



Holidays 2010

CITY OF INDEPENDENCE NEWS

A letter from the Mayor



I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving! Now the busy time of wonderful events before Christmas Day. I don't know if you are like me, but I wish we could have some of those events between Christmas and New Year's Day.

A lot has changed since our last newsletter. Of course the opening of U.S. Highway 12 was the biggest local change. The open, expansive view before we get to the new bridge from either side is great and the middle barrier wall makes us feel safer. My biggest concern is the lack of guard rails on both sides before you get to the bridge. A person could slide off the road into the wetlands and disappear. Hopefully the highway department will see fit to add more guard rails.

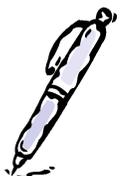
It is nice to have elections over. Thanks again for a wonderful response. Our City had a 74 percent voter turnout. We would like to see a higher turnout, but presidential elections always seem to draw more people. It will be an interesting two years under new leadership in both houses and the Constitutional officers remaining the same. Let's hope the governor's race will be decided quickly.

By this time everyone should have received their estimated property tax statement for 2011. We are pleased that we can reduce the levy for our City again for this next year. The biggest challenge is yet to come if valuations continue to drop.

The City has just completed a new sewer project for Lindgren Lane and Independence Road. It took a long time to get this project approved by Metropolitan Council, but the timing seems to have fallen into place perfectly. Bids came in below estimate, we were able to get additional hookups, the cost of bonding for the project was at a record low, most people were very anxious to have sewer available and our staff was most helpful in working with the end users to get questions answered. As a result, it was one of the easiest assessment hearings I have ever conducted.

We have a house we want to give away. It has been noticed elsewhere, but it is the house that the City owns just south of City Hall. It is a nice little house. We would like to see it put to use rather than have it demolished. We have been advised not to rent it out. If you know of someone that could use it and have it moved, please tell them and have them contact City Hall, 763-479-0527.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year! Also, be very cautious as you walk, drive and recreate during these next few months of winter in Minnesota.



Your Mayor,

Marvin D. Johnson

Recycling Info
Pages 6 & 7

ENVIRONMENT

You Can Prevent Storm Water Pollution

Storm drains carry excess water from streets and homes to nearby lakes and rivers; that makes your property a waterfront property. During the cold winter months, salt that is applied to our streets eventually flows into our lakes and rivers. Help keep our waters clean this winter by following these few simple steps.

Before the storm

Apply a liquid de-icer before snow storms to prevent snow and ice from building up. However, this is not a substitute for shoveling; it just makes it more effective.

Tip: You can make your own liquid de-icer! Mix 2 cups of hot water and one-half cup of rock salt (not table salt).

Shovel that snow

Shovel, snow blow, plow and/or sweep. These are all effective measures that will remove snow and minimize ice build-up.



Less is better

When applying salt, if there are leftover crystals still visible, the salt has been over applied. The left-over salt can be swept up and reused or disposed of in the trash.

Temperature Matters

At low temperatures salt begins to become less effective; check your product for more details. When the temperature falls below 15° F consider using sand as an alternative to salt.

Did you know...

Since the early 1950s our metro area waters have become increasingly salty. Chloride levels have risen so high that many metro area creeks are now considered unhealthy.



Chlorides harm plants and animals, contaminate our drinking water, damage buildings and corrode vehicles, roads and bridges. Too much salt results in costly damages and serious environmental consequences.

Information and photographs provided by West Metro Water Alliance.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Apply to serve on a City Commission

Looking for a way to become more involved in your community and learn more about what's going on in the City? Apply to serve on the City's Planning Commission or Parks Commission!

The City will soon be accepting applications for its Parks and Planning Commissions.

The Parks Commission meets the first Thursday of the month and the Planning Commission meets the second Monday of the month. All terms are three years.

If you are interested in applying to serve on a commission, call City Hall, 763-479-0527. Applications will be distributed in January.

Notes from Public Works

As the snow starts to fly, the Public Works Department would like to remind residents of a couple of wintertime items:

- Trees in the right-of way on City streets will be trimmed or removed as time permits. If there is a sign that is obstructed or has fallen down, call City Hall, 763-479-0527.
- Please try to keep your recycling and garbage bins out of the street. When it snows on pickup day, plowing is a challenge. Your help is appreciated.
- State Law prohibits plowing snow across or depositing snow in any public road.
- The City's snowplow policy states that the City will replace mailboxes if they are damaged by contact from the plow. Replacement mailboxes shall be installed per City specifications. Mailboxes that are damaged by the snow itself are the responsibility of the homeowners.

