Brad Fisher

Ray McCoy

Steve Grotting

Planning Commissioners

Robert Gardner, Chair

Anita Volkenant

Leith Dumas

Hal Tearse

Steve Thompson

Jon-Paul Story, Alternate

Timothy Usset, Alternate

A NOTE FROM THE MAYOR

Hard to believe summer has already come and gone! I hope everyone was able to enjoy our beautiful city, its lakes, and our parks in between the raindrops. According to the Chanhassen Weather Station, our area saw above-normal rainfall through mid-August—though still not as much as the record-setting year of 2014.

That rain has had some ripple effects. The frequent showers delayed much of the State's road improvement projects and pushed contractors behind schedule. Our project, originally slated for July, has now been pushed to late August or early September. Let's all cross our fingers for some dry weather—we'll do everything possible to keep things moving so these improvements can be completed in 2025.

Also falling victim to the rain was the McGarry's Pub Golf Scramble which was to be hosted by owner/chef James Leeder-Botnan at Pioneer Creek Golf Course on August 18 has been rescheduled for September 15. Proceeds will benefit Maple Plain Fire and West Hennepin Public Safety.

I want to thank all the neighbors who hosted Night to Unite/National Night Out gatherings this summer. We had seven N2U parties here in Independence, and I did my best to stop by as many as I could. My apologies to those I missed—your efforts are truly appreciated, and these neighborhood gatherings strengthen our community in such an important way.

Another highlight this summer has been the productive discussions between Maple Plain Fire and the West Suburban Fire District (formerly Loretto FD and Hamel FD). A combination of these departments would benefit both residents and our volunteer firefighters. A joint council meeting was held recently to discuss next steps, and more information will be shared between now and the end of 2025.

The 36th Annual Charity Polo Classic was held August 3 at the Polo Grounds on Turner Road, benefiting This Old Horse. The 37th Annual Classic is already set for August 2, 2026—mark your calendars!

And finally, as summer fades into fall, please remember: schools are back in session, buses are on the road, and kids are out there. Give them—and their buses—a brake!

Thank you all for making Independence such a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

With gratitude,

Brad Spencer Mayor, City of Independence, MN



Mayor Brad Spencer

GRAVEL ROAD PROJECT

Significant gravel roadway improvements will improve gravel roads throughout the city. A total of approximately 18 miles of gravel roadway will be upgraded as part of this Capital Improvement Plan project.

The enhancements to the gravel roads will include the following:

- Gravel Recapping (adding new gravel on top of existing road)
- Drain Tile Improvements
- Spot Soil Stabilization Corrections
- Stormwater Management Spot Repairs
- Stormwater Culvert Replacements

