

CityScene



November 2014
Volume 21 Number 11

www.independencemo.org
City of Independence, MO

Celebrate The Season With Traditional Independence Events

The holiday season is here! Independence offers a variety of exciting entertainment options for residents and for the many visitors welcomed each year.

Get the family in a festive mood by taking in a special

holiday presentation at the Children's Performing Theatre at the Sermon Center, 201 N. Dodgion. Performances are by children ages 5 to 15, and this season will feature "The Christmas Tree from Outer Space" and "Frosty the Snowman." Show starts at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, December 5 and 6; and December 12 and 13, with matinees at 2 p.m. on Sundays, December 7 and 14. For reservations call (816) 325-7367.

With proceeds benefitting residents of eastern Jackson County, the Independence Young Matrons Holly & Mistletoe Tour will be held from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, December 4. The sights and sounds of Christmas will fill four beautiful homes, helping you get into the holiday spirit. Be sure to visit the sweet shop located at the Pavilion at Logan Woods. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. For details and tickets, call (816) 690-8043 or go to www.independenceyoungmatrons.org.

The holidays wouldn't be complete without the annual Mayor's Christmas Carnival at the Sermon Center, 201 N. Dodgion on Saturday, December 6. From 9 a.m. to noon, the kids can celebrate the season with Mayor Eileen Weir and, of course, Santa Claus. This free family event features balloon creations, face painting, carnival



games, prizes and snacks. Bring your camera and get a picture with Santa. For more information, call Parks & Recreation at (816) 325-7370.

Looking for Victorian Christmas Magic or holiday decorating ideas?

Tours of the Vaile Mansion, 1500 N. Liberty, with its elegant rooms filled with marble fireplaces and crystal chandeliers and filled with holiday decor, are available daily Friday, November 28 to Tuesday, December 30 (except Dec. 23, 24 and 25). The Mansion is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 1 to 4 p.m. on Sundays. Adults \$6; Children \$2.

A special treat awaits you on Saturday, December 6. The Victorian atmosphere of the Vaile Mansion is the perfect setting for "Champagne & Chandeliers – A Christmas Mystery." From 5:30 to 8 p.m., Champagne, hors d'oeuvres and mystery await! Solve the mystery and win a prize! Tickets are \$35 per person for this holiday event. For more information, visit www.vailemansion.org or call (816) 325-7430.

Start a new tradition this year with the Twilight Tour at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific. "All Wrapped Up" is this year's Christmas theme. From 4 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 7, the mansion is open just for you! Stroll at your leisure and enjoy the festive atmosphere. Bring your friends and family to enjoy the live holiday music and refreshments, and visit with the talented decorators. Call

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Healthy Eating For The Holidays

Maintaining healthy eating habits during a season when food is around every corner can be a daunting task. The average American gains one to five pounds during the holiday season. Studies show this weight is generally not lost, which leads to weight accumulation over time.

The Independence Health Department suggests the following tips to make healthy food choices. Limit portion size of tempting, high-calorie foods during the holidays, so the turkey is the only one ending up stuffed.

1. Put the focus on people, not food. Make the holidays a time of socializing, having fun with friends and family, and making new friends.

2. Plan activities. Wreath-making, gingerbread house decorating, holiday art projects, or taking a tour of decorated homes puts the focus on people and activities instead of food.

3. Plan before you eat. When you arrive, check out all of the food options available. Decide what you really want and what foods you can live without. Eat more of the dishes with lean protein, fruits, vegetables and whole grains, and limit the foods with little or no nutrient value. Eat slowly so food has time to digest and you are better aware of when you are full.

4. Don't arrive on an empty stomach. Eat a light, healthy meal or snack before parties so you won't be as hungry and will be less likely to overindulge.

5. Find healthier alternatives. Bring a healthy and delicious dish to gatherings.

6. Leave the table and kitchen when you are done. By hanging out around the food, you will be more tempted to eat more even though you are full. Out of sight, out of mind!

With balance and moderation, you can enjoy the holidays the healthy way.



Follow Guidelines If Deep-Frying Your Holiday Turkey



If your holiday planning includes deep-frying a turkey, follow these steps from Water Pollution Control (WPC) for the proper use and disposal of frying oil:

- ◆ Strain oil through fine strainer and then through cheesecloth.
- ◆ Store covered in refrigerator.
- ◆ Oil can be reused three or four times.
- ◆ Never pour cooking oil down the drain.

◆ Take used cooking oil to the annual Independence Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) mobile collection in April or to Kansas City HHW Center. The Kansas City HHW collection center is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. No appointment is necessary; proof of Jackson County residency required. Call (816) 513-8401 for more information. To receive a free brochure titled "Fat-Free Sewers," call WPC at (816) 325-7711.

Mayor's Christmas Concert December 7

Celebrate the holidays at the 29th Annual Mayor's Christmas Concert at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 7, 2014. Benefitting the Community Services League, the concert will be held at the Community of Christ Auditorium at 1001 W. Walnut.

This year's concert will feature the Independence School District, Center Place Restoration, Nativity of Mary, and Messiah Lutheran Fourth Grade Students. In addition, there will be performances from the Truman High



School Concert Choir, the Van Horn High School Concert Choir, and the Spirit of Independence Band. Directing this year's concert is Helena Vasconcellos of Nativity of Mary School, Independence.

The Master of Ceremonies this year will again be Independence resident Dick Wilson, from 94.9 KCMO.

Admission is free. A free-will offering will be accepted during the concert. For more information, visit www.csclcares.org or call (816) 912-4485.

Good Fences Make Good Neighbors

Fences are great as a background for a flower garden, for keeping pets in (or out) of your yard and as a decorative addition to your property. Before installing your fence, talk to the Community Development department about the regulations, and always call 1-800-DIG-RITE before you dig.