Check with City before starting landscaping projects

While the snow is covering the ground right now, it will soon be time to start thinking about spring and summer projects.



Before starting a landscaping project, residents should check with the City to see if permits are needed for the project. Beginning a project that needs a permit without first checking with the City can cause costly delays and fines.

For more information on permitting, call City Hall, 763-479-0527.

Remember to license and clean up after your dog

The City reminds all dog owners that their animals must be licensed. A lifetime dog license costs \$15. To apply for a license, bring a copy of your dog's rabies vaccination and fill out a license application at City Hall.



In addition to licensing your dog, please remember to clean up after them. Scooping up dog waste keeps neighborhoods looking nice and helps stop diseases from spreading. Picking up after your pet also keeps it from washing into creeks, streams and lakes.

DELANO SENIOR CENTER

Meals On Wheels program available to Independence residents



What: A delicious and nutritious noon meal delivered to your home daily by volunteers.

Who: Any homebound person 60 years or older can receive a home-delivered meal.

Where: Meals will be delivered to your home or apartment in Delano, Loretto, Independence, Franklin Township, Rockford and Greenfield.

When: Hot meals are available Monday through Friday. Frozen, microwavable meals will be delivered on Friday for weekend meals, as ordered.

Cost: A confidential contribution is made toward the cost of the meal. The suggested amount is \$3.50. You will receive a Meals On Wheels statement letter on a monthly basis.

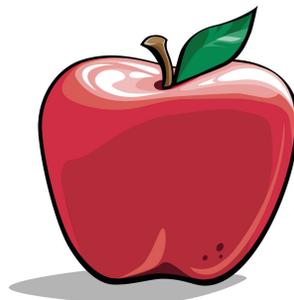
How: To order meals, call the Delano Senior Center at 763-972-0574. Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. After hours calls will be received at 763-972-0574 by leaving a message. All messages will be answered on the morning of the next business day.

Notice: One day is needed to order a meal. One working day is needed to cancel a meal.

Menu: Monthly menus are available through the Delano Senior Center and can also be found at www.delano.mn.us. Weekly menus are published in the Delano Eagle and Delano Herald Journal.

Sponsored By: Funded under contract with the Central Minnesota Council on Aging as part of the Older Americans Act and administered by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Cloud.

Volunteers: All of the meals will be delivered by volunteers from your community. If you or anyone you know of may be interested in delivering meals to homebound people in your community, please call 763-972-0574. Flexible days and times are available (one day per month to weekly).



DELANO SENIOR CENTER

The Delano Senior Center offers you....

Dining: The Senior Dining Program, operated by Catholic Charities Senior Dining, offers a congregate dining program which serves a well-balanced noon meal and provides the opportunity to socialize with others. A confidential contribution is made toward the cost of the meal. The suggested amount is \$3.50 for those 60 and over. (Partially funded under contract with the Central Minnesota Council on Aging as part of the Older Americans Act and Administered by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Cloud)

Hot Meal: Hot, nutritious noon meals delivered to homebound seniors of the area are available through the Center. One day advanced notice is requested. The suggested contribution for those 60 and over is \$3.50 (see page 4 for more information).

Transportation: The Center operates one 14-passenger wheelchair lift equipped mini-bus for transportation to special events (i.e. shopping trips, recreational trips, etc.). Cost varies depending on the excursion.

River Rider Public Transportation: Call 763-263-0101. Transportation is available for rides in Delano to the Senior Center, clinics, stores, banks, hair salons, restaurants, food shelf, parks, etc. A one- to two-day advance notice for rides is requested. The cost is \$1.25 per one-way trip.

