



WINTER 2023 NEWSLETTER

MAYOR JOHNSON'S LETTER

As I write this newsletter article, we are being told that winter weather is due this coming weekend. It has been an unusually nice fall. Winter always seems to be shorter if we don't have a huge snowfall before Halloween. Also with Election Day about as late in November as it could possibly be, it is nice to have good weather on that day too.

Since I am addressing weather, we could not have had a more perfect summer this year or last year for the construction of the Roundabout near City Hall last year and this year the construction of the new bridge over the railroad and U. S. Highway 12 and the building of the new corridor to bring County Road 92 north and south together. October 31st, the day of the ribbon cutting and opening of County

Road 92 could not have been a more beautiful fall day. No more detours!

Neither Representative Jerry Hertaus nor Senator David Osmek ran for office this fall, but they were responsible for getting the funding through the Legislature to get the County Road 92 project built. If you see them, thank them!

Because of the beautiful fall weather, all farm and garden harvesting has been completed. Because it is so dry, it is almost impossible for farmers to chisel plow their corn and soybean field acreage. This will affect next year's crop production, but until we have snow on the ground, we have had a real fire danger, too.

Election Day is past and hopefully all the political road signs have been removed, much less mail is being delivered and the TV and radio campaign commercials have ended. Thanks for voting! It is a privilege and responsibility we should ALL take seriously. Now we need to renew our commitment to working together with our newly elected people for the betterment of our community and country. Redistricting will not happen



Marvin D. Johnson
Mayor

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MEETINGS

City Council

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

*Truth & Taxation at 6:00 p.m.

Planning Commission

3rd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Workshops are

posted as scheduled.

www.ci.independence.mn.us

again for another ten years.

I mentioned earlier about the danger of fire and also Redistricting. For the last couple of years our council has been involved with other cities in talking about “Fire Contracts” and “Fire Districts” and cost containment and areas covered by each fire department. Nothing has changed at this point, but the Loretto and Hamel Fire Departments (both private departments) are discussing the possibility of merging.

Also, beginning before the end of the year, North Memorial Ambulance Service, will be making our new Public Safety/Public Works building a local home for them.

The City Council, Staff, and Department Heads have been busy working on our City Budget for next year. We are very conscience of the fact of major valuation increases, so you will see a reduction in the rate from previous years. The final budget will be approved at a December Council Meeting.

Enjoy the fall festivities of Thanksgiving, special dinners, concerts, View Santa, family gatherings, trips and Christmas. Stay healthy and safe too!

Marvin D. Johnson, Your Mayor

2023 Preliminary Budget Information

Every year cities in Minnesota are required to adopt a preliminary tax levy and budget by September 30th for the following year. Cities then have until December 31st to adopt a final tax levy and budget. The City of Independence City Council adopted the 2023 **Preliminary** General Fund Tax Levy and Budget at the September 20th Regular City Council Meeting. The City Council will consider adoption of the final budget at the first City Council meeting in December . There are several key elements of the preliminary budget that should be noted:

- City Council has adopted a preliminary budget that significantly lowers the applicable municipal tax rate from 39% to 32%, as a result of operating an efficient and value driven local government. This 7% reduction in the City’s tax rate will equate to a corresponding reduction in City taxes on an equal valued home year over year. Prior to this year's reduction, Independence has held a flat tax rate since 2016 with no increases.
- The City of Independence has worked with West Hennepin Public Safety to increase police department funding to ensure officer retention, competitive compensation and continued investment in capital needs.

- The City continues to increase its cash reserve balance to be at or slightly above auditor recommended levels.
- The City continues to maintain its debt service level while issuing debt to pay for key road, infrastructure and facility improvements.
- The City has established and continues to maintain long-range capital plans for equipment, roads, sewer and municipal facilities. This planning allows the City to budget and manage all capital needs.
- The City continues to fund capital equipment purchases with cash rather than through issuing additional debt. Long range capital planning allows the City to save cash for making capital purchases when necessary.
- The City has received an unmodified opinion for the state of the City’s financials from its annual audit. This is the highest opinion that can be obtained.

