

# CityScene



December 2014  
Volume 21 Number 12

www.independencemo.org  
City of Independence, MO

## Tourism Recognizes Contributions of Volunteers

The Independence Tourism Department is fortunate to have nearly 200 active volunteers. Each year the volunteers provide valuable services at one or more of the City's historic sites, including:

- Harry S Truman National Historic Site
- 1859 Jail & Marshal's Home Museum
- Visitor Experience Center
- Jackson County Historic Society's History Center
- 1827 Log Courthouse
- National Frontier Trails Museum
- Chicago & Alton Depot
- Bingham-Waggoner Estate
- Vaile Mansion

The 31st Annual Volunteer Banquet held Thursday, November 6 was the City's opportunity to show its appreciation, and acknowledge the hours of service provided by the volunteers to the Tourism Department.

Tourism volunteers have recorded more than 16,911 hours in 2014. Each hour of volunteer service has an estimated value of \$21.17, which brings the total value of service hours to \$358,000. Mayor Pro Tem Chris Whiting accepted a symbolic check to the City in that amount, and acknowledged the value of the volunteers to the City.



**Tourism Director Cori Day presented Mayor Pro Tem Chris Whiting with a "check" representing the value of volunteers' time in 2014.**

The Banquet was held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Independence, and following dinner the volunteers were presented with service pins for every five years of service.

Ruth Washburn, who volunteers her time giving tours at the Vaile Mansion, received special recognition for 25 years.

In addition, all volunteers who earned more than 25 hours of volunteer service for the past year received an appreciation gift.

For information about becoming part of the Tourism Volunteer Program, contact Frank Buhro in the Tourism office by calling (816) 325-7112.



**Frank Buhro of the Tourism Department congratulates Ruth Washburn for 25 years of volunteer service.**



**Receiving recognition for 20 years were Dale Moorman (left) and John Cianciolo.**

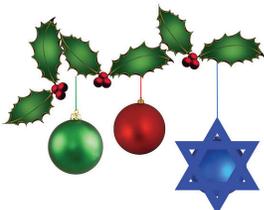


## Welcome The New Year With Indoor Activities in January

If the winter temperatures have you looking for indoor entertainment, Independence has it covered!

Adults ages 50+ are invited to join The Palmer Center outing to see **“Shear Madness”** on Wednesday, January 7. The bus will leave at 10:30 a.m. for the New Theatre Restaurant, where the audience will participate in evaluating the clues and solving the murder of a renowned classical pianist in this fun-filled mystery. Deadline for reserving your seat is Wednesday, December 17, and the cost is \$52 per person. For more information on this or future outings, call The Palmer Center at (816) 325-6200.

The City Theatre of Independence proudly presents **“The Last Night of Ballyhoo.”** Set in an upper class German-Jewish community in 1939 Atlanta, Georgia, Adolph Freitag (owner of the Dixie Bedding Company) and his family are looking forward to Ballyhoo, a lavish cotillion ball. Performances are 8 p.m. on Thursday – Saturday, January 8, 9 and 10; Friday



*The Last Night of Ballyhoo*

and Saturday, January 16 and 17; 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday January 18. Special Dinner Theatre at 6:30 p.m. before the show on Saturday, January 10; Reservations required one week prior by calling (816) 325-7367. The City Theatre is located inside the Sermon Center at 201 N. Dodgion.

The younger kids can become Nature Pals by attending **Nature Story Time** just for kids ages 2-5 at George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Rd. Take the opportunity to learn all about the outdoors at 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 10 with the story, **“What Walked Through Your Yard?”** Kids can do a craft project and even take a walk outside, if the weather cooperates.

Program continues the second Saturday of each month through May. Call (816) 325-7115 for more information.

Make plans to visit the Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd. for **“Hungry as A Bear.”** This lively tale, an original Punch and Judy story with a twist, will be presented by Two Frogs &

A Turtle Puppet Co. at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday, January 17 and Monday, January 19. Admission is \$5 per person and includes a tour of the puppet museum. For reservations or ticket information call (816) 833-9777 or visit [www.hazelle.org](http://www.hazelle.org).

