



CityScene

October 2017

Volume 24

Number 10

City of Independence, MO

www.independencemo.org

Be safe this holiday season

Shopping during the holiday season can present a unique danger. Taking a few prevention measures can help keep your holiday season joyous.

The holiday season is a time when busy people can become careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. Here are a few tips for the Independence Police Department to help you be more careful, prepared and aware during the holiday season:

Whenever possible, shop during daylight hours. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member and park your vehicle in well-lit areas or close to mall entrance ways. Know the area you are going to be shopping in, and have a cell phone with you in case of an emergency. Dial 911 in an emergency and describe the surroundings to the dispatcher in the event you are not familiar with the area; use landmarks, buildings, etc.

Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings. Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps. Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

Don't leave anything in plain view in the

compartment of your vehicle. If your car has a trunk place any items purchased in there. Keep loose change, GPS units and other valuables out of sight and utilize your vehicle's alarm system. If you don't have one, consider purchasing a "Club" at an auto parts store. This may prevent the theft of your vehicle.

While you are shopping if you carry a wallet or purse, keep an eye on it as it is a prime target of criminals in crowded shopping areas, transportation terminals, bus stops, on buses and other rapid transit. Consider keeping your wallet, cards and cash in your front pocket. And it's always a good idea to carry your Driver License or other Identification Card along with you.

Unfortunately things happen, keep a record of all of your credit and debit card numbers in a safe place at home in case your cards are lost or stolen. If your card is lost, stolen or misused, notify the card issuer immediately.

Above all else do not panic in an emergency; remain calm and play it smart

If you have more questions about how to keep yourself safe, how to start a Neighborhood watch, etc., please visit indep.us/ipdcrimeprevention.



Holiday Shopping Safety Tips for Children

- Teach your children to stay with you at all times while shopping. They should always check first with you or the person in charge before they go anywhere.
- Always supervise your children in a public facility and accompany young children to the restroom.
- Make a plan in case you become separated. Have older kids meet you in a predesignated spot (e.g. the sales counter or mall information booth). Teach younger children to look for people who can help within the store or mall — a uniformed security officer, a salesperson with a nametag, a mother with children, etc. They should never leave the store/mall or go to the parking lot to look for you or your car.
- Leave clothing that displays your children's names at home.
- Never leave children unsupervised in toy stores or public facilities (e.g. video arcades, movie theaters, playgrounds).
- Make other arrangements for child care, if you feel that you will be distracted during holiday shopping.

In this edition:

- Mark your calendars - November Events, Pg. 2
- Rental Ready Begins, Pg. 2
- Help stop the grease menace, Pg. 3
- City receives Whole Person Award, Pg. 3
- Block Award Winner, Pg. 3
- Council Corner - At-large Member Karen Deluccie, Pg. 4



 facebook.com/CityofIndependence

 @CityofIndepMO

 @cityofindependencemo

 indep.us/nextdoor

Follow us today!

Questions? Concerns? Problems?
Submit an Action Center Report,
indep.us/actioncenter.

CityScene is published monthly by the City Manager's Office located at 111 East Maple Street, Independence, MO 64050.

For information call 325-7086.

Next month -
Look for information on holiday events and programs

Mark your calendar - November Events



Wait Until Dark Nov. 2-4 & 10-12

In 1944 Greenwich Village, Susan Hendrix, a blind yet capable woman, is imperiled by a trio of men in her own apartment. As the climax builds, Susan discovers that her blindness just might be the key to her escape, but she and her tormentors must wait until dark to play out this classic thriller's chilling conclusion.

Find ticket prices and show times online at citytheatreofindependence.org.

Mayor's Prayer Breakfast Nov. 9

Breakfast will begin Thursday at 7:30 a.m. Program will begin at 8 a.m. Community of Christ Auditorium, Laurel Club at 1001 West Walnut Street

Veteran's Day Nov. 10

City offices will be closed Friday in observance of the holiday.

Final Drop-off Depot of 2017 Nov. 11

Open Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 875 Vista Avenue. This is the last Drop-Off Depot for the season. Will open again in March.

Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov. 23-24

City offices will be closed Thursday and Friday in observance of the holiday.

Wizard of Oz Nov. 24 and 25

On Friday, Nov. 24 and Saturday, Nov. 25, Puppetry Arts Institute presents "Wizard of Oz," performed by Kraig Kensinger, at 11025 E. Winner Road, Independence.



To reserve seats, call 816-833-9777.

Admission is \$6 per person. More info and schedules at www.hazelle.org.

Best Little Arts & Crafts Show in Independence Nov. 17-18

No Admission Fee for Shoppers

Nov. 17 - 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Nov. 18 - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Get started on your holiday shopping and support the local economy by browsing through four floors filled with over 115 booths that offer a wide variety of arts & crafts. The show, held at the Roger T. Sermon Community Center, features both local and regional vendors, all selling original wares.

