



Grease Alert! Keep Pipes Clear to Avoid Future Drain Problems

What is grease?

Grease is the common term for animal fats and vegetable oils. Animal fats and vegetable oils are lighter than water and do not mix with water, preferring to form a separate layer on water. This floating layer separates from water and allows build up inside pipes.

Where does grease come from?

Grease comes from residential, commercial and industrial sources. Residential sources are homes, apartments, condos, home daycares and home catering facilities.

Commercial and industrial sources include automotive service centers, restaurants, medical facilities, religious facilities, educational facilities (schools, colleges, universities, etc.), jails, airports, food processing plants, manufacturing plants and other industries.

How does grease cause problems?

Kitchen grease is a menace to sewer pipes. It's a common mistake: liquid fats, grease and vegetable oils are poured into drains, where they solidify and clog pipes. This causes sewer lines to back up and leads to manhole overflows that threaten the environment.

Over a period of time, a building's drain lines or the City's sewer pipes' diameter is reduced by grease and

solids buildup. This buildup can reduce or stop the flow of water through the pipes, resulting in backups or sewer overflows.

What is a sewer overflow?

Overflows are sewage spills that occur when sanitary sewer collection pipes are blocked or restricted,

causing wastewater to back up in the pipe and flow out through manholes. If left unattended, overflows can result in property damage, foul odors, environmental problems and fish kills. In a worst-case scenario, they can create public health and safety hazards.



Grease clings to pipe walls, causing buildups and clogs.

What can I do?

Never dispose of cooking grease or other oils and greases down drains. Instead, take proper disposal steps.

- Freeze or refrigerate grease in a can and dispose of in a trash receptacle.
- Mix liquid vegetable fats with an absorbent material, such as cat litter or coffee grounds, place in a lidded container and dispose of in a trash receptacle.
- Take large amounts of cooking oil to your local Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

For more information about sewer overflows and how to prevent them, contact Water Pollution Control at (816) 325-7711.

Five Years of 5K

Can you believe it's been nearly five years since the first Independence Park Trot 5K Run/Walk? If you haven't yet participated, this is the year to hop on board!

Registration is now open for the fifth annual Park Trot at www.IndependenceParkTrot.com. The 2016 event will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday, April 30 at Waterfall Park, 4501 S. Bass Pro Drive in Independence. Chip-timing will be offered to all participants who register online by April 17.

The Independence Health Department and Centerpoint Medical Center, the 2016 official race sponsor, provide this race free of charge so everyone has an opportunity to participate. The event has become a favorite 5K for families, friends, running clubs and first-time runners/walkers.

Last year, more than 2,000 people participated and enjoyed the opportunity to visit one of the many parks and trails Independence has to offer. The Park Trot is held rain or shine; this year's race will follow the same path as last year. A free fun run for children 10 and younger will be held following the 5K.

In-person registration (no chip timing) and packet and t-shirt pick-up will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. Friday, April 29 at Bass Pro Shops, 18001 Bass Pro Drive, and also from 7 to 7:40 a.m. near the start of the course on Saturday, April 30. A parent or legal guardian must sign a waiver for anyone under age 18 participating in the race. Adult and child sized t-shirts will be available for \$10 through the Park Trot website until April 10.

For more information or to register, visit www.IndependenceParkTrot.com or contact the Independence Health Department at (816) 325-7185. Register for the Independence Park Trot today and take a step towards being active in Independence!



Events in February Help Beat the Winter Doldrums

Get your February entertainment off to a great start with **Disney Live! Mickey and Minnie's Doorway to Magic**. Bring the kids to the Silverstein Eye Centers Arena, 19100 E. Valley View Parkway, on Friday, February 5. There will be two shows: 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. There's never a bad seat in the house, so get your tickets now at www.silversteineyecentersarena.com or at the arena box office.

