

NEWSLETTER

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MAYOR JOHNSON'S LETTER

I believe winter has arrived! When the temperature changes from 60 degrees high and a day later it is below zero wind chill and snow on ground – we take notice. Accordingly, driving and parking circumstances change. We also need to be careful walking and climbing steps to avoid falls because of ice and end up with broken bones. When I hear the radio personalities commenting about extra long commute times because of weather conditions, I'm so thankful that commuting to work has not been a part of my life.

Thank you to those who took the time to vote at the November election and return Lynn Betts and Brad Spencer to the City Council. Unfortunately, it was a pathetic turnout. Elections like this one scare me because it becomes very easy for a last minute write in candidate to win an election.

Staff and City Council have been working on our 2018 City Budget for the last six months and have just confirmed our levy for next year. *Continued p.2*



Mayor

Marvin Johnson

MEETING INFO

City Council Meetings-

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

Planning Commission Meetings-

3rd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Workshops are posted as scheduled

independence.govoffice.com

New City Website and on-line bill pay coming soon!

The City of Independence is excited to announce we will be transitioning to a new and improved website in 2018! The site will be much more intuitive and also mobile optimized for your convenience. Residents will be able to pay their utility bill online as well permits and other application fees. Stay tuned to the current website and the City's Facebook page for more information and go-live dates!

www.facebook.com/independenceminnesota

Our budget went up primarily to fund capital expenditures rather than bonding as well as increasing our cash reserve balance. Variations on individuals taxes will change depending on what happened to your home valuation, what school district you're in, farm land valuation and law changes, etc. Hennepin County and special districts have increased their levies too.

During the next year we will be asking for more input on our 2040 City Comprehensive Land Use Plan. I hope we can count on you! It needs to be completed by the end of next year.

Because our Representative Hertaus and Senator Osmeck were able to get some designated funding for U. S. Highway 12 road improvements approved at the Legislature last year, we have had a series of meetings with other entities reviewing several engineering designs for County Road 92 and Highway 12. The railroad, wetlands, private property, road curves, reducing intersections, future growth and limited dollars are some of the factors that are being considered. Hopefully by early spring we can have enough information that we can hold an "open house" and receive public comments. Hennepin County becomes the main "banker" in this project.

Hopefully this will be a good Holiday Season for you and your family. Likewise I wish the best for us all in 2018

Marvin D. Johnson, Mayor



As we take time to celebrate the holidays with our loved ones, we at Maple Plain Fire Department are celebrating the blessing of serving each of you on a daily basis.

The role of a Firefighter in Maple Plain is much more than putting 'wet stuff on the red stuff'. Our firefighters are trained as Emergency Medical Responders, Technicians and Paramedics, Confined Space Rescue Technicians, State Certified Firefighter, Hazardous Materials Operators as well as many other types of rescue including water / ice rescue and car crash response and extrication to name a few. It is our goal and mission to treat each situation as if we were serving our own families by serving you with compassion, empathy and with the highest level of professionalism.

As we embark in a new year, we look forward to our continued service to you and your families. If you ever find yourself in a time of need, please call 911 and we will be ready to assist you.

Also, if you are interested in becoming a Firefighter with Maple Plain Fire Department, I encourage you to check out our website at www.mapleplainfire.com for more information on how to become a Maple Plain Firefighter. We are a family looking to grow to serve the families of our community.

We look forward to seeing you around town. Make sure you stop by and say "Hi" when you see us at the station or in your neighborhood

Have a Safe and Happy 2018!

Best,

Justin McCoy– Maple Plain Fire Department Fire Chief

Winter 2018



Left to Right: WHPS Police Officer Reserve Coordinator: Ben Anderson, Sgt. Rick Denneson, Police Officer Shawn Ebeling, Reserve Officers: Dillion Field, Steven Fenner, Lisa Schreier, Titus Winger, Philip Beck, Nathan Faust, and Christopher Leonard. Second row: Santa

On Saturday December 2, 2017 the West Hennepin Public Safety Reserve Officers hosted the popular event "View Santa" in Maple Plain and Independence. The Police Reserves escorted Santa in his sleigh around town to visit with and see children throughout many neighborhoods. In doing so they collected food for the Maple Plain Area Food Shelf.

"This year was an exceptional year with many people coming out to visit Santa and making donations to the local food shelf. The Police Reserves collected over 1,055 pounds of food and \$245.00 in cash donations" said Director Gary Kroells. "The Volunteer Reserve Officers of WHPS have been hosting this event for 37 years and it is a very special program for our small communities".

"Without our Volunteer Police Reserves this wonderful event would never take place. By working together, our citizens and your police department filled the food shelf to provide to others who need it most. It is a truly wonderful event." said Director Kroells.



NEW Seasonal Parking Restrictions Are in Effect!

