Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better.

- Harry S. Truman

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Changes coming to CityScene
Beginning this fall, CityScene will transition online and a print edition will be mailed in bills quarterly. Those who wish to receive a print version of CityScene can email mlewis@indepmo.org or call (816) 325-7086. Those who would like to receive a digital newsletter and other information from the City can register at indep.us/email.

We understand CityScene is an important way to communicate with our citizens and believe these changes will allow us to better share information in a timely manner that is less dependent on a printing schedule. Additionally, we will be able to share up-to-date notifications of upcoming events, classes, programs and more happening throughout the City. And, in the case of an emergency, we can share details directly with citizens as well as through traditional media outlets and social media.
Mark your calendar - July Events

Independence Day Fireworks
July 3, 5:30 - 10 PM
Celebrate Independence Day with the City of Independence. Join us at 937 W. Walnut St. for this family-friendly event. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. Don't miss the free performance by Red Head Express, an American country music band consisting of four sisters, at 7 p.m. The Spirit of Independence Concert Band will play at 9 p.m. and fireworks will begin at 9:30 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy this amazing performance (hosted by the Independence Missouri Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints). Snacks, shaved ice and pizza will be available for purchase.

Independence Day
July 4
Happy Independence Day from the City of Independence. City offices will be closed in observance of the July 4th holiday.

Farmers’ Market
Wednesdays & Saturdays, 7 AM -1 PM
The Farmers’ Market at the Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd., is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from June - Oct. Market hours are from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. Local farmers and growers offer fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables, jams and jellies, honey and much more. There is also a wide array of crafts to choose from during your visit. Stop by and check them out.

Popsicles in the Park
Tuesdays, 6:30-8 PM
Join us for one of our most popular summer events: Popsicles in the Park. Bring your blanket or lawn chairs and enjoy a night at the park. Enjoy games, juggling tricks and performances by special entertainers below:
- July 9 - George Owens Nature Park
  1601 S. Speck Rd.
- July 16 - Country Club Park
  2930 S. Norton Ave.
- July 23 - Glendale Park
  16010 E. Crackerneck Rd.
- July 30 - Sycamore Hills Park
  3700 S. Haden Dr.

32nd Annual Antique & Craft Fair
July 13, 9 AM - 3 PM
Join us at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific, for the 32nd annual Antique & Craft Fair. This is one of the finest shows in the area, featuring more than 100 quality vendors. Enjoy free admission and parking, plus door prizes, music and food.

Uptown Flea Market
July 14, 9 AM - 2 PM
Calling vendors and bargain hunters alike: Visit the Uptown Flea Market between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 14 at the Independence Uptown Market. The flea market takes place on the second Sunday of each month, 12 months a year.

Dude Perfect Pound It Noggin Tour
July 19, 7 PM
YouTube sensations Dude Perfect have announced their first-ever live tour across the United States. The Pound It Noggin Tour will stop in Independence on July 19. These five best friends from Frisco, Texas, have more than 70 million social media followers and will be giving fans a look into the fun world of Dude Perfect, highlighting—live and in person—fan favorites such as Overtime, Stereotypes, Battles and stunts. Some lucky fans will even have the chance to participate with the dudes in their crazy antics!

Toddler Town on Tour
Wednesdays, 9 -11 AM
Enjoy summer fun while exploring various playgrounds throughout Independence. City staff will be on hand to help with simple craft projects. Toddler Town on Tour will be cancelled in case of inclement weather. Parents are required to remain with their children. Please bring a towel to dates at water locations. No charge, no pre-registration.
For information call 325-7115
- July 10 - Adventure Oasis Water Park
  2100 Hub Dr.
- July 17 - Bundschu Park
  11400 E. 9th St. S.
- July 24 - Glendale Park
  16010 E. Crackerneck Rd.
- July 31 - Beckett Park
  2701 S. Cherokee St.

Summer Concert Series
July 12, 7 PM
See Bob & Una Walkenhorst live at 7 p.m. on Friday, July 12, at the Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd. The concert is free and open to the public. Food and drink will be offered for sale inside the venue. This concert is part of a monthly summer concert series presented by the City of Independence and the Independence Chamber of Commerce.

