



Spring 2014

CITY OF INDEPENDENCE NEWS

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Letter from the Mayor

Dear Independence Residents:

Since the last City Newsletter we have had a good dose of winter. I heard just the other day that the first snowfall came on November 3rd, and I believe we still had all the accumulations of snow until March 9th when we finally got above the freezing temperature. It made for a long winter! Let's hope that we don't get the May snowstorms of last year and have spring a little earlier.

I want to commend our Public Works Staff for their dedication and long hours spent in keeping our roads open and in better shape earlier than the County Roads most of the time. It has been a long time since we have had to push snow off of the road with a pay loader, but they were preparing for the next big snow.

This spring we have seen many of our local High School teams excel in several different sporting events. Congratulations! It is a real honor when you can participate in the State Tournaments.

After thirty years of dedicated and honorable service, our Public Safety Director, Ray McCoy is retiring. There will be an "open house" on Tuesday, April 29th, from 4:30p.m. until 7:30p.m. in our City Hall for the public, with a Program at 6:00 p.m.

The Police Commission has promoted Sergeant Gary Kroells to the position of Public Safety Director. He becomes only the fourth Director in the history of West Hennepin Public Safety Department which was created in 1979.

For most of the last year, there have been newspaper articles, hearing notices, and meetings where a proposed trail is being looked at by Three Rivers Park District; which would leave Baker Park and head south and west into Minnetrista. The Independence Council had proposed that the trail go down County Road 29, cross U. S. Highway 12 at the signal lights, and then continue down Town Line Road to County Road 6 and south on County Road 110 to the Luce Line Trail. However, Maple Plain wants it to go thru their downtown and south on County Road 19 to County Road 6 and County Road 110. Many details are left to be answered, but we will probably support that effort.

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

UPDATES

Continued from page 1

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, this fall is an important election year again. Pay attention to the candidates. We will elect a U. S. Senator, Governor, State Office Positions, County Sheriff and a local legislator. In most cases an incumbent is running, but there are a lot of candidates for the positions.

Within the last few weeks everyone has received their property valuation notices. I have had many calls, especially from agriculture landowners. Since last fall, I have been trying to get our legislative leaders and metropolitan council leaders to get the law changed so that we aren't benchmarked by the farms in southwestern Minnesota. So far, I'm afraid it has fallen on deaf ears.

During the last six years with the economic downturn, values of homes dropped considerably. This last year overall value of homes increased about 4.8% from a year ago, but in most cases they are still not valued at what they were in 2008 or 2009.

During that same period of time, agriculture land has increased in value and is paying a larger share of the tax burden. I will give you an example: On our family farm we have one piece of farm property that was valued at \$389,900.00 in 2007 and 2008. Every year since 2008 the value has jumped and the last valuation notice just received stated the value was \$1,157,100.00. No changes whatsoever in the property. That same percentage of change has happened to most agriculture property owners that are enrolled in the Green Acres or Metropolitan Agriculture Preservation Programs.

The Internal Revenue Department required that cropped agriculture land be increased another \$912.00 an acre this year and pasture land be increased by \$1,145.00 an acre. This is for taxes payable in 2015. Our City Council is helpless when it comes to this issue. Size of fields, production potential, tax rates, Metropolitan Council jurisdiction and policy on 'open space' compared to southwestern Minnesota are making it an extreme hardship to survive. I need your help in talking to our legislators to get some changes made. (Refer to the last city newsletter also)

We do have the valuation Board of Appeal on Tuesday, April 8th at 6:30p.m. Our City Council has not given that responsibility to the County like most cities. At that meeting, if you have not come to an agreement with the assessor on your valuation, you can appeal to our Council. We will make an assessment of the concern and the Council has the right to decrease, increase or leave the valuation the same. If you want to appeal to Hennepin County, you must come before our Council first. With agriculture land we have no authority to make changes other than classification.



