September is National Preparedness Month

The City of Independence encourages all residents to take action to prepare for disasters during the month of September. National Preparedness Month (NPM), recognized each September, provides an opportunity to remind everyone to prepare themselves and their families now and throughout the year. National Preparedness Month this year will focus on planning, with an overarching theme: “Disasters Happen.” See Ready.gov/september for more information and look for the FEMA app.

“Emergency preparedness is something that many people overlook,” Emergency Preparedness Division Manager Dante Gliniecki said. “Recent disasters, however, illustrate the importance of being prepared. People have lost their homes and belongings. They have separated from loved ones. They have been injured or worse. Everyone should use September, which is National Preparedness Month, to start or improve their emergency preparedness.”

Preparedness begins at home. Individuals and households should follow the State of Missouri’s Department of Health and Senior Services Ready-In-3 process. The American Red Cross, the State Emergency Management Agency and Missouri’s Office of Homeland Security endorse this process. Ready-in-3 focuses on three steps you can take to prepare for many kinds of emergencies.

1. Create a Plan
2. Prepare a Kit
3. Listen for Information

Learn more about Ready-in-3 and other preparedness advice by visiting health.mo.gov/emergencies/readyin3/.

Do you want to learn more about emergency preparedness? Do you want to volunteer to help your community prepare for, respond to or recover from disasters?

Contact the Independence Fire Department Emergency Preparedness Division at 816-325-7168, online at indep.us/emergencypreparedness or via email at jbird@indepmo.org.

Remember, use September as National Preparedness Month and GET PREPARED!

In this edition:

- October Events, Pg. 2-3
- Fall Cleanup Tips from WPC, Pg. 3
- Council Corner - 2nd District Councilmember Curt Dougherty, Pg. 4

2018 Citizen Satisfaction Survey

The City of Independence will conduct the Citizen Satisfaction Survey this September. The City utilizes a third-party contractor to mail, analyze, and compile the data collected from roughly 600 randomly selected citizens. This survey is a very important tool utilized by the City, and it has been incorporated into several key goals of Independence for All, the five-year strategic plan.

“The Citizen Satisfaction Survey allows us to ask citizens key questions regarding city services, departments and programs,” City Manager Zach Walker said. “We will then utilize this data to evaluate the allocation of resources and how we are meeting our strategic goals.”

Citizens who receive the mailed survey are asked to answer questions as fully as possible and return the survey in the prepaid envelope. The information from the survey will then be analyzed and shared with the public later this fall.

“I am excited to see the results of this survey,” Mayor Eileen Weir said. “We know from previous surveys our citizens are focused on safe neighborhoods, quality roads, and strong customer service. It is important for us to regularly evaluate the performance of the City in each of these areas, and adjust our focus to where it is needed—be it through policies, budget, or education efforts.”

An overview of the Citizen Satisfaction Survey results will be shared with the public in the January edition of CityScene.


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 - October Events

**Farmers Market**
**Open Wednesday and Saturday**
The Independence Farmers Market will be open each Wednesday and Saturday in October from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. Visit local farmers, crafters and more. The Market is now located at the Independence Uptown Market, 211 West Truman Road.

**Pets in the Park**
**October 6, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**
Bring your pet friends to a fun day in the park on Saturday, Oct. 6, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Hiram Young Park, 225 E. Lexington Ave. This annual event is an opportunity to join a pet parade, compete in a variety of different competitions - including a costume contest. Mark your calendar for a day of fun made possible with the help of the Kiwanis Club of Independence.

Look for updates and weather notes on the City’s Facebook page, facebook.com/CityofIndependence.

Please note some important rules for the event:
1. All children and pets must be accompanied by an adult.
2. Anyone older than 12 may participate in the parade but not in the competition.
3. Participation in this event may be refused if the organizers judge that a pet is disruptive and/or may cause harm to others.
4. Event participants are responsible for picking up their pet’s waste. Bags will be provided.

5. Each pet must be kept on a leash, in a cage, or otherwise adequately restrained at all times.

**Little Princess Ball**
**October 6, 6 - 8 p.m.**
Princesses ages 4-10 are invited to attend the Little Princess Ball on Saturday, October 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Truman Memorial Building (416 W. Maple Ave.).

Dress in your prettiest gown and attend with your most favored knight (father figure) to enjoy music, dancing, dinner and general merry-making.

