

# CityScene



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www.independencemo.org  
City of Independence, MO

## Space Heater Use Can Shock You

Winter in Independence can bring many surprises. It could be a blizzard or a sudden thaw. But one surprise nobody wants is opening the envelope to find a high electric bill.

Independence Utilities Customer Service receives hundreds of calls throughout the winter months from people concerned because their electric bill is high. Independence Power & Light (IPL) says the No. 1 reason for most of the calls is due to the use of space heaters to heat living spaces.



**A typical small space heater with blower.**

Regardless of brand or style, a 1500 watt space heater, if used continuously, will add more than \$100 a month to your electric bill. No matter how beautiful the packaging and claims of efficiency, 1500 watt space heaters have one thing in common; they use 1.5 kWh of electricity for every hour of operation. This is not an efficient or cost-effective way to heat your home.

Always use caution: Space heaters are not recommended for continuous use and can present fire and electrical hazards if not used as intended.



**All UL listed space heaters have a wattage listed. Check the back or bottom of the unit.**

Remember these safety tips:

- ☑ Never use an extension cord with a space heater.
- ☑ Select a space heater with a guard around the heating element. This will help keep children, pets and clothing away from the heat source.
- ☑ When selecting a space heater, look for one tested and certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory. These heaters have been determined to meet specific safety standards, and manufacturers are required to provide important use and care information to the consumer.
- ☑ Buy a heater the correct size for the area you want to heat.
- ☑ Always use a space heater properly, and keep at least 3' away from curtains, reading materials, furniture, etc.
- ☑ Never leave a space heater turned on when you go to sleep or leave the area.

The most efficient way to heat your residence is by using your central heating system. Save energy by setting the thermostat to 68 or lower. If you feel cold, add layers of clothing or wrap up in a warm throw. If your home is not energy efficient, you can upgrade the insulation in your attic or replace your old furnace any time of year.



**Use of a radiant space heater can also boost your electric bill.**

Using IPL's Home Energy Loan Program for energy efficiency upgrades can help make these improvements affordable. Visit [www.independencemo.org](http://www.independencemo.org) for more information.

## Banquet Honors Tourism Volunteers

The 32nd Annual Tourism Volunteer Banquet was held November 2, 2015, at the Hilton Garden Inn. Eric Urfer, Acting Director of Tourism, was the emcee of the event.

Including volunteers and guests, 224 persons attending the banquet, as well as representatives from the City Council and the Tourism Advisory Board.



**Joann Howell was recognized for 30 years of service.**

Mayor Eileen Weir was presented with a symbolic check in the amount of \$389,146.94, which represents 18,382 hours of

time donated by the volunteers at the Independence historical sites. Mayor Weir thanked the volunteers for their dedicated service to the city.

A special 30-year pin and necklace were presented to Joann Howell for her years of service. Carol Moore was also recognized for 25 years of service. Other volunteers received special recognition for 20, 15, 10 and 5 years of service.

The annual banquet is a special way for the Tourism Department to say "thank you" to its many volunteers. For information about becoming part of the Tourism Volunteer Program, contact Frank Buhro in the Tourism office by calling (816) 325-7112.

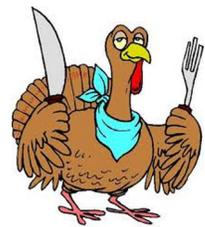


**Eric Urfer presents a "check" to Mayor Weir on behalf of the Tourism volunteers.**

## Frying a Turkey?

If your holiday planning includes deep-frying a turkey, follow these steps from Water Pollution Control (WPC) for the proper use and disposal of frying oil:

- \* Strain oil through fine strainer and then through cheesecloth.
- \* Store covered in refrigerator.
- \* Oil can be reused three or four times.
- \* Never pour cooking oil down the drain.
- \* Take used cooking oil to the annual Independence Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) mobile collection in April



or to Kansas City HHW Center. The Kansas City HHW collection center is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. No appointment is necessary; proof of Jackson County residency required. Call (816) 513-8401 for more information.

To receive a free brochure titled "Fat-Free Sewers," call WPC at (816) 325-7711.

## A New Year, A New You

The New Year is fast approaching and, for many people, this means making resolutions.

While we tend to focus on eliminating negative habits such as drinking soda, smoking, or eating after 7 p.m., there are many other resolutions out there.

