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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

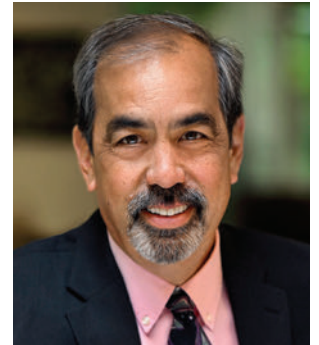
### PLANNING COMMISSIONERS

Robert Gardner, Chair  
Anita Volkenant  
Leith Dumas  
Hal Tearse  
Steve Thompson  
Jon-Paul Story, Alternate  
Timothy Usset, Alternate

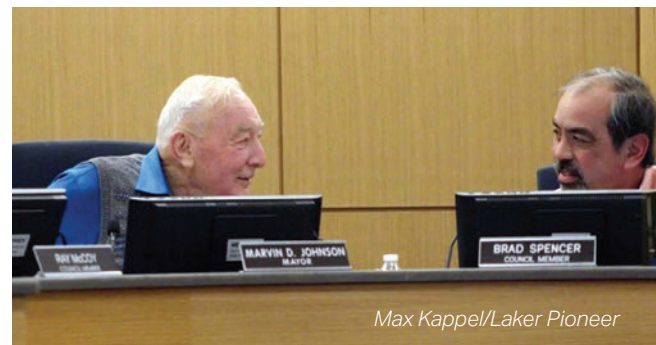
## MARVIN JOHNSON TRANSFERS THE GAVEL TO BRAD SPENCER

Mayor Marvin Johnson had asked Brad Spencer to run for Mayor when he was ready to retire knowing that his city experience and proven leadership would continue to serve Independence residents well, and voters agreed. Mayor Johnson officially transferred the gavel to Mayor Spencer at the January 7, 2025, Council meeting making him the City of Independence's 5th Mayor. His first official business was appointing Marvin Johnson as Mayor Emeritus of the City of Independence allowing him to continue to represent the City on various advisory boards, coalitions, or similar organizations where he may attend meetings, provide insight, and report back to the Council. It was the beginning of many emotional celebrations honoring Marvin for going above and beyond these last 45 years. The last week of January over 400 people came to City Hall for 2 retirement celebrations. Several traveled from out of state and others sent words of appreciation from all over the country including Senator Amy Klobuchar, Congressman Tom Emmer, and National League of Cities' Small Cities Council colleagues Bo Perkinson, former Mayor of Athens, TN and Clyde Schulz, former City Council President Beulah, ND. Several presented him with awards and shared stories of how Mayor Johnson had powerfully influenced them personally and their organizations. His siblings and relatives witnessed our community's admiration and love for him firsthand.

Brad Spencer has served 15 years on Independence City Council, six years on Independence Planning Commission, and five years on Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission. He and his wife Lisa have lived in this community since 1997 and raised their family here. "I love my city and will do everything I can to keep it a great place for families to live and grow. His mantra is "Be good. Do the right thing. Leave a place better than it was when you arrived."



Mayor Brad Spencer



Max Kappel/Laker Pioneer





The City's Local Board of Appeals & Equalization Mtg

## BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION COUNCIL MEETING

**Tuesday April 15, 2025 at 6 pm**

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 & phone 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 , enter your PID/property ID number or Address, and select Search. Then select 2025 Proposed Property Tax (Truth in Taxation Statement) [hennepin.us/residents/property/assessment](https://hennepin.us/residents/property/assessment) (Their video is very informative.)
- 2. Call City Hall by Thursday, April 10 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 15th , 2025.**
- 3.** If needed, appeal at the County Board of Appeal meeting (virtually). Both previous steps are required prior to Step 3.



HC CTY PROPERTY ASSESSMENT-APPEAL



HN CTY PROPERTY INFO SEARCH

## We are looking for volunteers for Spring CleanUp Day!

**May 3, 2025**

If you are interested in helping out, please give the city offices a call at 763-479-0527.

