

CityScene



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www.independencemo.org
City of Independence, MO

Tourism Volunteer Banquet Held November 10

The 33rd Annual Tourism Volunteer Banquet was held November 10, 2016, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Independence as a way to extend a special “thanks” to its many volunteers.

Eric Urfer, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism was the emcee of the event. Mayor Eileen Weir spoke, thanking the volunteers for their service to the city. In addition, Mayor Weir challenged each volunteer



to recruit one additional volunteer for the next year.

Eric Urfer presented Mayor Weir with a symbolic check for the amount of



\$384,730.74, which represented payment for the 18,054 hours of time donated by the volunteers at the Independence historical sites.

In thanking the volunteers, Urfer

said without their work, the Tourism Division simply could not do what it does. “Without you, our information booths would go unmanned, our special events would be understaffed, our Tourism Commission would be vacant, our historic sites would be shuttered and our story would be silenced,” he said. “Thankfully for the City, none of these things are true because of you and for that, we are eternally grateful.”

Attending the banquet this year were nearly 200 persons, including volunteers and guests, as well as representatives from the Independence City Council and the Tourism Commission.

Volunteers received recognition for 1, 5, 10, 15, and 20 years of service.

Receiving special recognition for 20 years of service were Elroy Aslakson, Mary Aslakson, Jean Kimball, Mike Roszell and Leona Tennison.



Mayor Eileen Weir accepts a “check” from Parks / Recreation / Tourism Director Eric Urfer for \$384,730.75.

Martin Luther King Day Celebration Planned for January 16

The City of Independence will celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at 7 p.m. on Monday, January 16, 2017 at the Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple Ave. in Independence. The 30th Annual Celebration is free and open to the public.

This year’s theme is “Empower the Individual, Strengthen the Community, Honor the Man” and will highlight Dr. King’s life and journey as an activist for civil liberties. The program will include musical performances by the Van Horn Choir and the Angels on Fire Choir from the 2nd Baptist Church.

The keynote speaker at the event will be best-selling author and lecturer, Rev. Dr. Tex Sample. A recipient of the ‘Distinguished Alumnus Award’ from Boston University, and former faculty

member at the St. Paul School of Theology, Rev. Sample marched from Selma to Montgomery with Dr. King, and met and demonstrated with him in Boston.

John Olivarez Scholarship Applications Due January 4, 2017

Also on the program this year will be recognition of the annual essay contest winners. High school seniors living in Independence are invited to submit an essay for the John Olivarez Scholarship. The essay should be on this year’s featured topic, “Empower the Individual, Strengthen the Community, Honor the Man,” and be no more than 500 words. The winner of the \$300 scholarship can use the award towards college or vocational school after graduating high school.

Independence eighth-grade students will also have an opportunity to take part in an essay contest. The winner will receive a pass for Adventure Oasis Water Park and a \$50 cash prize.

Essays must be submitted by Wednesday, January 4, 2017 to: Independence Human Relations Commission, c/o Marissa Willis, 111 E. Maple Ave., Independence, MO 64050. All essays must be typed.

For more information about the event, call (816) 325-7843. Details on the scholarship essay contest can be found on the City of Independence website at www.independencemo.org.



Beat The Winter Blahs With These January Events

Are you going stir crazy this winter? Make your plans now to get out of the house and take the family to one of the wide variety of events coming up in January.

It's time for the classic tale of Brer Rabbit, who tricks Brer Bear and Brer Fox! Anitra Steele of Two Frogs and a Turtle Puppet Company will entertain the whole family on **Friday and Saturday, January 14 and 15, 2017** with performances at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. each day. Puppetry Arts Institute is located at 11025 E. Winner Road. Tickets are \$6 per person, and may be reserved by calling (816) 833-9777.



Also in January, City Theatre of Independence will present *Agnes of God*. This compelling drama follows the story as a court-appointed psychiatrist is summoned to a convent. The women are all forced to re-examine the meaning of faith and the power of love, leading to a dramatic climax.

Performances will be at 8 p.m. **Thursday through Saturday, January 5, 6, and 7; Friday and Saturday, January 13 and 14; closing with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday, January 15.** 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.

