

CityScene



November 2015
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www.independencemo.org
City of Independence, MO

Create Traditions With These Holiday Events

Make your family memories this winter with traditional activities all throughout the holiday season.

The elegant Vaile Mansion at 1500 N. Liberty will open for holiday tours on Friday, November 27. A profusion of ribbons, lace, cherubs, angels and garland makes each room ready for a Victorian Winter Wedding; a collection of wedding dresses will be displayed throughout the mansion. Holiday hours

are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday; Sundays from 1-4 p.m. Adult \$6/Child \$3 Closed Dec. 23-25.

In keeping with the Winter Wedding theme, on Saturday, December 5, the Vaile Mansion will present Champagne & Chandeliers-Happily Ever After. From 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., guests will enjoy games, door prizes, entertainment, champagne and hors d'oeuvres for only \$40 per person. For more information, visit www.vailemansion.org or call (816) 325-7430.

In December, the Children's Performing Theatre of Independence will present "Shrek the Musical JR." at the Roger T. Sermon Community Center, 201 N. Dodgion. Part romance and part twisted fairy tale, Shrek JR. is an irreverently fun show for the whole family. Curtain time is 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, December 4, 5, 11 and 12. Matinees at 2 p.m. on Sundays, December 6 and 13. Call (816) 325-7367 to reserve your seat. Adults \$7; Seniors (60+) \$6; Youth (12 and under) \$3.

Bring the kids out to celebrate the



The Vaile Mansion is a beautiful setting to get into the holiday spirit.

season with Mayor Eileen Weir and her sidekick, Santa Claus! The Mayor's Christmas Carnival will be held Saturday, December 5. This free family event is from 9 a.m. to noon at the Sermon Center, 201 N. Dodgion and includes face painting, carnival games, prizes, snacks and balloons. Don't forget your camera to snap a picture of the kids with Santa! For more information, call Parks & Recreation at (816) 325-7370.

Get more decorating

ideas on the Independence Young Matrons annual Holly & Mistletoe Tour! From 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, December 3, tour homes in historic Independence neighborhoods, then visit the Sweet Shop at St. Luke's United Church of Christ on N. Main Street. Tickets \$12 in advance; \$15 at the door. Call (816) 690-8043 or go to www.independencyoungmatrons.org.

Ring in the holiday season at the National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 5 with free wagon tours, refreshments and great deals in the Museum Store. Tour the exhibits with regular museum admission.

Dress for a walk along a woodland path by torchlight, and come out to George Owens Nature Park for the 12th Annual Winter Solstice Torch-lit Hike on Wednesday, December 16. From 5 to 6:30 p.m. you can watch artists carve ice sculptures, then look at the night sky through a telescope and see an owl up close. Hot chocolate will chase away the chill; the



first 150 guests receive a free mug. Bring the family and your camera to take a photo in the ice sleigh. The Nature Park is at 1601 S. Speck Road.

"Deck the Halls" will be the holiday theme this year at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific. The season begins Friday, November 27 and will continue daily through Wednesday, December 30. (Except Dec. 23, 24 and 25). Tours are offered Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. Adults \$6; Youth 6-16 \$3. Enjoy the lavish decorations throughout the mansion, then visit the Carriage House Boutique for unique and special gifts. Visit www.bwestate.net to learn more.

Bring on the bears! It's the holiday puppet show "The Night Bear-Fore Christmas" at the Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Road.

This fun-filled revue features your favorite Christmas tunes. Performances will be at 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. on Saturdays, December 12, 19, and 26. Tickets are \$5; reserve yours at (816) 833-9777 or visit www.hazelle.org.

Close out the month with Wagons Ho! at the National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific. On Wednesday, December 30 enjoy a great family program and learn all about the Westward Expansion. Kids can even pack a prairie schooner! After your special guided tour, take a wagon ride and imagine riding west toward a new life. Wagons Ho! is from 10 to 11:30 a.m.; admission is \$10 for adults; \$7.50 children 6-17.

For more information about events and activities in December, go to www.visitindependence.com or call the Tourism Department at (816) 325-7111.



Register to Win! Hockey and Soccer Ticket Contests Return

Independence residents can again register to win two tickets to a home game of Mavericks hockey or Comets soccer!

