



Answering the call

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Learn more at:

 [indep.us/facebook](https://www.indep.us/facebook)

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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.

9-1-1, what's your emergency? A simple question that has a major impact on the lives of residents and visitors of our community every day. Our dispatchers play a very important role in our community and we are working to recruit new dispatchers to keep our community safe.

"We're not just taking calls. It's so much more than that."

In 2021, Ioana took a call early in the morning. A resident was reporting a troubling situation, that unfortunately did not have a happy ending. Ioana calmly helped the police by working with a homicide suspect. Her conversation resulted in a peaceful resolution.

Why do we share this story? Because while Ioana was helping police and fire, she continued to route other calls coming in through the system and coordinate teams at the scene. Each dispatcher has four, large monitors in front of them, a headset, and a room-wide radio they are engaged with. Ioana's calm, motherly demeanor played an important role in this event.

In 2022, Julie and Brendon were working the overnight shift. Julie was on a non-emergency call when she heard a member of the police department call for urgent help. Brendon worked directly with the police to coordinate response on the scene, while Julie asked her non-emergency call to hold. She then helped facilitate the response of the Independence Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services. When the event was under control, she picked up the non-emergency call and

went right back to work.

"An important role in every emergency response."

In June, the Independence City Council approved a \$10,000 hiring bonus for the first 10 qualifying dispatcher applicants to help encourage new applicants to consider serving in Independence.

In addition, this position has a starting pay of \$20/hour, on-the-job training, a free health insurance option, and the ability to help people every day.

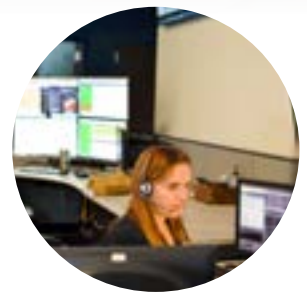
Those wishing to apply or learn more, can visit [indep.us/dispatcher](https://www.indep.us/dispatcher) to get started.

"Please be patient with us."

At full staff, we have 30 dispatcher positions in Independence. At the time of this article, there are 10. These individuals are working long shifts, answering hundreds of calls. In fact, in 2022, our dispatchers took more than 350,000 calls - only 91,000 of these were 9-1-1 related.

Please do not call 9-1-1 to ask for directions, to report a power outage (unless you have a medical, fire, or safety emergency associated with it), or to ask about City services. We've listed important numbers on the back of this Cityscene to help direct those concerns.

And, please, answer the questions dispatchers ask as honestly as you can. This information is very important as they relay information to police, fire, and emergency medical services.



Upcoming events & programs - July-September 2023

Independence Day Celebration

Saturday, July 1, gates open at 5:30 p.m., live music begins at 7 p.m., fireworks begin at 9:30 p.m.

937 W. Walnut St.

Join us for live music, food trucks, and fireworks as we celebrate 247 years!

Presented by the City of Independence in collaboration with Independence Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Learn more at fb.me/c/2xDH2iZpn

Independence Day

On Tuesday, July 4, City offices will be closed in honor of Independence Day.

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.

Farmers' Market

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

Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd.

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

Crafternoon: Galaxy Jars

Wednesday, July 5, 2-4 p.m.

Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd.

Hold the galaxy in the palm of your hands at our next Crafternoon! Join us Wednesday, July 5, from 2-4 PM at the Independence Uptown Market to create galaxy jars! \$5 per person or \$15 for a family. Light refreshments will be served. To register, call (816)325-7843. For more information, contact Amanda at ahoernicke@indepmo.org.

Want more?
Visit indep.us/calendar/

Creating over coffee: Stamped Tea Towels

Friday, July 7, 9-11 a.m.

Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd.

It's time for another Creating Over Coffee! Join us as we create stamped tea towels on Friday, July 7, from 9-11 AM at the Independence Uptown Market. Just \$5 a person gets you a towel, stamps, and paint. Coffee and tea are provided, and you may bring your own snack. To register, call (816)325-7843. For more information, contact Amanda at ahoernicke@indepmo.org.

