

NEWSLETTER

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MAYOR JOHNSON'S LETTER

As I write this letter in early June, I am amazed to see the corn fields that are already knee high, soybeans eight inches out of the ground and hay fields and pastures with lots of growth. The warm rainy weather is good for the corn and soybeans, but we need several bright sunny days in a row to cut and dry the hay.

Memorial Day was a gorgeous day and I want to thank everyone who participated in an event to honor our Veterans. The Paul Stinson Post planned another outstanding program at the Lewis Cemetery in Independence and our own resident, Vietnam Veteran Dean Mooney, was the keynote speaker.

Congratulations to our many graduates! Kindergarten, High School, College/ University, Home School and Vocation/ Technical Centers. To each it is another milestone for another big event in one's life. I attended Orono's fabulous graduation this year, the biggest graduating class ever with 238 students!

Thanks to those who participated in the City Clean-Up Day. It was very successful!

Now that summer is here, consider exploring Heritage Park! Martin Eicher's 2015 Eagle Scout Project is on display and as funds become available more things are added to the park.

Continued p.2



Independence Mayor
Johnson

MEETING INFO

City Council Meetings-

2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Planning Commission Meetings-

3rd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

NEWSLETTER CHANGE

For the past few years, we have done a joint newsletter with the City of Maple Plain. There will be a change moving forward-we will now be doing our own! We will have our own new look. Our intent is to make it as user-friendly as possible.

We welcome your feedback.



Tuesday, August 2nd

Host a neighborhood event that brings police and your community together for a fun evening! Registration form is inside this newsletter page 7.

Mayor letter continued from page 1

Since our last newsletter, the Westonka School District voters approved additional bonding for their high school. The additional taxes will show up on your statements next year (2017).

Items currently under discussion at this time by the Staff and City Council include:

- 1) 2017 City budget
- 2) Solar Ordinance
- 3) Sewer Rate Study Plan
- 4) Night to Unite opportunities
- 5) Cell tower on City property
- 6) Sewer expansion to include Loretto's discharge through Independence pipes
- 7) Road improvements
- 8) Highway 12 upgrades
- 9) City Council and City Planning paperless initiative



Some events you might want to put on your calendar this summer rather than watching the political conventions will be attending the local community theatre as they present "Fiddler On The Roof" at the Orono High School Auditorium on July 22-24th and July 29-31st. A Night to Unite party will be held August 2nd and Maple Plain Days will be August 19 and 20th. Also, we have finally heard that the television episodes filmed in our family's hayfield last summer are available now at abc.go.com. The program is called "In An Instant" Season 2. The first episode ran on June 18th and featured the Moore tornado in Oklahoma, "Tragedy in Tornado Alley". The second episode on July 23rd will feature the survivors from the collapse of the bonfire at Texas A&M University, "Buried By Bonfire". Check complete listing information at <http://abc.go.com/shows> as times may be subject to change.

I have a busy summer. We had our annual League of Minnesota Cities Conference in St. Paul, June 14th-18th. I served on the Nominating Committee from June 28th- June 30th. I have a meeting in Kansas City for the National League of Cities for Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Steering Committee and in the middle of July I have a NLC Small Cities Conference Steering Committee meeting. I will be the League of Minnesota Cities Representative for the last two meetings.

Have a wonderful summer!

Marvin D. Johnson, Mayor



**Steak Fry/ Silent Auction
October 8, 2016**

Open House: 1:00-5:00 PM

Steak Fry: 4:00-7:00 PM

Silent Auction: 7:00 PM

The Maple Plain Fire Department hosts this annual event with many fun activities for the entire family!

1645 Pioneer Ave, Maple Plain

New Officer joins West Hennepin Public Safety!

On April 18, 2016, West Hennepin Public Safety welcomed their newest member to the police force, Aaron Geddes. Director Kroells said, " Officer Aaron Geddes was hired after an extensive job search with a multitude of qualified candidates. Officer Geddes came out on top with his experience as a sheriff's deputy in Dunn County North Dakota."