The City will give away a limited number of tickets to regular season home games at the Silverstein Eye Centers Arena, 19100 E. Valley View Parkway.

Independence residents 18 years and older can register on the City's website: www.independencemo.org. Click on the "Win Tickets" banner. A complete list of contest rules is on the website.



Entrants may select any number of games from the listed schedules and will be included in each drawing until their name is drawn as

a winner. Winners will be randomly selected by computer 10 days prior to each game and will be notified by telephone and/or email. (One winner per household each season, per team.)

When notified, winners may pick up their tickets at the arena Box Office any time it is open. A valid photo ID and proof of residency, such as a utility bill, are required when picking up tickets.

The box office is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. On weekend game days, the box office will open at least two hours prior to game time and will close approximately an hour after the game begins. Good luck!



Fall Clean-Up Guidelines

Got chores? For many, home cleanup projects top the fall "honey-do" list. When tackling these jobs, remember to consider your neighborhood environment and follow these suggestions:

☑ When cleaning home siding, lawn furniture, etc., use the right amount of product for the size of the job. Keep the water discharge, which may contain chemicals and detergents, from running into storm drains or swales near where you are working.

☑ Grass clippings, brush and leaves can be composted for use as a soil conditioner. You can also leave grass clippings on the ground to decompose and become fertilizer for your grass.

☑ If you fertilize your lawn, consider using slow-release products to prevent excess leaching into groundwater and potentially polluting streams.

☑ Keep storm gutters and drains clear of yard wastes to prevent clogs and flooding. Never dump leaves, grass or brush into the street, storm inlets, swales or creeks.

☑ Winterizing your pool? Drain your pool water to the sanitary sewer system through your household plumbing. Filter backwash, debris and chemicals make this water unsafe for disposal to the waterways.

☑ Automotive wastes must be properly disposed or taken for recycling. Never pour used oil onto the ground or into a storm drain or ditches.

Check out the opportunities for disposal of yard waste at area recycling centers and plan your yard work to take advantage of these sites. Visit the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) website at www.recyclespot.org for information on area recycling centers.

Take advantage of opportunities to participate in community cleanups and help spread this information to help keep the environment clean, safe and healthy. Call Water Pollution Control at (816) 325-7711 for more information.



Mayor's Christmas Concert December 6

Celebrate the holidays at the 30th Annual Mayor's Christmas Concert at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, December 6.

Benefitting the Community Services League, the concert will be held at the Community of Christ Auditorium at 1001 W. Walnut.

This year's concert will feature the Independence School District Fourth Grade Students.

In addition, there will be performances from the William Chrisman High School Concert Choir, the Fort Osage High School

Concert Choir, The Young MAIsterSingers of the Music Arts Institute and the Spirit of Independence Band. Directing this year's concert is Marilyn Gunn of the Independence School District.

The Master of Ceremonies this year will again be Independence resident Dick Wilson, from 94.9 KCMO. Admission is free. A free-will offering will be accepted during the concert. For more information, visit www.cslcares.org or call (816) 912-4485.



New Construction Projects In The Works

The past few months have been busy in the Community Development Department, not only with projects under construction, but also preparing for future projects.

The new Quik Trip at the corner of U.S. 24 and M-291 is nearing completion. It is expected to open by the end of 2015.

The former La-Z-Boy store at the corner of 39th Street and Jackson Drive is being converted into the Sarah Cannon Cancer Center of Independence, which will expand oncology services in Eastern Jackson County. This project is anticipated to be completed in 2016.

At Independence Center, Dick's Sporting Goods is constructing an addition and reconfiguring its existing space in the

Center for a new, remodeled store. The project should be done early in 2016.

Gates BBQ plans to rebuild at its former location on 40 Hwy. Construction plans have been reviewed and permits have been issued to construct a larger restaurant in its place.

Another restaurant is planned in the Falls at Crackerneck Creek development at the southwest corner of I-70 and I-470/M-291. Los Cabos Mexican Grill and Cantina has submitted plans to build next to the Stoney Creek Inn. Completion is expected in 2016.

For more information about these projects or any construction project in Independence, contact Randy Finkle, Acting Building Inspections Manager at (816) 325-7409.



