

# CityScene



July 2016  
Volume 23 Number 7

www.independencemo.org  
City of Independence, MO

## City Adopts FY2016-17 Budget

The City of Independence's fiscal year begins on July 1 each year. As required by the Charter, a balanced proposed budget is prepared by the City Manager and submitted to the City Council for approval. At least one public hearing is held, and two readings of the ordinance approving the budget are held before it becomes effective.

The City's budget accounts for all revenues received from the sale of utility services, property taxes, sales taxes (including general sales tax, park, street, police, fire and storm water sales taxes), service fees, grants, etc. The total operating and capital budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, including utilities, is \$323,256,904.

The General Fund is the tax and fee supported portion of the City's budget. At \$74,783,776, it is 23.1% of the total budget, and pays for most of the City's operations. Areas not financed by the General Fund include the Power and Light Department, the Water Pollution Control Department and the Water Department, which are operated from enterprise funds, and the Tourism program.

Several factors have contributed to a decrease in the City's revenues including changes in how the cable, internet and telephone industries operate; mild summer and winter weather; and a continued shift to internet shopping by consumers, which affects sales tax revenues to the General Fund.

Approximately 60% of the General Fund budget is designated for the

Police Department (\$27 million) and Fire Department (\$17.7 million).

The remaining 40% of the General Fund is used for operations of other City departments including: Public Works (snow removal, mowing public property, facility repairs), Community Development (building inspections, zoning, planning, bus service), Parks and Recreation (park maintenance, recreation programs, Palmer Senior Center programs), Health (codes enforcement, restaurant inspections, public health programs), Finance, Municipal Court, Technology Services, Administration (Mayor, City Council, City Clerk and City Manager offices) and general expenses.

In addition to providing municipal services, expenses include employee salaries and benefits. Continuing the City's adjustment to economic conditions during the last several years, 89 positions – approximately 7% of authorized positions – have been left unfunded.

The General Fund budget for FY2016-17 also includes \$376,700 for capital outlay for vehicles and equipment used by various departments, building repairs to City Hall, the Police Building and other municipal buildings, as well as technology updates such as file servers, microcomputers and network systems.

A copy of the entire budget document is available for public viewing on the City's website at [www.independencemo.org](http://www.independencemo.org). For more information contact the Finance Department at (816) 325-7173.



## Retrace Pioneer Steps All Summer



Come out to the Historic Independence Square and meet pioneering people this summer every Saturday through October 29 (except Labor Day weekend) on and around The Square.

You can also catch a free covered wagon ride each Saturday between 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and again between 1 and 4 p.m. Rides will depart from the Historic Courthouse for the National Frontier Trails Museum on the hour and return back to The Square on the half hour.

Bring the family to see history come to life, and create memories to last a lifetime.

**9:30 to 10:30 a.m.**

**Encounters with People of the Past:** Catch up with the locals at the Farmers' Market, just south of The Square.

**11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m.**

**"Chin Music":** 1827 Log Courthouse and National Frontier Trails Museum

**12 Noon**

**Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow!** Wave goodbye from The Square to a wagon train bound for the gold in California!

**2 p.m. Town Topics** at the 1827 Log Courthouse

**4 p.m. Olé Santa Fe!** Welcome a caravan from the Santa Fe Trail!

**3 - 6 p.m. Melodies of the Pioneers** around The Square

[www.visitindependence.com](http://www.visitindependence.com)

# Escape August Heat With Indoor Family Adventures

The heat of summer makes it a great time for indoor activities. The National Frontier Trails Museum at 318 W. Pacific has developed some special programs for August, available with regular museum admission.

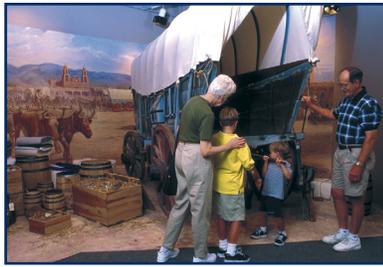
*How did they ever succeed?* Learn about the Hazards of the Trail, and the dangers pioneers faced in a 30-minute guided tour at **2 p.m. each Thursday** in August. *What was daily life like for the pioneers?* Learn about a typical day on the trail using a special brochure developed just for Museum visitors **each Saturday in August**.

Fun at the Museum continues on **Sunday, August 14**, with Reading Tales from the West. This hour-long program starts at 2 p.m. and includes a special tour of exhibits accompanied by readings from the journals and diaries of early pioneers. End your tour by writing your own journal entries. Program is included at the regular museum admission rate, but reservations are required in advance to (816) 325-7575.

