

NOTES & NEWS

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



For the Week Ending October 28, 2016

Department News

Finance

- ◆ **Purchasing Manager Facilitates Conference:** The Purchasing Division attended the Kansas City Regional Procurement Exposition (KCRPE) at the Adam's Mark Hotel & Conference Center. The event included procurement training and a vendor exposition which provided an opportunity for Purchasing staff to connect with vendors, many of whom are local, to discuss upcoming purchases and how to do business with the City. Purchasing staff played a strategic role in the planning and execution of the conference, which takes place every other year.

Fire Department

- ◆ **Fire Prevention Month:** We will be wrapping up soon with almost 40 events held, and contacting more than 1,950 individuals! This includes more than 30 visits to area schools, preschools and child care centers in Independence to teach children about fire safety and the importance of working smoke detectors in their homes, along with truck and firefighters gear demonstrations. We also visited local businesses to teach classes on using fire extinguishers and fire safety in the workplace. The Fire Department visited a local long term care facility during their Fire Prevention Fair. Crews gave a demonstration of our gear and truck for residents and employees who generally see us only in an emergency situation or on official duty. To schedule an event call Glenda Knisely at (816) 325-7121 or gknisely@indepmo.org.

Health Department

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

- ◆ **Permit Invoices Mailed:** The annual bills for food, lodging, long-term care, childcare, tattoo and massage therapy permits were mailed out the week of October 17. A total of 730 invoices were sent with a payment deadline of December 31, 2016.

DISEASE PREVENTION

- ◆ **Healthy Schools, Healthy Communities Convening:** Staff attended the Healthy Schools, Healthy Communities Convening at the Lake of the Ozarks, hosted by the Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH). The purpose of the convening was to spotlight schools and communities, as they shared their success stories of their action plans to reduce the incidence of childhood obesity in their communities. Additionally, attendees learned from peers and experts on the ways to improve nutrition and physical activity within their communities. Public Health Specialist Cindy Calender was a speaker at the convening and provided discussions from her report on the topic of Food Insecurity from MFH's Health Equity Series.

- ◆ **Press Conference for Homeless Veterans:** A press conference was held at the VA Honors Annex in support of the Mayors Challenge to house all homeless veterans. Presentations were made by Mayor Weir for Independence, Mayor Pro Tem Scott Wagner for Kansas City and District 8 Commissioner Dr. Jane Philbrook on behalf of the Wyandotte Unified Government. They focused on our strong community collaboration and the need for landlord recruitment. The website www.ZeroKC.org provides more information on ways others can participate in reaching our goals. Besides housing our homeless veterans, services are being offered to assist them in stabilization and support.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE AND IMMUNIZATION

- ◆ **Community Educational Video:** Staff worked with the Infection Prevention Director at Children's Mercy Hospital and Technology Services to create an educational video presentation on viral hemorrhagic diseases for the community, which will be shared with other metro health departments for a consistent public education in the region and to increase understanding of transmission and symptoms of the disease. This is part of an Ebola grant fund from the state meant to prepare and improve emergency public information sharing.
- ◆ **School-Based Influenza Clinic:** School-based influenza vaccine clinics are now completed in the Independence School District. Nurses have provided more than 1,200 vaccinations in 29 schools.
- ◆ **Employee Flu Clinics:** Flu vaccinations were offered onsite at multiple City departments in September, as well as during evening clinics and by appointment. To date, the Health Department nurses have provided a total of 465 city employee flu vaccines, which includes 436 vaccinations through on-site clinics, and 29 walk in appointments.
- ◆ **Early Education Class Provided:** A Public Health Nurse presented seatbelt safety to 15 students at Korte Early Education. Information provided included the importance of wearing seatbelts 100% of the time and the need to use a car seat appropriate for their individual sizes. Demonstration included using two different car seats and a doll being placed in the wrong type of car seat or not being buckled in properly. All children and teachers made a pledge to wear their seatbelt every time they were in a car.
- ◆ **Senior Education Class Held:** A Public Health Nurse provided a presentation on influenza and pneumonia vaccines to the community at Palmer Center. The presentation reinforced that people 65 years and older are at the greater risk of serious complications from influenza because immunity becomes weaker with age. This presentation discussed the different ways citizens can prevent the flu, including getting the flu and pneumonia vaccines, practicing good health habits, and seeking medical advice quickly if flu symptoms develop.
- ◆ **Participation in Senior Health Information Fair:** Public Health Nurses participated in the Senior Health Information Fair at The Palmer Center. Nurses administered both influenza and pneumonia vaccines to the seniors. Staff also provided free toothbrushes, dental floss, and toothpaste to all attendees of the fair.
- ◆ **Public Health Nurse Receives Basic Life Support Instructor Recognition:** A Public Health Nurse received Basic Life Support (BLS) instructor recognition through the American Heart

Association. She has spent the last several months going through the training process and will now be able to teach CPR/First Aid independently to our childcare providers.

- ◆ **Independence School District Academies Career Fair:** The Public Health Nurse Manager participated in the Independence School District (ISD) Academies Career Fair. The Fair, which was a Freshman Career Exploration to inform freshman about future career opportunities in the area, was attended by more than 1,000 freshman from the ISD high schools. The Public Health Nurse Manager represented the Health Department and shared information on potential careers in public health.