Sermon Center Extends Hours

Enjoying the end of Daylight Savings Time? Don't let the extra hour we gained go to waste! On Monday, November 2 the Sermon Community Center, 201 N. Dodgion, extended its hours of operation.

To accommodate early morning workouts and exercise classes, the facility will now open at 6 a.m. Monday through Friday and at 8 a.m. on Saturdays. All workout areas will be available, along with the opportunity to take some new, early classes. Full Body Fit will be held at 7:15 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. At 6:15 a.m. on Wednesday mornings, Cardio Dance will help you get started on the right foot. Other classes will be added after the holidays. Membership and class fees apply.

Not a morning person? The Sermon Center is open until 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; until 5 p.m. on Fridays; and until 6 p.m. on Saturdays. For membership and additional class information call (816) 325-7370.



Naming Rights Sponsor Announced

On September 30, Independence Mayor Eileen Weir joined Dr. Steven Silverstein, Missouri Mavericks president and owner Lamar Hunt, Jr., and facility general manager Todd Mitchell to announce a naming rights partnership agreement for the former Independence Events Center. The building on Valley View Parkway will now be known as the Silverstein Eye Centers Arena.

Spectra by Comcast Spectacor is the management company in charge of daily operations and entertainment bookings. All of the revenue received from the 10-year agreement goes into supporting the building operations and activities.

Independence Mayor Eileen Weir said the city is truly thankful to Dr. Silverstein for his continued support. "We are proud to have his name featured on a place that is so important to our Independence community," she said.

Watch for information about upcoming events, concerts and games at their new website: www.silversteineyecentersarena.com.

Final Coal Burned at Blue Valley Plant

Independence Power & Light's Blue Valley Generation Plant on Truman Road is now exclusively using natural gas to generate electricity.

The last load of coal was delivered to the Blue Valley plant in the fall of 2013. The 57,000 ton stockpile of coal was finally depleted in September this year, ending 56 years of coal and fuel-oil fired power generation at the plant.

The fuel oil tank was removed from the site two years ago, leaving coal and natural gas as the only remaining fuel sources for the plant. Compliance with clean air laws made it increasingly difficult to continue to use coal as a fuel for power generation without expensive upgrades to the plant.

Natural gas is cleaner to burn and is the current fuel of choice. IPL has long-term contracts for power from several power producers, using coal, wind and natural gas.



Little remains of a 57,000 ton stockpile of coal which was used at the Blue Valley plant.

Learn more about the history of IPL's first hundred years on the City of Independence website at: www.ci.independence.mo.us/PL/HistBook.

Flu Shots Q & A

The Independence Health Department receives calls every year when it comes time for flu shots. Here are answers to some of the most common questions:

Q. Why should I get a flu vaccine?

A. Influenza is a serious disease which can lead to hospitalization and sometimes death. Even healthy people can get very sick from the flu and spread it to others. The single best way to protect against the flu is to be vaccinated each year.

Q. Who should be vaccinated this season?

A. Everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine.

Q. Are there different forms of flu vaccine?

A. In addition to the traditional flu shot, a nasal spray vaccine is available to those ages 2-49 who do not have asthma.

Q. Can the vaccine give you the flu?

A. No. You cannot get the flu from the flu vaccine.

Q. What if I got a flu vaccine last year?

A. Because the flu virus is constantly changing, the formulation of the vaccine is updated every year. Also, your body's immune response from vaccination declines over time.

Q. When should I get my flu vaccine?

A. As soon as it is available. It takes about 2 weeks for protection to develop.

The Health Department reminds you to remember to take preventive steps like staying away from sick people, and washing your hands to reduce the spread of germs. If you do become sick, stay home to prevent spreading flu to others.

For more information contact the Independence Health Department at (816) 325-7185.

Can't Wait for CityScene?

CityScene is available on the City's website on the first day of each month.

Go to www.independencemo.org and click on "Newsroom." You will find both current and past issues.

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.

Saturday, November 12

Last Dropoff Until March!

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.

DID YOU KNOW?

Your body begins to heal 20 minutes after smoking your last cigarette.

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!



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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.

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 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**
- John Pinch 325-7019



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.