

NOTES & NEWS

COMMUNIQUÉ TO THE INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL
FROM CITY MANAGER, ZACHARY WALKER



For the Week Ending October 14, 2016

Department News

Finance

- ◆ **September Business Licensing Results:** During September, the Licensing Division issued 32 new business licenses to businesses located in Independence, 57 new business licenses to companies located outside the City, and 207 new rental property owner licenses. Business renewals were 234 in-town accounts, 146 out-of-town accounts and 194 rental property accounts.

Fire Department

- ◆ **Community Outreach Class:** The Emergency Preparedness Division conducted a monthly Community Outreach Class for City residents on the morning of September 26 at the Emergency Operations Center. Eight community members and two volunteer staff attended the class on building a 72-Hour Preparedness Kit.
- ◆ **CERT Training Course:** Nine new community residents and eight volunteer staff participated in a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Course in September. During this exciting course participants learned about many critical aspects of emergency response. Each class member committed to 24 hours of classroom and field training. The class was conducted during two Friday evenings and two Saturdays from September 16 to September 24, with the final segment being a CERT disaster exercise in the field.
- ◆ **Firefighter Graduation and Promotional Ceremony:** The Fire Department welcomed five new firefighters on October 5 following their completion of extensive orientation and competency evaluation. Having been sworn in, our new firefighters have now received their duty assignments. In addition, two personnel were promoted: one to Fire Captain and one to Fire Equipment Operator. Attendees at the ceremony were family and friends, department command staff and other department personnel.

Health Department

- ◆ **Public Health Investigator II Completes Training:** The newest Public Health Investigator II has completed her initial training, which included more than 25 joint inspections and online courses. She is now in the field, conducting inspections of establishments in her assigned area.
- ◆ **Presentation to Animal Welfare Committee:** On September 30, staff attended a special meeting of the Jackson County Animal Welfare Committee. During the meeting, staff reviewed proposed revisions to Chapter 3 of the City Code, which concerns animals and fowl. Overall, the committee was very supportive of the proposed changes and made several suggestions to aid in clarification.

- ◆ **Wellness Blood Drive:** The City of Independence hosted a blood drive at City Hall. The turnout was high, with 26 people donating. The City hosts four blood drives a year, and the next one will be at the Police Building on Tuesday, December 27.
- ◆ **School Health Index Training:** The Health Department recently attended a day-long training in Jefferson City. The training was for all contractors of the School Wellness Grant. The Public Health Specialist received training materials for the School Health Index along with relevant information about the approach to the Smarter Lunchroom assessment. Staff will be working with Fairmount Elementary School and Korte Elementary School throughout the 2016-17 school year.
- ◆ **Child Care Health Education Classes:** Staff taught a class about seatbelt safety to 30 preschoolers at Luff Elementary Early Education. The goal of the presentation was to teach preschoolers pedestrian safety, bike safety, car safety, and seatbelt safety. The children also received a coloring page activity to reinforce the lesson, and the parents were sent home with informational handouts about the day's lesson.
- ◆ **Partnership with Independence Housing Authority for Tobacco-Free Policy:** The Health Department has partnered with the Independence Housing Authority to bring a tobacco-free policy to three subsidized, multi-unit housing facilities within the Independence area. The tobacco-free policy will protect the health of the residents by banning cigarettes and other alternate nicotine devices (such as e-cigs) off of property grounds. Multiple studies have demonstrated how secondhand smoke travels through ventilation systems in multi-unit housing complexes, thus affecting the health of all residents within the facility.
- ◆ **Meeting with Southview Apartments to Discuss Upcoming Tobacco-Free Policy Changes:** The Health Department will help Southview, Hocker Heights, and Pleasant Heights go tobacco-free by providing educational resources to residents which will demonstrate the harms of firsthand, secondhand, and third-hand smoke in addition to bringing educational classes to the complexes which will aim to improve the overall quality of living for residents. When meeting with the tenant council of Southview Apartments on September 3, staff discussed the needs of Southview residents and received information on what resources Southview Apartments would utilize in order to help residents to quit smoking. Seventeen people attended this meeting.
- ◆ **Weighing In Quarterly Meeting:** Health Department staff attended a Health Educator meeting at the Mid-America Regional Council. The meeting was attended by public information officers and health educators from various health departments in the Kansas City Metro area. The purpose of the meeting was to propose creative ways to engage the community to use our social media sites in a more interactive way for health promotional campaigns.
- ◆ **The Mile Starts Here 2.0:** The Health Department will host a Dog/Bark Walk at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, October 25 at Santa Fe Park, 2900 S. Santa Fe Rd. Bring along your four-legged friend and a leash. This is a free walking event open to the public. *The Mile Starts Here 2.0* is a walking and activity program aimed to promote physical activity and wellness in the Independence community.
- ◆ **Childcare Provider Classes:** The Health Department facilitated a childcare provider continuing education class last Saturday. Topics included effective communication in childcare, healthy eating, bed bugs/lice, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). The Health Department

provides education classes for childcare providers in Independence to assist them in gaining their required contact hours.

