



## Ballot issues to be decided on Nov. 2

The last day to register to vote in the Nov. 2 election is Oct. 6. Learn more at [jcebmo.org](http://jcebmo.org)

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CityScene is published by the City Manager's Office, located at 111 E. Maple Ave., Independence, MO, 64050.  
For information, call (816) 325-7086.

On November 2, City of Independence residents will have the option to vote on two ballot measures related to the Independence Police and Fire Departments respectively. Here we outline what a yes or no vote means.

### Fire Protection Sales Tax

#### What a yes vote means

A yes vote, would repeal the current Fire Protection Sales Tax of 1/8 of a cent which is currently in effect until December 31, 2026.

It would replace the current Fire Protection Sales Tax with a new Fire Protection Sales Tax of 1/2 of one cent and remain in effect until repealed by voters.

This would result in a 3/8 of one percent total Fire Protection Sales Tax increase.

#### What a no vote means

A no vote would maintain the current Fire Protection Sales Tax of 1/8 of a cent which is currently in effect until December 31, 2026.

#### Sample Ballot Language:

Shall the City of Independence repeal the existing Sales Tax of one eighth of one percent used to fund operations of the municipal fire department, and instead impose a Sales Tax of one-half of one percent, to be effective April 1, 2022, for the purpose of providing revenues for the operation of the municipal fire department, which tax shall remain in effect until repealed by voters?

#### Proposed uses of funds:

Would be used to make the following improvements:

- Replace five aging fire stations
- Replace aging fire apparatus
- Purchase lifesaving equipment
- Add one new fire station
- Add new fire apparatus
- Maintenance and repair expenses for equipment, apparatus and fire stations

Sales tax funds would also be used to:

- Hire additional firefighters

- Hire additional administration
- Hire additional personnel

Learn more at [indep.us/firesalestax21](https://indep.us/firesalestax21).

### Updating Proposition P

#### What a yes vote means

A yes vote, would allow the Independence Police Department to use funds collected through the online Use Tax previously passed in 2019 to be used for new and current Police Department personnel and equipment.

A yes vote does not increase the Use Tax or change funding dedicated to the no-kill animal shelter or decrease number of police personnel.

#### What a no vote means

A no vote, would maintain the current approved usage of the funds from Proposition P.

#### Sample Ballot Language:

Shall the local use tax currently imposed by the City of Independence, Missouri, which is dedicated to a no-kill animal shelter and funding additional police officers, be amended to allow for the funding of all police department personnel and equipment? Voting in favor of this question will not result in any tax increase or change the funding dedicated to the no-kill animal shelter.

#### Why is this being considered now?

As indicated by the City's updated Strategic Plan, Independence for All, and a recent budget survey, public safety is a continued area of focus and concern for residents.

Ongoing challenges include:

- Recruitment at both national and local level.
- Growing number of calls for service.
- Nature of calls requires more personnel and time to resolve.
- Increasing cost of technology and equipment needed for officers.

Learn more at [indep.us/propupdate21](https://indep.us/propupdate21).

# Upcoming events and programs

## Farmers' Market

Join local farmers and crafters each Saturday in October from 8AM-1PM at the Independence Uptown Market Farmers' Market.

Follow the Independence Uptown Market Facebook page, [facebook.com/IndependenceUptownMarket](https://www.facebook.com/IndependenceUptownMarket), for updates and details related to what crafts and produce will be there each week.

## Last Drop-off Depot of 2021 season

Saturday, Oct. 9 from 8 AM - 3 PM  
875 Vista Ave.

Independence residents only. Residential items only. No commercial waste allowed. Find prices, accepted items and more at [indep.us/dropoffdepot](https://indep.us/dropoffdepot).

## 2nd Saturday Architecture Tours

The Independence Heritage Commission is pleased to announce the return of its annual historic architectural walking tours offered on second Saturdays each fall.

Tours are free to the public and start at 10 a.m. We will meet in front of the National Park Service Truman Visitors and Ticketing Center at the corner of Truman and Main.

This year's tours celebrate Missouri's bicentennial. See below for each month's theme:

Oct. 9: "Independence Square Merchants of the 1840s"

Nov. 13: "Urban Renewal and its Impacts on our Built Environment"

Walking tour routes will be less than two miles, however, good walking shoes are recommended. Tours are held rain or shine.

## Enchanted Forest

October 22-23 & 29-30 from 7-9 p.m.

Join us in October at George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Rd., for the Enchanted Forest. Forget spooky. This non-scary Halloween celebration is perfect for children and families. Children will be delighted by the sights and sounds along our paved walking trail, where storybook, fairy tale and popular movie characters come to life. Admission is \$3 per person. Call (816) 325-7115 for more information.

## Veteran's Day

City offices will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 11, in honor of Veteran's Day.

