



SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER

MAYOR JOHNSON'S LETTER

Is spring just around the corner? With no January thaws and only a couple warmer days in February, I think most of us are ready for spring. Longer hours of daylight during the day, the sun melting snow on the south slopes and road banks, daylight saving time starting and people preparing for maple sapping, at least we have the feeling that spring is approaching soon. I'm ready for it! However, I realize that some of our biggest snow falls can happen in the spring, but at least it disappears quite soon.

Every ten years spring also is the time when new boundaries are drawn, because of population changes, usually by the courts, for our legislative districts (State and Federal) as well as our County Commissioner District. Our House District is now 37A which is pretty much the same, but our 37B partner is the City of Maple Grove. Before it was more the lake area from Mound to

Chanhassen. Our Congressional District is still #3, basically west suburban Hennepin County, but instead of including some of Carver County it includes Coon Rapids and Blaine in Anoka County.

Spring also means the time when our **property valuation statements** appear in our mailbox from Hennepin County. Mine have arrived already. Don't be surprised to see an increase in valuation because of the hot real estate market for the last couple of years. However, if the increase is higher than the city's average, (approximately 19.3% for homes, 16.2% for homes on the lake, and 19% for farmland, or \$200 per acre on the farm programs) and you *didn't* remodel, add to, or build another building in the last eighteen months, you may want to inquire of the County Assessor of the reason for a larger than average increase. After that, you still have opportunity to appeal before the City Council on April 5th or the County after that. (A prime example could be that your Agriculture Preserve Status has expired or you have not filed or do not qualify for "Green Acres" on your acreage.)

The first thing to do if you have questions is to call the Assessor's office at #763-999-8992 or Mel Potter at #612-348-3046. If you still have questions



Marvin D. Johnson
Mayor

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE	2
CITY GOV EDU- COUNCIL MTGS	3
WHPS- HWY 12 PROJECT & NEW HIRE	4
ROAD RESTRICTIONS & NEW RECYCLE CALENDAR	5
CALENDAR EVENTS	6
MAY 7 TH CLEAN UP DAY	7
RESIDENTS FEEDBACK	8

MEETINGS

City Council

1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission

3rd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Workshops are

posted as scheduled.

www.ci.independence.mn.us



and want to address the Council, be sure and call City Hall and get on the agenda for the **Board of Appeal and Equalization Council Meeting on April 5th**. If you are still in disagreement, you then have the right to appeal before the County Board of Appeal in a virtual setting.

Another sign of spring this year will be the work beginning at the Intersection of **U. S. Highway 12 and County Road 92 north and south**. That will mean a Highway 12 detour to County Road 6 until the project is completed this fall. The detour will be between County Road 92 south and County Road 90, but I am sure much of the east bound traffic will continue on County Road 6 till it intersects at U. S. 12 in Orono. West bound Highway 12 traffic will not be detoured until the Roundabout at County Road 90. Maple Plain and Independence businesses will be easy to access this year.

This spring MNDot held another virtual open house regarding future upgrades on the entire roadway of U.S. Highway 12 from Maple Plain to Delano. Because of several requests, the County is also considering making permanent the four-way stop at County Road 11 and County Road 90 after construction is completed on County Road 92. (See the QR code for full details and complete their online survey to give your input.)



This spring we will again have another one day **“Clean Up Day” on Saturday, May 7th** from 9am—noon for residents.

Enjoy or endure what is left of winter as we approach another spring. Be especially cautious for icy patches when on foot or driving.

Marvin D. Johnson, Your Mayor

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE—ALTERNATE SEAT IS OPEN



TOM PALMQUIST has faithfully served on the Independence Planning Commission for 8 years. He has been a valuable member offering his time and expertise on planning, zoning, and building issues that were presented each month. Tom and his family have lived in Independence for over 24 years. They have sold their home and will be moving to their lake home up north. Please join us in thanking Tom for his service.

HAL TEARSE - NEW PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER

We would like to welcome Hal Tearse as our newest Planning Commission member! He began as a Planning Commission alternate in August 2021, and with the departure of Tom Palmquist, he agreed to fill Tom's seat. Hal and his family have lived in Independence for 7 years. He has had planning experience in his business career and is eager to continue this role. Welcome, Hal!

Those interested in serving on the Planning Commission as an Alternate are invited to complete an application.





In efforts to educate residents of city governing and where to find relevant information, a variety of topics will be covered each newsletter.

Staying Informed About City Council: Meeting Topics and Attending Meetings

The city council conducts its business in meetings through motions, resolutions, and [ordinances](#) using Robert's Rules of Order and utilizes The League of Minnesota Cities resources. City ordinances can be viewed using this QR code or from the website selecting "Government," clicking "City Code" to use the search icon or the Table of Contents. City council meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays monthly at 6:30 pm, unless there is an election conflict. One may attend city council meetings in person or watch them online.



City Council Meeting Agendas and Informational Packets

Agendas and packets are posted on the City's website the Friday prior to the date of the city council meeting. Council members use the packets to prepare for council meetings and are available to the public. The [agendas](#) and [packets](#) can be viewed on our website by clicking on the "Government" drop down menu, then clicking "Mayor and City Council," then "Agendas" or "Packets" or use the following link.