(Ordinance No. 2017-06)

From November 1 through April 15 of each year and between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. following a snow fall of two inches or more in depth, it shall be unlawful to park or permit to be parked, or continue to park or permit to stand, any vehicle upon any city street until the snow has been plowed from the street or the same has been otherwise disposed of.

West Hennepin Public Safety announces the 2018 Citizens Police Academy



West Hennepin Public Safety has announced the dates for the 2018 Citizens Police Academy. The Citizens Police Academy will start on February 15, 2018 and will end with graduation on April 5, 2018. The Academy runs for eight weeks, one day a week, Thursday nights, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 pm.

WHAT IS IT?

The Citizens Academy is a **FREE** 24-hour block of instruction, sponsored by the Crime Fund, designed to give citizens knowledge about how your public safety department operates, our policies, procedures, programs and challenges. In addition, you will be introduced to government officials and staff and learn about the responsibilities of their respective office. Participants in each session will commit to meeting 3 hours, one night a week for 8 weeks.

The Citizens Police Academy was designed to create a better understanding of law enforcement through education. The Citizens Police Academy participants are presented with realistic hands on information, which will help each participant better understand the police department functions. The classroom and hands on information covers: **DWI and Traffic Enforcement, home security, personal security, use of force, including deadly force which includes a demonstration of the Taser Gun and FATS training (firearms simulation), Hennepin County Dispatch Center, Court procedures including testifying before a Judge** and many other areas related to law enforcement.

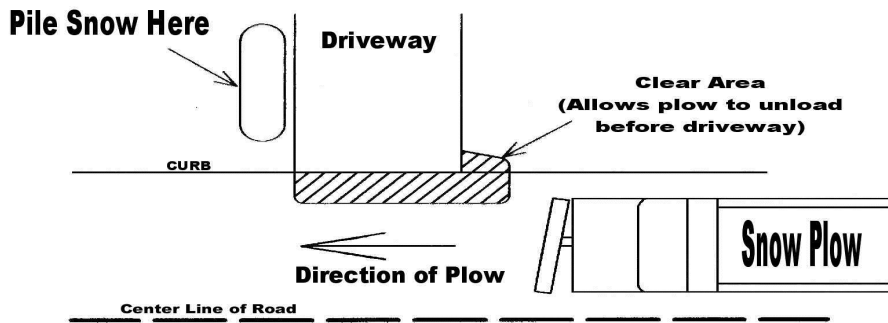
This is a great opportunity to meet your police officers, fellow citizens, and other members of government to learn why we do what we do. At graduation you will receive a certificate and become a member of the Citizens Academy Network Alumni.

WHY SHOULD I ATTEND?

We believe an informed citizenry will enhance public safety, make better decisions about how to protect themselves and their business, understand law enforcement strategies to problem-solving and provide leadership to other areas of government.

This class is a must for those people who live or work in or near the West Hennepin Public Safety Department's jurisdiction. The West Hennepin Public Safety Department is currently establishing a list of participants who would be interested in the next class. The recommended attendee age is 18 years and older. **Please contact the West Hennepin Public Safety Department at (763) 479-0500 between the hours 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., if you are interested in attending the Citizens Police Academy.**

Driveway Plowing Policies



New City Ordinance: 2017-06

Please note it is unlawful to dump, plow or push snow from private driveways onto highway or city streets whether you are plowing your driveway or have hired someone to

remove snow. Snow dumped on highways or street right-of-way can create a hazard not only for motorists, but also for snowplows. Even heavy snowplows have been ditched and damaged when hitting compacted and frozen snow. The person responsible for depositing snow on roadways may be liable in a civil lawsuit if damages or injuries occur as a result of this action. Under MN Statutes, Chapter 160.2715, RIGHT-OF-WAY USE, violation of the above statute is a misdemeanor, **city ordinance 2017-06** states from November 1 through April 15 of each year and between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. following a snow fall of two inches or more in depth, it shall be unlawful to park or permit to be parked, or continue to park or permit to stand, any vehicle upon any city street until the snow has been plowed from the street or the same has been otherwise disposed of.

Note to Residents with City Sewer: 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.

DO NOT put paper products such as paper towels, moist towelettes, tissue, handy wipes, disposable towels, diapers, sanitary napkins, condoms, and feminine products down the drain. **The only paper that should be flushed is toilet paper.**

Kitchen solids, such as fruit and vegetable rinds and peels, corn kernels, eggshells, and chicken bones can also cause blockage. Garbage disposals do not always reduce some of these items to the point that they will flush clear of the lateral lines.

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 a stoppage in the lateral or sewer pipes. Avoid using chemicals that claim to dissolve grease, such as vinegar and baking soda. Those products only dislodge grease clogs and move them further down the pipe, which can lead to similar problems. To dispose of cooking grease, pour it into a heat-resistant container, and allow it to cool and set. That container should then be disposed in the regular garbage.

