



SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER

MAYOR JOHNSON'S LETTER

With the majority of College and High School graduations past along with most of the graduation receptions and Memorial Day weekend has come and gone, I believe we know summer is officially here.

On Memorial Day, I started the day at Oakland cemetery on County Road 6, west of Lyndale, where the Paul Stinson Post 514 did their first firing squad salute at 8:30am. Immediately after that I went to Christ Lutheran Church cemetery on County Road 110 where the firing squad started the program at 9:00am, read the military honor roll followed by a program planned by the Church attended by a large number of people, mostly with family buried there.

The Legion Firing Squad then went to Loretto to salute Veterans there before returning to the Lewis Cemetery just south of our City Hall where a huge crowd was gathered on a beautiful sunny day. The

Paul Stinson Post, under the direction of James Meyer, Commander, planned an interesting hour long program which included music by the Orono High School Band (a tradition of 60 years), soloist Melanie Jacobson a recognition of the new cemetery monuments and speech by Dean Mooney, Cemetery Board President. Also recognized are living Veterans by their branch of service as well as the reading of 300 names of deceased veterans buried in the local cemeteries.

This year our State Representative, Kristin Robbins, and our Congressman, Dean Phillips, attended the ceremony.

I know many of our Independence residents participate in Memorial Day events in Delano and Rockford where special events were planned too.

This summer it is nice not having a detour because of U.S. Highway 12 construction. We will have some reconstruction done however—County Road 83, between Maple Plain and County Road 6 will be rebuilt as well as Town Line Road South, north of County Road 6 up to the railroad south of the Holiday Station. Also Kochs Crossing will be rebuilt and blacktopped with a new access further north on County Road 90.



Marvin D. Johnson
Mayor

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MEETINGS

City Council

1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission

3rd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Workshops are

posted as scheduled.

www.ci.independence.mn.us

Other construction projects in the City include the development of a new 18 hole private golf course just across the road from the present Windsong Private Course on County Road 6, a new business building just south of the City Park, new housing developments at Kochs Crossing and on the south shore of Lake Independence on Perkinsville Road.

One thing that is sad to see disappear is Jeff's Farm Market on County Road 11 as was Peterson's Produce on U.S. Highway 12 last year. Those landmarks were popular stops for many of our residents during the summer and fall. "The Delano Herald" had a very nice story recognizing Jeff Jacobs for his years of work in keeping the Market open.

Our City is a member of the League of Minnesota Cities. That organization is one of the best City Leagues in the United States and we have benefitted much from their services. Just using their insurance program, League of MN Cities Trust Fund, has saved us thousands of dollars. This spring it's Executive Director, Dave Unmacht, retired and now the Leagues Director of Intergovernmental Relations (Chief Lobbyist), Gary Carlson, retired after forty years. Both positions were filled by great people within the organization. I was privileged to be invited to speak at Gary's Retirement Reception. He was highly respected by all Minnesota Senators and Representatives. The LMC Annual Conference will be held June 20-23 at Duluth.

Metropolitan Council Environmental Services just released their projections for next year's services (sewer services). It is a 6.8% increase, mostly caused by inflation. However, one major expense of the operation is costs associated with things that should never be flushed; diapers, baby wipes, napkins, grease and things marked disposable. We have harped about that same thing with our sewer lines several times. We have a limited number of household hookups to the Metropolitan Sewer System, but the same principles apply to our single family systems.

A couple of the priority issues for the City presently is evaluating gravel road management and City Park design and build. We have planted some evergreen trees on the berm to shield some of the visual of our new public works/safety building as well as the Public Works area.

Before the next newsletter comes out we will be beginning preparation on the 2024 budget.

Have a wonderful summer!

Marvin D. Johnson, Your Mayor

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

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>



It's hot! Let's put a pool in!

The warmer weather has energized many property owners to install pools on their property. If you are thinking about this, you will need a permit. Some things to consider when adding a pool are: making sure you can provide a survey of the property and show where the pool is located, meeting all setbacks, and have a fence or an auto cover installed to meet our ordinance. For more information on pools please see Section 415 in our city code book.

How long does it take to get a permit?

On average, permits for things like re-roofs, replacing mechanical items, windows, etc, please allow two business days.



