

# NEWSLETTER

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## MAYOR JOHNSON'S LETTER

Now that we are in the middle of summer we need to reflect on the roller coaster ride of spring. First, a mild, dry month which appeared to be an early spring. Then a switch to bitter cold wet weather that we really didn't enjoy. After that, extreme high and low temperatures. But that's Minnesota!

We are now past the graduations for all levels, celebrated Memorial Day with it's traditions, maybe attended one or two June weddings and now begin the ritual of summer trips, picnics, parades and maybe a few weekends on a lake if don't live on one. The City Clean-Up Day has passed and calcium chloride treatments have begun on the gravel roads. Before we know it, the State Fair will be here and schools will be back on their fall schedule.

A couple ideas for summer. Plan a neighborhood Night to Unite gathering or attend one in your neighborhood on August 1st. Also, support our local '4 Community Theatre' Continued p.2



Mayor  
Marvin Johnson

## MEETINGS

### City Council

2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 7:30 pm

(through July)

### Planning Commission

3rd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Workshops are posted

as scheduled

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

### New City Council Schedule

Beginning in August 2017, the Independence City Council will change the date and time of regular City Council Meetings. City Council Meetings will be moving from the second and fourth Tuesday to the **first** and **third** Tuesday of each month. City Council Meetings will also have a new start time of 6:30 p.m. All meeting times and workshops are posted on the City's website calendar each month.

which this summer will present Willy Wonka. Due to construction at the Delano School campus all performances will be at the Orono High School Auditorium on July 21, 22, 28 & 29th at 7:00 p.m. and July 23 & 30th at 1:00 p.m..

This spring at the City Council Board of Review we had a number of people call or appear in person to question their property valuation. In most cases, the residents had not followed through contact or given the assessor permission to view their property. That contact usually works to the benefit of the property owner in establishing a value because the assessor doesn't have to guess what kind of shape the interior of your house is like. If the assessor leaves a note or calls you, be sure to respond!

With summer comes road construction. As you have noticed, improvements are being made to County Road 92 north of County Road 11, County Road 90 between County Road 6 and U.S. Highway 12 and County Road 110 going to Mound. These improvements hopefully will make for a smoother trip again on these repaved sections that will not have cross cuts every 100 feet.

Also, you may have heard or read that funding has become available for additional improvements on Highway 12. The changes will not happen for a couple of years but in the meantime there should be proposed plans and hearings to comment on those plans in preparation for upgrades. For example; would a round-about be appropriate at County Road 90 and U.S. Highway 12, can we re-route County Road 92 so there is one intersection on U.S. Highway 12, can we get a bridge over the railroad at County Road 92 or is a cement middle wall necessary from County Road 6 at U.S. Highway 12 to County Road 92 at the Maple Plain border?

The most pressing concern for our Independence residents is the development of our next Comprehensive Land Use Plan which is required by law every ten years. One of the first steps was the survey that was recently mailed to every home and business. Over the next couple years, there will be hearings, open houses, council and planning commission meetings where the re-written or reviewed plan will be discussed before it is adopted. Keep yourself informed and feel free to make suggestions as the re-write is in progress.

The City Staff and Council are now preparing for the 2018 budget. Also, the City has an election this fall, November 7th for two council seats. There is usually a school board election in a couple of our districts too!

**Have a great summer!**

***Marvin D. Johnson, Mayor***

**FOR PLANNING UPDATES...**

**Please visit our web-site. You will be able find out when public hearings will occur and projects that are under review by the City.**

**West Hennepin Public Safety Department**

## **NIGHT TO UNITE!**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 1st, 2017 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm**

### **Wanted: Neighborhood Party Hosts**

Join neighbors across Maple Plain and Independence on Tuesday, August 1st, 2017 for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Night to Unite in Minnesota. Sponsored by the Minnesota Crime Prevention Association, AAA of Minnesota/Iowa, and local law enforcement agencies, Night to Unite will celebrate and strengthen neighborhood and community partnerships.

Night to Unite is designed to:

1. Get to know one another in your neighborhood;
2. Build neighborhood involvement by bringing police and communities together; and
3. Bring awareness to crime prevention and local law enforcement efforts!

MCPA President Terry Thomson said, "I invite neighborhoods in every City and County throughout the state of Minnesota to become involved in Night to Unite activities. This is an opportunity for neighborhoods and communities to band together, enjoy a summer evening and get to know who belongs in their neighborhoods."

West Hennepin Public Safety would like to encourage neighborhoods to get together between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on August 1st, 2017 to fight crime and take back our neighborhoods. The best crime prevention tool for our communities is "neighbors looking out for each other," says Director Gary Kroells. If you know who your neighbors are and those neighbors see something suspicious they will call the police. Get involved and take this opportunity to host a neighborhood party and meet your neighbors.

