

CityScene



November 2016
Volume 23 Number 11

www.independencemo.org
City of Independence, MO

Street Sales Tax Funds Improvements Across City

The current 11-year program for projects funded by the Street Sales Tax began in 2009. A work plan was developed to identify and prioritize projects. The citizen Oversight Committee appointed by the City Council monitors the progress of the plan, the cost of the projects and the appropriateness of expenditures, and reports back to the City Council twice a year.

As part of the Sidewalks to Parks Program, the addition of a missing section of trail connecting Fairmount to Fairmount Park along Arlington has been completed.

Among current projects recently completed is the 2016 Street Overlay Program for 55 miles of

city streets. This fall, the 2016 Alley Rehabilitation project was also completed, which provided a new asphalt surface on 10 alleys throughout the city.

Planned projects include intersection safety improvements

at the junction of 78 Highway and Truman Road. Federal funding received for this project will be matched by street sales tax funds. Additionally, the Sidewalks to Schools Program will include addition of sidewalks on Blue Ridge between Hardy and Sterling.

Sidewalks and ramps, along with pedestrian push-button traffic signals are planned as part of the Chrysler Complete Streets project to begin in spring of 2017.

Sidewalk improvements for Glendale Park, Waterfall Park, Rotary Park and Fairmount Park Phase 2 are expected to be bid out in spring of 2017.

Sidewalk improvements for Three Trails Elementary, Korte School and Nativity School Phase 2

is anticipated to be bid out in summer of 2017.

New traffic signals and improvements to the intersection of Noland Road and Fair are planned to begin design in 2017, with construction projected to begin in 2018.



The completed 2016 Alley Rehabilitation Program resurfaced 10 alleys.



Sidewalks have been added along Arlington to connect Fairmount to Fairmount Park.



The 2016 Street Overlay Program was completed this fall.



Future improvements are planned for the 39th Street & Noland Road intersection.



The Sidewalks to Schools project includes planned improvements for students walking to school.

Improvements are also planned to begin construction in 2017 for the 39th Street and Noland Road intersection, to include turn-lane, signal and pedestrian improvements.

In their most recent update to the Council, the Oversight Committee reported the work planned is consistent with the planned program and is being completed as expected.

For more information about streets repairs and maintenance, contact the Public Works Department at (816) 325-7600.

Where Did You Say I Can Get Rid of This Stuff?

If you have ever wondered where to get rid of something you no longer want or use, Independence Water Pollution Control has these suggestions.

The three “R’s” (reduce, reuse, and recycle) have become very popular, and protection of the environment is a hot topic. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) asks that citizens **Reduce** the amount and toxicity of trash discarded; **Reuse** containers and products, repair what is broken or give it to someone who can repair it or use it; and **Recycle** as much as possible, which includes buying products with recycled content. Although putting used or unwanted items in the trash may seem the easiest solution, it is not always the best solution.

A one-stop recycling information website is offered by Mid-America Regional Council. Visit www.RecycleSpot.org or call (816) 474-TEAM (8326). Use their search tool to find places to recycle, donate, sell or buy used items throughout the Kansas City region. The interactive online database of recycling information can direct you to companies which accept many items. Call first to ensure they still are in operation and will accept the product you want to dispose of. Another useful website is www.bridgingthegap.org.

Used cell phones can be disposed of in several ways. One option is sending them to a recycling organization such as *Cell Phones for Soldiers*. Learn more at <https://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com>. This program takes old cell phones, smart phones and tablets and converts those donations into calling cards or funds to help soldiers come home in emergency situations. Also, several local stores have programs to dispose of old cell phones, including Best Buy, Office Max/Depot and Radio Shack.

The Consumer Electronics Association says one old analog television set can leak eight pounds of lead into the environment. Several websites offer information about recycling old televisions, including <http://mrcrecycling.net/electronics-recycling/> or www.earth911.org

Recent news reports indicate improper disposal of pharmaceuticals can result in a number of problems, including accidental poisonings, teen drug abuse and waterway pollution. Trace amounts of numerous drugs have been found in the drinking water supply of millions of Americans. While Independence is not one of those cities where this is an indicated problem, a proactive approach is best.

