

# CityScene



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www.independencemo.org  
City of Independence, MO

## Community Solar Power To Be An Option for Independence Residents

Independence residents who want to go "green" with solar power, but don't want the cost and responsibility of owning and maintaining a solar generator will soon have an option.

The Community Solar Farm is being built in Independence, and will be operated and maintained by MC Power. Independence Power & Light

(IPL) has entered into an agreement to purchase the energy produced by the solar farm.

IPL is offering their customers the option to purchase energy from the Community Solar Farm. To do so, customers will select an amount of solar power to be billed to them. One unit of solar power generation will produce an average of 144 kilowatt hours (kWh) of solar energy per month. An average residential bill is 600-1200 kWh per month.

After enrollment, you will be charged

for your normal electric use, plus an additional \$2.37 per month for each unit of solar power you have signed up for. This translates to 1.65 cents more



An example of rooftop solar panels.

per kWh for the energy produced by the solar farm. Customers can purchase up to 40% of their monthly average at this set price.

The initial enrollment period is for five years; however, the

agreement can be extended in one-year increments for a total of 10 years or longer at this same cost.

In addition to supporting solar energy, you will have the benefit of a consistent cost for the energy produced by the Community Solar Farm.

For details on the program, please visit our website: [www.IPLcommunitysolarinfo.mcpower.com](http://www.IPLcommunitysolarinfo.mcpower.com), send an email to [communitysolar@indepmo.org](mailto:communitysolar@indepmo.org) or call Herb Webb at (816) 325-7495.

## Business Licensing in Independence

**Q. Who needs a business license from the City of Independence?**

*A. Any company or individual desiring to engage in any business, profession or occupation in Independence, whether or not they have an actual office in the City, is required to obtain a business license before engaging in any such activity.*

**Q. Are sub-contractors required to obtain a business license before working in Independence?**

*A. Yes, sub-contractors are also required to obtain a business license.*

**Q. How do I apply for a license?**

*A. The fastest way to receive your license is to apply online through our website at [www.independencemo.org/businesslicense](http://www.independencemo.org/businesslicense). The computer will automatically calculate the fee, which must be paid by credit card.*

*Computers are available on the second floor of City Hall, 111 East Maple for application processing between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Paper applications may also be completed.*

**Q. How much is the license fee?**

*A. The fee is based upon the projected gross receipts a business expects to generate in the upcoming twelve-month period. If the reported gross receipts are expected to be \$25,000 or less, the license fee is the minimum fee of \$25. For reported gross receipts in excess of \$25,000, the license fee is \$25, plus an additional 29¢ per thousand dollars.*

*Businesses located in Independence must report all gross receipts generated from their business operations. Businesses located outside the City must report all gross receipts generated from work conducted within the City.*

For questions, and information on types of businesses and professions which may be exempt, contact Business Licensing at (816) 325-7079.

## Annual Police Memorial May 18



Each year, the Independence Police Department joins with the Sugar Creek Police Department and the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #1 to reflect on the sacrifices made by those who have served this community as police officers.

The public is invited to attend the Police Officers Memorial Service at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18 in front of Police Headquarters, 223 N. Memorial Drive. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the loss of Lieutenant

David Kraxner, shot and killed by an escaped convict during a traffic stop in 1966.

The Memorial Service will include a 21-gun salute, ceremonial wreath-laying and recognition of all fallen police officers.



# Enjoy Family Time With May Events In Independence

Happy Birthday in May to our most famous citizen - President Harry S. Truman! In his honor, admission to the Vaile Mansion, Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 1859 Jail and Marshal's Home & Museum and the National Frontier Trails Museum will be just a "Buck" on **Saturday, May 7.**



The Harry S Truman Library and Museum, 500 W. U.S. Highway 24, will also offer admission for only \$1 on his actual birth date, **Sunday, May 8,** and will be open

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for a special day-long birthday celebration. For information about the activities planned at the Truman Library, call (816) 268-8200 or visit [www.trumanlibrary.org](http://www.trumanlibrary.org).

The Annual Japanese Sister City Cherry Blossom Festival will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on **Sunday, April 24** at the Sermon Community Center, 201 N. Dodgion. Admission is \$2 per person, and includes entertainment by different groups. Enjoy souvenir shopping from a variety of vendors, and the opportunity to enjoy delicious Japanese cuisine. More than 600 people visited the Festival last year and celebrated the



special relationship with Independence's Sister City – Higashimurayama, Japan.

