CITYSCENE
Informing Independence Citizens
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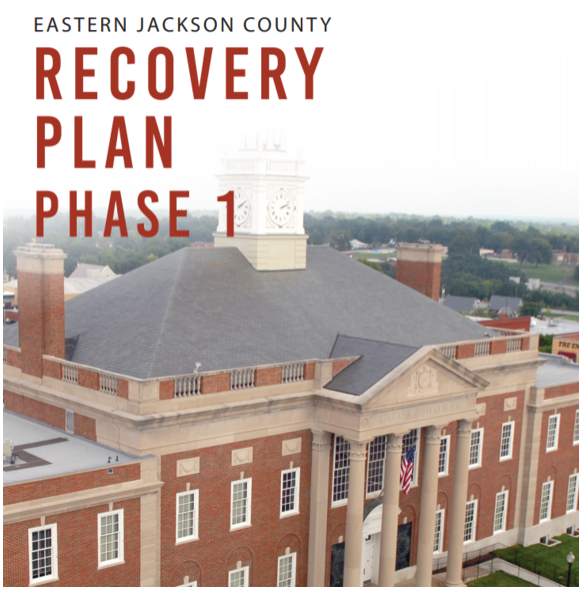
INDEPENDENCE MISSOURI
A GREAT AMERICAN STORY

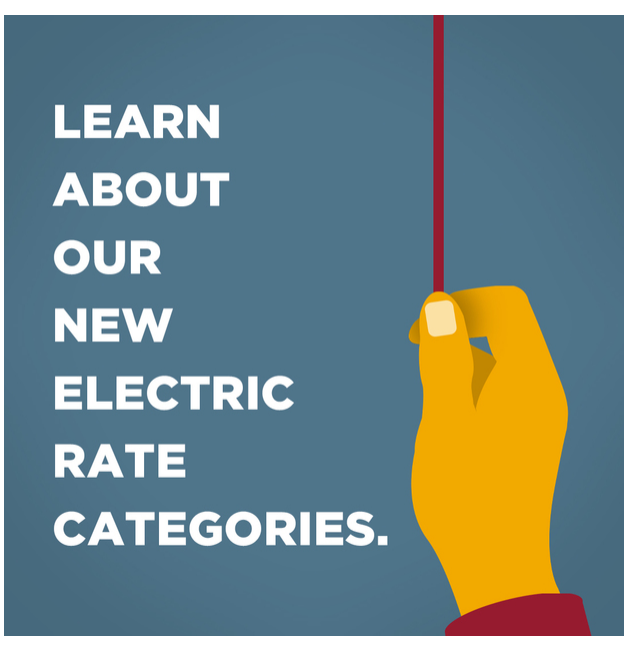


Jackson County announces reopening phases, City shares update for residents

County Executive Frank White today announced the Phase 1 details for the reopening of Jackson County. Citizens can find a full summary of this information, including essential and nonessential business reopening criteria, here bit.ly/2zcMrJ0.

"Over the last week the Mayors of eastern Jackson County have worked diligently to ensure our residents were heard as Jackson County prepared its reopening plan," Mayor Eileen Weir said. "The plan announced this afternoon incorporated many, though not all, of our suggestions. Phase one provides important guidance for our businesses, residents and visitors. I know there will be more questions as the phases continue, and the mayors of Jackson County will continue to collaborate and offer input. Please continue to practice social distancing, wear masks when in public, regularly wash your hands and if you are sick, please stay home."

Read the full press release here - indep.us/covidjacoreopening



We're updating how your electric bill is calculated

Beginning in 2018, the City Council set out to reduce rates and begin the process of simplifying rate categories. In August 2019, a 6% rate reduction was completed for all City of Independence electric utility customers. On April 9, 2020, the City Council of the City of Independence voted to approve new rate categories for customers. The last time the City published a complete set of new rates was in 2008, more than a decade ago, with amendments over subsequent years through 2016.

City Council's objective was to simplify the current rate categories of 26 down to 7 rate categories. Under the old rate schedules, customers had to meet detailed criteria to be placed on a different rate. With the new rate categories, the criteria and the language was simplified. This will make the rates more understandable for customers.

The new rate categories will go into effect on October 1, 2020. Customers will be grandfathered on their existing rates until October 2023 unless customers chose to switch to a new rate sooner or move. All customers that activate new service will be placed on the new rate categories beginning in October 2020.

What is a rate category? A rate category is how the electricity that you use is calculated and not the amount of money that you pay for electricity that you use. The rate and usage are different and the new rate categories will make it easier for customers to see the rate that they are paying for the amount of electricity that they use.

