

# CityScene



April 2014  
Volume 21 Number 4

www.independencemo.org  
City of Independence, MO

## Join the Celebrations for Harry Truman's 130th Birthday!

May brings more than spring flowers! This year when we get "Wild About Harry" we will celebrate the 130th birthday of our most famous citizen, the 33rd President of the United States, Harry S. Truman.

Kick off Truman Day on Saturday, May 3 with an all-you-can-eat "Pancakes With Harry" breakfast. From 9 to 11 a.m. Chris Cakes will be serving in the Pharaoh Theatre parking lot. Tickets are \$6 each or four for \$20.

From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. that Saturday, merchants on the historic Independence Square will host a "Truman Trunk Sale."

Shoppers can stroll around The Square browsing the many different items for sale and look for special offers. For more information, call the Square Association at (816) 461-0065 or go to [www.theindependencesquare.com](http://www.theindependencesquare.com).

The Truman Presidential Library and Museum, 500 W. U.S. Hwy. 24, will also celebrate on Saturday, May 3 with "Buck Day." Open from 9 a.m.

to 5 p.m., the Library will honor the presidential birthday with \$1 admissions. For information, call (816) 268-8200 or visit [www.trumanlibrary.org](http://www.trumanlibrary.org).

City historic sites will join in the celebration on May 3 by lowering their admission prices to \$1 all day.

President Truman's annual Birthday Celebration will be held at the Truman Library on his actual birth date, Thursday, May 8.

On this special day, the building will open at 8:30 a.m. for a 9 a.m. wreath-laying ceremony at the Truman graves in

the courtyard. Admission is free for the wreath-laying ceremony.

After 10 a.m. adult admission is \$8; seniors 65+ is \$7; ages 6-15 is \$3 and free for 5 and under.

Birthday cake will be served from 1:30 p.m. until it's gone, and visitors can talk with "President Truman" between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m.

For questions or program information, contact the Truman Library at (816) 268-8200 or visit [www.trumanlibrary.org](http://www.trumanlibrary.org).



## "The Mile Starts Here" May 7

May marks the third year of *The Mile Starts Here*, a free weekly walking program for community members.

Developed by the *Building a Healthier Independence* (BHI) team at the Independence

Health Department, this weekly walking group has grown in popularity each year.

The first year 91 walkers logged a total of 400 miles. The second year the program increased to 115 participants walking a total of 772 miles.

The first walk of 2014 will be Wednesday, May 7 and the walking program will continue to meet at 9 a.m. every Wednesday through the end of October.

Other opportunities for walking/physical activity in the area are often highlighted, as well as general health tips and incentives to motivate participants to keep walking. Free water and pedometers are also offered to those who join *The Mile Starts Here*.

The program is particularly beneficial for people who want to get outside and walk but may not feel comfortable walking alone. *The Mile Starts Here* provides safe access to physical activity and builds a great social atmosphere for the walkers. Many members enjoy discovering hidden trails and walks in their neighborhoods.

Each Wednesday from 10 to 40 community members join the BHI Team on the designated trail of the week. This year the routes will be:

**First Wednesday:** Waterfall Park at 4501 S. Bass Pro Dr. Join us there on May 7, June 4, June 26, July 2, August 6, September 3, and October 1. Meet in the parking lot behind Bass Pro by the playground.



## City Flag Design Contest Ends April 30

Pull out your thinking cap and get those creative juices flowing! The Independence Beautification Commission is looking for a creative re-design of the City flag.

Submit your design through the City's website at [www.independencemo.org](http://www.independencemo.org). Designs must be submitted in color, and all lettering must be clearly legible. A link to the contest rules and application form is provided on the website's home page.

All artwork must be original, and submitted no later than **April 30, 2014**.

Selection of the winning design will be made by the Beautification Commission.



**The current City flag has been in use since 1969.**

**See "The Mile Starts Here," Page 3**

## Frontier Trails, Art, Puppets & Spies

Get your frontier fix on Family Fun Day from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, May 17 at the National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific. Covered wagon rides will be enhanced by visits with mountain men and a pioneer woman, who will no doubt need help packing her full-sized wagon before heading to Oregon.

Arts, crafts, period music and refreshments will be provided, and admission is free, provided courtesy of the Friends of the National Frontier Trails Museum.

Continue your frontier adventure on Saturday, May 29 with the Evening Wagon Ride and Swales Walk. Leaving from the National Frontier Trails Museum at 6 p.m., this is a great opportunity to learn about the Santa Fe Trail.



