



Independence Raises Age for Tobacco Purchases

Nearly all adult smokers started smoking before age 21. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), more than 3,800 youths age 18 or younger smoke their first cigarette each day, and those who start by age 18 are most likely to become lifelong smokers, creating lifelong health issues.

Hoping to curb underage smoking and keep some teens from ever starting, the City of Independence has joined Hawaii and more than 100 other cities and counties in eight states, including Wyandotte County, KS and Kansas City, MO, in raising the tobacco sale age to 21.

The Independence City Council voted on December 21, 2015 to amend City Ordinance 11.03 and raise the legal age from 18 to 21 for the purchase of tobacco products, alternative nicotine products or vapor products.

This ordinance aims to protect young people from tobacco addiction. A higher legal age for purchasing these products could



delay a young person's initiation to smoking. When 18 to 20-year-olds are no longer able to legally purchase cigarettes, younger age groups, particularly 15 to 17-year-olds, will have limited access to older friends and family who can buy cigarettes legally. By decreasing the number of eligible buyers in high school, youth smoking should be reduced as their access to tobacco products is limited.

Several studies have shown decreases in high school smoking rates when the sales age for tobacco products rises to age 21.

A recently released CDC poll shows that 75% of Americans support raising the purchase age to 21, including 70% of smokers. The new ordinance will apply to all tobacco products, alternative nicotine products and vapor products sold within the Independence city limits.

The Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City has awarded funding to the Missouri Tobacco Quitline to help those affected by the ordinance to stop smoking. If you need help, call the Quitline for free at 1-800-QUIT-NOW or 1-800-784-8669.

If you have any questions regarding the ordinance change, contact the Independence Health Department at (816) 325-7185.

Citizens Police Academy Starts March 3

For an inside look at your police department, there is still time to sign up for the Spring 2016 session of the Citizens' Police Academy. Participants receive a front-row seat to learn about the internal works, goals and values of the Police Department, provided directly from the officers serving the community.

For a time commitment of three hours each Thursday night for 10 weeks (6 to 9 p.m.) beginning March 3, participants will learn about the challenges facing the department on a day-to-day basis, receive an inside look at each unit within the department, the operation of the individual units and the duties performed by the members of these units.

This "first-hand" look offers citizens the opportunity to see the challenges

for themselves, gain an appreciation and understanding of the issues facing the police departments and even offer their own suggestions and advice.

Instructors are officers and civilian personnel from the specialized units, who will present materials and demonstrations from their fields of expertise. The Academy



is coordinated through the Community Services Unit.

Topics covered include: History of the Police Department, the Investigations Unit, Traffic Unit, Drug Enforcement Unit, Special Weapons and Tactics Unit (SWAT), K-9 Unit, Crime Scene Unit (CSI), Bomb Unit, Dispatch, Firearms Safety and Education, Firearms Training and Police Ride-along program.

Participants are selected in the order applications are received, and space is limited to 25, so don't delay.

For more information contact Officer Billy Pope at 816-325-7645 or bpope@indepmo.org. To apply on line, go to www.independencemo.org/IPD/CitizenAcademy.

March Winds Bring Activities For The Entire Family

Get a jump-start on March activities as the Children's Performing Theatre presents "Adventures of a Comic Book Artist," as directed by Melinda Deason. Hysterical singing superheroes and dancing villains bring to life this action-packed musical spoof of the comic book genre. Performances at the Powerhouse Theatre (inside the Sermon Community Center, 201 N. Dodgion) at 7:30 p.m. Fridays-Sundays, **February 26, 27, 28* and March 4, 5, 6*** (*2 p.m. matinee). Adults \$7; Seniors \$6; Youth 12 and under \$3. For reservations call (816) 325-7367.

The 8th Annual Robert E. Tindall Scholarship Art Show & Sale will be held 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Thursday, March 3 through Saturday, March 26** at George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Road. For more information visit www.independenceartassociation.org or call (816) 325-7115.

Attend a special performance of "The Secret Garden," brought to you by the Simpich Showcase Marionette Theatre, at 7 p.m. on **Friday, March 4**. This beloved classic will be brought to life at the Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple. Tickets are \$15 for adults



and \$10 for students. For reservations, call the Puppetry Arts Institute at (816) 833-9777.