A food booth is offered by City Theatre of Independence as a fund raiser. A free shuttle bus will be available for shoppers from the northeast corner of Kansas and Lynn. For more information call (816) 325-7370. The Sermon Center, 201 North Dodgion Avenue is located on the southeast corner of Truman & Noland Roads in Independence.



Vaile Mansion Christmas Tours Nov. 24 - Dec. 30

Victorian Holiday Elegance with lights reflecting on thousands of ornaments decorating dozens of Christmas trees throughout the grand rooms. Mon.-Saturday 10 to 4, Sunday 1 to 4. Adults \$6, children \$3.



Bingham-Waggoner Christmas Tours Nov. 24 - Dec. 30

All adult admissions - \$6.00

Youth 6 - 16 - \$3.00

The theme at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate this year is "I'll Be Home For Christmas."

Tours begin Friday, Nov. 24 and will continue through Dec. 30 (closed Dec. 23-25). Walk-in tours are offered Mon. - Sat., 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. A Twilight Tour will be offered on Sunday, Dec. 3 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The Estate is available for lunch or dinner events during the holidays. The Carriage House can seat parties ranging in size from 10 to 50. Please call (816)461-3491 with any questions or to make a reservation.

Rental Ready Begins

The City's Rental Ready program officially began in June of this year. The program was implemented to protect the health, safety and welfare of residents living in rental units by ensuring minimum standards for residential rental buildings are met, as well as all citizens of Independence by maintaining attractive and desirable neighborhoods.

Rental Ready requires that all landlords have their residential units licensed and pass a basic health, safety and welfare inspection every two years. If you have an existing landlord business license, you will be notified by mail approximately 90

days prior to the deadline of needing your Rental Ready inspection.

During the first year, existing landlords outside of Independence will be required to have a Rental Ready inspection prior to renewing their landlord business license. Existing landlords inside of Independence will be required to have a Rental Ready during the second year. All new landlords will be required to have Rental Ready inspection prior to receiving a landlord business license. Only a qualified housing inspector registered with the City may conduct a Rental Ready inspection.

To learn more about the City's Rental Ready program, including finding a list of the qualified rental housing inspection companies, please visit indep.us/rentalready.



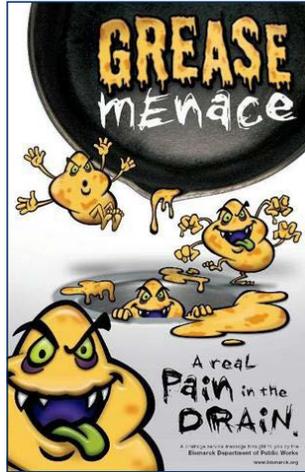
Help stop the grease menace

Most of us do not think of cooking oil and grease as hazardous but they are not good for the sewer lines. Each time grease is poured down the drain, it coats the inside of the pipes. Over time, grease and oil can build up blocking the entire pipe. This not only affects the inside of the sewer pipes on your property but it can affect the pipes further down the sewer system. If your sewer line becomes clogged, wastewater can back up into your home, possibly leading to an expensive and unpleasant cleanup. Clogged pipes further down the sewer system can cause wastewater to overflow into streets, yards, or other homes.

The best and easiest way to prevent grease problems is to keep the grease out of the sewer system completely. You can help by following these tips:

- Never dump grease down the drain or garbage disposal.
- Scrape grease and food scraps from dishes and pans into the trash prior to washing.
- Wipe grease out of pots and pans with a paper towel prior to washing.
- Never dump oil or grease into a storm drain.
- Cooking grease, such as bacon grease, lard and shortening may be placed in the trash when it is solid.
- Small quantities of liquid cooking oil

should be placed in a sealed container with an absorbent material, such as paper towels, shredded newspaper or rags, and then disposed of in the trash.



- Turkey fryer oil can be filtered and reused several times. Store the filtered oil in the original canister between uses.
- Although not considered hazardous, used oil can be taken to a hazardous waste disposal drop-off free of charge in the spring or to a facility in Kansas City year-round. Call (816) 513-8401 for more info or go to recyclespot.org.

Residents can help protect homes and the environment from problems caused by improper disposal of fats, cooking oil and grease. For more information or to receive a free brochure titled "Fat-Free Sewers" call Water Pollution Control at (816) 325-7711.

2017 Susan Paxton Block Award Winner

During the September 18 City Council Meeting, Jennifer Polston, Animal Services Manager in the Animal Control Division of the Independence Health Department, was recognized as the recipient of the 2017 Susan Paxton Block Award for Distinguished Public Service.

Polston's nomination highlighted her dedication to excellence for the welfare of animals, whether assisting in their removal from unsanitary living conditions, securing donations of dog houses, food, leashes and needed medications for animals in need, or implementing education programs for other agencies. Her ability to remain calm and professional when working in volatile situations was cited, along with her continuing goal to provide necessary training for her staff.

