



Annual HHW Drop-Off April 2

Spring is on the way, and many households are gearing up for a new season of cleaning, painting, beautifying and disinfecting their homes. In the past year yards or gardens may have been



treated with pesticides or herbicides, and some shadetree mechanics may have changed their vehicle oil, or refilled necessary automotive fluids.

For more information about the City's Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Program, call Water Pollution Control at (816) 325-7711 or visit www.independencemo.org/wpc.

Unfortunatly, chemical-based household products can endanger the health and safety of people, animals and the environment if tossed in the trash or poured down the drain.

To avoid the adverse impact of improper disposal of typical hazardous products, the City of Independence will hold the 19th Annual Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection event on Saturday, April 2.

From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., residents may bring unwanted, old or unusable household products labeled as flammable, toxic, corrosive or reactive to the large parking lot bordered by Osage, Liberty, Walnut and Kansas Streets, one block south of the Independence Square. This collection is free to residents. Proof of residency such as a driver's license or city utility bill will be required.

The following will NOT be accepted: electronics, appliances, trash, yard waste, medical waste (sharps, etc.), tires, asbestos, radioactive waste, pressurized gas cylinders or commercial waste.

Keep chemicals away from children and pets while transporting; use the trunk of the car, rear of the SUV or the truck bed. Combine efforts and ask friends, neighbors, and relatives to add their items to yours. Volunteers

Garden Your Way Into Spring

Are you looking for a way to get outside, be active and eat some fresh, healthy foods? If you answered yes, give gardening a try!

Gardening can ease stress, keep you limber, decrease your risk for depression and even improve your mood and hand strength. Missouri is lucky to have three growing seasons, and you can fill your freezer with home-grown green beans, peppers, onions and other produce.

The Independence Health Department (IHD) and Kansas City Community Gardens offers several gardening classes to help you become a successful gardener, with easy and affordable access to seeds and plants.

Classes start at 6 p.m. on the following dates at the Independence Health Department, 515 S. Liberty, unless otherwise noted:

- Monday, April 11: *Tomatoes, Peppers, and Sweet Potatoes – Oh My!*

- Thursday, April 28: *Preserving and Preparing Spring Produce* – Held at Trails West Library, 11401 E 23 St. S, Independence, MO

- Monday, June 13: *What's really bugging you?* – Held at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 3601 S Sterling, Independence, MO

- Monday, July 11: *Insects – Hands on Walk Through* – Held at White Oak Community Garden, 136 White Oak Ave, Independence, MO

- Thursday, July 21: *Preserving and Preparing Summer Produce* – Held at Trails West Library, 11401 E 23 St. S, Independence, MO

- Monday, August 1: *Ins and Outs of Fall Gardening*

If you don't have a lot of room where you live, there are several community gardens located in Independence. To learn more about locations, classes or other gardening opportunities, call the Independence Health Department at (816) 325-7185.

Products Accepted

Products which will be accepted at the HHW Event include:

- △ Batteries
 - △ Paint and paint products
 - Aerosol cans
 - Varnish
 - Stripper
 - Thinner
 - Turpentine
 - △ Fluorescent light bulbs
 - △ Garden and yard products
 - Herbicides
 - Pesticides
 - Sprays
 - Rat poison
 - Weed killers
 - △ Automotive fluids
 - Antifreeze
 - Used motor oil
 - Brake and transmission fluid
 - Gasoline
- (Containers will not be returned)*
- △ Household cleaners
 - Lye
 - Drain cleaner
 - Toilet and tub cleaners
 - Oven cleaner
 - △ Kerosene
 - △ Mercury thermometers
 - △ Unused or outdated medicines

Councilmember Elections April 5

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.

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)

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>.

Community Development Department Determines Dangerous Building Status

What is a dangerous building? The Independence City Code defines a dangerous building as follows: “Buildings or structures which have any of the following defects shall be deemed a dangerous building” provided that such conditions or defects exist to the extent that the life, property, or safety of the public or its occupants is endangered.

The City Code lists 17 different defect categories which Building Inspections staff use as a guideline to make the determination of a dangerous structure.