This year, recognize the positive things you do in life and think about building on them. Do you already take a walk for a half hour every evening? What if you kept going another couple of blocks or for ten minutes longer? Instead of having a third cup of coffee in the morning, why not have a hot cup of tea in its place?

A new year is also a great time to try new things. It might be trying new foods or participating in new activities. If you've always wanted to see what yoga is all about, try it out for a few weeks. Still haven't tried ice skating? Give it a try. There are tons of delicious and healthy recipes out there, so why not try one a week?

Developing self-control and discipline may be the toughest part in following through with your resolutions, but there is no reason you can't reward yourself

when you are successful.

Also, don't be too hard on yourself if you drop the ball. We are only human.

Need help or suggestions? Visit [www.buildingahealthierindependence.org/](http://www.buildingahealthierindependence.org/) for ideas and options.

Remember habits, resolutions, or new activities take time to form and become a part of your daily life, so give it time! A new, healthier you is on the way.



## Martin Luther King Day Celebration January 18

The City of Independence will celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at 7 p.m. on Monday, January 18, 2016 at the Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple, Independence, MO.

This year's theme is "It Began with a Dream." The Keynote Speaker for the event will be former Kansas City Royal and Golden Glove winner Frank White, Jr. He is currently the first base coach of the Kansas City T-Bones and was elected to the Jackson County Legislature in 2014.

Along with the celebration, the John Olivarez Scholarship essay contest is open to any high school senior residing in Independence who plans to attend college or a vocational school after graduating.

To apply, students should write an essay up to 500 words on the featured topic, "It Began with a Dream." Essays must be typed, and submitted by Monday, January 4, 2016 to: Independence Human Relations Commission, c/o Debra Craig, 111 E. Maple, Independence, MO 64050. The winner receives a \$300 scholarship award and will be honored at the January 18 celebration.

Independence eighth-grade students will also take part in an essay contest. The winner will receive a family pass for Adventure Oasis Water Park and \$50.

Details of the scholarship essay contest can be found on the City of Independence website at [www.independencemo.org](http://www.independencemo.org).



## Holiday Lighting Safety Tips

The holiday season is here! With it comes the joy of the season's festivities, and time with family and friends.

As you celebrate this holiday season, the best gift you can give yourself and your family is a safe and secure home, free from unnecessary risks.

Before putting up the holiday lights, first inspect light sets for cracked insulation, frayed wires or damaged sockets. Any of these could cause short circuits and the risk of electrical shock or fire.

If there is any damage, don't use them – it's simply not worth the risk. If you are decorating outside, be sure your lights and extension cords are rated for outdoor use.

Check extension cords for overheating. If they feel noticeably warm or hot, they are likely carrying more current than they are designed for. This is a sure

recipe for a fire, especially if covered by a rug or used near combustible materials. Avoid tripping by keeping cords up and away from children or pets.

Upgrading to the newer LED lights will save electricity and generate less heat. As with all light strings, do not put together more than the manufacturer recommends. Split the load and reduce the risk.

Decorative candles are a beautiful seasonal addition, but according to the National Fire Prevention Association, most home decoration fires are started by candles. Nearly half of these are because decorations are placed too close to a heat source. Always make sure candles are out before leaving home or going to bed.

Turn off all light strings and decorations if you aren't there to enjoy them, and celebrate the holiday season with less risk.



## Avoid Cabin Fever With These Independence Events This Winter

Winter may have arrived, but there are still lots of reasons to get out of the house. Fight off the cabin fever and enjoy what Independence has to offer.

Close out the year with **Wagons Ho!** - a great family program at the National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific. On Wednesday, December 30 bring the kids and learn all about the Westward Expansion – even pack a prairie schooner! After a special guided tour in the museum, climb aboard a wagon for a ride behind genuine Missouri mules. Wagons Ho! is from 10 to 11:30 a.m.; admission is \$10 for adults; \$7.50 children 6-17. Call (816) 325-7575 for reservations or information.

A classic comes to life in January, with the City Theatre of Independence production of **“Trip to Bountiful.”** The play is a poignant story of an elderly widow yearning to return to the small town of her youth, but thwarted by her family. Family relationships, spiritual thirst and a quest for dignity are explored in this story.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, January 7, 8 and 9; also Friday and Saturday, January 15 and 16. The final performance is a matinee at 2 p.m. on Sunday, January 17. Saturday, January 9 is dinner theatre; call (816) 325-7367 for tickets and information.

The City Theatre of Independence is located inside the Roger T. Sermon Community Center at 201 N. Dodgion (corner of Noland and Truman Roads).