Your Mayor,

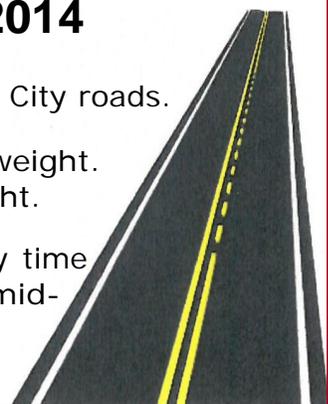
Marvin D. Johnson

Road Restrictions: Effective March 15, 2014

Each spring the City of Independence implements road restrictions on City roads.

- City paved roads are restricted to a maximum of five-ton per axle weight.
- City gravel roads are restricted to a maximum of four-ton axle weight.

The City's road restrictions DO NOT coincide with the State and County time frame. Weight restrictions are usually in effect early spring through mid-May; however weather conditions will ultimately determine dates. These restrictions are necessary to prevent damage to the roads.



PROPOSED REGIONAL TRAIL



Proposed Regional Trail Carver to Baker Park Reserves

Summary of Public Comments and Preliminary Cost Estimate

January 30, 2014 (Updated February 20, 2014)

The Park District is working on the development of a proposed regional trail master plan that will link Carver to Baker Park Reserves. The regional trail will measure approximately 17 miles from Carver Park Reserve in Carver County through the cities of Minnetrista, Independence and Maple Plain – terminating at Baker Park Reserve in Hennepin County. The trail alignment will connect to the Minnesota River Bluffs LRT, Dakota Rail and Lake Independence Regional Trails, the Luce Line State Trail, Kingswood Special Recreation Feature, and Gale Woods Farm - linking people with regional parks and other local and regional destinations.

Planning Efforts to Date

- ... 2011/2012: Minnetrista conducts and completes trail alignment planning for trail portion within Minnetrista
- ... July 19, 2013: Joint Maple Plain and Independence City meeting with staff and mayors to discuss general support/proposed alignment alternatives
- ... August 12, 2013: Maple Plain City Council presentation
- ... August 12, 2013: Independence City Council presentation
- ... August, 15, 2013: Maple Plain Days Booth
- ... September 14, 2013: Independence Heritage Fest Booth
- ... October 29, 2013: Open House (Independence City Hall)
- ... October 29 - December 31, 2013: Public comments taken
- ... January 31, 2014: Joint City Meeting to discuss public comments received and preferred trail alignment

Next Steps (Tentative)

- ... February 25, 2014: Joint Independence/Maple Plain workshop to discuss preferred trail alignment
- ... March 2014: Maple Plain/Independence City Council presentations to review and approve preferred trail alignment
- ... April 2014: Master Plan draft submitted to Park District Board for public review release
- ... May 2014: Master Plan submittal to Met Council for review and approval
- ... Fall 2014: Park District Board Master Plan adoption

A comment card form titled "Proposed Regional Trail Carver to Baker Park Reserves COMMENT CARD". It includes the Three Rivers Park District logo and asks for public input. Question 1 asks if the respondent is supportive of the proposed regional trail from Carver to Baker Park Reserves, with radio buttons for "Yes" and "No" and a "Comment:" field. Question 2 asks for a preferred alignment, with radio buttons for options A, C, D; A, C, E; B, C, D; B, C, E; F, E; F, D; and "Other" with a text field. Question 3 asks for other thoughts, concerns, or special considerations regarding the proposed regional trail, with a large text area for the response.