Cost is $30 per couple, $15 each additional participant. Registration deadline is 9 p.m., October 2. Space is limited, so register early! Call (816) 325-7843 to register.

Please let us know if you have dietary restrictions.

**Drop-Off Depot**
**October 13, 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.

**Wagon Train Roundup**
**October 13, 6 p.m.**
ATTENTION! Families! Entrepreneurs! Adventurers! It’s time to head west. Are you ready? Do you have your supplies? Have you learned the skills needed to survive the wilderness?

Major Mike’s orientation dinner and final shakedown will help you get what you need for your journey. Participants will experience the last night in camp before heading west on the trails, mingle with pioneers preparing for their journey, and learn the skills necessary to reach their destination. This is an interactive event for all ages, so bring your imagination and head over to the National Frontier Trails Museum for the wagon train roundup on October 13 starting at 6 p.m!

Food and beverage included. Tickets are $15 for adults, $8 for children (17 and under).

Call the museum (816)325-7575 to reserve your tickets. Sponsored by the Friends of the National Frontier Trails Museum.

**Halloween in Boo Town**
**October 13, 19 and 20**
Goblins, creatures, and ghosts take the stage. Meet the residents of BOO Town for their annual variety show spook-tacular.

Have a hoot with a mash-up of silly songs, creepy tales, and puppet pretend. Performed by Kraig Kensinger, puppeteer. Admission is $6 per person. For reservations, call (816)833-9777 or email pai@att.net.

**Historic Architecture Walking Tour**
**October 13, 10 a.m.**
The Heritage Commission invites the public to join them on a walking tour focused on “Merchants of the Square.” This is the second of three historic architecture walking tours to be offered this fall. The tours are free to the public and will start at 10 a.m. leaving from the north side of the Truman Jackson County Courthouse.

The walks will last about half an hour and will cover less than one mile.

Look for updates and weather notes on the City’s Facebook page, facebook.com/CityofIndependence.

**Enchanted Forest at George Owens**
**October 19, 20, 26 & 27, 7-9p.m.**
You and your family are invited to join us at the “Enchanted Forest” held at George Owens Nature Park on October 19, 20, 26 & 27. This annual event is a non-scary alternative designed for children ages 3-9, but children of all ages are welcome. Princesses, heroes and fairy tale characters come to life in short, 2-minute scenes along the candle lit trail. At the end of the trail, patrons can take a wagon ride by the park’s two lakes where additional attractions can be viewed.

Cost is $3 per person at the gate. Debit/credit cards and cash accepted. There is a concession stand available as well as traveling scenes to entertain visitors as they wait to enter the forest. The gate opens at 7 p.m. each night, and the line closes to new patrons at 9 p.m.

For additional information, call (816)325-7370 or (816)325-7115. George Owens is located at 1601 S. Speck Road. The event is produced by the Powerhouse Theatre Foundation.
October Events Continued

2018 Cultural and Heritage Festival
October 20, Noon - 6 p.m.

The 2018 Cultural and Heritage Festival will be held Saturday, October 20 from Noon to 6 p.m. at the Independence Uptown Market on the Historic Square. The festival will kick off with a parade of flags and music from local composer and musician Dana Mengel and friends. This will be a change in venue for the event from previous years.

Victorian Funeral at Vaile Mansion
October 20, 5-8 p.m.

Victorian Funeral Customs will be held on October 20 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the beautiful Vaile Mansion. See the horse drawn hearse and participate in the wake as the casket lies in state in the Lady’s Parlor. Edgar Allen Poe will be in the Vaile Master Suite. Watch a movie in the Vaile Mausoleum and view many Victorian funeral artifacts. Tickets are $15 per person or $25 for two. They will go on sale in September. Please call (816)325-7430 for more information.

Boos, Brews and BBQ
October 27

Kiwanis Club of Independence is hosting Boos, Brews, and BBQ on October 27, 2018, at the Independence Uptown Market from 7 pm to 11 pm. This event will raise funds to benefit Drum Farm Center for Children and feature music, a costume contest, and local flavors. Tickets for the event are $50 and can be purchased through the Kiwanis website: independencekiwanisclub.org.

