

CityScene



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www.independencemo.org
City of Independence, MO

Think Spring - Think Rain Gardens!

It happens every year – spring rains will be arriving to bring much-needed moisture after the long winter months. It's not too early to start thinking about ways to help reduce the storm water runoff in your yard.

The old saying, "April Showers Bring May Flowers" is true, but spring showers also bring flooded creeks and storm sewer systems which, in turn, can flood your home. Rain barrels and rain gardens are fun, beautiful assets to have and can reduce storm water runoff.

Rain gardens are a great addition to anyone's yard and bring beauty and functionality to any home. They also have the benefit of slowing storm water so it can percolate into the ground, and help to trap sediment and some pollutants.

When planning a rain garden, first pick a low-lying area in your yard where the most runoff flows. Avoid placing the garden where water ponds as this means the soil is slow to absorb and may drown your flow-

ers. Make sure to put your rain garden at least 10 feet away from the house to avoid flooding in your basement or damaging your foundation.

Many different types of flowers are ideal for planting in a rain garden. Native plants are best and can bring butterflies and birds into your garden. These perennials are great at conserving soil and water as they do not need fertilizer to thrive. They are long lasting because they have adapted to local weather and conditions. Native plants which work well in our region include Cardinal Flower, Purple Cornflower, Black-eyed Susan and Prairie Blazing Star.

Why not install a rain barrel to collect rain water from your roof? Water is captured from the gutter downspouts and used for watering your other gardens or flowers. You can make your rain barrel as unique as you would like it. Home improvement and hardware stores carry spray paint specially formulated to adhere to plastic, making it great for use on rain barrels.

Visit www.bridgingthegap.org/rain-barrels/ for more information on rain barrels or visit www.rainkc.com.

Contact Water Pollution Control at (816) 325-7711 to get a free brochure on how to make a rain garden or a rain barrel, and for a list of 10 native plants for the Kansas City region.



A rain barrel makes a colorful addition to your yard.

Think Spring - Think Vegetable Gardens!

With spring on the way, it is time to begin thinking about the 2015 gardening season. Gardening offers many health benefits. It can be a great form of exercise, can relieve stress, improve mental health, heart health, hand strength and dexterity, provide low-cost fruits and vegetables, and decrease your risk for depression.

The Independence Health Department (IHD) and Kansas City Community Gardens (KCCG) are offering several classes and seed distributions throughout the year to help residents become successful gardeners with easy and affordable access to seeds and plants for their gardens.



All classes start at 6 p.m. on the dates below and are located at IHD (515 S. Liberty St., Independence) unless otherwise noted. The 2015 class schedule is as follows:

- **Monday, March 16:** Vegetable Garden Basics
- **Monday, April 13:** Tomatoes, Peppers & Sweet Potatoes
- **Monday, May 18:** Get Growing: Water- Hands-on Workshop
- **Monday, June 15:** Insects in the Garden (Meet at White Oak Community Garden, 136 East White Oak Street)
- **Monday, August 3:** Fall Gardening

Seed and plant distribution will take place at 515 S. Liberty from 3 to 6 p.m. on the following dates:

- **Thursday, March 26:** Cool Season Plants
- **Thursday, April 30:** Warm Season Plants
- **Thursday, May 21:** Warm Season Plants
- **Thursday, August 13:** Fall Plants

If you don't garden right now but would like to start, it's not too late. IHD can provide instructions on building a raised bed, or can put you in contact with a local community garden site. Garden beds are available to rent at the White Oak Community Garden.

To learn more about these classes or rent a raised bed at White Oak, call IHD at (816) 325-7185.

March Brings Spring-Themed Events

Whether it comes in like a lion or a lamb, March will bring a variety of activities for family and friends to get out and enjoy.

When you read about the many events at the National Frontier Trails Museum, you might be wondering how this modern museum of trail history was established. On **Thursday, March 12**, put on your jeans and come explore the former Waggoner-Gates Flour Mill at 318 W. Pacific. From 7 to 8:30 p.m., visitors will hear about the history of the mill and how it was adapted for use as a museum. Tickets are only \$5 for the tour of the museum and its campus, and you will learn about new plans for redevelopment and expansion of the site. Wine and cheese will be served; Advance reservations are required by calling (816) 325-7575.