Expand your horizons and learn about the life and adventures of Fanny Kelly, a pioneer captured by the Sioux in 1864, at 7 p.m. on **Tuesday, March 8** at the National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific. Tickets are \$5 per person; advance reservations are required. Call (816) 325-7575.

It's easy to tell spring is just around the corner, as there are events planned all around town on **Saturday, March 12!**

The **29th Annual Spring Fashion Show & Luncheon** at the Bingham-Wagoner Estate will be held Saturday, March 12 in the beautifully-decorated dining room of the mansion. The Boutique opens at 10 a.m.; the doors to the Mansion open at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon and tickets are \$30 each. For tickets or more information, call (816) 461-3491 or visit www.bwestate.org.

Making plans to spruce up the yard for spring? The **Drop Off Depot** will re-open for the 2016 season from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 12. Residents can bring trash, brush (including limbs, firewood, bushes and stumps – no leaves or grass), major appliances, tires, batteries and lawnmowers to the drop-off at 875 Vista Avenue.

It's Nature Story Time at George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Road.

Bring the kids to hear "**Flying on the March Wind**" at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 12. Explore the outdoors, make crafts and listen to great stories. Offered in partnership with the KC public library. Questions? Call (816) 325-7115.

Marionettes will welcome spring at the Puppetry Arts Institute with "**Spring Fling**" at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 12. Call (816) 833-9777 for ticket information or visit www.hazelle.org. Tickets are \$6 and include a tour of the museum at 11025 E. Winner Road. Reservations requested.



It's a **Signs of Spring Hike** from 1-2 p.m. on Saturday, March 12! Join a naturalist-led hike to see the abundant signs that winter is on its way out on the Rock Creek Trail (Country Club Park to Rotary Park & back). The trail is mostly level and gravel-paved. Call (816) 325-7115 for information or reservations.

Celebrate the arrival of spring with **Shop Into Spring** and enjoy the charm and charisma of the historic Independence Square. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 12, stroll, shop and enjoy food samples from locally-owned businesses. For more information, visit www.theindependencesquare.com or call (816) 461-0065.

Bring your lunch and join the Curator of Education for an investigation of the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention, the first and most significant meeting to discuss the "social, civil and religious condition and rights of women." This free Brown Bag Lecture starts at noon on **Friday, March 18** at the National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific. Call (816) 325-7575 for information.

Stretch your legs with a Full Moon Hike from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. on **Saturday, March 19**. Meet in the George Owens Nature Park lodge, 1601 S. Speck Rd., for this free guided hike, viewing the Crow Moon which rises at 4:10 p.m. Space is limited to 15; no baby strollers or light-up shoes. Wear sturdy shoes, dress for the weather and don't forget your binoculars! Call (816) 325-7115 to reserve your space.

UDO Prohibits Parking Vehicles in Yard

Did you know that parking a vehicle on the lawn of your home or business is a violation of the City of Independence's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO)?

In residential areas of the city, park vehicles only on an approved driveway, adjoining asphalt/concrete pads or other designated, hard durable surface. Parking on the grass is prohibited.

If paver stones, bricks or related materials are used for a driveway or parking surface, they must be designed and manufactured to withstand the weight of a motor vehicle.

Driveways composed of gravel or



other aggregate which lawfully existed before July 20, 2004 may continue to be used for off-street parking areas, but shall not be expanded or enlarged. In order

to retain the use of these nonconforming gravel parking and drive areas, the areas shall be maintained at all times and kept free from grass, dirt, and other debris.

In commercial and industrial areas of

the city, parking and storage of vehicles must be on a paved, all-weather surface.

For more information about these requirements, please contact the Community Development Department at (816) 325-7109.

Flushing Medications a Growing Concern **Special Programs** **Aid Energy Savings**

Did you know every day the average adult uses nine personal care products? Items such as shampoo, toothpaste, perfume, sunscreens, cosmetics, etc. could contain as many as 126 unique compounds which could end up in our water.



There has been documented hormone disruption in fish and a reduction in the ability to fight off infection in animals and fish. One big question is the environmental consequences to the ecosystems, and long-term effects on human health.

Disposal down the drain of unused medications such as hormones, antidepressants, antibiotics, over-the-counter medicines like pain relievers, cold/flu remedies, and antiseptics can result in even more of these compounds finding their way into the nation's wastewater facilities and waterways. Most wastewater treatment plants do not remove these contaminants.

