

# CityScene



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www.independencemo.org  
City of Independence, MO

## “The Mile Starts Here” Program Starts Its Fourth Year in 2015

With the warmer weather of spring, outside activities sound more appealing. The Independence Health Department is excited to continue *The Mile Starts Here* walking program in 2015.

This free, weekly program shares the wonderful parks, trails and walking routes in Independence, promotes physical activity and builds a social atmosphere for the walkers.

In 2014, an average of 45 walkers participated each week, and logged 1,315 miles walked as part of the program.

The first walk of the season kicks off this year’s program at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, May 6, at Waterfall Park (4501 S. Bass



Pro Dr.) behind Bass Pro Shops.

The walks will rotate to different parks each Wednesday through the end of October. The location schedule will be available soon and shared via social media and at the walk.

The program is especially beneficial for those who want to walk, but don’t feel comfortable walking alone.

Many enjoy discovering the hidden trails and walks in their neighborhoods.

Join your neighbors and friends with *The Mile Starts Here* on at 9 a.m. on Wednesday mornings throughout the summer.

There’s a lot to gain from a simple mile walk!

## Tourism Looking For Additional Volunteers

Do you love your city? Are you a people person? Here’s your chance to share your enthusiasm for all things Independence with some of our thousands of visitors each year!

The Tourism Department can be the first impression for our visitors from all over the world – including all 50 states and more than 40 different countries.

Volunteers and docents are critically important both at the Visitor Experience Center at the Historic Jackson County Courthouse and at the historic sites. Not only are they trusted advisors to visitors, but also to area residents about activities and events held in both Independence and the Greater Kansas City area.

“Volunteers have a lot of fun,” said Tourism Director Cori Day. “They have an enthusiasm for our local sites and for Independence, as well as pride in the area.”

When you make the decision to volunteer, you will attend a Heartland Tourism Ambassador training program. You may learn things you never knew about Independence and will have fun at the same time. Volunteers who assist guests at the Visitor Center have access to resource materials and the internet for creating a unique experience guide for visitors.

Tourism Volunteer Coordinator Gary Sheridan added, “We are always looking for both men and women to add to our pool of volunteers, and particularly need cashiers and guides at the historic sites.”

Contact Gary Sheridan at 816-325-7890 or rsheridan@indepmo.org to learn how you can become a member of the Visitor Experience Center or Tourism Volunteer team.

Regular brisk walking can help improve your health in several ways. The faster, farther and more frequently you walk, the greater the benefits. It can help:

- Reduce body fat
- Lower blood pressure
- Decrease the risk for heart disease and stroke
- Decrease the risk for Type 2 diabetes
- Boost your memory
- Improve your quality of life
- Strengthen your bones and muscles
- Give you an energy boost
- Help you sleep better
- Reduce stress levels



## President Truman's Birthday Celebrated in May

Recognize the birthday of Independence's most famous citizen in May!

Start the celebration to honor President Truman with a visit to the Harry S Truman Library and Museum at 500 W. U.S. Highway 24 for "Buck Days." From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on **Saturday, May 2**, admission is only \$1 for everyone over age 6. Free admission for ages 5 and under. For information call (816) 268-8200 or visit [www.trumanlibrary.org](http://www.trumanlibrary.org).

Enjoy a full day of activities on President Truman's actual birthdate – **Friday, May 8** – by returning to the Truman Library. The Library will open at 8:30 a.m., with a wreath-laying ceremony at 9 a.m. in the courtyard. Admission for the wreath-laying ceremony is free; after 10 a.m. admission is \$8 for adults; \$7 for seniors 65+; \$3 for youth 6-15; and free for 5 and under.

Birthday cake will be served to visitors beginning at 1:30 p.m. and you can visit with "President Truman" from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. There will also be an obser-



vance of the 70th anniversary of WWII Victory in Europe.

Continue the birthday festivities with "Pancakes With Harry," from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on **Saturday, May 9** on the historic Independence Square. Come early and join in the all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast with "Harry Truman." Tickets may be purchased from any participating merchant on The Square or at the Visitors Experience Center located inside the Historic Truman Courthouse.