Drop-Off Depot
July 13, 8 AM - 3 PM
The City's Drop-Off Depot will be open on Saturday, July 13 weather permitting. The Drop-Off Depot is open the second Saturday of each month March-November at 875 Vista Ave. from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, visit indep.us/dropoffdepot.

2nd Annual Rivalry Renewed Series
July 28, 6 PM
Phog’s Boys (University of Kansas basketball alums) take on Black & Gold (University of Missouri basketball alums) in the 2nd annual Rivalry Renewed at the Silverstein Eye Centers Arena, 19100 E. Valley View Pkwy.
Inflow and infiltration

The City of Independence Wastewater Treatment Plant treats 6 to 7 million gallons of wastewater every day. This amount is easily handled during normal dry weather, but during a rain event that can increase to over 30 million gallons per day.

This drastic increase is due to Inflow and Infiltration. 1 & 1 occurs when groundwater and stormwater find their way into the sanitary sewer system.

Pipes and manholes can develop cracks or leaks due to age, design, and installation or maintenance issues. Water can seep in through these areas. Years ago it was also common practice to connect sump pumps, foundation drains, and downspouts to the sanitary sewer. Cities quickly determined that connecting these fixtures was not a good idea. For example, a standard 3,000 square foot roof can discharge over 900 gallons of water for every ½-inch of rain. Multiply that by thousands of rooftops and you can see how quickly the sanitary sewer system and treatment plant would be overwhelmed.

Sanitary sewer systems are only capable of moving a certain amount of water at any time. Significant added stress can lead to overflowing manholes, basement backups, pipe breakage, and pump failure. This increases treatment costs and can potentially lead to accidental discharges into lakes and rivers once capacity at the treatment plant has been reached.

The current City Code prohibits the discharge of unpolluted water into the sanitary sewer system. Examples of unpolluted water include stormwater, groundwater, roof runoff, subsurface drainage, surface water, and discharge from interior and exterior foundation drains. Fixtures draining unpolluted water must be disconnected from the sanitary sewer. Redirect downspouts and sump pumps into rain barrels or discharge them onto your yard. Keep in mind that yard discharges should be at least 5 feet from your property line. This allows stormwater to infiltrate, or soak, into the ground.

If standing water or oversaturation is an issue, then downspouts, sump pumps, and foundation drains can be connected to a drywell. A drywell allows water to infiltrate into the ground below the surface over time. If there are no suitable locations for a drywell on your property, unpolluted stormwater or groundwater may be directed into the storm sewer system. However, any changes to the City’s storm sewer system cannot be made without written permission from the Water Pollution Control Department. Discharging stormwater or groundwater into the street or driveway is not recommended because it prevents ground infiltration and causes icing during winter months.

For additional information on Inflow and Infiltration, please call Water Pollution Control at (816) 325-7711.

Water Quality Report now available

The 2018 Water Quality Report is available for your review on the City’s website. This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made to provide safe drinking water. You can find it online at indep.us/ccr18. To request a paper copy, please call (816) 325-7698.

Enjoy the holiday using fireworks safety

The City of Independence wishes all a happy Fourth of July holiday and would like to remind the public about the rules and regulations regarding fireworks in Independence.

The City permits the use of class 1.4G fireworks from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. on July 3 and 5 and from 10 a.m. to midnight on July 4. Class 1.4G fireworks are defined as consumer fireworks intended for use by the general public. Perhaps more importantly, it is illegal to possess, handle or use the following fireworks within the City of Independence: sparkler bombs, sky lanterns and altered or combined fireworks. Those under 16 years of age may not possess or discharge fireworks within the City, unless under the supervision of a parent.

Several additional regulations apply to persons using fireworks within the City, specifically relating to how and where discharging fireworks is prohibited.

