

NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

MAYOR	2
WHPS	3
FIRE DEPT	4
PUBLIC WORKS	5
DISCOVERY CENTER	6
SPRING CLEAN UP DAY- MAY 4TH!	7
WECAN OPEN HOUSE	8

MAYOR JOHNSON'S LETTER

Dear Independence Residents:

As I sat down to write this particular newsletter article, I looked to see what I had written last year. I made the comment about preparing for the gathering of maple sap and that the end of February and first part of March last year was just a teaser. We must have had some nice warm sunny days at that time last year. Well this year we have mountains of snow and very cold weather. What a difference! Of course, last year we had a big snow and wind in late April which was not welcomed with glee.

This year's snowfall in February was overwhelming for us all. We are so grateful for our dedicated Public Works Staff. They had a very difficult challenge to keep our roads open and we have heard compliments from many thanking them for their great work!

Annually this time of year for property owners is the time we receive our latest valuation notices. If you have questions, the first thing you should do is contact our contracted Hennepin County Appraiser, David Thomsen at 612-388-5426 to discuss your concern. Cont.



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



The City of Independence
will be hosting a collection bin for
WeCAN's Spring Cleaning Drive
May 1st- 19th

(City-wide Spring Clean-Up Day is May 4th)

Help community members in need by donating cleaning supplies, paper products and toiletries:

All purpose cleaner
Cleaning Wipes
Dish Soap
Floor Cleaner
Toilet Paper

Paper Towels
Kleenex
Lotion
Diapers (SZ 4,5,6)
Sunscreen

Pull-ups
Deodorant
First-aid items
Shaving supplies
Laundry (fragrance free)

If you do not come to an agreement with him, then you should come to the City's Board of Appeal (the Council) on Tuesday night, April 2nd at 6:00 p.m. to make an appeal. (Call City Hall to let them know you are coming so that we have your records available). If you are still not in agreement, you then have the right to make an appeal with the County Board of Appeal which is an appointed group of citizens by the County Commissioners.

Since our last newsletter we have learned that Judy Johnson, Councilmember and former Mayor of the City of Plymouth, has been appointed by the Governor to be our Metropolitan Council Representative. I have worked with Judy on many occasions and I think she will be a good spokesperson on behalf of our City. She has big shoes to fill though, as the last Councilmember, Katie Rodriguez, was an outstanding representative. Judy will have to resign her position as Councilmember for the City of Plymouth.

We will soon be putting the final touches and blessing on our 2040 Comprehensive Land Use Plan. It is being reviewed now by our neighboring cities and we are waiting for their comments. Our Council continues its review and will then forward it to Metropolitan Council and Staff and wait for their comments. Hopefully, we can make final approval by midyear.

Unfortunately, we have had another death on U.S. Highway 12. This time it was related to weather and road conditions. The City Council, along with the Highway 12 Corridor Coalition, has again approached MnDOT about the urgency of

upgrading the highway corridor through Independence. Major road work has been done on both the east and west of our City, but we are traveling on a stretch of road that has seen only minor improvements since the road was built a century ago.

By the time you read this article, I'm hoping that we will be seeing some gradual melting and not 90-degree weather and flooding. The roads have many stress cracks and bumps and we will really see evidence of a harsh Minnesota winter. Enjoy Spring!

Marvin D. Johnson



**Join us for the annual
Community Breakfast
to benefit WeCAN**

**Thursday, April 11, 7 a.m.
Gillespie Center - Mound**

Registration begins at 6:45 a.m.
Enjoy a delicious Scotty B's Restaurant breakfast and
fellowship with friends and community members
Speaker is Jennifer Bertram, Kids Count Coordinator
for the Children's Defense Fund Minnesota

**Call WeCAN at 952-472-0742 to reserve a seat
Free will donations will benefit WeCAN**

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE IN 2019



Dog Licenses

Don't forget to purchase a lifetime license for your dog for only \$20.00 for the City of Independence! Applications can be downloaded from the website and mailed in with a copy of your pet's vaccinations record.