After breakfast, stroll around The Square and visit the Truman Trunk Sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Pharaoh Theatre parking lot. You can also dress your pet like Harry or Bess for the 11 a.m. pet parade, and enter a contest to win prizes. It's a full day of fun, so come out and celebrate! For details on any events, visit [www.theindependencesquare.com](http://www.theindependencesquare.com) or call (816) 461-0065.

Grab your comfortable shoes and come celebrate the full moon at 8 p.m. on



**Friday, May 1** with a free moonlit hike through George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Road. Bring your binoculars and check out the evening sights. To fully enjoy the experience, we will be walking off the paved trail, so no strollers or light-up shoes are allowed. Participation is limited to 12; call (816) 325-7115 to reserve your place by 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 30.

The kids will love Nature Story Time at George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Road. At 11 a.m. on **Saturday, May 9** the featured story will be "Dinner With A Bumblebee." This free program includes exploring outside and making a craft. Offered with support of the Kansas City Public Library. For details, call (816) 325-7115.

You know spring is here when you see Pets In The Park! Dig out the costumes and dress up your pet at this free event for kids, pets and parents. Sponsored by Parks & Recreation and the Independence Kiwanis Club, the fun starts at 10 a.m. on **Saturday, May 16** at Waterfall Park, 4501 S. Bass Pro Drive.

The pet judging will be from 10 to 11:30 a.m., followed by the traditional pet parade. Vaccinations will be available for \$5; micro-chipping for \$15. Meet other pet parents, visit with pet product vendors, and don't forget to bring an animal care donation to benefit homeless pets.

May's puppet show will be "The Magic Pot" on at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on **Saturday, May 23** at the Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Road. All ages will enjoy this Chinese folk tale about a woodcutter and his wife who discover a magic pot which brings them good fortune – and bad. Tickets are \$5 – For information call (816) 833-9777 or go to [www.hazelle.org](http://www.hazelle.org).



For more information about activities and events in Independence, check the Calendar of Events at [www.independencemo.org](http://www.independencemo.org) or call the Tourism Department at (816) 325-7111.

## May is Historic Preservation Month

Looking to get out into the community? Each year, the City's Historic Preservation Division celebrates National Historic Preservation Month throughout the entire month of May.

Scheduled events highlight the significance of the city's history through heritage education programs, local tours, and an awards program recognizing outstanding preservation efforts by individuals and community organizations.

This year's calendar of events includes soldiers of the American Civil War, "Twitter Takeovers" by historical characters who influenced Independence, and talks about historic architecture and landscapes. A special thank you is extended to our community heritage partners for their combined efforts to make these events engaging and motivating.

The following is a sampling of this year's events:

- Lunch 'n Learn lectures on the architecture of bungalows, how National Historic Landmark Districts work, the fu-

ture of the Hiram Young School, the Vaile Mansion's historic landscapes, and the dollar value of owning a historic house

- A behind-the-scenes tour of the Waggoner Gates Flour Mill located at the National Frontier Trails Museum
- A walking tour of Woodlawn Cemetery highlighting military markers and Civil War soldiers buried there
- A talk on 1945, Truman, and the events which influenced that pivotal year
- Two *Twitter Takeovers* allowing the public to "chat" with "Harry Truman" and Civil War leader "Sterling Price"
- A presentation of the annual Historic Preservation Month proclamation and the 2015 Hickman Historic Preservation Awards at the City Council Meeting on Monday, May 4.

Most events are free and open to the public. For a full listing of events go to: [www.independencemo.org/ComDev/HistoricPreservation.aspx](http://www.independencemo.org/ComDev/HistoricPreservation.aspx) or call (816) 325-7419.

# Remember! Only Rain Down The Drain!

A large portion of the City is served by some portion of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System. It is called “separate” because it is distinctly different from the sanitary sewer system.

Managed by Water Pollution Control (WPC) the sanitary sewer system carries wastewater from the plumbing drains (sinks, toilets, laundry, etc.) in homes and businesses. It is collected and treated before it re-enters the water use cycle.

The storm sewer system is different. Unlike the sanitary sewer system, the storm sewer system does not flow to a wastewater treatment plant. Storm sewers flow into area streams, rivers and lakes without treatment.

The storm sewer system is designed for and intended only for rain, snow melt, and related water run off. This system helps clear streets and provide overland drainage during heavy rains. Anything entering the storm sewer system goes directly into the waterways used for swimming and other recreation – the home of fish, crawdads, frogs and plants.