Human Resources

- ◆ **Open Enrollment has begun!** Staff has been coordinating distribution of open enrollment packets to all City departments. Open Enrollment is taking place now through Friday, November 4.

Power & Light

- ◆ **Cyber Security/NERC Compliance:** A member of the IPL NERC Compliance team took part in a panel of professionals at a recent Southwest Power Pool (SPP) Conference, discussing NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) best practices. The panel provided attendees the ability to hear first-hand how entities in the SPP footprint are complying with the federally mandated CIP requirements and improving Cyber Security in the electric utility industry.
- ◆ **Turbine Users Group Conference Attended:** The Power Plant Maintenance Superintendent recently attended a GE Frame 5 Combustion Turbine Users Group conference. Independence Power & Light combustion turbines are GE Frame 5. Discussions and presentations regarding maintenance and troubleshooting were conducted to better educate users on issues that can jeopardize the reliability and increase operating cost of the machines. This group provides a network for parts and knowledge that is an economic benefit to IPL.
- ◆ **Staff attends Independence School Districts Career Fair:** More than 1,000 ninth-graders from the Independence High Schools attended with questions about careers, training requirements, daily routines, and the all-important question – how much money do you make? IPL staffers included two engineers, a lineman and a program administrator. This is part of the Ford Next Generation Learning where students are exposed to businesses while in high school with the goal of developing interest in jobs here in Independence. The objective is to focus students on a career path earlier, so when they graduate from high school they can move directly into a job, tech school, or college.

Public Works

- ◆ **Pavement Management System Van Visits City Hall:** Public Works has contracted with Stantec Consulting to establish and develop a pavement management system to assess the condition of existing street pavement. The pavement management system will be used to keep a history of pavement condition of all streets in the city, perform analysis to predict the future condition based on maintenance and repair activities by the city, and funding levels used to maintain the city streets. A van equipped with a camera, computers and infrared sensors which collect the needed data by driving on city streets visited City Hall last week to display the

equipment and explain how it works. The data provided will be used, among other things, in deciding which streets will be included in the Street Overlay Program each year.

- ◆ **Staff Attends Traffic Safety Training:** “A Partnership Toward Zero Deaths” and “Every Number Has A Face” were the themes for the 2016 Missouri Traffic Safety and Blueprint Conference sponsored by MoDOT and the University of Missouri – Columbia. The Traffic Engineer attended the conference, which focused on the four ‘E’ partnership for highway safety: Engineering, Enforcement, Education and Emergency care. Engineers, law enforcement and various safety experts discussed current best practices and human factors like drowsy and distracted driving. MO Highway Patrol convincingly made the case for seat belts, showing numerous photos of vehicles from fatality crashes where the passenger compartment of the vehicle was intact and the crash would have been survivable if seat belts had been worn.

- ◆ **Construction Projects Update:**

- Street Sales Tax**

- 2016 Street Overlay:** All milling, paving, handicap ramp and sidewalk work has been completed.

- Milling:**

- Charles Ct. – McCoy to W. dead-end
 - 27th St. – Sterling to Northern
 - 24th St. – Sterling to Vermont
 - Cedar – 23rd St. to Westport
 - 26th Terr. – Westport to Collin
 - 26th St. – Overton to E. end
 - Hawthorne – 25th Terr. to N. cul-de-sac
 - 25th Terr. – Overton to Hawthorne

- Paving:**

- 24th St. – Sterling to Vermont
 - 27th St. – Sterling to Northern
 - 25th Terr. – Overton to Hawthorne cul-de-sac
 - 26th St. – Overton to E. end
 - 26th Terr. – Overton to E. end
 - 26th Terr. – Westport to Collin
 - 27th St. – Westport to Collin
 - 32nd St. – Blue Ridge to E. end
 - 33rd St. – Blue Ridge to Overton
 - Appleton – Witthar to 36th St.
 - 36th Terr. – Appleton to Harris
 - Harris – 36th St. to Blue Ridge
 - Ash – Sheley to N. end
 - Bird – 31st St. to S. end
 - Cedar – 23rd St. to Westport
 - Cedar – Sheley to N. end
 - Hawthorne – 25th Terr. to N. cul-de-sac
 - Linwood – Maywood to E. cul-de-sac
 - Maywood – Sheley to Linwood
 - Witthar – Northern to Appleton

Little Blue Parkway – Heartland to 40 Hwy.
Charles Ct. – McCoy to W. dead-end

Nativity School Sidewalks to Schools: The bid opening was held for Nativity School Sidewalks to Schools on October 21. Mega Industries is the apparent low bidder.

Sanitary Sewer

2012-2013 Neighborhood Sanitary Sewer Improvements: The pre-construction meeting with Blue Nile Contractors was held on October 25 and a Notice to Proceed was given for Monday, November 7.

Technology Services

- ◆ **Utility Customer Information & Billing System Assistance Testing:** Advanced Utility Systems was on-site to assist in conducting testing of CIS Infinity, which is the new Utility Customer Information & Billing System. The core team conducted testing in the areas of billing, inventory, service orders, adjustments, and moves.