On Friday, August 31st through Monday, September 3rd, 2018, (Labor Day Weekend) the Independence Chamber of Commerce will present the 46th Annual SantaCaliGon Days® Festival. This event commemorates the origin of the Santa Fe, California, and Oregon Trails, hosted on the historic Independence Square. The regions’ oldest and largest four-day Labor Day family event features a variety of musical genres on two stages, one of the Midwest’s best arts and crafts shows, 9 blocks of vendor booths, and a carnival for the young and young at heart attracting attendance of more than 300,000!

Entertainment on the Main Stage includes:
- Friday, August 31st - Black Stone Cherry
- Saturday, Sept. 1st - The Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band presented by Northrop Grumman
- Sunday, Sept. 2nd - Jacob Bryant

The Community Stage will feature NatuVisinia on Friday night.

Main Street 1849 will also return to SantaCaliGon Days this year. Located on South Main Street, between Lexington and Kansas, this interactive experience is designed to celebrate the rich frontier history of Independence. Main Street 1849 will bring to life the story of a time in our history where gold was on the mind of thousands and the streets of Independence were bustling with wagon trains arriving and preparing for their journey west. Step back in time and come face to face with the pioneering past at Main Street 1849.

Main Street 1849 attractions and activities include:
- Performance stage with period-specific performances
- Old-time photo booth
- Ron's Kettle Corn
- Kecks Longhorn Root Beer
- Historic first-person interpreters
- One-room school house
- Independence mercantile
- Blacksmith demonstrations
- Panning for gold
- Hands-on historic crafts

Make plans to attend the 46th year of this long-standing tradition! For more information about the SantaCaliGon® Days Festival and for a complete entertainment schedule, visit www.santacaligon.com.

CityScene is published monthly by the City Manager’s Office located at 111 East Maple Street, Independence, MO 64050. For information, call 325-7086.
Attending a local event, program or activity? Share pictures and tag the City. We love to see our community from the citizens' perspective.
Mark your calendar - September Events

Farmers Market
Open Wednesday and Saturday
The Independence Farmers Market will be open each Wednesday and Saturday in August from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. Visit local farmers, crafters and more. The Market is located at the northwest corner of W. Walnut St. and S. Liberty St.
Be sure to stop by and follow the progress of the new Uptown Farmers Market being built on Truman between Osage and Liberty.
Look for information regarding the opening of the new Independence Uptown Market on Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor.

Annual Used Book Sale
September 7-9
Located in the Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple Ave (enter on Pleasant St)
Sept. 7 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.,
Sept. 8 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sept. 9 Noon - 4 p.m.
Hardbacks - $1, Paperbacks - $0.50
Bags will be available on site to fill for one low price!
Sponsored by the Powerhouse Theatre Foundation in cooperation with the Jackson County Genealogy Society

Drop-Off Depot
September 8, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
The Drop-Off Depot will be held at 875 Vista Avenue on the second Saturday of each month, March through November, weather permitting. For more information or any questions, please call (816)325-7600.

Circus * Circus
September 8
On Saturday, September 8, 2018, Puppetry Arts Institute presents “Circus * Circus” at 11025 E. Winner Road in Independence. Performed by Kraig Kensinger. Sponsored by Cockerell & McIntosh Pediatrics. Mr. Kraig’s caravan of global puppets returns. Enter the center ring for crowd pleasing routines of marvel and wonder. Admission is $6 per person. For reservations, call (816)833-9777 or email pai@att.net.

Independence Uncorked
September 8, 1-6 p.m.
The 6th Annual Independence Uncorked Wine Festival will be held on September, 8, 2018, from 1 p.m.-6 p.m. on the grounds of the Historic Bingham-Waggoner Estate in Independence, MO.