Scan the code for more information on the day.



SPRING CLEAN UP DAY





2025 BUDGET INFORMATION

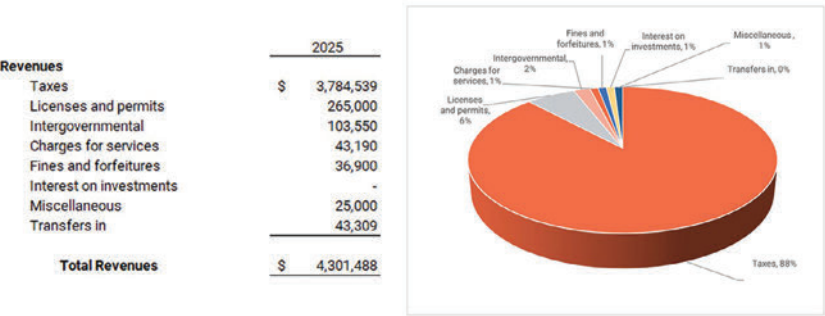
City Council has adopted a final budget that again (8 consecutive years) reduces the applicable municipal tax rate from 31.5% to 31.2%. This reduction is the result of the City Council's continued direction and oversight to operate an efficient, effective and value driven local government. This reduction in the City's tax rate will equate to a corresponding reduction in City taxes on residential and commercial properties year over year (assuming a flat market valuation – market valuations are determined by Hennepin County Assessors Office).

Note: the city's portion of property taxes only comprises approximately one-third of the total property tax for an individual property. The remaining amount is comprised of approximately one-third Hennepin County and one-third school district. Since 2017, Independence has held flat or decreased its applicable local tax rate while continuing to provide a high level of services to its residents. The City's reduction in tax rate is significant given the recent history of high inflation rates, continued increases to all insurance premiums, emergency services costs, and other cost increases to general operating expenses.

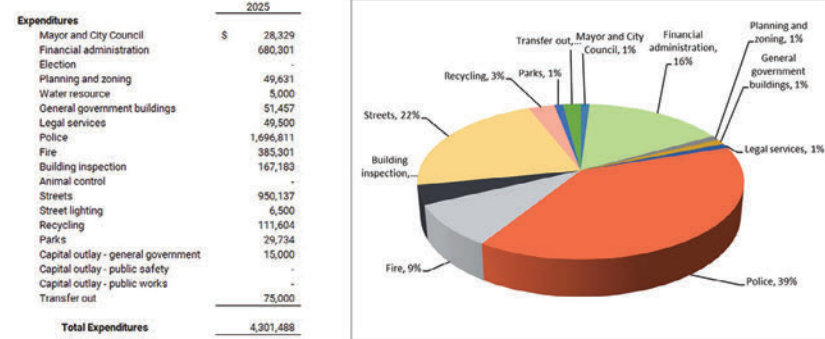
The City continues to maintain and update its long range (10 plus year) capital planning for streets, utilities, equipment, and buildings. The City will continue to fully fund all capital expenditures so that acquisition of new equipment and maintenance of buildings and facilities is paid for with cash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

As a part of the 2025 budget, the City has increased funding and is updated its long-range street plan to improve all gravel roads in the City (3-6" of new gravel, improved drainage, culvert replacement, etc.).

