



# SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER

## MAYOR JOHNSON'S LETTER

In preparation for writing this newsletter article, I went back in my computer to read newsletter articles I had written this same time of year since 2010. It was amazing what similarities there was, but also some very opposite happenings.

Some years we had a warm early spring. Other years we had a cool late wet spring. Sounds like this year!

In 2010 I mentioned about the city's Comprehensive Land Use plan being ready to be approved by the City Council. We have been working on the 2020 plan for about four years and still have issues to be worked out with Metropolitan Council, so it is still not ready for adoption by the Council almost five years of processing. By law the Land Use Plan must be reviewed and approved every ten years, so our present plan is really called the 2040 Plan.

In 2010 at the City's Board of Review we mentioned that most homes in the city had dropped in value, but agriculture land had increased in value helping to keep the City's overall worth close to the same as the preceding year. This year all homes had returned to the 2008 value but saw an average increase of 19.2%. Agriculture land values increased about the same. I've never seen anything like this year!

2010 was the year the new railroad bridge was built over Highway 12 to the east of County Road 90 roundabout. Highway 12 was detoured all that summer.

Mentioning detours, at our last Highway 12 Corridor Coalition Meeting we were told that the Highway 12 detour may end as early as mid-September after the new bridge for County Road 92 is completed. County Road 92 will not be open until the entire project is completed in late fall.

In 2012 we went through redistricting and elected a new Senator and Representative. Redistricting happens every ten years, so we are now in a new Senate District called 37 and instead of being included with part of the Lake



Marvin D. Johnson  
Mayor

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### MEETINGS

#### City Council

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

#### Planning Commission

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

#### Workshops are

posted as scheduled.

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

Minnetonka area to the south and east we have now been included with Medina, Greenfield, Maple Plain, Loretto, Corcoran and the highly populated City of Maple Grove. Consequently, we will end up again with a different Senator for sure.

In 2018 we had the warmest Memorial Day in History. 2018 was also the year that I, with the Council and Staff, hosted the National League of Cities Small Cities Conference. We had a great event and wonderful reviews. It would have been nice to have had our remodeled facility at that time. The next year it was in South Carolina and has not been held since because of Covid.

Memorial Day, May 30<sup>th</sup>, the Paul Stinson Legion Post will again be hosting a program at Lewis Cemetery, by the Highway 12 Roundabout, at 10:30 a.m. with a keynote speaker, the Orono High School Band, etc.

It is always a wonderful program and a fitting tribute to our deceased military. Come, bring a lawn chair, see your neighbors, and remember the freedoms fought for. Other locations will again be having their events too, but most of them are earlier.

Thanks again to all who participated in our Annual City Clean Up Day.

Give some thought about hosting a neighborhood Night to Unite Party this August.

Graduates, congratulations and enjoy your events this year.

Have a great summer and drive safely on our detours.

*Marvin D. Johnson, Your Mayor*

## Do you want to receive emergency notifications from West Hennepin Public Safety Department?

As a reminder to current residents and new residents that have moved to Independence or Maple Plain, West Hennepin Public Safety Department and our city officials issue emergency alerts through CodeRED, a high-speed notification solution. The CodeRED system allows messages to be quickly delivered to targeted areas of Independence, Maple Plain, or both cities as a whole. **Emergency alerts can be sent as an email, text message, voice message, or all three.** You decide how you want to receive the information and your information is kept private. Creating your "Managed Account" when registering allows you to be in control of your notifications:

<https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BFCB1052449C>



"No one should automatically assume that West Hennepin Public Safety emergency officials have your contact information for an emergency," Chief Gary Kroells said, urging all residents and business owners in Maple Plain and Independence to visit [www.westhennepin.com](http://www.westhennepin.com) and click on the Emergency tab to join.

Those without internet access may stop in at West Hennepin Public Safety Department (8-4pm, Monday - Friday), the City of Independence (8-4:30pm, Monday-Thursday and 8-noon Fridays), or the City of Maple Plain (9-4pm, Monday - Friday) and staff will help you create your Managed Account and enter your emergency contact data. Required information includes first and last name, street address (physical address, no P.O. boxes), city, state, zip code, and primary phone number. Additional phone numbers can be entered as well.