If your project involves a new home, a pole shed, a pool, or things that involve a survey, please allow 2-3 weeks for review. During peak season, this can take longer.

If you have questions about your permit status or getting a permit, please call our admin staff at 763-479-0527. 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>.

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

City Clean-Up Day Success!

The Spring Clean-Up Day was held Saturday, May 6th. It was a free event for Independence residents only in hopes to get as many of our own residents through the line as possible. Although there were some kinks at the end of the day, we are learning each year how to make this more successful!

Thank you to all of our residents for supporting this event and for helping keep our City clean and free of garbage. Below is just one picture of the success we had in getting rid of mattresses, appliances and countless other items for our residents.



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

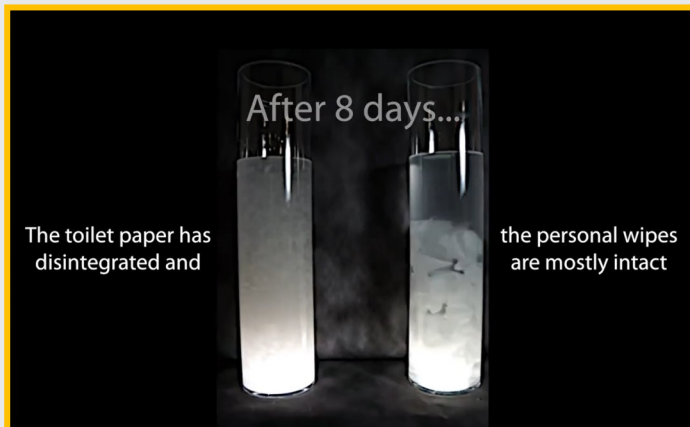
B: 192 hours / 8 days

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? The City is discussing assessing these fees back to homeowners if the problem continues to wear on the lift stations.

If you must use baby wipes, do NOT flush!





West Hennepin Public Safety Department
NIGHT TO UNITE!
TUESDAY, AUGUST 1ST, 2023
6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM



Join neighbors across Maple Plain and Independence on Tuesday, August 1st, 2023, for the 14th 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!



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 1st, 2023, 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 Ben Raskin or email braskin@westhennepin.com. You can also visit the West Hennepin Public Safety Department website at www.westhennepin.com or visit our Facebook page for more information on Night to Unite. Deadline to register is July 25th.

"Proudly Serving Maple Plain and Independence"



WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS



On May 25th, 2023, we had our 21st annual Citizen's Academy Graduation Ceremony. Citizen's Academy teaches residents the basic day-to-day functions of West Hennepin Public Safety Department. The graduates attended presentations from numerous officers, Drug Task Force Agent, General Investigator, City Attorney, Hennepin County Judge, and more. They also participated in mock traffic stops, DWI enforcement, and a police K-9 presentation. The participants took field trips to Hennepin County Dispatch for a tour and went to South Metro Public Safety Training Facility to use the firearms training stimulator.

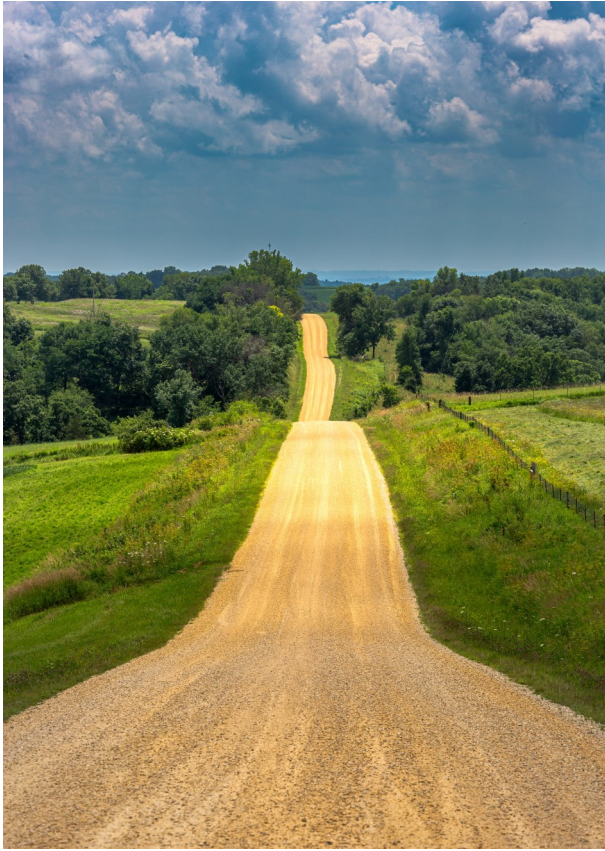
This is a great opportunity to get involved with your police department and fellow residents of Maple Plain and Independence. You'll also meet and get to know multiple police officers from your local agency and learn more about why police do what they do. At the graduation ceremony, you will receive a certificate, a custom polo, and