Bingham-Waggoner 34th Annual Antique & Craft Fair

Saturday, Jul 8, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific Ave

Join us at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate for the 34th Annual Antique & Craft Fair! Stroll through over 100 vendor booths full of everything from handmade soaps and jewelry to an assortment of wonderful antiques. Try a burger or walking taco from the Chuck Wagon Cafe. Listen to music provided by the Independence Spirit Band and a jazz band from the Independence Music and Arts Institute. Admission and parking are FREE!

Tree ID Lesson

Saturday, July 8, 1-2 p.m.

George Owens Nature Park, 1601 Speck Rd.

Let's learn about trees! Join us at George Owens Nature Park for a FREE lesson on learning how to identify trees by their leaves! Learn botanical terms as we identify trees along the Butterfly Trail.

Dragonfly Days

July 14 and 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

George Owens Nature Park, 1601 Speck Rd.

Capture and identify dragonflies at George Owens Nature Park for Dragonfly Days! Join us on Friday and Saturday, July 14-15, from 10 AM to 2 PM to learn about the different dragonflies that visit Independence and help us identify them.



Dive-in Movie

Friday, July 14, 8 p.m.

Adventure Oasis Water Park, 2100 Hub Dr.

Dive-In to movie night at Adventure Oasis! Join us Friday, July 14 at 8 PM for a showing of How to Train Your Dragon. Watch from the water in a tube or on the deck in a chair. \$3 Entry and Independence residents only.

Mayor's Trash Clean-up

Date Change for July: third Saturday, July 15

Look for location information on City's website and Facebook Event.

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.

Crafternoon: Dinosaur Dress-up

Wednesday, July 19, 2-4 p.m.

Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd.

Let's get crafty after lunch decorating and dressing up dinos! Come as you are or come dressed up like a dino and pick a dinosaur to "dress-up" This crowd favorite is happening Wednesday, July 19, from 2-4 PM at the Independence Uptown Market. Light refreshments will be served. To register, call (816)325-7843. For more information, contact Amanda at ahoernicke@indepmo.org.

Creating over coffee: Tote Bag Decorating

Friday, July 21, 9-11 a.m.

Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd.

Join us as we decorate tote bags on Friday, July 21, from 9-11 AM at the Independence Uptown Market. Just \$5 a person gets you a tote bag, paint, or dye to create a unique tote bag. Coffee and tea are provided, and you may bring your own snack. To register, call (816)325-7843. For more information, contact Amanda at ahoernicke@indepmo.org.

Upcoming events & programs

Summer workshop for historic property owners

Saturday, July 22, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Truman Memorial Building

It's time once again for the annual summer workshop for historic property owners! Join Paul Helmer, from Touch of Distinction in Kansas City, who will discuss historic paint colors and historic landscaping from 11am-1pm on July 22 at the Truman Memorial Building. This event is free but reservations are required as space is limited. Please send your RSVP to wshay@indepmo.org or call (816)325-7419 no later than July 19.

SantaCaliGon and Main Street 1849

September 1-4

Historic Independence Square

Join us for live music, food and drinks, shopping, entertainment, and more. This year's lineup can be found at santacaligon.com

Travel back to pioneer days at Main Street 1849! Pan for gold, visit the schoolhouse, and more as you experience the days of yesteryear! Come see us on Main Street at the SantaCaliGon Festival!

Curtains up on 2023-2024 City Theatre of Independence season

The City Theatre of Independence has announced its list of performances for its 44th Season running from September 2023 through June 2024.

Following a banner 2022-23 season you will definitely want to plan to watch local talent as they give breathtaking performances at the Powerhouse Theatre in the Roger T. Sermon Community Center, 201 N. Dodgion.

Mark your calendar for:

9 to 5 the musical

September 8-10, & 15-17

The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940

Auditions: August 28-30
Performances: November 3-5, and 10-12

Labor Day

On Monday, September 4, City offices will be closed in honor of the Labor Day holiday.

Hummingbird Festival

September 7-9, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. each day

George Owens Nature Park, 1601 Speck Rd.