When it has been determined a structure meets the criteria, the City will begin a dangerous building case. Depending on the condition of the structure, the City will order the building to be vacated, repaired or demolished.

There are many steps required to be followed before the building can be

Got Drugs?



It’s almost time again to clean out the medicine cabinet! If you have leftover prescription drugs or outdated over-the-counter medications and need a way to safely dispose of them, the Independence Police Department is ready to help.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 30, come to the drop-off location in the large parking lot north of City Hall (across the street to the west from Police Headquarters). The officer will be in a marked police car close to Truman Road. Just drive-up and drop-off.

You do not have to remove the labels from pill bottles or medicine containers. Everything dropped off will be sealed in a box and transported to an incinerator to be burned. No record or log is kept of items which are brought in.

For safety reasons, the drop-off cannot accept inhalers (which could explode when burned) or needles. However, pre-loaded syringes (with the needles removed) and Epi Pens are accepted.

Wondering about those pills prescribed for your pet? Yes, veterinary drugs are also accepted.

For more information about the event contact Officer Phil Hininger at (816) 325-7279.



demolished. Administrative hearings are held to allow the property owner an opportunity to provide information about any plans for repairs to the property. Any demolition must be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Division. Depending on the property location, review by the Heritage Commission may be required before any demolition may take place.

In 2015, City of Independence staff worked 31 cases where buildings were deemed to meet the criteria to be classified as “dangerous.” Of these dangerous structures, nine were later demolished.

For more information on dangerous buildings and the dangerous building criteria, please contact Building Inspections staff at (816) 325-7401 or visit the City’s website at www.independencemo.org.

April Events Will Start Spring in Style

It’s a sure sign spring is right around the corner when the historic sites in Independence open for the new season on **Friday, April 1**. Take time this year to stop in for a visit! For full details on hours and ticket costs, call the Tourism Department at (816) 325-7111 or go to www.visitindependence.com.

Teach the kids how to look for spring with Nature Story Time – Wildflowers are Back – at 11 a.m. on **Saturday, April 9** at George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Rd. Explore the outdoors, make crafts and listen to great stories. Call (816) 325-6254.

A sure cure for those tax-filing woes is a trip to the Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Road, for two productions brought to you by Valerie and Michael Nelson of the Magical Moonshine Theatre. At 7 p.m. on **Friday, April 15**, enjoy an adaptation of Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*. Tickets are \$10 each for this special evening performance. Reservations at (816) 833-9777.

On **Saturday, April 16**, treat yourself to a performance of *Chanticleer, the Rooster*. This classic tale of medieval literature is brought to life with shadow puppets and paper theatre, live music and loads of fun. Showtimes are 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tickets are just \$6 per person; reservations requested. Call (816) 833-9777.

Have an adventure with the Wildflower Hike at the Fairmount Park playground, 300 N. Home, (corner of N. Home and Norledge). Starting at 11 a.m. on **Saturday, April 16**, look for signs of spring in the wildflowers blanketing this park. Most of the walk will be on pavement, but part of the walk will go through the woods, which may be muddy. Come prepared! For questions or more information, call (816) 325-7115.

Take the Full Moon Hike to see the Pink Moon at 8:30 p.m. on **Friday, April 22** at George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Rd. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. Space is limited, so reserve your spot by 5 p.m. on the day before the hike by calling (816) 325-7115. No baby strollers or light-up shoes, please. Be prepared to hike off-trail.

Enjoy “A Night in Old Santa Fe” at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 23 at the National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific. For \$25 per person, enjoy an authentic Mexican-themed dinner featuring food from the old west, and meet pioneer re-enactors. Call (816) 325-7575 for details.

Police Sales Tax Proposal

On Tuesday, April 5, Independence voters will head to the polls to decide if the current 1/8 of 1% sales tax dedicated to funding capital improvements and maintenance of facilities and equipment for the Police Department will be renewed.

This sales tax was originally approved by voters in 2004 and is set to expire on December 31, 2016.



Revenue collected from the sales tax is projected at approximately \$2 million per year. These funds are held in a separate account and cannot be used for any other purpose. The majority of the revenue collected would be used to replace and maintain patrol cars, including required safety and technology equipment.