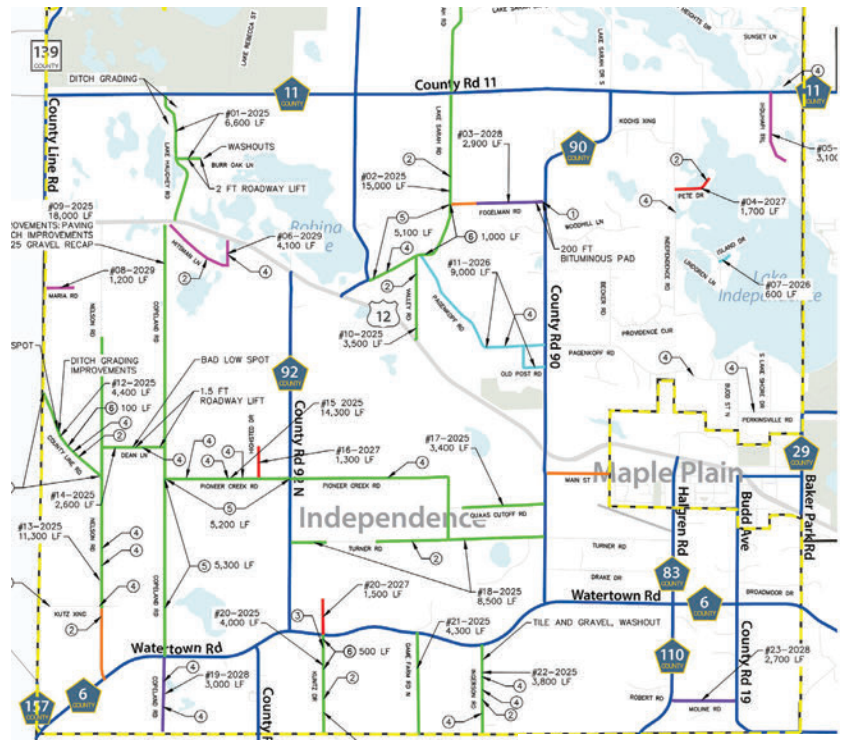
Ditch Grading Improvements

Due to significant rain events this summer, the project will now begin in the beginning of September and be substantially complete by the end of November. Please contact City Hall with any questions relating to the gravel road project.

First Phase: County Line Phase will start On September 8, 2025, and will end around September 29, 2025.

Next Phase: Are the Pioneer Phase starts September 29, 2025, ends around October 23, 2025.

Last Phase: Lake Sarah Phase starts October 26, 2025, end around November 20, 2025



The contractor will begin working by installing temporary traffic control signs and erosion control fencing (or similar). The contractor will then begin working on any culvert or stormwater pipe installation and ditch grading where specified on the approved plans. The gravel road work will be done next and will be followed by any required restoration work. Please note that the roads will remain open to vehicular traffic; however, there may be minor delays/lane closures to allow the work to be performed. It is anticipated that your roads will be substantially completed by the end of September (weather permitting).



Thank you to Ms. King, Mayor Spencer and Mr. Burak for completing Keegan's eagle board of review on Tuesday July 29, 2025. We are truly grateful to everyone who helped Keegan get this far and to Keegan for staying committed. We plan to have a celebration this fall with other scouts in our troop that hopefully make it through the process.



West Hennepin Public Safety Department would like to thank our citizens for making Night to Unite a tremendous event for Independence and Maple Plain this year.

West Hennepin Public Safety, Maple Plain Fire Department and West Suburban Fire District will continue to work with our communities and its neighborhoods to promote crime prevention using National Night to Unite. Together we are a safer community.

WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY INTRODUCES THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE TEAM, DAN LUETH AND AVERY FREEMAN



Officer Dan Lueth

Officer Dan Lueth has an Associate's Degree in law enforcement from Alexandria Technical College and a Bachelor's Degree in business management from St Cloud State University. Officer Lueth

comes to WHPS with over 20 years' experience as a Part-time Police Officer, including one year with WHPS. Dan also has 20 years of experience in the insurance industry, primarily investigating insurance fraud.

Chief DuRose believes Officer Lueth is a great addition to the team. "Dan brings both law enforcement and other life experience with him to the team. Since joining WHPS as a Part-time Officer, Dan has demonstrated a genuine commitment to the communities we serve."

Officer Lueth stated, "I was led to move from part-time to full-time with WHPS due to the support from both within the department and from the communities we serve. I look forward to continuing to serve the communities of Maple Plain and Independence with both passion and compassion."



Officer Avery Freeman

Officer Avery Freeman joined West Hennepin Public Safety through the Intensive Comprehensive Peace Officer Education and Training program (ICPOET), which allows individuals looking to pursue a career transition into law enforcement through an abbreviated program at Hennepin

Technical College. Officer Freeman previously worked in the private sector.

Chief DuRose is confident that Officer Freeman will continue to learn and grow in his new profession. "Avery has been a great student of the profession and continues to embrace new learning opportunities. Avery has already shown an eagerness for community engagement and I expect that to continue for him."

Officer Freeman stated, "With brothers in law enforcement, I had been looking to make the change into the field and the ICPOET program was both a great fit and great timing for me. I am happy to be at West Hennepin and I look forward to meeting the community as I grow into my new role."

Chief DuRose went on to say, "we're fortunate to have such promising new officers on our department, and I look forward to seeing the positive impact they will continue to make in the months and years ahead."