<https://www.ci.independence.mn.us/government/mayor-and-city-council/agendas>
<https://www.ci.independence.mn.us/government/mayor-and-city-council/packets>

City Council Meeting Agendas

If you'd like to be added to a city council meeting agenda, please call #763-479-0527 or email bhorner@ci.independence.mn.us.

Attending Council Meetings

The City now has multiple options for attending city council meetings. Meetings can be attended in person at City Hall or virtually by registering online for a link to the meeting. In order to attend virtually, please visit the City's website to register for a meeting link. You will be required to enter an email address for security purposes in order to obtain a meeting link. Virtual attendees can participate in the live meeting by virtually "raising your hand" in the Zoom app during a meeting. If a computer or internet connection is *not* available, there is a dial in



phone option as well. Virtual meeting links can be found by clicking on the "Meetings" tab on the website's home page or by using this link or QR code:

<https://www.ci.independence.mn.us/meetings>

Accessing Past Meetings

If you can't attend city council meetings on the night they meet, they are also broadcast after the meetings (not live) on the local cable network or Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission's website.

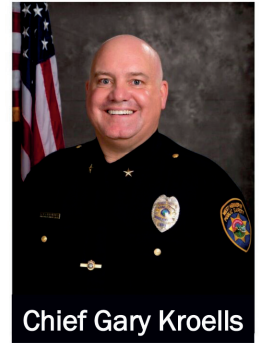
<https://www.lmcc-tv.org>

We hope you have found this helpful. Please see the Residents Feedback Form on the back page to share your thoughts on ways you best receive information from the city and what you would like to see more of.

Thank you!



PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS CHIEF'S DESK WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

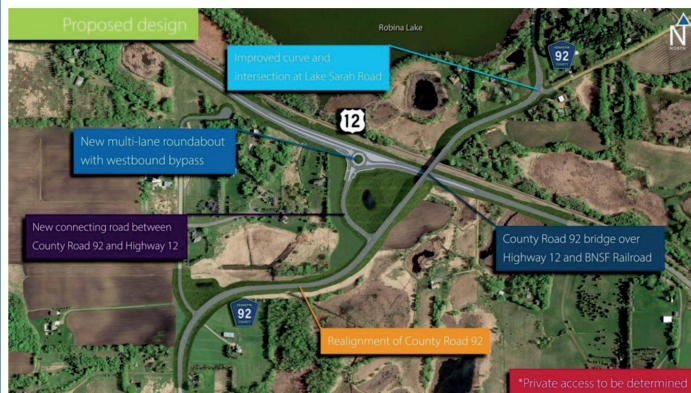


Safety Improvement for Hwy. 12 & Cty. Rd 92 Starting Spring 2022



Last year all of us traveling Hwy 12 experienced significant traffic delays due to three construction projects along Hwy 12. Those projects included a new round-a-bout at County Road 90, a new center concrete barrier between County Road 6 and Baker Park Road, and the start of a new intersection at County Road 92 and Hwy 12. I am proud to report two of the three projects were successfully completed as scheduled. The third and final intersection improvement at County Road 92 is set to start again soon in the Spring of 2022.

View of the construction area south of Highway 12, where the roadways are being realigned and work on the new bridge has begun.



With the construction of a new intersection at Hwy 12 at County Road 92, it will be completely closed in both directions once construction crews can get started with the project. Currently, we do not know the exact closure of Hwy 12 due to weather. We will have updated information such as road closures, detours, and construction timelines posted on our social media, and additional information regarding this project can be obtained by going to Hennepin County's website at www.hennepin.us/county-road-92-safety. The completion of this project is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2022. These construction projects come

with delays and many months of detours. We must be patient and work together to improve Highway 12. Together we will save lives along Highway 12!

WHPS Welcomes Eva Stumpf—New Administrative Assistant



I am excited to introduce our newest member of our team, Eva Stumpf as our new Administrative Assistant. Eva comes from Wright County Sheriff's Office where she was a Civilian Communications Officer. Eva has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Northwestern, St. Paul and has a Certificate in Law Enforcement received from Hennepin Technical College. Eva resides in Waverly with her husband and child.

"I look forward to my career at West Hennepin Public Safety and I'm very excited for the opportunity to serve the residents of Maple Plain and Independence."

Chief Kroells stated, "After a lengthy hiring process Eva Stumpf came out on top of the candidate list with an exceptional work ethic. We are fortunate to have Eva join our team and serve the citizens of Maple Plain and Independence."



SEASONAL ROAD WEIGHT LIMITS RESTRICTIONS

BEGAN MONDAY, MARCH 14th, 2022

It's that time of year again to rejoice that spring has arrived which means that road weight restrictions have begun! There are 4-ton limits on gravel roads and 5-ton limits on asphalt roads. Road weight restrictions protect our roads while keeping costs down for taxpayers. **Before scheduling any large deliveries, contact Public Works Director at #763-479-0531 or check the website for specifics.** To see the specific City Code/Ordinances on Road Restrictions on our website, click on Government—City Code and then type "Road Restrictions" to search.