The hour-long program includes a wagon ride through the swales (grass-covered wagon ruts) created in the 1830s and an insightful tour of the museum's Santa Fe exhibit gallery. Cost is \$15 per

adult, \$10 children ages 6 – 17; advance reservations required. Call (816) 325-7575 for more information.

Shopping, visiting and entertainment combine at the Englewood Art Walk held the third Friday of each month. Perfect for a spring evening outing, stroll along the sidewalks of the Englewood Station Arts District at 10900 E. Winner Road from 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday, May 16.

Enjoy live performances, shopping, seven art galleries and take the opportunity to meet local artists. For more information call (816) 252-3372 or visit [www.Englewoodstation.com](http://www.Englewoodstation.com).

Also in the Englewood area, the Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Road, will present "Eulenspiegel Circus" at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 24.

This joyous fantasy featuring table top puppets, a kazoo band and lots of silly business is brought to town by Justin Cornet-Olson and Angela Polowy from West Liberty, IA.

Tickets are \$5 per person and include a tour of the Museum. Suitable for children ages three and older. Call (816) 833-9777 for reservations.



Now showing through October 26, 2014 at the Truman Presidential Library and Museum, 500 W. U.S. Hwy. 24: *"Spies, Lies, and Paranoia: Americans in Fear."*

This exhibition explores the real and imagined fears of Americans in the 1940s and early 1950s as Cold War tensions grew. The show will focus on real espionage, imagined threats, and the threatening images created in popular culture (spy novels, motion pictures, toys/novelties, games, etc).

Drawing from a wide array of materials, the exhibition will capture not only a flavor of real espionage and its gadgetry, but also a sense of the anxiety Americans experienced during the Cold War era.

The Library is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday; Noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays. Need more information? Call (816) 268-8200 or visit [www.trumanlibrary.org](http://www.trumanlibrary.org).

## Historic Preservation Celebrated With Events in May

Each year in May, the City's Historic Preservation Division and the National Trust for Historic Preservation partner to acknowledge the significance of the city's heritage through a variety of public events. These events include heritage education programs, local tours, and an awards program recognizing outstanding preservation efforts by individuals and community organizations.

This year the National Trust has chosen the theme of "New Age of Preservation: Embark, Inspire, Engage." The theme is intended to energize current preservations and entice new audiences to enrich and preserve the places which make our community unique.

The calendar of events for 2014 highlights everything from the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War to a children's architecture program, to the celebration of the contributions of African-Americans in Independence. The Independence Heritage Commission and Tourism Department joined with other community heritage partners to make this year's events engaging and motivating.

Most events are free and open to the public. For a full listing of events go to [www.independencemo.org/ComDev/HistoricPreservation.aspx](http://www.independencemo.org/ComDev/HistoricPreservation.aspx) or call (816) 325-7419.



### A sampling of this year's events:

- Author lectures on "Small Slaveholding Households in Missouri" and "The Swope Mansion murders" and related book signings
- Celebration of National Train Day
- Lunch 'n Learn lectures on the preservation of family papers and photographs, Civil War talks on the "Second

Battle of Independence" and the "Battle of Grinter Farms," and a presentation and panel discussion on the development of the newly published "African-American Historic Sites of Independence" Heritage Guide

- A children's "walk and draw" tour and program on local architecture
- Presentation of the annual Historic Preservation Month proclamation and the 2014 Hickman Historic Preservation Awards at the City Council Meeting on Monday, May 5.

### Adventure Oasis Opens May 24



Come out and play this summer at Adventure Oasis Water Park!

#### Operating Hours

- Noon - 8 p.m. Monday - Friday
- 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Saturday & Sunday
- 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Holidays

For admission pricing, call (816) 325-7843 or visit [www.independencemo.org/ParksAndRec/AdvenOasis](http://www.independencemo.org/ParksAndRec/AdvenOasis).

## Volunteers Needed for Tourism Sites

With the opening of the new Visitor Experience Center in the Historic Jackson County Courthouse on The Square and an increasing number of visitors to Independence, the Tourism Department needs your help!



Independence welcomes visitors from all over the world – from all 50 states and more than 40 countries. Volunteers and docents are an integral part of the visitor experience, as the recently opened Visitor Experience Center offers a unique concierge service.

“We are looking for a few good men and women,” said Tourism Volunteer Coordinator Frank Buhro. “There is a big need to increase our group of volunteers, particularly in the areas of cashiers and guides at the surrounding historic sites.”

Volunteers attend a Heartland Tourism

Ambassador training program to become Certified Tourism Ambassadors. Resource material and internet access will be available to volunteers for assisting guests in the Visitor Center. Volunteers become trusted advisors not only to visitors, but also to area residents about activities and events in Independence and the Greater Kansas City area.