For more information on this plan or to read about public comments see the Three River's Park District website at www.threeriversparks.org and search Proposed Region Trail Carver to Baker Park Reserves

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

- Tues. Apr. 1 11:30 Music by Lyndon Peterson-an April Fools celebration!
Tues & Wed. Apr. 1 & 2 5:30-9:30 AARP 8 hour driving class
Tues. Apr. 8 7:30am Treasure Island Casino trip
6:30-8:30 *Navigating Medicare*-A workshop for persons reaching the age 65. \$8.00 for materials. Registration is needed.
Thurs, Apr. 17-May 8 8:20-9:30 Sr Center Writers group project with College in the Schools English class
Fri. Apr. 18 Senior Dining Closed. Senior Center open 8-Noon
Wed. Apr. 30 11:00 "Steel Magnolias" at Old Log Theatre
Thurs. May 1 1:30 Volunteer Appreciation
Tues. May 13 "Two Buck Tuesday" Treat yourself to lunch at the Senior Center for \$2.00. Co-sponsored by Golden Living Center

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 - Mon 11:15. & Fri. 12:40
FARKEL— 1st & 3rd Tues. at 1:00
CRIBBAGE – 1st & 3rd Wed. at 1:00
CHOIR – Practices every Mon. at 10:00
BOOK CLUB – 3rd Wed. at 10:30
"MEXICAN TRAIN" DOMINOS – 2ND & 4TH Tues. at 1:00
STORYTHEATER – Practices the 1st and 3rd Tues. at 10:00
WRITERS GROUP – 1st & 3rd Thurs. of the month at 10:30
PARKINSON SUPPORT GROUP – 3rd Thurs. of the month at 2:30
SHOPPING TRIPS – Buffalo, Ridgedale and other area malls

Movie Club—Thursday's at 1:00 Upcoming Movies

- Th. Mar. 6 It Happened One Night
Th. Mar. 13 Mrs. Miniver
Th. Mar. 20 Driving Miss Daisy

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

REDUCE - REUSE - RECYCLE

Household Hazardous Waste and Problem Materials Guide

BROOKLYN PARK

Brooklyn Park Transfer Station and Recycling Center

Full and self service areas
8100 Jefferson Highway
Brooklyn Park, 55445

Accepts:

- Recycling
- Household problem and hazardous materials
- Mattresses, box springs
- Organics (Tuesday - Friday)

BLOOMINGTON

South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-off Center

Full service only
1400 W. 96th Street
Bloomington, 55431

Accepts:

- Recycling
- Household problem and hazardous materials

Facility hours

- Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- Saturday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Do not throw these items in the trash!

Take hazardous and problem materials to a Hennepin County drop-off facility for proper disposal. See the reverse side for more information.

Automotive

- Antifreeze
- Brake fluid
- Cleaners and restorers
- Fuel
- Lead acid Batteries
- Oil
- Oil filters
- Polish and waxes
- Transmission fluid

Household, Lawn and Garden Products

- Adhesives (petroleum based)
- Aerosols
- Batteries (some types)
- Cleaning solvents
- Drain cleaner
- Driveway sealer
- Fluorescent bulbs
- Fungicides
- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Paints
- Paint remover
- Pesticides
- Rodenticides
- Stains and varnishes
- Thermometers
- Thermostats
- Other items containing mercury

Personal Care Products (flammable)

- Nail polish remover
- Hair spray
- Perfume and cologne

Electronics

- Audio equipment CD and mp3 players, radios, speakers, stereos, stereo receivers, remote controls
- Computers and peripherals monitors (CRT and LCD), laptops, CPUs, home networking devices, key-boards, "mice", printers, speakers, scanners, storage devices, fax machines
- Telephones Cell phones, PDAs, answering machines, cordless phones
- Televisions CRT, LCD, projection, and plasma; remote controls
- Video equipment DVD players, VCRs, camcorders, game systems, satellite receivers

Major Appliances (fee applies)

- Air conditioners
- Dehumidifiers
- Freezers
- Furnaces
- Garbage disposals
- microwaves
- Ovens/stoves
- Portable heaters
- Refrigerators
- Trash compactors
- Washers/dryers
- Water heaters, etc.

Tires (fee applies)

- Car and truck tires

BUSINESS & JOB EXPO



BUSINESS AND JOB EXPO

Thursday, April 24 | 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
City of Independence | 1920 Co. Rd. 90, Independence, MN 55359

- *Looking to hire? Do you need talented staff?*
 - *Are you looking to grow your business?*
- *Are you looking for a careers change, or just checking what is available?*

**IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS,
THEN YOU SHOULD ATTEND!**

ADMISSION IS FREE!