Celebrate the anniversary of the 1848 discovery of gold in California with the National Frontier Trails Museum! Bring your bag lunch for a free lecture, **“California or Bust! The California Gold Rush,”** at noon on Friday, January 23. The celebration continues all weekend with the return of **“Talk Like A Grizzled Prospector.”** From Friday through Sunday, January 23-25, if you walk up to the reception desk and talk like a grizzled prospector, you will receive a \$2 discount on museum admission. You will also get a chance to vote for your favorite prospector and even receive a free gift for voting. The National Frontier Trails Museum is located at 318 W. Pacific. Call (816) 325-7575 for more information.

For more January activities, check the Calendar of Events at [www.independencemo.org](http://www.independencemo.org) and be sure to “like” the City of Independence on Facebook for updates.

## Check For Valid Contractor’s License Before You Hire

Since the 1950s, Construction, Plumbing, Electrical and Mechanical professionals have been required to obtain and maintain a Contractor’s License with the City of Independence.

The City requires licensing to protect citizens from unprofessional contractors who might perform non code-compliant work. Citizens deserve professional craftsman who will correctly do the work they are hired for.



Before you hire, ask to see their City of Independence Contractor’s License.

Every November, the City starts the process by sending renewal notices to all licensed contractors from the prior year. A licensed contractor must renew their license by the end of the current calendar year to avoid penalty.

Beginning in January of the following year, the City changes the status of all

non-renewed licenses to inactive, and the contractor has until the end of March to renew their license.

On April 1, all licenses which have not been renewed are classified as expired. Contractors must then begin the licensing process from the beginning.

As you start to think about your next construction project, whether a new water heater, a room addition or even electrical service upgrades, remember to make sure the individual or contractor you hire is a professional and is properly licensed with the City of Independence.

To determine if the company or individual has a current Contractor’s License, contact the Community Development Department at (816) 325-7401. City staff will be happy to verify if the Contractor is licensed correctly.



### Holiday Specials!

Adventure Oasis Water Park has special holiday prices for that special person on your gift list!

Pick up a Season Pass or 5-Punch Pass gift certificate at these special prices through 5 p.m. Wednesday, December 31 at the Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple. Call (816) 325-7843 for more information.



Opening Day for Adventure Oasis is May 23, 2015. Don’t miss this chance for the lowest price of the season!

(Independence Residents)	Reg.	Disc.
Youth or Senior Pass	\$75	\$64
Adult Season Pass	\$105	\$90
Family Season Pass	\$250	\$212
Resident 5-Punch Pass Youth/Sr	\$24	\$20
Resident 5-Punch Pass Adult	\$32	\$27
Resident 5-Punch Pass Family	\$88	\$75
Non-Res. 5-Punch Pass Youth/Sr	\$28	\$24
Non-Res. 5-Punch Pass Adult	\$36	\$31
Non-Res. 5-Punch Pass Family	\$100	\$85

## Tom Van Camp Elected For District 4



On November 4, voters in City Council District 4 elected Tom Van Camp to fill the open position on the City Council. The District 4 seat became vacant when Eileen Weir was elected Mayor in April. He will complete her unexpired term to 2016.

Van Camp retired from YRC Freight and is also a retired criminal investigator with the Missouri Department of Revenue. He received a Masters in Public Administration degree from UMKC.

After the election, Van Camp thanked the residents in the 4th District for entrusting him with the office of Councilmember.

He was sworn into office at the City Council meeting on November 17, 2014.

## City To Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

The City of Independence will celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at 7 p.m. on Monday, January 19, 2015 at the Truman Memorial Building, 416 E. Maple.

This year's theme is "Act Like You Care." The Keynote Speaker for the event will be Rev. Sam Mann, who retired following 40 years of service at St. Mark Union Church. He also had the honor of marching with Dr. King many years ago.

The 2015 celebration will mark the 28th year of this event co-sponsored by the City of Independence, The Community of Concerned

Citizens, Local Investment Commission (LINC), the Human Relations Commission, Ministerial Alliance and The Examiner.