Don't forget the free wagon rides from The Square to the Museum on **Saturdays** through October. Catch a wagon to bring you to the Museum from The Square on the hour, between 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and again from 1 to 4 p.m. – return to The Square with wagon rides leaving on the half hour.



**The National Frontier Trails Museum at 318 W. Pacific.**

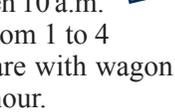


Working on summer clean-up around the house? Independence residents can bring trash, brush (including limbs, firewood, bushes and stumps – sorry no leaves or grass), major appliances, tires, batteries and lawnmowers to the Drop Off Depot from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on **Saturday, August 13**. Residential vehicles only; proof of residence required. Drops off rates vary. For more information call (816) 325-7623.

It's a Full Moon Hike at George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Road, at 8:30 p.m. on **Friday, August 19**. Bring your binoculars for gazing at the Man in the Moon! Reserve your place by 5 p.m. on the day before the hike by calling (816) 325-7115, as participation is limited.

Come back for the Hummingbird Festival from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on **Saturday, August 27** at the Nature Park.

Hike the Hummingbird Trail lined with flowers and feeders; then ask the experts how to attract hummingbirds to your yard. Kids will make a hummingbird craft and native plants for hummingbirds will be for sale. The Hummingbird Trail will stay open from August 27 through September 23, while their migration path takes these tiny birds through Independence.



Indoor fun for the little ones continues with Nature Story Time at George Owens Nature Park on **Thursdays in August**. Two sessions each day – 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. – allows the kids to explore nature, hear great stories and make nature crafts. This free fun will have the following topics: **August 4:** *Mother Snakes Lay Their Eggs*; **August 11:** *So Many Flowers, So Many Bugs*; **August 18:** *Beavers Live on George's Pond*; and **August 25:** *Say goodbye to Hummingbirds*.

The kids can also enjoy a classic puppet show by Emma McLean of Wit and Whimsey Puppets on **Saturday, August 6**. The Puppetry Arts Institute at 11025 E. Winner Road will present "Little Red Riding Hood: A Doll's Tale," with performances at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Admission is \$6. Reserve your seats ahead of time by calling (816) 833-9777.

For more activities and events, check the Calendar of Events at [www.independencemo.org](http://www.independencemo.org) or call Tourism at (816) 325-7111.

Wellness Expo And Free 5K July 30

The Independence Health Department is partnering with the Independence School District to host a Wellness Expo and 5K event on Saturday, July 30. This is a free event for the Independence community. The 5K is a free, chip-timed event starting at 8:30 a.m. The Wellness Expo will open at 9 a.m., offering information from several area providers. Admission to the Wellness Expo is free. You can register for the free 5K event online at <http://sites.isdschools.org/wellnessexpo/index.php/register-to-race/>. For more information, contact the Independence School District Wellness Coordinator at (816) 521-5315 or the Independence Health Department at (816) 325-7006.

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## 2015 WATER QUALITY REPORT

# WATER DEPARTMENT

CITY OF INDEPENDENCE

The 2015 Water Quality Report is available for your review on the City's website. This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made to provide safe drinking water.

[www.independencemo.org/ccr](http://www.independencemo.org/ccr)

To request a paper copy of this report call (816) 325-7698

## Cleaner Car Washing Guidelines

Do you wash your car in the driveway? Water which runs off a car washed in a driveway, street, or parking lot can contain substances that pollute the environment. Storm drains are intended only to carry rain water. Water running into storm drains isn't treated before it ends up in the rivers, streams, creeks and lakes.

Dirty water containing soap, detergents, residue from exhaust fumes, gasoline, heavy metals from rust, and motor oils which washes off cars can harm both water quality and wildlife. Washing one car may not appear to be a problem, but collectively car washing activity can add up to big problems.

Car wash fundraisers can also be a significant source of this kind of pollution. These events are usually held in heavily paved areas where there is little runoff control or grass to filter out harmful substances before the water reaches waterways.