FIRST RESPONDER UPDATES

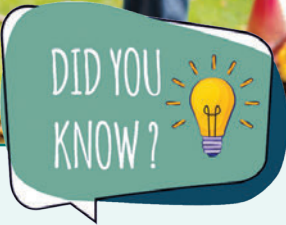
West Hennepin Public Safety is proud to introduce the newest member of our team, Micah Vorderbruggen, as our new Patrol Officer. Micah recently graduated with a Law Enforcement degree from Hennepin Technical College in 2024. Micah previously worked at West Hennepin Public Safety Department as a Community Service Officer and a Reserve Officer.

Chief Kroells stated, "Our Agency is honored Micah joined our team. Finding such a well-rounded law enforcement candidate who has a passion to serve is hard to find. Officer Vorderbruggen is a top candidate which will have an immediate impact on our agency and the citizens we serve."

Officer Vorderbruggen stated, "I am honored to start my Law Enforcement career at West Hennepin Public Safety. I am excited to serve and make a difference in Maple Plain and Independence."



Storytelling with the Chief of Police Independence Matt DuRose and Chief of Maple Plain fire department Rick Denneson



MATERIALS DROP OFF

All SET and **The Mulch Store** locations in accept yard waste, wood waste, soil, and sod for drop off during normal business hours. In addition, our Empire Township location accepts commercial and residential organics for recycling. We are experts in Minnesota yard waste disposal.

Yard Waste, Wood Waste, Soil & Sod

Prices listed are for residential customers. Contractors should contact us online for pricing.

- Leaves & Grass (\$13.00/cubic yard or \$3.00/kraft paper lawn bag)
- Brush (\$21.00/cubic yard)
- Logs (\$21.00/cubic yard)
- Stumps (\$40.00/cubic yard)
- Wood/Tree Service Chips (\$12.50/cubic yard)
- Sod and Soil (\$10.00/cubic yard)

Useful Measurement References

- 1 yard is approximately 6 full wheelbarrows of material
- A medium size pickup holds approximately 1.5 yards of material level with the side rails
- A full-size pickup with a regular box holds approximately 2 yards of material level with the side rails
- A full-size pickup with an extended box holds approximately 2.5 yards of material level with the side rails

Questions about Minnesota yard waste disposal or drop-off? Work with us to dispose of leaves and grass, brush, logs and stumps, wood and tree chips, sod, and soil. If you have questions about how to dispose of a specific material, please contact our experts today to discuss your project.

Visit: [add website here](#) or [add website here](#) for more information.

WHAT WOULD BRUCE DO

If you haven't met the City of Independence's beloved Building Official, Bruce Satek, homeowners appreciate his practical insights. He's been a faithful asset for 20 years!

Bruce's Fall Reminders

SEPTIC

- Keep long grass on septic to help prevent from freezing.
- Keeping it pumped every 3-5 years allows it to be compliant and helps homeowners avoid costly repairs.

CHIMNEY FIRES

Chimney fires can be dangerous if the flue is not kept clean. Creosote can build up in chimney and cause fires. Burning Creosote logs doesn't work as well as brushing does for getting the creosote out of the chimneys.



CELEBRATE THE GILLESPIE CENTER'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY!

Saturday, October 25th

Pork Chop Dinner, Band (The Abiders), Silent Auction, Wine Pull
5:00 PM – 11:00 PM

All are welcome!

Tickets \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door.

