



Working together to address trash

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CityScene is published by the City Manager's Office, located at 111 E. Maple Ave., Independence, MO, 64050.

For information, call (816) 325-7086.

On March 20, the Independence City Council approved a brand new program focused on litter clean-up in Independence. Independence TOGETHER addresses two key community priorities – assisting residents who are experiencing unstable housing and community beautification.

This program is made possible through a unique collaboration between the City of Independence, the Community Services League (CSL), and MoDOT.

In the program individuals who are unhoused or experiencing unstable housing will be paid for their work cleaning up roadside litter along main streets.

Independence TOGETHER stands for Together Opportunities Grow Everyone To Help Empower Resiliency and is funded through \$100,000 of ARPA funds. The program launched on March 27.

The pilot program will run until September 27, 2023, at which point the council will have the option to extend the program.

Crews will walk along roadsides and remove litter and other various illegally dumped materials throughout the city. Priority areas for service will be the major east-west corridors (24 Hwy., Truman Rd., M-78, I-70, 40 Hwy., 35th Street and 39th Street), the major north-south corridors (Blue Ridge Blvd., Sterling, Noland, Lee's Summit, M-29) and along park and historic sites.

Those who are eligible to participate in the program include anyone: living on the streets

or in their car, living temporarily in a hotel or motel, 'couch surfing' with friends or family, living in a halfway or sobriety house, in a CSL transitional housing program, with disabilities or unaccompanied minors.

Employees will be paid a wage of \$12/hour daily. In addition to the hourly wage, an additional \$3 per hour will be put in escrow towards a housing savings fund. After 100 hours, and every subsequent 100 hours, workers can request the \$300 be paid toward any housing expense. These might

include daily/weekly/monthly

motel rentals, past due rent and utilities, deposits on new utility services or apartment rental, or any other expense that promotes permanent, stable housing.

Independence TOGETHER employees will work on a supported employment basis, meaning

CSL is not expecting employees to work 40 hours

immediately. Employees will have an

opportunity to build their work stamina slowly increasing their weekly hours.

On top of monetary benefits, employees will be provided with proper work attire and supplies, including a high-visibility safety vest. Breakfast and lunch will also be offered to employees on shift.

Through its integrated service model, CSL will also work to connect employees with housing resources, attempt to place them in permanent jobs and assist in securing the appropriate state-issued identification and documents needed to enter the workforce.



Upcoming events & programs - April - June 2023

Drop-off Depot

2nd Saturday, April - October, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., weather permitting

875 Vista Ave

A full list of prices and what is accepted is available online at indep.us/dropoffdepot.

Mayor's Trash Clean-up

2nd Saturday, April - October, from 9-11 a.m., weather permitting

Various locations

Mayor Rory Rowland invites the Independence community to join him on the second Saturday of each month, April through October, from 9-11 a.m. Details on locations and where to meet will be shared on the City's Facebook page and website.

Please dress appropriately by wearing closed-toe shoes (preferably boots), long pants, long sleeves, sunblock, and bug spray.

Farmers' Market

Saturdays in May, 8 a.m. -1 p.m.

Wednesdays & Saturdays, June - Aug., 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Saturdays in Sept. and Oct., 8 a.m. -1 p.m.

Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd.

The Independence Farmers' and Crafters' Market is open on Saturdays from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. weekly beginning May 6!

You can find great local produce, baked goods, crafts, and more in the heart of downtown Independence.

Non-Fiction Local Authors Non-Fiction Showcase

2nd Saturday April - June, 2-4 p.m.

National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific Ave.

Join us each month at the National Frontier Trails Museum for our monthly non-fiction showcase. Topics include the History of the 1859 Jail in April, Celebrating the History of the Queen City of the Trails in May, and the history of the Independence Square in June. If you are a history buff looking for a new way to engage with peers or simply looking to learn something new, this is a must for your calendar!

Stories by the Campfire

April 23, May 21, June 11 - 1:30-2:15 p.m.

