

NEWSLETTER

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MAYOR JOHNSON'S LETTER

Just recently, all property owners in the City should have received their 2018 Valuation statements from Hennepin County. Look them over carefully because this value is what your 2019 taxes is calculated from. As a base to work from, the value of most homes increased 2.5%. House lots remained pretty constant and agriculture land value decreased slightly. However, if you made major renovations or additions to your home, the previously listed change would be different.

If you question the valuation statement, the first thing you should do is talk to our City's Hennepin County Assessor, David Thomsen, or his staff at 612-388-5426. A call may be sufficient or it may be necessary to make an appointment to visit your property if they haven't been able to meet with you for a few years. If you are still not satisfied, you can present your case before the Council Board of Appeal on April 3rd at 6:00 p.m. Call the City staff to be placed on the agenda. You have the right to appeal to Hennepin County if you have done all the foregoing steps.

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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

independence.govoffice.com

Community Open House ~2040 Comprehensive Plan April30, 2018 from 4:30-6:30 at Independence City Hall.

The City of Independence invites you to join and give input regarding the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The format will be an open house with no formal presentation so come anytime between 4:30 and 6:30 pm. More information will be posted on the City website prior to the Open House!

Planning Commissioners' Re-appointments

At the regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, January 16, 2018, Planning Commissioners Carl Philips and Steve Thompson were re-appointed. The Planning Commissioners are volunteer positions serving 3 year terms.



Since our local Senator David Osmek and Representative Jerry Hertaus were able to get some special funding for Highway 12 improvement projects at County Roads 92 and 90, Minnesota Department of Transportation and other agencies have been drawing designs. We thought we were fairly close to having a public “open house” to view some preliminary designs when just within the past month we were told that an Environment Assessment needed to be done first at the County Road 92 intersection. This could take up to two years. We are trying to convince all agencies involved, including Hennepin County Transportation that we must take a long term view on what is done at these intersections because of growth in our area and to the west.

Discussions, brainstorming, suggestions, or whatever you wish to call it are continuing on the 2040 Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the City of Independence and all other local units of government. A previously mailed questionnaire is a part of that planning. If you want to be a part of the team, check with city hall, but most of the meetings are held after the Council and Planning Commission meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Your input would be particularly appreciated when we hold “open houses” for the Comprehensive Plan.

This is an important election year again. All the State Offices beginning with the Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, etc... and our Senate District Representative are to be voted on. Our two United States Senators and Congressman are also up. The only person not up for election this year is our District 33 Senator, David Osmek of Mound who is midway through a four-year term. Most likely the Primary election in August will determine who some of the candidates will be. That is usually a low turnout, but could be an extremely important election.

With spring comes the hard work for many maple syrup collectors. Let's hope they have a good year. The last days of February and start of March was a teaser and most people were not yet ready. When we get warm days and then the temperature drops below freezing every night, is when syrup collection is at its best.

City Councilmembers' Re-election!

On Tuesday, January 2, 2018, Councilmembers' Brad Spencer and Lynn Betts were re-appointed at a swearing in at the City Council meeting. Brad is beginning his 3rd four year term as a City Councilmember. Prior to this he served 5-6 years on the Planning Commission where he currently is our liaison between Planning Commission and City Council. Lynn Betts was re-elected for her 5th term as a City Councilmember. She previously chaired the Parks Commission.

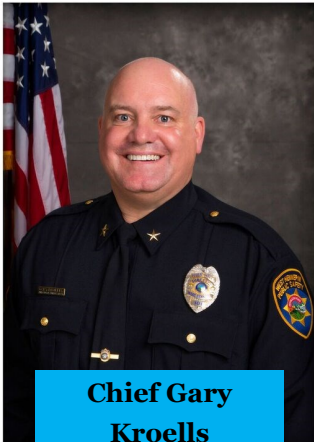
We thank both of them for their continued hard work and dedication to serving the residents of Independence.

Enjoy Spring!

Marvin D. Johnson/ Mayor



City Councilmembers Lynn Betts and Brad Spencer being sworn in by Administrative Assistant Beth Horner.



