

## NEWSLETTER

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## MEETINGS

## City Council

1st &amp; 3rd Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

## Planning Commission

3rd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

## Workshops are posted

as scheduled

[independence.govoffice.com](http://independence.govoffice.com)

## MAYOR JOHNSON'S LETTER

As I write this newsletter, and before it is printed, I wonder what more weather changes we will experience in such a short period of time. It seems we were just ready for spring when we received the biggest snow storm of the year. Then came dryer weather and the warmest Memorial Day in history. (Thank You to our Veterans).

Now we have just had many inches of rain, lawns are growing so fast that we have to mow a couple times a week and corn in the fields so tall it is already way beyond "knee high by the 4th of July". Road restrictions had to remain on longer because of the deep frost level, almost to the point where the calcium chloride application time came too quickly.

Congratulations to all of our new graduates— High School, College especially!

Westonka, Orono and Delano Schools have major construction happening on their campuses this summer.

These building projects will create some new educational opportunities for the next generation of students.

As we hear regularly there are some major road detours in the metro area. To my knowledge, the one that will affect us the most will be the closure of Highway 55 from Energy Drive in Rockford to Buffalo most of the summer. U.S. Highway 12 is one of the detour routes. They will be replacing culverts, removing and repurposing all the upper road materials and resurfacing everything. By closing the road they can get the project completed much sooner.

We are still discussing designs for the intersections of County Road 92 and U.S. Highway 12. Depending on "buy in" from the railroad we hope to have a design that is appropriate for years to come rather than another temporary safety feature. County Road 90 and U.S. 12 is moving forward with the "round-about" design.



Mayor

Marvin Johnson

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**Mayor continued...**

Money is available for these projects and the hope is that the construction for both projects will be at the same time so that the detour time can be shorter. This is a couple years away.

July 25th-July 27th we will be hosting the Small Cities Council for the National League of Cities. This year I am chairman of that Council. Usually there are approximately 25 to 30 Mayors and Councilmembers present from across the United States. They will be staying at the Grand Stay Hotel in Delano and the meetings will be at our City Hall with other events within and outside the City.

Plan ahead for a "Night to Unite" party in August. Also, we have a State Primary Election in August. This is a very important election because it determines who will be on the ballot in November. This is for state-wide offices like Governor, Attorney General, etc. and you must vote party line only. We have no city election this year.

Until the next newsletter in the fall, have a wonderful summer!

Marvin D. Johnson, Mayor



### ***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!***

WeCAN (Western Communities Action Network) is a nonprofit social service agency serving the needs of residents of western Hennepin County. To help raise money for the organization, WeCAN is hosting WineFest 2018, a wine tasting event on Saturday, October 6, 2018, 4-6 p.m. at Voyageur Environmental Center in Minnetrista. The event will feature wine tasting, small bites, a silent auction and an exciting live auction. All proceeds will benefit WeCAN. Tickets are \$50 per person and can be purchased by contacting WeCAN at 952-472-0742 or online at [wecanmn.org/donate](http://wecanmn.org/donate).

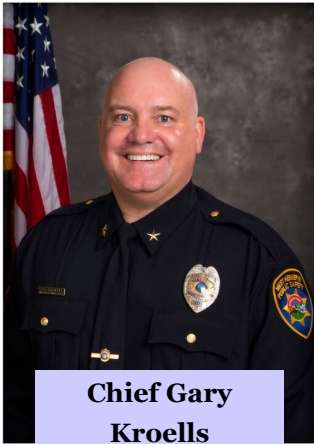
**Event Date: Saturday, October 6, 2018**

**Event Time: 4:00-6:00 pm**

**Venue: Voyageur Environmental Center**

**7000 County Road 15, Mound**

**Call for tickets: 952-472-0742**



## **PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS CHIEF'S DESK**

### **WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY**

Director Gary Kroells

In the event of an emergency in Maple Plain or Independence you should be aware of two key terms you might be asked to perform by law enforcement or fire departments to protect yourself and others. Those terms are “Shelter in Place” and “Evacuate”. You may be asked to perform one of these two tasks for natural disasters such as a tornado, wind events, a winter storm or a biological disaster where hazardous materials are released into the atmosphere from a train derailment or a chemical spill on a county, state or local road.

If you are requested to Shelter in Place or Evacuate it will be broadcasted on local media stations, radio stations and sent directly you by our emergency notification system called CodeRed. If you have not yet signed up for CodeRed I would encourage you to visit our website at [www.westhennepin.com](http://www.westhennepin.com) and sign up now.

Shelter in Place is a term used to go indoors and stay there. This is a precaution aimed to keep you safe while remaining indoors. This includes if you are at home, work, or at school.

#### **What exactly should you do if told to Shelter in Place?**

- Go indoors and stay inside
- Close all outside doors and windows
- When requested turn off all air conditioning, furnaces, fireplaces or ventilation devices that might draw in outside contaminated air
- If possible go to your basement and bring a radio device or cell phone with you
- Listen to your radio or television to get further instructions
- Do not leave your shelter or evacuate unless told to do so
- Keep family and pets inside
- While sheltering in place begin to prepare evacuation items for you, your family, and any pets you may have

#### **What exactly should you do if you are told to evacuate your home due to an emergency?**

- First, don't panic and second follow instructions given by emergency managers
- You will have time to pack a few items and secure your home as if you were going on vacation, unless advised otherwise.
- Plan on leaving your home for three days or less
- Close all doors and windows and lock your home
- Place a note on your front door stating you have evacuated and include your name and cell phone number or an emergency contact number for emergency personnel.