Learn more at indep.us/electricrates

Feeling anxious, there are resources available to help

The Missouri Department of Mental Health has a **Disaster Distress Helpline, 1-800-985-5990** or **text "TalkWithUs" to 66746**.

This is a free, confidential, and multilingual crisis support service. Callers and texters are connected to trained and caring professionals from crisis counseling centers in the network. The Helpline staff provides confidential counseling, referrals, and other needed support services.

An additional resource through our local partners at Comprehensive Mental Health Services (CMHS) is the **ACI Crisis hotline, 1-888-279-8188**. The Access Crisis Intervention (ACI) system provides confidential mental health information and services to people who are experiencing an emotional or behavioral crisis. ACI is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to children, adolescents and adults. Services are provided by Community Mental Health Centers throughout the region. Anyone in CommCare's service area of 22 counties in Northwestern Missouri can access ACI services free of charge.

City announces Digital Budget Town Hall

May 13, 6 PM on Facebook and YouTube Live

Join us on May 13 at 6 PM on the City's Facebook Page, indep.us/facebook, or YouTube Channel, indep.us/youtube, to participate in this live event.

City Manager Zach Walker will provide an overview of the Proposed 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Budget and take questions from citizens.

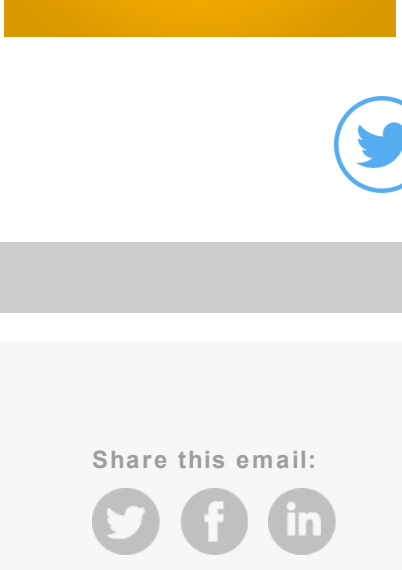
This year is challenging as departments strategically plan for the unknown economic impact of COVID-19.

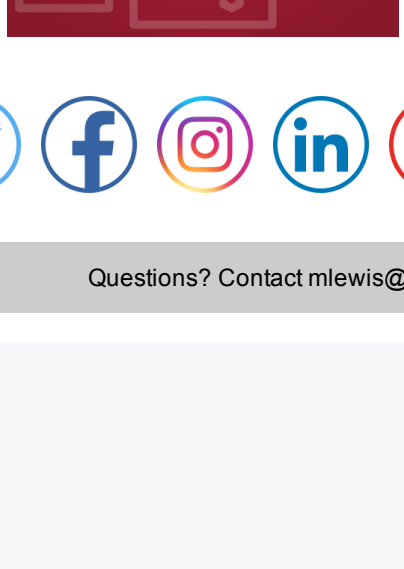
Important Numbers

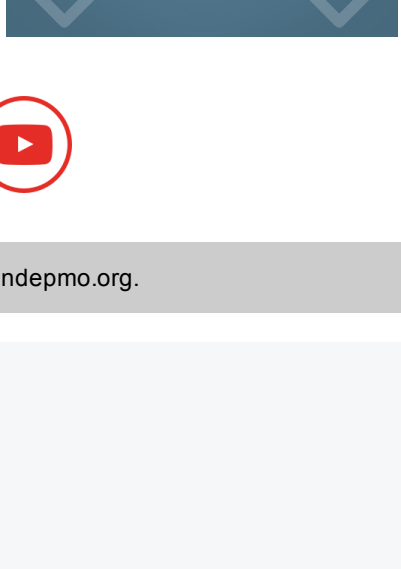
Crime Stoppers Tips	474-8477
Drop-Off Depot/Trash	325-7600
Municipal Court	325-7230
Police NonEmergency	325-7300
Fire NonEmergency	325-7123
Report Power Outage	325-7550
Utilities Customer Service	325-7930
Weeds, Trash	325-7193

Keep updated on COVID-19 related news

For the latest updates on changes to services, closings and cancellations in the City of Independence related to COVID-19, please visit indep.us/coronavirus. All citizens are also encouraged to follow the City on Facebook at facebook.com/CityofIndependence, Twitter @CItyofIndepMo, and Nextdoor for updates on this changing situation. Citizens are encouraged to share questions not addressed with us at covid19@indepmo.org or via the call center at (816) 325-7033.







Questions? Contact mlewis@indepmo.org.

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