



Fall 2011

# CITY OF INDEPENDENCE NEWS

## A letter from the Mayor



Greetings!

Where has the summer gone? With the beginning of another new year for K - 12 Schools, Colleges, Universities and the State Fair over - reality sets in that another summer is past. Let's hope for a beautiful fall, which in Minnesota can be the most comfortable time of year for most of us.

I hope those of you who attended the circus had a good time. I always enjoy it and am pleased that they change the entertainment acts from year to year. The only thing I do not enjoy is the hard bench seats. I think if we have them back in two years, I'm going to check to see if we can't bring lawn chairs along if we choose and be a little more comfortable.

It was also nice to have six "Night To Unite" parties in the City this summer. I managed to stop briefly at each party. Also, our Public Safety Employees and Fire Department Volunteers were able to spend some time at each event. Thanks to each host for taking the time and energy to bring your neighborhood together and to the neighbors who took the time to attend and socialize.

For the past couple of months the city staff and council has been working to develop a budget for the city for 2012. We must approve a maximum amount of levy for next year's taxes by September 15<sup>th</sup> and finalize that figure by December 15<sup>th</sup>. That final number December 15<sup>th</sup> can be lower than the September 15<sup>th</sup> amount, but never higher.

For the last few years developing the budget seems to be more difficult. Everyone thought that by this time the economy would have turned around, but there seems to be no silver lining in sight. Our city total valuation has dropped again by about 6%. This number keeps changing as new buildings are built or property is sold.

The last two years we finalized payment of two different city bonds which dropped our budget. However, the State promised us money for Market Value Homestead Credit which they never gave to us. This year the Legislature changed the law so that they don't have to send us a check.

### City Council

Mayor Marvin Johnson

Lynn Betts

Brad Spencer

Lindsay Wallace

Norm Wenck

### Planning Commission

Chair Carl Phillips

Robert Gardner

Craig Olson

Tom Palmquist

Keith Triplett

# COMMUNITY INFORMATION

## 2011 LOCAL ELECTION

The seats for Mayor and two Council members are up for a new term. Filing for those offices ended on August 16. The following have filed for office:

Mayor: Marvin Johnson  
Council: Norm Wenck, Brad Fisher

Even though the seats are running unopposed, it is important to still get out and vote. There are several school district questions on the ballot depending which school district you reside in. To get more information, please call your school district. Voting will also ensure that your voter history is maintained; if you do not vote every four years, your name will be dropped from the roster books and you will need to re-register and provide the necessary proof.

Voting will take place: **November 8, 2011**  
**7:00 a.m. to 8 p.m.**  
**Independence City Hall**  
**1920 County Rd 90**



If you are going to be absent on Election Day, are ill or disabled, and cannot get to the polling location, you can vote by absentee ballot at City Hall or by mail from September 23 until November 7. Applications to receive an absentee ballot are available at City Hall or on our website.

## COMMUNITY ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL

Did you know that there is a community room at City Hall available to rent for your celebrations? The room has been used for wedding receptions, birthdays, holiday parties, reunions, and other special events.

You can download the application from our city website at <https://independence.govoffice.com> and click on City Applications and Forms.

Contact City Hall at 763-479-0527 for prices and more information.



# COMMUNITY CORNER

*Continued from Page 1*

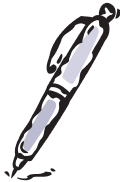
Instead they subtracted valuation from each city's tax base equivalent to the amount of value that would have generated the same amount of tax revenue they would have paid to us. Therefore, even with the same levy as last year, each city taxpayer has to pay more taxes to make up that difference. Fortunately, in Independence that number is less than 1%. In some first tier suburbs that number is as high as 12%.

The next important day for all residents of Independence is Election Day, Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. It is important that you vote even though there is only one candidate for each office. That is an easy time for a write in candidate to win an election. Also, there are some very important school board elections, bond or continuation levy referendum votes on the ballot depending on which school district you live in. They are very important issues and need our votes in our School District. VOTE, NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>!

Have a wonderful fall!

Your Mayor,

*Marvin D. Johnson*



## THANK YOU LOCAL BUSINESSES

The following businesses donated circus tickets to local children:

- Dave's Town Club
- Dick's Auto Detailing
- Excelsior Tools
- Foster Brothers Marine
- Insolution Manufacturing
- Lano Equipment
- Mr. & Mrs. Charles Leck
- RC Electric, Inc.
- Retro Performance Marine

Also, a big thanks to Tri-K Sports for donating a dumpster for the circus!

## CHOOSE TO REUSE COUPON BOOK

Get quality products and great deals – and reduce your waste footprint – by shopping reused today. Over 80 retailers have come together to create the Choose to Reuse coupon book.

Coupons can be redeemed for discounts from October 1 to November 30, 2011. Pick up a coupon book at City Hall or copies can also be downloaded at [www.hennepin.us/choosetoreuse](http://www.hennepin.us/choosetoreuse).

Reuse retailers include businesses and organizations that rent, repair, resell, consign, trade and exchange used goods. Reuse is good for the environment, stimulates the local economy and saves money.