After ten years of service to West Hennepin Public Safety Department Officer Josh Brozek is moving closer to home to work at a police department in his community. We are very proud and honored to have worked with Officer Brozek during his time at West Hennepin Public Safety Department. His work in patrol, investigation and narcotics will be greatly missed.

Thank you, Officer Josh Brozek, for always going about and beyond serving the citizens of Maple Plain and Independence.

Best of luck in the future.



Our Public Works crew is working hard to get the calcium chloride down on all the gravel roads for dust control. Due to changes in regulations at the railyards, it has been consistently harder to get the product in a timely matter. Thank you for your continued patience.

If you have any concerns or feedback on your roads please let Public Works or the city know. There are future plans being discussed and budgeted to focus on maintenance and rebuilding these gravel roads.



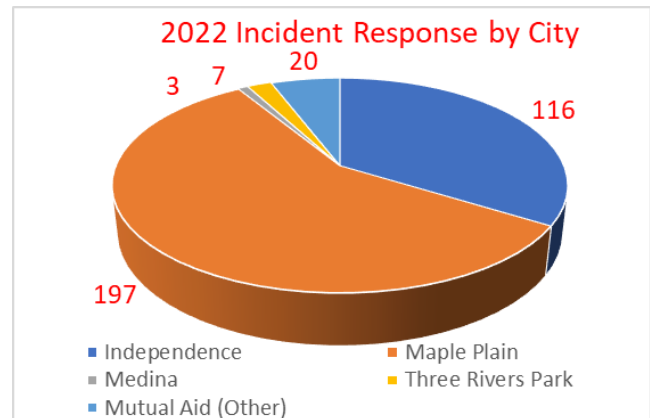
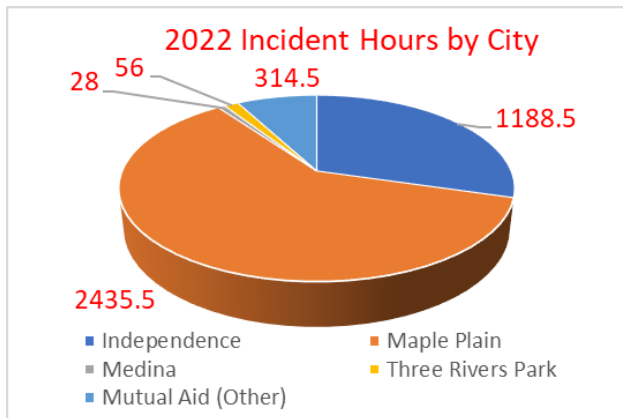
The City of Independence awarded broadband grant to install high speed internet to 423 households!

City of Independence was awarded a DEED Grant that will provide for a \$3,000,000 high speed broadband (fiber to home) project serving 423 Independence households. The City also received a grant for \$250,000 from Hennepin County to support the local match requirement. This project will commence in 2023 and be completed by 2024. Within the last five years, the City has successfully been awarded grant funding to complete almost \$5,000,000 in high speed broadband expansion.



Maple Plain Fire Department 2022 Year in Review

The year 2022 was a busy year for the Maple Plain Fire Department. MPFD responded to 343 incidents in which 4022 hours were logged by fire fighters. Below is a breakdown of the incident and hours by city served.