Ballot Question

This is the question voters will answer April 5, 2016:

“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 the Police Department including, but not limited to the purchase, construction, repair and maintenance of Facilities and Equipment, which tax shall expire on December 31, 2028? A yes vote continues collection of the tax that will expire December 31, 2016.”

Continuing To Protect and Serve Independence

Q. Is this a new sales tax?

A. No. In 2004, Independence voters approved a 1/8 of 1% Sales Tax to fund capital improvements for the Police Department. This tax will expire on December 31, 2016. Approval of this ballot question will continue collection of the existing tax until December 31, 2028.

Q. What is a capital improvement?

A. Per Missouri Statute, a capital improvement is a long-term asset intended to be held or used for at least two years, including (but not limited to) land, buildings, machinery, furniture, vehicles, vehicle equipment, computer hardware, etc.

Q. How much does the sales tax add to a purchase?

A. One-eighth of one cent is added for each dollar in sales, which equals 1¢ for each \$8 spent in Independence.

Q. How much revenue will the tax provide?

A. It is projected to provide approximately \$2 million per year for the Police Department capital needs.

Q. How much of the sales tax is paid by non-residents of Independence?

A. Per the Independence Economic Development Council, approximately 36% of the revenue collected comes from non-residents who make purchases in Independence.

Q. How much does a new patrol car cost, including the necessary safety equipment?

A. A new, fully-equipped sedan patrol car costs approximately \$53,000. This includes purchase, installation and maintenance of required safety equipment such as emergency lights, radios, in-car video cameras, mobile data terminal, etc.

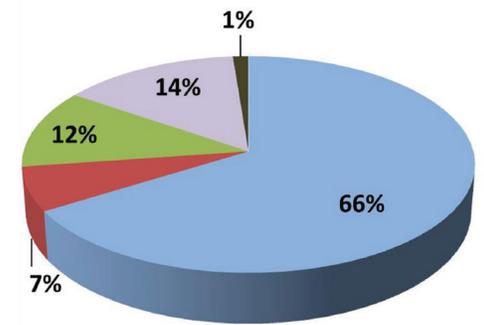
Q. How do the citizens of Independence know the money is being spent correctly?

A. Twice a year, in April and October, the Citizen Oversight Committee appointed by the City Council makes a formal report on progress and expenditures at a City Council meeting. These reports are also made available on the City of Independence website.

Q. How will the Police Department use the sales tax funds collected?

A. The Capital Improvement Sales Tax would continue to fund equipment and technology, including replacement and repair of patrol cars, mobile data terminals, in-car video, and on-going technology support, repairs and updating for the radio system. In addition, the tax would fund replacement of officer safety equipment such as bullet-proof vests and radios.

- **Vehicles and Maintenance - 66%**
- **Officer Safety Equipment - 14%**
- **Radios and Technology Support - 12%**
- **Vehicle Equipment - 7%**
- **Facilities - 1%**



Directory

CityScene is published monthly by the City Manager's Office, 111 East Maple Street, Independence, Missouri 64050. For information call 325-7170. 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, March 12

875 Vista Avenue

From M-291, take Truman Road east approximately one mile, then north on Vista Avenue.

- Trash:** Cars, \$11;
Trucks, Vans, SUVs, or Trailers Less than 8' - \$16;
Trailers 8' or Longer - \$26
- Brush:** Limbs, Firewood, Bushes, Stumps. No Leaves or Grass:
All vehicles and trailers, \$11/load
- Major Appliances:** \$15 Each
- Batteries; Lawnmowers:** Free
- Tires:** Car, \$2; Mounted Car, \$4; Truck, \$5; Mounted Truck, \$11; Farm/Tractor, \$16

Next Drop-Off Saturday, April 9

Residential vehicles only, no commercial. No vehicles larger than a pick-up truck. Proof of residency required.

5K Independence Park Trot Walk/Run

FREE 5K • FREE KIDS' DASH

SAT., April 30, 2016
8 a.m.

WATERFALL PARK



Registration and details online at:

www.independencetrot.com

Register by April 17 to be chip-timed

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.

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!



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 325-7170



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.