**Chief Gary
Kroells**

Scams and scam artists have been around for centuries. Many of today's scams are perpetrated by criminals who are bent on stealing people's money. Most of these criminals live in other states or countries and are using modern technology to avoid detection from law enforcement. These suspects are very difficult, if not impossible, to locate and prosecute for these crimes.

Scams have become a major problem in Maple Plain and Independence. Over \$300,000 in real money has been lost by our citizens over the past two years. These SCAMS are real and suspects in these cases are very good at acting and making you believe they are real people trying to help you. These are criminals taking advantage of you and cannot be trusted. They work under the cover of their computer, the



mail, and phones calls pretending to be a loved one, the IRS, or Microsoft trying to fix your computer. They simply take advantage of you and steal your money. No longer does a thief need to confront you face to face to steal your hard-earned money.

Despite West Hennepin Public Safety Department's best efforts to stop these scams, they are still occurring at an alarming rate. The scams are constantly changing but some of the common ones are:

- IRS calling saying you owe taxes and need to pay immediately over the phone or you will be arrested.
- Lottery scam by sending you a letter or email saying you won money in a sweepstakes and you need to send money to pay taxes or fees associated with claiming your prize.
- Pretending to be a loved one in jail and need money to get released from jail.
- Cold calling you saying they are from Microsoft or Norton and they found a virus on your computer and they need remote access to your computer to clear up the problem. Once they are given access they ask for google play money or a gift card payment to remove the virus.
- Calling you pretending to be the county sheriff and they need payment for your property taxes or unpaid fines or you will be arrested immediately.
- Email sent to your personal account saying they have embarrassing information on you and if you don't pay immediately they will send the videos and photos to your entire contact list.
- Simply befriending a lonely person on social media sites and asking for money as they need help and are down on their luck.

You need to educate yourself and loved ones of these scams. Never provide any payment over the phone, email, bitcoin, gift cards or google play cards as they are clear examples of someone trying to steal your money. While you can't prevent all incidents of theft you can minimize your risk by managing your personal information wisely. Here are some helpful hints to help guard against scams:

Don't be afraid to say "NO".

Ask a family member, trusted friend or neighbor for their opinion before acting.

Don't be rushed and trust yourself. If it is too good to be true it is a scam.

When in doubt, don't give any information or payment out.

Research the offer and 99% of the time if you "google it" it will show you it's a scam.

You are asked to act quickly and provide payment from your credit card or gift cards.

If it doesn't feel or seem right don't do it.

In the event you become a victim of theft we ask you immediately contact your local police department to report the incident. West Hennepin Public Safety treats theft as a serious offense and we will strive to make sure all suspects are prosecuted under the law.

Nystrom will put Fire Department PDF on this page

URGENT: FLUSHING WIPES IS DAMAGING THE CITY SEWER SYSTEM!



The City has costly sewer damage repairs due to the use of “flushable” wipes. The latest breakdown resulted in \$4000.00 in damage to the pumps. We are urging residents to discontinue using these wipes and are trying to avoid having to pass on these incurred costs on to the user/s of the system.

Flushable “wet wipes” or “disposable wipes” do not break apart, and, as a result, are very damaging. The wipes cluster with congealed food fat to form large blockages known as fatbergs. After wipes are flushed they exit to the city sewer system but unlike toilet paper they fail to disintegrate. They clog the pumps, causing them to break down and redirect stagnant wastewater back into your homes. So-called flushable wipes are becoming a growing hazard to public health. Wipes are made from a very tough material called “air-laid paper”, and are often saturated with cleansing chemicals, disinfectants and cosmetic scents. Air-laid paper behaves very differently in sewers than toilet paper and does not readily disintegrate in water.

We would greatly appreciate your assistance in helping to maintain the city sewer system by discontinuing the use of these wipes. It is expensive to fix these issues and the City is working to maintain our sewer system as efficiently and cost effectively as possible.