# DELANO SENIOR CENTER

- Mon., Sept. 26** 8:30 Storytheater workshop in St. Michael  
**Wed., Sept. 28** 10:15 "Hairspray" at Chanhassen Dinner Theater  
**Thurs., Sept. 29** 8:00-Noon 4 hour driving refresher. \$15.00 AARP member, \$17.00 non members  
**Wed., Oct. 5** 12:30 "Right at Home" speaker on long term care choices  
**Thurs., Oct. 6** 7:30 Turtle Lake Casino Trip. Senior Day. Cost: \$5.00, receive \$10.00 on arrival  
**Tues., Oct. 11** 5:30-9:30 4 hour driving refresher. \$15.00 AARP member, \$17.00 non members  
**Tues., Oct. 12** 10:00 "Pop Wagner" in Mound. Cost: \$5.00 for lunch. Sponsored by MN Arts Grant  
**Thurs., Oct. 13** 8:30 "Beyond the Rainbow" Judy Garland remembered at the History Theater  
**Thurs., Oct. 20** 12:45 Speaker from Struthers Parkinson Center  
**Tues., Oct. 25** 12:45 "Scam Alerts" that target seniors presented by Better Business Bureau  
**Wed., Oct. 26** 10:30 "A Mighty Fortress is our Basement" at Plymouth Playhouse  
**Mon., Oct. 31** 12:00 Halloween Party & Bingo. Cost: \$4.00 (3.50 lunch, .50 for program)  
**Tues. & Wed. Nov. 1 & 2** 5:30-9:30 8 hour driving class. \$15.00 AARP member, \$17.00 non members  
**Thurs., Nov. 3** 12:30 Middle School Choir performs  
**Fri., Nov 11** Closed for Veterans Day  
**Tues., Nov. 15** 8:00-Noon 4 hour driving refresher

**LEGAL AID HELP** -1st Monday of the month 11:30 & 12:00.

Call for appointment 763-972-0574

**EYE GLASS SMALL REPAIR & ADJUSTMENT** – 1st Tuesday of every month

**BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC** – Tuesdays from 12:00-2:00

**EXCERCISE** – Wed & Fri at 11:20-11:40

**WRITERS GROUP** – meets the 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month

**"500" CARDS** – 2nd & 4th Wednesday at 1:00

**BRIDGE**—2nd & 4th Monday at 1:00

**BINGO**—12:30 Every Monday & Friday

**FARKEL** – 12:45 Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday

**CHOIR** – practices every Monday at 10:30

**STORYTHEATER** –1st & 3rd Tuesday at 10:30

**"MEXICAN TRAIN" DOMINOS** – 2nd & 4th Tuesdays

**SHOPPING TRIPS** – Buffalo, Ridgedale and other area malls 4 times per month

**BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATED** – 2nd Monday of each month at 12:00

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## MEDICINE COLLECTION EVENTS

Hennepin County is providing residents the opportunity to properly and safely dispose of unwanted medications as the sites below :

- **Sept. 24: St. Louis Park, SW Quadrant of Hwy 7 and Louisiana Ave, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**
- **Oct. 8: Orono, Hennepin County Public Works, 3880 Shoreline Dr, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**



Items accepted are prescriptions, over the counter medications, vitamins, supplements, and pet medications. You **MUST** be a Hennepin County resident. Medications will be accepted in any form and should be kept in their original containers and placed in a clear, plastic bag. There is no charge to drop off medications.

### Why is this important?

Unused, expired and unwanted medications can lead to abuse or poisoning. Prescription drug abuse is becoming a growing problem among teens and ranks second as the most common form of drug abuse. Poisoning is the second leading cause of accidental death. Medicines flushed down the toilet or thrown in the trash can contaminate bodies of water, harm wildlife and end up in drinking water supplies.

Medicines from businesses will not be accepted.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT STEAK FRY

The Maple Plain Fire Department (MPFD) is holding their Annual Open House, Steak Fry and Silent Auction on Saturday, October 1st at the Maple Plain Fire Department.

The Open House will be from 1-5 p.m., the Steak Fry from 4-8 p.m. and the Silent Auction will be open from 1-7 p.m.

All proceeds from the silent auction will go to the Maple Plain Fire Department Relief Association for local families affected by illness or death. Funds also help purchase fire equipment the department would not otherwise have.

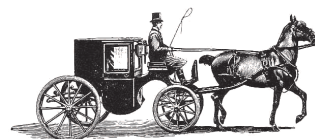
## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The City is hoping to sponsor another **Heritage Fest** in the fall of 2012.

We are looking for volunteers to help in the planning and follow through for the event.

If you are interested or would like more details, please contact the office at 763-479-0527.

Your help can make this event a success!



# COMMUNITY NOTES

## TOASTMASTERS TO START IN DELANO

Have you ever gone to municipal, church or service club meetings and listened to the “word whiskers” such as “ah”, “uh”, “like”, “you know” and wished there was a way to get rid of your own? Well, help is at hand; a group of Delano residents is interested in forming a local Toastmasters club.

