



Parks & Rec Staff, Programs, Councilman Receive State Awards

Three Independence Parks and Recreation employees, a City Council member and one community-based organization were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the field of Parks and Recreation at the 2007 Missouri Parks and Recreation State Conference.

City Council member Jim Schultz was recently recognized for his outstanding contributions to and support of Parks and Recreation.

Councilman Schultz was presented with the association's Public Official Achievement Award. This award is given annually to an elected official who has made an outstanding and sustained contribution to recreation and or parks.

Councilman Schultz received this award due to his work associated with the passage of the Parks and Recreation Sales Tax programs, service to the community as part of the Parks Commission

and unbridled support of Parks and Recreation as a member of the Independence City Council.

Vicki Hon, recreation supervisor, received this year's Distinguished Service Award for Municipal Parks and Recreation for her work at the Palmer Senior Center. Hon is in charge of the overall operations and programming of the Senior Center. The award is given annually to one individual who has been in the field for at least eight years and has displayed service above and beyond normal operations, demonstrated outstanding leadership and developed innovative recreation programs and services to meet the needs of a resident population.

Recreation Supervisor Jeff Umbreit was awarded this year's Outstanding New Professional Award for Municipal Parks and Recreation's Natural Resources Division for his work at the George Owens

Nature Center. Umbreit is in charge of the overall operations and programming of the Nature Center. The Outstanding New Professional Award is given annually to one individual who has been in the field for at least one year, but no more than five years and has displayed service above and beyond normal operations, demonstrated outstanding leadership and developed innovative recreation programs and services to meet the needs of a resident population.

Christy Humerickhouse, district manager for Midwest Pool Management is in charge of the day-to-day operations of the City-owned Adventure Oasis Water Park. Humerickhouse was presented this year's Missouri Parks and Recreation Associations Distinguished Service Award for Aquatics. This award is given annually to one individual who has been

See Park Awards, Page 3

Main Street Bridge Closed for Replacement

The Main Street Bridge closed March 12 so work to replace the bridge over the Union Pacific, built in 1910, could begin.

Public Works Director Howard Penrod said the project requires Main Street be closed just north of Short Street to Walnut Street until early August.

Penrod said replacing the Main Street Bridge is necessary because of its age and deteriorated condition. The project includes a bridge replacement, retaining wall construction, storm sewers, a water main replacement and street improvements. The work will be done by R.A. Knapp Construction.

The \$1.6 million Main Street Bridge project is funded by the Street Sales Tax Program. The five-year Street Sales Tax was approved by Independence voters in 2002. The sales tax included the resurfacing of 200 miles of streets and funds some specific bridges, culverts, streets and intersection improvement projects.

For more information, contact Sheldon Hannah at 816-935-1916.



Work to replace the 97-year-old Main Street Bridge will be complete by the end of summer.

Business License Guidelines

Individuals or businesses leasing or renting residential or commercial property in Independence are required to obtain a business license as a landlord or rental property owner and renew it annually. The City's business license fee for a landlord is based on the actual or projected gross rental income generated from all Independence residential and/or commercial rental property for the most recent 12-month period. The minimum fee is \$25, which covers the first \$25,000 in gross rental income generated for the rental property. The business license fee for gross rental income in excess of \$25,000 is \$25 plus \$0.29 per \$1,000.

A business license can be applied for using one of the following methods:

- Visit the License Division's web site

See Business License, Page 4

Restoration Work Complete at Vaile Mansion

Much needed restoration work was completed in fall 2006 at the Vaile Victorian Mansion, 1500 North Liberty. The Mansion re-opens this month for its 2007 tourist season.

Built in 1881 by local entrepreneur and U.S. mail contractor Harvey Merrick Vaile, the 30-room mansion is a model example of Second-Empire Victorian architecture, Wendy Shay, Historic Preservation manager, said. The City took ownership of the property in 1983 and it has been available for tours ever since.

Shay said the recent restoration work included installation of new chimney caps, replacement of 23 severely deteriorated corbels (decorative brackets), and repair and repainting of the front porch.

The project had been planned since 1996; however, increases in construction costs and funding deficiencies postponed the project until now. Expenditures for the project totaled slightly more than \$135,000.

"We want to extend special thanks to the Vaile Victorian Society, who contributed funds as well as support towards the project," Shay said.



Workers spent several weeks repairing and painting deteriorated decorative brackets on the Vaile Mansion front porch.

Celebrate Harry Truman's Birthday May 5 on the Square

Special events Saturday, May 5 at several tourism attractions and businesses will serve as the kick-off for celebrating President Harry Truman's birthday.

"You can begin by walking in the footsteps of President Truman on the historic Truman Walking Trail," Tourism Director Stephanie Roush said.

A free trail brochure is available at the Harry S. Truman Home National Site Ticket and Visitors Center, 223 N. Main; or City Hall, 111 E. Maple. It shares details and photos of the 43 sites along the 2.7-mile trail, which includes private homes, businesses and even Truman's favorite ginkgo tree. The sites are marked by brass sidewalk monuments.

