

# ***NOTES & NEWS***

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



**For the Week Ending November 4, 2016**

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## ***Department News***

### Community Development

- ◆ **Property Cleanup Completed:** Neighborhood Services staff recently conducted a large clean up of a property on 26<sup>th</sup> Street. Due to the severity of the property conditions, two 25-yard dumpsters of trash were required to hold the trash and junk removed; the property was then mowed.

### Finance

- ◆ **Purchasing Procurement Card System:** The Purchasing Division has successfully implemented a new procurement card system, going live with the Water and Finance Departments on September 1. The remaining City departments will be trained and go-live in two groups: Group 1 – City Clerk, Law, Municipal Court, Fire, Tech Services, Public Works, Human Resources, and Community Development will go-live by November 1. Group 2 – Water Pollution Control, Power & Light, Police, Parks (Tourism, NFTM), City Manager, City Council, and Mayor will go-live by December 1. Training will be scheduled with all departments prior to November 23.

### Health Department

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH**

- ◆ **Pit Bull Registrations:** Animal Services completed annual pit bull registrations on October 25. Owners who licensed their pit bull when the ordinance was passed in 2006 have been permitted to keep their dog in accordance with City Code. There are now 55 registered pit bulls remaining in the City.

#### **DISEASE PREVENTION**

- ◆ **City Employee Walking Challenge:** The Independence Employee Wellness six-week walking challenge ended last week. Eleven out of 28 teams completed the entire challenge. The HR Steppers won the grand prize, which included a \$125 gift card to Gary Gribble's for each team participant. There has been a lot of good feedback concerning the challenge and requests for another walking challenge in the spring.
- ◆ **First Annual Chili Cook-off:** The Independence Wellness Committee hosted the First Annual Chili Cook-off. Five city employees entered their chili and more than 20 people attended and cast their votes. This will be an annual event for city employees.
- ◆ **Smarter Lunchroom Training:** Health Department staff attended a day-long training with Nutrition Managers participating in the School Wellness Grant. The training was hosted by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services concerning the approach and evaluation of the

Smarter Lunchroom assessment. Staff is working with Fairmount Elementary School and Korte Elementary School throughout the 2016-2017 school year to implement smarter lunchroom techniques.

- ◆ **Youth Leadership Anti-Tobacco Meeting:** Staff met with student leaders at Van Horn, Truman, and William Chrisman High Schools to discuss and plan a youth tobacco prevention campaign. All three high schools will be working throughout the 2016-2017 school year to help reduce initiation of tobacco and nicotine products and provide education related to tobacco through youth leadership and community support. This campaign and associated policy change associated is funded through the Youth Leadership in Tobacco Prevention grant, the Tobacco Coalition Control Contract, and a grant received from the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City. The stated goals are to reduce initiation of tobacco and nicotine products among Independence youth.
- ◆ **KaBOOM! Play Everywhere Grand Opening Event at Hawthorne Place Apartments:** Independence Health Department (IHD) and partners celebrated the new play spaces they created for Hawthorne Place Apartments by hosting a Grand Opening event on October 27. With approximately 300 in attendance, the Grand Opening commenced with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to congratulate IHD and partners including Hawthorne Place Apartments, Habitat for Humanity, Mid-Continent Public Library, local artist Amanda Varner, and Boys & Girls Club for their hard work to create new play opportunities for the children and families of Hawthorne. Councilmember John Perkins spoke on behalf of the project and cut the ribbon. Following the ribbon cutting, all attendees and partners received a tour of the new play spaces. After the tour, several festivities took place including: trunk-or-treat, ghost stories, Hy-Vee activity bus, face painters, balloon artists, pumpkin paintings, and a bike blender.

## Human Resources

- ◆ **Open Enrollment Benefits Fair Completed:** Human Resources wants to thank all of the vendors, employees, retirees, and family members who attended this year's Open Enrollment Benefits Fair. As a reminder, Open Enrollment ends Friday, November 4.

## Police Department

- ◆ **Police Chief Receives Award:** Congratulations to Chief Brad Halsey on receiving the Albert Riederer Excellence in Public Service Award at the 2016 COMBAT Awards last week. He was presented the award by Jackson County Executive Frank White.
- ◆ **Memorial Ceremony Honors Fallen Officer:** On October 31 the Police Department gathered with the family of Lt. David J. Kraxner to commemorate his sacrifice when he was killed in the line of duty 50 years ago. A brief ceremony was held at the memorial at US 40 Hwy. and Crysler Avenue.

## Power & Light

- ◆ **Staff Presents Home Energy Loan Program to APPA members:** IPL received national recognition for the Home Energy Loan Program from the American Public Power Association (APPA) last June. Recipients of the award were asked to present their programs during an APPA sponsored webinar for its members. More than 50 utilities participated in the event featuring the

three award winners. IPL's Home Energy Loan Program was different from the other award winners because it assisted customers by making energy saving upgrades more affordable. The other award winners were recognized for their programs with solar. It was a great honor to be recognized by the APPA for our unique program.

- ◆ **Electrical Grid Reliability:** IPL NERC Compliance submitted a quarterly reporting requirement for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Misoperation Information Data Analysis System (MIDAS). MIDAS is a nationwide program to analyze Protection System Operations on the Bulk Electric System (100kvolts and above). A Protection System is a network of sensors, relays and circuit breakers designed to isolate faults as quickly as possible to prevent problems from spreading across the system. When Protection Systems operate correctly they isolate the problem, removing the least amount of equipment from the electric grid. Through robust design and thorough maintenance and testing practices, IPL has maintained a highly successful program and reported zero misoperations for the fifth quarter in a row.