Strut with your pup at Pets in the Park on **Saturday, May 14.** Put your dog on a leash, put your cat or other small pet in a carrier, and join Independence Parks & Recreation and the Independence Kiwanis Club for this annual free event at Waterfall Park, 4501 S. Bass Pro Drive. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. you can participate in a variety of events including the pet parade and pet judging, then stroll among the vendors offering pet products and snacks.

For a special evening outdoors, meet at the George Owens Nature Park lodge at 8:30 p.m. on **Saturday, May 21** and enjoy a guided, hour-long full moon hike. Wear sturdy shoes, dress for the weather and bring your binoculars! Because part of the walk is off the trail, no baby strollers or light-up shoes, please. Space is limited, so call (816) 325-7115 to save your place. The Nature Park is located at 1601 S. Speck Road.

**On Saturday, May 21,** Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd., will present "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," with performances at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Based on the traditional story by Washington Irving, The Urban Prairie Puppet Company's hand and rod puppets bring this spooky tale to life. Ichabod Crane, the new school teacher, the

lovely Katrina Van Tassle, Bram Bones, and the Headless Horseman are all part of the cast. Suitable for all ages, tickets are \$6 per person. Tickets are available at the door, but reservations are requested, as seating is limited. Please call (816) 833-9777.



Get a jump start on May with a visit to the Encore Theatre, inside the Sermon Center at 201 N. Dodgion, for their production of "It's Murder In The Wings!" Show times at 7:30 p.m. on **Fridays and Saturdays, April 29, 30 and May 6, 7.** Matinees at 2 p.m. **Sundays, May 1 and May 8.**

In this comedy, the editor of the Wings Publishing Company discovers her boss has met with an untimely death. The in-house staff has to keep his death under wraps until notorious author Lionel Upshaw signs a contract, bringing about a new loan from the bank. Throw in numerous problems including a television crew, the arrival of the late boss' new fiancée, and the fact that someone at the party is the murderer! For reservations call (816) 325-7367. Come on out and see whodunit!

For more information about these and other activities in Independence, check the Calendar of Events at [www.independencemo.org](http://www.independencemo.org) or call the Tourism Department at (816) 325-7111.

## Events Planned to Highlight Historic Preservation Month

Planning your spring calendar? Want to get out into the community to learn more about your heritage?

Each year, throughout the entire month of May, the City's Historic Preservation Division celebrates National Historic Preservation Month. Scheduled events highlight the significance of the city's history through heritage education programs, local tours, and an awards program recognizing outstanding preservation efforts by individuals and community organizations.



This year's calendar of events includes a "Twitter Takeover," a 5k health walk through the city's historic dis-

trict with stops at several historic sites, several walking and driving tours, and lectures on local and national heritage topics.

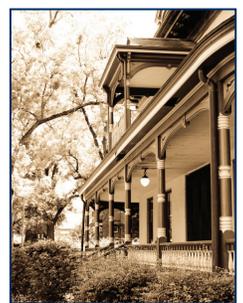
A special thank you is extended to the Independence Tree Commission and our community heritage partners for their combined efforts to make this year's events engaging and motivating.

The following is a sampling of this year's events:

- Lunch 'n learn lectures on the history of Lake City, the celebration of the National Park Service's centennial, and houses that "witnessed" the Civil War in Independence
- Behind-the-scenes tours of the National Frontier Trails Museum and the historic Truman Jackson County Courthouse
- The 5k "Health & Heritage" Walk

- A walking/driving tour of local historic sites and their "heritage" trees

- A Twitter takeover allowing the public to "chat" with "Harry Truman"



- A presentation of the annual Historic Preservation Month Proclamation and the 2016 Hickman Historic Preservation Awards at the City Council meeting on Monday, May 2.

Most events are free and open to the public. For a full listing go to: [www.independencemo.org/ComDev/HistoricPreservation.aspx](http://www.independencemo.org/ComDev/HistoricPreservation.aspx) or call (816) 325-7419.

## Keep Environment In Mind This Spring

Every year around this time, people start to get out and enjoy the warmer weather. There are many ways to improve the quality of the environment and to keep things cleaner for everyone.