If you or your neighbors host a neighborhood Night to Unite event, West Hennepin Police Department and the local fire department will make a visit to your event and provide crime fighting and fire safety tips for your group. Take the initiative and organize your neighborhood event. Let's have a Night to Unite on Tuesday, August 1st, 2017.

For more information pertaining to Night to Unite or how to get involved, contact West Hennepin Public Safety Department at (763) 479-0500 and speak with Night to Unite Coordinator Officer Zilles. You can also visit the West Hennepin Public Safety Department website at [www.westhennepin.com](http://www.westhennepin.com) for more information on Night to Unite.

**" Proudly Serving Maple Plain and Independence "**



**Night to Unite**

**Tuesday August 1st, 2017**

**West Hennepin Public Safety Department**

**Official Registration Form**

**Registration Deadline is**

**7/25/2017**

Coordinator's Name	Home Phone	Work Phone
Street Address	Call Phone	E-Mail
Helper's Name	Home Phone	Work Phone

Location of party event if different than coordinator's address:

Is this your first time hosting?	Will you have music?	Start Time*	End Time*	Theme Party?	# of house-holds expected	# of children	# of Adults

Due to the large number of neighborhoods that participate in Night to Unite, we are unable to accommodate specific requests (e.g., squad cars or fire trucks at a specific time). We will do our best to have a squad and fire truck visit at every gathering that has registered!

Will you be blocking off your street?	Any special requests regarding your event will need to be approved by Officer Zilles?

Plans for party/ event

Please number in order of preference 1,2,3	West Hennepin Police	Local Fire Department	Other
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Mail your form by July 25, 2017 to:

WHPS/ Attn: Officer Zilles

1918 County Road 90

Independence, MN 55359

Fax: (763) 479-0504

Sponsored and Supported by:





## Did you know?

July is the peak month for U.S. home fires.

Most grill fires start because something that could burn was too close to the grill.

Most home fires involving grills are started by gas grills, not charcoal grills.

You should check the gas tank hose on propane grills for leaks before using them for the first time.



## GRILLING SAFETY

- Never use a grill indoors and don't leave it unattended.
- When lighting a grill, keep the top open. If it does not light in the first several attempts, wait five minutes before trying again.
- Check the grill's tubes and hoses before using a grill that has not been used in a while.
- Keep your grill clean.
- When grilling, place the grill away from your home, deck railings and out from under eaves.





### Important Information for Residents with City sewer!

**DO NOT** put paper products such as paper towels, moist towelettes, tissue, handy wipes, disposable towels, diapers, sanitary napkins, condoms, and feminine products down the drain. **The only paper that should be flushed is toilet paper.**

Kitchen solids, such as fruit and vegetable rinds and peels, corn kernels, eggshells, and chicken bones can also cause blockage. Garbage disposals do not always reduce some of these items to the point that they will flush clear of the lateral lines.

**DO NOT** dump cooking grease and oils down the drain. Flushing out the grease with hot water will not work either; this only causes a build up further down the drain and eventually contributes to a stoppage in the lateral or sewer pipes. Avoid using chemicals that claim to dissolve grease, such as vinegar and baking soda. Those products only dislodge grease clogs and move them further down the pipe, which can lead to similar problems. To dispose of cooking grease, pour it into a heat-resistant container, and allow it to cool and set. That container should then be disposed 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.



### **ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER**

The City of Independence will be accepting Affidavits of Candidacy for the November 7, 2017 General Election. Two (2) City Council members will be elected to terms of four (4) years. The filing period will open on Tuesday, August 1, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. Filing will close at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 15; with a two (2) day withdrawal period. There is a \$2 filing fee due at the time of filing.

Council member Lynn Betts and Brad Spencer's terms will be up this December 31, 2017.



### **Lifetime Dog License Only \$20.00!**

*Do you have a new puppy or just have not yet purchased a license for your dog? Stop in or fill out the application on the city website to register your furry family member today! The City accepts cash or checks and the license is for a lifetime!*



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

### **2017-18 Preschool & Practice Preschool**

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](http://www.oronoeearlylearning.com) for more information or call 763-479-1530, Option 3 to schedule a tour. Register online at [www.oronocommunityed.com](http://www.oronocommunityed.com).

### **ECCE Parent-Child Classes**

Registration is now open for all 2017-18 ECCE classes starting in the fall. ECCE classes include parent-child activity time, circle time, parent discussion time, and children's activity time. Join a Parent-Child class to help you "set the stage" for your child's future. Classes available for children ages birth – 4 years old. New this year to our ECCE programming is Love & Logic® and Beyond ECCE, both 8 week sessions designed for parents and caregivers and led by Karen Pennaz.

### **Early Learning Enrichment Opportunities**

Join us for these additional enrichment opportunities for your little one! **ExploreMORE!** classes offer a series of high interest, high potential activities designed for children who are eligible for Kindergarten in Fall 2018. Junior Einsteins explore STEM concepts and Book Worms explore children's literature.