Unless your fence is to surround a tennis court, swimming pool or similar recreational area, it must be less than 6' tall. A fence in front of or along the side street in front of your home must be 3' tall or less. A front fence must also be at least 50% transparent, such as chain link, spaced picket, wrought iron or split rail.

A fence may be constructed at the property line, but it is the homeowner's responsibility to accurately determine the location. Contact a professional surveyor if you are not sure where the property

line is located. Check with Community Development for setback distance from the street right-of-way.

Wood, wrought iron, chain link, plastic (vinyl or PVC) or synthetic wood are acceptable material for fences; the use of plastic construction fencing, plywood, canvas, metal sheets, etc. is not permitted. Use the same type of material on the entire fence; no more than two different types are allowed.

Maintain your fence by keeping it upright in a reasonable condition, and make repairs to missing or deteriorated slats or pickets with the same quality of material and workmanship.

For more information, visit www.independencemo.org/userdocs/ComDev/UDO/ARTICLE%20-%20USE%20REGULATIONS.pdf or contact Community Development at (816) 325-7109.

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(816) 461-3491 or visit www.bwestate.net for information.

Tours of the Bingham are offered from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 1 to 4 p.m. on Sundays. The holiday season begins Friday, November 28 at the Bingham, and will continue daily through Tuesday, December 30 (except Dec. 23, 24 and 25). Adults \$6; Youth 6-16 \$3.

On Tuesday, December 9, dress for the weather and come out to George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Road. From 5 to 6:30 p.m. it's the annual Torch-lit Hike, a salute to the Winter Solstice with a walk along a woodland path. See ice sculptures being carved, bring your camera for pictures of the family in an ice sleigh, see a bald eagle and warm up with hot chocolate. The first 150 guests will receive a free travel mug. Free admission. For information call (816) 325-7115 or visit www.independencemo.org/parksandrec.

"The Wizard of Oz" puppet show continues its run at the Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Road. Performances are at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, November 28 and 29, then again Saturdays, December 13, 20, and 27.

Just for the holidays, on Wednesday, December 10, "Morris Finds Christmas" will be presented by puppeteer Anitra Steele. This show, also at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., is designed for children ages 2 through 6. Tickets at the Puppetry Arts Institute are \$5 and include the new "Punch & Judy" exhibit. Call (816) 833-9777 for reservations.

For a complete listing, see the Calendar of Events at www.independencemo.org.



Street Projects Improve Roads



Resurfacing 46 miles of Independence streets will be completed this year.



A new bridge is now under construction over the Little Blue River at 39th Street.



A smoother ride is on the way for residents in Independence. Work has been ongoing for the past few months to resurface 46 miles of streets throughout the City. Superior Bowen Asphalt Company is working for the City on this project.

The street overlay has two main benefits; it provides a smoother driving surface as well as preserving the street condition and lowering maintenance costs. The street overlay will be completed this year.

In most cases, the contractor will grind two inches of asphalt from the street, patch any needed areas and then install two inches of new asphalt. Lane markings will be replaced on those streets which are currently marked. Some sidewalk ramps at street intersections will be replaced to meet the current legal requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Information on the street overlay program and locations to be resurfaced is available by contacting the Public Works Department. Call (816) 325-7600 or go to the Public Works webpage from the City of Independence website at www.independencemo.org.

Work is also progressing on the new 39th Street bridge over the Little Blue River. This is a new four-lane bridge. It is being built in halves for less disruption to traffic on 39th Street. Phillips Grading is the project contractor.

Now that the north half of the bridge has been finished, the contractor is finalizing completion of the south half. The new bridge project is scheduled for completion this year.

County Executive Mike Sanders and Mayor Eileen Weir invite you to the

Independence Square Christmas Lighting
Saturday, November 15, 2014

3-5 p.m. - Kids Winter Wonderland
3 p.m. - Santa arrives
5 p.m. - Program begins, followed by lighting of The Square, Christmas Tree and Historic Courthouse
For information: (816) 461-0065

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 and click on "Newsroom." You will find both current and past issues.

Take Steps Now To Save Heating Costs Later

With winter comes cold winds, snow, sleet and ice. Taking a few preparations now can pay off later with lower home heating bills. Here are some easy, free or low-cost ideas to improve energy efficiency.

- ✦ Wear layers of clothing and throw an extra blanket on the bed
- ✦ Set your thermostat at 68 degrees or as low as possible when you are home
- ✦ Lower the thermostat to 60 degrees when you're away, or install a thermostat which can be programmed to change automatically
- ✦ Replace furnace filters regularly
- ✦ Open window shades during the day to let the sun in; close them at night
- ✦ Close storm windows; replace any loose or missing window caulk/putty

- ✦ Replace weather stripping on exterior doors
- ✦ Check the outside caulking around windows and replace as needed
- ✦ Close the fireplace damper when not in use
- ✦ Seal holes in exterior walls, crawl space or basement where pipes penetrate
- ✦ Add foam gaskets behind outlets or light switches on exterior walls
- ✦ Keep the area around heat vents or radiators free from clutter.
- ✦ Check air ducts for leaks and seal with proper sealing mastic.



Find more energy-saving tips at the Independence Power & Light website at www.ci.independence.mo.us/pl/EnergySavingTips.aspx.

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
Last Drop-Off of Season!
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.

Regional Animal Shelter Operated by Great Plains SPCA

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 (913) 831-7722

**Always
Spay or
Neuter!**



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.

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.

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.

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. \$20 for TVs 27" and smaller and \$40 for larger TVs. All other items are free of charge, including computer monitors.