

CityScene



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City of Independence, MO

Fall Cleanup Guidelines Protect Environment

If you have cleanup projects planned for this fall, here are some suggestions from Water Pollution Control (WPC) to help keep your neighborhood and the environment safe and healthy.

Outdoor cleaning jobs can produce runoff containing water, chemicals and detergents. Always use products in the correct amount for the size of the job. If there are storm drain inlets or swales near where you are working, do not allow chemicals and debris to flow into them.

Yard work may result in piles of grass clippings, brush and leaves. This material can be composted for later use as a soil conditioner and to protect bare ground from erosion. Lawn clippings may be left on the ground so nutrients are reused by the grass. If you fertilize, consider slow-release products, especially in areas with sandy or compacted soil, steep

slopes and near waterways. This can prevent excess leaching of the fertilizer into groundwater and reduces the potential for pollution of streams.

Keep storm gutters and drains clean of yard wastes by blowing the grass clippings towards your lawn – not into the street – to prevent flooding during rain events. Never dump leaves, grass clippings or brush into storm inlets, swales or creeks.

Check out the opportunities for disposal of yard waste at area recycling centers and plan your yard work to take advantage of these sites. There is information on the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) website at www.recyclespot.org for area recycling centers.

If you have a swimming pool, perform your pool maintenance in an environmentally-friendly way. WPC encourages draining your pool water to the sanitary sewer system through

your household plumbing. Filter backwash, debris and chemicals make this water unsafe for disposal to our waterways. Clear water with the chlorine removed can be used on your lawn, but prevent it from flowing onto neighbors' yards. Use a hose to control the drainage rate.

All automotive wastes must be properly disposed or taken for recycling. Never pour used oil onto the ground or into a storm drain or ditches. Used oil is not a safe weed killer. Call the Kansas City Household Hazardous Wastes Facility at 816-513-8401 for information on how to properly dispose of used oil and other hazardous materials.

Participate in community cleanup activities and help spread this information so others can help keep the environment clean, safe and healthy. Call WPC at (816) 325-7711 for further information.

Ellen Greenberg Jacobs Receives 2014 Block Award

Ellen Greenberg Jacobs, Domestic Violence Prosecutor in the City of Independence Law Department, is the recipient of the 2014 Susan Paxton Block Award for Distinguished Public Service. Jacobs has worked for the City since 1997.

The Susan Block award is presented annually to a City employee, volunteer or elected official who has demonstrated outstanding public service, valor, and job performance with leadership.

Junior Service League past president Judy McNeel presented the award at the September 15 City Council meeting. In presenting the award, McNeel said the recognition had been earned by Jacobs' important work to help victims of domestic violence.

The Selection Committee noted Jacobs' passion for justice and her personal interest in each victim, providing sup-

port, safety planning and reassurance. The Committee also noted her key role in supporting a policy change protecting victim's rights and her active role in community organizations created to address the impact of domestic violence across the community.



Jacobs (left) was presented with the Block Award on September 15, 2014 by Judy McNeel, past president of the Junior Service League.

The Committee is comprised of representatives from several service organizations in Independence including the Junior Service League, the Chamber of Commerce, Young Matrons, Independence Rotary Club, Independence Optimists and Independence Kiwanis.

“What an honor and nice surprise to be this year's recipient!” Jacobs said when notified of the award. “The award is a wonderful tribute by the father of Susan Paxton Block in memory of her life and good works including her time as a City Councilmember and as President of the Junior Service League of Independence.”

The Junior Service League, of which Block was a second-generation member and served as president in 1989-1990, presents the award at the City Council meeting just prior to Block's birthdate, September 24.

Hockey or Soccer - Ticket Giveaway Contests Return



Independence residents can again register to win two tickets to a home game of Mavericks hockey or Comets soccer!

The City will give away a limited number of tickets to regular season home games at the Independence Events Center, 19100 E. Valley View Parkway.

Independence residents 18 years and older can register on the City's website: www.independencemo.org. Click on the "Win Tickets" banner. A complete list of contest rules is on the website. Entrants may select any number of games from the listed schedules and will be included in each drawing until their name is drawn as a winner. Winners will be randomly

selected by computer 10 days prior to each game and will be notified by telephone and, if provided, by email.

