



# SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL & EQUALIZATION	2
MIDCO UPDATE	2
2024 BUDGET	3
MAY 4 <sup>TH</sup> CLEAN UP DAY	4
BLDG PERMITS  ROAD RESTRICTIONS  NOXIOUS WEEDS  RESIDENTS' CORRECT INFO	5
RECYCLING	6
COMMUNITY EVENTS	6
SGT. DENNESON RETIRING	7
ELECTION	8

## MEETINGS

### City Council

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at 6:30 PM  
March 12– due to election

\*Annual Board of Appeal at 6 PM

### Planning Commission

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 7:30 PM  
March 12– due to election

Workshops posted as scheduled.

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

## MAYOR JOHNSON'S LETTER

As I ponder what I might include as information in this newsletter, I find it hard to believe that in January we are having such mild weather. It does come with sacrificing sunny cold days for cloudy dreary damp days.

In my last newsletter article, I had said my ideal winter would be a little snow just before Christmas and then begin to warm up in mid-January. I nearly got my wish! However, the week of mid-January was our coldest, windy days of the year. This kind of weather sure saves on wear and tear on our Public Works equipment and budget.



Marvin D. Johnson  
Mayor

All home and property owners should have received their 2024 valuation notices in the mail by now. Check them over carefully. If you have concerns, check with the Assessor and/or schedule to meet with the Council at the **Annual Board of Appeal on April 2nd**. Too many times people ignore this important step in home and property ownership and then come before the Council at its "Truth In Taxation" hearing in December. It is too late for help at that point. Because of inflation, there were major valuation increases in all categories last year, but there is still room for assessor errors.



You have heard or read about the closing of the HERC garbage burn plant on the northern edge of downtown Minneapolis. Just for history's sake, many of us in rural Hennepin County fought long and hard for several years to get such a facility. The majority of garbage was being generated in the Metro area, but the Metropolitan Council and Hennepin County was looking for several landfill sites in the far edges of the County. Our City and a few other cities had potential sites to expand the burying of garbage. We attended meeting after meeting to eliminate landfill sites, establish recycling site, and build the HERC plant which in turn generates electricity and heat for much of downtown Minneapolis. Unfortunately, the plant has never been allowed to function at full capacity, so garbage is still being transported and buried 'out of sight'. HERC ash and metals are reused and newer methods of technology are being found to capture incinerator exhausts.

Our council and several other cities have sent letters and spoken to our

County Commissioners opposing such action until other proven methods of garbage reclamation have been developed. The closing is being pushed by our State Legislature with no other alternatives.

Speaking of the Legislature, they begin session on February 12<sup>th</sup>. I sure hope we have a more deliberative session this year. Last year nearly every bill was passed without any constructive dialogue, so the huge surplus was spent and new taxes were added, and now we are already facing deficits. A 40% budget increase in two years. One of the biggest looming costs is \$500 million, the amount of money to be spent on remodeling the House Office Building. The new Senate office building was built in 2017 for \$90 million.

Enjoy the rest of this Winter! Easter is early and maybe Spring will be close behind.

*Marvin D. Johnson, Your Mayor*

## Board of Appeal and Equalization Council Meeting—6 PM on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

If you are questioning the value of your property's recent County assessment, follow these steps:

1. **Call the County Assessor** at #612-348-3046. You will need to enter your PID/Property ID Number & #. Your PID number can be found either on your statement— found online if you didn't receive it via mail.

⇒ From [Hennepin County Property Information Search webpage](https://www.hennepin.us/residents/property/assessment), enter your PID/property ID number or Address, and select Search. Then select 2024 Proposed Property Tax (Truth in Taxation Statement). <https://www.hennepin.us/residents/property/assessment> (Their video is very informative.)

2. **Call City Hall by March 28<sup>th</sup>** at #763-479-0527 and ask to be added to the Local Board of Appeal & Equalization meeting's Agenda. Then the Council will address yours at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.

3. If needed, appeal at the County Board of Appeal meeting (virtually). Both previous steps are required prior to Step 3.