While working as a deputy sheriff at Dunn County, Officer Geddes served as an officer for three years, was promoted to a Patrol Corporal, field training officer, SWAT officer and joined the local ambulance service becoming an Emergency Medical Technician. Officer Geddes grew up in Plymouth, MN and earned his B.A. in Criminal Justice at St. Cloud State University. West Hennepin Public Safety officially welcomes Aaron Geddes as our newest Police Officer for the Patrol Division.



Night to Unite

Tuesday August 2, 2016

Wanted: Neighborhood Party Hosts

Join neighborhoods across Minnesota in the 7th Annual Night to Unite. 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!

WHPS would like to encourage neighborhoods to get together between 6:00-9:00 p.m. on August 2nd. If you or your neighbors a Night to Unite event, the 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!

Fill out the registration form on the following page or for more information please contact the Night to Unite Coordinator/ Officer Rosati at the West Hennepin Public Safety Department, 763-479-0500. You may also visit the West Hennepin Public Safety Department website for more details.

www.westhennepin.com



Night to Unite

Tuesday August 2nd, 2016

West Hennepin Public Safety Department

Official Registration Form

Registration Deadline is

7/31/2016

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 households 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 Rosati

Plans for party/ event _____

Please number in order of preference 1,2,3	West Hennepin Police	Local Fire Department	Other

Mail your form by **July 31st** to:
 West Hennepin Public Safety Department
 Attn: Officer Rosati
 1918 County Road 90
 Independence, MN 55359

Fax: 763-479-0504

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NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS- SEAN KEATING

When Sean Keating founded Oggi Professional Services in 2010, he imagined a staffing firm that was about people, with a team of professionals who functioned like partners and career counselors. In just six short years, this philosophy combined with hard work, has grown Oggi from an idea to a top-four executive search firm according to the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal (MSPBJ)*.

Recently Sean's passion and integrity earned him a coveted spot on the *MSPBJ's* 40 under 40 list. Each year, editors sift through hundreds of nominations and choose 40 leaders under the age of 40 who have already accomplished much in their professional lives while also taking a leading role in the Twin Cities community. While Sean encourages employees to be active in philanthropic ef-

forts, he personally is involved in a number of charitable efforts including; active participation on the Orono Youth Hockey Board of Directors; Golf for the Gift, a foundation which turns the dream of adoption into a reality for those who could otherwise not afford to adopt; as well as other causes. The 40 under 40 project is one of the *MSPBJ's* oldest special publications and showcases next group of Twin Cities leaders.



Sean Keating



LICA AWARD PRESENTED TO BRAD SPENCER

LICA was pleased to present Brad Spencer with the Friends of Lake Independence award at their annual meeting and picnic held at Baker Park on May 21st. The award is given to citizens who have shown extraordinary effort toward the improvement and preservation of the water quality of Lake Independence. Barbara Zadeh said, "Brad certainly fits that criteria! He not only serves

the community through his position on the City Council but as a concerned citizen working on behalf of the health of our lakes, most notably Lake Sarah and Lake Independence. Brad has been an invaluable resource to LICA over the years and we wholeheartedly thank him!"



Brad Spencer and LICA VP Mike McLaughlin

DISCOVERY CENTER KIDS CORNER

2016-17 Preschool and Practice Preschool. Now is the time to register! The Orono Schools Early Learning Program has a 4-Star Parent Aware Rating and NAEYC Accreditation- the highest possible! Visit www.oronoeearlylearning.com for more info or call 763-479-1530.

ECFE Parent-Child Classes are now open for children ages birth-4 years old. There are also many additional enrichment opportunities for Kindergarten age children such as ExploreMORE!, Junior Einsteins, Bookworms, Los Chiquitos Spanish and Mathletes. Visit- www.oronocommunityed.com

Ice Cream Social and Vehicle Fair-August 25th from 5:30-7:00!

All families are invited to this [FREE](#) event!

Come see some really cool trucks, visit classrooms, and meet some outstanding teachers!