* Register for Door Prizes * Food Available *
* Hourly Business Presentations *

Are you a company that is looking to grow? Contact for available booth space:

Jolene Nelson: (763) 479-0527 or jnelson@ci.independence.mn.us
Toni Hirsch: (763) 479-0513 or thirsch@ci.independence.mn.us

The West Hennepin Chamber of Commerce "WHCC" is a group of business owners, land owners and citizens committed to promoting and encouraging the development of a community where business and people prosper.

SPRING CLEAN UP DAY



2014 SPRING CLEAN UP DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2014



INDEPENDENCE & MAPLE PLAIN RESIDENTS ONLY

1920 County Rd 90, Independence

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

You will need to show proof of residency for Independence or Maple Plain. Please no bills larger than \$20 and checks should be made out to City of Independence.

ACCEPTED Materials:

Air Conditioners: \$20. No gas air conditioners or refrigerator unless you pay \$200.

Appliances: \$15. Includes dehumidifiers, heat pumps, water heaters, microwaves, washers, dryers, refrigerators, etc.

Carpet: Small roll \$15. Large roll (greater than 5'x8') \$25.

Construction Material/Debris/Junk: \$20/cubic yard. Includes concrete, doors, lumber, fences, tile, sheetrock.

Mattresses, Box Springs, Upholstered Furniture: \$25.

Scrap Iron/Metal: No Charge. All plastic to be removed. Tanks/Barrels must be cut in half.

Tires: \$5/car, \$10/semi, \$20/tractor. With or without rims.

LIMITED HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

**Hennepin County will not be on site
Independence will have a vendor here**

To take the following items:
Must show ID within Hennepin County.



ACCEPTED Materials:

Auto, Vehicle, and Household Batteries - FREE

Electronics - \$5 to \$25 (depending on item and size).

Flourescent Tubes/Bulbs: DO NOT tape together. In original packaging or surrounded by cardboard. Must be dissambled and ballasts disconnected from housing unit. Bulbs 4' and under .50, over 4' - \$1, ballasts - \$2 and light fixtures - \$10.

Propane tanks – under 3' - \$5, over 3' - \$10

NO CURBSIDE RECYCLABLES OR YARD WASTE!

PUBLIC SAFETY

AFTER

★ 30 ★
★ ★
★ ★

YEARS

of dedicated and honorable service

DIRECTOR RAY MCCOY



Will be retiring after 30 years at
West Hennepin Public Safety serving
the cities of Maple Plain & Independence
and the surrounding communities.

Retirement Open House

April 29, 2014

City of Independence, Council Chambers

1920 County Road 90, Independence, MN

4:30 – 7:30pm

Program 6:00pm

Cake & Coffee to be served

PUBLIC SAFETY

West Hennepin Public Safety



West Hennepin Public Safety Sergeant, Gary Kroells, has been promoted as the new Director of Public Safety, effective May 1st. The department will be appointing a new sergeant to fill his open position.

On April 22, 2014 there will be a swearing in ceremony at City Hall, for the two newly hired officers, a newly appointed sergeant, and the new Director of Public Safety.

4TH ANNUAL ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT PANCAKE & FRENCH TOAST BREAKFAST



Sunday, April 27
8 am to 12 pm

Adults \$8, Children \$5

LORETTO FIRE DEPARTMENT

259 North Medina Street - Loretto, MN

Gluten-free Pancakes & French Toast Available

Need a Burning Permit?

You need an open burning permit when:

- ...When the fire is more than 3 feet high and 3 feet in diameter.
- ...When the ground is not completely covered by a minimum of 3 inches of snow.
- ...When the fire is not contained in either an approved burner or in a cooking or heating device such as charcoal grill or camp stove.