Stop at the Truman Visitors Center to view a free 12-minute film about the home and to buy tickets for a home tour. The home appears just as it was when the Trumans lived there, down to Harry's hat, coat and cane hanging in the front entry. It is advisable to purchase tickets early in the day because there is a limit of eight people per tour. The tours begin at 9 a.m. and end at 4:45 p.m.

The shops on the Square, which open at 10 a.m., join in the celebration by accepting Truman discount "bucks" coupons, which offer a dollar off purchases. You can find the coupons online at www.theindependencesquare.com.

Visitors can catch a ride on the bright

red trolley in front of the Truman Statue on the east side of the historic Jackson County Courthouse. In addition to the Truman Home the trolley will stop at tourism sites such as the Vaile Mansion, 1500 N. Liberty; Truman Presidential Museum & Library, 500 U. S. 24 Highway; National Frontier Trails Museum and Chicago & Alton Depot, both at 318 W. Pacific; and Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific; before returning to the Truman statue. Riders will learn about the historic sites by listening to a live guided narration from one of the City's "Ambassador" volunteers. A \$1 admission also allows riders to disembark at any stop and catch a later trolley to continue. The first trolley leaves the Square at 11 a.m. and the last trolley departs the statue at 2:30 p.m.

All of these sites, as well as the 1859 Jail, Marshal's Home and Museum, 217 N. Main, and the Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd, will offer reduced admission of a "buck" per person in honor of Truman's "The Buck Stops Here" sign which sat on his desk in the Oval Office. The Chicago and Alton Depot does not charge admission but accepts donations. The Mormon Visitors Center, 937 W. Walnut, and Community of Christ Temple, 201 S. River, do not charge admission.

Free birthday cake and punch will be served by "Harry" and "Bess" at the

Truman statue from 11:30 a.m. until the refreshments are gone. The First Couple will be dressed in period costumes and will pose for photos with guests.

A new exhibit entitled "Treasures of the Presidents," opens Tuesday, May 1 at the Truman Library. It will be on display through January 4. The exhibit, which was assembled for the Library's 50th anniversary, features more than 200 artifacts on loan from all the Presidential Libraries in America.

On Truman's actual birthday Tuesday, May 8, the Truman Library will host area American Legion posts for the annual 9:45 a.m. wreath laying ceremony in the courtyard at the grave sites of Harry and Bess. A Truman re-enactor will be on hand to meet and greet visitors from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free birthday cake and punch with Harry will be served at 1:30 p.m.

For more information call 325-7111 or go to the Tourism Web site at www.visitindependence.com.



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Sprinkler Systems Need Backflow Preventers

Customers who have in-ground sprinkler systems have a potential cross connection in their yards.

The term 'cross connection' is not in the dictionary, but its meaning is well known to the Engineering Division of the Water Department. They are in charge of making sure all potential cross connections have backflow prevention devices as required by state law.

A cross connection is an accidental condition that can, under a series of coincidental events, become harmful to water customers. A familiar example is a garden hose with its end submerged in a bucket or swimming pool while water runs through it. If water pressure drops in the water main for any reason, such as a main break, water at the end of the hose can be siphoned back into the distribution system. This could mean that swimming pool or other water could come back into a customer's house.

For this reason, backflow prevention devices are required where a potential cross connection exists. In the case of a garden hose in a bucket, no backflow

preventer is required, but customers are encouraged to avoid leaving a hose in a bucket. A much safer method is to hold the hose above the bucket. The air gap between the hose and the bucket prevents the cross connection.

The most common reason a homeowner would need a backflow preventer would be if an in-ground sprinkler system is installed. If pressure dropped in the water main, water standing on the sprinkler heads could be siphoned back into the pipes. Fertilizer, pesticides, or anything else on the lawn could be in that water.

There are many different types of backflow prevention devices on the market. Some of these devices are not approved by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. For answers to questions about whether a backflow preventer is needed, and what kind should be installed, contact the Water Department Engineering Office at 325-7652, or check out the department's backflow information on the City's Internet site at www.independencemo.org/water.

Parks Awards

in the field for at least three years, and has made significant contributions to the field of municipal aquatics by displaying outstanding public service as well as creative and innovative leadership towards the advancement of the aquatics industry.

The Powerhouse Theater Foundation received a Special Citation Award from the Missouri Parks and Recreation Association for their work in managing, promoting, funding and delivering a comprehensive theater program to the residents of Independence. This award is presented annually to a non-profit organization that has made a significant positive impact on a community by providing quality recreation programming independent of, or in partnership with a Municipal Parks

From Page 1

and Recreation Department.

"This certainly brings state-wide recognition to several outstanding individuals and organizations that are serving our community," Eric Urfer, Parks and Recreation director, said. "They, along with their peers, work very hard, each and every day to improve the quality of life in Independence by providing exceptional parks and recreation programs and facilities. We are all very proud of their efforts."