Larry Ende– Director of Public Works

Delano Senior Center~ 234 2nd Street North~Delano

The Delano Senior Dining program is open Monday through Friday and serves hot meals at noon to area seniors age 60 and older. Contribution is \$4-\$7.50. Registration is NOT required but it is appreciated. Diners are asked to arrive by 11:45 A.M. Weekly menus are posted in the Delano Herald Journal. Please call 763-972-0547 for more information.

The Arts

Delano Senior Singers
Lending Library
Story Readers
Ready Readers Book Club
Writing Circle

Health Services

Parkinson’s Support Group
Foot Care Program
Blood Pressure Clinic
Eyeglass Adjustments
Exercise Class

Games

500 Card Group
Bridge Group
Mexican Train
“Farkle” Game Day
Cribbage

The Delano Senior Center operates a special transportation vehicle to provide transportation for area residents. This van is available for Senior Center trips and other trips as the need arises. People living in the Delano area who are in need of transportation are encouraged to call the Delano Senior Center at 763 972-0574 to sign up for these trips. Check out an existing upcoming trip - we are always going someplace interesting!

Please call 763-972-0574 or email senior@delano.mn.us for more information.



Upcoming Early Learning classes and events for all families with young children - mark your calendars!

Kindergarten Registration & Kindergarten Connection Classes!

Will your child be 5 years old by September 1, 2019? It's time to get registered for Kindergarten! Forms are due as soon as possible so schools can be ready for the "Class of 2032!" 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 9 & 16 classes or the April 22 & 29 classes is available online at www.oronocommunityed.com or call 952-746-5895. Child care is available for siblings for \$10 per child per night.

2019-20 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 952-746-5895 to schedule a tour. Register online at www.oronocommunityed.com.

Mondays "Pop In & Play Gym Times"

Do you have young children? Come get those wiggles out and meet some new friends on Monday mornings, 10-11 am in the East Gym through April 22. It's free – we just need parents to stay with their children and supervise. Please bring your ID and check in at the front desk. (No Pop In & Play March 25).

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 15. Register online at www.oronocommunityed.com or call 952-449-8350. Register early - classes fill quickly!

Orono Community Education Summer Brochure!

The 2019 summer brochure is full of classes and programs for all ages, from birth to senior citizens! We will be offering over 300 classes, camps and programs to look forward to this summer! If you did not receive a copy, pick one up at the Maple Plain City office or the Orono Community Education office. Call 952-449-8350 if you would like to be added to our brochure mailing list.



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.



2019 Spring Clean Up Day Saturday, May 4, 2019



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).

Fluorescent Tubes/Bulbs: DO NOT tape together. In original packaging or surrounded by cardboard. Must be disassembled 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

Assistant City Administrator

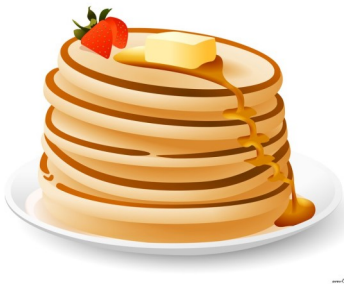
Beth Horner

Administrative Assistant

Trish Gronstal

Seasonal Spring Weight Limits

Before scheduling any large deliveries be sure to check on seasonal restrictions. Road weight restrictions protect our roads while keeping costs down for taxpayers. Contact City Hall or check the website for specifics.



**9th Annual
All –You-Can-Eat
Pancake and
French Toast
Breakfast**

Sunday, April 28,

8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Adults \$8, Children \$5

Come and support the Loretto Fire Department!

259 North Medina Street



Open House

**Help us Celebrate
30 Years of Service!**

**Thursday, May 16
4 to 6 p.m.**

Enjoy FREE refreshments!

***Tour our facility *Meet our on-site partners
*Visit with our staff *Learn about volunteer opportunities**



**WeCAN Office
5213 Shoreline Drive
Mound, MN 55364**