

CityScene



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www.independencemo.org
City of Independence, MO

Budget Approved for New Year

The City of Independence's fiscal year begins on July 1 each year. As required by the Charter, a balanced proposed budget is prepared by the City Manager and submitted to the City Council for approval. At least one public hearing is held and two readings of the ordinance approving the budget are held before it becomes effective.

The City's budget accounts for all revenues received from the sale of utility services, property taxes, sales taxes (including general sales tax, park, street, police, fire and storm water sales taxes), service fees, grants, etc. The total operating and capital budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, including utilities, is \$303,865,615.

The General Fund is the tax and fee supported portion of the City's budget. At \$75,089,550 it is 27% of the total budget, and pays for most of the City's operations. Areas not financed by the General Fund include the Power and Light Department, the Water Pollution Control Department and the Water Department, which are operated from enterprise funds, and the Tourism program.

Approximately 60% of the General Fund budget is designated for the Police Department (\$27.2 million) and Fire Department (\$17 million).

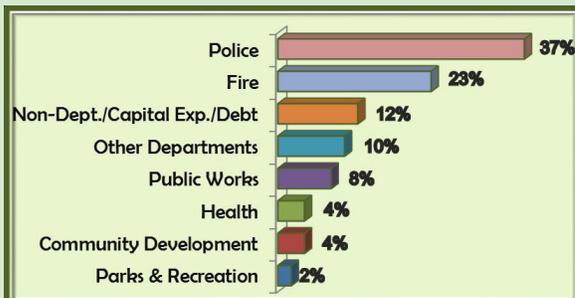
The remaining 40% is used for operations of other City departments including

Public Works (snow removal, mowing public property, facility repairs), Community Development (building inspections, zoning, planning, bus service), Parks and Recreation (park maintenance, recreation programs, Palmer Senior Center programs), Health (codes enforcement, restaurant inspections, public health programs), Finance, Municipal Court, Technology Services, Administration (Mayor, City Council and City Manager offices) and general expenses.

In addition to providing municipal services, expenses include employee salaries and benefits. As part of the City's adjustment to economic conditions, 74 vacant positions – slightly more than 10% of authorized positions – will remain unfunded. Funding is included for projected increases in health and dental insurance premium costs for employees, who pay a portion of these premiums.

The General Fund budget for FY2014-15 also includes \$374,848 for capital outlay for equipment used by the Health Department and Public Works, building repairs to City Hall, the Police Building and other municipal buildings, as well as technology updates such as file servers, microcomputers and network systems.

Financial information is available on the City's website at www.independencemo.org/Finance/Budget.aspx. For more information contact the Finance Department at (816) 325-7080.



General Fund Allocation of Budget Dollars

Block Award Nominations Due

The City of Independence is looking to honor excellence in public service.



Anyone can nominate a City employee, volunteer or elected official who has demonstrated outstanding public service, valor, and job performance with leadership for the annual Susan Paxton Block Distinguished Public Service Award.

Nomination forms are available from Judy McNeel, a Junior Service League (JSL) past president; at City Hall and the Chamber of Commerce, 210 W. Truman Road. Forms may also be printed from the City's website at www.independencemo.org.

Completed forms should be mailed by Friday, August 15 to Judy McNeel c/o the JSL at 3122 South Crysler, Independence, MO 64052. Mrs. Block was a member and past president of the JSL.

The late Bill Paxton, father of the late Councilmember Block, established the award to honor her memory and recognize individuals who demonstrate excellence while conducting City business. Mrs. Block represented the third council district from 1992 until her death in 1996.

A selection committee, comprised of local service club presidents, will select the recipient. Kimberly Bailey received the recognition last year.

The award is \$1,000 plus a sterling silver medallion and a sterling silver lapel pin. Proceeds come from the memorial fund established by Paxton.

The recipient will be announced and the award presented at the City Council meeting Monday, September 15 at City Hall, 111 East Maple. September 24 was Councilmember Block's birth date. For more information, call McNeel at (816) 461-0027.