**Chief Gary
Kroells**

As the Director of Public Safety for West Hennepin Public Safety Department (WHPS), it is my honor to submit the 2017 Annual Report. The report is available online as of April 17th at www.westhennepin.com

In this year's report, you will find information highlighting different areas of law enforcement, emergency management, community involvement, training, and our volunteer programs. This annual report reflects the commitment our staff continues to show towards our citizens and our community.

2017 is the first year I can recall West Hennepin Public Safety was fully staffed. Within the last five years, over half of our officers have retired, changed careers, or moved on to work at other metro police departments. In replacing those officers, a great deal of time was focused on hiring and training our new officers. I can say with great pride our current department is the most active,

hardworking, compassionate group of people I have every worked with. Your police officers are second to none and I am very proud of this department.

As part of our emergency preparedness function, all of our police officers attended a one day course on handling a regional response to a mass casualty event in the summer of 2017. After the training, additional medical equipment was purchased and we worked with our local fire departments on additional training. In the fall of 2017, all Maple Plain firefighters were also trained in this same course. I am very proud to report all West Hennepin police officers and Maple Plain firefighters are now trained and equipped to handle a mass casualty event.

West Hennepin will continue to find effective and efficient ways to provide proactive police services to our citizens. Our interaction with the public and our citizens is paramount in our working toward the betterment of our communities.

I am happy to report West Hennepin Public Safety Department did not have a single fatality crash in 2017. People traveling on Highway 12 have a safer road to use, in part due to the proud work of the Highway 12 Safety Coalition. The Coalition also successfully lobbied our legislature for 11.3 million dollars for intersection safety improvements at County Road 92 and County Road 90, currently scheduled for construction in 2020-2021.

As you review this report, I hope that you feel the same pride I do in recognizing all of the great accomplishments our department has achieved in serving our communities in 2017. It is truly an honor and privilege to serve as the Director of Public Safety for the West Hennepin Public Safety Department. I hope that we have made a positive impact in your lives as we will continue working hard for you in 2018.



(Front row, left to right) Officers John Howes and Ben Anderson, Chief Gary Kroells, Sgt. Rick Denneson, Officer Ben Raskin. (Back row, left to right) Admin Asst. Lynda Franklin, Officers Cody Thompson, Shawn Ebeling, Aaron Geddes, Joshua Brozek, Lance Zilles and Admin Asst. Kim Curtis

Firefighter Recruitment / Informational Night – Monday, April 23

7:00 pm-9:00pm

Maple Plain Fire Department is hosting a Recruitment / Informational Night for those interested in learning more about becoming a Maple Plain Firefighter.

Being a Firefighter in Maple Plain means you are a community member that sacrificially gives of your time outside of your fulltime job to join a team of dedicated individuals that serve our community in times of need.

On Monday, April 23, 2018 Maple Plain Fire Department will open its doors for a chance for you to try out Firefighting. Firefighters will be present to give tours of our trucks and equipment, allow you to spray some water, answer questions, use our tools and be part of a few activities to see if Firefighting is a fit for you. Significant others are encouraged to attend as there will be a few spouses of our current Firefighters present to answer any questions you may have.

We look forward to seeing you at our Fire Station on Monday, April 23. If you have any questions prior to the event, please contact Chief Justin McCoy at justinmccoy@mapleplain.com.

As always follow us on Facebook or check out www.mapleplainfire.com for more information regarding Maple Plain Fire Department.



Justin McCoy

Fire Chief

Minnesota Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 9-13, 2018

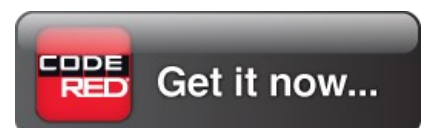
Are you ready for severe weather? Each year, HSEM in collaboration with the National Weather Service and 16 State and local agencies and organizations sponsors Severe Weather Awareness Week in Minnesota. The week is designed to refresh, remind and educate everyone about the seasonal threats from severe weather and how to avoid them. It's also a great time to make and practice your emergency plan and build or refresh your emergency preparedness kit.

The most important events during Severe Weather Awareness Week are the two annual statewide tornado drills. **These drills are scheduled for Thursday, April 12 2018 at 1:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.**

Outdoor warning sirens and NOAA Weather Radios will sound in a simulated tornado warning. The first drill is intended for institutions and businesses. The evening drill is intended for second shift workers and families.



www.zcool.com.cn



Please note these sewer tips!

