

CityScene



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www.independencemo.org
City of Independence, MO

Citizens Elect New City Leaders



Mayor Eileen Weir was sworn into office on Monday, April 21, 2014.

The two at-large City Council positions will be held by Councilmember Chris Whiting and former Planning Commission member Karen DeLuccie. Whiting has been on the Council for the past two years, completing the unexpired term of Lucy Young. They will each serve a four-year term.

The Third District will be represented by Scott Roberson until the next election for District council representatives. Roberson will complete the remaining two years of Councilmember Myron Paris' term, who resigned last September.

Independence voters went to the polls April 8 to elect a new Mayor and two At-Large Council representatives. Mayor Don Reimal did not seek re-election after two terms in office.

Leading the City of Independence for the next four years will be Mayor Eileen Weir. First elected to the City Council in 2012, she was sworn in at the City Council meeting held April 21 as the 44th Mayor of Independence, Missouri.

Mayor Weir has served on the City Council since 2012, when she was elected as the 4th District City Council representative. A special election will be held this fall to fill the remainder of her unexpired term for the representative from the 4th District.



3rd District Council Representative Scott Roberson



At-Large Council Representatives Karen DeLuccie and Chris Whiting

IPL Recommends Avoiding "Tree Topping"

Spring is right around the corner and homeowners will soon be investing time and labor to landscape and beautify their property. Independence Power & Light receives many calls each year about tree trimming.

For trimming and pruning of trees which are not located close to power lines, IPL recommends hiring a professional arborist.

A poor practice in tree trimming is commonly called "topping" a tree. Tree topping is the cutting of tree branches to stubs or laterals which are not large enough to assume the terminal role. Other names for topping include "heading," "tipping," "hat-racking" and "rounding over."



The most common reason given for tree topping is reducing the size, or height of the tree. Topping, however, does not reduce the hazard and may make a tree more hazardous in the long run. Topping a tree can also result in decay and create stress for the tree, making it more vulnerable to insects and disease.

A professional Arborist will use proper pruning practices. When selecting a tree trimming company, consider the following:

- Certified Arborist on Staff
- Proof of Insurance
- List of References

Avoid tree companies that advertise "tree topping" as a service.

Pruning of trees around power lines is handled by an IPL tree trimming contractor. For questions about this program, contact Andrew Dodson at (816) 325-7557.

Come Out for EcoFest June 7 at Waterfall Park

Are you looking for a free, eco-friendly, fun-filled family event to attend this summer? Well, you're in luck!

The City of Independence will be hosting the 7th Annual Independence EcoFest – It's All About Water! – from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m on Saturday, June 7 at Waterfall Park, 4501 S. Bass Pro Drive.

Partners for this year's event include the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Little Blue River Watershed Coalition and several local groups. Last year about 500 visitors attended EcoFest.

Independence EcoFest is an interactive environmental education festival aimed at teaching children and families the importance of preserving and protecting our natural resources and the environment.

"EcoFest is a great public outreach partnership for the City of Independence and other local, State and Federal organizations," Water Pollution Control Director Dick Champion said. "It allows us the opportunity to come together and engage the children and families of our community in a variety of activities to



emphasize the importance of water quality, local watersheds, wastewater and storm water management, energy and conservation."



Participants of EcoFest will collect stickers for their "Eco-Passports" by answering quiz questions as they visit various exhibit



booths. Each exhibitor will have a question associated with their booth's theme. Participants will receive a prize for completed Eco-Passports and there will be giveaways throughout the festival.

A new addition to this year's EcoFest

is the City's annual Arbor Day Proclamation and Ceremony. In honor of this event and in keeping with the EcoFest "Lucky 7's" theme, participants can enter in a drawing to win one of seven trees to be donated by Independence Power & Light.

What festival would be complete without entertainment? This year's EcoFest will feature your favorite eco-entertainers, including the EcoStreet characters, Stan Slaughter the "Eco Troubadour" and the Green Spirit Band. The Kansas City Kite Club will display colorful banners and kites throughout the park.

Additionally, interactive displays such as edible ice cream aquifers (MDNR), a stream table that demonstrates stream bank erosion (MDC) and water-themed games are located along the park trail so participants can learn about various

water and conservation topics. There's a lot of eco-friendly family fun to be had at the 7th Annual Independence EcoFest! Admission to Independence EcoFest is free.

For more information, visit the City's website at www.indepmo.org/wpc and www.indepmo.org/ecofest or call WPC at (816) 325-7711.

Need Housing Assistance? Know Where to Call



When housing assistance is needed, it is usually needed right away. While assistance is not always immediately available, knowing where to call for help can save a lot of time and frustration.

The Independence Housing Authority (IHA), which is separate from City government, operates all public housing in Independence and the Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers Program.

The IHA's office is located at 210 N. Pleasant Ave., within the Pleasant Heights building, and can be reached at (816) 833-2900. These programs are exclusive

to very low income households and the wait time for assistance could be as long as three or more years.

Hawthorne Place Apartments, located near U.S. Hwy 24 and M-291, offers apartments with rent adjusted to meet a tenant's ability to pay. Information on this location can be found at www.hawthorneplace.com or by calling (816) 257-2335.

Particularly useful for those searching for senior housing or accessible housing options is www.KCMetroHousing.org. Property managers can post apartments or homes for rent at no cost to them, and listings are updated regularly. Helpful need-to-know information for those considering entering into a rental housing situation is

available at www.KCMetroHousing.org.