The City's Local Board of Appeals & Equalization Mtg



HN CTY PROPERTY INFO SEARCH

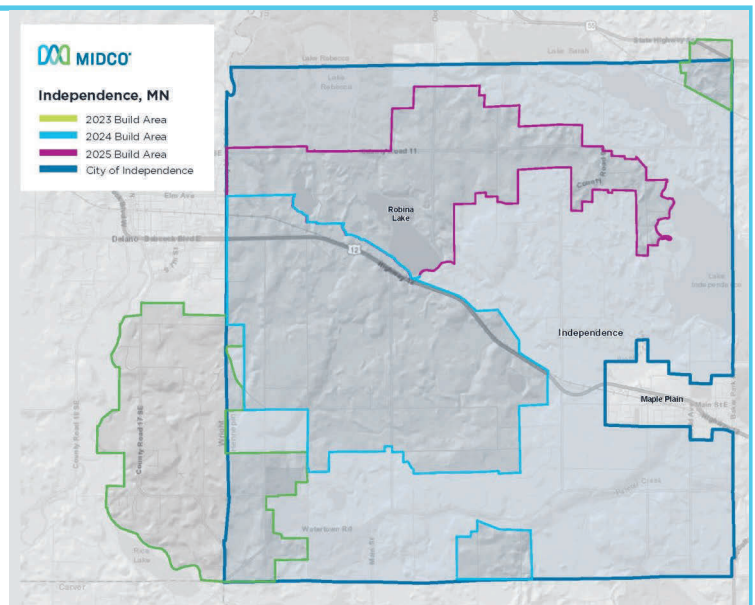


HC CTY PROPERTY ASSESSMENT-APPEAL

## 5 Gig Fiber Speeds from Midco

Midco is excited to bring fiber-fast services to the Independence area. We're connecting homes and businesses with symmetrical speeds up to 5 gigs to power your day, whether you're working, watching, scrolling, or shopping. Plus, our local team is here to make switching to Midco simple with contract buyouts, no data limits, and a 30-day money-back guarantee.

Visit [Midco.com/Independence](https://Midco.com/Independence) to preregister for services today and be the first in your area to experience all the **whoa!** of Midco.



# 2024 Budget Information

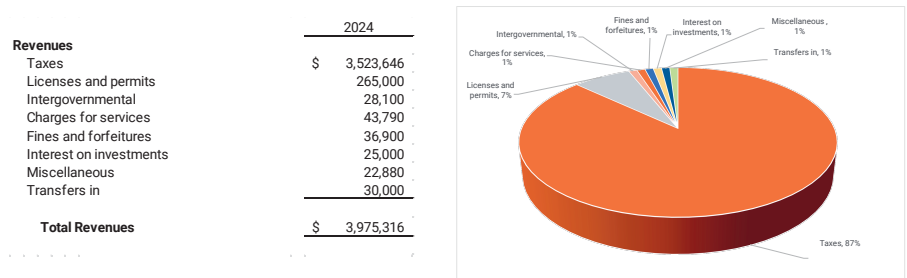
For nearly 10 years the City Council has prepared its annual budget with the intent of providing the highest level of services, as efficiently as possible and while maintaining or reducing the City's tax rate. The Council recognizes that property owners have experienced double digit market value increases for several years. In an effort to offset the market value increases, the City Council has adopted a 2024 budget and tax levy that represents a **2% decrease** in the tax rate. The result of a reduced City tax rate is that if no market value increase is realized for a particular property, there would be no tax increase in the City portion of a property's taxes. (A city's portion of property taxes is approximately 30% of the total taxes.)

The City Council has adopted a final tax levy based on a City tax rate of 31.47% (more than a 2% decrease year over year). This reduction will allow close to 50% of all properties in Independence to realize no increase or see a reduction in the total property tax bill. In order to offset inflation prices, a rise in utility, public safety, and insurance costs, the City adopted an approximate 5% general tax levy increase over prior year.

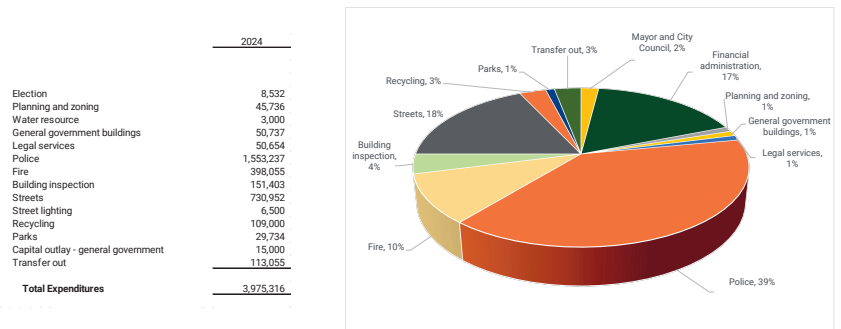
The City continues to maintain and update its long range (10 plus year) capital planning for streets, equipment, and buildings. The City will continue to fully fund all capital expenditures so that acquisition of new equipment and maintenance of buildings and facilities is paid for with cash rather than with issuance of debt.