DELANO SENIOR CENTER- DAY TRIPS

- January 4: **Basilica of St. Mary Tour, MPLS** - 9 a.m., \$10
- January 10: **St. Cloud Shopping Trip** - 8:30 a.m., \$7
- January 18: **Treasure Island Casino Trip** 7:30 a.m., \$23
- January 25: **Museum of Russian Art** - 9:00 a.m., \$17
- January 29: **Monticello Shopping Trip** - 9:00 a.m., \$7
- January 31: **Afghani Cuisine at Khyber Pass, St. Paul** - 10:15 a.m., \$7
- February 7: **IKEA Shopping Trip** - 9:15 a.m., \$7
- February 15: **Southtown Shopping Trip & Red Lobster** - 9:00 a.m., \$7
- February 21: **Minneapolis City Hall & Courthouse Tour** - 11:00 a.m., \$7
- March 1: **Drinking Habits play at DayTrippers Theatre, Bloomington** - 11:30 a.m., \$50
- March 7: **Korean BBQ at Gogi Bros. House, Eden Prairie** 10:15 a.m., \$7
- March 14: **Guys & Dolls Musical at Old Log Theatre** - 11:15 a.m., \$60
- March 15: **Grand Casino Hinckley Trip** - 7:30 a.m., \$25
- March 22: **Rockford Day Trip (Stork House and shopping)**- 9:45 a.m., \$10

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.

Kindergarten Parent Meeting & Class! Will your child be 5 by September 1, 2018? Attend the parent-only Incoming Kindergarten Parent Meeting on February 22 and be welcomed to the Orono District. Free Kindergarten Connection classes are available as well so you and your child will get a sample of kindergarten! Register at **763-479-1530 opt. 3** or www.oronocommunityed.com.

2018-19 Preschool & Practice Preschool! Registration opens January 10th! There are part-day or full-day options 2,3, or 4 days per week to fit your schedule. The program is a 4-Star Parent Aware Rating-the highest possible and NAEYC Accreditation. Call **763-479-1530 opt.3** to register or for more information visit www.oronoearylearning.com.

Speaker Events at the Discovery Center

Tuesday, January 9th from 6:30-8:00 pm:
Empower Your Kids to Live a Healthy Life by Pediatric Specialist Dr. Rachel Hovey- Join Rachel as she coaches parents on empowering children to live healthy lives.

Tuesday, March 6th from 6:30-8:00 pm :
Transitions: From Here to There to Everywhere by Karen Pennaz, Orono Parent Educator Learn how to help your child make important transitions. Children feel safe when they know their feelings are valid. With patience and diplomacy, you can help your child take steps forward.

Events are \$8/person at the door and child care is available with pre-registration required (\$5 per child).

www.oronocommunityed.com

763-479-1530 opt 3




2018




763-972-3335

City of Independence

2018 Every Other Week Single Sort Recycle Collection

-  South of Hwy 12 and North of Hwy 12 but West of Co Rd 90
 North Of Hwy 12 and East of Co Rd 90
 Holiday

Holidays Observed: New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day
Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

-  Pickups that fall on or after a holiday will be serviced one day late.
 Holidays on Saturday or Sunday do not cause any delays

Collection Schedule is also available on our website. RandysEnvironmentalServices.com

JANUARY						
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DECEMBER						
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**CITY OF
INDEPENDENCE**

1920 County Road 90

Independence, MN 55359

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Fax: 763-479-0528

tbemmels@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

Craig Olson

Tom Palmquist

Steve Thompson

City Staff

Administrator/City Planner

Mark Kaltsas

Public Works Director

Larry Ende

Building Inspector

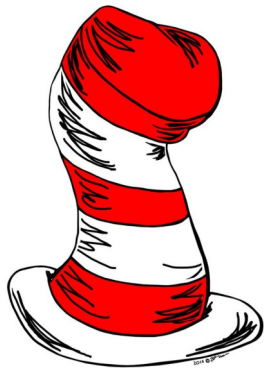
Bruce Satek

Administrative Asst.

Beth Horner

Administrative Asst.

Trish Bemmels



Suessical Super Saturday!

A free event for the entire family! Join us at the Discovery Center on February 24th from 10-11:30 am. Meet the Cat in the Hat, play games, and take part in a free sample ECFE class.



BOOK FAIR!

Come, stay, read a great tale! Mark your calendars for the book fair at

the Discovery Center, 5050 Independence St., Maple Plain! **February 5-9th**

Heart Safe AED Training– February 13th

The West Hennepin Chamber of Commerce is hosting a **FREE** AED and CPR training session at Independence City Hall on February 13th from 12:00 p.m. -2:00 p.m.. There is no fee and businesses are encouraged to send employees. Lunch will be served at 11:45 for those who order. There is a need for a Volunteer Coordinator for Heart Safe so please let us know if you are interested!

For more information on the open position or to RSVP for the event contact

Jennifer at (763) 479-8149 or Karin at (763) 479-1011