## Best Little Arts & Crafts Show

Friday, Nov. 19 - Saturday, Nov. 20

The Best Little Arts and Crafts Show in Independence returns to the Roger T. Sermon Community Center for the 39th year this November. The City of Independence Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department is proud to present more than 100 booths of original, handmade gifts, decor, jewelry and more. Vendors will cover all four floors of the Sermon Center, just in time to begin your holiday shopping. Join us from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 19 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 20 at the Roger T. Sermon Community Center, 201 N. Dodgion Ave. Entry and parking are free.

## Thanksgiving Holiday

November 25. City offices will be closed November 25 and 26 in honor of the holiday.

## Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

Thursday, Dec. 2, 7:30 AM

Independence Uptown Market

Tickets will go on sale Oct. 18. Contact Kim Osborne at [kosborne@indepmo.org](mailto:kosborne@indepmo.org) for details.

## Winter Solstice Hike and Gingerbread Lane

Hike on Wednesday, Dec. 8, from 5-7:30 p.m.

Ice Sculpture – Live Raptor Display – Hot Chocolate/Mugs – Bonfire

Help decorate the trail in support of Truman Heritage Habitat ReStore. This year's cutout will be plywood gingerbread houses. \$20 per house. Available at ReStore on Nov 2. Drop off decorated houses at George Owens Nov. 19 –Dec. 4. Call 816.325.7115 for more details.

## Christmas Holiday

December 25. City offices will be closed December 24 and 27 in honor of the holiday.

# Be Septic Smart

The City of Independence, Municipal Services Department recognized September 20-24 as SepticSmart Week. For residents and businesses that do not have access to sanitary sewer service, an onsite septic system is how wastewater is properly managed and treated. Like most things, these systems require routine maintenance to properly function. By taking a few simple steps, septic system owners can avoid costly repairs and ensure their system works for many years.

To be SepticSmart owners should; have their system inspected and pumped every 3 to 5 years, avoid pouring products such as harsh cleaners, paint, oil, grease, etc., down the drain, do not flush non-degradable products such as disposable wipes, cat litter, and plastics and lastly keep the drainage field mowed and free of heavy objects that might damage piping.

To find out more information on how to manage onsite septic systems visit [epa.gov/septic](https://www.epa.gov/septic) or call the Municipal Services Department at 816-325-7727.

## Do Your Part, Be SepticSmart

To protect this home's plumbing, please keep grease, fats, and harmful chemicals out of the drain.



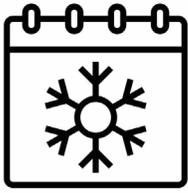
## Fitness classes

Check out the Parks/Recreation/Tourism website for details on upcoming fitness classes at the Sermon Center or Truman Memorial Building! From noon-time yoga, to TRX, there are a variety of fitness classes to fit your needs and time.

Find updated information on classes available here, [indep.us/fitness](https://indep.us/fitness)



# Weatherizing your home



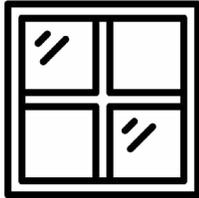
Winter is quickly approaching and if you haven't prepared your home for winter, now is the time. A few simple steps can help you save money by using less

energy, and it can also improve the comfort of your home.

## 1. Block drafty windows and doors.

If you have drafty doors and windows, you can apply weather stripping to your door frames and the bottoms of windows to prevent the air from leaking in. You can also

insulate your windows by installing plastic sheeting or heavy curtains which can help block cold air from getting into your home.



## 2. Use the Sun.

On sunny days open your blinds and curtains to let the sunshine through



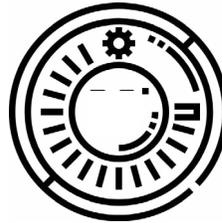
your home. The sun can heat up your home during the day and when the sun sets at night close the blinds and curtains to keep the warm air in.

- ## 3. Change your furnace filter.
- Dirty furnace filters obstruct air flow and make your furnace work harder to push warm air throughout the house.



## 4. Use a programmable thermostat.

Set your thermostat to a lower temperature during the day when you are away and at night when you are sleeping. Just a couple degrees can save on energy usage.



For more tips on keeping your home warm this winter visit [bit.ly/winterweatherization](https://bit.ly/winterweatherization).

# 2021 Susan Paxton Block Award given to Diane Egger

Diane Egger, an Assistant Director of the Independence Health and Animal Services Department, has been named the recipient of the 2021 Susan Paxton Block Award for Distinguished Public Service.

Egger has worked for the City of Independence for many years, including roles in the City's Health, Municipal Services, and Community Development Departments. Currently, Egger serves as the Assistant Director of Health and Animal Services, where she has played an important role in helping reestablish the City's Public Health Department. In her current role, Egger has hired and trained new employees while also assisting with the establishment of new office spaces to serve the public.

In her career, Egger has helped address a number of community priorities, including environmental health inspections, property maintenance code enforcement, and recently worked out of position to lead enforcement of health orders and assist businesses with compliance with health orders throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Susan Paxton 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. The award was presented at the September 20 City Council meeting.

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.

# Celebrate Halloween Safely

Halloween will be here before we know it. Here are a few safety tips to help keep all those little ghouls and goblins safe.

