

CityScene



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www.independencemo.org
City of Independence, MO

To Flush or Not To Flush? That Is The Question!

Keeping the Independence Sewer System flowing continuously 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year is a priority for Independence Water Pollution Control (WPC).

Some consider the toilet a magical trash can. Simply toss, flush, and your garbage is marvelously whooshed away to some watery subterranean netherworld, never to be seen again.

Unfortunately, using a toilet to dispose of trash is bad for many reasons: clogged toilets requiring plumbers or replacement, damaged wastewater treatment centers, expensive cleanups, a waste of fresh water (up to three gallons per flush), higher water and utility bills, toxic environmental issues and raw sewage overflows.



Toilets are designed to remove human waste and toilet paper. These readily break down in water; other solids do not. To help avoid blockages and keep the toilet flushing correctly, do not flush these items:

Syringes and needles: Disposing of these down the toilet is dangerous and could cause injury to a member of our sewer maintenance team.

Diapers: Most main pipes are only 4" wide. Cloth, plastic, or biodegradable diapers will clog a toilet or outgoing line and should never be flushed.

Wipes: "Flushable wipes," baby wipes, hand wipes, facial wipes, cleaning wipes, and other wipes are thicker and sturdier than toilet paper. They do not break down easily which can result in clogged pipes and back-ups into homes or businesses.

Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG): Grease is a byproduct of cooking. It comes from meat, lard, oil, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, baked goods, salad dressings, sauces

and dairy products. Never pour grease in your sink drain or toilet. It sticks to the inside wall of the pipes where it continues to build up until it causes a blockage. This can be an expensive problem if blocked sewer pipes cause raw sewage to back up into a home or business, or overflow into streets and streams.

Cat Litter: Cat litter, even the "scoopable" and "flushable" kind, sinks to the bottom of pipes, promoting clogs.

Dental Floss: Seemingly innocent, dental floss is non-biodegradable and wraps around small clogs and tangles them into bigger masses.

Chemicals: Paints, solvents, sealants, thinners, motor oil, automotive fluids, poisons, hazardous wastes, fertilizers, pesticides and furniture varnish are all harmful to the wastewater process. Chemicals can be disposed of at your local Household Hazardous Waste event each spring or at a permanent collection site.

Cigarette Butts: Although they seem flushable, cigarette filters don't easily biodegrade. They are filled with chemicals, which leach into the wastewater. Keep in mind that sewage is treated and placed back into the waterway, so we want to keep our water as chemical-free as possible.

Medications: Flushing medications just adds chemicals into the water system. Water treatment plants are not equipped to remove those chemicals from the water. Instead, take unused medicines to a local drug take-back event.

Other items which should never be flushed include: feminine hygiene products, dryer sheets, coffee grounds, dirt, plastic bags, paper towels and napkins, cotton balls and cotton swabs, tissues, bandages, chewing gum, condoms, cosmetics, food, hair, razors and blades, Swiffer pads, toilet bowl scrub pads, toys, clothing and dead pets.

All these items can lead to a blockage in the line, which can be costly to everyone. It may be easy to toss and flush, but please remember the **Toilet is Not a Trash Can**. Questions? Contact WPC at (816) 325-7711.

Independence Receives Recognitions

When you visit the City of Independence website, you are viewing the best city government website in the country!

The Center for Digital Government named Independence its 2015 Best of the Web award winner for its innovation, functionality and performance, surpassing websites of other cities such as Los Angeles, CA; Ft. Lauderdale, FL; and Boulder, CO.

There are about 85,000 visitors to the City's website each month. Because nearly half of the website visitors are

on a mobile device, it was designed to be colorful and easy to use on a mobile device as well as a desktop computer.



Developed totally in-house by Technology Services Department staff, the website enables residents to interact with the City in different ways, such as the Action Center

and signing in to myIndependence. The website plays a major part in the collection of nearly \$38 million in annual online transactions – about 30% of utilities payments are now made by residents online.

See Recognition, Page 3

November Events Usher In The 2015 Holiday Season

On **Sunday, November 8**, the City of Independence will partner with the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum and Truman Library Institute, 500 W U.S. Hwy. 24, to present the Fourth Annual Honorable Ike Skelton Veterans Day Ceremony.

From noon until 5 p.m., the tribute to America's servicemen and women will include a military vehicle display, patriotic performances, flyover by the Heart of America Commemorative Air Force, 21-gun salute, mess tent, and micro-exhibits of personal military collections, from the Civil War to the War on Terror.

The keynote address by military journalist Joseph L. Galloway will be given at 3 p.m. and a wreath-laying ceremony will be held at 4 p.m.