All contest tickets must be picked up in person by the winner at the Silverstein Eye Centers Box Office at the Events Center. A valid photo ID and proof of residency, such as a utility bill, are required when picking up tickets.

The box office is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. On weekend game days, the box office will open at least two hours prior to game time and will close approximately an hour after the game begins.



Helpful Tips To Make Halloween Festivities Fun

October gives us many things to enjoy including cooler weather, changing leaves, pumpkin flavored products, and Halloween. Halloween is an exciting holiday for many, so do your best to practice the following advice to help make the festivities fun for everyone.

- Remind trick-or-treaters to watch out for cars and remind drivers to drive safely.
- Plan costumes that are bright and reflective. Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags and use a flashlight to help drivers see you.
- Make sure a responsible adult always accompanies younger children. Walking in groups is best.
- Use the sidewalk or walk at the edge of the road facing traffic when no sidewalk is

available. Teach children basic pedestrian skills, such as looking both ways before crossing the street.

- Encourage children to walk from house to house instead of being driven. Kids can even wear pedometers and start a friendly competition for who can be the most active while collecting candy.
- Before kids go trick-or-treating, serve a healthy meal so they're not as hungry for candy.
- Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating. Eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid homemade treats made by strangers.
- Fun size candy bars range anywhere from 60-110 calories per bar. Consider being somewhat lenient about candy eat-

ing on Halloween, and then limit the rest. A little goes a long way and it might be best to allow 1-3 pieces of candy a day and keep the rest out of sight.

- If you'd just like to reduce the Halloween stash consider asking if your child would like to swap some, or all, of the candy for a special toy, book, or outing.
- Consider handing out non-candy or healthier items to trick-or-treaters. These can include stickers, toys, temporary tattoos, tiny decks of cards, pretzels, sugar-free gum, trail mix, raisins, popcorn, sugar-free candy, or small boxes of cereal.

For more healthy information, contact the Independence Health Department at (816) 325-7182.

Project Information Available on Website

Have you driven down the street and wondered what the new building under construction is going to be or what new restaurants or stores are coming to the City of Independence?

Citizens can learn about current projects on the City's website, where development and construction-related information can be found.

Prior to vacant ground being developed into a retail store or a single family subdivision, the property must have the proper zoning. A rezoning of the property is necessary if the property does not have the correct zoning for the project.

Information on rezonings and other development applications as they go before the Planning Commission can be found on the City's website at <http://agendas.indepmmo.org/>. Click on the meeting date and then click on the agenda item of interest to you.

Another source of information available on the City's website is the Monthly Building Permit report. This report lists residential and commercial building permit activity and permit valuation for the month and year-to-date totals. The prior year monthly and year-to-date information is also included.

In addition, the report lists new commercial building permits for the current month that have been submitted, issued and finalized. Included in this detailed information is the permit address, the type of permit, and the business name. The report can be found at www.indepmmo.org/comdev/bpreport.aspx and selecting the month you wish to view.

For information on development and construction projects or if you have questions, contact Community Development at (816) 325-7401.

DON'T FORGET TO



The election on Tuesday, November 4 will include the selection of a City Council representative for those in Independence Council District 4. This individual will complete Mayor Eileen Weir's unexpired term as Council District 4 Representative.

The candidates are Tom Van Camp and Laura Dominik. For questions about your voting status, contact Jackson County Election Board at (816) 325-4600.

Welcome The Holiday Season With November Events

The temperatures are dropping, and winter's on the way, but there is still a lot to do and see in Independence!

On Thursday, November 6, kids of all ages are invited to the **Annual Storytelling Celebration** at George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Rd., to listen to nature and outdoor-themed stories from two regional storytellers. The free, 45-minute program starts at 10 a.m., and will be repeated at 11 a.m.

The holidays are coming! From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, November 7 and 8, rediscover the Independence Square with the **Holiday Open House** at many of the specialty shops. Shoppers will enjoy special promotions while supporting local merchants. Stop by one of the fabulous cafés, taverns or restaurants and indulge in a delicious meal. For information call (816) 461-0065 or visit www.theindependencesquare.com.

