

CityScene



March 2014
Volume 21 Number 3

www.independencemo.org
City of Independence, MO

Independence Household Hazardous Waste Mobile Collection Set for Saturday, April 5

If you have been wondering how to get rid of leftover paint, pesticides or disinfectants, the City is again sponsoring the annual Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 5.

The drop-off will be held at the large parking lot bordered by Osage, Liberty, Walnut, and Kansas Streets, one block south of the Independence Square. This collection is free to residents with proof of residency. (Driver's license or city utility bill.)

Many products used for cleaning, painting, beautifying, and disinfecting, such as garden and yard pesticides/herbicides, paint, automotive fluids, etc. are considered hazardous materials.

Unwanted, old, or unusable household products labeled as flammable, toxic, corrosive, or reactive are household hazardous wastes.

Chemical-based household products (like oven and toilet bowl cleaners), in a single home may seem insignificant, but when thousands of homes use similar products, the combined effect becomes a major problem if they are handled, stored or disposed of improperly. Clean out your garage, cabinets, and basement. It's your home, make it safe!

Check with neighbors and relatives to combine your efforts to properly dispose of unwanted household hazardous products.

Products accepted include: batteries; paint and paint products (aerosol

cans, varnish, stripper, thinner, turpentine, etc.); fluorescent light bulbs; garden and yard products (herbicides, pesticides, sprays, rat poison, and weed killers); all automotive fluids (antifreeze, used motor oil, brake

tight. Bring in the original containers, if possible. Containers will most likely not be returned, so use one that is disposable. Don't mix different or unknown substances together. If containers are leaking, wrap in plastic and pack in larger containers or boxes with absorbent material, such as cat litter.

Volunteers will be on hand to unload your vehicle.

The following will NOT be accepted: electronics, appliances, trash, yard waste, medical waste (sharps, etc.), tires, asbestos, radioactive waste, pressurized gas cylinders or commercial waste.

The Independence Police Department will again provide a certified ordinance officer to collect and dispose of old or unwanted ammunition, explosives, firearms, fireworks, etc. Contact the Police Department at (816) 325-7997 if you have questions about this type of disposal.

Household hazardous waste may also be taken to the Kansas City, MO facility at 4707 Deramus for free disposal. No appointment is necessary. Normal days and hours for disposal are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays and

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. Call (816) 513-8401 for information.

If you would like more information about the City's Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Program, including directions to the Kansas City facility or the upcoming mobile collection, please call Water Pollution Control at (816) 325-7711 or visit our website at www.independencemo.org/wpc.



In 2013, residents lined up to drop off unwanted, old or leftover household hazardous materials.



fluid, transmission fluid, and gasoline containers will not be returned); household cleaners (lye, drain, toilet and tub, oven, etc.); kerosene; mercury thermometers; unused and/or outdated medicines, etc.

If you are uncertain whether a particular item will be accepted, call Water Pollution Control at (816) 325-7711.

To transport and deliver to the site, make sure all container lids are on

Home Energy Loan Program (HELP) Available for Independence Residents

Old Man Winter has been brutal this year and may go on record as one of the coldest in the last 15 years. March weather can make us feel spring is just around the corner, or plunge us into below-freezing temperatures with a 10" snowstorm.

The need to maintain a comfortable temperature in your home must be balanced with managing the cost of heating and cooling. As energy costs continue to rise, it becomes critical to increase the energy efficiency of your home.



Home Energy Loan Program (HELP) is available to homeowners within the City of Independence. Customers are offered low interest loans for certain ECMs and for the measures identified by a certified energy auditor.

Program information can be found at www.independencelp.org/. Missouri Gas Energy, www.hpwes.net, also offers bill credits for energy audits and the implementation of at least one qualifying measure. Both of these sites have links to auditors, programs and participating contractors.

The Low-Income Weatherization Program is available at no charge to those with incomes below 200% of



the area's median income. Information can be found at: www.choose-hope.org/.

Be sure to read and understand the rules of the

Using a certified energy auditor is a good first step. An auditor works for the homeowner and provides information without trying to sell windows, insulation or a new HVAC unit. The auditor can help the homeowner make a plan to increase conservation and save money.

Several programs exist to assist homeowners in implementing energy conservation measures (ECMs). The Independence

program before committing or spending any money. If you have questions contact the administrator of the program.

Sign Removal Program Shows Progress

Have you noticed fewer of those signs along the road offering to buy your gold, buy your ugly house or buy your junk car?

In 2012, the City of Independence began a program to remove signs illegally placed on utility poles or in the right of way.

In 2013, the program resulted in the removal of more than 400 illegally-placed signs. Since the program started, tickets have been issued and enforcement action has been taken against more than 110 businesses or individuals for repeat violations.



way or attached to a utility pole or box. Call (816) 325-7422 and leave a message with the approximate address or intersection location.

Additionally, residents and property owners can assist by removing illegal temporary signs from the street right-of-way adjacent to their property.

The City has rules governing the location, size and duration for temporary signs. However, no signs can be located in the right-of-way (generally extending 11 feet away from the street) or on utility poles.

