

NOTES & NEWS

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



For the Week Ending November 10, 2016

Department News

Finance

- ◆ **New Finance & Human Resources Software:** The Finance Department, in collaboration with other departments, has entered into the first phase of replacing the City's Finance and Human Resources computer systems. In this phase, a consultant has been hired to lead in the discovery of requirements and develop the RFP to purchase the new software. All City departments will be included in the discovery meetings to ensure all requirements are identified for the new system. Meetings with key users will begin in November.

Fire Department

- ◆ **Halloween Parade:** Independence Fire Department wrapped up the month of October by leading off the 68th Annual Halloween Parade. IAFF Local 781 built a float complete with a smoking house. Firefighters and families rode along and gave out candy. Many of the Chief Officers walked the parade route. Several trucks were in the parade and our Fire Prevention mascot, Fire Pup®, even rode along! Fire Prevention Month was a huge success with more than 40 demonstrations throughout the last few weeks. The message of Fire Safety in the home and "Don't Wait, Check the Date," this year's Fire Prevention week slogan, was taught to thousands of children in our city.

Health Department

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

- ◆ **Injured Fox Rescued:** Animal Services responded to a call of an injured fox on November 3. The caller stated the animal had been hit by a car and was now in a creek. Animal Services officers were able to catch the animal and transport it to Lakeside Nature Center where it will receive the care necessary to recover.

DISEASE PREVENTION

- ◆ **Lana the Iguana:** Health Department staff taught a *Lana the Iguana* class at Korte Elementary School. The *Lana the Iguana* classes are part of the new classes offered by the Health Department to teach children in preschool and child care facilities about the importance of eating a variety of fruits and vegetables. There were 15 children in attendance.
- ◆ **MyPlate Classes Held:** Health Department staff taught two MyPlate classes at Ott Elementary School. The purpose of the MyPlate classes is to teach children who attend preschool and childcare facilities in Independence, the five food groups and the importance of eating a healthy, balanced meal. There were 25 children in attendance.

- ◆ **National Mass Care Exercise After Action Report:** An after-action meeting organized by Emergency Management was held to discuss lessons learned from the complex sheltering exercise held in August. Staff presented on public health's role in the exercise to the group, which included Jackson County Emergency Management, American Red Cross, and other volunteer agencies. Lessons learned included adequate training for food handlers, spacing for health and medical operations, and various logistical issues.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE AND IMMUNIZATION

- ◆ **First Cases of Influenza Reported:** The first two cases of influenza have been reported; both cases involve a patient over 65 years of age. As cases begin to increase, it is important to remember the annual flu vaccine is the best way to reduce the chances of getting seasonal flu and spreading it to others. A limited supply of vaccine is still available at the Health Department, by appointment.
- ◆ **Zostavax Training:** Nursing staff participated in a Zostavax (shingles vaccine) training offered by Merck. The training provided staff information on vaccine administration, storage and handling, billing, and other vaccine recommendations. This is one of two planned trainings to prepare staff for administering the shingles vaccine.

Human Resources

- ◆ **BenefitsInsight.com Link Results:** Human Resources is pleased with the launch of the BenefitsInsight.com link for this year's Open Enrollment. Employees who used this new online system were able to make benefit changes and review their current selections all in one session. We are excited to use this technology going forward.

Parks / Recreation / Tourism

- ◆ **Surprise Marriage Proposal:** The Palmer Center recently played host for the engagement of Alvin Coop and his future bride, Louise. Alvin asked staff if he could surprise his girlfriend with a marriage proposal at The Palmer Center and staff excitedly agreed. He told staff he "wants to be among his friends when he asks her for her hand." On the morning of their engagement, staff set up a stool beside the podium and asked Alvin and Louise to come forward. Louise was introduced as a new visitor to The Palmer Center, then staff handed the microphone to Alvin. He proceeded to slowly get down on one knee in front of Louise and asked her to marry him. She said "Yes" and the crowd broke out in applause. Staff presented the happy couple with a tulip to plant in their garden and flowers for their table. It was a happy morning for everyone!
- ◆ **17th Annual Storytelling Celebration:** Parks/Recreation/Tourism partnered again with Metropolitan Community College – Maple Woods for the 17th Annual Storytelling Celebration to bring regional story tellers to Independence on November 3 and 5. Mike and Nancee Micham performed their brand of Ozark stories and songs for participants at the Palmer Center and youth and their families at Fairmount Elementary. Steve Otto performed nature stories at George Owens Nature Park. We thank the Fairmount PTA and Fairmount LINC for helping us bring storytelling to the Fairmount neighborhood.
- ◆ **25th Annual Enchanted Forest:** The 25th Annual Enchanted Forest was held at George Owens Nature Park on October 21, 22, 28 and 29. Sponsored by the Powerhouse Theatre Foundation and Independence Parks/Recreation/Tourism, the event is a major fund raiser for the Foundation

which supports the theatre located in the Roger T. Sermon Community Center. Nearly 5,000 visitors were entertained by Nursery Rhyme and Action Movie Characters as they walked along the pumpkin-lit trail. During the hayride everyone enjoyed the fire-breathing dragon that "stormed" Sleeping Beauty's castle by the lake. The event is made possible by many hours of volunteer work to organize, set up, build, costume, and act.

- ◆ **Ike Skelton Veterans Day Event:** Parks/Recreation/Tourism Department and the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library once again partnered for the annual Ike Skelton Veterans Day event at the Truman Library. Doug Bradley, author of "We Gotta Get Out Of This Place - The Soundtrack of the Vietnam War" was the keynote speaker. He gave an informative talk on the music of the Vietnam era and how it raised awareness of veterans' issues. John Howell did a wonderful job taking the veteran photos and they loved being able to take their photos home that day. From all of our speakers to the bagpiper, the event paid wonderful tribute to our military heroes – past and present!

Power & Light

- ◆ **EPA Clean Air Act Reporting:** The Third Quarter 2016 Electronic Data Report (EDR) for Blue Valley Unit 3 was recently submitted to EPA. The quarterly EDR, required by Part 75 of the Clean Air Act for all units greater than 25 MW, is a summary of the carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides emitted by electricity generating units during the combustion of natural gas or other fossil fuels. IPL's EDR was accepted by EPA without errors, and all air emissions for BV Unit 3 were below permitted levels.
- ◆ **Training Course Completed:** A Power Plant Instrument/Pneumatics Technician attended and successfully completed a training course on "Intro to GE MarkVie controls system" in October. This course and its content will further help IPL Production technicians maintain, troubleshoot, and modify the MarkVie control system utilized on all six IPL combustion turbine generators as well as the steam turbine controls for Unit #3 at Blue Valley Power Plant.
- ◆ **Electrical Grid Reliability:** System Operations staff recently participated in a Southwest Power Pool (SPP) Electric System Restoration drill. During the two day drill, electric utilities in the SPP region simulated a massive power outage (black out) and restored the electrical grid utilizing a computer model of the electric grid. Should a black out occur, restoration activities to all customers would likely take longer than two days. Participants are able to systematically restore the electrical system and get real-time feedback on their actions. Personnel simulate required generator startup, transmission switching and coordination functions which would be performed in restoring the electrical system. By participating in the drill, personnel receive NERC Continuing Education Hours (CEHs), which are needed to maintain required certifications.

Public Works

- ◆ **Construction Projects Updates**

Storm Water & Sanitary Sewer Improvements

2012 Neighborhood Storm Drainage Improvements – Construction bids have been advertised for the 2012 Neighborhood Storm Drainage Improvements project. The bids will be opened on Thursday, December 1.