For the younger kids, it's **Nature Story Time** at George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Rd. on the second Saturday of each month from November to May. This free program for kids ages 2-5 offers nature stories and crafts, and may include a short nature walk. The season starts at 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 8 with the theme, "Where Did Everyone Go for the Winter – Migration."

Save time for the annual **Veterans' Day Program** on Sunday, November 9 from noon to 5 p.m. at the Harry S. Truman Museum & Library, 500 W. 24 Highway. The formal program will begin at 3 p.m., and will include a 21-gun salute from Wentworth Military Academy. There will be military displays and collections for viewing, refreshments and bagpipe music.



A 21-Gun Salute Honors Veterans on Sunday, November 9.

Hockey returns when the puck drops at 7:05 p.m. for the four-time winner of the CHL Franchise of the Year – the **Missouri Mavericks**. The home opening game for the sixth year of hockey will be Saturday, November 8 against the Rapid City Rush at the Independence Events Center, 19100 E. Valley View Parkway.

For more sporting action, on Saturday, November 15 the 2013-14 MISL Champions **Missouri Comets'** home opener

will start at 7 p.m. Come out early for the game and watch the unveiling of their championship banner.

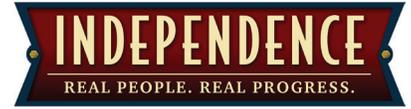
For game tickets, go to www.Ticketmaster.com or visit the Silverstein Eye Centers Box Office at Independence Events Center. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. On weekend game days the box office opens about two hours before the game.

Bring the family to The Square Saturday, November 15 for the traditional **Square Holiday Tree Lighting** celebration. Beginning at noon and continuing to 6 p.m., a small fee lets you catch a ride on a mule-drawn sleigh around The Square with Pioneer Trails Adventures. From 3 to 5 p.m., the popular **Kid's Winter Wonderland** area returns, offering free children's Christmas activities such as letters to Santa, and face painting. Watch the dancers from Studio 3V Dance Center at 4 p.m.

Santa will visit with children from 3 to 5 p.m. and concessions such as kettle corn, hot cocoa and other delights will be available. Adding to the merriment, strolling carolers will entertain the crowd between 4 and 5 p.m.

The program begins at 5 p.m., with the Tree Lighting Ceremony to follow. Independence Mayor Eileen Weir and Jackson County Executive Mike Sanders will light the tree, assisted by Independence Power & Light.

Any time of year is the right time for **"The Wizard of Oz!"** Puppeteer Kraig Kensinger brings the story of Dorothy and her dog Toto to life, with presentations at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, November 28 and 29. This classic tale is 75 years old,



and a favorite of all ages. The Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd., is a fun place to take visiting family and friends. Tickets are \$5 per person and includes a tour of the museum. Call (816) 833-9777 for reservations or visit

www.hazelle.org for more information.

"All Wrapped Up" is this year's Christmas theme at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific. The holiday season begins Friday, November 28 and continues daily through December 30 (closed Dec. 23, 24 and 25). Walk-in tours are offered from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 1 to 4 p.m. on Sundays. Adults \$6; Youth ages 6-16 \$3.

Begin your visit in the Carriage House Boutique, where an abundance of gifts

can be found for yourself or for someone special. Following your tour, relax in the third-floor Tea Room and enjoy music, cookies and hot spiced tea or coffee.

For a special evening treat, enjoy the ambiance on the Bingham's **Twilight Tour** from 4 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 7. The Twilight Tour offers the opportunity to stroll at your leisure, enjoying some light refreshments and live music while chatting with your friends, family and our talented decorators.

Looking for a special place to welcome your group for lunch or dinner during the holidays? The lavishly decorated **Carriage House** at the Bingham-Waggoner welcomes 10 to 50 guests in a large, comfortable area with tables beautifully set with china, glass stemware and silverware on linen tablecloths. Select from delicious menu items, all served with dessert and coffee or tea. Call Shireen at (816) 461-3491 with any questions or to reserve a date.

For more information on upcoming events, go to www.visitindependence.com or contact the Tourism Department at (816) 325-7111.



The Holiday Tree Lighting is Saturday, November 15 on The Square.



Dorothy and the Gatekeeper in Oz

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

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 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.

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



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

(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.



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





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 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.