The best way to minimize the effect washing your car has on the environment is to use a commercial car wash. Most locations reuse wash water several times before sending it to a treatment plant. The average homeowner uses 116 gallons of water to wash a single car. Most commer-

### Tips To Minimize Environmental Impact

- ◆ *Use only biodegradable, phosphate-free, water-based cleaners.*
- ◆ *Minimize water usage and runoff with a flow-restricted spray gun.*
- ◆ *Wash on an area which absorbs water, such as gravel, or grass. This can filter water before it enters groundwater, storm drains, or creeks. Avoid washing cars on concrete or asphalt pavement unless it drains into a vegetated area.*
- ◆ *Always empty wash buckets into sinks or toilets.*
- ◆ *Only let wash water soak into the ground if you are using biodegradable, phosphate-free cleaners.*
- ◆ *When planning a car wash fundraiser, try developing a partnership with a commercial car wash facility, or use a safe location.*

cial car washes use 60 percent less water for the entire process than a homeowner may use just to rinse the car.

For more information on stormwater pollution prevention, contact Water Pollution Control at (816) 325-7711.

## Take Precautions With Summer Heat

The Independence Health Department reminds you to protect yourself during extreme heat this summer.

- Dress for the weather. Wear loose-fitting, lightweight, light-colored clothing.
- Never leave children, pets, or others alone in closed vehicles.
- Avoid too much sunshine and postpone outdoor activities. If you have to be outside, take frequent breaks, rest in the shade, and drink plenty of water.
- Do not use a fan as your primary source of cooling during extremely hot weather. If your home does not have air conditioning, during the heat of the day go to a public building which does.

Some cooling centers in Independence for people to seek relief include the Fairmount Community Center, Roger T. Sermon Community Center and area public libraries. You can find more cooling centers by going to <https://ogi.ia.mo.gov/DHSS/coolingCenter/>.

For more information, call the Health Department at (816) 325-7185.

## Out-of-State Motor Vehicle Sales Tax Election August 2

This is not a new tax. The City has collected this tax for many years. The question is on the ballot only as a result of a Missouri Supreme Court decision, and requires a "no" vote to remain in effect.



A NO vote means there will be no increase to your existing taxes. It levels the playing field for Missouri dealerships because all motor vehicles, regardless of method or location of purchase, will be subject to local sales tax.

A YES vote means Missouri and Independence dealerships will be at a competitive disadvantage with out-of-state dealerships, and the City will lose revenue to provide vital services to Independence.

If you have questions about your voting status or where to vote, contact the Jackson County Election Board. The Election Board is at 215 N. Liberty; Telephone (816) 325-4600.

If you have questions about the Motor Vehicle Sales Tax Election, contact the City Manager's Office at (816) 325-7086.

## Block Award Nominations Due August 12

The Susan Paxton Block distinguished Public Service Award is given each year by the City of Independence to honor excellence in public service.

Anyone can nominate a City employee, volunteer or elected official who has demonstrated outstanding public service, valor, and job performance with leadership.

Nomination forms are due Friday, August 12 and are available from Lori Grubb, a Junior Service League (JSL) past president; City department directors; and at the Chamber of Commerce, 210 W. Truman Road. Forms can also be printed from the Susan Paxton Block Public Service story on the City's Website at <http://independencemo.org>.

Completed forms should be mailed to the JSL at 3122 South Chrysler, Independence, MO 64052. Mrs. Block was a member and past president of the JSL.

The late Bill Paxton, father of the late Councilmember Block, established the award to honor her memory and recognize individuals who demonstrate excellence

while conducting City business. Mrs. Block represented the third council district from 1992 until her death in November of 1996.



A selection committee, comprised of local service club presidents, will select the recipient. Past recipients include Vicki Hon, 2012; Kimberly Bailey, 2013; Ellen Greenberg Jacobs, 2014; and Christina Leakey, who received the award last year.

The award is \$1,000 plus a sterling silver medallion and a sterling silver lapel pin. Proceeds come from the memorial fund established by Paxton.

The award will be announced and given to a selected City government employee, public official or volunteer at the Monday, September 19, City Council meeting at City Hall, 111 East Maple. September 24 was Councilmember Block's birth date.

For more information, call Lori Grubb at (816) 795-8628.

# 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, July 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 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, August 13**

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

**Independence  
Farmers' and Crafters'  
Market**

**Accepting SNAP!**  
(EBT/Food Stamps)

**Open for the Season!**

*Walnut St. & Liberty St.  
Independence, MO 64050*

*Sat: 6:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. (May-Oct.)  
Wed: 6:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. (June-Oct.)*



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 (816) 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 less than 27" and \$40 for larger TVs; wood console or rear projection TVs \$50. 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**

John Perkins	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 7** 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.