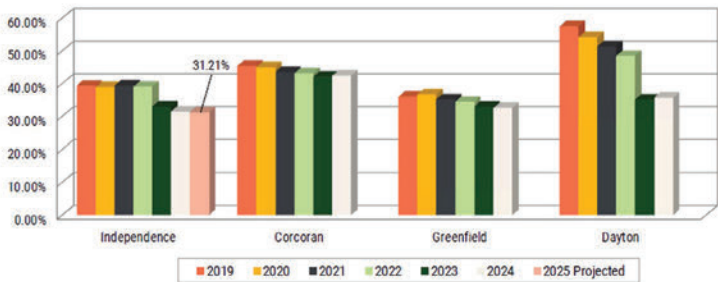
2025 Projected General Fund Revenue



2025 Projected General Fund Expenditures



Tax Capacity Rate Graphs



2025

Independence

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

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

JUNE

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					



## MIDCO EXPANSION IN INDEPENDENCE CONTINUES!

Midco is working to build out 100% of the City with high-speed fiber in 2025 and 2026. This will result in residents seeing work within the city right of ways at various times during the build out. Midco began construction in 2024 to bring fiber internet and phone services to previously underserved portions of Independence, thanks to a partnership with the Minnesota Office of Broadband Development and Hennepin County. At the end of 2024, over 400 homes and businesses had access to Midco services! To find out if your address is active and see their progress, visit [Midco.com/Independence](https://Midco.com/Independence).

In 2025, plans are underway for Midco to continue expansion with the goal to reach all of Independence by the end of the year! As construction progresses, residents in the construction area will receive communications from Midco before the contractor starts working, including a door tag at your home or business. In addition, Midco plans to begin offering its next-generation video product to Independence residents.

Once services are activated, you'll have access to up to 5 gigs of symmetrical internet speeds backed by a best-in-class customer experience. For more information on the products Midco offers, service preregistration, and to view a live map of the construction progress, check out [Midco.com/Independence](https://Midco.com/Independence). Residents may also call them at 1-800-888-1300 or Live Chat with either their Sales Representatives Monday – Friday: 8am-7pm or their Customer Care Representatives Monday-Sunday: 7am – Midnight CT.

## INDEPENDENCE PROJECTS

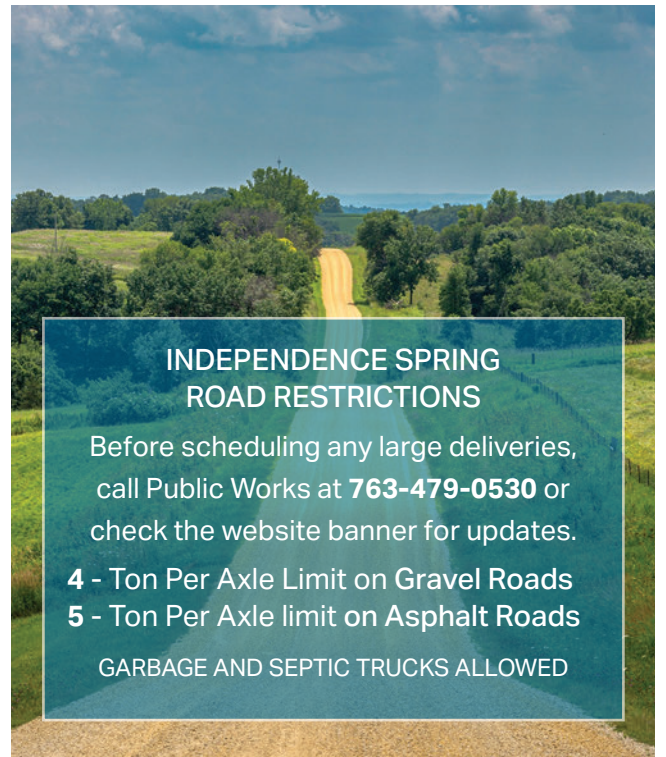
The City recently approved two new commercial projects:



- 1985 County Road 90** – 24,000 square feet of new office and warehouse space



- 9285 Highway 12** – 10,600 square feet of new retail and 115 new motor condos



### INDEPENDENCE SPRING ROAD RESTRICTIONS

Before scheduling any large deliveries, call Public Works at **763-479-0530** or check the website banner for updates.

- 4 - Ton Per Axle Limit on Gravel Roads**
- 5 - Ton Per Axle limit on Asphalt Roads**

GARBAGE AND SEPTIC TRUCKS ALLOWED



*Welcome*

to Brad Fisher the newest member of the City Council

and to Ben Lehman Public Works Supervisor.



