

NEWSLETTER

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MAYOR JOHNSON'S LETTER

Writing an article for the newsletter seems so repetitious, yet every year can be so different. Blizzards in April are rare. So is the fourth wettest spring in history. Heavy spring rains melting lots of snow in the matter of hours is not a normal spring either. Consequently, the deep frost before snow had frozen many tile lines and culverts causing huge ponds, roads being flooded and many wet basements.

Our public works people did an amazing job in keeping our roads passable in the adverse weather events. The long wet spring meant road restrictions had to remain on extra-long.

Unfortunately, Larry Ende, our Public Works Director, is retiring. He has been an outstanding Civic Servant and communicated well to the City Council the needs of our City equipment, roads, parks and sewer.

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**Mayor
Marvin Johnson**

MEETINGS

City Council

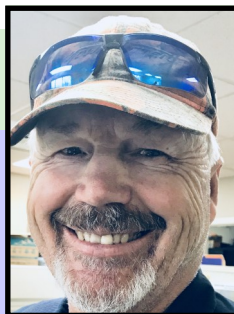
1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

Planning Commission

3rd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

**Workshops are posted
as scheduled**

www.ci.independence.mn.us



Congratulations to Larry Ende on his Retirement!

The City of Independence is sending off one of their best with warm wishes for a very happy retirement! Larry Ende has been with the City for 25 years and has served as the Director of Public Works for 10 years. We will miss his dependable leadership, tireless work ethic and most of all his dry wit! Larry put resident's safety at the forefront of all his efforts that went above and beyond to maintain 54 miles of roads with snowplowing and upkeep, fixing sewer lift stations that went down in the middle of the night in sub zero weather and the list goes on and on. Larry truly cared about the quality of his work and the integrity of his department. He mentored and thoughtfully cared for his employees and all of those that worked with him on the City Staff. Larry is the definition of a stellar employee and will be missed greatly!

We will miss him and wish him well in his retirement.

On April 26th, Earl Taylor passed away at the age of 96. Earl lived in the Lyndale area all his life until a recent move into Minnetonka Shores and worked for the City for well over twenty years. He started as Treasurer while running the Phillips 66 Service Station in Lyndale. He was then appointed Clerk Treasurer and became the first full time employee with office hours at our old City Hall across the railroad tracks. He was administrator, zoning administrator, public works director, certified tree and septic systems inspector. Basically, he did everything. Earl kept meticulous records in a small yearly Farm Bureau date book and would refer to those records often.

We again want to congratulate all our High School and College graduates and wish you well in your next endeavor.

We have just had our 2018 audit report given to the City Council by our auditors and the City was given the highest opinion available. Thanks to our City staff and contracted financial outsources for the good work they do so that we have such a good opinion.

We have been reporting for the last couple of years that the final designs for County Road 90 and County Road 92 (both north and south) as they intersect with U.S. Highway 12 should be available for review. We have had several meetings as of late with the design engineers and an “open house” is scheduled for July 11th at City Hall. We also just had separate meetings with the MnDOT Commissioner of Transportation and two people who were Assistant Commissioners for the U.S. Commissioner of Transportation in Washington D.C. regarding the urgency of getting the rebuild done on Highway 12.

Before we know it summer will be over, so now is the time to start thinking about hosting a ‘Night to Unite’ event in your neighborhood.

Have a great summer!

Marvin D. Johnson, Mayor



Shawn Bode

Public Works Promotions!

The City of Independence is proud to announce the promotions of Shawn Bode and Craig Trudeau.

Bode will be the Public Works Supervisor and Trudeau will be the Public Works Lead effective June 30th. Bode has experience working with the City of Plymouth and the City of Chanhassen in Public Works as well as being a small business owner.



Craig Trudeau

Trudeau has been instrumental in his role in the City’s Public Works Department, most notably as the official Heavy Equipment Operator. Bode and Trudeau bring an exceptional combination of skills to their roles and the department. They look forward to leading the department and providing continued excellent work for the City.



**Chief Gary
Kroells**

PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS CHIEF'S DESK

WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

Director Gary Kroells

As some of you may have heard there have been a rash of burglaries around the west metro area within the last three weeks. West Hennepin Public Safety and agencies from around the area have been working hard to apprehend these suspects and prevent more burglaries.

Suspects have been gaining access to homes by finding garage door openers in unlocked vehicles parked outside. There have also been multiple vehicles that have been stolen by taking keys from inside these unlocked vehicles and houses.

We would like to remind all citizens:

- Lock all of your cars that sit outside
- Remove valuables from cars
- Remove your garage door opener
- Remove keys from vehicles stored inside your garage
- Lock your house at night or when you are away
- Lock the door from your garage to your house
- Leave lights on inside at night
- Consider motion lights
- Security cameras that notify your mobile device of activity
- Audible alarm systems



If you have any further questions, feel free to contact West Hennepin Public Safety at (763) 479-0500. For real time updates as to what is happening in our area follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

West Hennepin Public Safety and the communities of Maple Plain and Independence have a long history of working together to keep our communities safe. WHPS needs our citizens to call 911 to report any suspicious activity so we can respond and investigate these situations immediately. We need your help to prevent crime in our area!

Night To Unite!

Tuesday, August 6th, 2019 6:00 to 9:00 pm



Join neighbors across Independence and Maple Plain on Tuesday, August 6th, 2019, for the 10th 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. West Hennepin Public Safety would like to encourage neighborhoods to get together between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on August 6th 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 Kroells. “If you know who your neighbors are and those neighbors see something...(continued page 4)

suspicious they will call the police. Get involved and take this opportunity to 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.