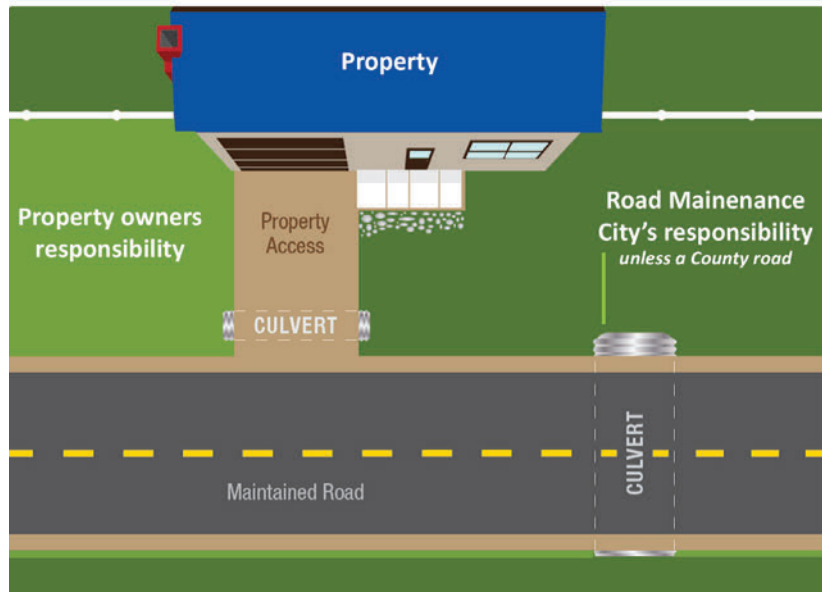
IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROPERTY OWNERS

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.

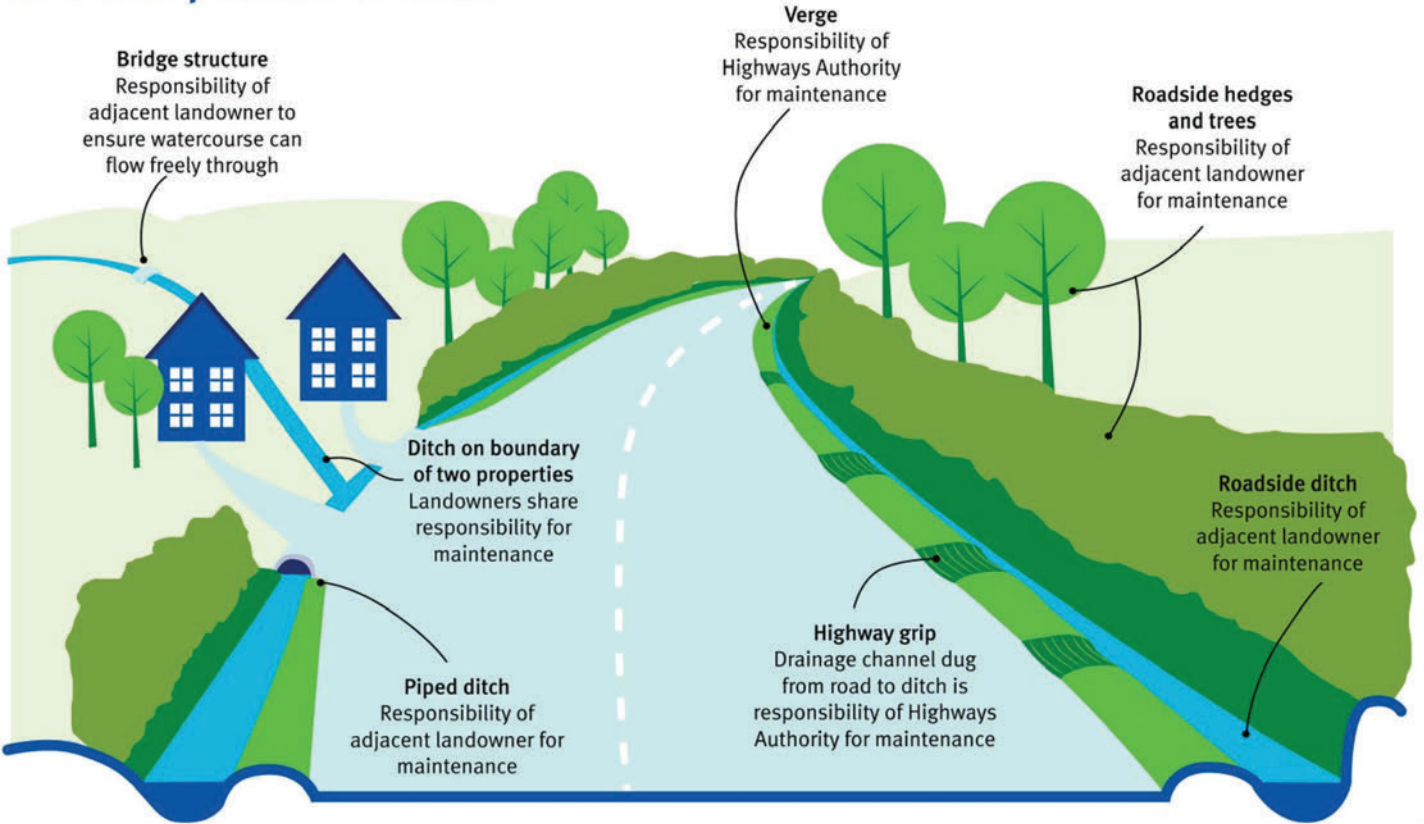
As the landowner, what are my responsibilities?