# Honoring West Hennepin Public Safety Director Gary Kroells



After 31 years of dedicated service in law enforcement, West Hennepin Public Safety Director Gary Kroells will be retiring. We can't thank him enough for his service to the communities of Maple Plain and Independence. We will be hosting an Open House to celebrate his many accomplishments.



Tuesday, April 22, 2025  
4:00 - 6:00 pm



Award Presentation  
5:30 pm



Independence City Hall  
1920 County Road 90  
Independence, Minnesota 55359



# Spring Clean Up Day

Independence City Hall: 1920 County Rd.



## 8:30-11:30 am, Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

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.**

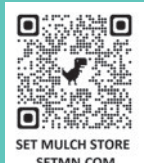
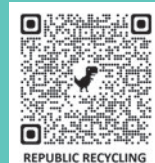
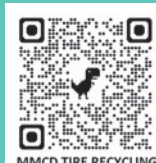
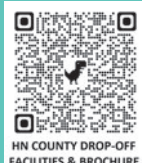
### ACCEPTED Materials:

- **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)** or see MMCD
- **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.)





*Invasive Brown Knapweed*

## BAT HOUSES - REDUCING MOSQUITOS BEFORE SUMMER

Have you ever considered building a bat house to better control mosquitoes on your property? If not, you might enjoy Hennepin County's Bat House Brochure and perhaps adding this to your Spring project list to be able to enjoy your summer more! Nicole Witzel, Hennepin County Environment and Energy Wildlife Biologist shared that bats typically become active at the same time as the insects, so its usually around April-ish when they start coming out from hibernation. It's a great time to have bat houses out and ready for them to find. The brochure lists where & where not to place the bat house for greater success!

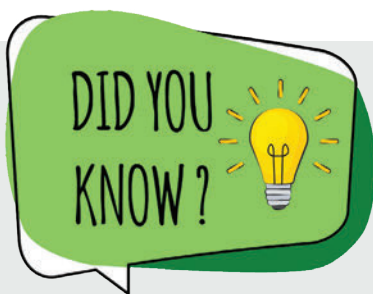
Learn more about protecting natural resources at home and in your community at [hennepin.us/en/residents/conservation/protecting-natural-resources](https://hennepin.us/en/residents/conservation/protecting-natural-resources).

## 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!

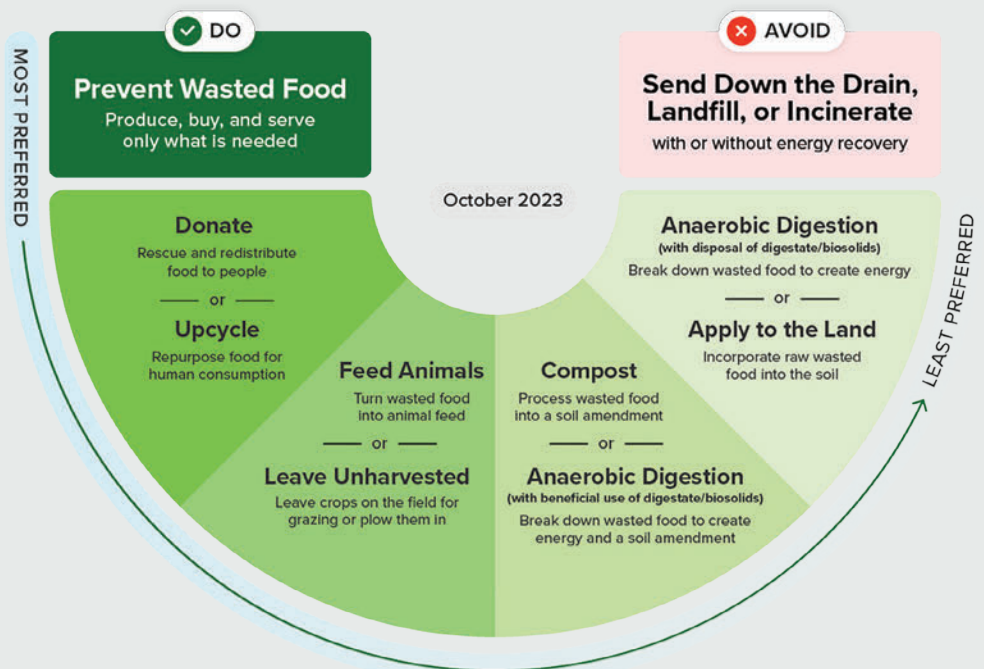
### HOW TO CONTROL OR ERADICATE:

