

CityScene



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www.independencemo.org
City of Independence, MO

Independence Utilities Offices Moving in November

On Thursday, November 10, the Utilities Customer Service Center at Truman Road and Forest Avenue will close, in preparation for moving to its new location. The new Independence Utilities Center at 17221 E. 23rd Street will be open for business at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, November 15. Here are some of the things you need to know about the relocation of the Utilities Customer Service Center.

The hours of operations will not change. The lobby of the Independence Utilities Center will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday; the drive through will open at 7:30 a.m. Inside the lobby, an expanded visitor area will provide additional privacy for utility customers who need to speak with a service representative about their bill or to set up payment options. Parking will also be easier than before, as there are more visitor parking spaces at the new location.



The new Independence Utilities Center at 17221 E. 23rd Street during construction. Scheduled completion is mid-October.

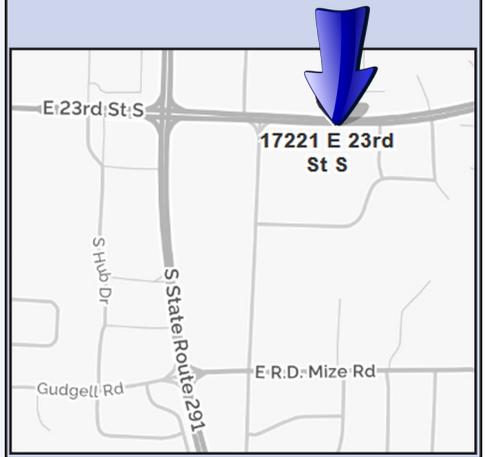
Utility bill payments will continue to be accepted at City Hall, 111 E. Maple during regular business hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The cashier is on the second floor and accepts cash, check, money order, debit or credit cards. However, the cashier cannot make payment arrangements or answer questions about utility bills; for these services you will need to see a customer service representative at the Independence Utilities Center.

Utility bill payments can also be left in the drop box located outside the north doors to City Hall, near the Municipal Court entrance. Please include the payment stub from your bill, along with your check or money order. The drop box is only for City of Independence utility bills, and should not be used for payment of Missouri Gas Energy bills.

If you have any questions about the new Independence Utilities Center, call (816) 325-7692.

The new Independence Utilities Center is in the former Medical Center of Independence Doctors' Building, located just east of M-291 on the south side of 23rd Street. The building has been completely renovated, using the highest energy efficient technology available, to achieve LEED Platinum Certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). It was designed to take advantage of New Green Technologies such as the solar panels incorporated into the building design.

The customer service entrance, as well as the drive-through payment window, is on the east side of the building.



Zachary Walker Named New City Manager



Zachary Walker was named the city manager of Independence by the City Council, beginning October 1, 2016. Walker

succeeds John Pinch, who retired from the city at the end of September.

A graduate from the University of Missouri, Walker earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and a Master's Degree in Public Administration. He worked as a legislative assistant in the Missouri House of Representatives and with the Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission before spending four years working for the City of Kansas City, Missouri.

Walker was hired in 2012 as the management analyst for the City of Independence, and was named assistant city manager in 2015. While he acknowledges

there are many important issues for the City to address, various specific issues have been named as priorities.

"There are several key initiatives underway and we will be focused on those throughout the coming year," he said.

Walker added, "Independence has long played a key role in the development of our nation, our state and the Kansas City region. Preserving and promoting this history while seeking new development opportunities will be among my primary objectives. I look forward to working with the Mayor, Council, and citizens to further our progress."

Independence & Higashimurayama - Sister Cities

Did you know Independence has a Sister City in Japan?

For 38 years, the Japanese Sister City Commission has developed Independence students into citizen diplomats through the student exchange between Independence and Higashimurayama, Japan.

Every June, 10 Independence students and one adult chaperone interact with Japanese students, families, and professionals. Students live with host families to get an authentic experience

of Japanese life. To date more than 300 Independence students have participated.

Every August, 10 Japanese students and their chaperone visit Independence for a similar experience. Partnerships with Independence merchants and museums educate Japanese visitors on our way of life.

Sound interesting? Apply to be a student



delegate or adult chaperone! To qualify, students must be 15 - 21 years of age and live in Independence.

Download an application at: sistercitylife.weebly.com/apply. The two week trip to Japan costs an average of \$2,200 and includes airfare, meals, ground transport, lodging, and FUN!