**The Truth and Taxation Meeting
will be Tuesday, December 6th at 6 pm
at the City Hall. All are welcome.**



Seasonal Parking Restrictions (City Ordinance 2018-04)

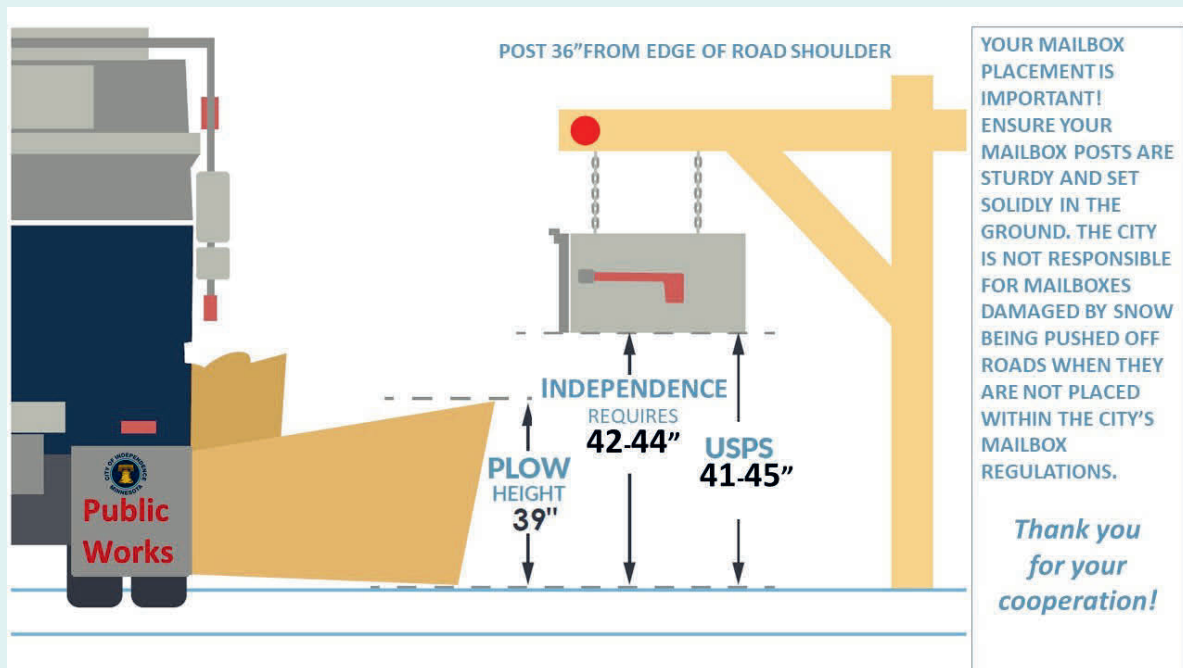
(a) From November 1 through April 15 of each year and between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m., it shall be unlawful to park or permit to be parked, or continue to park or permit to stand, any vehicle upon any city street.

Following a Snow Fall of 3"

(b) Following a snow fall of 3 inches or more in depth, it shall be unlawful to park or permit to be parked, or to continue to park or permit to stand, any vehicle upon any street until the snow has been plowed from the street or the same has been otherwise disposed of. https://library.municode.com/mn/independence/ordinances/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=930901



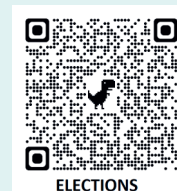
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ALL CITY
ORDINANCES



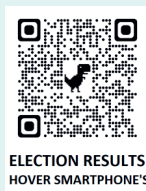
The City does not allow obstructions to be located within the City's right-of-way, including but not limited to boulders, rocks, and other materials/structures that may impede safety or drainage. Invisible dog fences and irrigation heads or lines are also not allowed in the right-of-way. The City is not responsible for these items if they are damaged during routine maintenance and repair operations such as snow plowing and road and ditch repairs. The City may have to remove obstructions located within the right-of-way.