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.



WHERE TO PLACE YOUR GARBAGE CANS DURING WINTER

Heavy snow accumulation, icy roads and/or poor visibility during snow removal can make it difficult for snowplows to avoid garbage cans placed alongside the road. PLEASE do not place garbage cans in the roadway. We realize this cleared area is an inviting location to place garbage cans, but it creates a hazard as they can be hit by vehicles or by snowplows.

Most garbage trucks are equipped with a hydraulic arm that grasps garbage cans. It is recommended that garbage cans be placed at least 3 to 5 feet off the edge of pavement (but not on top of snow piles), into your driveway, so they are out of the way of the snowplow while the snowplow is clearing the road. Please keep in mind, the Highway Department is NOT responsible for damaged garbage cans.



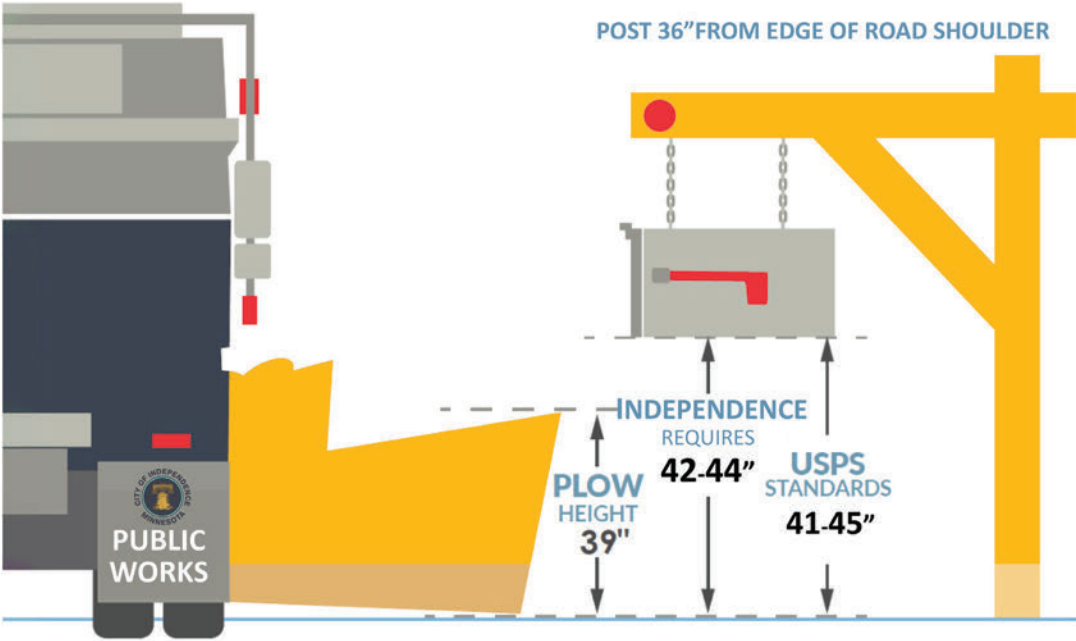
NO PARKING - FOLLOWING A 3-INCH SNOW FALL

On street parking is prohibited until a street has been plowed curb to curb.