DO NOT put products such as paper towels, wipes, condoms, sanitary napkins, feminine products, moist wipes in the toilet. **The only thing that should be flushed is toilet paper.**



Garbage disposals are not meant to handle solids such as fruit and vegetable rinds and peels, corn kernels, eggshells and bones. These items cause blockage in the sewer lines. Also, do not dump cooking grease and oils down the drain. Flushing the grease with hot water does not work either, it actually causes stoppage further down the drain. To dispose of cooking grease, pour it into a heat-resistant container, and allow it to cool and set. That container may then be disposed of in the regular garbage.

State Law limits city responsibility for sewer back-ups because the city does not have exclusive control of the city's sanitary sewer system. Damage can occur to homes and property for which the city will not be legally liable. As a result, a prudent homeowner may wish to discuss purchasing additional coverage with their homeowner's insurance carrier/ agent.

Delano Senior Center~ 234 2nd St N, Delano 763-972-0574

April Day Trips:

Thursday, April 5 – “Dance Til You Drop” play at History Theater – 8:45 a.m.

Wednesday, April 11 – Monticello Shopping Trip – 9 a.m.

Tuesday, April 24 – Turtle Lake Casino Trip – 7:30 a.m.

Wednesday, April 25 – “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner” play at Guthrie Theater – 11:30 a.m.

The Delano Senior Center and Senior Dining Program is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM and Fridays 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM. All seniors are invited to participate in the Senior Center's programs, special events and nutritious, tasty dinner served at noon every day!

This is just a small sample of what the Delano Senior Center has to offer! They have special in-house events, health and education programs, support groups, special interest groups and games! Please call 763-972-0574 or email senior@delano.mn.us for more information.

www.delano.mn.us/services/departments/senior-center

Delano’s Compost Site For Non-residents’ Use!

Many of you ask about where to bring brush and other compostable garbage. Independence does not have our own site, but The City of Delano has a compost site available to residents outside of their city limits by purchasing a Compost Site punch card.

You may stop inside Delano City Hall to pick up a punch card.

The punch cards are \$50.00 per card. This will get you five punches per card. When you bring your compost material to the site, the attendant will look at your driver’s license and punch your card.

Loads 8’x6’ will be one punch; larger loads will be two punches.



Kindergarten Registration & Kindergarten Connection Classes!

Will your child be 5 years old by September 1, 2018? It's time to get registered for Kindergarten! Forms are due as soon as possible so schools can be ready for the "Class of 2031!" If your family has not been contacted by your school district, please call the District Office. The Orono District

Office phone number is 952-449-8300. Registration for free Kindergarten Connection classes where you and your child will get a sample of Kindergarten is now open. Registration for the April 10 & 17 classes or the April 23 & 30 classes is available online at www.oronocommunityed.com or call 763-479-1530 Option 3. Child care is available for siblings for \$10 per child.

Annual Online Auction

Mark your calendars! The annual Orono Early Learning Silent Auction opens April 16 and runs until April 20. You'll find wonderful items to bid on, for all ages, ranging from domestic good, local services and restaurants, sporting event tickets, relaxing getaways and more! Visit www.oronoeearlylearning.com and click Online Auction starting April 16 to place your bids.

2018-19 Preschool & Practice Preschool Registration

Now is the time to get registered for Preschool and Practice Preschool! The Orono Schools Early Learning program has a 4-Star Parent Aware Rating and NAEYC Accreditation – the highest possible rating. Visit www.oronoeearlylearning.com for more information or call 763-479-1530 Option 3 to schedule a tour. Register online at www.oronocommunityed.com.

Early Learning Summer Programs

The Orono Discovery Center will host several Early Learning camps and classes for kids through Orono Community Education this summer. Summer registration opened March 13. Register online at www.oronocommunityed.com or call 952-449-8350. Register early - classes fill quickly!

Orono Community Education Summer Brochure is available now! Call 952-449-8350 to be added to the mailing list. The brochure is full of classes and programs for all ages, from birth to senior citizens! There are over 300 classes, camps and programs to look forward to this summer.