City assisted housing programs are provided by local non-profit partners and focus on emergency and minor home repairs for qualifying low income owners. Typically, applications are accepted once a year for limited funding, so the wait time can be long. To be added to the notification of funding availability lists for area home repair programs send your request to homerepair@nwcde-mo.org or info@trumanhabitat.org.

For housing needs not addressed here, please contact the City of Independence Neighborhood and Housing Services Division at (816) 325-7397 or (816) 325-7398.

Strawberry Festival and “Breakfast at the Bingham” Return in June

Kick off June events at the City Theatre of Independence, 201 N. Dodgion, with performances of the classic “Pride & Prejudice,” directed by Tom Wood. Performances are scheduled for 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday June 5, 6 and 7; Friday and Saturday June 13 and 14; and a matinee at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 15. For ticket information or reservations call (816) 325-7367.

The annual “Sip & Shop - Art and Wine Walk” fundraiser for the preservation and beautification of the Historic Independence Square will be Friday, June 6. From 6 – 9 p.m., you can enjoy offerings from local wineries, see original artworks from area artists and visit The Square merchants. For details, call (816) 461-0065 or visit www.theindependencesquare.com.

Rise and shine early on Saturday, June 7 for the 18th Annual “Breakfast at the Bingham” at 313 W. Pacific Ave. From 7 to 10 a.m. enjoy a homestyle breakfast including eggs, sausage, country potatoes and all the trimmings. You can also pick up delicious homemade baked goods at the bake sale. While on the grounds, enjoy the bluegrass music of The Pheasant Pluckers. Tickets are \$9 and must be purchased in advance at the Carriage House Boutique or by calling (816) 461-3491. More info at www.bwestate.org.

Saturday, June 7 also brings the annual Strawberry Festival on the grounds of the Vaile Mansion, 1600 N. Liberty. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. visitors can enjoy family activities, live music and visit more than 100 booths of antiques, arts and crafts. And, of course, celebrate strawberries!

Strawberries will be served in shortcake, ice cream and floats, with other festival foods available for sale. Free admission to festival; tours of the Mansion are available beginning at 10 a.m.

Tour tickets are: Adults \$6; Seniors \$5; and Students \$3. For more info call (816) 325-7430 or visit www.vailemansion.org.



Moonlight Movies return to The Square every Thursday night in June. Shown in the Pharaoh Theatre parking lot at 9 p.m., this event provides free, quality family time under the stars. For fun that won't break the budget, bring the family to the corner of Maple & Liberty. Concessions will be available. Arrive early to pick your favorite spot. Bring your own chairs, or chairs are available to rent for just \$1.

If bad weather means the movie can't be shown on Thursday, it will be shown on the following Sunday instead. For the summer movie schedule, visit www.freemoonlightmovies.com.



The Pheasant Pluckers will entertain at the “Breakfast at the Bingham” June 7.

For a change of pace, visit the Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd. on Saturday, June 14. “Treasure Island” with Emma McLean of Wit & Whimsy Puppets is a tale of adventure that never

grows old. See Sara Goldsmith's marionettes bring the story to life for just \$5 per person, which includes a tour of the museum. Performances are at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.; call (816) 833-9777 for reservations.

Wagons HO! at the National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific lets the kids pack a prairie schooner and take a covered wagon ride with real Missouri mules. Starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 18, this two-hour program includes a guided visit through the exhibit galleries. Tickets are \$7.50 for children ages 6 to 17; Adults \$10. Advance reservations are required at 816-325-7575.

For more activities in June, go to www.visitindependence.com or contact Tourism at (816) 325-7111.



Bridge Projects On Target

Progress has been made on two bridge projects in Independence. Bridges are a very important part of the transportation system. They are necessary to cross over waterways or to cross over or under railroad tracks. The 39th Street bridge over the Little Blue Parkway is being replaced. Also, a new Bly Road bridge over Bundschu Creek, north of 78 Highway, has been completed.



Project view of the 39th St. Bridge

The new 39th Street bridge will be four lanes wide, which will eliminate the last section of two lane 39th St. east of Chrysler Ave. It will have a sidewalk along one side and a shared pedestrian/bicycle path on the other side. There will be a connection to the Little Blue Trace Park Trail. The bridge is being built one half at a time so the street can remain open to traffic. Construction is expected to be finished by the end of 2014.



Project view of the Bly Road Bridge

The Bly Road bridge project replaced an old culvert that was in poor condition. The new bridge was raised to protect it from flooding. It is a wider bridge with a sidewalk in anticipation of future development needs and was recently finished.

For more information, contact Public Works at (816) 325-7600.

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.

The Mile Starts Here

- Featuring:
- Waterfall Park
 - The McCoy Mile
 - INDEPENDENCE ATHLETIC COMPLEX
 - Rotary Park
 - Missouri Conservation Trail

Join us as we walk a mile, every Wednesday at 9 am, May-Oct. Find out where and when at: BuildingAHealthierIndependence.org



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.




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.

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!



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**
- Eileen Weir 325-7027
- City Council Office** 325-7022
- www.independencemo.org/citycouncil
- Councilmembers**
- Marcie Gragg District 1
- Curt Dougherty District 2
- Scott Roberson District 3
- Vacant District 4
- Karen DeLuccie 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

*Denotes live meeting, all others are rebroadcasts.