While research is ongoing, it is prudent to limit the disposal of waste medications in the sewer in order to minimize the potential negative and irreversible impacts on the environment.

Medications have been detected in very small amounts in surface water bodies (streams, lakes, and rivers) across the United States. The most recent extensive study of medications in surface waters was performed by the United States Geological Survey. At least one emerging contaminant was detected in 96% of the samples. The presence of medications in surface water bodies have shown increased bacterial resistance to antibiotics and interference with growth and reproduction in aquatic organisms such as fish and frogs.

Do your part to keep pharmaceuticals out of the environment by never flushing them down the toilet or drain. Take unwanted drugs, medicines, and other pharmaceutical products to the City's annual household hazardous waste collection event or practice certain safety habits before putting them into the trash.

To safely dispose of medications at home, dissolve or dilute the unwanted medication, mix it with an undesirable substance such as used coffee grounds or cat box litter, then seal it tightly in a container. It can then be placed in your regular trash for disposal.

For questions or information, call Water Pollution Control at (816) 325-7711.

No matter the temperature outside, everyone wants to lower the cost of heating and cooling their home. There are programs available to qualified homeowners to help reduce monthly utility bills.

The Home Weatherization Program is funded by Independence Power & Light (IPL) and Missouri Gas Energy, and administered by Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity. Call (816) 461-6551, ext. 222, for information.



The Low Income Weatherization Program is a federal program administered by United Services Community Action Agency. Go to <https://choose-hope.org/weatherization.php> for information.

Both of these programs are free, designed to assist qualified participants who lack the resources to add energy efficiency improvements to their home. Each program will conduct an energy audit and develop a list of items which would yield the greatest energy savings. These energy improvements are then completed and paid for by the program.

Another program is the Home Energy Loan Program, a partnership with IPL and City Credit Union. This low-interest loan program can be used for qualified homeowners to purchase a new HVAC system, add insulation, and replace doors and windows. Learn about the program and the internet-based energy audit at www.independencemohelp.org.

For more information, contact IPL by calling Jennifer Newbold at (816) 325-7485.

You must be registered by Wednesday, March 9 in order to vote April 5. If you have questions about your voting status or your polling location, contact the Jackson County Election Board.

The Election Board is located at 215 N. Liberty, just north of the historic Independence Square; telephone (816) 325-4600.

Additional information and registration forms are available on the Jackson County Election Board website at <http://jcebmo.org/home>.



Events

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Ready to laugh? The City Theatre of Independence, inside the Sermon Center at 201 S. Dodgion, presents "Young Frankenstein," the Mel Brooks classic



brought to the stage. Shows are 8 p.m. **Thursday through Saturday, March 24, 25, 26** (dinner theatre on

March 26) and **Thursday through Sunday, March 31, April 1, 2, and 3***. (*Sunday matinee at 2 p.m.) Adults \$14. Call (816) 325-7367 to reserve your seat.

Save the date for the NAIA Division I Women's Basketball National Championship, returning to the Silverstein Eye Centers Arena **March 16-22**. The 32-team, single-elimination tournament will crown a national champion on the final day of the event.

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

Register To Vote by March 9

On Tuesday, April 5, Independence voters will head to the polls to elect a City Council representative for each of the four districts. For district boundaries, see the map on the City's website at www.independencemo.org.

In addition, Independence voters will decide if the current 1/8 of one cent sales tax dedicated for police department capital expenses will be renewed when it expires December 31, 2016.

For Councilmember - District 1

- Jeremy Povenmire
- John Perkins

For Councilmember - District 2

- Curt Dougherty
- Brice Stewart

For Councilmember - District 3

- Scott Roberson
- Henry Carner

For Councilmember - District 4

- Tom Van Camp (unopposed)

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 (816) 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

Free Gardening Classes

Independence Health Department
515 S. Liberty St.

Vegetable Garden Basics:
Monday, March 14 6-7:30 p.m.

Tomatoes, Peppers & Sweet Potatoes:
Monday, April 11 6-7:30 p.m.

Seed & Plant Distribution

Independence Health Department
515 S. Liberty St.

Cool Season Plants
Thursday, March 31 3-6 p.m.

Contact Joanie Shover
jshover@indepmo.org
or call (816) 325-7185



Regional Animal Shelter

21001 E. Hwy. 78, Independence

**Help them find a forever home.
Adopt a homeless pet.**

**Noon - 7 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.