Recommended ways to dispose of

unwanted, out-dated medicines are: 1. Don’t flush them; 2. Crush solid medications and dissolve them in water; 3. Dilute liquid medications in water – then mix the solution with cat litter, sawdust, or any material a child or pet would not find attractive, seal it in a bag and place it in the trash.

Some pharmacies have a take-back program as a solution to this growing problem, and the Police Department holds a drug take-back event twice a year.

Used motor oil never wears out – it gets dirty, but can be recycled, cleaned and used again. Recycling used motor oil reduces pollution, helps protect the environment and conserves a valuable resource. Free disposal of motor oil is available at several local stores, including Advance Auto Parts, Jiffy Lube, and O’Reilly’s Auto Parts. Please call in advance for more information, such as quantity limits.

The KCMO Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility is open year round – call (816) 513-8401 – and the annual HHW collection is held each April in Independence. Both accept household hazardous wastes, including motor oil.

For more information about protecting the environment, call Water Pollution Control at (816) 325-7711.

Fairmount-Carlisle and St. Clair Park Residents May Be Eligible For Assistance

Considering making an improvement to your house? If you live in the Fairmount-Carlisle and St. Clair Park neighborhoods you may be able to participate in the tax abatement program.

Fairmount-Carlisle and St. Clair Park tax abatement programs were designed to increase commercial and residential development and to facilitate the structural and economic revitalization in Northwest Independence.

The Fairmount-Carlisle tax abatement program began in 2007 and the St. Clair Park program began in 2009. These programs provide an avenue for residents to get real estate tax relief if they repair or invest in their home according to the program guidelines. The tax relief amounts to 100% tax abatement on the improvements for 10 years, followed by 50% tax abatement for the next 15 years, which totals 25 years of tax

Tax Abatement

abatement. While taxes are abated on the improvements (house), property taxes are still collected on the land during the tax abatement period.

Examples of eligible improvements include: repair or replacement of structural damage, chimney repair, new exterior siding, adding a second story to the home, roofing, gutters and downspouts, energy conservation improvements, wiring or electrical system upgrades. See the guidelines for the complete list of eligible improvements.

Both tax abatement programs will stop taking new residential applications after March 31, 2017. If you are interested in this program, please contact Patricia Robinson, Tax Abatement Administrator, at (816) 325-7426 or visit the City’s website at www.independencemo.org/ComDev/TaxAbatement for more information.

New Assistant City Managers Hired

Following the promotion of Zachary Walker to City Manager and the retirement of Deputy City Manager Larry Kaufman, the City has hired Lauren Palmer, former city administrator of Parkville, MO and Mark Randall, former city administrator of Pleasant Hill, MO as Assistant City Managers.

Palmer is a native of Joplin, MO and had been with the City of Parkville since 2013, following five years as Assistant City Manager for the City of Manhattan, KS.



Randall had been city administrator in Pleasant Hill since 1988, following three years with the City of Lee’s Summit and three years as Assistant to the Clay County Administrator.



Holidays Bring Family Celebrations

“*Spirit of Christmas – Past, Present & Future*” is this year’s theme for Christmas at the beautiful Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific. The holiday season begins **Friday, November 25 through December 30.** (Closed December 23-25.) Walk-in tours are offered Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m.

Your visit will begin in the Carriage House Boutique where you will find many unique items to purchase for someone special or just for yourself. Following your tour, relax in the third-floor Tea Room, enjoying music, cookies and hot spiced tea or coffee.

The Estate will host the annual Twilight Tour from 4 to 7 p.m. on **Sunday, December 4.** Stroll through the mansion at your leisure, enjoying light refreshments and live music performed by The Morton Sisters in Harmony. Adult admissions \$6; Youth 6 – 16 are \$3 each.

Are you ready for an elegant evening, filled with a hint of mystery? It’s the Champagne & Chandeliers annual event – *Victorian Mystery Masquerade* – at the magnificent Vaile Mansion, 1500 N. Liberty. From 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on **Saturday, December 3,** guests will enjoy delicious food, door prizes, and chilled champagne with Colonel Vaile. Tickets are \$40 per guest; For reservations call (816) 796-6322.

The Vaile Mansion will also be open for the Victorian Crystal Fantasy Christmas Tour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays and from 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays beginning **Friday, November 25 through December 30.** (Closed December 23-25.) Come out and be inspired with holiday décor from years gone by.

