

# CityScene



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www.independencemo.org  
City of Independence, MO

## Solar Farm Installation Growing

Have you been looking for more opportunities to “go green?” The Independence Community Solar Farm at 24451 E. Bundschu Road is now under construction.

Community Solar is a centrally-located solar photovoltaic system which converts sunlight into electricity for use by residential, industrial and commercial consumers. When the installation is completed in early 2017, Independence Power & Light (IPL) has agreed to purchase the energy it produces.

The growing use of solar energy for electricity generation offers many benefits to customers as well as utility companies. Participating in the community solar farm provides an opportunity for IPL customers to support and use renewable energy without the expense of installing or maintaining solar panels.

IPL customers are allowed to subscribe for up to 40% of their electric usage. After a customer selects an amount of solar power units (144 kilowatt hours each) to be billed to them, they will be billed for normal electric use, plus an additional amount per month for each unit of solar power.



**One of the steps in creating the solar farm is to construct a framework to hold the solar panels at the proper angle.**

Because the rate for the solar power used under this agreement will be frozen for the next 15 years, with an option of 10 one-year extensions, customers will be able to control that portion of their current utility costs.

There is still time to sign up and be part of the Independence Community Solar Farm. For more information on the City of Independence Power & Light Community Solar initiative please see [www.independencemo.org/pl/CommunitySolar](http://www.independencemo.org/pl/CommunitySolar), contact Jennifer Newbold at (816) 325-7485, or email [communitysolar@indepmo.org](mailto:communitysolar@indepmo.org).



**The installed panels are angled to receive the maximum amount of sunlight.**

## IPD Offers Annual Citizen’s Academy

For an inside look at your police department, sign up for the Spring 2017 session of the Citizens’ Police Academy. Participants receive a front-row seat to learn about the internal workings, goals and values of the Police Department, provided by the officers serving the community.



Committing to three hours each Thursday night for 10 weeks (6 to 9 p.m.) beginning March 2, participants will learn the challenges facing the department on a day-to-day basis, receive an inside look at each unit within the department, the operation of individual units and the duties performed by the members of these units.

This “first-hand” look offers citizens the opportunities to see the challenges for themselves, gain an appreciation and understanding of the issues facing the police departments and even offer their own suggestions and advice.

Instructors are officers and civilian personnel from the specialized units, who will present materials and demonstrations from their fields of expertise.

Topics covered include: History of the Police Department, Investigations Unit, Traffic Unit, Drug Enforcement Unit, Special Weapons and Tactics Unit (SWAT), K-9 Unit, Crime Scene Unit (CSI), Bomb Unit, Dispatch, Firearms Safety and Education, Firearms Training and Police Ride-along program.

For more information contact Officer Billy Pope at (816) 325-7645 or [bpope@indepmo.org](mailto:bpope@indepmo.org). To apply on line, go to [www.independencemo.org/IPD/CitizenAcademy](http://www.independencemo.org/IPD/CitizenAcademy). Space is limited; the deadline for application is February 15.



## Register for 6<sup>th</sup> Park Trot 5K Run/Walk

On your mark, get set, go! Registration for the 6th Annual Independence Park Trot 5K Run/Walk is now open. Register online at [www.IndependenceParkTrot.com](http://www.IndependenceParkTrot.com). Whether you're



an avid runner, a first-time 5K participant, walking alone or with a big group of friends or family, the Independence Park Trot is a great way to start or continue an active lifestyle. Another plus? It's free!

This is the 6th year the Independence Health Department (IHD) has organized this event, and each year it gets bigger and better. The event will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday, May 6, 2017 at Waterfall Park, 4501 S. Bass Pro Drive. Chip-timing will be offered to all participants who register online by Sunday, April 23.

The IHD and Centerpoint Medical Center, the 2017 official race sponsor, provide this race free of charge so everyone has an opportunity to participate. The Park Trot is held rain or shine.

A free fun run for children ages 10 and younger will be held following the 5K.

In-person registration (no chip timing) and packet and t-shirt pick-up will be held from 3 - 7 p.m. Friday, May 5 at Bass Pro Shops, 18001 Bass Pro Drive, and from 7 - 7:40 a.m. in the Mardel parking

lot on Saturday, May 6. A parent or legal guardian must sign a waiver for anyone under age 18 participating in the race. Adult and child sized t-shirts will be available for \$10 through the Park Trot website until April 16.

Keep your eyes and ears open for more information to come about IHD's Couch to 5K program, which will lead up to the Park Trot. Like us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/IndependenceHealthDepartment/](http://www.facebook.com/IndependenceHealthDepartment/)) to stay updated with all the great programs and activities IHD offers free for the community.