For more information– Call 763-479-1530 Option 3, or email: earlylearning@oronok12.mn.us



The Legion Auxiliary is the world's largest women's patriotic organization. We support and honor veterans, military and their families. We also educate citizens, mentor youth and promote peace and security. On April 20th we will begin going to local businesses for donations. May 19th is Poppy Day, when flowers may be purchased at some retailers. We are always looking for new members!

If you are interested please call Gretchen at the Maple Plain Auxiliary #514, 763-473-3530.



2018 Spring Clean Up Day Saturday, May 5, 2018



INDEPENDENCE & MAPLE PLAIN RESIDENTS ONLY

1920 County Rd 90, Independence

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Noon)

You will need to show proof of residency for Independence or Maple Plain. Please no bills larger than \$20 and checks should be made out to City of Independence.

ACCEPTED Materials:

Air Conditioners: \$25. No gas air conditioners or refrigerators unless you pay \$200.

Appliances: \$20. Includes dehumidifiers, heat pumps, water heaters, microwaves, washers, dryers, refrigerators, etc.

Carpet: Small roll \$15. Large roll (greater than 5'x8') \$25.

Construction Material/Debris/Junk: \$20/cubic yard. Includes doors, lumber, fences, tile, sheetrock.

Mattresses, Box Springs, Upholstered Furniture: \$50 (vendor raised their cost)

Scrap Iron/Metal: No Charge. All plastic to be removed. Tanks/Barrels must be cut in half.

Tires: \$5/ car, \$10/ semi, \$20/ tractor. With or without rims.

NO CONCRETE, CURBSIDE RECYCLABLES OR YARD WASTE ALLOWED!



LIMITED HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Hennepin County will not be on site.
Independence will have a vendor here to take the
following items: (Must show ID within Hennepin County)



ACCEPTED Materials:

Auto, Vehicle, and Household Batteries – FREE

Electronics - \$5 to \$45 (depending on item and size).

Flourescent Tubes/Bulbs: DO NOT tape together. In original packaging or surrounded by cardboard. Must be dissambleed and ballasts disconnected from housing unit. Bulbs 4' and under .50, over 4' - \$1, ballasts - \$2 and light fixtures - \$10.

Propane tanks – under 3' - \$5, over 3' - \$10

**CITY OF
INDEPENDENCE**

1920 County Road 90

Independence, MN 55359

Ph.: 763-479-0527

Fax: 763-479-0528

tbemmels@ci.independence.mn.us

City Officials

Mayor

Marvin Johnson

City Council

Brad Spencer

Lynn Betts

Ray McCoy

Steve Grotting

City Officials

Planning Commission Chair

Carl Phillips

Planning Commissioners

Robert Gardner

Leith Dumas

Tom Palmquist

Steve Thompson

City Staff

Administrator/City Planner

Mark Kaltsas

Public Works Director

Larry Ende

Building Inspector

Bruce Satek

Administrative Asst.

Beth Horner

Administrative Asst.

Trish Gronstal

We are preparing to debut a new website for the City of Independence and welcome your photos! We will use appropriate photos of city images so be creative and have fun!

Please submit high resolution jpeg photos only to
tgronstal@ci.independence.mn.us

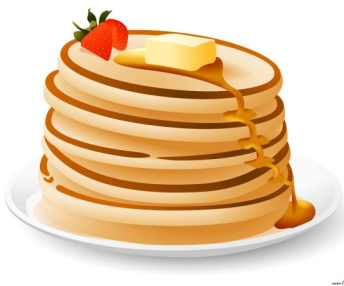


**Senior
Community
Services**

One of the best kept secrets in Minnesota! If you are enrolled in Medicare or will be soon keep reading! Senior Partners Care is not insurance. It is a community based program that enables Minnesota Medicare recipients to access the medical care they need. For more information on how the program can help you bridge the gap between medical bills and your Medicare coverage contact Senior Community Services at:

(952) 767-0665

[www.seniorcommunity.org/
programs](http://www.seniorcommunity.org/programs)



**8th Annual
All –You-Can-Eat
Pancake and French
Toast Breakfast**

Sunday, April 8, 2018

8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Adults \$8, Children \$5

**Loretto Fire Department~ 259 North Medina Street
Loretto, MN**