"Thank You" To All Our Local Election Judges This Year!

The City has been blessed to have many wonderful, faithful Election Judges over the years, and we can't run elections without your help. We are looking to add more to our Election Judge list for the upcoming years. So, if you are available to be contacted for the Primary Election (August) or the General Election (November), please contact the City or visit our [Elections page](#).



ELECTIONS



ELECTION RESULTS
HOVER SMARTPHONE'S
CAMERA OVER CODE

WINTER EVENTS FOR ALL AGES!

DECEMBER



SAT 3rd - 42ND Annual "View Santa" Fundraiser for Local Food Shelves. (See pg. 9 insert.) Come enjoy cookies, cocoa, and pictures with Santa inside **at the Independence City Hall Atrium from 3:30-4:15pm, to Veterans Memorial Park (1664 Budd Ave., Maple Plain) from 4:45 - 5:30 pm, or see Santa on his route through town!** *Thank you for joining West Hennepin Reserve Officers' endeavors to faithfully help get non-perishable food donations to the local food shelves again this year!*

SUN 4th Snowmobile Safety Class
9am – 3:30pm To register, visit mpsnomads.com.



WED 14th 3-5pm CP Holiday Train stopping in **Loretto at 4:15pm** Support our local food shelves financially and with food donations while enjoying cookies, cocoa & cider, kiddie train, music, and photo ops with roaming characters. See other Twin Cities Holiday Train stops: <https://www.cpr.ca/en/holiday-train/united-states>



Contact Jordan.Schilling@cassialife.org to receive a resident's Christmas "Wish List."

WeCAN Holiday Adopt-a-Family For details, see <https://www.wecanmn.org/news> Walk in or call 952-472-0742 make appointment.

Holiday Drive for WeCAN
Help families in need this holiday season!

Suggested Items

All Purpose Cleaner	Body Wash
Laundry Soap	Hand Soap
Dish Soap	Toothpaste
Paper Towels	Shampoo
Toilet Bowl Cleaner	Conditioner
Window Cleaner	Deodorant
Disinfectant Wipes	Body Lotion

Goes all throughout December!



WeCAN, 5213 Shoreline Drive, Mound - 952-472-0742



Winter Spring Brochure Coming Soon!

Winter Spring 2023

CLASSES & PROGRAMS

Over 200 opportunities offered January - May!

STEM - Art, Dance & Theater - Sports & Aquatics
Special Interest & Academics - ECFE & Preschool
Adult Enrichment & Recreation - and more!

Pick up a copy...
at the Community Ed office in Long Lake
or the Discovery Center in Maple Plain.

REGISTER STARTING DECEMBER 13
www.oronocommunityed.com
952-449-8350

Community Education
Orono Public Schools

FEBRUARY

THUR 16th 7-10pm Citizens Police Academy
kicks off ending with graduation on April 6th.
See page 6 for full details and register now for this 2023 8-session course. You won't regret it!

Hennepin County Homestead Benefits & Application Deadline is December 31

Before you get started, see the list of needed information at <https://Hennepin.us/homestead/>

Residential property that is occupied year-round by the owner of the owner's qualifying relative may qualify for homestead.

Having your property classified as homestead may lower your property taxes and qualify you for additional property tax refund from the Minnesota Department of Revenue.

Business Grants Available

Hennepin County's Department of Environment and Energy offers resources and grant assistance for [business recycling](#). This includes their [Bin and Compostable Bag Grant](#) up to \$3,000 in containers and bags, and their [Waste Prevention Grant](#) up to \$50,000 toward eligible waste prevention expenses.