For more information about the 2017 Independence Park Trot, or to register for the event, visit [www.IndependenceParkTrot.com](http://www.IndependenceParkTrot.com) or contact the Independence Health Department at (816) 325-7185.

## WPC Protects Our Environment

Have you ever wondered what happens when you flush the toilet, or where all that water goes every time it rains?

The Water Pollution Control Department (WPC) makes sure wastewater is treated and disinfected before returning to the environment. WPC also makes sure rainwater flows easily back to the streams or rivers, helping to avoid flooding.

Whenever you flush a toilet or put anything down the drain, that wastewater goes through the sanitary sewer system to the treatment plant. The water is treated in several steps, including physical and chemical processes, to remove bacteria from the water. This system is not designed for items like baby wipes and diapers, cigarette butts, wrappers, sanitary items or cleaning products. If these are flushed, it can result in expensive backups or harm to the environment.

Rain water flows through a complicated system of underground pipes on its way back to rivers and streams. The storm sewer system is only designed for rain water. Dumping anything else in the storm sewer can cause significant harm to creeks, streams, rivers and lakes. Allowing anything else to go into the storm sewer system is prohibited by City Code.



Because rain can wash trash and chemicals off the roads and into the storm system, it is important not to litter, or allow leaves or grass clippings to pile up along the curb or in the street.

So before you flush something other than toilet paper down the toilet, or throw a cigarette butt out of your car window, remember – those things can affect environmental and public health.

Do your part to keep rivers, creeks, and streams clean and to help keep the sanitary sewers flowing at their full potential. WPC can't do it alone. We all have a responsibility to help keep the environment safe and clean.



## Rental Ready Program Begins June 1

Last year, the Independence City Council adopted a new program called "Rental Ready" which will have an impact on our community.

What is the Rental Ready Program? Rental Ready is designed to ensure that Independence landlords are properly registered and that all rental properties meet basic safety and health standards.

The program will begin on June 1, 2017 and applies to all residential rental units in the city. It will require all properties to be licensed and pass a basic health and safety inspection every two years. Learn more about the Rental Ready Program by contacting Perry Hill in the Community Development Department at (816) 325-7405 or at [Phill@indepemo.org](mailto:Phill@indepemo.org).

### Your Rights as a Renter:

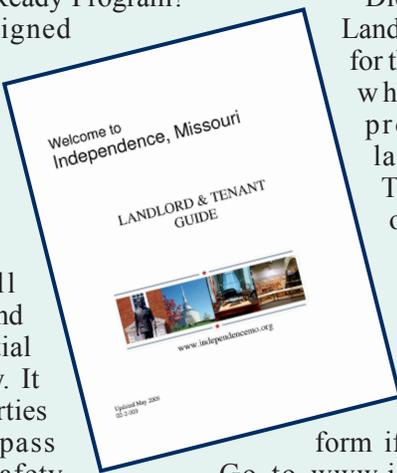
With the implementation of Rental Ready, it is a good time to revisit what you need to know as a renter in our city.

Did you know there is a Landlord and Tenant Guide for the City of Independence which includes the prohibited acts for a landlord and a tenant? The full guide is available on our website at [www.independencemo.org/landlordtenantguide](http://www.independencemo.org/landlordtenantguide).

Also on our website you can find the Landlord/Tenant Complaint form if you wish to file one.

Go to [www.independencemo.org/landlordtenantcomplaintform](http://www.independencemo.org/landlordtenantcomplaintform).

For more information please contact the Community Development Department at (816) 325-7193.



## February Activities Offer A Glimpse of History and Opportunities for Learning

To recognize February as Black History Month, the National Frontier Trails Museum at 318 W. Pacific is offering special programs and gallery walks.



The National Frontier Trails Museum at 318 W. Pacific welcomes visitors.

Every Thursday, (**February 2, 9, 16 and 23**) a special Gallery Walk at 2 p.m. will focus on diversity in westward expansion. Discover how African Americans participated in this chapter of our history. Free with regular Museum admission.

Every Saturday, (**February 4, 11, 18 and 25**) between 1 and 3 p.m., visitors to the National Frontier Trails Museum can use a special brochure as a guide and discover how African Americans contributed in settling the west.

On **Sunday, February 5**, the Museum will offer a special one-hour reading program at 2 p.m. Bring the whole family for *Reading Tales From the West*, and discover stories of African American pioneers in this escorted tour. Hear the letters of African American Gold Rush widow Rachel Brown and from journals of other pioneers. Tickets are \$5 for children 6-17, \$7 for adults. Advance reservations are required by calling (816) 325-7575.

