

CityScene



August 2015
Volume 22 Number 8

www.independencemo.org
City of Independence, MO

Stormwater Sales Tax Improving Neighborhoods

In 2000, a ten-year stormwater sales tax was approved by voters. One of the projects funded was for pipeline and curb inlet additions/improvements for stormwater management in the Bellevista neighborhood.

ditional stormwater system improvement projects could be completed throughout the city, including the Bellevista Channel Improvements.

As a part of this project, existing retaining walls were planned to be removed and replaced by a gabion-walled channel. Gabions are rock-filled wire baskets which offer the benefits of slope stabilization, excellent permeability, and result in a decrease of water velocity. When water moves more slowly, it results in less destruction including the elimination of surface water intrusion into homes and landscapes.

To complete the planning for this project, a partnership was formed with the residents of the neighborhood. Required easements were donated by the property owners for the improvement of their properties. The engineering phase of the project took nearly a year to complete, and construction began in the spring of 2014.

Now completed, the Bellevista Channel Improvements project includes 1,360 cubic yards of excavation, 813 cubic yards of rock gabions, 2,193 native plant plugs, and 178 tree and shrub plantings. The new gabion channel has improved water quality and provides better collection.

Stormwater now drains faster into the system.

One area resident was so pleased with the project he shared his appreciation in an e-mail. "As I look out our back yard at the beautiful Bellevista Creek today, I want to thank all of you who

were so instrumental in bringing this project to completion. The gabion wall, with the beautiful Redwood trees and red plantings along side are such an improvement over the overgrowth and flood problems we had in previous years," he said.

"Even though we have had the 9th heaviest rainfall in May on record, we have seen the new channel easily carry the water on down to Drumm Farm," he continued. "As we look out at the green sod that was placed by the Landscaping company, we observe that it contains no weeds or dandelions, and so we are even appreciative of the high quality of the materials and sod that was used to finish the project."

For more information about stormwater improvement projects, contact Water Pollution Control stormwater division at (816) 325-7724.



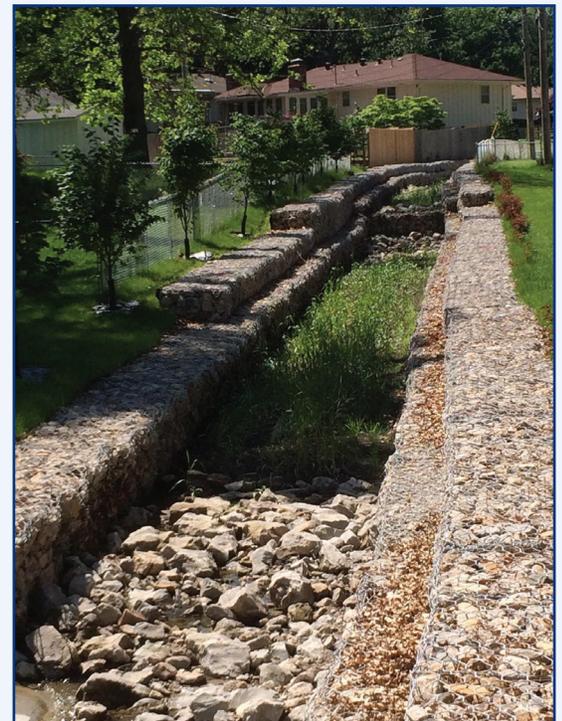
Before construction – different types and failing retaining walls caused scouring in the channel.



During construction - failing retaining walls were removed and gabion-walled channel constructed.

While these upgrades did improve stormwater intrusion in the neighborhood, a second piece of the project, the stormwater channel, was put on hold due to lack of resources.

In 2010, Independence voters overwhelmingly passed a perpetual stormwater sales tax. As a result, ad-



Post construction - gabion channel with native plantings decrease water velocity and increase water quality.

September Shines With Annual Festivals And Events

It's the last **Toddler Town on Tour** for this year! Kids ages 2-8 can enjoy the final days of summer while exploring the playground in this free program from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, September 2 at Santa Fe Trail Park, 2731 S. Santa Fe Rd. Parks & Recreation staff will help kids with simple craft projects.