CodeRED gives an easy and secure method for inputting information to those who want to be included. The data collected will only be used for emergency notification purposes such as in the case of missing children, road closures, boil water advisories, and shelter-in-place alerts. Any questions should be directed to West Hennepin Public Safety Department (763) 479-0500, City of Independence (763) 479-0527, or City of Maple Plain (763) 479-0515.





## GETTING TO KNOW HOW YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT WORKS

*In efforts to educate residents of city governing and where to find relevant information, a variety of topics will be covered each newsletter.*

### Do I Still Need a Building Permit? I'm just Replacing.

The warmer weather has energized many property owners to improve their building exteriors, as well as front and rear yards. Whether you're planning a do-it-yourself project or hiring a professional, it is important to know that many "remove and replace" projects still require building permits.

#### Deck: Replacement of Boards or Railing System

Even if the layout and location is not changing, all require a building permit. The permit



will include inspections, such as base, pre-pour, or rough framing, which help ensure that the project is built safely, with proper materials, to manufacturers specifications, and to-code. Other common summer projects requiring building permits are window replacement, re-roofs, siding replacement, and AC unit replacement.

If a project is not listed here, please call the City of Independence Building Official at 763-479-0531 before starting a project in order to avoid any possible work-without-permit penalty fees.

Permit applications and fee schedules are available online at <https://www.ci.independence.mn.us/apps-forms>.

We hope you have found this helpful. Please share your thoughts in our **Residents Feedback** form on ways you best receive information from the city and what you would like included in the newsletters.

Thank you!

<https://forms.gle/2q5TFJ3JVsTzrPLq9>



### City Clean-Up Day Success!

The Spring Clean-Up Day held Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, was a free event for our residents. For the past several years Deb and Tom Fortner have come to take the gently used bikes for 'Free Bikes 4 Kids'. This group collects, repairs, and gives the bikes to kids in need. 'Free Bikes 4 Kids' is a wonderful organization and this year the Fortners collected 47 bikes. Thank you to all who donated to make this possible!



# Organics Recycling Guide



## All food

- Fruits and vegetables
- Meat, fish and bones
- Dairy products
- Eggs and egg shells
- Pasta, beans and rice
- Bread and cereal
- Nuts and shells



## Food-soiled paper

- Pizza boxes from delivery
- Napkins and paper towels
- Paper egg cartons



## Certified compostable products

- Compostable paper and plastic cups, plates, bowls, utensils and containers



Look for the term "compostable" or the BPI logo on certified products.



## Other compostable household items

- Coffee grounds and filters
- Facial tissues
- Hair and nail clippings
- Cotton balls and swabs with paper stems
- Houseplants and flowers
- Wooden items such as chopsticks, popsicle sticks and toothpicks



For the full 2-page brochure, hover your smartphone's camera over the QR code and click the website link that pops up.



**Not accepted:** Yard waste • bandages • diapers and sanitary products • animal and pet waste, litter or bedding • cleaning or baby wipes • grease or oil • Styrofoam™ • dryer lint and dryer sheets • recyclable items (cartons, glass, metal, paper, plastic) • frozen food boxes • microwave popcorn bags • gum • fast food wrappers • products labeled "biodegradable"

The City of Independence is now a convenient Organics Recycling Drop-off site for our residents.

To participate, you must:

- ◆ Come register at the City Hall during our business hours: Monday—Thursday, 8-4:30pm and Friday 8-noon.
- ◆ At that time, you'll be given a few organics recycling bags which are mandatory for your materials to be deposited in.
- ◆ When you come to City Hall to dispose of your bags, please come to the City Hall window and we will assist you with disposal.

For information on setting up your own backyard composting or to find other organics recycling drop-off locations, visit <https://hennepin.us/organics>.