## Costume safety

- Add reflective tape or stickers to costumes to help drivers see kids walking.
- Choose face paint and makeup over masks that could limit a child's ability to see around them.
- Wear a glow stick or carry a flashlight.
- Look for costumes that aren't too big to make sure everyone can move safely without tripping or dragging anything behind them.

## Plan your route

- Look for areas that are well lit and when possible have sidewalks.
- If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic.
- Talk to kids about not running across streets or darting between parked cars.
- Plan a costume with your kids under 12 and walk with them along the route.
- Look for trunk-or-treat options that allow little ones to enjoy the fun in a controlled area.

## Help keep everyone safe

- Halloween is exciting for kids so drivers need to be extra vigilant when out and about.
- Drive carefully along residential streets and watch for kids crossing.
- Decorate with trick-or-treaters in mind, look for trip hazards or sharp edges along sidewalks.
- Celebrate safely, don't drink and drive.

## Treat safety

- Goodies are part of the fun of Halloween but look for prepackaged options to pass out.
- If you have a food allergy safe option, consider putting out a teal pumpkin to let families know.
- Check your treats when you get home. If a wrapper is open, torn or tampered with - throw it out.

**Have a safe and happy Halloween!**



# Honoring the legacy of a hero

Every day, our first responders suit up and go to work with the knowledge that today may be a day that they won't go home. They answer calls, and enter unspeakably sad situations, to protect, serve and help our community.



On Wednesday, September 15, Independence Police Officer Blaize Madrid-Evans reported for his 18th day of work. A young man committed to public service, beginning his career, planning for his future.

That would be the day he sacrificed all for our community. Officer Madrid-Evans was seriously injured in an officer-involved shooting just before noon. The community and region held its breath, hoping for the best as one of our own had gone down. Unfortunately, by evening it was announced that Officer Madrid-Evans had succumbed to his injuries.

The community immediately began rallying for ways to support the Independence Police Department and the family of Officer



Madrid-Evans. By Thursday, a community candlelight vigil was organized by citizens to honor his service.



On Saturday, September 18, Officer Madrid-Evans completed his final heroic act donating his organs. In a karmic coincidence, his donation was able to help a fellow police officer injured in the line of duty in Springfield in 2020, Officer Mark Priebe.

Dozens of citizens, officers and fellow first responders lined the roads as he was moved from the hospital later that day.



And on Friday, September 24, the region came together to honor his life one last time before he was laid to rest.



Officer Madrid-Evans is the sixth line-of-duty death in our City's history and the first since March 2001. His loss will be felt for years to come. Please continue to think of the Independence Police Department, and, if you'd like to join Officer Madrid-Evans as an organ donor, you can learn more at [donatelifemissouri.org](http://donatelifemissouri.org).

## CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Eileen Weir (816) 325-7027

City Council Office (816) 325-7022

Online at [indep.us/citycouncil](http://indep.us/citycouncil).

Email at [citycouncil@indepmo.org](mailto:citycouncil@indepmo.org).

### Councilmembers

John Perkins	District 1
Brice Stewart	District 2
Mike Steinmeyer	District 3
Daniel Hobart	District 4
Karen DeLuccie	At-Large
Mike Huff	At-Large

### City Manager

Zachary Walker (816) 325-7170

## Numbers to Know

Animal Shelter	325-7207
Adopt-a-Street	325-7602
Barking Dogs	325-7213
Building Permits	325-7401
Business/Liquor Licenses	325-7079
City Council Office	325-7022
City Manager's Office	325-7170
COVID-19 Questions	325-7019
Crime Stoppers Tips	474-8477
Drop-Off Depot/Trash	325-7600
Drugs	325-6272
Graffiti	257-7824
Health Department	325-7019
Human Resources	325-7390
Mayor's Office	325-7027
Municipal Court	325-7230
Continuances	325-7236
City Prosecutor	325-7222
Neighborhood Watch	325-7643
Parks & Recreation	325-7370
Park Vandalism	325-7208
Police Non-Emergency	325-7300
Fire Non-Emergency	325-7123
Potholes	325-7624
Report Power Outage	325-7550
Risk Management	325-7061
Street Lights	325-7535
Stormwater Pollution	325-7727
Utilities	
Customer Service	325-7930
Pay by Phone	325-SERV
Payment Assistance	254-4100
Weeds, Trash	325-7193
Zoning questions	325-7421

## Regional Animal Shelter

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

21001 E. Hwy. 78, Independence  
Call (816) 325-7207 to set up an appointment today.

**Always spay or neuter.**



## Where can I...

Pay my Jackson Co. property taxes:

Historic Truman Courthouse  
112 W. Lexington, Suite 114  
Phone: (816) 881-3232

Apply for a marriage license:

Historic Truman Courthouse  
112 W. Lexington, Suite 30  
Phone: (816) 881-4608

Pay a ticket issued by the City:

Independence City Hall  
111 E. Maple  
Phone: (816) 325-7230