The 43rd annual **Santa-Cali-Gon Days** Festival kicks off at noon Friday, September 4 and runs through Labor Day, Monday September 7. This family-friendly event features giant Arts and Crafts tents, free entertainment on the Community, Gospel and Main stages and everyone's favorite festival food! Wade Shows Carnival and Bingo will provide fun for all ages.

The Main Stage entertainment headliners this year include Hamilton Loomis on Friday, September 4 – Blues night; Head East on Saturday, September 5 – Classic Rock night; and Blackjack Billy on Sunday, September 6 – Country Music night. Local favorites will take the stage for the Battle of the Bands on Monday, September 7.

More than 50 local non-profit groups will sell delicious food and beverages, returning the profits back to the community all year long. Visit www.santacaligon.com for more information about the Festival.

Lead Safe KC Program Assists Homeowners

Was your home built before 1978? Do you have small children in the house?

The City of Independence is participating in the Lead Safe KC Program, to identify and control lead paint hazards in homes where young children are at risk for lead poisoning.

Typically lead paint is found in housing constructed before 1978. Lead hazards exist where lead paint is in deteriorated condition, or has been applied to a friction or impact surface such as a window or door jamb.

Lead hazard reduction grant activities are conducted in compliance with HUD's Lead Safe Housing Rule by qualified and licensed lead abatement professionals.

The Lead Safe KC Program will identify eligible projects, assess and develop the required scope of work, procure abate-



Visitors enjoyed the vendors around The Square during the 2014 Santa-Cali-Gon Days Festival.

The **Independence Uncorked Winefest** is one of the largest Missouri wine festivals in the state. This annual extravaganza features wine, art, music, food booths and wine classes. This year more than 2,000 are expected to attend the event from 1-6 p.m. on Saturday, September 12, on the grounds of the historic Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific.

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Eastern Independence, proceeds will benefit various charities including the McCoy Park all-inclusive playground, Great Plains SPCA, Community Services League, Rotary Youth Camp and the Rotary Foundation. The cost is \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door, and includes a wine glass and wine bag.

It's not too late to join the free walking group each week for *The Mile Starts Here*.

ment contractors, and provide oversight of construction related activities.

Applicants are required to submit proof of household income, homeownership deed, and a birth certificate. Eligible projects must be:

- A home constructed before 1978
- Occupied by households whose income is less than 80% of Area Median Income
- Occupied by one or more children under the age of six who live in or visit the home at least six hours per week; or have an occupant who is pregnant.

Independence's Lead Hazard Control Grant Program is a partnership between the City of Independence and the Kansas City, Missouri Health Department Lead Safe Kansas City Project. For more information or to obtain an application, contact (816) 513-6048.

Each walk leaves at 9 a.m. on Wednesdays. September schedule:

- Sept. 2 at Waterfall Park, 4501 S. Bass Pro Drive
- Sept. 9 at McCoy Park, 8900 N. Bess Truman Pkwy.
- Sept. 16 at The Independence Athletic Complex, 17800 E. Salisbury Road
- Sept. 23 at Country Club Park, 2030 S. Norton Ave.
- Sept. 30 at the Community of Christ Temple trail, 1001 W. Walnut St.

The **Englewood Station Arts District**, on Winner Road west of Sterling Avenue, is alive with art, street performers, music, food, fashion and fun the third Friday of each month. From 5:30 to 9 p.m. on Friday, September 18, a rotating collection of more than four dozen local and regional artists will display their creativity for sale, and are regularly on-site for meet and greet with visitors.

As the kids get into back-to-school mode, bring them to the **National Frontier Trails Museum**, 318 W. Pacific. At 6 p.m. on Thursday, September 24, they can learn about the Santa Fe Trail in an hour-long program which includes a wagon tour to the swales (ruts) created in the 1830s and a tour of the Santa Fe exhibit gallery of the museum. Tickets are \$16 per adult, \$10 for children ages 6-17. Advance reservations required; call (816) 325-7575.

For more September events, contact Tourism at (816) 325-7111.



The Independence Police Department is again participating in the Drug Enforcement Administration's national prescription drug "Take-Back" effort on **Saturday, September 26**.

Bring your unused, unwanted or expired prescription drugs for free, safe disposal. The Independence collection site will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot north of City Hall, 111 E. Maple. People will be able to drop off in a drive-through lane without leaving their vehicles.

This is an opportunity for the public to safely empty out medicine cabinets of both over-the-counter and prescription drugs that are no longer needed or have expired. No needles or inhalers may be accepted.