We're celebrating the smallest birds at the Annual Hummingbird Festival! Come see hummingbirds as they pass through Independence on their migration. Learn how hummingbirds are tagged, pick up feeders, and more as you see and hear everything about hummingbirds!

Independence Uncorked Winefest

Saturday, September 9, 1-6 p.m.

Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific Ave.

Join us at the historic Bingham-Waggoner Estate for the 10th Annual Independence Uncorked Winefest! Sample wines from over 25 Missouri wineries while enjoying food, art, shopping, and music. Remember, the grape stops here! Visit independencuncorked.com to learn more.



Did you know?

There are many different types of work that require permits that homeowner are often not aware of. This ranges anywhere from trade work to home additions. Some of the most common types of work that require permits for residential properties are pools, accessory structures over 120 square feet, new and replacement decks, water heaters, electrical upgrades, new HVAC systems, remodels, repairs, additions, and solar installations. A homeowner can often apply for and do the work themselves if also currently occupying the property. Contractors hired by the homeowner are required to have current licensing with the City. To inquire about permits and contractor licenses please contact the Building Inspections Division by emailing bpermits@indepmo.org, calling 816-325-7401, or a visit to City Hall.



National Frontier Trails Museum moves to temporary location in July 2023

Did you hear the news? The National Frontier Trails Museum is moving locations on July 1, 2023, to the Truman Memorial Building on the lower level. But have no fear! The transition takes place over the summer, and the museum is expected to reopen in the fall of 2023. The Merrill J. Mattes Research Library will remain at 318 W. Pacific Ave. location.

On April 17, 2023, the Council approved an agreement with the Missouri Model Railroad Museum to establish a model railroad in the current location of the National Frontier Trails Museum. The City will continue to provide regular updates to the public throughout the moving process on our website and social media platforms.

You can read the press release here, indep.us/nftmtransition23

New utilities rates structure coming in October 2023

In October, the City of Independence will begin transitioning to a new rate structure. The City of Independence City Council approved the changes to the rate structure in June. The Public Utilities Advisory Board also approved the changes.

The new rate structure means the 2% electric rate discount (approved in November 2018), the 4% discount (approved in May 2019), and the five-year moratorium (approved in October 2019), will all be overturned.

Since the above cumulative 6% rate discounts went into effect, the Independence Power & Light Department has experienced an erosion of revenues, and without an increase, is projected to fall below the lower reserve requirement by June 2025.

The elimination of the 6% rate discounts will generate an estimated \$600,000 for the City of Independence General Fund in Fiscal Year 2023-24 and \$8 million in annual new revenue for IPL – which will help avoid cuts to current service levels.

Independence Power & Light has not had a rate increase since 2012. Since 1989, IPL rates have increased a total of eight times. Rates have not kept pace with inflation, as rates have increased by an average of 1.06 per year, while the Midwest Consumer Price Index has increased by an average of 2.5% per year.

We understand that rate changes – no matter the size – are stressful and frustrating for families as they plan their budgets. That’s why over the course of the next three months, the City of Independence will be sharing a wide variety of information to keep customers up-to-date about what the rate structure changes will mean for them.

This information will be distributed in various ways, like in this newsletter, your monthly billing statement, your Utilities monthly newsletter, on social media and more. All information will also be posted to the Utilities section on the City of Independence’s website at indep.us/utilities.

An important reminder surrounding ongoing discussions about rates, it is currently on-peak electric rate season. In every electrical utility, there are on- and off-peak electric rate seasons. These are commonly applied by electricity providers throughout the country and here in Independence.

On-peak electric rate season begins in May and runs until September. If you see increases in your bill during this time -- it is likely caused by the increased usage caused by summer temps. Due to the climate in Missouri, on-peak electric rates occur during the warmer months when electrical demands are highest for the year and purchase power costs are higher.

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



Expand your family by four feet.
 Call (816) 325-7207 to set up an appointment.
Regional Animal Shelter
 21001 E. Hwy 78, Independence, MO

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