See additional resources:



Hover your smartphone's camera over the QR code and click the link that pops up for Hennepin County's Recycling and Organics tab.

## Enjoying Parks and Your Outdoors Safely!

Summer is most enjoyable with the least amount of bugs, bites, and ticks, right?

Why not use MMCD Resident's Guide that's loaded with tips for a mosquito-free yard? <https://mmcd.org/residents-guide/>. Their tick site helps when suspecting the possibility of Lyme or other vector-borne illnesses. Did you know they will even help identify your tick when you mail it to them? <https://mmcd.org/tick-surveillance/>

Please share pictures of your times enjoying the City of Independence parks with: [ljohnson@ci.independence.mn.us](mailto:ljohnson@ci.independence.mn.us)

**Tamarack Park** (4740 So Lk Sarah Dr) offers a baseball field and basketball court.

**Playground Pioneer Park** (2055 Cty Rd 90) offers frisbee golf, horseshoe pits, playground, and picnic tables.

**Lyndale Park** (260 1st Ave.) offers a playground. <https://www.ci.independence.mn.us/community/parks>





## ARE FLUSHABLE WIPES A MYTH?

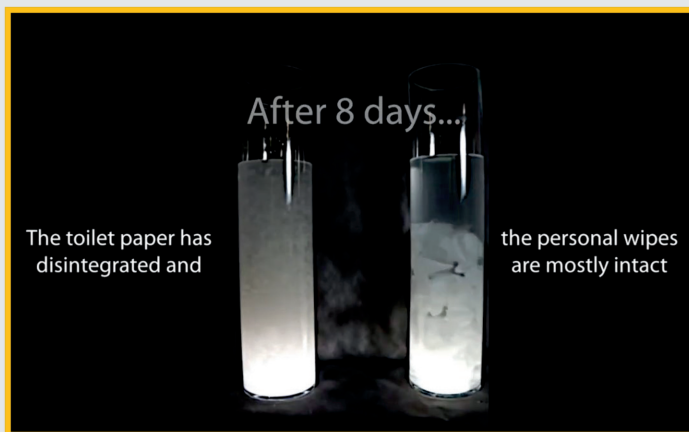
How long does it take for “flushable” wipes  
to break down and not damage  
the sewer system and lift stations?

A: 182 minutes

B: 192 hours / 8 days

**C: NEVER!**

Prevent costly back-ups - throw wipes in trash.  
For more information, contact your local waste water  
treatment plant or public works office.



If you use “Flushable Wipes” or know someone who does, please watch Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s one minute video: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/dont-flush-your-disposable-wipes>

Did you know that flushing them is like flushing a handkerchief or other item made of cloth? It really is!

Despite often being labeled “flushable,” disposable wipes that are flushed down toilets do not break down in the sewer system as this video demonstrates.

Flushed wipes cause expensive problems for Public Works staff, who have to clean them out of screens and pumps to remove wipes-based clogs. They also can get caught in your pipes which is expensive for *you* to fix.

Several cities have filed lawsuits against manufacturers and have won! Nobody wants to be *that* resident who falls for the myth that wipes are flushable and thus add unnecessary costs to the City of Independence residents! The MPCA’s website link above lists other cities’ repair costs. Our costs have been about \$9,000, but with your help we also hope to avoid additional expenses! Will you do your part?

**If you must use wipes, only put them in the trash!**



## Remembering Our Fallen Soldiers' Service and Ultimate Sacrifice This Memorial Day!

Paul Stinson American Legion 514 will hold the Annual Memorial Day service on Monday, May 30th at Lewis Cemetery beginning at 10:30 am. A 45-minute service honoring our active and deceased veterans will be held. Lewis Cemetery is located one mile west of Maple Plain on US Highway 12 at County Road 90. Service will include Maple Plain Mayor Julie Maas-Kusske and the Orono High School Band. The Public is invited to bring your "unservicable" (worn) US Flags and the Legion will have a bin available to accept them.