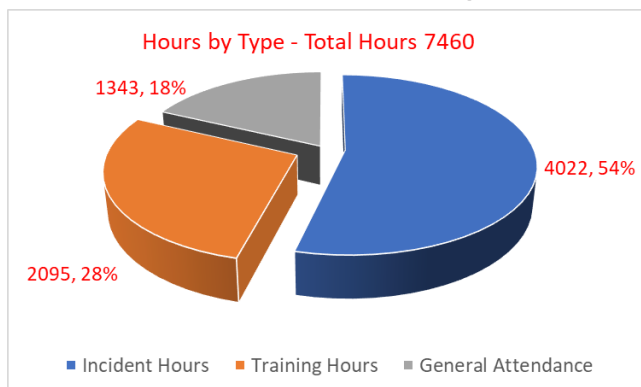


Fire fighters not only respond to incidents when 911 is called they also train nearly every Monday night. The trainings include monthly equipment checks, pumper training using water source from hydrants and tanker/dump tanks; high angle rope rescue, medical scenario's, ice/cold water rescue, warm water rescue, pre plan of commercial properties, crash extrication techniques, live burn training, confined space rescue, weather related incidents, incident command systems, forcible entry techniques, scene safety training, personal protective equipment and several other trainings that fire fighters have to be current on. Firefighters are trained annually to the minimum standard of Emergency Medical Responder (First Responder) with several firefighters advancing in their certifications to EMT and/or Paramedic to better serve each of you"

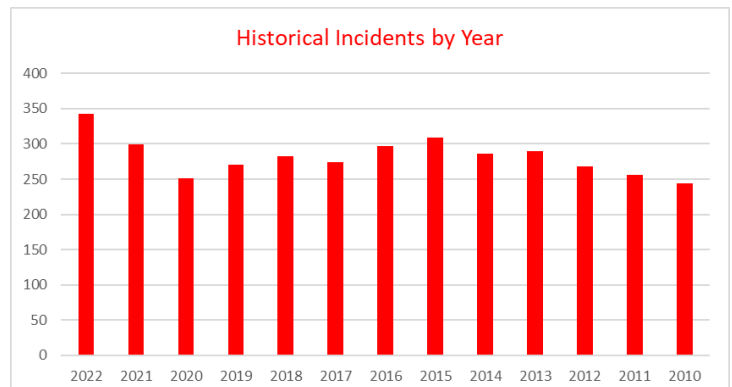
Additionally, fire fighters participate in numerous community events such as fire prevention seminars with our schools, fire prevention open house, national night out events, fire station tours for many community groups such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, trick and treat events, area community parades, fixing and repairing equipment and building maintenance. These hours are logged as general attendance hours.

Maple Plain Fire Department currently has 24 paid on call members. They each carry a pager for incident notification. In addition they are notified on their cell phones with incident description and location. In 2022 we had an average 9 firefighters per call responding. As highlighted in the chart below incidents are only 54% of the hours served by our dedicated fire fighters.

Below is a breakdown of how many hours were put in by our dedicated Maple Plain firefighters



Below shows the general trend lines of incidents over the past 13 years



Maple Plain Fire Department is always looking for dedicated individuals to serve as firefighters. If interested, please contact the fire department at 763-479-0520 or City of Maple Plain at 763-479-0515 for an application.



City Developments

In the coming months you may notice some construction around the city. Some of those developments/construction sites include:

Koch Farm Sanctuary—located between County Rd 90 and Independence Rd

This development will include 33 lots and moving Kochs Crossing further North on County Rd 90 for safety concerns.

Hilltop Prairie—located off of County Rd 90, South of Hwy 12

This development will include 13 lots

Sam's Landscaping—located on West side of County Rd 90 near City Hall

Sam's is building two new commercial buildings directly across the street from his current location that he will move his business into due to outgrowing the smaller space next to City Hall.

Bridgevine—located off of Perkinsville and South Lake Shore Dr. (old Otten property)

This development will include 28 lots

POLICE
WEST HENNEPIN
EST. 1979

FIRST RESPONDER SOFTBALL GAME

**WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY
- VS -
MAPLE PLAIN FIRE DEPT**

**7 September 2023
6 PM - 8 PM**

VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

WWW.MAPLEPLAIN.COM

**MAPLE PLAIN
FIRE DEPT**



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Friday: 8-noon

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Amber Simon
Administrative Asst.
Carrie Solien
Linda Johnson

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