Got the hiccups? Learn the many ways to cure them with **The Bears Hiccups**, a sorta silly story by the Two Frogs and a Turtle Puppet Company! Shows at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday and Monday, January 16 and 18, at the Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Road. Tickets are \$5 each; Call (816) 833-9777.

Don't miss the **Harlem Globetrotters** at 2 p.m. on Sunday, January 24 at the Silverstein Eye Centers Arena, 19100 E. Valley View Parkway. The world-famous team celebrates its 90th anniversary world tour, with more than 320 games just in North America.

You will be on the edge of your seat with the ball handling wizardry, basketball artistry and one-of-a-kind entertainment for fans of all ages. Doors open at 1 p.m., so grab your camera and the kids for all the action and Globetrotters excitement.

Adults 50+ can fight the winter blahs by visiting **The Palmer Center** at 218A N. Pleasant. Daily activities and classes provide a wide variety of educational, fitness and entertainment options. Most are free; some charge a small fee. Enjoy a change of pace with one of the day trips offered each month, with destinations all around the greater Kansas City metropolitan area.

Why not try **SilverSneakers®** – the nation's largest older adult fitness program – available through select Medicare health plans, or just \$2 per class for non-SilverSneakers® members. Classes include Classic and Yoga, to improve joint range of movement, strength and balance.

Older adults can also get into the game with Bingo, White Elephant Bingo, Trivia Tuesday, or Pinochle – with crafters invited to join in for Crochet 101 or Tagilima Crafts. Need more reasons to get off the sofa? Try Line Dancing or Pickleball!

Call the nationally-accredited Palmer Center at (816) 325-6200 for more information on any of these and other activities geared just for adults 50+.

## How To Have A “Green” Christmas

When the presents have been unwrapped and the needles start falling off, it's time to start thinking about where to recycle your Christmas tree.



Recycling your tree is helpful to the environment and keeps trees off the side of the road and out of creeks and waterways.

Christmas trees in waterways can cause water to back up, which could cause flooding in your home or your neighbors. There are several places to help you recycle your old tree for little or no cost.

- ☼ Independence – Independence Recycling Center – 875 Vista Dr., (816) 325-7000

- ☼ South Kansas City – Suburban Lawn and Garden Yard Waste Recycling Center – (816) 941-2438, \$1 disposal fee.

- ☼ Blue Springs – Pink Hill Park, 2715 Park, – (816) 228-0137.

- ☼ Gladstone – Gladstone Public Works, 4000 NE 76th St., – (816) 436-2200.

- ☼ Lee's Summit – City Yard Waste Drop off Center - 2101 SE Hamblen Rd., – (816) 969-1804.

- ☼ Liberty – City Park, 1100 Clayview Dr. – (816) 792-6008.

If you are unable to get to one of these locations to recycle your tree, there are a few things you can do at home.

If you own a chipper you can shred the tree into mulch to use around your house. If you purchased a tree complete with roots, you can plant it in your yard, as long as it's still alive.

For more information on where to recycle your Christmas tree, you can call Recyclespot.org at (816) 474-TEAM (8326) or visit <http://kansascity.about.com/od/communityinformation/a/RecycleXmasTree.htm> for more help in finding out where to recycle your Christmas tree.

**Unwrap Summer Fun With Holiday Specials!**



Adventure Oasis Water Park has special holiday prices for that special person on your gift list!

Pick up a Season Pass or 5-Punch Pass gift certificate at these special prices through 5 p.m. Thursday, December 31 at the Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple. Call (816) 325-7843 for more information.

Opening Day for Adventure Oasis is May 28, 2016. Don't miss this chance for the lowest price of the season!

	Reg.	Disc.
Season Pass	\$75	\$64
5-Punch Pass Youth/Sr	\$24	\$20
5-Punch Pass Adult	\$36	\$31
5-Punch Pass Family	\$100	\$85

### 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](http://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](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

**CLOSED FOR WINTER**  
**Reopens March 12, 2016**  
**875 Vista Avenue**

## Utility Bill Payment Options

To pay by phone call **816-325-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](http://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 (816) 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](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**
- John Pinch 325-7019

THINK EVERYONE IS SMOKING?

Most Missouri teens don't.

Fewer than 1 in 5 teens in Missouri smoke.  
 (According to the 2011 Missouri Youth Tobacco Survey)



Your Life, Your Call.  
 Live Smokefree.

## 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.