August Brings Great Reasons To Get Out and About

Get your fresh veggies here! Visit the Independence Farmers' & Craft Market from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Wednesday and Saturday through October. Browse the offerings from local growers and crafters, and select your "fresh off the farm" produce. The Market is at the corner of Truman Road and Main Street, just north of the Independence Square.



The Farmers Market is open 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays through October.

Keep on walking with The Mile Starts Here program at 9 a.m. every Wednesday in August. On August 6, meet at Waterfall Park, 4501 S. Bass Pro Drive; on August 13, it's McCoy Park, 800 N. Bess Truman Pkwy.; on August 20 take the walk at the Independence Athletic Complex, 17800 E. Salisbury Rd.; and close out the month on August 27 at Rotary Park, 10615 E. 24th St. S. Find out more at the website: www.building-healthierindependence.org or call (816) 325-7185.

"Puppets: Can You Dig It!" The kids will love this Clement McCrae Puppet Show at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday, August 23. Otis is a hand puppet who unearths a whole variety of Marionettes, Rod Puppets and Hand Puppets and teaches the way we unearth history through the act of play. With a little bit of imagination, history becomes animated, with puppetry set to music in short little acts. Tickets are \$5 per person and include a tour of the museum. Call (816) 833-9777 for reservations. The Puppetry Arts Institute is at 11025 E. Winner Rd in the Englewood Station area.

Need an escape from a hot summer afternoon? Cool off with a visit to the National Frontier Trails Museum at 318 W. Pacific. At 2 p.m. on Thursdays, August 7, 21 and 28, a 30-minute guided tour will include a presentation on the Hazards of the Trail. Learn about the dangers faced by

the pioneers headed west, from poisonous snakes and wild animals to treacherous river crossings and cholera epidemics. The tour is included with regular Museum admission. For details, contact the Museum at (816) 325-7575.

SantaCaliGon Days returns to The Square on Labor Day weekend, kicking off on Friday, August 29.



The annual event draws visitors to Independence from all across the country with its wide variety of vendor booths, delicious food with expanded food court-style seating areas this year, and free entertainment all weekend including concerts, contests and dance exhibitions.

Vendor booths open at noon Friday, August 29. Festival hours are 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, August 30 and 31 and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, September 1.

The Independence Chamber of Commerce has announced entertainment on the Main Stage is scheduled to include:

Aug. 29 - Blues night, with Samantha Fish at 7 p.m. and Trampled Under Foot at 8:30 p.m.

Aug. 30 - Country night, with Outlaw Junkies at 5:30 p.m., Travis Marvin at 7 p.m., and LoCash Cowboys at 8:30 p.m.

Aug. 31 - Tribute night, with Bad Disposition at 5:30 p.m., Rock, Paper, Scissors at 7 p.m. and Liverpool at 8:30 p.m.

Sept. 1 - Local favorites from noon to 5 p.m., including the winners of the Three Trails Singer/Songwriter Competition.

Also on Labor Day, September 1, there will be a 5K Santa-Cali-Gon Festival Run, and area high schools will compete in the I-town Volleyball Tournament.

Take advantage of free parking at William Chrisman High School at 24 Hwy. and Noland Rd., or at the Community of Christ Auditorium parking lot at Walnut and River, and catch a ride on the shuttle bus. Fare is \$1 per person over age 12.

For more information on the Festival, go to www.santacaligon.com or contact the Chamber of Commerce at (816) 252-4745.

Find more August activities at www.visitindependence.com or contact the Tourism office at (816) 325-7111.

City Flag Re-Design Announced

Just in time for Flag Day on June 14, the Independence Beautification Commission revealed the winning City Flag re-design – a colorful red, white and blue flag featuring a half-wagon wheel and three stars. The new design will be submitted to the City Council for their approval to replace the current flag, designed in 1969.

Ryan O'Rourke of Independence submitted the winning design, which incorporates a half wagon wheel and three stars. In his submission, O'Rourke explained the symbolism of the wagon wheel and three stars as representing the Santa Fe, California and Oregon trails and the City's role in the westward expansion of the



United States.

The colors of red, white and blue provide a connection to the United States and Missouri flags, are a tribute to President Harry S. Truman and honor an American city which shares a name with the Declaration of Independence, he explained.