George Owens Nature Park, 1601 Speck Rd.

Enjoy the great outdoors and a great story too! Stories by the Campfire takes place at George Owens Nature Park. Hear about Earth Day in April, space folklore in May, and the history of Cathay Williams - the only known female Buffalo Soldier - in June. Grab that sunblock, a chair or blanket, and maybe a little bug spray for this family-friendly event!

Rummage Sale

Saturday, April 15, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd.

Join us for the Annual Market Rummage Sale at the Independence Uptown Market! From 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on April 15th, peruse the many vendors and shop till you drop! You'll never know what you'll find at the Market Rummage Sale. We'll see you there!

Earth Day

Saturday, April 21, 1-2 p.m.

Fairmount Community Center, 217 S. Cedar Ave.

Celebrate Earth Day as you learn about the native animals that call Missouri home. You might even get to touch a live snake! All ages are welcome to this FREE interactive event happening April 21 from 1-2 p.m.

Wild Women of Winedale

April 28, 29, 30 & May 5, 6, 7

Friday and Saturdays, 7 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m.

Powerhouse Theatre, Sermon Community Center, 201 N. Dodgion

Encore Theatre is proud to present "The Wild Women of Winedale." This comedy shares the ups and downs of two sisters and a sister-in-law who are at crossroads in their lives while leaning on each other as they navigate through life's joys and sorrows. Ticket pricing varies.

Call (816) 325-7367 or visit the Sermon Center front desk, 201 N. Dodgion, to reserve your tickets!

Annual Uptown Garden Faire

Saturday, April 29, from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd.

Join us for the Annual Uptown Garden Faire on April 29th from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. with this FREE event! Celebrate springtime with garden market exhibitions, plants, food, raffles, and more! Call (816) 325-7843 for more information.

Star Wars Day

Friday, May 4, 6-8 p.m.

Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd.

Join the KC Bricklab with us at the Independence Uptown Market for "May the Fourth Be With You Day" as we celebrate all things Star Wars! This free event happens May 4th from 6-8 p.m. There will be activities, snacks, and Star Wars characters!

Fun in the park

Each Saturday in May at George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Rd.

Each Saturday in June at Sycamore Hills Park, 3700 S Harden Dr.

Join us for oodles of fun with unique and engaging outdoor games and activities! The fun-tivities begin at 10 a.m. each Saturday. Call (816) 325-7115 for questions.

Truman Day

On Monday, May 8, City offices will be closed in honor of President Harry S Truman's birthday.

Concert in the park!

Saturday, May 13, 11:30 a.m.

George Owens Nature Park, 1601 Speck Rd.

Love music and the outdoors? We have just the event for you! Join the Spirit of Independence Concert Band for a day of outdoor music. Don't forget your lawn chairs and blankets!

Adventure Oasis Opens

Saturday, May 27, weather permitting

Adventure Oasis Water Park, 2100 Hub Dr.

Kick-off the summer with us as we open the water park for the 2023 season! Find hours, prices, classes, lessons, and more at indep.us/adventureoasis

Upcoming events & programs

Popsicles in the Park

Tuesdays in June, 6-8:30 p.m.

A community favorite is back! We are visiting a park near you for popsicles, music, and family-fun.



June 6, Millcreek Park: musical guest Babaloo and entertainment by Willy the Wizard



June 13, Country Club Park: musical guest Janie Next Door and entertainment by Priscilla Howe Puppets



June 20, Glendale Park: musical guest Jim Cosgrove and entertainment by Inspyr Circus



June 27, Beckett Park: musical guest Dino O'Dell and entertainment by Wicked Liars Comedy Club

Annual Juneteenth Celebration

Monday, June 19, 2023

Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd.

Join us for the 2nd annual Juneteenth Celebration on Monday, June 19. Look for details and features as we get closer to the date!

Juneteenth Holiday

On Monday, June 19, City offices will be closed in honor of the Juneteenth holiday.