West Hennepin Public Safety issues burning permits. Permits cost \$10 and are valid for 30 days.

Call 763-479-0500 for details.

COMMUNITY NOTES



Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission

The City of Independence is looking for a resident to join the Lake Minnetonka Cable Commission Board

The Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission (LMCC) is an agency formed by a Joint Powers Agreement between 12 area communities, whose purpose is to oversee the franchise agreement with the cable operator, currently Mediacom, and to promote awareness and use of community television. The general purpose of the board is to administer and enforce a non-exclusive franchise agreement with the cable company. The Commission fields subscriber concerns and guides studio policy.

This is your opportunity to volunteer and be involved by joining the Executive Committee Board. No previous training is necessary, but anyone with a technology background is encouraged to join. The Commission meets monthly and meetings are open to the public. If you are interested please contact the City of Independence at 763-479-0527.

MAPLE PLAIN AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY **LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS!**



The purpose of the American Legion is "to serve the needs of the Veterans of all wars, their widows and dependent children".

The Auxiliary group meets once per month at the Maple Plain City office to discuss/plan events and opportunities that support our Veterans in numerous ways. Some of their work includes the Memorial Day and Veteran's Day services held each year, providing socks for the Veterans Hospital and for the homeless Vets and coordinating the annual local "Poppy" sale which raises thousands for our Veterans.

If you are interested in joining or supporting this worthwhile organization, please contact either Mardelle DeCamp at 763-479-2117 or Suzanne Bernards at 763-479-3708. We would love to add new members to our group!

COMMUNITY NOTES

Raingardens and Beyond Workshops

Raingardens in our yards connect us to the natural systems and ecological processes that provide clean water, clean air, and critical wildlife habitat..

Learn about simple changes you can make in the way you take care of your yard that will help keep our lakes, rivers and streams clean at an upcoming Metro Blooms workshop. The three-hour workshop will cover a variety of green yard care practices, including proper use of fertilizers, composting of yard waste, keeping sidewalks ice free, and capturing and reusing rain water onsite. Participants are eligible for a low-cost, onsite consultation and design drawing from a landscape design professional.

Workshops are scheduled during March through June at locations throughout the county, including in Bloomington, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Champlin, Edina, Minneapolis, Plymouth and St. Louis Park.



For a schedule and fees see www.metroblooms.org/workshops.php
or call 651-699-2426

Heritage Fest 2014 Planning

The 2014 Heritage Fest will be better than ever, with the help of local residents. The City has already started planning for it, but with your help and input, we can make this a city festival for all to remember.



The festival is scheduled for:
**Friday, September 12th and,
Saturday, September 13th.**

The City is looking for volunteers to be part of the Heritage Fest Planning Committee. We cannot hold Heritage Fest without volunteers. Meeting dates and times will be posted on the City's website. If you can assist in anyway please contact us. Feel free to call, stopping in, or email with comments or questions. We want to hear from you!

For more information contact Toni Hirsch at 763-479-0513 or
thirsch@ci.independence.mn.us

City of Independence
1920 County Road 90
Independence, MN 55359

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TWIN CITIES, MN
PERMIT # 32996

**HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS
NOTICE**

The Independence City Hall
Holiday closures :

« **Monday, May 26th—Closed**



CITY OF INDEPENDENCE

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

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

City Calendar

April

8 City Council - 7:30 p.m.
14 Planning Commission- 7:30 p.m.
20 Easter
22 City Council- 7:30 p.m.
24 Business & Job Expo 11am-7pm

May

3 City Clean-Up Day 9 a.m.– 2 p.m.
11 Mother's Day
12 Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.
13 City Council - 7:30 p.m.
26 Memorial Day—Office Closed
27 City Council - 7:30 p.m.

June

9 Planning Commission - 7:30p.m.
10 City Council- 7:30p.m.
15 Father's Day
21 First Day of Summer
24 City Council - 7:30 p.m.

**Planning and City Council Meetings Subject to Change*