Citizens were invited to submit design ideas through the City's website and final approval of the selection was made at the Beautification Commission meeting held June 11.

In announcing the selection, Beautification Commission Chair Cheryl Bradley said "The artist was very thoughtful in the design, which is symbolic of our city's rich history."

Ticks Come Out as Temps Go Up

After a long, harsh winter, the warm summer months are a great time to go outside and enjoy the outdoors. However, the beginning of summer also means the tick bite and tick-borne illness season has started. Therefore, be on the lookout for ticks when outside.

According to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS), ticks are responsible for more human diseases than any other insect in the United States. In Missouri, ticks have been known to cause six different types of diseases: Ehrlichiosis, Tularemia, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Q-fever, Lyme disease and the Southern Tick Associated Rash Illness.



The most common Missouri ticks are the Lone Star Tick and the American Dog Tick which most often transmit Ehrlichiosis, Tularemia, and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Remember, not all ticks are infected and not every tick bite will result in a disease.

Help prevent or reduce the chances of being bitten with these tips:

- Wear light-colored long pants, long sleeves and socks

- Adults should apply insect repellents with 20%-50% DEET or permethrin both on skin and clothing

- Repellents with 30% DEET or less can be used on children 2 months and older

- Walk in the center of the trail to avoid overhanging brush and tall grass (ticks are generally found within three feet of the ground)

- Check frequently for ticks

If you find a tick, quick removal can help avoid a tick-borne illness. If a tick is removed before 24 hrs. you are usually free from disease.

Use fine-tipped tweezers to grab the head as close to the skin as possible and pull straight up with a steady motion; don't squeeze the tick body.

Common symptoms associated with tick-borne illness are sudden high fever, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache and body aches. Symptoms vary with each individual.

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services have free prevention materials at their website: <http://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/tickscarrydisease/prevention.php>

HHW Collection Nets 50,545 lbs.

The 17th Annual Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection event held April 5 recorded 468 vehicles, representing 582 households, delivering 50,545 pounds of waste products for proper disposal - an average of 108 lbs. per car.



The type of products dropped off in the largest quantities were paint, oil, pesticides/toxics, aerosol cans and car batteries. The Independence Police Department was also on hand and collected ammunition, road flares, and two firearms.



Community Work Days at McCoy Park



On Saturday, June 14, more than 400 volunteers from the LDS Church, Cerner, Ft. Osage Volleyball, Midwest Pool Management, and the Sprinklers Fitters Union joined community members at McCoy Park, 800 N. Bess Truman Pkwy., for a community work day. The workers planted flowers and trees, leveled dirt throughout the park, weeded flower and plant beds, painted where needed, and cleaned out the median on Bess Truman Parkway.

The day before, approximately 50 volunteers from Plumbers Union Local 8, Sheet Metal Workers Union Local 2, Independence Power & Light and Water Department ran water lines, built the dugouts and helped with installation of a new solar-powered flagpole.

Thanks to the generous help from these volunteers, the park looked its best for the June 25 ribbon-cutting for the Cal Ripken Ability Field. In addition to the ribbon-cutting,

the day was also a celebration for completion of Phase 1 of the Unlimited Play playground specially designed for children with disabilities ages two to five, their families and friends. Let's all play!



Water Pollution Control Director Dick Champion said the Independence event has been the largest single collection event sponsored by any city in the region every year it has been held. There are now 50,545 pounds less waste in the landfills and sewers, which helps to keep the environment healthy and happy.

Residents who missed the collection and have products which need disposal can also take household hazardous waste products to events held by regional participating communities free of charge. Call Water Pollution Control at (816) 325-7711 for information about other mobile collections.

Facilities open year-round where HHW products are accepted include the Kansas City facility at 4707 Deramus. No appointment required; days of operation are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays; free to Independence residents. Call (816) 513-8400 for information.

The Lee's Summit facility at 2101 S.E. Hamblin Rd. is also free, but requires an appointment. Call (816) 969-1805. There is a limit of 100 lbs. per visit at the Lee's Summit location.

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



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.




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.

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.