- ◆ **School-Based Influenza Clinic:** School-based influenza vaccine clinics started this week in the Independence School District. Nurses provided vaccine in the first eight elementary schools. Vaccine clinics will be offered in every school in the district.
- ◆ **Employee Flu Clinics:** Flu vaccinations were offered onsite at multiple City departments during the last two weeks. The Health Department provided walk-in flu vaccinations at the Health Department in order to utilize extra employee vaccines. Both clinics offered free vaccine to Cigna members, dependents, and retirees as well as employees with selected outside insurance.

Human Resources

- ◆ **Open Enrollment and Informational Meetings Scheduled:** Benefit Informational Meetings have been scheduled in preparation for Open Enrollment, which takes place this year from Monday, October 24 through Friday, November 4. The meeting schedule is posted on the CityNet home page. This will be a great opportunity to learn about upcoming benefits for 2017, as well as the new online benefit enrollment system which will be used this year.

The Benefits Fair has been scheduled during Open Enrollment and will offer an opportunity to speak to several of the benefit representatives for the City. The Fair will take place at the Truman Memorial Building at the following times:

Tuesday, October 25	8 a.m. - Noon
Wednesday, October 26	Noon - 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 27	8 a.m. - Noon

Police Department

- ◆ **Annual National Night Out Held:** IPD hosted the annual National Night Out Against Crime event at Hill Park on October 4. Despite some rain, there was a really good turnout for this large block party where the public was able to speak with police officers about neighborhood concerns and learn how to start a neighborhood watch group. There were numerous police officers displaying several different units (K9, motorcycles, SWAT, Bomb, etc.).
- ◆ **McCoy Neighborhood Council Holds Meeting:** On October 6, the Police Chief and several representatives from the Police Department attended the monthly McCoy Neighborhood Council neighborhood meeting. Citizens were able to ask questions about the Police Department's capabilities, procedures and programs, including neighborhood watch. The event was an opportunity for positive dialogue, allowing the police department to address issues of crime and disorder within this neighborhood.

Power & Light

- ◆ **NERC Compliance:** A member of the Power & Light Compliance staff represented the City at a quarterly meeting of the Southwest Power Pool Reliability Compliance Working Group (RCWG). The RCWG was formed to provide guidance to the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) on reliability compliance policy issues regarding activities of federal or regional regulators, committees, or

companies; provide expertise to other SPP Working Groups on member issues related to regional compliance matters; provide a stakeholder forum to encourage member discussion of regional compliance issues; and provide a member forum to interface with SPP Regional Transmission Organization compliance staff on matters of NERC Reliability Standards Compliance. This interaction has been invaluable in developing our highly successful Compliance program at IPL.

- ◆ **IPL Personnel Help With Storm Relief:** On Wednesday last week, eight IPL linemen and a supervisor were deployed to Tallahassee, FL to assist with storm damage from Hurricane Michael. It is anticipated significant damage will be caused by the storm's path up the east coast. IPL sent teams in the past to assist with power restoration efforts after significant weather events. The family of public power companies call on each other to help when there is severe storm damage and restoration efforts are of a scope that local personnel cannot meet the need in a timely manner.
- ◆ **Power Plant Controls Supervisor attends GE training:** The Controls-Instrumentation Supervisor attended a five-day GE control system training session the week of September 26. The knowledge gained from this training will be put to use in both operational and maintenance environments of Blue Valley Unit #3 and all six combustion turbines. This training and future training will also allow IPL to be less reliant on GE for controls system support and ultimately save IPL time and money.

Public Works

- ◆ **Drop-Off Depot Results:** Public Works employees were busy assisting citizens at the Drop-Off Depot this past Saturday. A total of 733 vehicles came through the gates with trash and brush, up from 679 last October. The Depot will be open for the last time this season from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, November 12.
- ◆ **Staff Attends Transportation Forum:** The Traffic Engineer recently attended the KINETIC Forum on Emerging Technologies in Transportation. The forum focused on emerging technologies such as smart infrastructure and autonomous vehicles. The KINETIC forums are sponsored by Mid-America Regional Council and bring in national experts as well as local officials to discuss issues affecting the future of transportation.

Water Department

- ◆ **Fifth-Graders Tour Water Treatment Facilities:** Between October 3 and 14, more than 1,150 fifth-graders from all 19 Independence School District elementary schools toured the water plant, operations center and laboratory and made edible aquifers. This event helps reinforce the fifth-grade curriculum on the water cycle and also shows the students the steps Independence takes to provide their excellent drinking water.