Learn more at: www.indepmo.org/sistercity or www.sistercitylife.weebly.com or contact Jeannae Segura Brown, Committee Chair, at Jeannaesb@gmail.com.

Living Tobacco Free for a Healthier Independence

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), American Heart Association, and the Surgeon General all agree there is no safe level of secondhand smoke exposure. According to the CDC, it can lead to ear infections, severe asthma attacks, and respiratory issues in children as well as heart disease, lung cancer, and stroke in adults. Cigarette smoke is also the largest source of indoor air pollution and the leading cause of fatal fires.

The Independence Health Department (IHD) recently received two grants to

assist with policy changes focused on promoting tobacco-free initiatives. A tobacco-free policy limits or eliminates the use of any tobacco product, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless tobacco, and e-cigarettes. These policies aim to reduce the risks associated with tobacco use and protect nonsmokers from secondhand smoke.

The Healthy Communities grant will be used to increase opportunities for tobacco-free living in public housing. IHD will also work with the school district to

encourage youth-led programs to educate students about the dangers of tobacco use and e-cigarettes, and involve youth in policy reform and education.

The Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge encourages cities and counties to promote health, equality, and inclusiveness, by developing tobacco-free initiatives for privately-owned, multi-unit housing facilities.

To learn more about living tobacco-free, contact IHD at health@indepmo.org or (816) 325-7185.

Code Compliance Now Part of Community Development

On August 25, oversight of the Property Maintenance Unit (code compliance) was moved from the Health Department into the Community Development Department. The staff is now located on the second floor of City Hall, near the zoning enforcement and dangerous building inspectors. By consolidating these functions into a single department, oversight of the processes will be streamlined and communications made easier.

Types of violations addressed by the Property Maintenance Unit include:

- » Yard Maintenance
- » Building Maintenance
- » Refuse, Rubbish and Garbage
- » Rats
- » Open Storage
- » Stagnant Water
- » Nuisance Vehicles
- » Swimming Pool Fence
- » Fence Maintenance

Complaints can be made through the City's website Action Center at www.independencemo.org, by calling (816) 325-7193, or in person at City Hall, 111 E. Maple, by coming to the counter on the second floor (at the circle drive). Property Maintenance administrative hearings will be held in Conference Room E in City Hall, adjacent to the building permit and business license counter on the second floor.

Utility Bill Payments

The City of Independence offers many convenient options for paying utility bills.

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 (816) 325-7930 for more information.

Don't Be A Turkey! Keep Drains Clear With Proper Frying Oil Disposal



If your holiday planning includes deep-frying a turkey, follow these steps from Water Pollution Control (WPC) for the proper use and disposal of frying oil:

- * Strain oil through fine strainer and then through cheesecloth.
- * Store covered in refrigerator.
- * Oil can be reused three or four times.
- * Never pour cooking oil down the drain.

* Take used cooking oil to the annual Independence Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) mobile collection in April

or to Kansas City HHW Center. The Kansas City HHW collection center is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. No appointment is necessary; proof of Jackson County residency required. Call (816) 513-8401 for more information.

To receive a free brochure titled "Fat-Free Sewers," call WPC at (816) 325-7711.

Honor Veterans in November and Enjoy These Fall Family Festivities

Celebrate the beginning of Fall with the Halloween Parade on the historic Independence Square. The 68th annual parade will begin at 10 a.m. on **Saturday, October 29**. Dress up in costume, or just bring a chair and come out to watch. For more information, contact the Square Association at (816) 461-0065.

Pay tribute to our men and women in the military by joining the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, the City of Independence and the Truman Library Institute for the Fifth Annual Veterans Day Salute from noon to 4 p.m. on **Sunday, November 6**.



The annual celebration at the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, 500 W. 24 Hwy., will be free and open to the public, as the brave men and women who have served in the military are honored and recognized.

Be part of this tribute to the troops and enjoy free Museum admission; patriotic music by The Young MAIsterSingers; a special appearance by military author Doug Bradley; a bagpipe procession, Taps and 21-gun salute at President Truman's gravesite; and a keynote address by Colonel Gail Seymour "Hal" Halvorsen. For more information, contact the Library at (816) 268-8246.