Nothing says "winter" like ice skating, so don't miss the 2017 U.S. Figure Skating Championships **January 14 – 18, 2017**.

The Silverstein Eye Centers Arena at 19100 E. Valley View Parkway will host the juvenile, intermediate, and novice levels of competition, while the junior and championship level events will be held at the Sprint Center in Kansas City,



Mo. This is the nation's most prestigious figure skating event, crowning the U.S. Champions in ladies, mens, pairs and ice dancing events. For more information go to www.silversteineyecentersarena.com.

Fans of Missouri Mavericks hockey will have no excuse to miss a game in **January**, with eight home games to pick from. The Mavs will face off against the Wichita Thunder, the Quad City Mallards, and the Cincinnati Cyclones. Game times vary, so check the schedule at <http://missourimavericks.com>.

Use Care with De-Icing Products This Winter

Winter snow and ice are a sure thing each year, but is there an environmentally-friendly way to de-ice sidewalks and driveways?

Rock salt (sodium chloride) is effective but is a highly corrosive toxin which ruins the surrounding soil (adversely affecting grass, shrubs and flower beds), corrodes metal, contaminates groundwater and is harmful to pets and wildlife. It can never be removed once it is introduced into the environment and it does not break down or evaporate.

One eco-friendly method is to use sand, cat litter, or ashes – which will help with traction and assist the sun in melting ice. This method is not as effective as rock salt but is much healthier for the environment.

If you choose to use a commercial deicer, look for those labeled environmentally safe. Products containing calcium magnesium acetate (a salt-free compound) are effective, easy-to-use and biodegradable, but tend to be more expensive. Calcium magnesium acetate prevents ice from attaching to cement and will break down and melt layers of

ice already on sidewalks and driveways.

Products with calcium chloride work well in very low temperatures and are effective using smaller amounts compared to rock salt.

The application of deicers is better preventive than curative, so it is best to apply them before the ice or snow falls, or remove as much snow and ice as possible before application. There is no substitute for muscle and elbow grease, so get out the snow shovel and move as much snow as you can during the storm. Remember, deicers are most effective when applied to a thin layer of ice.

In choosing deicing substances, it is important to read the labels in order to find out the ingredients, and use the product as directed on the package. Follow directions carefully and only apply as much as is needed to do the job. A little goes a long way.

Make sure to be prepared with a good supply of deicing product on hand before the ice or snow hits. Making good environmental choices helps the earth, which helps everyone.

Don't forget indoor soccer! The Kansas City Comets will face the Syracuse Silver Knights at 7:30 p.m. on **Friday, January 20**. Visit the Box Office to pick up great seat tickets and don't forget to visit the team store for your game-day souvenirs. Home games are played at the Silverstein Eye Centers Arena, 19100 E. Valley View Parkway.

For fans of fancy basketball action, the Original Harlem Globetrotters will return to Independence on **Sunday, January 29** with a 2 p.m. performance at the Arena. Stop by the Box Office or go to www.silversteineyecentersarena.com for more information.



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

Independence Again Receives Digital Cities Award

For the fourteenth year, the City of Independence has been ranked in the top 10 of the most technology-advanced cities in America. Recognized by the Center for Digital Government (CDG), Independence was ranked third for cities with populations of 75,000 to 124,999 in the 2016 Digital Cities Survey.

The City of Independence has made several efforts to engage the public, with a clear and succinct performance dashboard, a mobile health app, and a job listing board tied to social media accounts which is among the most visited pages on the city's website.

Mayor Eileen Weir said, "Every year we strive to develop and implement new technologies to improve the exchange of information with our citizens and achieve outstanding operational efficiencies within our organization."

In its review CDG highlighted the City's Technology Services Department's major project to replace 10 legacy systems. This includes decades-old utility billing and financial management systems and enterprise resource planning. The upgrades will streamline workflows and allow for more field work, and aligns with the City Council's goal of making work more efficient through technology.

Win! Free Hockey/Soccer Tickets!



Independence residents are eligible to register to win two tickets to a home game of exciting Mavericks hockey or Comets soccer!

The City will give away a limited number of tickets to regular season home games at the Silverstein Eye Centers Arena, 19100 E. Valley View Parkway. Each winner receives two tickets.