As a part of the 2024 budget, the City has increased funding and has updated its long-range street plan to improve all gravel roads in the City (new gravel top and replenishment, improved drainage, culvert replacement).

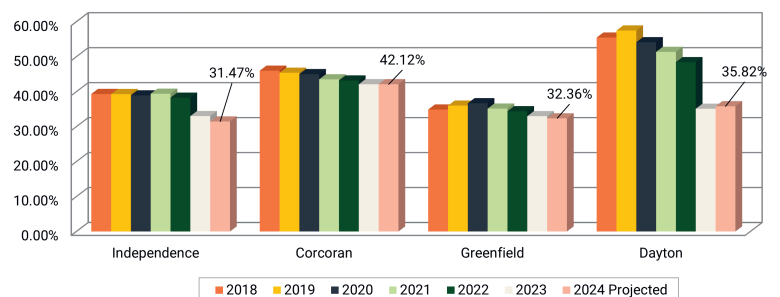
## 2024 Projected General Fund Revenue



## 2024 Projected General Fund Expenditures



## Tax Capacity Rate Graphs





# Spring Clean Up Day

Independence City Hall: 1920 County Rd.



## 8:30-11:30 a.m., Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024

INDEPENDENCE RESIDENTS ONLY! You must be in line by 11:30 am.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED. PLEASE CALL 763-479-0527 IF YOU CAN HELP OUT!**

**\*UPDATES:** Absolutely no commercial business drop-offs will be accepted. Fees will be collected for items stated below. Only 1 free load per household will be taken; No extra loads will be accepted. Have your ID out when you pull up as they will be checked.

**\*PLEASE BRING EXACT CHANGE. CASH OR CHECKS PAYABLE TO "THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE" ACCEPTED.**

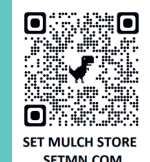
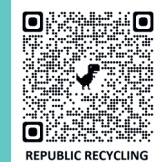
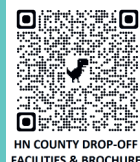
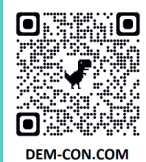
### ACCEPTED Materials:

- **Air Conditioners**
- **Appliances** Dehumidifiers, heat pumps, water heaters, microwaves, washers, dryers, refrigerators, etc.
- **Batteries** Auto and Household
- **Bicycles**
- **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**
- **Glass (only if in containers)**
- **Mattresses, Box Springs, Upholstered Furniture** **\*\$25.00 each**
- **Propane Tanks**
- **Scrap Iron/Metal** ALL plastic removed; Tanks/Barrels must be cut in half.
- **Tires** **\*\$5.00 each (8 max)**
- **Wheelchairs** Donated to Joni & Friends

### NOT ALLOWED:

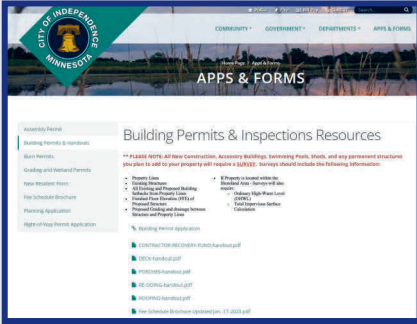
- **BARBWIRE**
- **COMMERCIAL BUSINESS DROP-OFFS**
- **CONCRETE**
- **CURSIDE RECYCLABLES**  
See Republic Recycling below.
- **GLASS**, loose or not in containers
- **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE**  
Paints, cleaning chemicals, solvents, etc. (\*Delano True Value will take liquid paint only- 5 gallons max./customer.) Put empty, dried latex paint cans in garbage.
- **YARD WASTE** Scan The Mulch Store QR code below to see their hours and fees. Randy's-Republic doesn't take Yard Waste from Hennepin County residents.
- Hennepin County won't be on site, so thank you for following this list closely.