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 their invasive species plan: [bwsr.state.mn.us](https://bwsr.state.mn.us). Discover the difference between "Prohibited-control noxious weeds" and "Prohibited-eradicate noxious weeds" [mda.state.mn.us/plants-insects/minnesota-noxious-weed-list](https://mda.state.mn.us/plants-insects/minnesota-noxious-weed-list).



## Wasted Food Scale

How to reduce the environmental impacts of wasted food







# GILLESPIE CENTER UPCOMING EVENTS

2590 Commerce Blvd, Mound, MN • 952-472-6501

- March 19** Seminar on Estate Planning  
presented by Legacy Assurance  
1:00 pm  
FREE
- March 27** Historical Presentation, Statue of  
Liberty, Two Decades of Effort,  
Almost Impossible Odds  
presented by David Jones  
11:00 am  
FREE
- April 3** Bingo!  
Snacks and beverages are available for sale  
2:00–5:00 pm  
\$20 Bingo games for \$20, Coverall \$2
- April 5** Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser.  
Bob Dylan Cover, Music by Jeremy Berg  
Dinner from 5:00 –8:00 pm  
Band 6:00 –9:00 Pm \$15 in advance,  
\$18 at the door, Kids 5-12 \$5,  
Kids under 5 years are FREE
- April 6th** Bingo!  
Snacks and beverages are available for sale  
2:00 –5:00 pm
- April 9th** Seminar on “What are your Signature  
Strengths and How do you use them to  
create Resilience”  
Presented by Care Builders at Home  
1:00 pm  
FREE

- April 9** Paint & Sip Event  
Create your own work of art on canvas!  
6:00 pm  
\$40
- May 21** The Original Saint Paul Gangster &  
Wabasha Caves Tour.  
  
Join us for a fun excursion to St. Paul which  
includes transportation and the tour.
- May 13** 55+ Defensive Driving Course.  
Call To register call 1-888-234-1294  
\$42

## ONGOING MONTHLY SERVICES

- 2nd Wednesday** FREE eye glass services  
including cleanings, adjustments  
and small repairs
- 2nd Thursday** Medicare Counseling  
FREE  
To make an in-person appointment  
go to [trellisconnects.org](https://www.trellisconnects.org)
- 2nd Wednesday** Sparkling Feet.  
Call 952-204-9406 to make an  
appointment for a foot assessment  
and pedicure.  
\$55
- Every Wednesday** Lunch, served at 12:00 pm  
\$10



# We Can't Wait for Summer!



**ORONO** Community Education  
Orono Public Schools

**REGISTRATION  
OPENS  
Tuesday  
March 11, 8 a.m.**

**ORONO**  
Community Education  
Early Learning • Youth • Adult

Something for Everyone!  
Art \* Aquatics \* STEM \* Sports \* ECCE  
\* Adult Enrichment \* Recreation

**REGISTER**  
[oronocommunityed.com](http://oronocommunityed.com) | 952-449-8350



**WeCAN**  
**Community Breakfast  
Thursday, March 13**

After a five-year hiatus, WeCAN is teaming up with the Gillespie Center to offer a Community Breakfast on Thursday, March 13, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at the Gillespie Center, 2590 Commerce Boulevard in Mound.