~get to know one another~build neighborhood involvement~bring awareness to crime prevention~

The City of Maple Plain is hosting a Night to Unite event at Veterans Memorial Park from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Community members are encouraged to celebrate at the park and meet their neighbors, local officials, police and fire officers, and enjoy a free community picnic dinner which is provided by local donors. Additionally, a community blood drive is being conducted along with free books from the “Pop in and Read Tent.” Chief Kroells stated, “This community picnic at Veterans Memorial Park is a perfect time to meet members of our communities and build relationships. Together we can prevent crime by getting involved.”

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 Lance Zilles. You can also visit the West Hennepin Public Safety Department website at www.westhennepin.com or visit our Facebook page for more information.



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.

Note to Residents with City Sewer:

**It is urgent that residents on city sewer discontinue the use of “flushable wipes”. The system is severely compromised due to the flushing of “wet wipes” or “disposable wipes”. During the past nine months approximately \$4000.00 was spent on the system due to pump damage from wipes.*

After wet wipes are flushed they exit to the city sewer system but unlike toilet paper they fail to disintegrate. They clog pumps, causing them to break down and redirect stagnant waste water back into your homes. So-called flushable wipes are a growing hazard to public health across the country.

Please help control the cost of our system as the City is working to maintain our sewer system as efficiently as possible. The only paper that should be flushed is toilet paper.

Additionally, 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 stoppage in the lateral or sewer pipes.

For more information contact Public Works at 763-479-0530.



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

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



For more information– Call 763-479-1530 Option 3, or email: earlylearning@oronok12.mn.us

2019-20 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– the highest possible rating and NAEYC Accreditation. Visit www.oronoeearlylearning.com for more information or call 952-746-5895 to schedule a tour. Register online at www.oronocommunityed.com.

ECCE Parent-Child Classes

Registration is now open for all 2019-20 ECCE classes starting in the fall. ECCE classes include parent-child activity time, parent discussion time, and children's activity time. You can "set the stage" for your child's future. Classes available for children ages birth to 4 years old. Returning this year to our ECCE programming is Beyond ECCE, an 8-week session 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 2020. *Junior Einsteins* explore STEM concepts and *Book Worms* explore children's literature.

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 and music, 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 5** 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 5** 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 26 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!**



For more information– Call 952-746-5895 or email: earlylearning@oronok12.mn.us

Orono Community Education Summer Program - The 2019 summer program has tons of classes offered in July and August! Fill your summer with adventures and fun memories We have something for all ages. www.oronocommunityed.com to register!

City Election in November



The City of Independence will be accepting Affidavits of Candidacy for the November 5, 2019 General Election. Two (2) City Council members and the Mayor position will be elected to terms of four (4) years. The filing period will open on on July 30, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. Filing will close at 5:00 p.m. on August 13, 2019; with a two (2) day withdrawal period. There is a \$2 filing fee due at the time of filing.

Mayor Marvin Johnson and Council member's Steve Grotting and Ray McCoy's terms will be up this December 31, 2019.

Highway 12 Corridor Coalition Meeting and Public Open House!

There will be a Highway 12 Corridor Coalition Meeting held on Thursday, July 11th at 3:00 p.m. A Public Open House will follow this meeting from 5:00 p.m.– 7:00 p.m. Both the Coalition and the Open House will be held at the City of Independence City Hall. 1920 County Road 90, Independence. 763-479-0527.



Compost Site Information

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.

Stop inside Delano City Hall to pick up a punch card. Punch Cards will be sold for \$50.00 per card/ 5 punches per card. For loads 8'x6' will be one punch; larger loads will be two punches.

Delano City Hall
234 2nd Street North
763-972-0550



West Hennepin Chamber of Commerce NEWS

The West Hennepin Chamber of Commerce congratulates the winner of the 2019 Step to It Challenge in our area. The Chamber donates a \$100 VISA gift card to encourage building healthy habits such as cycling, dancing, yardwork and yoga.

This spring the Chamber welcomed several new members: Bayside Pediatric Therapy, MJT & Associates and TASC. We are always looking for members to support our ability to build a creative and prosperous future. Together we can start with an idea, which turns into a focus and creates action. Our next meeting will be held in Veteran's Memorial Park in Maple Plain, Tuesday August 13th at noon. Please join us for a member provided pot luck lunch.

It is never too early to mark your calendar for our Boo Market/ Trunk or Treat event scheduled for Saturday, October 26th from 10:00-1:00. More details in the fall newsletter.

Learn more about WHCC at www.whcc-mn.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 Staff

Administrator/ City Planner– Mark Kaltsas

Public Works Director– Shawn Bode

Building Inspector– Bruce Satek

Assistant City Administrator– Beth Horner

Administrative Assistant– Trish Gronstal

City Officials

Planning Commissioners

Robert Gardner

Leith Dumas

Tom Palmquist

Steve Thompson

Anita Volkenant

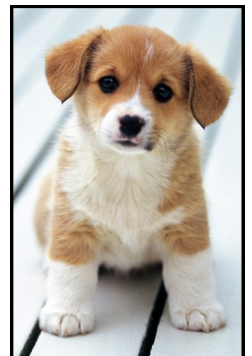


**WineFest 2019
Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019
4:00-6:00 p.m.**

Voyageur Environmental Center

WeCAN is hosting WineFest 2019, a wine tasting event on Saturday, October 5, 2019, 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 to support our programs for low-income residents. Tickets are \$50 per person and can be purchased by contacting WeCAN at 952-472-0742 or online at wecanmn.org/donate.

**Love your
dog?
Get them a
lifetime
license for
\$20!**



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!