Pop your lunch into a brown bag on **Friday, February 17**, and come back to the Museum at noon for a free lecture about Stagecoach Mary Fields, an African American woman who made a name for herself in the west. The National Frontier Trails Museum is at 318 W. Pacific.

For more information about any of the Museum's programs, call (816) 325-7575.

The birds didn't all fly south for the winter! For a close look at our familiar winter birds, come to George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Rd. by the Missouri River Bird observatory. Scientists will net and band birds from 3 to 5 p.m. on **Thursday, February 2**, so

you can see the process up close. Banding is done outside, so dress for the weather and don't forget your camera. Want more information? Call (816) 325-7951.

Calling kids of all ages for the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Power Palooza! Visit the Roger T. Sermon Center, 201 N. Dodgion, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on **Saturday, February 4**. Festivities include carnival games, face painting, puppet shows and a variety of treats. Admission is free; tickets for games and activities are available for purchase. Call Parks & Recreation at (816) 325-7370 for more information.

It's Valentine's Day for Groundhogs! Bring the kids for a special Nature Story Time at 11 a.m. on **Saturday, February 11** at George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Rd. Listen to stories around the fire, make groundhog valentines, visit the groundhog in the back, and warm up with hot chocolate. It's free; call (816) 325-7951.

February is also the month of Presidents' Day, when we recognize the leaders of our country. The perfect place to celebrate is the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum at 500 W. US Hwy. 24 in Independence.

Starting at 10 a.m. on **Monday, February 20**, the Truman Library will observe Presidents' Day by serving fresh-baked presidential cookies to visitors with their paid admission (while supplies last). Volunteers and staff will don their aprons, baking selections from an out-of-print Presidential Cookies cookbook.

From 10:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., Harry Truman – as portrayed by Niel Johnson – will greet visitors and give occasional press conferences. For more information, contact the Library at (816) 268-8200.

For more February fun, come out for the "Big Top Circus" puppet musical extravaganza! Visit the Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Road for performances at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on **Saturday, February 18 and Monday, February 20**. Tickets just \$6; reserve your seats at (816) 833-9777.



Niel Johnson portrays President Truman for visitors.

## Be Ready For An Emergency



Emergencies can strike at any time and without warning. What would you do? Does your family have a plan?

Join the Independence Emergency Preparedness staff for a free class on the third Saturday of each month at the Emergency Preparedness Offices at Fire Station #1, 950 N. Spring Street.

From 10 a.m. to noon, you will learn the basics about how to take care of yourself and your family in a disaster. Questions? Call (816) 325-7167.

### 2017 Class Schedule

<b>Jan 21:</b>	<b>Utility Safety</b>
<b>Feb. 18:</b>	<b>Weather Safety</b>
<b>Mar. 18:</b>	<b>First Aid Basics</b>
<b>Apr. 15:</b>	<b>72-Hour Kits</b>
<b>May 20:</b>	<b>Emer. Family Plans</b>
<b>Jun. 17:</b>	<b>Food Storage</b>
<b>July 15:</b>	<b>Utility Safety</b>
<b>Aug. 19:</b>	<b>First Aid Basics</b>
<b>Sept. 16:</b>	<b>72-Hour Kits</b>
<b>Oct. 21:</b>	<b>Weather Safety</b>
<b>Nov. 18:</b>	<b>Emer. Family Plans</b>
<b>Dec. 16:</b>	<b>Food Storage</b>

## Utilities Customer Service Tips

Before calling Utilities Customer Service at (816) 325-7930, have your account number ready. If you don't, your representative will ask for personal information to verify your identity before discussing your account.

For faster service, avoid calling or visiting the first thing in the morning, the first day of the month and the first Monday of the month.

Remember, Customer Service has moved to the new Independence Utilities Center, 17221 E. 23rd Street.

Regular business hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (closed on legal holidays). Options for paying utility bills include:

- Mail-in check
- Pay at City Hall or Customer Service offices or use the Night Drop
- On-Line with credit card or check
- Credit card on the Integrated Voice Recognition phone line, (816) 325-SERV (7378)
- Automatic withdrawal from your bank account

# 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 (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

## 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](http://www.independencemo.org).

## Utility Bill Payment Options



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](http://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 325-7930 for more information.

## City Drop-Off Depot

**CLOSED FOR WINTER**  
**Reopens March 11, 2017**  
875 Vista Avenue

## 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

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 COUNCIL

- Mayor**
- Eileen Weir (816) 325-7027
- City Council Office** (816) 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**
- Zachary Walker (816) 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.