The National Frontier Trails Museum.

This two-hour event usually sells out, so get your tickets early by calling Shireen at (816) 461-3491. Visit www.bwestate.org for more information.

If you've been cleaning out the garage, or trimming trees and bushes in preparation for spring, the Drop-Off Depot reopens for the 2015 season on **Saturday, March 14**. From 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Independence residents can bring trash, brush (including limbs, firewood, bushes and stumps – no leaves or grass), major appliances, tires, batteries and lawnmowers to the drop-off location at 875 Vista Avenue. Fees vary; call (816) 325-7623 for information. The Drop-Off Depot is open the second Saturday of each month through November, 2015, one mile east of M-291 just off Truman Road.

March is Women's History Month at the National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific. Gain insight about death and mourning customs from the 1830s to the 1860s with a free program at 7 p.m. on **Tuesday, March 17**. Barbara Hughes will first portray an 1862 woman who lost her brother during the Civil War, then present a lecture about how death was honored on the trails during the westward expansion

and after the Civil War.

Thousands of women traveled west during the 19th century, and many have been honored with "Pioneer Mother" statues and memorials. But there were others, some eccentric and some forgotten, who were also pioneers on the trails. On **Friday, March 20**, bring your bag lunch at noon to the National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific for a free lecture by Richard Edwards. For more information on either of these programs, call the Museum at (816) 325-7575.

The Puppetry Arts Institute presents timeless tales of the night from three countries with the magical shadow puppetry show "When Night Dreams" on **Saturday, March 21**. Karen Konnerth from New Orleans, LA will perform two shows, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at 11025 E. Winner Road. Call (816) 833-9777 for ticket information or visit www.hazelle.org. The \$5 admission includes a tour of the museum.

Close out March's preview of spring with the "Victorian Wedding Tea Party." Plan to visit the Vaile Mansion, 1500 N. Liberty, from 2 to 4 p.m. on **Saturday, March 18**. Tickets are \$35 per person for this informal tea party and fashion show in the elegant surroundings of the Vaile Mansion. For event details, contact the Mansion at (816) 325-7430.

Building Permit Activity Continues Steady Increase

In 2014, the Community Development Department continued to see steady new investment and reinvestment in the community.

Total commercial permits, which include new construction of buildings, tenant finish of existing shell buildings and renovation or addition to existing structures, were up approximately 24% compared to 2013, and by more than 60% from 2012. Permits for new commercial building permits were down less than 1% from 2013, but were up more than 40% from 2012.

Examples of new commercial investments include an addition to the Unilever Plant at 13000 E. 35th St. S., the new Main Event Entertainment at 4600 S. Cochise Ct., the tenant finish for Children's Mercy East Imaging at 20300 E. Valley View Pkwy. and the new addition to Nowlin Middle School at 2800 S. Hardy.

Residential permits increased by approximately 3% in 2014 compared to 2013, and more than 10% compared to 2012. New single-family residential permits have steadily increased since 2010, and are up approximately 40% over 2011.

Renovations, repairs and additions to existing homes remain strong.

The increase in permit activity in the last two years has resulted in investments in our community of more than \$230 million. This report indicates positive signs for development in Independence.

The Community Development Department compiles monthly permit activity reports. These reports can be found at www.ci.independence.mo.us/ComDev/BPReport.aspx or contact David Lehman, Building Inspections Manager at (816) 325-7403 if you have any questions.



NAIA National Championship Coming to Independence Events Center March 18-24

The 35th annual NAIA Division I Women's Basketball Championship events will be held this year at the Independence Events Center, 19100 E. Valley View Parkway. The 2015 event, held from March 18 to March 24, will mark the tournament's first trip to Independence. The championship is a 32-team, single-elimination tournament with the champion crowned on March 24. The 32 qualifiers will be announced Wednesday, March 11.