- Our guest speaker will be Scotty Bjorlin, who will speak on gratitude!
- A free will offering will be taken.

Reserve a spot by calling  
**952-472-0742**

## CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT ORONO ACTIVITIES CENTER

**SUNDAY  
MARCH 16  
1-3 PM**



REGISTER HERE

**ORONO** Community Education  
Orono Public Schools





Mayor Johnson acknowledges his siblings



Mayor Johnson's Awards



## PLACING GARBAGE & RECYCLING CANS

Public Works would like to remind residents to only put their garbage and recycling cans on your property's driveway, never on the streets. Garbage trucks have long arms which are able to reach the cans. When cans are on the streets, they're in the way of plow trucks when removing snow and prevents them from doing required snow removal.



**HONOR.  
DUTY.  
SERVICE.**



READY TO JOIN?



SCAN THE QR  
CODE TO  
START YOUR  
APPLICATION.

JOIN THE MAPLE PLAIN  
FIRE DEPARTMENT



## WEST SUBURBAN FIRE DISTRICT Pancake Breakfast

**April 27, 2025**  
**8am to 12pm**

**Station 1**  
**259 N. Medina St.**  
**Loretto MN**



# COMMUNITY Wellness Expo

Thursday, May 1

5-7 PM at the Orono Activities Center

A **free event** for the entire community! Bringing together hands on service activities, wellness resources, and empty bowls, there will be over 50 wellness organizations and resources in attendance.



[oronocommunityed.com](http://oronocommunityed.com) | 952-449-8350

## WeCAN Spring Fest 2025 Thursday, May 8

WeCAN is excited to host Spring Fest 2025 on Thursday, May 8, at the Pique Event Center in Excelsior. Our event will include food, beverages, live music, silent auction, and program to showcase the important work we do in our community. Tickets are \$75 and will be available on at [wecanmn.org](http://wecanmn.org)



**LEADERSHIP  
AT EVERY  
LEVEL**

**FIND AND  
BUILD THE  
LEADERS  
WITHIN  
YOUR TEAM**



**& ERIK  
THERWANGER**

**LEARN LEADERSHIP TACTICS  
FOR LEADERS IN ANY POSITION**



**May 13th  
1-4:30 PM**



**Independence  
City Hall  
Independence, MN**



**\$75 for WHCC Members  
\$90 for Non-Members**



**THE YIN & YANG OF LEADERSHIP**

**RAISE YOUR LEADERSHIP BAR**

**SLOW DOWN TO SPEED UP**

**PRIORITIES: OUT-IN-ON**

**INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP**





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)

#### CITY STAFF

Administrator, City Planner	Mark Kaltsas
Admin. Services Dir.	Amber Simon
Public Works Supervisor	Ben Lehman
Building Official	Bruce Satek
Administrative Asst.	Linda Johnson
	Carrie Solien

## Monday, May 26

### Memorial Day Military Honors at Local Cemeteries



Maple Plain American Legion Post 0514 will be performing Military Honors for Veterans buried at these local cemeteries and the public is invited to attend.

8:45 am	Oakland Cemetery
9-9:15 am	Christ Lutheran Cemetery
9:45 am	St Peter & St Paul Catholic Cemetery
10:30 am	Lewis Cemetery

*Lewis Cemetery has the most Veterans being honored. No chairs are on site, so feel free to bring your own chairs or blanket as needed.*

## March FoodShare Campaign 2025

### March 1 - April 6



## Spring Into Action to Kick Hunger

**Join us in this friendly competition to see who can collect the most food for families in our communities.**  
**Top 2 teams receive gift cards!**

**Register your team by emailing:**  
**Team Name, Contact Name,**  
**Email Address & Phone Number**  
**to [officemanager@wecanmn.org](mailto:officemanager@wecanmn.org)**



All donations will be proportionally matched by MN FoodShare