As a sponsor of MNimize, Hennepin County is also providing funding for our [MNimize Rebate Program](#), up to \$500 towards the purchase of reusable items for eligible food service businesses.

Single-use plastic is designed to be disposed after one brief use. Roughly 380 million tons of plastic are produced annually and half of that is intended for single-use. Some single-use items are recyclable, but most is trash. The MNimize team can help you identify reusable or compostable options for your business. If you're open to MNimize single-use plastic at your business, the \$500 rebate program lets you try something new with no-risk. Try out certified compostable cups and see how it goes or install a dishwasher and avoid buying more supplies every month. mnimize.org/rebate



You might save money by producing less trash and saving on procurement costs. And don't forget the honor and glory of being recognized by MNimize and drawing more customers.





PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS CHIEF'S DESK WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY

West Hennepin Public Safety announces the 2023 Citizens Police Academy



West Hennepin Public Safety's Citizens Police Academy will start February 16, 2023 and will end with graduation on April 6, 2022. The Academy runs for eight weeks, one day a week, Thursday nights, from 7:00 to 10:00 pm.

WHAT IS IT? The Citizens Police Academy is a FREE 24-hour block of instruction designed to give citizens knowledge about how your police 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. An informational video explaining citizens police academy can be found at <https://westhennepin.com/citizens-police-academy>.



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 or email us at westhennepin@westhennepin.com.



2023 Recycling Collection Schedule

■ Holiday - Service is delayed one day ■ Gray Week Recycling ■ Blue Week Recycling

BLUE: North of Hwy 12 but West of Co Rd 90

GRAY: South of Hwy 12 and North of Hwy 12 and East of Co Rd 90



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Please do not bag your recyclables! Place each item in the cart individually.

We Recycle!

Please make sure your recyclables are **empty, clean and dry** before placing them in your recycling cart.



PLASTICS BOTTLES & JUGS
Water, soda and juice bottles, dish soap bottles, shampoo bottles, soap and lotion bottles, and detergent jugs (empty and clean/rinse, and dry caps on)



PLASTICS CUPS & CONTAINERS
Yogurt cups, pudding and fruit cups, clear disposable cups (no straws), margarine/whipped cream tubs, cottage cheese and similar containers, clear produce, deli and take-out containers (empty and rinse; lids on)



BOXES (FLATTENED)
Cardboard, cereal, cracker, pasta and tissue boxes, shoe, gift and electronic boxes, toothpaste and other toiletry boxes



CARTONS
Milk cartons, juice cartons, juice boxes, soup, broth and wine cartons (empty, clean and dry; caps on)



PAPER
Mail, office and school papers, magazines and catalogs, newspapers and inserts, phone books (clean; staples OK)



METAL
Food cans and beverage cans (empty, clean and dry; labels OK)



GLASS
Brown, green and clear bottles, jars (empty, clean and dry; no lids)



Damage or Entangle Equipment

Are Not Recyclable

- Plastic bags
- Ropes, hoses and chains
- Scrap metal
- Bulk items
- Shredded paper
- **Harm Workers**
- Medical sharps
- Diapers
- Batteries
- Foil pouches, bags, wrappers
- Dishes, vases, mirrors
- Plastic straws and utensils
- Glitter or wrapping paper
- Polystyrene foam
- Hazardous products
- Propane tanks (all sizes)



Twin Cities Customer Service:

763.972.3335

RepublicServices.com

Sustainability in Action

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



THE WEST HENNEPIN PUBLIC SAFETY RESERVES ARE SPONSORING THE 42nd ANNUAL "VIEW SANTA" PROGRAM. IT WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3rd, 2022. THE RESERVES WILL ALSO COLLECT NONPERISHABLE FOOD DONATIONS FOR LOCAL FOOD SHELVES.

CHECK THE TIMES CAREFULLY AS THEY HAVE CHANGED, ESPECIALLY AT THE END OF THE ROUTE.