U.S. veterans and active military will be admitted free on Sunday, November 8 and also on Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11. For complete details, please visit www.TrumanLibraryInstitute.org/upcoming-events.

The holiday season officially arrives on The Square on **Saturday, November 14**. The Kid's Winter Wonderland returns from 3 to 5 p.m., offering free children's Christmas activities such as letters to Santa, face painting and dancing from Studio 3V Dance Center dancers. From noon until 6 p.m., catch a ride on a mule-drawn sleigh around The Square with Pioneer Trails Adventures (fee). Santa will visit with children from 3:30 to 5 p.m. and concessions includ-

ing hot kettle corn, hot cocoa and more will be sold. Strolling carolers will entertain the crowd from 4 to 5 p.m. followed by the program and the Tree Lighting Ceremony.

The annual Mayor's Prayer Hour will be held at 4 p.m. on Thursday, **November 19**, in the Laurel Club (downstairs) at the Community of Christ Auditorium, 1001 W. Walnut. This year's theme is Volunteerism, and the keynote speaker will be Harold Finch. Tickets are \$10 each, or a table of 8 for \$80. Sponsorships available. Contact Kim Osborne in the Mayor's office at (816) 325-7027 for tickets or more information.

For unique holiday gifts, it's the Best Little Arts & Crafts Show! Browse through four floors filled with more than 115 booths offering a wide variety of arts and crafts. Held at the Roger T. Sermon Community Center, 201 N. Dodgion, it features both local and regional vendors, all selling original wares. Free admission from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. **Friday, November 20** and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. **Saturday, November 21**. For information call (816) 325-7370.

For great family fun following your Thanksgiving Day feast, follow Jack on his lively adventure up the beanstalk with "Jack and the Beanstalk" at the Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Road. It's a fairy tale classic with humor, suspense and a not-so-bad giant, presented at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on **Friday and Saturday, November 27 and 28**. Tickets are \$5. For reservations, call (816) 833-9777.

"Deck the Halls" is this year's theme for Christmas at the beautiful Bingham-Wagoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific.

The holiday season begins **Friday, November 27** and continues daily through Wednesday, December 30 (closed Dec. 23, 24 & 25). Tours are offered Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. Adult admission - \$6; Youth admission ages 6 - 16 - \$3.

If you're looking for a special place for your group's holiday lunch or dinner, the beautifully-decorated Carriage House welcomes groups from 10 to 50. Tables are set formally with china, glass stemware and silverware on linen tablecloths, and all menus include dessert, and coffee or tea. Call Shireen at (816) 461-3491 to select a date or with any questions.

Stay Safe While Trick-or-Treating

To keep Halloween night as thrilling as it should be, remember these tips:

- Remind trick-or-treaters to watch out for cars, and remind drivers to watch for kids in the road.
- Plan costumes which are bright and shiny. Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags, and have kids use a flashlight to help them be seen by drivers.
- An adult should always accompany younger children. Walking in groups is best.
- Encourage children to walk from house to house. Kids can even wear pedometers and start a friendly competition to see who can be the most active while collecting candy.
- Use the sidewalk, or walk at the edge of the road facing traffic when no sidewalk is available. Use crosswalks wherever possible. Teach children basic pedestrian skills, such as looking both ways before crossing the street.
- Before eating, examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering. Eat only factory-wrapped treats and avoid homemade treats made by strangers.
- Limit the amount of treats you and your children eat. Ask if your child would like to swap some, or all, of the candy for a special toy, book or outing.
- Consider alternative treats. These can include stickers, toys, temporary tattoos, decks of cards, pretzels, trail mix, raisins, popcorn, small boxes of cereal or even toothbrushes.



Researching the History of Your Home

Curious about the history of your house, but not sure how to begin researching? The Historic Preservation Division developed its guide, "Researching the History of Your Home" with you in mind. This straightforward, "how-to" guide takes you step-by-step through the process. Start by taking notes while walking the exterior and interior of your home, identifying the architectural style, and finally talking with neighbors.

Once this is done, you are guided through a variety of free-to-access historical documents. These include maps, county records, city directories, and local building surveys. These documents help you find names of previous owners, what your house may have looked like when first constructed and how it evolved, and its address with original number(s) and street name(s). Many streets in Indepen-

dence have changed numbers and names several times throughout the years.

Some of these resources can be accessed online through the links provided in the guide, others are available at local repositories.

Finally, the guide suggests completing your house history research by using genealogical records, family images and oral histories of past owners, and historical photographs from newspapers or local collections.

Once complete, we'd love to hear from you about how your research went and what you discovered. Access our free digital guide at: <http://bit.ly/1idxE2Y> and then share your experiences with us via email at: wshay@indepmo.org or via social media on Facebook at Historic Preservation-Independence, Missouri and Twitter @HistPresIndepMo.