The Independence Tourism Department and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) have announced that Susan G. Komen® Greater Kansas City will be the title sponsor of the event. Championship tickets are available for purchase at www.ticketmaster.com.

"We are so honored and excited to be partnering with Susan G. Komen® Greater Kansas City," said Tourism Director Cori Day. "Komen Kansas City

does such great work in the metro area and we are thrilled to have the chance to be able to bring attention to the organization and their significant efforts."

Carli Good, Executive Director of the Greater Kansas City Affiliate said, "Being able to spotlight a major women's health issue in front of thousands of players, families and supporters from around the country is an amazing opportunity and one that highlights a true community collaboration between the NAIA, the City of Independence and Komen Kansas City."

Independence Tourism Volunteer Coordinator Frank Buhro said, "Hosting this championship tournament brings with it the need for positive, professional, community-minded volunteers to assist the Tourism Department in making it a success."

Volunteers will be needed for a variety of responsibilities at all times of day - morning, noon and night. Positions



include ticket takers, ushers, hospitality hosts and sideline support. In appreciation for their time, volunteers will be provided access to see games when they are not scheduled to work. To register as a volunteer, visit www.visitindependence.com/naia2015 or call (816) 325-7112.

For more information about the NAIA Women's Basketball National Championship, please contact the Independence Tourism Department at (816) 325-7111.

The Palmer Center Receives Pinnacle Award®

The nationally-accredited Palmer Senior Center, 218A N. Pleasant, was recognized in January with the NuStep Pinnacle Award®. The award spotlights senior centers which best demonstrate a culture of wellness for older adults.



NuStep Vice President Steve Sarns complimented The Palmer Center, referring to its exceptional efforts to support innovative forms of successful aging. "By offering whole-person wellness programming, The Palmer Center is empowering

participants to enhance their quality of life and providing them the tools to remain independent so they can continue to make meaningful contributions to their community," he said.

As part of the award, The Palmer Center received a NuStep T5XR recumbent cross trainer, which offers low-impact, inclusive, total body workouts.

This newest addition to the exercise equipment in the fitness room joins other amenities at The Palmer Center, including the outdoor patio, a welcome center,

gymnasium, game and craft room, library and computer lab.

For more information about the variety of programs and activities for adults aged 50+, contact The Palmer Center at (816) 325-6200 or visit the website at www.independencemo.org/parksandrec/Palmer.aspx.



THE PALMER CENTER
INDEPENDENCE PARKS & RECREATION

Warlen Named Independence Public Health Director



after 13 years with the City of Independence.

City Manager Robert Heacock has named Andrew Warlen as the new Independence Public Health Director. Warlen succeeds Larry Jones, who retired in January

Warlen has been with the Health Department since 2001, when he became Code Compliance Manager. He was named Assistant Health Director in 2013.

"Independence is my hometown and I am committed to the Health Department's mission of making it a safe and healthy place to live," Warlen said.

Currently appointed to the National Association of County & City Health Officials' Health Equity Social Justice

Committee, Warlen also serves on the Board of the Missouri Public Health Association. He is a Certified Environmental Health Specialist and a Certified Code Enforcement Officer.

A graduate of Ft. Osage High School, Warlen received his Master of Public Health (MPH) from the University of Kansas. He is an active member of the Independence Kiwanis Club and a proud Eagle Scout.

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

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

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.

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
- Tom Van Camp District 4
- Karen DeLuccie At-Large
- Chris Whiting At-Large
- City Manager**
- Robert Heacock 325-7170

5K INDEPENDENCE RUN/WALK PARKTROT

FREE 5K
FREE KIDS' FUN RUN
SAT., MAY 2, 2015 • 8 a.m.

WATERFALL PARK



CENTERPOINT MEDICAL CENTER



Registration open now at:
www.independencemotrot.com
 Online registration ends April 19

Regional Animal Shelter

21001 E. Hwy. 78, Independence

Help them find a forever home.

ADOPTIONS

Noon - 7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday
11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

Call (816) 783-5104

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.



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

*Denotes live meeting, all others are rebroadcasts.