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**What should I take if I have been asked to evacuate?**

- Cash, credit cards, checkbooks and your identification such as a driver license or state ID, and insurance cards
- Prescription medication
- Cell phone and cell phone charging cords, computers or other tablets
- Baby formula and diapers
- Two changes of clothing per person, including jackets, boots, gloves
- Pillows, sleeping bags, and personal hygiene items including towels
- Household pets, leashes, cages, water dish and pet food
- Snacks, water, and other minor food supplies
- Flashlight and batteries

**Where do I go after I evacuate?**

- You will be instructed to register at a reception center to confirm you have evacuated
- A reception center location will be announced prior to you evacuating
- You are encouraged to stay with friends or relatives outside of the affected area
- You can also stay at an emergency shelter provided by emergency managers and the American Red Cross

By educating our citizens on what to expect in an emergency notification we can ease the stress of the emergency through preparation. By working together and planning for emergencies we can protect lives and property.

**CODERED**

[www.westhennepin.com](http://www.westhennepin.com)



**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**

The Delano Senior Center offers many services including legal aid help, eyeglass repair, blood pressure clinic, chair yoga, choir, bingo, book club, writer's group, cribbage, farkel, story theater, birthday celebrations and Parkinson's Support Group. For a complete listing and event times please contact the Center at

**(763) 972-0574.**





## **Did you know?**

Approximately 98 percent of wildfires in Minnesota are caused by humans.

Smokey Bear was created in 1944 and reminds us that “Only You Can Prevent Wildfires.”

More than 50 wildfires are started each year in Minnesota by campfires that are not completely extinguished, too large or unattended.

## **Campfire Safety**

- **Use a fire ring and build your fire at least five feet away from any combustible material.**
- **Keep a bucket of water nearby to put out the fire.**
- **Keep a kid-free zone of three feet around the campfire.**
- **Never leave your campfire unattended.**
- **Check burning restrictions with the DNR before starting your campfire.**



**[WWW.MAPLEPLAINFIRE.COM](http://WWW.MAPLEPLAINFIRE.COM)**

1645 Pioneer Avenue, Maple Plain, MN 55359 763-479-0520



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

### **2018-19 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 2018-19 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. Returning this year to our ECCE programming is Love & Logic® and Beyond ECCE, both 8 week sessions designed for parents and caregivers 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 6** from 4:30 - 6 pm. Come see some really cool trucks, visit your classroom, and meet some outstanding teachers. 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 beginning **September 6** until items are sold out. Spirit wear will be for sale in the Early Learning office.

### **Super Saturday Costume Party**

Join us for a SPOOKTACULAR good time! Our costume party is on **Saturday, October 27 from 10 – 11:30 am**. Wear a favorite costume and join us for games and treats. Create some art projects and hear a fun story, or a few. This event is **FREE** and open to **ALL FAMILIES!**

**Orono Community Education Summer Program** - The 2018 summer program has tons of classes offered in July and August! Fill your summer with Community Education adventures. [www.oronocommunityed.com](http://www.oronocommunityed.com) to register!

# Elections 2018

Primary Election: August 14

General Election: November 6



## **Pre-Register to Vote**

If you are a new Independence resident, or did not vote in the last Election, you can preregister to vote now. If you are not yet 18 but will be 18 years old on Election Day, you may also pre-register to vote now. Being pre-registered speeds up election day by having your name on the roster of registered voters when you go to vote. Pre-register on-line at <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationMain.aspx>, or stop in at City Hall to pre-register. If you have questions, call the City at 763-479-0527

## **Absentee Voting**

- Absentee Voting for the Primary Election is June 29-August 13
- Absentee Voting for General Election is September 21– November 5

## **Absentee vote in person**

You may cast an absentee ballot in person, at City Hall or at your county auditor's office. City and County offices are open for absentee voting from 10a.m.to 3p.m. on the Saturday before the election and until 5 p.m. on the day before the election.

## **Absentee Vote by mail**

You may have an absentee ballot sent to you by completing an Absentee Ballot Application, available online from Hennepin County: <http://www.hennepin.us/residents/elections/preparevote>, at City Hall, or at your county's election office. Your ballot will be sent to you when it is ready-starting 46 days prior to the election if you applied for an absentee ballot in advance.

## **Tips for New Voters on Election Day**

Go to your polling place (for location, go to [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org))

- You must vote at your assigned polling place
- You have a right to time off work to vote, without losing your pay, personal leave, or vacation time

## **Sign in or register to vote.**

- If you are registered to vote, your name will be on a list of voters. You just need to write your signature next to your name. If you are registered, you do not need to show ID when you sign in.
- If you did not register before Election Day, you must show proof of your current address. You must bring proper ID to register on Election Day. The most common form of ID is a valid Minnesota driver's license, learner's permit or ID. Your ID must have your current Independence address. Go to [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org) for ID options.

## **Vote**

- You will vote in a private area, and your vote is secret.
- The ballot instructions will say how many candidates you can choose for each office. Usually it will say to choose one.
- Your ballot will count even if you do not vote on every race or ballot question.
- If you make a mistake, you have a right to ask for a replacement ballot.

**For more information go to: [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org)**

**CITY OF  
INDEPENDENCE**

**1920 County Road 90  
Independence, MN 55359  
Ph.: 763-479-0527  
Fax: 763-479-0528  
tgronstal@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 Assistant– Beth Horner



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)**

**Important Dates!**

- **Absentee voting for Primary Election through August 13**
- **August 13– last day to preregister for Primary Election**
- **August 14– Primary Election Day**
- **September 21- November 5 Absentee Voting period for the General Election**
- **November 5 last day to pre-register for the General Election**
- **November 6 General Election Day**