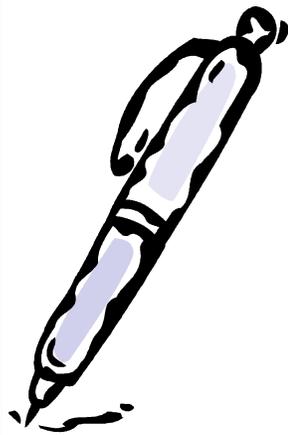




Spring 2009

CITY OF INDEPENDENCE NEWS

A letter from the Mayor



I'm writing this article just after we had our early June rains. How fortunate we were to get the amount we received and come down like it did. Trees are beautiful, but I had thought we were beginning to see another drought like my parents talked about happening in the 1930s because of the way the lawns looked. The ground moisture is still critically low.

The Council finished our Board of Review during our May meetings. Many residents had visited with the assessor before the first meeting and had concerns resolved, but we still had a large turnout. The change in the Green Acres Program is definitely affecting several of our landowners. We also needed to correct a problem in one area of the City where there had been a sale of property in a previous year that had become a problematic benchmark. Also because of State law we have seen the benchmark for agriculture land jump 25 percent in one year. With the economy as it is and very few sales of property to use as benchmarks, it's hard to imagine any values going up. It is also hard to comprehend looking at a time frame for one year ending Sept. 30, 2008 because so many things happened after Oct. 1.

At a recent Council meeting we had Jeff Johnson, our new County Commissioner, and Sara Wyatt, our Three Rivers Park District Commissioner, introduce themselves, share some thoughts and ask for our suggestions. It was good to have them show up for a meeting.

Hopefully before our next newsletter we will have heard from all the neighboring cities, the school districts and the Metropolitan Council with comments about our City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The City of Delano has made some negative comments regarding suggested zoning next to their border. It will be nice to have the plan finalized.

Continued on page 2

Planning Commission

Chair Mario Crespo
Greg Gardella
Robert Gardner
Carl Phillips
Keith Triplett

City Council

Mayor Marvin Johnson
Lynn Betts
Lance Gyllenblad
Lindsay Wallace
Norm Wenck

Parks Commission

Chair Carole Peter
Leroy Kowalke
Lisa Phillips
James Rick

COMMUNITY CORNER

Continued from page 1

Don't forget to attend the circus on July 30 and buy your discounted tickets beforehand (see page 7 for more information). Also join our neighbors and have a National Night Out picnic on Tuesday, Aug. 4.

Plans still call for Highway 12 to close east of County Road 90 for about six weeks this fall while dirt is hauled in for a railroad bypass. Then next year it will be closed for the entire summer. And of course, you may want to try a different route if you are going west of the river at Delano.

Don't forget to get on your calendar to vote this fall on Nov. 3. We have two Council seats up for election and some of our school districts will have elections, too.

Metropolitan Council just informed us that they believe we have 3,720 residents in Independence in 1,258 households as of April 1, 2008. The average household size is 2.94 people.

This year the Twin Cities Polo Club is celebrating its 20th Polo Classic Event. In the past 19 years they have raised over \$2 million for charitable causes benefiting children's organizations.

Have a wonderful summer!

Your Mayor,

Marvin D. Johnson

Host A Neighborhood National Night Out Block Party

Looking for a way to get to know your neighbors and local police department? Sign up to organize a National Night Out get-together.

From 7 to 10 p.m. on Aug. 4, residents in neighborhoods throughout Independence and across the nation are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights and spend the evening outside with neighbors and police. Many neighborhoods throughout Independence will be hosting block parties and cookouts. Officers from the West Hennepin Public Safety Department will be stopping by block parties to introduce themselves and meet Independence residents.

If you would like to organize a block party for your neighborhood and sign up to have WHPS officers stop by, or find out if one has already been organized, contact Christina Scipioni at Independence City Hall, cscipioni@ci.independence.mn.us or 763-479-0527.