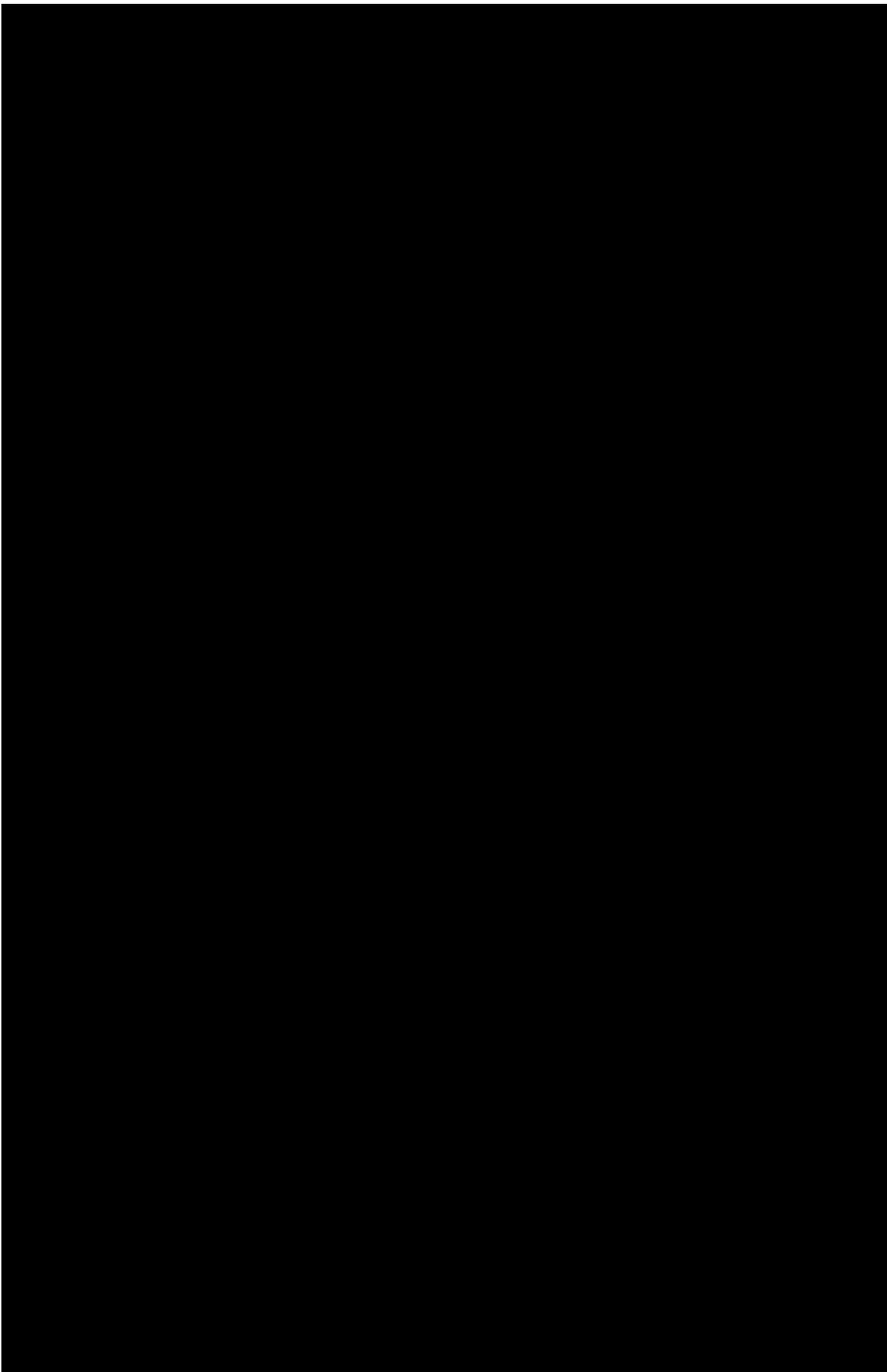
Recreation: There are plenty of activities to choose from to add to your enjoyment at the Center. Attend socials, parties and card games. Enrichment comes in a variety of song fests, educational speakers, classes, trips, community education, special interest groups, fundraisers and more. A monthly calendar is available that will note daily events for your enjoyment. Special interest groups such as Choir, Story Theater, Book Club, Writers' Group and more are available for seniors to join.

Health: For your personal wellness, we offer a variety of health clinics and exercise classes throughout the year. Blood pressure clinics are every Tuesday from noon to 2 p.m. An assortment of Health Education Programs are scheduled monthly.

Volunteering: One of the better ways to become involved at the Center and help with its continued success is to volunteer. Volunteer opportunities include receptionist, Meals On Wheels drivers, kitchen aides, group leaders, helping in schools, serving on an advisory board and more. Please call the Senior Center, 763-972-0574, if you are interested.

The Delano Senior Center is open Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Fridays 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Information on the activities of the Center and the menus for the Dining Program are available at the Senior Center and published weekly in the Delano Eagle and the Delano Herald Journal. The Center is located at 234 Second Street North in downtown Delano.

The Delano Senior Center serves residents from many communities, including Independence. It is operated by the City of Delano with assistance from Delano Community Education, Delano Area United Way, the cities of Maple Plain, Independence, Loretto, Greenfield, Rockford and Franklin Township. Support also comes from grants, fundraisers, community organizations and fees/donations.