Get the family in a festive mood by taking in a special holiday presentation at the Children’s Performing Theatre at the Sermon Center, 201 N. Dodgion. Performances are by children ages 5 to 15, and this season will feature “*elfjr – The Musical.*” Shows start at 7:30 p.m. on **Fridays and Saturdays, December 2 and 3, and December 9 and 10,** with matinees

at 2 p.m. on **Sundays, December 4 and 11.** For reservations, call (816) 325-7367.

The holidays wouldn’t be complete without the annual Mayor’s Christmas Carnival at the Sermon Center, 201 N. Dodgion on **Saturday, December 3.** From 9 a.m. to noon, the kids can celebrate the season with Mayor Eileen Weir and, of course, Santa Claus. This free family event features balloon creations, face painting, carnival games, prizes and snacks. Bring your camera and get a picture with Santa. For more information, call Parks/Recreation/Tourism at (816) 325-7370.

Celebrate the holidays at the 31st Annual Mayor’s Christmas Concert at 2:30 p.m. **Sunday, December 4.** Benefitting the Community Services League, the concert will be held at the Community of Christ Auditorium at 1001 W. Walnut.

This year’s concert features the Independence School District Fourth Grade Students. There will be performances from the Truman and Van Horn High School Concert Choirs, The Young MAIsterSingers of the Music Arts Institute and the Spirit of Independence Band. Directing this year’s concert is Madora Graffeo of the Independence School District.

The Master of Ceremonies will again be Independence resident Dick Wilson, from 94.9 KCMO. Admission is free. A free-will offering will be accepted during the concert. For more information, visit www.cslcares.org or call (816) 912-4485.

Puppeteer Kraig Kensinger will bring Rudolph, Santa and his pals from the North Pole to welcome the holiday season with song and dance at the Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Road. Come out for the Rudolph Revue at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on **Saturdays, December 10 and 17.** Tickets are \$6 each; For reservations, call (816) 833-9777.

For an enchanted evening out, dress for a walk on a wooded path and celebrate winter at George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Road. The 13th Annual Winter Solstice Torch-lit Hike will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, December 14.** Watch the ice carving and enjoy free hot chocolate around the bonfire. Bring your camera and take your holiday picture in the ice sleigh.

For more information about events and activities in December contact Tourism at (816) 325-7111.

Get Ready for Winter Weather

In the Midwest, the weather can change drastically from one day to the next. Although last year’s winter was mild, this winter could be very different. Take steps now to make sure your home and vehicles are winter-ready.

Watch the news and weather daily, and become familiar with winter weather warning terms:

* **Winter Weather Advisory:** Expect winter weather condition which could cause severe inconvenience and life-threatening hazards.

* **Frost/Freeze Warning:** Expect below-freezing temperatures.

* **Winter Storm Watch:** Be alert and prepare; a storm is likely.

* **Winter Storm Warning:** Take action; the storm is in or entering the area.

* **Blizzard Warning:** Seek refuge immediately! Snow and strong winds, near-zero visibility, deep snow drifts, and life-threatening wind chill expected.

At home, it is recommended to have a weeks’ worth of food and safety supplies, including a battery-powered radio, in case of a winter emergency. If you plan to use a fireplace or wood stove for emergency heating, have your chimney or flue inspected before using it for the first time. Install a smoke detector and a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector near the area to be heated, and test them monthly. If possible, weatherproof your home by adding weather-stripping and door insulation.

Listen for winter weather advisories and gather a winter survival kit for your car. Important items for a vehicle winter survival kit include: a shovel, windshield scraper, flashlight, extra batteries, water, extra hats, coats, and mittens, blankets, chains or rope, road salt and sand or cat litter, jumper cables and a first aid kit.

Keep the gas tank near full to help avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines. Additionally, replace windshield-wiper fluid with a wintertime mixture, replace any worn tires, and check the air pressure in the tires.

Taking preventive measures is your best defense against having to deal with extreme-cold weather conditions. For more information, please contact the Independence Health Department at (816) 325-7185.

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.

**Last Drop-Off of Season
Saturday, November 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 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

Re-Opens March 11, 2017

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



**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.



INDEPENDENCE
HEALTH
DEPARTMENT



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

KC Hook 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.

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



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.