Want more?

Visit indep.us/calendar!

Celebrating Historic Preservation Month!

May is National Historic Preservation Month! Our theme for 2023 is "The Women of Independence." We are fortunate to have a rich heritage in Independence. Much of that legacy has been shaped over the years by women. This year we highlight the places in Independence where women made history with a series of events around town.

- On Sunday, May 7, from 1-3 p.m., join the Jackson County Historical Society for an introduction to "Mary Bugler: The Unknown Story of the 1859 Jail's Only Female Jailor." Learn about this mysterious woman who unexpectedly became the Jailor after tragedy befell her. This is a ticketed event, and space is limited. You can find out more at indep.us/events or buy tickets at bitly.ly/wzb9f
- On Monday, May 8, at 7 p.m., head down to Three Trails Brewery for a presentation by Mike Calvert on the "WWII Women of the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant." Learn about women's stories of employment and opportunity that helped lead to victory in World War II.
- Saturday, May 13, beginning at 1 p.m., join the City of Independence Historic Preservation Manager, Wendy Shay, for a highlight of "The Ladies of the Vaile." Space is limited. Please make reservations by May 9 by calling (816) 325-7419 or wshay@indepmo.org. Separate tours require a \$10 admission fee.

- Saturday, May 20, beginning at 11 a.m., Join the National Park Service as we explore "The Other First Lady: Madge Gates Wallace, The Grand Lady of 219 N. Delaware St." Come learn about the interesting lady through documents and photographs, some rarely seen.
- Monday, May 22, beginning at 7 p.m., join Mike Calvert at Three Trails Brewery as he shares the story of one woman from Independence, "I'm just an Ordinary Girl: The Story of Sharon Kinne." Look at the evidence and put yourself in the position of judge and jury to make your own conclusion of guilt or innocence.
- Our final event is at the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum on May 30, from 12-1 p.m., where Samuel Rushay shares a presentation on "Community Connections: The Renovated Harry S. Truman Library and Women in Independence." Space is limited, and reservations are required by May 23 to samuel.rushay@nara.gov

We hope these events inspire a love of history, preservation, and community. It is important to celebrate the role of history and heritage around us. The contributions made before us continue to create a lasting impact on our lives today.

Need more information? Contact wshay@indepmo.org for the latest details.

Excessive Vegetation

As we enter the growing season, the City of Independence Code Enforcement Division responds to citizen complaints for tall grass and weeds. This includes weeds or grass over 7 inches in height, noxious plants such as poison ivy and sumac, and thickets. Tall vegetation like this can attract pests such as insects and rodents, creating potential issues for the health and welfare of our citizens. The property owner and tenant will be sent a notification and are given time to correct the violation. Should the vegetation remain too tall, an abatement of the violation is ordered. Repeated violations within the same growing season will result in less time to correct the issue. In the event of a third complaint, no notification will be given, and the violation will be corrected by the City. You can share your concern online at indep.us/indepnow or by calling (816) 325-7193 option 5.



IPD Citizen Academy

We are currently accepting applications for our Spring Citizen's Police Academy. Our Spring Class will meet every Thursday evening from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The first class will be on April 20 at Police Headquarters, 223 N. Memorial Drive.

This is a hands-on opportunity for community members to gain knowledge and insight into the inner workings of their Police department and build solid relationships.

Each evening will consist of a presentation put on by Officers within the Unit being highlighted for that date. This includes K9, Traffic, Crime Scene, Communications, Firearms, Investigations, Explosive Ordinance Disposal, and the specialty Units residing inside these main categories. This front-row seat allows Citizens to see the goals and values of their Independence Police Department.