February is a great month for hockey, with 10 home games scheduled for your **Missouri Mavericks**. Go to www.missourimavericks.com and check out the complete schedule at the Silverstein Eye Centers Arena. Weekend games are at 7:05 p.m., with Sunday games at 4:05 p.m. Special promotions in February include Superhero Night on Saturday, February 6; Pink in the Rink/Jersey Auction on Saturday, February 13; Youth Jersey giveaway on Friday, February 19; and Trading Card Set giveaways on Sundays, Feb. 21 and 28.



And if you really love hockey, the

rivalry returns! Don't miss the **Men's Hockey Border Showdown – Kansas vs. Missouri** at 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 11. Come cheer for your favorite team at the Silverstein Eye Centers Arena, 19100 E. Valley View Parkway.

February's puppet show is **The Fabulous Carnival of Creatures**, performed by Joann McMullan of the Flying Heart Theatre from Eufaula, OK. This musical review, with fantastic animals, birds, fish, dinosaurs – even a mermaid or monster – will amaze you! Tickets are \$6 each for the performances, scheduled for 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 13 and again Monday, February 15 at the Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Road. Call (816) 833-9777 for tickets and information.



For a break from winter boredom, take the kids to George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Road, for **Nature Story Time** at 9 a.m. on Saturday, February 13.

They may get dirty or wet making messy nature crafts, so dress accordingly! Thanks to the librarians at the Kansas City Public Library, the kids will read funny stories out loud and dance around. For more information, call (816) 325-7115.

Kids won't want to miss the **12th Annual Power Palooza!** This fun event will be held at the Roger T. Sermon Community Center, 201 N. Dodgion, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, February 6. Festivities include carnival games, face painting, puppet shows and a variety of treats. Admission is free; tickets for games and activities available for purchase. Contact Independence Parks & Recreation at (816) 325-7370 for more information.

Get out and about at the **Englewood Arts District Third Friday Art Walk** from 5:30 to 9 p.m. on Friday, February 19. Visit with local artists at one of the seven art galleries, and brighten up the last days of winter with new artwork for your home. Enjoy music, food, fashion and fun while you visit multiple galleries and businesses featuring art. Park once, and stroll along Winner Road from Sterling to Ralston Avenues.

Tell the world who you love, and contribute to the Truman Medical Center cardiac unit at the same time with the **3rd Annual Englewood "heART" Campaign**. Visit one of the Englewood businesses shown below and purchase a heART for just \$25. Purchase soon to give the artists plenty of time to paint your message! Your 2' x 2' heART will be mounted on a pole in the Englewood Station Arts District for the entire month of February. Call (816) 252-3372 or visit www.engagewoodstation.com.



Order your heART at B-Vogue Salon and Gallery, 11100 E. Winner Rd.; Mugs Up Diner, 10921 E. Winner Rd.; Northern Boulevard United Methodist Church, 1800 S. Northern Blvd.; Pottery Art, 10918 E. Winner Rd.; Three Trails Trading Post, 11022 E. Winner Rd.; and Vivilore Restaurant, 10815 E. Winner Rd.

For more events and activities in February, check the Calendar of Events at www.independencemo.org.

Adding a Garage? Check Regulations First.

Have you been thinking about adding a shed for additional storage or even a detached garage or carport to protect your vehicles? The Community Development Department is available to provide assistance on regulations which may apply to your project. Here are the answers to some frequently asked questions to get you started.

Q. Do I need a permit to construct an accessory structure?

A. Yes, a permit is required for any building greater than 120 sq. ft. Structures less than 120 sq. ft. do not require a permit, but are subject to the setback requirements.

Q. Where can an accessory structure be located?

A. Accessory structures cannot be sited closer to adjacent streets than the house, or closer than 10' from other

buildings on the same lot. In addition, in most cases, the structure must be set back 5' from the side and rear property lines.

Q. How large of an accessory structure can I construct?

A. In most residential districts, accessory structures cannot exceed 600 sq. ft. For larger lots, accessory structures cannot cover more than 15% of the area of the rear yard, provided the building does not exceed 50% of the size of the principal building.

