



Fall 2013

CITY OF INDEPENDENCE NEWS

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Letter from the Mayor



Dear Independence Residents:

As we age, I think we are more prone to say "Where does the time go", "Time Flies" or as I'm going to say, "Where has the summer gone".

We had snow storms in May, a cool June with extreme rain events, July was summer like, and then it was State Fair time. It was a far different spring from last year when farmers were anxious to start planting crops in late March. Last year there were some people that were even mowing their lawns in late March. This year however, the mid to late summer was a repeat of last year with little to no rain.

The eleven plus inches of rain produced by the storms on June 21st and 22nd plus the six inches received on the night of July 6th did a lot of damage in the area. However, we were fortunate to not have the wind damage and long power outages that several cities to the east of us experienced.

Our two major celebrations at the City Park went well this summer. We had a record attendance for the circus in a much larger tent with nice weather. The Heritage Fest went very well even though it was a rather cool day. It was nice to have that event again. If you have access to internet, there is a video of the Independence Heritage Fest 2013 prepared by the Lake Minnetonka Cable Commission on You Tube.

If you haven't stopped in to the park, you need to drive in and check it out. We now have additional playground equipment and a volleyball court. There is also, horseshoe and Frisbee golf locations. With winter coming, the high hill in back is a great joy for younger children for sliding.

In the last newsletter article, I mentioned about the need for drivers from Independence/Maple Plain area for WeCab. If you would like to be a willing driver, call 952-472-3222. That is also the number to call if you are in need of a ride to a Doctor/Dentist appointment, etc.

November is just a month away, and we have our City Election on November 5th. It is extremely important to vote even though there are no challengers against Council members Lynn Betts or Brad Spencer. That is when it is easiest to lose an election from some write in candidate. Also, there are important school board election or levy questions for some of or school districts within the city.

Continued on page 2

City Council

Mayor Marvin Johnson
 Lynn Betts
 Brad Fisher
 Brad Spencer
 Norm Wenck

Planning Commission

Chair Carl Phillips
 Robert Gardner
 Craig Olson
 Tom Palmquist
 Steve Thompson

COMMUNITY NOTES

Thanksgiving Day is also coming soon and there will be another hosted Thanksgiving Day dinner at our City Hall. Call City Hall for reservations.

This is the time of the year that the Staff and City Council are working on a budget and establishing the Tax Levy for 2014. The preliminary levy was 2% above last year, but we have till mid December to vote on a final levy which hopefully can be reduced. The preliminary levy is a maximum levy. On average, home values dropped slightly and agriculture land values increased dramatically. This calculation was from October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012, plus new construction from 2012 was added in.

The Legislature increased Local Government Aid in this past session; which is to be paid to Cities so that Cities can reduce their taxes. That makes nice "feel good" information for the Legislature, but the City of Independence will not receive Local Government Aid and has not received any for at least 25 years. We receive some Fiscal Disparities, but this is also decreasing. We receive that funding because we have very little commercial/industrial tax base within the city.

In closing, I want to thank the Independence City Council and Staff for nominating me for the C. C. Ludwig Award from the League of Minnesota Cities. It was a real honor to be selected as the State 'Elected Official' Honoree, especially this year as we celebrated the Centennial of the League of Minnesota Cities. My picture was on the cover of the latest LMC Magazine with other pictures and a story inside. The presentation was made at the annual meeting of the League of Minnesota Cities at its convention on June 21st at the St. Paul River Center.



Enjoy fall and let's hope winter doesn't come early!

Your Mayor,

Marvin D. Johnson



2013 ELECTIONS!

YES, INDEPENDENCE HAS ELECTIONS EVERY YEAR

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2013

If you are unable to vote in person at City Hall, you can complete an absentee ballot application and do one of the following:

- Fax it to the City of Independence at 763-479-0528
- Bring or Fax it to City Hall, 1920 County Road 90, Independence, MN 55359

ABSENTEE VOTING

You may cast an absentee ballot if you are unable to vote in person on election day because you are:

- Absent from precinct;
- Ill or have a disability;
- Observing a religious discipline or religious holiday;
- Serving as an election judge in another precinct;
- Prevented by an eligible emergency declared by the governor or quarantine declared by federal or state government.