For more information contact Sgt. Phil Hininger at (816) 325-7279.

Heritage Festival September 19

The City of Independence takes pride in recognizing and celebrating the diverse culture and heritage of its citizens each year. The annual Heritage Festival will be held from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, September 19 at Hill Park, 2201 S. Maywood Ave. This year's theme is "Bridging the Gap."

The Festival is free to attend, and is coordinated through the efforts of the Independence Human Relations Commission and LINC. Groups will be showcased through live stage entertainment, food vendors, merchandise booths and children's activities. The annual Ted Stillwell Heritage Award will be presented to an outstanding citizen.



Scenes from the 2014 Heritage Festival



In addition, the Festival team is pleased to announce the second annual skateboard competition sponsored by Diverse Skateboards. The competition will begin at noon and is free to all participants.

During the Festival, donations will be accepted for Hope House. All attendees are encouraged to bring contributions of personal hygiene products such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner, body wash and feminine products. Donations for infants, such as diapers and wipes, will also be accepted.

For more information, visit the City's website at www.independencemo.org.

Storm Response

Early on the morning of Friday, June 26, the City was struck by straight-line winds exceeding 80 mph, causing extensive property damage and leaving more than 40,000 homes without power.

Utility Customer Service representatives answered more than 3,000 calls that day alone, more than three times the normal call volume.

By Monday, June 29, fewer than 800 homes remained out and power was fully restored within a week. Emergency Preparedness volunteers established and staffed a Debris Hotline to help affected residents needing assistance. More than 100 volunteers from partner agencies contributed more than 4,000 hours to assist the citizens of Independence.

Health Assessment Surveys This Fall

The Health Department needs your help! To assist with future program development and to determine the programs most beneficial for the citizens of Independence, an extensive community health assessment (CHA) begins in September.

Every two years, a key part of the assessment is a survey which will be mailed to approximately 12,700 randomly-selected households across the City.

Be on the lookout for the CHA survey in September, as you may have been selected to complete the survey.

Monitoring the health of the citizens of Independence, both physical and social, is an important part of the Independence Health Department (IHD).

The survey will take approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete, and the responses will help IHD prioritize community needs and determine what programs are offered to residents. Once the survey data is compiled, the Health Department will be able to compare previous survey data with the current survey data to determine if health behaviors have changed.

If you receive the survey, completing it promptly is one important way to help us build a healthier Independence. There will be two options available for completing the survey: fill out and return the survey you receive in the mail, or fill out the survey on-line using the link provided in the packet.

For any questions related to the CHA survey, please call (816) 325-7185.

Remember To Clean Up After Fido

When summer arrives, more and more people spend time outside. Playing with the family pet or taking the dog for a walk are both great ways to enjoy the warm weather. Whether in your own yard, at one of the city's dog parks or just walking around the block, be prepared to clean up after your dog. No one wants to step in what your dog left behind.

Not only is the odor a nuisance, but feces left on the ground can be a potential health risk to people and other animals.

City ordinance 3.03.010 requires that you clean up after your pet, including public and private properties. When walking your dog, carry a disposable bag to pick up and dispose of waste properly. If you forget a bag, look for doggie-doo bag dispensing units in City parks. Tie the bag securely before placing it in the trash.



Adults working in the garden, children playing outside and your pets are the most at risk for infection from some of the bacteria and parasites found in pet waste.

Don't leave pet waste in your yard – it is not a fertilizer. If not disposed of properly, every time it rains, pet waste washes down storm drains and eventually into streams, rivers and lakes without being treated at wastewater treatment facilities. If you bury pet waste in your yard, place it at least 12 inches deep and cover with at least eight inches of soil. Bury it in several locations, away from any vegetable gardens.

Not picking up after Fido could result in a citation being issued. So if you go outside with your pet, take a bag with you and help make Independence a clean, safe and healthy place to live and play.

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
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.

The Mile Starts Here

Featuring:
 Waterfall Park
 The McCoy Mile
 INDEPENDENCE ATHLETIC COMPLEX
 Country Club Park

Little Blue Route
 and Church Mile

Join us as we walk a mile, every Wednesday at 9 am, May-Oct. Find out where and when at: BuildingAHealthierIndependence.org



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

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.