2011 RECYCLING CALENDAR

Randy's Environmental Services to collect residential recycling



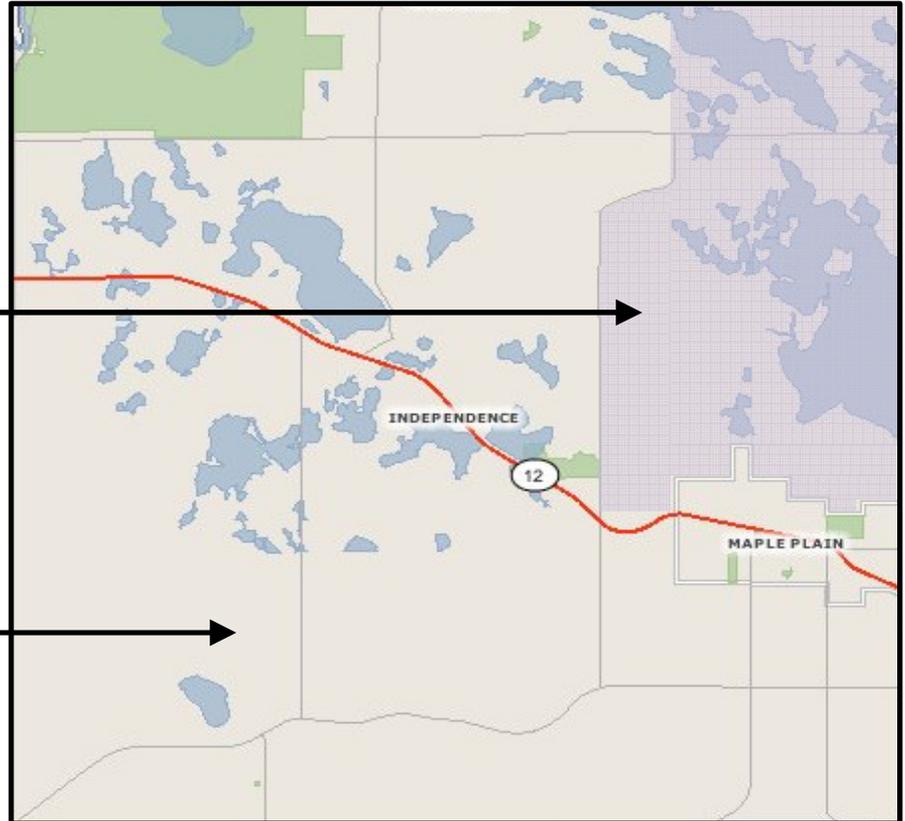
Starting January 2011, the City of Independence will contract with Randy's Sanitation for residential recycling services. Recycling pick-up will still be every-other Friday. Residents may use their own carts for recyclables or rent one from Randy's (see opposite page for more information). Recyclables should still be sorted into fibers and containers (see opposite page for sorting instructions).

Recycling pick up days for properties north of Highway 12 and east of County Road 90:

January 7, 14, 28
February 11, 25
March 11, 25
April 8, 22
May 6, 20
June 4, 17
July 1, 15, 29
August 12, 26
September 10, 23
October 7, 21
November 4, 18
December 2, 16, 30

Recycling pick up days for properties south of Highway 12 and/or west of County Road 90:

January 7, 21
February 4, 18
March 4, 18
April 1, 15, 29
May 13, 27
June 10, 24
July 9, 22
August 5, 19
September 2, 16, 30
October 14, 28
November 11, 26
December 9, 23



City of Independence
1920 County Road 90
Independence, MN 55359

Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Hopkins, MN
PERMIT NO. 1153

Drop off Toys For Tots at City Hall

From Nov. 29 to Dec. 17 the City will be collecting new, unwrapped toys that will be distributed to needy children in our community. Toys for all ages will be accepted. City Hall is open Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to noon.



CITY OF INDEPENDENCE

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

City Hall Office Hours
Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m. - Noon

City Calendar

December/January

24 City Hall Closed
31 City Hall Closed

10 Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.
11 City Council - 7:30 p.m.
17 City Hall Closed
25 City Council - 7:30 p.m.

February

3 Parks Commission - 7 p.m.
8 City Council - 7:30 p.m.
14 Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.
21 City Hall Closed
22 City Council - 7:30 p.m.

March

3 Parks Commission - 7 p.m.
8 City Council - 7:30 p.m.
14 Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.
22 City Council - 7:30 p.m.