In conjunction with the celebration, the John Olivarez Scholarship essay contest will again be held. This is open to any high school senior residing in the City of Independence and planning to attend a four-year accredited college, a community college or a vocational school.

To apply for this scholarship, students should write an essay up to 500 words on the featured topic, "Act Like You Care."

Essays must be typed and submitted by Friday, January 2, 2015 to: Independence Human Relations Commission, c/o Debra Craig, 111 E. Maple, Independence, MO 64050. The winning essay writer will receive a \$300 scholarship award and will be honored at the celebration on January 19.

Eighth grade students who attend school in the Independence School District will also be taking part in an essay contest at their schools as part of the event to honor Dr. King. The winner of this contest will receive a family pass for Adventure Oasis Water Park.

Details of the scholarship essay contest can be found on the City of Independence website at [www.independencemo.org](http://www.independencemo.org).



## Need to Pay A Traffic Ticket?

To save time and avoid busy phone lines, check the City's website before calling Municipal Court. Go to [www.independencemo.org/municourt](http://www.independencemo.org/municourt). You can search for your court date or review a list of violations and fine amounts.

You may be able to pay your ticket online. Click On-Line Services, then select Pay Ticket On-Line. To pay by telephone, call 325-SERV (7378) and select option 2.

Court sessions are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 8:30, 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. and afternoons at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. Municipal Court hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Cashier windows are closed for lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

For information about a court date, call (816) 325-7230 or (816) 325-7235. Telephones are answered 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

## Don't Let Foodborne Illness Ruin Your Family Holiday Plans

The holidays are special times for family and friends, but nothing ruins these times like foodborne illness. Foodborne illnesses affect 48 million people each year, and cause an estimated 3,000 deaths in the United States.

The onset of symptoms may occur within minutes or weeks after eating, and often present as flu-like symptoms. Because of this, many people may not realize it was harmful bacteria or other pathogens in their food which caused the illness.

Everyone is at risk. Some may become ill after ingesting just a few harmful bacteria, while others may ingest thousands before feeling the unpleasant effects.

Most foodborne illnesses can be prevented with proper cooking or processing. When foods sit out for a long period of time, they begin to approach the temperature "Danger Zone," between 41°F and 140°F, when bacteria multiply most rapidly. To avoid falling into this zone, it is important to follow these steps:

- Store food in the refrigerator or the freezer.
- Never thaw food at room temperature. Always use the refrigerator, cold water or a microwave.
- Cool leftovers quickly, reaching 70°F or below within two hours and 41°F or below within an additional four hours.
- Cook all meat to the appropriate internal temperature as measured with a food thermometer.
- Maintain hot cooked food at 140°F or above.
- Reheat cooked food to 165°F.

If you have a suspected case of foodborne illness, contact your local health department. This is especially important if the food was consumed at a large gathering, restaurant, or from another food service establishment.

For more information on foodborne illness prevention and outbreaks, visit [www.fsis.usda.gov/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/) or contact the Independence Health Department at (816) 325-7185.

# 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

**CLOSED FOR WINTER**  
**Reopens March 14, 2015**  
**875 Vista Avenue**

## Utility Bill Payments

The City of Independence offers many convenient options for paying utility bills.

**To pay by phone call 325-SERV**  
 You will need to have your Account Access Code and your utility account number in order to pay by phone.

**To pay online go to:**  
[www.independencemo.org](http://www.independencemo.org)

NOTE: There is a \$1 per month discount offered to residential customers age 62 or older on their sewer bill if they receive Social Security payments (or similar retirement benefits) and their sewer usage is 100 to 400 cubic feet per month. Call 325-7930 for more information.

## 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.

## CITY COUNCIL

- Mayor**
- Eileen Weir 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
- Scott Roberson District 3
- Tom Van Camp District 4
- Karen DeLuccie At-Large
- Chris Whiting At-Large
- City Manager**
- Robert Heacock 325-7170

## DID YOU KNOW...

Secondhand  
Smoke contains  
about 70  
cancer-causing  
chemicals.



Secondhand smoke kills.  
When you smoke, they smoke.



**Ready to quit?**  
**Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW**

## 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.



## 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 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.



**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.