City Hall will be open extended hours for absentee voting on:

Saturday, November 2nd, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. & Tuesday, November 5th, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For a sample ballot log on the Minnesota Attorney General's website at <http://myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us/>
Samples are also posted at City Hall.

HERITAGE FEST 2013

The Heritage Fest was a great success. Big thanks to Joel Karsten and Bill Sherck for their fantastic demonstrations. Musical performances by Shane Martin Band filled the stage on Friday night and Red Johnson's Band on Saturday. The Northwest Minnetonka Lions did a tremendous job with the beer tent. Some of the highlights were the Pig Races, as well as, The Spirit of the Lakes stage. The wagon rides provided by the Klaers were fabulous. New foods were brought in for variety and to create more of a "fair" atmosphere. We would have to say the VFW color guard and the Shriners were a great way to start and end the parade. And thanks again, to those antique cars and tractors that participated in the parade.

The smiling and happy faces of the kids make this entire event the best. For some kids it was their first pony ride, their first time climbing a rockwall, seeing a helicopter land right in front of them, bouncing in a moon walk, or watching the piglets race through a track. And they still had time to fill their bellies with food and maybe even some ice cream.

Heritage Fest 2013 was such a great time, we are already planning to do it again next year, Friday, September 12th and Saturday, September 13th, 2014.

Thank you to everyone who attended. If you missed it, here is a photo recap.

A Great Time Had By All



PUBLIC WORKS

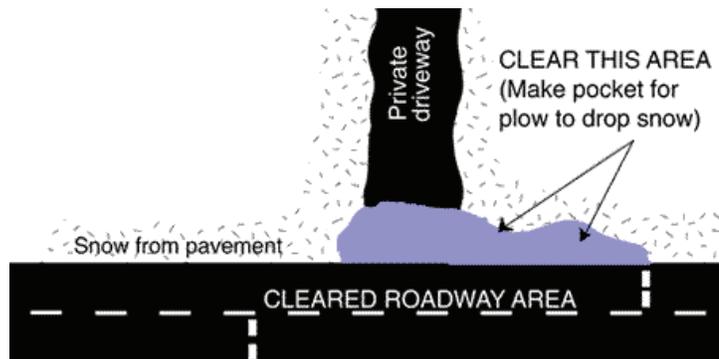
The City of Independence would like to thank Dan Koch for his 33 years of service, with the Public Works Department, and we wish him well with his retirement.

The City would also like to congratulate Larry Ende, a 19-year City Public Works employee of City of Independence, on his promotion as the Public Works Director.

With Larry's promotion the Public Works department hired Craig Trudeau at a new heavy equipment operator. The Public Works department welcomes Craig to the team.

Snow Plowing

Minnesota state law and many local ordinances prohibit the plowing, blowing, shoveling or placing of snow from sidewalks, driveways and parking lots onto public roadways. This includes ditches, roadsides and boulevards. Violations are misdemeanors and liability can extend to both the property owner and the person or company who placed the snow improperly.



Depositing snow on a road can create a slippery area, frozen rut, or bump that could contribute to vehicle or pedestrian accidents. Other hazards created by the improper placement of snow on or near a public roadway include drainage problems, drifting, sight obstruction and safe accessibility. Special attention should be made to keep crosswalks, intersections, entrances and exits clean and unobstructed.

When a snowplow comes along after driveways are cleared, place as much snow as possible from the end of the driveway downstream in the direction of traffic and clear an area upstream from the driveway to create an open "pocket."

Much of the snow pushed by the plow truck will empty into this pocket and less will wind up in the driveway entrance. The pocket needs to be maintained to be effective throughout the winter.

When marking driveway openings along a roadway with reflectors, follow these guidelines:

- Select reflectors that are at least three inches wide
- Use double-sided reflectors and position them so they can be seen from both directions
- Place reflectors at least 12 feet away from the outside edge of the shoulder
- Put reflectors no higher than five feet above the ground.
- Do not place reflectors on mailboxes or permanent posts

Blue is the preferred color, but colorless (white) reflectors are acceptable. Do not use red or yellow reflectors because drivers may confuse them with motor vehicle lights. Some stores carry reflectors already attached to a long wire rod that can be pushed into the ground. These are also acceptable.