Spots are limited and filling up fast. Sign-up at buff.ly/3YVXhcs



Utilizing grants to improve transportation

The City of Independence has received over seven million in Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) I grants for transportation projects around the City. The projects all have a focus on improving air quality, public transportation and enhancing roads and bridges. Projects include:

- Over \$4 million to construct new sidewalks, bike lanes, transit stop improvements, curb and gutter improvements and additional traffic and pedestrian signals from US 24 Highway to Hedges. Designs are expected to be completed this summer with a construction beginning summer 2025.
- Just under \$1 million to construct a multi-use trail on Ash Ave., a bicycle boulevard and sidewalk on Kentucky Rd. and complete resurfacing of the Fairmount Trail. Designs are expected to be completed by summer 2024, with

construction beginning fall 2025.

- \$750,000 to construct new ADA compliant sidewalks and ramps, pedestrian signal upgrades, adding bike lanes and shared use paths and street trees on both sides of 23rd St. between M-291 and Speck Rd. Designs are expected to be completed by summer 2024, with construction beginning fall 2025.
- Just under \$1.5 million to remove the existing Huttig Ave. intersection at US Hwy. 24 and create a new access point from Cedar Ave. that will tie into an existing signalized intersection at Ash Ave. Designs are expected to be completed this spring, with construction beginning summer 2024.

We will share updates and time lines for each project as details are finalized.

Free Narcan available to residents

Drug addiction, also known as a substance use disorder, is a chronic disease of the brain that can happen to anyone. If a friend or family member is struggling with opioid addiction, an overdose can happen quickly.

In March, the Independence Health and Animal Services Department announced that Narcan is available to Independence residents for free. Residents are taking advantage of

this opportunity to help family and friends battling substance abuse disorder.

Please call (816) 325-7186 for information.

If you or a family member needs additional resources or to talk to someone, the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. All you need to do is call or text 988.

CITY COUNCIL

Online at indep.us/citycouncil
Email at kosborne@indepmo.org
Call (816) 325-7027

Councilmembers

Rory Rowland	Mayor
John Perkins	District 1
Brice Stewart	District 2
Mike Steinmeyer	District 3
Daniel Hobart	District 4
Jared Fears	At-Large
Dr. Bridget McCandless	At-Large

City Manager

Zachary Walker (816) 325-7170

Numbers to Know

Animal Shelter	325-7207
Adopt-a-Street	325-7602
Barking Dogs	325-7213
Building Permits	325-7401
Business/Liquor Licenses	325-7079
City Council Office	325-7022
City Manager's Office	325-7170
COVID-19 Questions	325-7019
Crime Stoppers Tips	474-8477
Drop-Off Depot/Trash	325-7600
Drugs	325-6272
Graffiti	257-7824
Health Department	325-7019
Human Resources	325-7390
Municipal Court	325-7230
Continuances	325-7236
City Prosecutor	325-7222
Neighborhood Watch	325-7643
Parks Recreation Tourism	325-7370
Park Vandalism	325-7208
Police Non-Emergency	325-7300
Fire Non-Emergency	325-7123
Potholes	325-7624
Report Power Outage	325-7550
Risk Management	325-7061
Street Lights	325-7535
Stormwater Pollution	325-7727
Utilities	
Customer Service	325-7930
Pay by Phone	325-SERV
Payment Assistance	254-4100
Weeds, Trash	325-7193
Zoning questions	325-7421

CITY7

City of Independence
Government Access Television

City Council Meetings

Live meetings: 6 p.m. on Mondays
Replays: 9 a.m. on Mon., Wed., Fri.
1 p.m. on Sun.

Planning Commission Meetings

Live meetings: 6 p.m. on 2nd & 4th Tues./month
Replays: 10 a.m. on Tues. and Thurs.
1 p.m. on Sat.

Learn more at indep.us/city7



Where can I...

Pay my Jackson Co. property taxes:
Historic Truman Courthouse
112 W. Lexington, Suite 114
Phone: (816) 881-3232

Apply for a marriage license:
Historic Truman Courthouse
112 W. Lexington, Suite 30
Phone: (816) 881-4608

Pay a ticket issued by the City:
Independence City Hall
111 E. Maple
Phone: (816) 325-7230