**Los Chiquitos Spanish** introduces your preschooler to the language of Spanish focusing on numbers and colors, basic conversational skills, and food, animals, and body parts vocabulary. Using hands-on activities, puppets, games and songs, your child will have a head start with language learning!

**The Clubhouse** is a multi-aged classroom filled with creative curriculum activities to enhance your child's social, emotional and academic development. The Clubhouse program offers a class schedule filled with discovery time, read aloud story time, art time, music time, healthy snack, inside/outside play time and more! Available Monday - Friday.

### **Discovery Center Vehicle Fair & Open House**

All are invited to Orono Early Learning's Vehicle Fair and Open House on Thursday, September 7 from 4:30 - 6 pm. Come see some really cool trucks, visit newly remodeled classrooms, and meet some outstanding teachers. We'll be on the fast track to fun! This event is **FREE** and open to **ALL FAMILIES!**

### **Early Learning Spirit Wear Sale**

Support the Orono Early Learning program and purchase Spartan Spirit Wear! Spirit Wear can be purchased online from September 11 – 26. Contact [earlylearning@orono.k12.mn.us](mailto:earlylearning@orono.k12.mn.us) for the link!

### **Annual Kids Stuff Sale**

Do you have a lot of items you want to sell? Become a seller and earn 65% on sold items. Mark your calendar for the sale! Preview Sale on Friday, September 29 from 5 – 7 pm (\$5 entrance fee), Kids Stuff Sale on Saturday, September 30 from 9 am – 12 pm, and ½ Price Sale on Saturday, September 30 from 12 – 2 pm.

**For more information – Call 763-479-1530 Option 3, or email: [earlylearning@orono.k12.mn.us](mailto:earlylearning@orono.k12.mn.us)**

The 2017 Summer brochure is available now! Call 952-449-8350 if you would like a brochure mailed to you.



## Check out what is happening at the Senior Center in Delano!

234 2nd St N, Delano, MN 55328

763-972-0574

### Upcoming Day Trips

**Thursday, July 6:** Middle Eastern food at Holy Land in NE Minneapolis – 10 a.m., \$6

**Wednesday, July 12:** Lake Pulaski Pontoon Fishing Trip – 10:15 a.m., \$6

**Thursday, July 13:** Northfield Day Trip – 8 a.m., \$20

**Wednesday, July 19:** North Minneapolis History and Guided Tour – 8:30 a.m., \$20

**Thursday, July 20:** *Heartsongs: A Tribute to the Legendary Ladies of Country Music* at Plymouth Playhouse – 10:45 a.m., \$31

**Wednesday, July 26 -** Barn Quilts of Carver County Trip (Part II) – 8:30 a.m., \$30

**Thursday, July 27 –** Southtown Shopping Trip – 9:15 a.m., \$6

**Wednesday, August 2:** Minneapolis Central Library trip – 9 a.m., \$10

**Thursday, August 10:** Lanesboro Trip and Amish Country Tour – 7:30 a.m., \$32

**Monday, August 14:** Al & Alma's Lake Minnetonka Lunch Cruise – 10:45 a.m., \$25

**Thursday, August 17:** Hutchinson Shopping Trip – 9 a.m., \$6

**Wednesday, August 23:** St Paul Saints Baseball Game – 5:30 p.m., \$28

**Monday, August 28:** Minnesota State Fair Trip – 8 a.m., \$7

**Thursday, August 31:** Oliver Kelley Farm Tour – 9 a.m., \$17

**Thursday, August 31:** Oliver Kelley arm Tour – 9 a.m., \$17

*Nutritious noon hour meals prepared Monday through Friday. Meals on Wheels are also available to homebound seniors.*

**Call 763-972-0574 for more information.**

**Bingo!** Mondays at 11:15 & Fridays at 12:40

**Bridge:** 1:00 every 2nd & 4th Monday

**Farkel:** 1:00 every 1st and 3rd Tuesday

**Mexican Train:** 1:00 every 2nd and 4th Tuesday

**Cribbage:** 1:00 every 1st & 3rd Wednesday

**Cards-500:** 1:00 every 2nd & 4th Wednesday

**Golf (Card Game):** 1:00 every Monday

**Mahjonn:** 1:00 every Wednesday

**Choir:** practices every Monday at 10:00



**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 Bemmels



**There is still time to take the Community**

**Survey!**

Simply log onto the City of Independence and click the link for the community survey. The survey is your way to let City Officials know what is important to you about the growth and needs of Independence! It will be used to help plan and formulate the 2040 Comprehensive Plan to ensure the sustainable development of the City. The 2040 plan will include provisions for land use, transportation, utilities, economic development, trails, parks and open space.

[independence.govoffice.com](http://independence.govoffice.com) and click the community survey link!



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)