“Volunteers have a lot of fun,” added Cori Day, Tourism Director for the City of Independence. “There is an enthusiasm for our local sites and for Independence, as well as a pride in the area. In fact, they are the epitome of Real People. Real Progress.”

Contact Frank Buhro at (816) 325-7112 or fbuhro@indepmo.org to learn how you can become a member of the Visitor Experience Center or Tourism Volunteer team.

## “The Mile Starts Here”

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**Second Wednesday:** McCoy Park at 800 N. Bess Truman Pkwy. (southeast corner of N. Delaware St. and U.S. Hwy. 24). Join us there on May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, and October 8.

**Third Wednesday:** Independence Athletic Complex at 17800 E. Salisbury Road. Join us there on May 21, June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17, and October 15.

**Fourth Wednesday:** Rotary Park Trail at 10615 E. 24th St. S. (South of E. 23rd St. and just south of Westport Rd.). Join us there on May 28, June 25, July 23, August 27, September 24, and October 22.

**Fifth Wednesday:** This year the fifth week will vary to fit in even more mile walking paths than before.

On July 30, walk the Missouri Department Conservation Trail/Santa Fe Trail on the east side of Santa Fe Park located at 2900 S. Santa Fe Rd. Meet at the tennis courts near W. 31 Street S.

On October 29, walk the Community of Christ Temple trail located at 1001 W. Walnut St. For this walk, meet at the roundabout in front of the Community of Christ Headquarters.

Join The Mile Starts Here at 9 a.m. each Wednesday starting in May to walk a mile with us. There’s a lot to gain from a simple mile walk!

## Brian Watson Named Finance Director

Brian Watson began work as Director of Finance for the City of Independence in February.



As Director of Finance, Watson will oversee the City’s long and short-term investments, budgeting, purchasing, and business licensing. He is well versed in all aspects of municipal and utility accounting and municipal finance.

Watson replaces James Harlow, who retired after serving as Director of Finance since 1984.

“Mr. Watson’s background and experience make him an ideal choice for this key position,” said City Manager Robert Heacock.

Watson has a Bachelor of Science Degree from Emporia State University and a Masters of Business Administration from Park University. He is also a Certified Public Finance Officer.

### Can’t Wait for CityScene?

CityScene is available on the City’s website on the first day of each month.

Go to [www.independencemo.org](http://www.independencemo.org) and click on “Newsroom.” You will find both current and past issues.

## State of the City

Outgoing Mayor Don B. Reimal presented his final State of the City address at the Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon on February 19, 2014.



In his remarks, he reflected on the changes in Independence throughout his life and during his 20 years on the City Council, the last eight as Mayor.

The presentation may be viewed by going to [www.independencemo.org/City7](http://www.independencemo.org/City7) and clicking on *Video*.

## Operation “Litter Less” For Pets

Healthy pets create healthy communities! Help ensure your pet’s health by spaying and neutering.

Through “Operation Litter Less,” Independence Animal Services is offering free and low-cost pet spay and neuter vouchers to qualifying, low-income residents.



Residents with proof of government assistance and those meeting income guidelines will qualify for the program.

For more information contact the Independence Health Department Animal Services at 816-325-7205.

## Drug “Take Back”

Time to get rid of those old medications! The Independence Police Department will again be participating in the DEA’s semi-annual national prescription drug “Take-Back” event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 26.

Bring your unused, unwanted or expired prescription drugs for free, safe disposal with no questions asked.

The Independence collection site will be in the parking lot north of City Hall, 111 E. Maple. Just drive up and drop off drugs without leaving your vehicle.

Stadium Pharmacy, 4811 S. Arrowhead Drive, is also participating by adding drop-off boxes inside their business.

For more information, contact Sergeant Phil Hininger at (816) 325-7279.

Got Drugs?



# 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](http://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.

## Independence Park Trot Walk/Run

**FREE 5K**  
**FREE KIDS' FUN RUN**  
**SAT., MAY 3, 2014 • 8 a.m.**

### WATERFALL PARK



**Registration and details online at:**  
[www.independencetrot.com](http://www.independencetrot.com)

## 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](http://www.facebook.com). To follow the City on Twitter, go to <http://twitter.com/CityOfIndepMO> and click the follow button.



## 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](http://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.

## 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 COUNCIL

- Mayor**
- Don Reimal 325-7027
- City Council Office** 325-7022
- [www.independencemo.org/citycouncil](http://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



**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](http://www.City7.TV)

\*Denotes live meeting, all others are rebroadcasts.