CITY EVENT

The City of Independence would like to start a new annual tradition on Halloween Night

The City of Independence is renown for having beautiful spacious lots, long driveways, and farms; making it less than ideal for trick-or-treaters to go door-to-door, especially with our unpredictable weather. So the City is offering a safer and easier way to allow your little ghosts and goblins a way to go trick-or-treating.



The City staff is asking residents to come to City Hall with your car trunks decorated and be ready to hand out treats to the kids walking car-to-car.

**The Hours to Trunk-or-Treat (trick-or-treat) will be from 5PM to 7PM
Thursday, October 31st, Halloween Night at City Hall
1920 County Road 90, Independence, MN 55359**

The Community Room will be open should the weather be bad, there will be access to restrooms and warm refreshments.

Please register to attend or volunteer by mailing the attached registration form or by completing the online application www.independence.govoffice.com
The Application Deadline is by Noon, Friday, October 25th.

Trunk-or-Treat Application, Please complete and return to:
City of Independence, 1920 County Road 90, Independence, MN 55359

Attending to Hand Out Candy

Volunteering with Event

Name: _____

Vehicle: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

The Application Deadline is by Noon, Friday, October 25th.

REDUCE - REUSE - RECYCLE

Recycle half of all you throw

Do you know how easy it is to juice up your recycling? Load it up? And milk it for all it's worth? Of more than a million tons of garbage thrown away each year, we only recycle 39 percent. We can do more - help the county reach our goal of recycling at least 50 percent of all waste by 2015!

To help you get to half, remember to recycle all of these materials that are still commonly thrown in the trash:

- ◆ Milk cartons
- ◆ Juice boxes
- ◆ Soup, broth and wine cartons
- ◆ Yogurt, pudding and fruit cups
- ◆ Disposable cups
- ◆ Margarine, cottage cheese, and other plastic containers
- ◆ Produce, deli and takeout containers
- ◆ Dishwashing liquid bottles and detergent jugs
- ◆ Shampoo, soap and lotion bottles
- ◆ Toothpaste, medication and other toiletry boxes.

Also remember to recycle everywhere you go – at home, at work and at play! If you're still not certain how to recycle some of your stuff, get answers from our expert staff by connecting with us on Facebook, Twitter, email, phone or chat. Learn more about what you can recycle and get all of your recycling questions answered at RecycleHalf.com.



Don't know what to do with those old or no longer-working strings of holiday lights? Making the switch to energy efficient LED holiday lights? Either way, recycle the old lights with us!

You can drop off your unwanted holiday lights in our recycle bins at City Hall during office hours, starting November 15 through the end of January.

Choose to Reuse Today Coupon Books

Valid October 1 -
November 30



Hennepin County has partnered with 72 local reuse retailers to offer discounts in the Choose to Reuse Today coupon books.

Participating retailers include local businesses and organizations that rent, repair, resell, consign and exchange used goods.

Get a free coupon book from: City Hall, participating retailers, Hennepin County Service Centers and Libraries as well as Three Rivers Park District locations.

Or, get coupons on your phone or table by clicking on www.hennepin.us/choosetoreuse.

DELANO SENIOR CENTER



Delano Senior Center

234 2nd Street North, PO Box 462
Delano, MN 55328
Office:(763) 972-0574, Fax: (763) 972-9034

Gail Sinkel, Sener Center Coordinator
Linda Van Lith, Senior Center Assistant Coordinator

The Delano Senior Center and Senior Dining Program is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM and Fridays 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM. All seniors are invited to participate in the Senior Center's programs and nutritious, tasty dinner served at noon every day! The center van is also available to bring seniors to the center and for other trips.