Anything other than storm water can be harmful to the environment. These are

called illicit discharges. City ordinances prohibit dumping or discharging anything but storm water into storm drains. This includes (but is not limited to) chlorinated swimming pool water and filter backwash, washing machine water, oil, antifreeze and other automotive fluids, solids of any type, chemicals and cooking oil. Never put anything into a street side curb inlet.

Illicit discharges can be detected when storm sewer drains carry measurable flow during dry weather. During Fiscal Year 2013-2014, WPC investigated 31 illicit discharge complaints and 44 reports of dumping yard waste or other solid waste into storm sewer structures or drains.

Practice healthy household habits to keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings and automotive fluids off the ground and out of the storm sewer system. To help protect streams, rivers, and lakes, follow these simple tips:

» Never discard trash or yard waste (including grass clippings and leaves) down

storm drains or in the street.

» When mowing, discharge into the yard, not the street.

» Sweep driveways and sidewalks clean instead of hosing them off.

» Pick up after your pets. Of bacteria found in samples collected from local waterways, 25% belong to pet waste.

» Repair auto fluid leaks and never place used oil in the trash or pour down storm drains. Visit [www.recyclespot.org](http://www.recyclespot.org) to find the nearest oil recycling center or call (816) 474-TEAM.

» Wash your car at a commercial carwash or in a grassy area; not on a driveway or in the street.

» Dispose of toxic household and lawn chemicals at a household hazardous waste collection center or mobile collection.

To report spills, illicit discharges and storm water system problems, call the storm water pollution Hot Line at (816) 325-7727. To learn more about the City’s Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, please call WPC at (816) 325-7711 or visit [www.independencemo.org/wpc](http://www.independencemo.org/wpc).



## Home Energy Loan Program Available

Independence Power and Light wants to help you lower your energy bill. New high-efficiency HVAC systems or additional insulation can save money every month on your utility bill.

If you are an owner-occupant of your home and it’s time to replace your furnace and air-conditioning unit, IPL’s Home Energy Loan Program may be the financing option for you.



The Home Energy Loan Program offers low interest loans up to \$15,000 with terms up to 10 years. Loans can be used to add insulation, replace HVAC systems, and in some cases replace aging, leaking windows and doors.

The process is simple and fast. For information go to [www.independencemohelp.org/](http://www.independencemohelp.org/).

## NFTM To Be A Blue Star Museum

From Memorial Day, May 25, to Labor Day, September 7, the National Frontier Trails Museum at 318 W. Pacific will join museums across the country as a Blue Star Museum, offering free admission to active duty military personnel and their families.

Blue Star Museums is a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense and more than 2,000 museums. Offering free admission to service members recognizes the importance of their contributions to our country. Active-duty military personnel includes the National Guard and Reserves.

Museum hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sundays. For more information about the Museum call (816) 325-7575 or visit [www.independencemo.org/nftm](http://www.independencemo.org/nftm).

**Adventure Oasis opens with a splash Saturday, May 23!**



### Summer Operating Hours:

Noon - 8 p.m. Monday - Friday  
11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Saturday/Sunday  
11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Holidays

For admission pricing, call (816) 325-7843 or visit [www.independencemo.org/ParksAndRec/AdvenOasis](http://www.independencemo.org/ParksAndRec/AdvenOasis).

**Your Adventure Awaits!**

## Love Rain Gardens?

Learn all about rain gardens at a special program Saturday, May 30. Beginning at 9 a.m. at the Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple, speakers will cover the basics of design and maintenance and how to pick the ideal native plants.

The program moves to George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Rd. for lunch (included), finishing up the afternoon program by 2:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Missouri Prairie Foundation’s *Grow Native!* program and George Owens Nature Park. Registration \$30 for Foundation members; \$40 for non-members. Learn more at [www.grownative.org](http://www.grownative.org) or call (816) 325-7115.

# 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

**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.

## 5K INDEPENDENCE RUN/WALK PARK TROT

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

### WATERFALL PARK



CENTERPOINT MEDICAL CENTER

Building a Healthier Independence

**Registration open now at:**  
[www.independencetrot.com](http://www.independencetrot.com)  
 Online registration ends April 19

## 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

## 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.