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor	
Don Reimal	325-7027
City Council Office	325-7022
Councilmembers	
Marcie Gragg	District 1
Will Swoffer	District 2
Renee Paluka-White	District 3
Jim Page	District 4
Jim Schultz	At Large
Lucy Young	At Large
City Manager	
Robert Heacock	325-7170

Vote Your Choice For Tourism Awards

The Kansas City Convention and Visitors' Association (KCCVA) has announced Independence is a finalist for the inaugural Kansas City Visitors' Choice Awards in several categories.

The awards honor traveler favorites in 19 categories, from Favorite Barbecue Restaurant to Best Midwestern Hospitality. Finalists and winners were chosen by an online survey of visitors. The Truman Presidential Museum & Library is in the running for "Favorite Museum or Historic Site," Santa-Cali-Gon for "Best Festival" and Independence for "Favorite Day Trip."

Cast your vote now through May 1 go at www.VisitKC.com. Go to the main page, select "KC Visitors' Choice '07," and then "Vote Now." Winners will be announced May 22 at the KCCVA Annual Tourism Celebration.

City Drop-Off Depot

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Second Saturday Of Each Month
March - November!

875 Vista Drive
325-7623

Truman Road
East of M-291,
One Mile North
On Vista Drive
Next to Animal Shelter!

Trash: Cars, \$10;
Vehicles Larger Than Car, \$15;
Trailers 8 Feet or Longer, \$25

Brush: Limbs, Firewood, Bushes,
Stumps. No Leaves or Grass: \$10
per load

Major Appliances: \$15 Each
Batteries & Lawnmowers:
Free

Tires: Car, \$1; Mounted Car, \$3;
Truck, \$4; Mounted Truck, \$10;
Farm/Tractor, \$15

Residential vehicles only, no commercial. No vehicles larger than a pick-up truck. Proof of residency required.

Before You Dig Call!

1-800-DIG-RITE
1-800-344-7483

Electric Rate Information

Independence Power & Light (IPL) has five different electric rates for residential utility customers. Customers with qualifying electric water heaters and/or permanently installed electric space heating systems may be able to get a reduced electric rate.

To determine the electric rate for your residence, look at the upper left hand side of the monthly City utility bill. There will be a code after "RATE." The five possible codes are:

RS3: Standard residential electric rate

RSWH: Residence with qualifying electric water heater

RSSH: Residence with qualifying permanently installed electric space heating

RSSHW: Residence with both qualifying electric water and electric space heating

RS4: All electric residence

Most households have the RS3 rate because the home uses gas for water heating and space heating. Households with electric water heaters, heat pumps, and electric furnaces may qualify for one of the reduced rates.

For more information on electric rates or to make sure you are on the best rate possible, call IPL at 325-7494.

Business License From Page 1

at www.indepmo.org/businesslicense and pay with a credit card.

- Visit kiosk terminals in the lobby of City Hall, 111 East Maple, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and pay with a credit card, check or cash.

- Print the application form from the web site at www.independencemo.org/businesslicense, complete it and mail it to the License Division with payment of the business license fee.

Call 325-7079 for more information about the licensing of owners of residential or commercial rental property.

Independence Police Officers Have New Badge, Patch & Uniforms



Independence Police in mid-March began wearing new uniforms, badges and patches. The new uniforms look the same as the old, but are a wool blend that should wear longer and are more comfortable. Police Chief Fred Mills said the department's Uniform and Equipment Committee designed the new badge, which includes a replica of Police Headquarters, and patch. "These new designs allow citizens to more easily identify our officers," Chief Mills said.

Officers pictured above are, from left, Det. Virgil Garner, Capt. Ken Jarnagin, Officer Emily Knox and Officer Shari Lanaman.

Utility Bill Payment Options

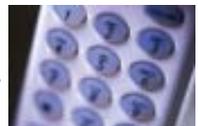
The City offers many convenient options for paying utility bills.

To pay by phone call 325-SERV

You will need to have your Account Access Code and your utility account number in order to pay by phone.

To pay online go to www.independencemo.org

Hot Line Directory



Barking Dogs	325-7213
Crime Stoppers Tips	474-8477
Drop-Off Trash	325-7623
Drugs	325-6272
Potholes	325-7624
Street Lights	325-7535
Storm Water Pollution	325-7727
Pit Bulls	325-7762



City Council

6 p.m. Mondays
10 a.m. Tuesdays
7 p.m. Wednesdays
2 p.m. Sundays

Planning Commission

6:30 p.m. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays
10 a.m. Wednesdays
7 p.m. Thursdays

For more information:
www.City7.TV

Watch City Meetings On Streaming Video

City Council meetings and study sessions are now available as live and archived streaming video on the City's Web site, www.independencemo.org.

Each live City 7 TV broadcast is available online during the 6 p.m. Monday meetings. An archive of the program is available on the site the next morning for viewing 24 hours a day. Archived videos will be available for a few months following their posting. If you do not have a computer but would like to purchase a copy of a Council meeting call 325-7019.

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ASSISTANCE
254-4100