Upcoming Events

- Th -Oct. 10 **12:30** Quick trip to Luce Line Apple Orchard in Watertown
Tu - Oct. 15 **7:30** Treasure Island Casino trip
Tu & W Oct. 15 & 16 **5:30-9:30** 8 hour driving course sponsored by St. Cloud University. To register, call 1-888-234-1294 or online at mnsafetycenter.org
W - Oct. 16 **9:00** Ridgedale Shopping
10:30 Book Club-October book - *Racing in the Rain*-My Life as a Dog by Garth Stein.
Tu - Oct. 22 **11:30** Octoberfest Celebration with German music by Lyndon Peterson
W - Oct. 23 **9:00** Knollwood Shopping
Th - Oct. 24 **8:45** History Theater trip. "Baby Case" about the Lindbergh Baby kidnapping
W - Oct. 30 **4:00** Dinner outing to Kimball for chicken dinner buffet
Th - Oct. 31 **11:15** Halloween Party. Come in costume. Choir sings
Sa - Nov 2 **9-Noon** Health Insurance Counseling for Part D-prescription drug coverage. Appts required
Tu - Nov. 5 **1:00** Health Insurance Counselors provide info on Medicare Part D-prescription drug coverage.
W - Nov. 6 **8-Noon** Four hour AARP driving refresher
M - Nov. 11 **Closed** in observance of Veterans Day
Tu - Nov. 19 **12:00** Thanksgiving Dinner. Entertainment by "The Holly Chicks"
Sat - Nov. 23 **11:30** "White Christmas" at the Paramount Theater

Monthly Events

LEGAL AID HELP -1st Mon. of every month 1:00 & 1:30. Call for appt 763-972-0574

EYE GLASS SMALL REPAIR & ADJUSTMENT – 1st Tues. of every month at 11:30

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC – Tues from 12:00-2:00

EXERCISE – Wed & Fri at 11:20-11:40

BRIDGE—2nd & 4th Mon at 1:00

"500" CARDS – 2nd & 4th Wed. at 1:00

BINGO—11:15 Mon. & 12:30 Fri.

FARKEL— 1st & 3rd Tues. at 1:00

"MEXICAN TRAIN" DOMINOS – 2ND & 4TH Tues. at 1:00

CRIBBAGE – 1st & 3rd Wed. at 1:00

CHOIR – Practices every Mon. at 10:00

STORYTHEATER – Practices the 1st and 3rd Tues. at 10:00

WRITERS GROUP – 1st & 3rd Thurs. of the month at 10:30

BOOK CLUB – 3rd Tues.at 1:30

PARKINSON SUPPORT GROUP – 3RD Thurs. of the month at 3:00

Movies Thursday at 1:00

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Thurs. Oct. 3 | 42 |
| Thurs. Oct. 10 | Promised Land |
| Thurs. Oct. 17 | Identity Theft |
| Thurs. Oct. 24 | Mud |

SHOPPING TRIPS – Buffalo, Ridgedale and other area malls

BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATED
2nd Mon. of each month at 12:00

For more info and a monthly menu log on to www.delano.mn.us/services/departments/senior-center

HOLIDAYS

West Hennepin Public Safety Police Reserves Annual “View Santa” & Food Shelf Donations! (Collecting non-perishable)



‘Santa’ will be making his way to Independence and Maple Plain on Saturday, December 7, 2013 for an early visit, as he has for many years. He will be accompanied and assisted by the West Hennepin Public Safety Reserves and Officers as he travels on a decorated float with Christmas music.

‘Santa’s helpers’ will be handing out candy to area youngsters. **Reserves will be collecting voluntary non-perishable food donations for area food shelves.** Non-perishable food donations can also be left at the Maple Plain City Hall, 1620 Maple Avenue, or the Independence City Hall, 1920 County Road 90, by December 6th. For those who prefer donating cash, the money can be mailed to or dropped off at the West Hennepin Public Safety office, 1918 County Road 90, Maple Plain, MN 55359, by December 6th.



If you'd like to make a donation to the Reserve Program, checks should be made payable to West Hennepin Public Safety Reserves.

COME TO THE INDEPENDENCE CITY HALL PARKING LOT (1920 COUNTY ROAD 90) FROM 3:15 TO 3:30 P.M. OR THE MAPLE PLAIN CITY HALL PARKING LOT (1620 MAPLE AVENUE) FROM 5:15 TO 5:45 P.M. TO MEET SANTA AND TAKE PHOTOS, OR SEE SANTA ON HIS ROUTE THROUGH TOWN.

Should anyone have questions regarding this year’s program, please contact West Hennepin Public

HOLIDAYS



The Independence City Hall is once again participating as a Toys for Tots drop-off site.