→ Throughout the year, please utilize Carver County Environmental Center, Dem-Con, HN Cty events, or Brooklyn Park and Bloomington Drop-off Facilities. (Scanning QR codes below takes you to their site and to download brochure to with details by category.)





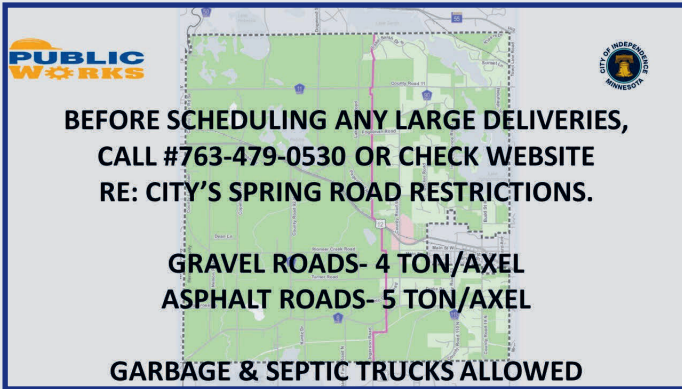
## BUILDING PERMITS



If you are unsure if you need a building permit, please check the Building Permit Application found in Building Permits & Handouts of the Apps & Forms tab or call the City at 763-479-0527.

Fence permits are zoning items under Building Permit and require a survey just like a building permit.

## 2024 SEASONAL ROAD WEIGHT LIMITS RESTRICTIONS



Each Spring Independence places road restrictions (weight limits) on City streets. Limiting vehicle weight minimizes damage to streets when the frost comes out of the ground which will extend the life of our roads thus reducing the need for early (and costly) reconstruction.

## PROHIBITED-CONTROL NOXIOUS WEEDS - PREVENTION

The City's [Public Nuisances \(code 2010.05\)](#) prohibits [NOXIOUS WEEDS](#), and staying ahead of them is the best way to avoid frustration for your neighbors and you! HOW TO CONTROL OR ERADICATE: Before they start blooming, cut, disc, plow, or treat with herbicide labeled for the noxious weed to be controlled or eradicated. Repeating control or eradication measures are necessary in order to prevent the ripening and scattering of noxious weed seed or other propagating parts. Planting drought tolerant perennials also helps crowd them out. You can follow [MN Board of Water & Soil Resources](#) and utilize expert advice and appendixes found in this [Invasive Species Plan](#). Their [Invasive Plants](#) page offers more help. Discover the difference between "Prohibited-control noxious weeds" and "Prohibited-eradicate noxious weeds" [HERE](#).



## RESIDENTS' CORRECT INFO

**Residents,** Apologies if we have incorrect names on your newsletter mailing. We prefer using property owners' correct names, so please update us at the City by contacting Linda with any corrections at either [ljohnson@ci.independence.mn.us](mailto:ljohnson@ci.independence.mn.us) or #763-479-0513. Thank you!

**New Residents**, we truly appreciate all New Residents completing our [New Resident Form](#)!

*Happy Spring!*

## HENNEPIN COUNTY RECYCLING

### RECYCLING IS NO FAIRYTALE IN THE TWIN CITIES

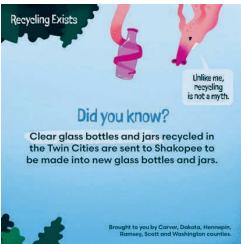


Do you wonder what really happens to recyclables when they leave your home? This has become an increasingly common question, which is why metro counties are working together to assure you that recycling is no myth. It's real and it works here.

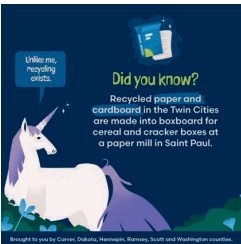
Minnesota and the Midwest are home to many recycling facilities that collect, sort, process, and manufacture items made from the bottles, boxes, and other containers we put in our recycling bins.



**Plastic** milk and laundry detergent jugs are made into durable decking, fencing, and landscaping products in Paynesville, and plastic drink bottles and produce containers are made into new plastic bottles in Wisconsin and Ohio.



**Glass** bottles and jars are sorted by color in Saint Paul, and the clear glass is sent to Shakopee to make bottles for drinks, pickles, salad dressing and more.