Independence Uncorked will be one of the largest Missouri wine festivals in the state featuring 25 Missouri wineries sampling several of their wines, a guest spirits distiller, and over 2,500 attendees. The day will also feature art, music, beer, food booths and wine classes. The event is sponsored Cornell Roofing and Sheet Metal and hosted by the Rotary Club of Eastern Independence. The cost will be $30 in advance and $40 at the door and will include a wine glass and 4 bottle wine bag (for 1st 2000 people).
For more information, go to IndependenceUncorked.com
Purchase tickets at independenceuncorked2018.eventbrite.com

Emergency Preparedness Fair
September 15, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Join the Independence Fire Department Emergency Preparedness Division in conjunction with the Harry S Truman Presidential Library and Museum for the 2018 Emergency Preparedness Fair on September 15.
Concentrating on Harry S Truman’s establishment of the Federal Civil Defense Administration in 1952, the event will highlight numerous active emergency preparedness groups within the Independence and Greater Kansas City Metro area. The area’s HAM operators will be set up to communicate from the library with “Harry” at his home.
Questions? Call (816) 325-7168.

Square Table - A Farm to Market Event
September 22, 6 p.m.
We invite you to join us for the 2018 celebration, “Square Table – A Farm to Market Event.” This inaugural event will feature farm to table food and drinks, an auction, and live entertainment, all wrapped in an upscale backyard party at the brand-new Independence Uptown Market. Table sponsorship packages and community sponsorship packages are available.
Individual tickets are $75. Additional information and a link to purchase tickets can be found at TheIndependenceSquare.com/square-table.

Touch-a-Truck
September 29
The 12th annual TOUC Ha-TRUCK event will be held on Saturday, September 29 at the Independence Center, 18001 E. 39th St S. Free admission. Attendees can interact with a wide variety of vehicles and new this year, participants will be able to purchase lunch from regional food trucks. Look for more information on the City’s Facebook page, facebook.com/CityofIndependence.

Independence Works (continued)
deadline on July 13.
“Our mission is to transform our community through engagement, innovation, and sustainable services,” Mayor Weir said. “Independence works and the milestone of a $50,000 median income is a celebration of what we can achieve and have achieved by remaining focused on our goals and building partnerships to deliver the best to our city.” Additionally, it was announced the City has now exceeded 121,000 residents, key markers the economic development efforts are on the right track.
Look for more information on this initiative and the proposals from the steering committee to come in the following months.
What to do if you have a sewer back up

Most homes in Independence are connected to the City's sanitary collection system, a series of pipes that collect the waste and transport it to a treatment plant. The average home has a 4" lateral pipe that conveys sewage from the home to the City's collection system.

If you experience a slow drain or a complete back up, there are steps to take to figure out where the problem might be. Your home has a main pipe to the City's sewer. This main pipe is fed by secondary pipes from your bathroom, laundry or kitchen. If you have one area of the home draining slowly, but the rest is draining fine, then you just isolated the problem to that area or pipe. If all the drains are slow or backing up then the problem is most likely in the main lateral from the house to the City's sewer line.

The most common cause of sewer problems is tree roots getting into the lateral line. It could also be caused by grease or soap build up. Personal hygiene products or baby wipes should never be put in the sewer or flushed.

For grease or soap build up in sink drains, a simple drain auger can be used to clear these. For problems in the 4" lateral, a large main line auger should be used. These can be rented or you can call a plumber to have it snaked.

If a plumber is called, every effort should be made to clear the blockage with a main line auger with an appropriate size cutter head attached for clearing roots and other debris.

In Independence, the property owner is responsible for maintaining the lateral from the home all the way to the connection with the City's sewer line. If you suspect there is a blockage in the City’s main line, Water Pollution Control will jet the main to make sure it is flowing properly.

You may also want to have your lateral televisé to locate what and where a problem exists. Beware of companies offering to televisé the line before trying to clear the blockage.

The City of Independence has a Right of Way lateral program. If a private lateral needs to be excavated and repaired and this repair is in the City's right of way or easement, the city may elect to make the repair at no cost to the property owner. The property owner will need to have the lateral televised and marked to identify what and where the problem is before the City will make the repair.

Call Water Pollution Control at (816)325-7727 or visit indep.us/wpc for more information or questions.

Did you know?