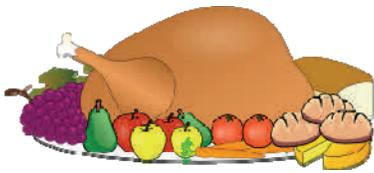
The City will be collecting new, unwrapped toys that will be distributed to needy children in our communities starting in late November and running through mid December (exact program dates to be announced). Toys for all ages will be accepted. City Hall is open Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to noon.

TOYS FOR TOTS



No Need to Spend Thanksgiving Alone

Share in a free turkey dinner with others at City Hall



Thursday, November 28
Thanksgiving Day at 1:00 PM

Independence City Hall—1920 County Rd 90

A group of volunteers will be providing a free turkey dinner with all the trimmings to those who may find themselves alone on the Thanksgiving Holiday. The food will be catered in and all you need to do to participate is call City Hall to make your reservation.

This effort was started by Purita Edson for many years; however, she is now passing the torch onto volunteers and members of the Maple Plain Community Church. It is being catered by Dan and Phyllis from Dobo's Café along with their staff.

Please call 763-479-0527 to make your reservation



Maple Plain Community Church Food Shelf

Food shelf for area residents. Providing a wide variety of foods to those who are in a financial emergency situation. They purchase perishables through Second Harvest Heartland and are happy to receive in season fruits and vegetables from local farmers.



1815 Budd Avenue N, Maple Plain, MN, 55359
Phone: (763) 479 – 1620, Email: info@mpcommunitychurch.org

Open: Mondays 12:00pm - 2:00pm & Tuesdays 4:30pm - 6:30pm

Eligibility: Anyone showing proof of residency in Independence, Loretto and Maple Plain



COMMUNITY EVENTS



Loretto Fire Department Open House

Date: Saturday, October 12th, 2013
Time: 4:00PM - 8:00PM
Location: Loretto Fire Station
259 N. Medina Street
Loretto, MN 55357

Food— Pig Roast, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, & Coleslaw

-  **Fire Truck Rides**
-  **Face Painting**
-  **Demonstrations**
-  **Inflatables**

-  **Games**
-  **Silent Auction**
-  **Free Drawings**

* Free Will Offering



Shriner Cowboy Brunch

Sunday, December 8th
9:30—12:30PM

\$8 Per Person
\$5 Ages 5-12
Free Kids under age 5

Located at: 4505 Co Road 92, Independence, MN 55359



Regional Trail Open House with Three River's Park District

Tuesday, October 29th, 2013 - City Hall, Independence,
5:30 PM—7:30 PM
1920 County Road 90, Independence

PIONEER CREEK PARK

Playground



The park at Pioneer Creek Park has some new playground equipment. Not only can kids enjoy playing, but now adults can work out on the equipment while watching their kids play.

In addition to the new playground equipment, a sand volleyball court has been added.



Winter Wonderland Day?

The City is looking to start an annual winter activity day at Pioneer Creek Park.

Possible event activities could include: Quincy Building Contest, Snow Volleyball Tournaments, Snow Frisbee Golf Tournaments, Snowball Dodgeball, Ice Skating, Snowman Building Contest, Bon Fire, Snowmobile Races, or Cross County Skiing

In order to make a winter activity day like this work, it takes a committee of volunteers. If you are interested in making this happen, please contact the City at 763-479-0527.



City of Independence
1920 County Road 90
Independence, MN 55359

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STANDARD
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PERMIT # 32996

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS NOTICE

The Independence City Hall
Holiday closures :

- ◆ Monday, Nov. 11th—Closed
- ◆ **Thursday, Nov. 28th—Closed**
- ◆ **Friday, Nov. 29th—Closed**
- ◆ **Tuesday, Dec. 24th—Closing at 12PM**
- ◆ Wednesday, Dec. 25th—Closed
- ◆ Wednesday, Jan. 1st—Closed



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

October

8 City Council - 7:30 p.m.
14 Columbus Day
14 Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.
22 City Council - 7:30 p.m.
30 Trunk-or-Treat 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

November

5 Election Day
11 Veteran's Day
12 City Council - 7:30 p.m.
18 Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.
26 City Council - 7:30 p.m.
28 Thanksgiving

December

9 Planning Commission - 7:30p.m.
10 City Council - 7:30 p.m.
24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Day
31 New Year's Eve

**Planning and City Council Meetings Subject to Change*