Prescription Drug Take-Back
October 27, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The Independence Police Department will participate in a Prescription Drug Take Back event on October 27. They will be accepting and properly disposing of unused, expired, or unwanted drugs. The event will be located in the north City Hall parking lot at 111 E. Maple Avenue just off Truman Road.

The purpose of the event is to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications. The most common question we receive is regarding the labels on pill bottles. No, they do not have to be removed. The drop-off is anonymous. Everything recovered is sealed in a box and transported to an incinerator. Needles/syringes or inhalers are not accepted.

For more information visit: deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback.

Fall Cleanup tips from Water Pollution Control

You may have several projects around your home planned for the fall. We have some suggestions for you to use during your cleanup activities. These will help to keep your neighborhood environment safe and healthy.

Many outdoor cleaning jobs can produce runoff, which may contain water, chemicals and detergents. Try to use products in the correct amounts for the size of the job. Discharges of chemicals and debris should not be allowed to flow into storm drain inlets or swales.

Yard work may result in piles of grass clippings, brush trimmings and leaves. This material can be composted for later use as a soil conditioner and to protect bare ground from erosion. Lawn clippings can be easily left on the ground so that nutrients are reused by the grass. When you mow, direct the discharge back onto your lawn and not out in the street. You should not sweep, blow or allow grass clippings to go onto the curb, street or into storm drain inlets. Try to keep storm gutters and drains clean of yard wastes to prevent clogs and flooding during rain events. Check out the opportunities for disposal of yard waste at area recycling centers or through your trash hauler, and plan your yard work to take advantage of these services.

All automotive wastes must be properly disposed of or taken for recycling. Never pour used oil onto the ground or into a storm drain or ditch. When you fertilize, consider slow-release products, especially in areas with sandy or compacted soil, steep slopes, and near waterways. This can prevent excess leaching of the fertilizer into groundwater and can reduce the potential for pollution of streams.

Pool maintenance can be done in an environmentally-friendly way. We now encourage you to drain your pool water to the sanitary sewer system through your household plumbing. Filter backwash, debris and chemicals make this water unsafe for disposal to our waterways. Clear water with the chlorine removed can be used on your lawn, but you must be responsible when draining it and prevent it from flowing onto neighbors’ yards. You can use a hose to control the drainage rate.

Take the opportunity to participate in community cleanup activities. You can help to spread this useful information so that we all help to keep our environment clean, safe and healthy.

Learn more about the City of Independence Water Pollution Control Department at indep.us/wpc or call (816)325-7711.
Council Corner - 2nd Dist. Councilmember Curt Dougherty

As your 2nd District Councilmember I have focused heavily on reducing crime and increasing the perception of safety in our community. I know this is an ongoing concern for our citizens and my Council colleagues and I have included these two objectives in the five-year strategic plan, Independence for All.

And while, planning is important, Our citizens want more. They want results. I’d like to take a few minutes to go over some of the steps we have taken to address crime and increase safety here in Independence.

One of the ordinance changes I am most proud of is the effort to require video surveillance at all convenience stores. This is a simple step that has had a significant impact. Video surveillance camera requirements are designed to reduce the potential for situations where employees of convenience stores are exposed to potential death and/or injuries due to criminal actions, and to provide an image or video to assist in criminal offender identification, apprehension and prosecution.

This effort was so successful that in 2017, we worked with the Hotel/Motel Alliance to expand this video surveillance to the many lodging establishments in our City. We see thousands of visitors every year and video surveillance is another way we are showing these visitors we care about their visit to our City. We see posts from the Police Department sharing screen captures of suspects, asking the public for help identification. By creating requirements and connecting resources we are creating a web of information in our City that will continue to protect us for years to come.

But video surveillance is not enough. This year, my Council colleagues and I approved funds for five new officers which will be part of a new Streets Crime Unit. With a City our size, officers are often pulled from one call to the next leaving little time to focus on property crime and proactive policing. The Streets Crime Unit is intended to act as a proactive deterrent, targeting hot spots with police presence and monitoring. We are excited about the potential of this Unit and look forward to seeing it staffed and active early next year.

I want you to know the focus on crime and safety in our community is never ending. If you have ideas or concerns you would like to share, please contact me at (816)269-2565 or via email at cdougherty@indepmo.org. Or you can contact Council offices at (816)325-7022 and via email at citycouncil@indepmo.org. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.