COMMUNITY CORNER

Tent Caterpillars in Your Apple Tress? Mice in the Basement? Spruce Needles Turning Brown and Falling Off? What Does a Bed Bug Look Like?

When you have a pest problem, is your first action a visit to the home and garden store? Try an alternative first approach - a free visit to the wealth of information available to you from the MN Dept. of Agriculture and University of Minnesota Extension. Problems have been researched and best practices have been found using your tax dollars - why not use the information? Available at your City Hall information counter is *Managing Pests in Landscapes and Homes*, a guide for Minnesotans that helps you identify problems and make informed, cost-effective and ecologically-prudent treatment decisions. It is also available on line at <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/news/>. When you reach the website, click on download *Managing Pests in Landscapes and Homes*.

The guide describes the most common weeds, insect pests, plant diseases and wildlife pests found in and outside homes in Minnesota. Also included is important safety information on pesticide use and storage. Additional references are listed.

By using the techniques suggested to solve your pest problem, you will help us all by minimizing risks to human health and the environment.

Paula Savage
Wright County Master Gardener Intern



City Council Candidate Filing Period Aug. 25 to Sept. 8



On Nov. 3, the City of Independence will be holding elections for two Council Member seats. Those interested in running for office need to file an Affidavit of Candidacy at City Hall between Aug. 25 and Sept. 8. Informational packets for those interested in running will be available at City Hall during the filing period.

This year, the seats currently occupied by Lynn Betts and Lance Gyllenblad will be up for election. Council Members serve four-year terms. For more information on candidate filing and City elections, call City Hall, 763-479-0527.

UDDER MARKET IN MAPLE PLAIN

*Free "Hooves-On" Kids' Art
Activities at Calves Corner*

**Homegrown, Organic & Live
Entertainment**

Family Fitness Walk

**50 Fruits & Veggies
in 150 Varieties**

Weekly Drawing for a Market Basket

*Healthy Living &
Gardening Demos*

Grazing Goodies



**Udder
Market**

*An Udderly Unique
Farmers' Market
with an Eco, Educational
& Entertaining Focus*

***Thursdays
July 16—Sept. 17***

3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

***Main Street
Maple Plain***

Look for our Crazy Cow!

www.uddermarket.com

CLEAN WATER RESOURCE FAIR

Independence City Hall Hosts Clean Water Resource Fair



If you own lakeshore property or are concerned about our lakes and streams and want to know what is available to help make them a better place to enjoy, then you should come to the Clean Water Resource Fair.

On Thursday, Sept. 17 at the Independence City Hall, the City of Independence and the Wright Hennepin Clean Water Resource Association will be hosting a Resource Fair where you will have all of the available lakeshore resources in one place. The event will focus on clean water tips and tools and will also include a variety of water-related products.

The Clean Water Resource Fair will run from 1-8 p.m. There will be food available, so bring the family for a night out and visit with the many vendors and agencies that will be on-hand to discuss clean water.

The list of signed up vendors is increasing and includes companies in the following categories:

- Weed control
- Lake shore restoration
- Lake publications
- Phosphorous-free products
- Watershed management commissions
- Weed removal
- Rain gardens
- Shoreline plants
- Lake associations
- Manure management
- Boat ramp surveillance
- Recycled furniture

The event organizers are still looking for vendors to participate in the Resource Fair. If you or your organization has something to offer to lakeshore owners, please contact Jerry Wise, 763-479-2228, cleanwater@frontier.com, or Toni Hirsch, 763-479-0513, thirsch@ci.independence.mn.us, to reserve your booth.

PUBLIC SAFETY

West Hennepin Public Safety Issues Crime Alert

By: West Hennepin Public Safety Sgt. Gary Kroells

The West Hennepin Police Department has received several thefts from vehicle reports in the past weeks. In most cases, the vehicles were unlocked and valuables were in plain view. GPS, iPod and RADAR devices have been the targets in all of the thefts. The thefts have occurred during late evening and early morning hours.

Protect yourself by not leaving anything of value in plain view, removing items, and locking your vehicles.