Residents 18 years and older can register on the City's website: www.independencemo.org. Click on the "Win Tickets" banner. A complete list of contest rules is on the website.

Select any number of games from the listed schedules, and you will be included in the drawings for those games until your name is drawn as a winner. Winners are randomly selected by computer and will be notified by telephone and/or email when selected. (One winner per household each season, per team.)

When notified, winners may pick up their tickets at the Arena Box Office any time it is open, right up until game start time. A valid photo ID and proof of residency, such as a utility bill, are required when picking up tickets.

The Box Office is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. On weekend game days, the Box Office will open at least two hours prior to game time and will close approximately an hour after the game begins. Good luck!

Tips To Stay Healthier Inside

It may be cold outside, but the Independence Health Department is offering these five tips to help you be healthy, no matter the weather.

1. Eliminate your sleep debt.

The average person sleeps six and a half hours a night, less than the recommended seven to nine hours. Winter is a great time to catch up on sleep and reinforce good sleep habits, since it gets dark earlier.

2. Drink more milk.

Milk is a great source of protein, vitamins A, B12, D, and calcium. Since you are 80% more likely to get a cold in winter, making sure your immune system is in tip-top condition is important. Additionally, our main source of vitamin D is the sun, so drinking more milk in the winter can help make up for spending less time outside.

3. Eat more fruit and vegetables.

Even though it may be tempting to fill up on unhealthy comfort foods, it's important to ensure you still have five portions of fruit and vegetables a day. If you are craving a sugary treat, try a juicy clementine or apple, or dried fruits such as raisins or cranberries. Winter vegetables can be roasted, mashed or made into soup for a comforting and healthy winter meal. Frozen or canned fruits and vegetables are a great alternative to fresh.

4. Have a hearty breakfast.

Winter is the perfect season for oatmeal. Eating a warm bowlful can help boost your intake of starchy foods and fiber. These give you energy and help you feel full longer, stopping the temptation to snack mid-morning. Oats also contain lots of vital vitamins and minerals. Add a few dried raisins, cranberries, a sliced banana or other fruit for extra flavor.

5. Join a local gym.

Although it might be too chilly to exercise outside, there are plenty of indoor alternatives. Exercise videos or YouTube videos are great ways to stay active in the winter. Another exercise option is joining the Sermon Center, at 201 N. Dodgion. There are a wide variety of exercise classes and equipment available for a healthy workout. Find more information at www.independencemo.org/parksandrec/Sermon or call (816) 325-7370.

Traffic Ticket?

To save time and avoid busy phone lines, check the City's website before calling Municipal Court. Go to www.independencemo.org/municourt. You can search for your court date or review a list of violations and fine amounts.

You may be able to pay your ticket online. Click *On-Line Services*, then select *Pay Ticket On-Line*. To pay by telephone, call (816) 325-SERV (7378) and select option 2.

Court sessions are held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 8:30, 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. and afternoons at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. Municipal Court hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Cashier windows are closed for lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

For information about a court date, call (816) 325-7230 or (816) 325-7235. Telephones are answered from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



Lasso Your Savings for Summer Fun!



Adventure Oasis Water Park, 2100 S. Hub Drive, has special holiday prices for that special person on your gift list!

Pick up an Adventure Oasis Season Pass or 5-Punch Pass gift certificate at these special prices through 5 p.m. Saturday, December 31 at the Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple or at the Roger T. Sermon Community Center at 201 N. Dodgion.

Opening Day for Adventure Oasis is Saturday, May 27, 2017. Don't miss this chance for the lowest price of the season!

Call (816) 325-7843 for more information about this great offer.

	Reg.	Disc.
Season Pass	\$75	\$64
5-Punch Pass Youth/Sr	\$24	\$20
5-Punch Pass Adult	\$36	\$31
5-Punch Pass Family	\$100	\$85

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

CLOSED FOR WINTER
Reopens March 12, 2017
 875 Vista Avenue

Request, comment,
 or complaint?



Don't know who to call to report a problem or concern? Use the on-line Action Center, the fastest way to get your concern in front of the right person. You can remain anonymous, or you can enter your contact information for a response. Visit the City's website, www.independencemo.org.

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

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.



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.