Make your fall celebration safe and fun for everyone!

2015 Block Award Winner Announced

Christina Leakey, Programs Supervisor in the Community Development Department, is the recipient of the 2015 Susan Paxton Block Award for Distinguished Public Service.



makes her a champion for groups as they work to improve their neighborhoods.

“When I think of the many people in our community who give constantly, and with all their hearts, in order to improve life for others, it truly surprises me to be selected for this award,” Leakey said.

“I am very thankful to receive this honor, and am very grateful for the opportunity to serve the community I call home.”

The Junior Service League, of which Block was a second-generation member and served as president in 1989-1990, presents the award at the City Council meeting just prior to Block’s birthday, September 24.

The Susan Block award is presented annually to a City employee, volunteer or elected official who has demonstrated outstanding public service, valor, and job performance with leadership.

Junior Service League past president Jolie Austin presented the award at the September 21 City Council meeting.

In her nomination, Leakey was praised as an amazing champion of neighborhoods and residents, particularly in northwest Independence. Her contributions to the redevelopment of the Mt. Washington Senior Apartments was cited as an impetus to rebirth of citizen engagement in the surrounding community.

In addition, the nomination said her ability to provide direction and information on best practices around the country



Christina Leakey (left) accepts the award from Jolie Austin, JSL Past President.

Recognition From Page 1

Go to www.independencemo.org to view the website and see why Mayor Eileen Weir said, “The City of Independence strives to be a reliable source of information and knowledge to our current and future residents, businesses and visitors, and having the nation’s best government website is a huge part of helping us achieve those goals.”

A second recognition recently received by the City was the selection of David Dickerson, Property Maintenance Officer with the Independence Health Department as the Missouri Code Enforcement Officer of the Year by the Missouri Association of Code Enforcement (MACE).

Dickerson was honored at the Association’s annual meeting following voting by a selection committee of peers. The MACE Officer of the Year is an individual who best exhibits a professional attitude at all times, without any bias, who adheres to the highest ethical practices while performing their job duties.

Dickerson has been with the City for more than 20 years and has worked in both animal control and code enforcement.

Public Safety Sales Tax Election Tuesday, November 3

On Tuesday, November 3, Independence voters will vote on continuation of the 1/8 of one percent Fire Protection Sales Tax, which provides funding for the purchase, construction, repair, maintenance and reconstruction of facilities and equipment and training for the Fire Department, and continuation of the 1/8 of one percent Capital Improvement Sales Tax, which provides funding for the purchase, construction, repair and maintenance of facilities and equipment for the Police Department. These sales taxes were first approved by voters in 2004.

Capital Improvements Sales Tax Ballot Language:

Shall the City of Independence impose a sales tax of one-eighth of one percent, to be effective January 1, 2017, for the purpose of funding capital improvements for Public Safety purposes, including but not limited to the purchase, construction, repair and maintenance of Facilities and Equipment, which tax shall expire on December 31, 2028?

The Police Capital Improvement Sales Tax would continue to fund equipment and technology, including fleet replacement vehicles, mobile data terminals, in-car video, and on-going technology support and updating for the interoperable of the radio system.

Along with equipment and technology, the Sales Tax will fund maintenance and repairs of Police Headquarters including the detention center, firing range and the communications center. Police Department training is not funded by the Police Capital Improvement Sales Tax.

Fire Protection Sales Tax Ballot Language:

Shall the City of Independence impose a Sales Tax of one-eighth of one percent, to be effective January 1, 2017, for the purpose of providing for purchase, construction, repair, maintenance and reconstruction of facilities and equipment and for training within the operation of the municipal fire department which tax shall be in effect until December 31, 2028?

The Fire Protection Sales Tax would continue to fund equipment and technology such as the replacement of radios and the purchase of protective gear for firefighters. It would also fund replacement of fire trucks and related equipment on the fire trucks.

Routine maintenance for the 10 existing fire stations and the Fire Training Facility would also be funded by the Fire Protection Sales Tax. The tax renewal would continue funding for safety training of firefighters to meet industry standards, and fund education for fire personnel to maintain ISO-2 Rating for the City of Independence. Hazmat and paramedic training and education would continue to be funded from the Fire Protection Sales Tax.

For election information, contact the Jackson County Election Board at 215 N. Liberty, just north of the historic Independence Square or call (816) 325-4600.



Directory

CityScene is published monthly by the City Manager's Office, 111 East Maple Street, Independence, Missouri 64050. For information call 325-7019. The City's main website address is www.independencemo.org.



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
- Acting City Manager**
- John Pinch 325-7019

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 7 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.