

NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MAYOR FIRE DEPT	2
WHPS	3
WHPS	4
PUBLIC WORKS	5
SENIOR CENTER & DISCOVERY CENTER	6
RECYCLE CALENDAR	7
HEARTSAFE TRAINING & MISC	8

MAYOR JOHNSON'S LETTER

As I was pondering what to write about for this newsletter the idea that kept popping into my head was "change". Presently and ahead!

Since the Maple Plain Food Center closed and the Maple Plain Cleaners a month later, two places I frequented often, I haven't established a routine to fill those needs. Change takes time!

Since the election November 6th we found out there would be a lot of government changes. Changes because new people will be taking the place of people that we have worked with- some for a long time- for example, we have a new Sheriff. On the County Board we have two new County Commissioners. At Metropolitan Council, we will have a new district representative and a new Chairperson (both appointed by the new Governor). We have several new Hennepin County Legislators, a new Congressional Representative, a new Governor and all new State Officers.

Many of these newly elected people I have never worked with in the past or even heard of. However, I have had the opportunity to meet and talk with our new Congressman Phillips three times since the election, have worked with the



Marvin D. Johnson

Mayor

City of Independence

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 Governor and two newly elected legislators in the Bloomington and Minnetonka area. We are also working with new staff on the Highway 55 Corridor Coalition and some new Council members. Cont. p. 2

Congratulations Mayor Johnson!

Our esteemed Mayor, Marvin Johnson, was reappointed to the Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee for the National League of Cities. This committee has the responsibility for developing NLC's federal policy positions on issues involving air quality, water quality, energy policy, national wetlands policy, noise control and solid and hazardous waste management. These committee members play a key role in shaping NLC's policy positions and advocate on behalf of America's cities and towns. Please help us in congratulating him.

Since our last newsletter the City Council approved the final levy, as did the Hennepin County Commissioners, school districts and other government agencies. Our levy remains the same as what was proposed in September. Our average home value is \$409,000.00. Our tax rate is remaining at 40%. Thanks to our staff for their hard work in budget preparation! Our neighboring Wright County Board voted to increase their tax levy by 17.3% for next year. That is a major change!

Final steps are being taken to make changes to our 2040 City Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The Council, Planning Commission and Land Use Planning Committee have met several times and there will be a public "hearing/ open house" scheduled soon before the plan is submitted to the Metropolitan Council. There are very few changes from the 2030 Comp Plan. Visit ci.independence.mn.us to view the Comp Plan!

Happy New Year! *Marvin D. Johnson, Mayor*

THANK YOU!



So often I put together newsletter articles filled with facts and flashy graphics with messages embedded that are aimed to keep the readers attention, highlight catchy sayings and put out public safety messages aimed to keep you safe. Those messages are great and are needed, however, as we finish up the Thanksgiving Holiday and jump right into the Christmas Season, I'd like to pause, continue our thanksgiving and publicly thank our community and firefighters for your love and support.

Thank you to that child for a friendly wave that put smiles on the hearts of firefighters that just cleared a deadly crash. Thank you to the faith community for your endless prayers as firefighter leave your Sunday service to assist those in need. Thank you to the preschool and grade school children for making us appreciation posters and bags of goodies. Thank you to the business owners that dropped off cases of water at a house fire on a hot summer day. Thank you to our kids that understand why mommy or daddy had to miss their birthday party when the pager sounds. Thank you to our local Police Department for the good working relationship we have as we assist and work together to keep each of you safe. Thank you to the State Tournament and National Tournament teams that gave us reasons to celebrate your success. Thank you to our cities we serve for equipping our department to do and be the best we can be. Thank you to those that allow us into your homes to help during your worst days.

Thank you to the 25 Men and Women of Maple Plain Fire Department for your dedication, selfless acts of courage and making serving your community a priority. Thank you for allowing Maple Plain Fire Department to serve you!

Justin McCoy

Maple Plain Fire Chief



WHPS Reserves prepare for the "View Santa Event"

On Saturday December 1, 2018 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 a great year with many people coming out to visit Santa and making donations to the local food shelf. The Police Reserves collected over 1,205 pounds of food and \$259.00 in cash donations" said Director Gary Kroells. "The Volunteer Reserve Officers of WHPS have been hosting this event for 38 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.

Dog Licenses & Local Dog Park

Don't forget to purchase a lifetime license for your dog for only \$20.00! Apply in person at City Hall or online at ci.independence.mn.us and mail in with a copy of your pet's vaccinations record.

Dogs can also exercise locally at Lake Sarah Park Reserve and run to their hearts content! Located at West Lake Sarah Dr. (Rockford).

This is a beautiful, fenced 40 acre dog park that has trees, benches and trails! A daily or yearly pass may be purchased online at Three Rivers Park District <https://www.threeriversparks.org/>. At the time of

purchase of a permit, an agreement of the dog park rules must be signed.



Left to right: Sgt. Rick Denneson, Officer Jon Howes, Reserve Coordinator Officer Ben Anderson, Reserve Officers; Dillon Field, Blake Tyra, Steve Fenner, Lisa Schreier, Phil Beck, Nathan Faust and Titus Winger. Second row: Santa Claus



**West Hennepin Public Safety
announces the
2019 Citizens Police Academy**

West Hennepin Public Safety has announced the dates for the 2019 Citizens Police Academy. The Citizens Police Academy will start on February 14, 2019 and will end with graduation on April 4, 2019. The Academy runs for eight weeks, one day a week, Thursday nights, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 pm.



2018 Citizens Academy Graduation Class

WHAT IS IT?