Q. How tall can my accessory structure be?

A. Accessory structures cannot exceed 25' tall or the height of the principal building, whichever is less.

For information on accessory building construction projects or if you have questions, contact Community Development at (816) 325-7401.



E-mail Notifications Now Available

Interested in keeping up with City activities? Sign up to receive email notifications for upcoming public meetings and copies of issued press releases.

Go to www.independencemo.org/CityClerk/MeetingNotifications and click on the notices you would like to receive.

All agendas and meeting cancellations are sent 24-48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time.

Examples of available agendas include the City Council meetings and Study Sessions, City Planning Commission, Independence Advisory Board of Health, Independence Park Commission, Public Safety Sales Tax Oversight Committee, Public Utilities Advisory Board, Storm Water Control Oversight Committee, and the Tax Increment Financing Commission.

For more information, contact the City Clerk's office at (816) 325-7010

Where Should I Store The Trash Bins?



A frequent question to the City involves where to store trash containers – those big red, yellow, green or blue bins marked with your trash hauler's company name.

While many residential trash containers are correctly stored inside the garage, or in the rear or side of the house, some homeowners have stored their trash containers in a location visible from the street.

At the request of the City Council, the Health Department was asked to review the Code language, to clarify and emphasize the intent of the Code to prohibit continuous storage of trash containers in front of, or on the side of a house adjacent to a street, except as allowed for trash pickup.

As a result, in November 2015, the language in Section 4.01.011 of the City Code was reviewed and approved as follows:

“Containers shall not be stored in the Front Yard or Side Yard, as defined in Chapter 14, that is abutting a street, except where terrain in other portions of the property prohibit container storage, and except on trash pickup day, as set out in Subsection I or as allowed by other sections of the City Code.”



To avoid the possibility of a Codes violation notice, store your trash containers in your garage, behind your home, or on the side of your home away from the street. Return them promptly after the trash has been picked up.

For more information or to report an address where containers are not properly stored, call Code Compliance at (816) 325-7193 or use the Action Center on the City's website, www.independencemo.org.

Early Bird Special! Adventure Oasis Water Park Passes



Adventure Oasis Water Park is offering special pricing for Early Birds! Save money and tweet about it!

Pick up a Season Pass or 5-Punch Pass at these special prices in January and February at the Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple or at the Sermon Center, 201 N. Dodgion. Call (816) 325-7843 for more information.

Opening Day for Adventure Oasis is May 28, 2016. Don't miss this chance!



	Reg.	Disc.
Season Pass	\$75	\$68
5-Punch Pass Youth/Sr	\$24	\$22
5-Punch Pass Adult	\$36	\$32
5-Punch Pass Family	\$100	\$90

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.

Think Spring at the Bingham-Waggoner

The trees are bare, the wind is cold and there may be some snow and ice around – but it's not too early to think spring!

The 29th Annual Spring Fashion Show & Luncheon at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate will be held Saturday, March 12 in the beautifully-decorated dining room of the mansion. The 2016 theme is



“Simply Spring,” and the décor will reflect the elegance of your surroundings. As you and your friends enjoy a wonderful meal, watch as the models display fashions and accessories from the unique offerings of the Carriage House boutique.

This is the perfect opportunity to

celebrate a birthday, enjoy an outing with a special niece, daughter or granddaughter, or maybe have a Red Hat Club gathering!

Get a group together and kick off spring in a fun and different way.

The Carriage House Boutique will open at 10 a.m.; the doors to the Mansion open at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be

served at noon; Tickets are \$30 each.

Get your tickets early, before they sell out. To purchase tickets, or for more information, call (816) 461-3491 or visit www.bwestate.org. Welcome spring and help support the Bingham-Waggoner Estate.

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
CLOSED FOR WINTER
Reopens March 12, 2016
875 Vista Avenue

Utility Bill Payment Options

To pay by phone call 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

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 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.

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**
 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.

 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

*Denotes live meeting, all others are rebroadcasts.