Delano Senior Center

Day Trips

Thursday, July 7: Cokato shopping trip - 9 a.m., \$6

Wednesday, July 13: *Million Dollar Quartet* at Old Log Theater - 11:30 a.m., \$58

Thursday, July 14: Buffalo shopping trip - 9 a.m., no cost

Wednesday, July 20: *The Lion King* at Orpheum Theater - 6:15 p.m., \$100

Thursday, July 21: Shopping and sightseeing in Stillwater - 8 a.m., \$15

Wednesday, July 27: Cuban food at Victor's 1959 Café in Minneapolis - 10:00 a.m., \$6

Friday, July 29: Barn Quilts of Carver County Tour - 8:30 a.m., \$30

Wednesday, August 3: *South Pacific* at the Guthrie Theater - 11:30 a.m., \$62

Wednesday, August 10: Buffalo shopping trip - 9 a.m., \$6

Thursday, August 11: Westonka Historical Society tour - 9:30 a.m., \$10

Wednesday, August 17: Treasure Island Casino trip - 7:30 a.m., \$23

Monday, August 22: Olive Garden and Minnetonka General Store trip - 10:30 a.m., \$6

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**.

Delano Senior Center
234 2nd Street North, PO Box 462
Delano, MN 55328

Special In-House Events:

Wed., July 20: *Mount Rushmore: Carving of an Icon* with historian David Jones. - 11 a.m.

Tuesday, July 26: Concert with "Copper Street Brass Band" - 11 a.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 16: AARP "Fraud, Scams, and Identity Theft" presentation - 11 a.m.

Thursday, Aug. 18: Pie Day at the senior center with music by Mell-o Knights at 11 a.m.

Sat., Sept. 10: Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast - 7:30 - 11:30 a.m.

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

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

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

Movie Club: 1:00 every **Thursday**

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

Storytheater: practices as needed



Elections 2016

Primary Election: August 9

General Election: November 8

For more complete information go to www.mnvotes.org

Pre-Register to Vote

If you are a new Independence resident, or did not vote in the 2014 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/](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 24-August 8
- Absentee Voting for General Election is September 23-November 7

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 and 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)

- 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 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.
- Take your ballot to the ballot box and insert the ballot in the counter machine.

Important Dates!

- Absentee voting for Primary Election through Aug. 8
- July 19– last day to preregister for Primary Election
- August 2-August 16 candidate filing for General Election
- August 9– Primary Election Day
- September 23-November 7 Absentee Voting period For the General Election
- October 18 last day to pre-register for the General Election
- November 8 General Election Day

We are on the web
independence.govoffice.com

CITY OF INDEPENDENCE

1920 County Road 90
Independence, MN 55359
Ph: 763-479-0527
Fax: 763-479-0528

E-mail:
tbemmels@ci.independence.mn.us

CITY STAFF

MARK KALTSAS- ADMINISTRATOR
LARRY ENDE- PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
BRUCE SATEK- BUILDING INSPECTOR
BETH HORNER- ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
TRISH BEMMELS- OFFICE ASSISTANT

Mayor

Marvin Johnson

City Council

Brad Spencer

Lynn Betts

Ray McCoy

Steve Grotting

Planning Commission Chair

Carl Phillips

Planning Commissioners

Robert Gardner

Craig Olson

Tom Palmquist

Steve Thompson

ANNUAL KIDS STUFF SALE!

The Orono Discovery Center is now accepting donations for the annual Kids Stuff Sale. Clean out your closets and donate your children's outgrown or unused clothing, toys, books and equipment. Drop off your donations at the Discovery Center in Maple Plain before September 19 or at the Community Education office in the Education Link between August 15-September 19. Do you have a lot of items you would rather sell? Become a seller and earn 65% on sold items. Mark your calendars for the



sale! Preview Sale on Friday, September 23 from 5-7 (\$5 entrance fee), Kids Stuff Sale on Saturday, September 24 from 9am-12pm, and 1/2 Price Sale on Saturday, September 23 from 12-2 pm.

WeCAN SIP, SAVOR AND SHOP

WINE TASTING EVENT!

Experience a fun-filled evening with local wineries, food from local restaurants and more! *WeCAN is a community nonprofit that provides support services empowering individuals and families to reach stability and self-sufficiency.

Event Date: Saturday, October 1, 2016

Event Time: 4:00-7:00 pm

Venue: Voyageur Environmental Center

7000 County Road 15, Mound

Call for tickets: 952-472-0742