SEASONAL PARKING

November 1 - April 14

Between the hours of 2 a.m. and 8 a.m. on street parking, of any vehicle, is prohibited.



YOUR MAILBOX PLACEMENT IS IMPORTANT!

ENSURE YOUR MAILBOX POSTS ARE STURDY AND SET SOLIDLY IN THE GROUND. THE CITY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR MAILBOXES DAMAGED BY SNOW BEING PUSHED OFF ROADS WHEN THEY ARE NOT PLACED WITHIN THE CITY'S MAILBOX REGULATIONS.

Thank you for your cooperation!

RECYCLING COLLECTION CALENDAR Sustainability in Action

■ Holiday - Service is delayed one day
 ■ North of Highway 12 but west of County Road 90
 ■ South of Highway 12/North of Highway 12 and east of County Road 90

SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
											1	2	3	4						1		1	2	3	4	5	6
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			



Trucks, Food & Fun!

Raffle

Bring the Whole Family!

Silent Auction

Saturday, September 20, 2025

3:00pm – 9:00pm

Hot Dogs
Fire Truck Rides



Spray House
Bounce House

West Suburban Fire
Station #2

92 Hamel Rd
Hamel, MN

**PREORDER
NOW!**



Online order QR

WEST SUBURBAN FIRE

ANNUAL HOMETOWNE PIZZA FUNDRAISER

Monday, October 13th, 2025

3PM— 9PM

**Deliveries made by firefighters in
the West Suburban Fire Trucks!**

**25% of all sale and 100% of tips and
donations go to the department!**



Fire fighters will also be at Hometowne Pizza, if you would
prefer to pick-up your order.



**Call 763-478-3121, go online to
www.hometownepizza.com or
stop by Hometowne Pizza at
212 Clydesdale Trail, Medina.**

BATTLE OF THE BADGES



Rain and wet field conditions also forced the rescheduling of the annual First Responder Softball Game at Veterans Memorial Park. West Hennepin Public Safety faced off against our Maple Plain Firefighters on August 26 with special guest umpire Gary Kroells calling the plays. The Smoke Eaters were up by 10 runs in the 5th inning but gave up 12 runs by the middle of the 6th. With three runs needed to win the Mighty Firefighters bats failed the test and the Police triumphed again. Thank you to Forkless for providing the Pizza and Chicken for our First Responders following the game!

Save the Date



The West Hennepin Public Safety Reserves are
Sponsoring the 42nd annual "View Santa" program.

Saturday, December 6, 2025

3:30 to 4:15 p.m. ❄ Independence City Hall Atrium

4:45 to 5:30 p.m. ❄ Maple Plain Veterans Memorial Park

Meet Santa and take photos or
see Santa on his route through town.

The reserves will also collect nonperishable food
donations for local food shelves.



1920 County Road 90
Independence, MN 55359

Ph: 763-479-0527

Fax: 763-479-0528

csolien@ci.independence.mn.us

asimon@ci.independence.mn.us

City Staff

Administrator, City Planner	Mark Kaltsas
Admin. Services Dir.	Amber Simon
Public Works Supervisor	Ben Lehman
Building Official	Bruce Satek
Permit and Utility Analyst	Carrie Solien
Receptionist	Katie Powell



You're Invited!

OPEN HOUSE

October 6th, 2025
5:00-7:30 pm
Maple Plain Fire Station
1645 Pioneer Ave
Maple Plain, MN 55359



Things to do:

- Fire truck rides!
- Learn about becoming a firefighter!
- Test your skill with a fire hose!
- See an ambulance, police car, and SWAT vehicle!

Follow Us:



ART IN THE PARK

September 30

5-7 p.m.

Free event. Open to all!

Veterans Memorial Park, Maple Plain
Join us for hands on art projects,
live music, and more!



Sponsored by City of Independence, MN

Drop Site:

Independence City Hall

Nov. 24 – Dec. 12

Mon-Thurs 8:00 – 4:30

Friday 8:00 - Noon

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



TOYS FOR TOTS