COME TO THE INDEPENDENCE CITY HALL ATRIUM (1920 COUNTY ROAD 90) FROM 3:30 TO 4:15 P.M. OR TO VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK (1664 BUDD AVENUE, MAPLE PLAIN) FROM 4:45 TO 5:30 P.M. TO MEET SANTA AND TAKE PHOTOS OR SEE SANTA ON HIS ROUTE THROUGH TOWN.

SANTA'S ROUTE AND SCHEDULE ARE:

3:30-4:15 p.m.
INDEPENDENCE CITY HALL

4:25 p.m.
PAGENKOPF RD.
4:30 at BECKER RD.
4:35 at INDEPENDENCE RD.
4:40 at NORTH BUDD AVE.

4:45-5:30 p.m.
VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

5:35 p.m.
INDEPENDENCE ST.
HOWARD AVE.
DRAKE STREET
PERKINS LANE
INDEPENDENCE ST.
BAKER PARK RD.

5:50 p.m.
HAVEN HOMES

6:05 p.m.
GATEWAY BLVD.
HOWARD AVE.
(via strip mall
parking lot)
HWY 12
FRONTAGE RD.
BOUNDARY AVE.

6:10 p.m.
OAK ST.
HOWARD AVE.

6:15 p.m.
MAIN ST. EAST
BUDD AVE.
BRYANTWOOD AVE.
JOYCE ST.
BRYANT ST.

6:40 p.m.
PRAIRIELAND AVE.
JOYCE ST.
WYMAN AVE.
PIONEER AVE.

6:55 p.m.
MAIN ST. WEST
HALGREN RD.
HAMILTON HILLS

7:35 p.m.
HALGREN RD.
PARKVIEW RD.
RAINBOW AVE.
MAIN ST. WEST
PARKVIEW RD.
THREE OAKS AVE.

THESE TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE DUE TO CHANGES IN THE ROUTE.



VIEW SANTA

West Hennepin Public Safety is excited to introduce the newest member of our team, Kaylen Boeddeker, as our new Administrative Assistant. Kaylen comes from Maple Grove Police Department as a Records Management Technician. Kaylen graduated with a Law Enforcement degree from Minneapolis College and a certificate in Law Enforcement from Hennepin Technical College. Kaylen resides in Loretto with her two pups, Charlie and Hazel. Kaylen enjoys fishing and playing with her dogs in her free time.

“I’m very excited to begin my career with West Hennepin Public Safety. It is refreshing being close to home and having such a supportive group of people to work with. I can’t wait to meet and interact the City of Maple Plain and Independence staff and residents.”



Kaylen Boeddeker

Chief Kroells stated, “West Hennepin is so fortunate to hire such a qualified candidate who values our communities and the people we serve.”

I am proud to report the construction project at Highway 12 and County Road 92 is complete. This project will have an immediate and drastic impact on the safety for all that travel on Highway 12. The construction of this controlled intersection will immediately save lives and prevent serious injury.

As a police officer of 26 years at West Hennepin, I never thought this safety improvement would happen in my career. I am hopeful after today I never have to hear someone ask me, “When are they going to fix this intersection?”



Hwy 12 & Co Rd 92 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

October 31, 2022

I am so proud of everyone who made this safety improvement a reality. Thank you for your patience and understanding during construction. I wanted to thank Representative Jerry Hertaus and Senator David Osmek for their tireless work in securing this funding to make today’s ribbon cutting a reality.



Left to Right. Maple Plain Mayor Julie Maas-Kusske, Maple Plain Fire Department Lieutenant Zach Christianson, McGarry’s Manager James Leeder-Botnan, McGarry Pub Owner Bill McGarry, West Hennepin Chief Gary Kroells, Independence Mayor Marvin Johnson.