Please report any suspicious activity to the West Hennepin Police Department immediately by dialing 911. You may reference this alert to the police dispatcher.



West Hennepin Public Safety Creates Crime Alert Network

By: West Hennepin Public Safety Sgt. Gary Kroells

West Hennepin Public Safety is currently developing a crime alert network to work in conjunction with our website, www.westhennepin.com. This crime alert network will immediately notify residents and local business of crimes in the area that will protect our citizens and their property.

In an effort to notify residents in a timely manner, West Hennepin is asking all residents and businesses to call 763-479-0500 to provide us with their email address and fax numbers. You can also provide the information by sending an email to crimealert@westhennepin.com.

Once we have received your information crime alert notifications will be sent to you. Examples of notification include incidents of motor vehicle theft, burglary information, sex offender notification, counterfeit money being passed at local businesses and monthly crime prevention tips.

Each and every day businesses and individuals discuss how communication is the key to success. West Hennepin Public Safety would like to communicate with you to fight crime and keep it out of our neighborhoods. Working together with law enforcement through communication is how we will win this battle.

The most efficient and cost effective manner to communicate with our citizens is by sending Crime Alert Notifications via your e-mail or facsimile. West Hennepin Public Safety will not use this information for solicitations. It would only be used to communicate important crime alert notifications to you.



OLD-FASHIONED BIG TOP CIRCUS COMING TO TOWN!

Thanks to the sponsorship of the Independence Parks Commission, Culpepper & Merriweather Circus, America's Favorite Big Top Circus is coming to Independence on Thursday, July 30 at Pioneer Creek Park with two scheduled performances at 5:00 and 7:30 p.m. C&M Circus has become internationally known for quality family entertainment.

On circus day, the performers bring the magic of the circus to life in each 90-minute show. This year's lineup includes an All-Star group of performers and entertainers. The performers are sure to amaze and delight audience members of all ages.

Between 9:30 and 10:00 a.m. on the day of the Circus, watch the raising of the Big Top, then stay for the free tour. This presentation offers a unique face-to-face opportunity for families, schools, and interested community members to meet and learn all about the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus family and includes a walking tour of the circus grounds. Learn interesting facts about the performers, the history of the show and the different species of animals in the Circus Family.

SAVE MONEY by purchasing your tickets in advance. Advance tickets are available at Independence City Hall. Prices for advance tickets are \$6 for children ages 2 to 12, children under 2 are always free and \$8 for adults. On show day tickets will be \$7 for children and \$11 for adults. For more information, call the City of Independence, 763-479-0527.



Photo by Lacey Terrell, 2004. LTstills@aal.com

Circus Day Schedule

- Between 9:30 & 10:00 a.m. – Tent Raising & Free Tour
- 4:00 p.m. Midway & Box Office Open
- 5:00 p.m. – First Show
- 7:30 p.m. – Second Show



Photo by Lacey Terrell, 2004. LTstills@aal.com



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City of Independence
1920 County Road 90
Independence, MN 55359

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City Contact Information

Mayor

Marvin Johnson, 612-840-3433

City Council

Lynn Betts, 763-479-2789
Lance Gyllenblad, 763-972-2035
Lindsay Wallace, 763-479-6923
Norm Wenck, 763-479-4200

City Hall

Administration, 763-479-0527
Building Inspections, 763-479-0531
Public Works, 763-479-0530

<http://independence.govoffice.com>



CITY OF INDEPENDENCE

1920 County Road 90
Independence, MN 55359
Phone: 763-479-0527
Fax: 763-479-0528
Independence.GovOffice.com

City Hall Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m. - Noon

City Calendar

July

- 3 City Hall closed for July 4th
- 14 City Council - 7:30 p.m.
- 28 City Council - 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Circus at Pioneer Creek Park

August

- 6 Parks Commission - 7 p.m.
- 10 Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.
- 11 City Council - 7:30 p.m.
- 25 City Council - 7:30 p.m.

September

- 7 Labor Day - City Hall Closed
- 8 City Council - 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.
- 22 City Council - 7:30 p.m.