In addition, Paul Stinson American Legion will also salute our departed Comrades at Oakland, 8:45 AM; Christ Lutheran Church, 9:00AM; and Loretto Cemeteries, 9:45 AM. In the event of inclement weather, the service will be held at the Christ Lutheran Church, East Main Street, Maple Plain at 10:30 AM.

Orono Rotary's



Come support Veteran's Memorial Park and the Orono Strive program while enjoying a fun night listening to music by [RedDotGarage.com](http://RedDotGarage.com) and food and drinks with neighbors!

To make a donation or support Party in the Park, contact John Fay at 763-213-3271 or [johnfay@mapleplain.com](mailto:johnfay@mapleplain.com).



Take a look inside  
the brochure!  
Or pick up a copy at the  
Community Ed office  
in Long Lake.

**REGISTER STARTING MARCH 16**

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

# Summer 2022

## CLASSES & PROGRAMS

Over **300** camps & classes to  
choose from for all ages!

Science & Nature - Technology & Engineering

Art, Dance & Theater - Sports & Aquatics

Mind Motivators - Field Trips - Preschool

Adult Classes - and more!

ORONO Community  
Education  
Orono Public Schools





West Hennepin Public Safety Department  
**NIGHT TO UNITE!**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2022**  
**6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM**



Join neighbors across Maple Plain and Independence on Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, for the 13<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! **If you want to set up a party in your neighborhood, please register by Tuesday, July 26th, 2022 with West Hennepin Public Safety Department: [www.westhennepin.com/night-to-unite](http://www.westhennepin.com/night-to-unite)**



Chief Kroells said, "Our community safety is the top priority for our department and one of the best crime prevention tools is neighbors looking out for each other. If people know their neighbors, they can better identify suspicious activity and call 911 to report it. Night to Unite events give opportunities for neighborhoods and communities to join, 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, to fight crime and take back our neighborhoods. The best crime prevention tool for our communities is "the eyes and the ears of citizens looking out for each other," says Director Gary Kroells.

If you or your neighbors host a neighborhood Night to Unite event, West Hennepin Police Department and the local fire department will visit your event and share crime fighting tips, recent fraud trends, and fire safety tips for your group. Now more than ever we are asking residents to take the initiative and organize your neighborhood event. Get involved and take this opportunity to meet your neighbors!

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 Cody Thompson. You can also visit the West Hennepin Public Safety Department website at [www.westhennepin.com](http://www.westhennepin.com) or visit our Facebook page for more information on Night to Unite.

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



## CITY OF INDEPENDENCE

1920 County Road 90

Independence, MN 55359

Ph: 763-479-0527

Fax: 763-479-0528

ljohnson@ci.independence.mn.us

asimon@ci.independence.mn.us

### HOURS:

Monday-Thursday: 8-4:30, Friday: 8-noon

Pre-sorted  
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

### City Staff

#### Administrator/City Planner

Mark Kaltsas

#### Public Works Supervisor

Shawn Bode

#### Building Inspector

Bruce Satek

#### Asst. City Admin.

Beth Horner

#### Administrative Asst.

Amber Simon

Linda Johnson



## 2022 ELECTIONS

PRIMARY Election: Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> 7 am–8 pm

Pre-Register and Absentee vote **NOW** at [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org)

### **Absentee voting – June 24–August 8**

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

**City Hall Absentee Voting** – Mondays–Thursdays, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m and Fridays 8 a.m. - noon.

**Direct balloting** – Beginning Tuesday, Aug. 2, voters can place their ballot directly into the tabulator.

**Extended hours** – Saturday, August 6, (10 a.m.–3 p.m.) and Monday, August 8 (8 a.m.–5 p.m.)

### **August 9, 2022 Election Day – Voting Hours**

7 a.m.- 8 p.m. Being in line at 8 pm allows you to vote.

If you are a new Independence resident or did not vote in the last election, you can pre-register to vote now! If you are not yet 18 but will be 18 years old on Election Day, you may now also pre-register to vote. 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 or want to be an Election Judge for a full day or half day, call the City at 763-479-0527.