1. Fireworks may not be used in any such manner that they land on property not owned by that person.
2. Fireworks may not be discharged within any structure.
3. Discharging fireworks is prohibited within 600 feet of any church, hospital, mental health facility or school.
4. Discharging fireworks is prohibited within 100 feet of any location where fireworks are stored, offered for sale or designated historic site.
5. Discharging fireworks is prohibited within 300 feet of any permanent storage of ignitable liquid, gases, gas pumps or gas stations.
6. Fireworks may not be discharged at, under or from a motorized vehicle.

The National Fire Protection Association and Consumer Product Safety Commission make several recommendations regarding fireworks safety. Among those tips are to keep a water source or garden hose nearby, be sure others are out of range before lighting fireworks and do not attempt to reignite malfunctioning fireworks (instead, put them directly into a bucket of water).

For a full list of safety tips, and to review the City of Independence’s regulations on fireworks, visit indep.us/fireworksafety. Enjoy the holiday and remember to keep your safety, and the safety of those around you, top of mind.

Share your story

From the earliest days of Independence, we have been a community of many stories. From the trappers selling their wares to tradesmen and pioneers, to the Civil War, to President of the United States, the City of Independence is full of unique stories, history and many chapters that are as different as the individuals and families who call this community home.

We want to share these stories with one another and mark them for generations to come. Do you have stories of Truman walking through your neighborhood? Cruising down Noland Road with your friends? The history of your family in Independence? The unique craft you are now making and selling here in Independence? We are collecting all of these stories and will work to share them through the City’s website, social media and City7, our government access channel.

Throughout the year we will share prompts to give you ideas of stories you might share. This summer we encourage you to think about the roles your father/or father figure played in your lives, how your family comes together to celebrate Independence Day, and how education has shaped you and your family.

To get things started, we ask that you email mlewis@indepmo.org with an overview of your story and any pictures you are willing to share.
As a small business owner, I have paid the use tax for over 30 years on supplies and equipment purchased from out of state companies. All businesses in Missouri are supposed to self-report and pay this sales tax to the state that is not charged by the out of state sellers.

Many of us regularly make online purchases. If you have bought from Amazon, you are now paying a 4.25 percent use tax to the state. Only cities like Grandview, Kansas City, Liberty, Maryville, Pleasant Valley and St. Joseph are also collecting this sales tax because their citizens voted to do so.

On May 20, the City Council approved the ordinance and ballot language for Proposition P. This proposition, if passed, would allow the City of Independence to collect its share of online sales taxes and these would be used to fund the animal shelter and more police.

While estimates of what the use tax from Prop. P would generate for the shelter and police are based on information from 2018, it is believed that at least $1,500,000 would be collected per year to be split equally for these two new funds.

All indications show that the future direction of mobile and online buying will only increase. This means as online use taxes increase the City’s retail sales tax income, which is the largest share of support for the City's General Fund, will slowly decrease.

If passed, Prop. P will create two new funds. These funds will be overseen by two separate citizen committees that will evaluate spending and use of the funds generated, reporting back to the Council and citizens on a regular basis. The ordinance behind Prop. P also states that once the shelter is fully funded and funding for up to 30 police personnel is generated, any excess use tax would flow over into the sales taxes including the City’s General Fund and special sales tax funds to support all other City services.

This decision will go to voters on August 6. In the meantime, the City is working closely with Jackson County and Great Plains SPCA on a smooth transition for the Jackson County Regional Animal Shelter. My peers and I approved a proposed agreement in which the City would take over operations of this facility in May and it is expected the County will do so in early June. This is a two-year agreement that gives the City time to find alternate funding to makeup an estimated $500,000 gap in revenues for the shelter. If Prop. P is not passed by the voters, the City will evaluate other funding methods for this facility.

Additionally, public safety is a regular conversation in the City and we know it is important to our citizens based on the most recent Citizen Satisfaction Survey. It is estimated 30 additional police officers would cost approximately $3.5 million.

The deadline to register to vote in the August election is July 10. You can register and find your polling place at www.jcebmo.org.

### City Council Meetings

**City Council Meetings**

- Live meetings at 6 p.m. on Mondays
- 9 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
- 1 p.m. Sundays

### Planning Commission Meetings

- Live meetings at 6 p.m. on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of month
- 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- 1 p.m. on Saturdays

Learn more at indep.us/city7.