One easy task is to pick up after your pets. If pet waste is not disposed of properly, it can be washed away with rain and contaminate the streams and creeks. Most storm water systems go straight to waterways, and 25% of the bacteria in samples collected from local waterways belong to pet waste. Carry disposable bags when you take your dog for a walk. Not only are you helping with the environment but your neighbors will appreciate it.

When flowers start to bloom, people start tending to their gardens. A rain garden is both beneficial and beautiful, and is a great way to help with storm water run off and flooding.



Pick a low lying area in your yard, but don't pick a spot where water tends to stand; this means your flowers will drown. Place your garden at least 10' away from your house to prevent foundation damage. Select native plants and use organic gardening practices. Catch rainwater in a barrel for reuse. Native plants grow well in our up and down weather and do not need much tending. Please contact WPC at (816) 325-7711 for a brochure about native plants for our region.



Spring cleaning is also common this time of year. Why not go green with your cleaning? Avoid commercial products which may be filled with toxins and are difficult to dispose of later. Try making your own cleaning products, using vinegar and baking soda.

If you do use commercial products, open the windows while cleaning. This will help clear the air of any harmful toxins from the cleaning supplies. Turn cleaning into a well-rounded workout by using a mop or a broom. They do a good job cleaning, they do not require electricity to run and you could even burn a few calories in the process.

## Independence Drinking Water Wins Award

The drinking water for thousands of Independence and Eastern Jackson County residents has again been rated among the world's best. The City of Independence Water took home the Bronze at the 26th Annual Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting contest held February 25 - 28 in Berkeley Springs, WV. Berkeley Springs hosts the largest and longest-running water tasting contest in the world.



"This recognition is certainly something any community would be proud of," said Water Department Director Dan Montgomery. "We are fortunate to have an excellent water source and staff who work tirelessly for our customers."

The ten contest judges were instructed to look, sniff and taste each water under

guidelines similar to those in wine tasting. The waters were rated for each attribute including appearance (it should be clear), aroma (there should be none), taste (it should taste clean), mouth feel (it should feel light), and aftertaste (it should leave you thirsty for more). Waters were tasted in four separate flights over two days.

Independence Water is no stranger to the Berkeley Springs awards, placing second in the water tasting contest in 2013, and earning another third-place finish in 2012. "The consistency in winners from year to year with different panels of judges validates the choices," said perennial watermaster, Arthur von Wiesenberger. "It also speaks to the impressively high caliber of the waters entered."

## A New Look: The Mile Starts Here 2.0

During the past four years, the community has walked approximately 3,400 miles as part of *The Mile Starts Here* walking program. That's like walking from Independence to Los Angeles and back! This year marks the fifth year of the program, and it's time for a few changes.

The Health Department and Parks and Recreation staff are working together to launch *The Mile Starts Here 2.0* – a walking and physical activity program for community members with new times, dates and activities. The program will kick off in May and continue with two

to three events per month throughout the summer.

All events are free and planned to be fun for anyone who enjoys meeting new people and being active in group settings. A system for tracking participants' miles will be in place, and those who reach certain milestones throughout the summer will be eligible for prizes.

The Health Department staff hopes to welcome you to many of *The Mile Starts Here 2.0* events. For more information, contact the Independence Health Department at (816) 325-7185.

### Get Started Walking With These Free Events

✧ A beautiful two-mile walk in Waterfall Park, 4501 S. Bass Pro Drive, at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 12. Join Health Department staff as we keep moving even after the Park Trot 5K is over.

✧ See the historic side of Independence with the Health and Heritage Walk. Come to the Bingham Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific any time between 8 and 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 21. The walk will loop through the Historic Independence Square and the Truman Heritage District, finishing up around 10 a.m.

✧ A mile (or more!) walk will take place at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, May 24 at Santa Fe Park, 2731 S. Santa Fe Road. Since Santa Fe also has a dog park, we invite residents to bring their dogs along (must be on a leash) to join in for the fun.

# 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](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 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Saturday, April 9**

**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 8' or Under - \$16;  
Trailers Over 8' - \$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, May 14**

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



CENTERPOINT MEDICAL CENTER

Building a Healthier Independence

Registration and details online at:  
[www.independencetrot.com](http://www.independencetrot.com)  
**\*Register by April 17 to be chip-timed\***

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.




## 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.

## 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](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 325-7170



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](http://www.City7.TV)

\*Denotes live meeting, all others are rebroadcasts.