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. Junior Service League Past-president Cantrell Wenzel presented the award at the Sept. 18 Council meeting. Nominations are open to the public and were available on the City's website. Look for notice of next year's nomination period in this publication and on the City's social media accounts.

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



Junior Service League Past-President Cantrell Wenzel presents Jennifer Polston with the Susan Paxton Block Medal at a reception held in City Hall on September 18 prior to the City Council meeting.

City honored by Whole Person for McCoy Park Inclusive Play Project

On September 15, Mayor Eileen Weir accepted the Civic Leadership Award from the Whole Person on behalf of the City. The City received the award in recognition of the work on the McCoy Park Inclusive Play project and its efforts to support people with disabilities in the community.

McCoy Park is continuing to gain national attention and over the next few months, the City will welcome representatives from across the country to view the unique playground and inclusive ball park.

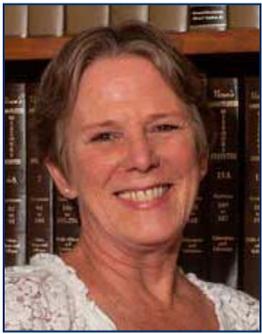
"Play is a critical part of the social, emotional and physical development of every child," Mayor Weir said. "McCoy Park allows all of our citizens to play with their family, friends, and neighbors. We are honored to be recognized for this work and must once again thank our community for the tremendous support that made this project possible."

The project was completed in three phases over seven years and cost \$1.7 million. The Park theme incorporates Santa Fe, California and Oregon Trails. Wagons are incorporated throughout as well as Braille interpretive panels, sensory rich environments, recycled tire surfacing, musical instruments, swings and more.



Recreation Program Supervisor Kristin Zimmerman, Public Information Officer Meg Lewis, City Manager Zach Walker, Mayor Eileen Weir and Human Resources Director Debra Craig stand with the Award following the presentation at the Whole Person - Night of Independence Gala on Sept. 15.

Council Corner - At-large member Karen Deluccie



Our city council approved a strategic plan earlier this year entitled "Independence for All". This plan was developed after months of soliciting citizen input that will help us shape what we want our city

departments of the city to efficiently and effectively meet citizen needs.

Further we have completed a Financial Risk Assessment and Management Analysis for Independence Power and Light. This report provides guidance as we look toward the future of our citizens' needs and our electric utility's ability to meet those needs. Within the next few months, we will begin a new master plan that will help us determine alternatives for meeting our power requirements over the next 20 years. Please know that we will look at the results of these studies closely

to be for ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren. The plan is ambitious. It sets forth 74 separate strategies designed to move the city forward over the next five years. A centerpiece of the plan is that our city finances remain stable and strong. We have taken steps to ensure that our goal is consistently met.

"We are working hard to maintain a firm foundation for our future and the future of our children and grandchildren."

as we balance our customer's needs with our goal of maintaining stable finances.

I am excited for the future of our City. We are working

hard to maintain a firm foundation for our future and the future of our children and grandchildren. Independence has a wonderful reputation in the economic community for maintaining strong finances and exercising responsible fiscal spending. The strategic plan "Independence for All" sets out the blueprint for maintaining our well-deserved reputation. Please review the plan at indep.us/indep4all. I ask you to join us in shaping the future of our city. Thank you for letting me take part in helping to shape our city by serving as your Councilmember at Large.

We approved the purchase of technology to improve services provided by our Municipal Court, Finance Department, and Human Resources Department. We replaced technology that was 20 years old and no longer capable of meeting the needs of our citizens. This new technology will allow citizens to access the Municipal Court system online. It will free up staff time to allow employees throughout the multiple

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

Independence
 FARMERS' & CRAFTERS' MARKET

Fresh Healthy Local Foods

HOURS: 6 AM - 1 PM
SAT: April 22 - October 28
WED: June 7 - October 28

IndependenceMOFarmersMarket.com

NOW ACCEPTING & DOUBLING SNAP/ FOOD STAMPS!

INDEPENDENCE HEALTHIER Independence HEALTH DEPARTMENT



City of Independence
 Government Access Television

City Council Meetings

6 p.m. Mondays*
 10 a.m. Tuesdays
 7 p.m. Wednesdays
 2 p.m. Sundays

Planning Commission Meetings

6 p.m. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays*
 10 a.m. Wednesdays
 7 p.m. Thursdays

www.City7.TV *Denotes live meeting, all others are rebroadcasts.

Numbers to Remember

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

Regional Animal Shelter

21001 E. Hwy. 78, Independence

Help them find a forever home.
 Adopt a homeless pet.

Noon - 7 p.m. Tues.-Fri.
 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sat.-Sun.

Call (816) 621-7722



City Drop-Off Depot

2nd Saturday each month

8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

875 Vista Avenue

Learn more at indep.us/dropoffdepot.