Before you place a sign in your yard, check out the guidelines by contacting Community Development at (816) 325-7425.

City Clerk's Offices Now on Ground Floor

Would you like to apply to serve on a City Board or Commission? Are you turning in a bid for an announced City public improvement project? Do you want to look at a City ordinance?

You need the Independence City Clerk's office. The City Clerk's office is now located on the ground floor of City Hall, 111 E. Maple, down the hallway to the left of the entrance to Municipal Court.

Questions? See the City Clerk's page on the City's website at www.independencemo.org for forms and information or call (816) 325-7010.

Council Elections Tuesday, April 8



There will be a city-wide election on Tuesday, April 8. Voters in Independence will be asked to select a new Mayor and two City Council At-Large representatives. In addition, a special election is being held to fill the unexpired term for District 3 City Council representative.

For Mayor

- JAMES (JIM) SCHULTZ
- EILEEN N. WEIR
- WRITE-IN

For Councilmember-At-Large (Vote for 2)

- CHRISTOPHER R. WHITING
- KAREN M. DELUCCIE
- WRITE-IN

For Councilmember - District 3

- ROXANN THORLEY
- SCOTT A. ROBERSON
- WRITE-IN

You must be registered by March 12 in order to vote in the April 8 election. If you have questions about your voting status or your polling location, contact the Jackson County Election Board. The Election Board is located at 215 N. Liberty, just north of the historic Independence Square.

Additional information is available on the Jackson County Election Board website at <http://jcebmo.org/home>.

Spring Into April With Outdoor Adventures

Mark your calendar now! The 1849 Jail & Marshal's Home Museum at 217 N. Main, the Bingham-Waggoner Estate at 313 W. Pacific, the Vaile Mansion at 1500 N. Liberty and the Chicago and Alton Depot next to the National Frontier Trails Museum at 318 W. Pacific will all reopen to visitors on Tuesday, April 1.

During your visit to the Bingham-Waggoner Estate, be sure to visit the Carriage House Boutique for a unique hostess gift or maybe something for members of your bridal party. Summer hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sundays.



Unique gifts at the Carriage House Boutique.

Springtime weather makes it a great time to visit George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Road. Bring the family out for a free, guided nature hike from 2 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 5. Dress for the weather and see how spring is preparing to pop out in the woods, glades, lake and other areas of the park.

Have you ever dreamed about a giant singing plant? Celebrate spring with the

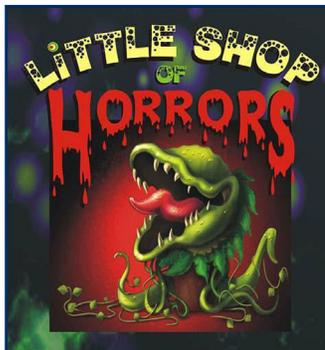
classic musical "Little Shop of Horrors" at the City Theatre of Independence, 201 N. Dodgion St. Performances will be held at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday April 3, 4 and 5; Friday and Saturday April 11 and 12; and a matinee at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 13. For ticket information or reservations, call (816) 325-7367.

Local folk artist Sarah Poff will guide an art workshop at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 5 at the National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific. Learn how to write with a feather, just like the pioneers, create a tin punch project, make a terrific toy, and more. This two-hour workshop is \$10 per person, with advance reservations required at (816) 325-7575.

Got kids? Head back to George Owens Nature Park on Thursday, April 17 for Nature Story Time. Kids ages two to six will hear nature stories and complete a craft, or take a short nature walk. The free, 45-minute program starts at 10 a.m. and is repeated at 11 a.m. Please call (816) 325-7115 in advance for groups of four or more, or for more information.

Ladies, need a little retail therapy? Looking for something fun and unique to do with your girlfriends? Don't miss Girl's Day Out from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the Independence Square Saturday, April 12.

This will be a day of food, fun and shopping with a French twist! Visit the website to register for your shopping passport, discounts and free gifts from participating merchants: www.theindependencesquare.com or call (816) 461-0065.



For more kid-friendly adventure, try Wagons HO! at the National Frontier Trails Museum on Saturday, April 19. Starting at 10 a.m., this program showcases the exhibit galleries, and the kids can pack a prairie schooner and take a

covered wagon ride. Advance reservations are required at (816) 325-7575. Tickets are \$7.50 for children ages 6 to 17; adults \$10.

Continue your covered wagon adventures with an evening wagon ride and swales walk at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 24. Leaving from the National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific, this hour-long program includes a wagon ride to see the grass-covered wagon ruts created in the 1830s and a tour of the museum's Santa Fe exhibit gallery. Tickets are \$15 per adult; \$10 for children 6 to 17. Call (816) 325-7575 for reservations.

For more information about events in April, historic site hours of operation and ticket prices, go to www.visitindependence.com or call the Tourism offices at (816) 325-7111.

Gardening Classes Kick Off Growing Season

Spring means gardening! A series of free classes will help provide information to get your garden off to a good start.