The tentative meeting times for a new Delano club are set as the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month at 8:00 AM at the Star West Chevrolet/Honda dealership in the conference room on the second floor of the auto building. Meetings will be conducted in one hour. The Tri-County club in Watertown was originally chartered in Delano in the early 1980s but moved there several years ago as its membership was heavily Watertown area residents. Toastmasters International (TMI), with 216,000 members in 113 countries participating in 12,500 clubs, is dedicated to better speaking, listening, and thinking.

Membership is limited to any female or male over 18. Twenty members are required to obtain a charter and special meetings may be held until that number is achieved and the charter is granted. The Tri-County club has agreed to be the sponsoring club and will assist in a demonstration meeting. Dale Vander Linden (member of Tri-County) will be the club sponsor.

As a Toastmaster, you will have an opportunity to plan and conduct meetings, give impromptu speeches (called table topics), present prepared speeches (using TMI manuals as a guide), receive a constructive evaluation and get rid of those pesky “word whiskers”. Evaluations are based on such things as organization, gestures, voice modulation, vocabulary and other techniques. The content is not evaluated and may be on any subject of your choice. Off color subjects and anecdotes are discouraged. Speeches are 4 ½ to 7 ½ minutes and are timed. Table topics are 1 ½ to 2 ½ minutes and are on subjects assigned by a Table Topics Master.

There is sometimes a misconception that Toastmasters is a club for speakers. Not so! It is designed to make one a better communicator. A year of Toastmastering will make you a better communicator and give you more poise (the ability to be at ease in an inconspicuous manner) when speaking or conducting a meeting. Additional years will help you maintain the skills you have learned.

Each club is a member of an Area, several areas make a Division and the Divisions make up District 6. Though it is not required, those interested have the opportunity to compete in speech contests starting at the club level with winners progressing through the area, division, district, region and up to an International contest.

More information can be obtained from:

Dale Vander Linden (a fifty year member of TMI) at 763-972-6726 or John Tackaberry at 763-972-2984



# PUBLIC SAFETY

## HUNTING SAFETY A MUST

With fall approaching Minnesota, many men and woman take to the fields, marshes and woods to enjoy the sport of hunting. Hunting for all types of game has been a long standing tradition in the State of Minnesota and within the City of Independence.

West Hennepin Public Safety would like to remind our citizens and hunters on the rules governing hunting within the City of Independence. The City of Independence allows all types of hunting for big game, small game, waterfowl, and upland birds. The majority of hunting occurs on private property, so permission must be obtained from the landowner or lessee to enter another person's private property. The City of Independence follows the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) state rules governing hunting restrictions. For more information, visit the DNR's website at [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us) or contact your local DNR officer.

Independence has a large whitetail deer herd that can be hunted via bow and arrow and by firearm. Many hunters take to the field each year to pursue the whitetail deer. Firearms deer season normally starts the first Saturday in November and runs into December. A firearms deer hunter may take a deer with a shotgun or muzzleloader, but the taking of a deer with a rifle within Independence is not allowed by state law. The discharge of a rifle is allowed within the city to pursue coyotes, small game, or other varmints.

### Important dates to remember:

Mourning Dove Season	September 1-October 30
Early Season Goose hunting	September 3-22
Small game Season	September 17-February 28, 2012
Bow hunting opener	September 17-December 31
Youth Waterfowl Day	September 10
Waterfowl Opener	September 24
Pheasant Season	October 15-January 1, 2012
Deer Opener	November 5

The most common question West Hennepin Public Safety receives is "How far does a hunter need to be from a residence or building to discharge a firearm?" A hunter can **not** discharge a firearm within 500 feet of a residence, corral or building.

Every person I talk with truly loves our state and the rural spaces still found in the City of Independence. All types of people enjoy the outdoors for many different reasons. It doesn't matter if you are a hunter, walker, biker, ATV user, or horse back rider. By working together we can enjoy our natural resources, our state and our wonderful city.

Sgt. Gary Kroells  
West Hennepin Public Safety

**City of Independence**  
**1920 County Road 90**  
**Independence, MN 55359**

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## GET OUT, GET ACTIVE!

See how you could win a \$150  
Three Rivers Park District Pass!

Complete 5 out of 9 activities  
each quarter and submit your  
participate card to City Hall for a  
chance to win.

For more information, go to the  
Active Living website at:

[www.hennepin.us/activeliving](http://www.hennepin.us/activeliving)



# 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

#### Sept

5 Labor Day - City Hall Closed  
12 Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.  
13 City Council - 7:30 p.m.  
27 City Council - 7:30 p.m.

#### Oct

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

#### Nov

8 Election Day  
11 Veteran's Day - City Hall Closed  
14 Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.  
15 City Council (Tentative) - 7:30 p.m.  
24 Thanksgiving Day - City Hall  
Closed  
25 City Hall Closed  
29 City Council (Tentative) - 7:30 p.m.

*\*Planning and City Council Meetings  
Subject to Change*