Despite the hot and dry weather we’ve had this summer, grass and weeds have still managed to grow. Did you know the City Codes ask residents and property owners to ensure that noxious plants, noxious weeds and thicket are removed and that weeds and other growths of vegetation are kept under 12 inches (12”) in height, except healthy trees, shrubs, or plants grown and cultivated in a garden. (Chapter 4, Article 1 - Property Maintenance)

Further, City Codes outline that noise created by lawn mowing on residential properties should be limited to the hours between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. (Chapter 7, Article 10 - Environmental Controls)

If you notice a property around you that is not meeting these standards, please complete a detailed Action Request with property address and overview of your concerns at indep.us/actioncenter.

Independence Uptown Market taking reservations now

All summer construction at the corners of Osage and Truman on the west and Liberty and Truman on the east has been steadily progressing. The Independence Uptown Market will be a 6,000 square foot multi-use structure that houses a catering kitchen and rest rooms. The first “official” use of the new market area will happen during Santa-Cali-Gon. Shortly thereafter, the Farmers Market will be moving from the current location at Kansas & Liberty Streets in September. It will be open on Wednesdays and Saturdays 6 a.m. – 1 p.m. through the end of the market season, which is October 27, at the new location.

“Staff is excited for this new venue,” Parks/Recreation/Tourism Director Eric Urfer said. “We are looking at relocating some current programs and special events that would fit well in the space as well as developing new programs and activities.”

The Uptown Market will offer the perfect setting for corporate functions, weddings, birthday and other special event gatherings. There is an option to rent the space for as few as four hours up to 24 hours. Fees include a refundable security deposit and depending on the type of event - rental fees. For a family or an event for a not-for-profit organization rental fees start at $300 for the first four hour time slot with additional hours $75/hour up to 12 hours, after the 12 hour mark, the fee is $900 for 24 hours. Profit organizations/businesses pay a slightly higher fee. For additional information on availability and rental fees, please call (816)325-7843.

If you are a vendor and are interested in learning more about booth opportunities at the current or future location, please visit indep.us/farmersmarketvendors for a list of requirements and details.

A ribbon cutting ceremony will be scheduled in the later summer. Watch for information as dates and times are finalized in August.
Council Corner - 3rd Dist. Councilmember Scott Roberson

As the 3rd District Councilmember, I regularly speak with citizens about a variety of topics and concerns. One of the topics I hear most frequently relates to the City’s utilities and the future of our Blue Valley Power Plant.

Last summer, we received the results of a management audit from a consultant. One of the key recommendations from the report they provided was the completion of a Production Master Plan. The Power and Light department has engaged Burns and McDonnel to help with this plan and will be presenting the results to the Council and public in August.

While we are all anxious to see this report, my fellow councilmembers and I were provided an overview of what should be expected at a Council Study Session in July.

Here are a few things we can anticipate will be included in this report:

- At this time, the Blue Valley Power Plant produces less than 2 percent of the power used in Independence. The plant is aging and requires a number of updates to meet modern standards. Part of the Production Master Plan will include a list of potential options for the future including updates to the plant, shutting down the plant and remediating the facility, and the impacts on City staff for each option.

This is all part of the analysis of future energy capacity needs for the Power and Light Department. We are part of the Southwest Power Pool (SPP). All of the power we use is purchased from this group; and they oversee all the generators within the pool. We are purchasing 98 percent of our energy at a lower cost than generating ourselves. Part of this plan will look at the efficiencies of the Blue Valley Plant to determine if it makes sense for us to update the plant or replace its capacity from other sources including renewables, such as wind and solar. Our energy production at this time is already 30 percent renewable.

I understand that as we discuss the future of the Blue Valley Plant there are also very real concerns about what happens to our staff at the location. I want to ensure staff members and the public that all decisions will be made only after careful considerations. There will also be ample opportunity for the public to share their concerns with myself and my fellow councilmembers as we discuss the future of energy production in Independence.

Please look for regular updates on the City’s social media accounts and website regarding upcoming meetings and the agendas we will be discussing. You can also contact me at sroberson@indepmo.org or (816)204-5002, or the City Council office at (816)325-7022.