Fans of live performances won't want to miss out as City Theatre of Independence presents *Ravenscroft*, a psychological Gothic thriller



which is both funny and frightening. Following a suspicious death in a home filled with five alluring women, there are ghosts on the staircase, skeletons in the closet and much more than the police inspector bargained for. Performances are at 8 p.m. **Thursday through Saturday, November 3, 4, and 5; Friday and Saturday, November 11 and 12**; closing with a 2 p.m. matinee on **Sunday, November 13**.

Call (816) 325-7367 to reserve your seat. General admission tickets are \$12; adults 60+ \$11. City Theatre is located

inside the Sermon Center, 201 N. Dodgion (Noland and Truman Roads). For information about all productions, go to www.citytheatreofindependence.org.

Celebrate the outdoors with the Full Moon Hike at 5 p.m. on **Saturday, November 12** at George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Rd. Be prepared to hike off-trail for the best view of the Beaver Moon, leaving the baby strollers and light-up shoes at home. Each hike is limited to 15 participants, so call (816) 325-7115 by 5 p.m. on the day before the hike to reserve your spot.

It's time again for the The Best Little Arts & Crafts Show, held at the Roger T. Sermon Community Center, 201 N. Dodgion (southeast corner of Truman and Noland Roads). Show hours will be 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on **Friday, November 18**, and from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. on **Saturday, November 19**.

More than 120 local and regional arts and crafters will fill the four levels of the building with a wide variety of items, including holiday-themed floral arrangements and decorations. Look for original pieces of jewelry, clothing, novelty items, jams, jellies, and many other gift ideas. Concessions will be available.

Admission and parking are free. Additional parking is located across Truman Road from the building on Dodgion, and also on the northwest corner of Lynn and Kansas with a shuttle running from that lot every half hour.

Why not follow up your Thanksgiving celebrations by taking the family to a puppet show! In a unique interpretation of a Japanese folk tale, a young boy and his family find happiness and good fortune with the help of a talented turtle. Bring the kids to see "The Singing Turtle," as performed by puppeteer Peter Allen at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on **Friday and Saturday, November 25 and 26**, at the Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Road. Tickets are \$6 per person, and may be reserved by calling (816) 833-9777.



For more November activities and events, check the City's website at www.independencemo.org or call Tourism at (816) 325-7111.

Cynthia Friend Receives 2016 Block Award



Cindy Friend (right) accepts the 2016 Block Award from Lori Grubb.

Cynthia J. (Cindy) Friend, Public Health Nurse in the Independence Health Department, has been named the recipient of the 2016 Susan Paxton Block Award for Distinguished Public Service.

Junior Service League past president Lori Grubb presented the award at the City Council meeting held Monday, September 19, following a reception held in her honor. Friend's work with the Hungry & Homeless Coalition, in particular, was cited as a reason for her selection.

Friend began her career with the City in 1999, working as the Health Promotion Division Manager for ten years. Since 2012, she has provided oversight and support to a varied group of social service agencies and organizations.

"It is such an honor to receive the Susan Paxton Block award," Friend said, when notified of the award. "I have been so privileged to work with numerous dedicated people in this city who tirelessly strive to help make a positive difference in the lives of others; I value our partnerships."

The Susan Block award is presented annually to a City employee, volunteer or elected official who has demonstrated outstanding public service, valor, and job performance with leadership.

The Junior Service League, of which Block was a second-generation member and served as president in 1989-1990, presents the award at the City Council meeting nearest to Block's birthday, September 24.

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 (816) 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, October 8

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 Longer than 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

Last Drop-Off of Season Saturday, November 12

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

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 (816) 325-7027
- City Council Office** (816) 325-7022
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**
Zachary Walker (816) 325-7170



Interested in tobacco-free living?

Independence Health Department wants to help private, multi-unit housing facilities adopt a tobacco-free policy to increase the health of their residents!

If you are interested in learning more about tobacco-free living, please contact health@indepmo.org or 816-325-7185.



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 cans, plastic, glass bottles, electronics, appliances, computers, televisions, lawn and garden equipment and batteries.

FEES: Non flat-screen TVs 26" or less are \$30; TVs larger than 27" are \$50. All sizes of LED, LCD and Plasma flat-screen TVs are \$10. Any items containing Freon, including air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, etc., are \$10 each. Non flat-screen computer monitors are \$5 each, unless a computer CPU is left at the same time, then it is free. All other items are free of charge.

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

*Denotes live meeting, all others are rebroadcasts.