**Recycled paper and cardboard** are made into cereal and cracker boxes in Saint Paul, while recycled food cans are made into new products like wire, and parts for cars and appliances at facilities in the Midwest.

Our efforts to recycle and reduce waste save energy, protect resources, and support local businesses and jobs. About 78,000 jobs in Minnesota are supported by the recycling industry.

Be proud that recycling works in Minnesota. Learn more at [RecyclingExists.com](https://www.hennepin.us/greendisposalguide) and view all their fun educational graphics.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Spring into Action to Kick Hunger!

Form a team - friends, family members, co-workers, or anyone you call your team!

#### It's Fun and Easy!

Collect items for our FoodShare campaign, Feb. 26 - April 6. Turn in your count each Monday. We'll post standings for the 6 week campaign!

1st Place Team - \$75 Lulu's Pizzeria Gift Card

2nd Place Team - \$50 Lulu's Pizzeria Gift Card

And did we mention bragging rights?

#### Register Now!

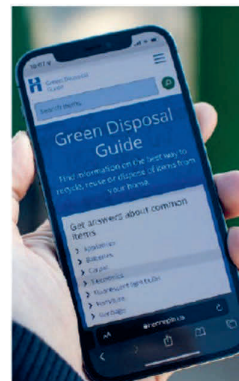
Send team name, contact person, email address, phone number, and a team photo or logo (if you have one) to [officemanager@wecanmn.org](mailto:officemanager@wecanmn.org).

#### Win-Win!

All donations collected during the campaign will be proportionally matched by Minnesota FoodShare.



5213 Shoreline Dr., Mound, MN 55364 • 952-472-0742



Get answers to your recycling and disposal questions

Find the best way to recycle, reuse, or dispose of items from your home by:

- Visiting [hennepin.us/greendisposalguide](https://www.hennepin.us/greendisposalguide)
- Calling 612-348-3777
- Emailing [environment@hennepin.us](mailto:environment@hennepin.us)



## Hanging Up the Cuffs & Retiring the Badge



After 35 dedicated years of service at West Hennepin Public Safety, Sergeant Rick Denneson will be retiring on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Please help us give him the proper send off to retirement. We will be hosting an open house where we will be recognizing his many years of service to the communities of Maple Plain and Independence.

### **Open House:**

Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Independence City Hall

1920 County Road 90, Independence, MN 55359

4 P.M. – 6 P.M.

5:30 P.M. – Ceremony Honoring Sgt. Denneson

Cake and beverages will be provided



**CITY OF  
INDEPENDENCE**

1920 County Road 90  
Independence, MN 55359

Ph: 763-479-0527

Fax: 763-479-0528

[ljohnson@ci.independence.mn.us](mailto:ljohnson@ci.independence.mn.us)

[asimon@ci.independence.mn.us](mailto:asimon@ci.independence.mn.us)

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #32324  
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

Timothy Usset, Alternate

**City Staff**

**Administrator/City Planner**

Mark Kaltsas

**Public Works Supervisor**

Shawn Bode

**Building Official**

Bruce Satek

**Admin. Services Dir.**

Amber Simon

**Administrative Asst.**

Linda Johnson

Carrie Solien



**2024 PNP ELECTION**

**Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 7 am–8 pm**



If you voted in the last election and haven't moved or changed your name, you should be pre-registered to vote in this year's elections.

To confirm if you're registered, update your registration, register to vote, track your absentee ballot, see your sample ballot, view results, learn how the election process works, or to answer many election questions, go to the Minnesota Secretary of State's website [MNVOTES.ORG](https://mnvotes.org).

**2024 Election Calendar:**

March 5, 2024—Presidential Nomination Primary

August 13, 2024—State Primary Election

November 5, 2024—General Election

**ABSENTEE VOTING – Fri., Feb. 16–Mon., Mar. 4**

Vote absentee either in-person at Independence City Hall or vote by mail.

**At City Hall** – Mon.–Thur., 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m and Fri. 8 a.m. - noon.

**Direct Balloting** – Beginning Fri., Feb. 16, voters can place their ballot directly into the tabulator.

**Extended hours** – Sat., Mar. 2, (9 a.m.– 3 p.m.) and Mon., Mar. 4 (8 a.m.–5 p.m.)

**Election Day Voting Hours:** 7 a.m.- 8 p.m.

Being in line at 8 pm allows you to vote.