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Revised 2022 calendar reflecting the change for customers south of Hwy 12. Effective of April 1, 2022

The old **Red** is the new Gray


City of Independence

2022 Every Other Week Single Sort Recycle Collection

 North of Hwy 12 but West of Co Rd 90

 South of Hwy 12 and North Of Hwy 12 and East of Co Rd 90

Holidays Observed: New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day
Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

 **Holiday:** Pickups that fall on or after a holiday will be serviced one day late.

Holidays on Saturday or Sunday do not cause any delays.

Collection Schedule is also available on our website. RandysEnvironmentalServices.com

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



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



SCAN ME

Summer 2022

CLASSES & PROGRAMS

Over **300** camps & classes to
choose from for all ages!

Science & Nature - Technology & Engineering

Art, Dance & Theater - Sports & Aquatics

Mind Motivators - Field Trips - Preschool

Adult Classes - and more!

REGISTER STARTING MARCH 16

www.oronocommunityed.com

952-449-8350

ORONO Community
Education
Orono Public Schools



2022 marks the 41st anniversary of the grassroots food and fund drive, which aims to fight food insecurity and poverty at the local level.

Western Communities Action Network (WeCAN) in Mound helps fight local hunger via its unique Mobile Market, which delivers food directly to low-income residents who have barriers to accessing a traditional food shelf. WeCAN also supplies paper products, personal care items and cleaning supplies to clients in need.

The March Campaign offers the opportunity to earn a proportional match for all of the financial contributions and product donations, including food, paper products, cleaning supplies and personal care items, which are received during the campaign which runs from February 28 through April 10.

Financial donations can be made on the WeCAN website, wecanmn.org or via mail, 5213 Shoreline Drive, Mound, MN 55364. Product donations can be dropped off during regular WeCAN hours, Monday - Thursday, 9 - 4:30. Call WeCAN if you have any questions, 952-472-0742.



12th Annual All –You – Can – Eat Pancake & French Toast Breakfast

Sunday, April 24th 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Adults \$8, Children \$5

Come and support your Loretto Fire Department!
259 North Medina Street, Loretto, MN



Spring Clean Up Day

Saturday, May 7th, 2022



INDEPENDENCE RESIDENTS ONLY

1920 County Rd 90, Independence

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Noon)

ACCEPTED Materials:

- **Air Conditioners**
- **Appliances** dehumidifiers, heat pumps, water heaters, microwaves, washers, dryers, refrigerators, etc.
- **Batteries** Auto and Household
- **Bicycles** *donated to a charity who cleans them up and distributes to those in need
- **Bulbs/Fluorescent Tubes, Ballasts, Light Fixtures** In original packaging or surrounded by cardboard. DO NOT tape together. Must be disassembled and ballasts disconnected from housing unit.
- **Carpet (Rolled)**
- **Construction Material/Debris/Junk** doors, lumber, fences, tile, sheetrock
- **Electronics**
- **Mattresses, Box Springs, Upholstered Furniture**
- **Propane Tanks**
- **Scrap Iron/Metal** ALL plastic removed; Tanks/Barrels must be cut in half.
- **Tires** with or without rims

NOT ALLOWED:

- **CONCRETE**
- **CURBSIDE RECYCLABLES**
See Randy's-Republics
- **YARD WASTE** Randy's-Republic is unable to accept Yard Waste from Hennepin County residents, however The Mulch Store does. Scan their QR code below to see their hours and fees.
- **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE** paints, cleaning chemicals, solvents, etc.

Hennepin County won't be on site, so please follow this list as well as take advantage of their upcoming EVENTS and Brooklyn Park and Bloomington Drop-off Facilities. Use the QR code to download their current brochure with details by category.

Visit the City of Independence
EVENTS page for future
city-wide happenings.



Curbside Recyclables
Randy's Republic



Yard Waste
The Mulch Store



Hazardous Waste
Hennepin County Drop-off Facilities



Download their informative brochure!

**CITY OF
INDEPENDENCE**

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asimon@ci.independence.mn.us

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Twin Cities, MN

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

An Alternate position is open!

City Staff

Administrator/City Planner

Mark Kaltsas

Public Works Supervisor

Shawn Bode

Building Inspector

Bruce Satek

Asst. City Admin.

Beth Horner

Administrative Asst.

Amber Simon

Linda Johnson



**CITY OF
INDEPENDENCE
MINNESOTA**

**City of Independence Residents
Newsletter Feedback**

Thank you for sharing what information would be helpful and relevant for you to read in the city newsletters and on our website.

Would You Complete a Feedback Form?

We are eager to hear feedback on our communications with our residents and we thank you in advance for taking a moment to complete an online feedback form.

Please either scan the QR code with your phone and click the link to go to the form or enter the link below in your computer or phone's web browser.

<https://forms.gle/2q5TFJ3JVsTzrPLq9>



Questions asked will cover

- Newsletter topics
- Where to receive city information
- Your contact Info

Thank you!