A huge thank you to McGarry’s Pub from Maple Plain for sponsoring a charity golf event at Pioneer Creek Golf Course of September 24, 2022. This event was to sponsor our local first responders at West Hennepin Public Safety Department and the Maple Plain Fire Department. Last night at the Maple Plain City Council meeting the owner of McGarry’s Pub, Bill McGarry, and manager James Leeder-Botnan, presented a donation over \$6,200 dollars to West Hennepin Public Safety and Maple Plain Fire Department.

Chief Kroells stated, “Words cannot express how appreciative our agency is to McGarry’s

Pub, Pioneer Creek Golf Course and McGarry’s manager James Leeder-Botan for organizing this charity event. We are grateful for the donation and all the sponsors who donated.”

CITY OF INDEPENDENCE

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City Officials

Mayor

Marvin Johnson

City Council

Brad Spencer

Lynn Betts

Ray McCoy

Steve Grotting

Planning Commissioners

Robert Gardner, Chair

Anita Volkenant

Leith Dumas

Tom Palmquist

Steve Thompson

Jon-Paul Story, Alternate

Hal Tearse, Alternate

City Staff

Administrator/City Planner

Mark Kaltsas

Public Works Supervisor

Shawn Bode

Building Inspector

Bruce Satek

Asst. City Admin.

Amber Simon

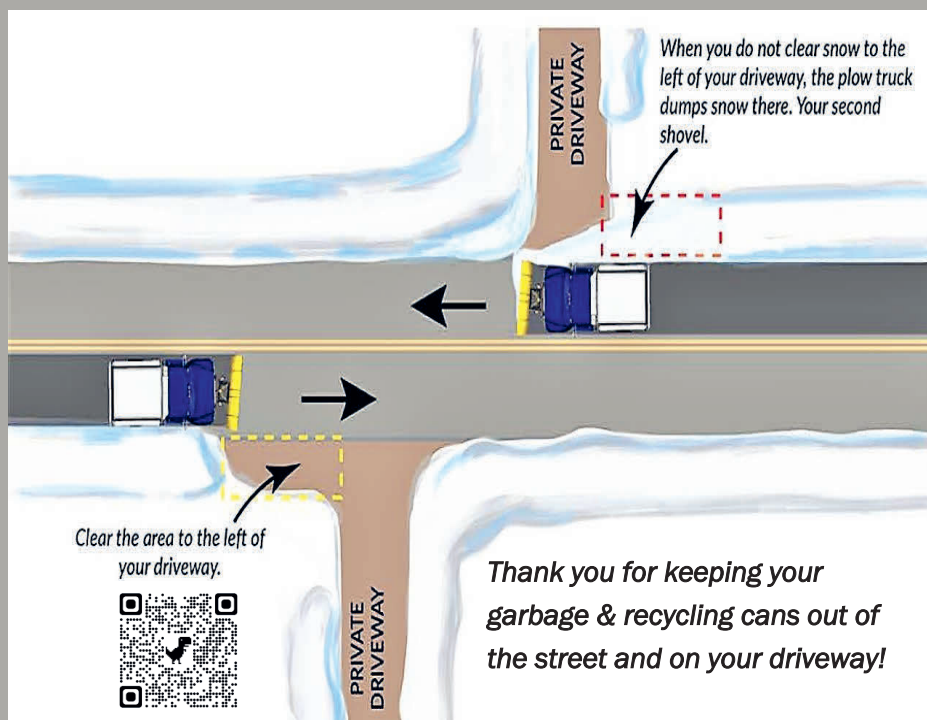
Administrative Asst.

Linda Johnson

Carrie Solien

Tired of shoveling your driveway entrance a 2nd time after Public Works plows your street?

If so, clear the area to the left of your driveway! **Note: It is against the law 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 do so.** Snow dumped on highways or street right-of-way can create a hazard not only for motorists but also for snowplows. Even our heavy snowplows have been ditched and damaged when hitting compacted and frozen snow, costing your tax dollars to repair! **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.**



Scan QR code to see all right-of-way use violations of MN Statutes, Chapter 160.2715 which are misdemeanors.