The Independence Health Department and Independence Community Garden Association are sponsoring gardening classes. The Kansas City Community Garden (KCCG) will present the classes at the Health Department, 515 S. Liberty, at 6 p.m. on the following dates:

- Monday, March 10 — Vegetable Gardening Basics
- Monday, April 7 — Growing Tomatoes and Peppers
- Monday, June 16 — Insects and Pesticides

"A lot of people enjoy working with the soil and coaxing plants and seeds into food they can share with their family and friends," said Joanie Shover, Independence Community Garden Coordinator and Health Educator.

The KCCG and Independence Health Department will also distribute seeds and plants. Kansas City Community Garden Membership is required to participate in this part of the program.

Membership is \$2 for those who qualify for low or no income. Membership for all others is \$10.



Members are entitled to receive 10 packets of seeds (your choice), a five-pound bag of fertilizer, a community gardening newsletter, a discount on additional seeds and fertilizer, a discount on vegetable plants, and tiller loan privileges.

Seeds and plants will be available for pickup from 3 to 6 p.m. on the following dates:

- Thursday, March 27 — Early Spring crops
- Thursday, May 1 — Summer Plants
- Thursday, May 15 — Summer Plants

For information call (816) 325-7185.

Directory

CityScene is published monthly by the City Manager's Office, 111 East Maple Street, Independence, Missouri 64050. For information call 325-7019. Web-site address is www.independencemo.org. Follow us at [Twitter.com/CityofIndepMO](https://twitter.com/CityofIndepMO).



Where To Call

The City of Independence has an automated voice-response telephone system. Call **325-7000** and say the name of the person or the department you wish to contact.



- Adopt-a-Street** 325-7602
- Barking Dogs** 325-7213
- Building Permits** 325-7401
- Business Licenses** 325-7079
- Crime Stoppers Tips** 474-8477
- Drop-Off Trash** 325-7623
- Drugs** 325-6272
- Graffiti** 257-7824
- Municipal Court** 325-7230
- Neighborhood Watch** 325-7643
- Park Vandalism** 325-7208
- Police Non-Emergency** 836-3600
- Fire Non-Emergency** 325-7123
- Potholes** 325-7624
- Report Power Outage** 325-7550
- Street Lights** 325-7535
- Storm Water Pollution** 325-7727
- Utilities**
- Customer Service** 325-7930
- Pay by Phone** 325-SERV
- Payment Assistance** 254-4100
- Weeds, Trash** 325-7193

City Drop-Off Depot

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Second Saturday Of Each Month
March through November!
875 Vista Avenue

From M-291, take Truman Road east approximately one mile, then north on Vista Avenue.

- Trash:** Cars, \$11; Vehicles Larger Than Car, \$16; Trailers 8 Feet or Longer, \$26
- Brush:** Limbs, Firewood, Bushes, Stumps. No Leaves or Grass: \$11/load
- Major Appliances:** \$15 Each
- Batteries & Lawnmowers:** Free
- Tires:** Car, \$2; Mounted Car, \$4; Truck, \$5; Mounted Truck, \$11; Farm/Tractor, \$16

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

Watch City Meetings On Streaming Video

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

Each live City 7 TV broadcast is available online during the 6 p.m. Monday City Council meetings. An archive of the program is available on the site the next morning for viewing 24 hours a day. Archived videos are available for a few months following their posting. If you would like to purchase a copy of a Council meeting call 325-7762.

CITY COUNCIL

- Mayor**
- Don Reimal 325-7027
- City Council Office** 325-7022
- www.independencemo.org/citycouncil
- Councilmembers**
- Marcie Gragg District 1
- Curt Dougherty District 2
- Roxann Thorley District 3
- Eileen Weir District 4
- Jim Schultz At-Large
- Chris Whiting At-Large
- City Manager**
- Robert Heacock 325-7170

THINK EVERYONE IS SMOKING?
Most Missouri teens don't.

Fewer than 1 in 5 teens in Missouri smoke.
(According to the 2011 Missouri Youth Tobacco Survey)



Your Life, Your Call.
 Live Smokefree.

Regional Animal Shelter

21001 E. Hwy. 78, Independence

Help them find a forever home.
 Adopt a homeless pet.

Noon - 8 p.m. Tuesday-Friday
 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

Call (816) 621-7722

Always
 Spay or
 Neuter!



Become a fan of the City of Independence at www.facebook.com.

To follow the City on Twitter, go to <http://twitter.com/CityOfIndepMO> and click the follow button.




Recycling Centers

13600 E. 35th Street
 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Fridays
 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturdays

875 Vista Avenue
 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sundays
 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Mondays

MRC now operates the two City recycling centers. Items accepted include paper, cardboard, steel, aluminum, plastic, glass, electronics, appliances, computers, flat screen TVs, lawn and garden equipment and rechargeable batteries. A fee will be charged for non flat-screen TVs. \$15 for TVs 27" and smaller and \$35 for larger TVs. All other items are free of charge, including computer monitors.

CITY 7 City of Independence

Government Access Television

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

PLANNING COMMISSION

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

For more information:
www.City7.TV

*Denotes live meeting, all others are rebroadcasts.