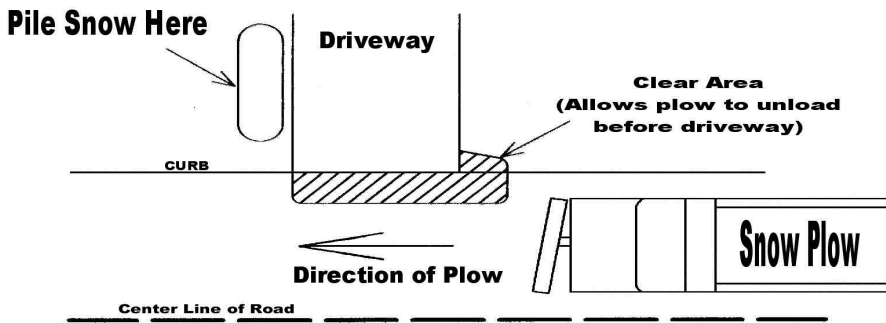
The Citizens Academy is a **FREE** 24-hour block of instruction, sponsored by the Crime Fund, designed to give citizens knowledge about how your public safety department operates, our policies, procedures, programs and challenges. In addition, you will be introduced to government officials and staff and learn about the responsibilities of their respective offices. 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 can be found on our website at <http://www.westhennepin.com/citizens-police-academy.html>

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



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 2018-04** states 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. Also, 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.

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.**

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.



Health
& Wellness

Delano's

6th Annual Health & Wellness Expo

**Saturday, January 12th
9 am~ 1 pm**

- **FREE ADMISSION**
- **DOOR PRIZES**
- **GOOD FOOD**
- **ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**
- **GRAND PRIZE DRAWING**

Start the new year off right! Enjoy samples and information about area health & wellness businesses.

**Delano Senior Center
234 2nd St. N**

Questions? Please call Delano Chiropractic at 763-972-2215 or info@delanochiropractic.com or the Senior Center at 763-972-0574 or



AARP Tax Aide

This service is available to all age group persons that have low to middle income, with special attention given to those ages 60 or older. You do not have to be a member of AARP to take advantage of this tax assistance program. Tax Aide counseling will be offered at the Delano Senior Center on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. starting February 6. **Appointments for tax counseling are required! We will begin scheduling appointments Tuesday, January 22.** Interested persons can make an appointment by calling 763-972-0574 weekdays.

AARP Tax Aide is a free service that prepares tax returns and answers questions about taxes. The scope of our training sometimes makes it necessary to refer more complicated tax returns to paid preparers. You will be advised at your appointment if you should seek paid tax preparer services.

Kindergarten Parent Meeting & Kindergarten Connection Classes!

Will your child be 5 years old by September 1, 2019? It's time for the class of "2032" to get ready for Kindergarten! Attend the parent-only Incoming Kindergarten Parent Meeting on February 28. You can also register for free Kindergarten Connection classes where you and your child will get a sample of Kindergarten. Registration for the April 9 & 16 classes or the April 22 & 29 classes is available online at www.oronocommunityed.com or call 952-746-5895.

2019-20 Preschool & Practice Preschool

Registration. Registration for 2019-20 Preschool and Practice Preschool opens January 14th! There are part-day or full-day options 2, 3, or 4 days per week to fit your schedule and needs. Register online at www.oronocommunityed.com.

Discovery Center Book Fair

Stomp, chomp & read! Mark your calendars for Scholastic "Dinomite" Book Fair. **Monday - Friday, February 4 – 8.**

Seussical Super Saturday

A free event for the entire family! Join us at the Discovery Center on **February 23** from 10 – 11:30 am. Meet Cat in the Hat, enjoy fun and games and hear stories from famous storyteller, Bob Gasch.

For more information – Call 952-746-5895, or email: earlylearning@oronok12.mn.us

Orono Community Education Winter Spring Brochure is here!

The 2019 Winter Spring brochure is full of classes and programs for all ages, birth to senior citizens, taking place January - May! Register early as classes are filling quickly. If you did not receive a copy, you can pick one up at the Maple Plain City office, the Orono Discovery Center or the Orono Community Education office. Register online at www.oronocommunityed.com or call 952-449-8350.

**CITY OF
INDEPENDENCE**

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Independence, MN 55359

Ph: 763-479-0527

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tgronstal@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

Leith Dumas

Tom Palmquist

Steve Thompson

City Staff

Administrator/City Planner

Mark Kaltsas

Public Works Director

Larry Ende

Building Inspector

Bruce Satek

Asst. City Admin.

Beth Horner

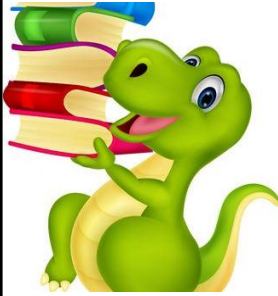
Administrative Asst.

Trish Gronstal



Suessical Super Saturday!

A free event for the entire family! Join us at the Discovery Center on February 23rd from 10-11:30 am. Meet the Cat in the Hat, play games, and hear stories from famous storyteller, Bob Gasch.



**STOMP CHOMP
and READ at the
“Dinomite” Book
Fair at the
Discovery Center!
Monday-Friday
February 4-8**

For more information call
952-746-5895

Heart Safe AED Training– February 12th

The West Hennepin Chamber of Commerce is hosting a **FREE** AED and CPR training session at Independence City Hall on February 12th from 12:00 p.m. -2:00 p.m.. There is no fee and businesses are encouraged to send employees. 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

