

# ***NOTES & NEWS***

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



**For the Week Ending November 18, 2016**

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## ***Department News***

### Finance

- ◆ **October Business Licensing Results:** During October, the Licensing Division issued 31 new business licenses to businesses located in Independence, 54 new business licenses to companies located outside the City, and 55 new rental property owner licenses. Business renewals were 283 in-town accounts, 153 out-of-town accounts and 173 rental property accounts.

### Fire Department

- ◆ **Recognition for Success of Mass Care Exercise:** On October 27, Governor Nixon visited the Independence area to thank regional agencies and individuals that have contributed to the success of the state in providing emergency human services or relief to Missouri residents affected by disaster. In a round table discussion at Crowne Point Church, the Governor engaged in discussion with a panel of 10 individuals representing themselves or their agencies which serve Missouri. Agencies such as the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, and Kansas City Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster were represented on the panel. The Emergency Preparedness Division Manager was included in the panel and was recognized for his contributions to the largest mass care exercise in the Missouri's history, which was centered in Independence.
- ◆ **After Action Review of Mass Care Exercise:** On November 3, Emergency Preparedness conducted a general After Action Review (AAR) of the Show Me National Mass Care Exercise conducted on August 24. This AAR is one of the last in a string of such meetings conducted following the exercise, and included the work of previous AARs which will be consolidated into a final master report. Overall, the Show Me National Mass Care Exercise was a great success. Mass care capacity, public health emergency response, emergency operations center management capabilities and many other emergency management capacities were increased. Many important lessons will be applied to future preparedness activities.
- ◆ **SEMA Site Visit:** Three SEMA fiscal personnel and the Regional Coordinator for SEMA's Region A conducted a routine site visit with Emergency Preparedness (EP) to discuss and review how the Emergency Management Preparedness Grant (EMPG) is assisting Emergency Preparedness and to determine if Emergency Preparedness is adequately benefiting from EMPG. The Finance Department also met with these SEMA visitors. All requirements of the grant have been successfully addressed.

## Health Department

### **ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH**

- ◆ **Animal Welfare Committee Meeting:** Animal Services staff attended the Jackson County Animal Welfare Committee meeting on November 10. During the meeting, staff presented a report to show workload for the past several months. The committee meets quarterly to discuss programs which promote welfare and safety and is comprised of five members: three appointed by the County Executive and two appointed by the Mayor.
- ◆ **Northwest District Meeting:** Staff from the Northwest District Office of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services visited the Department on November 10. Due to staffing changes at the Department and District Office, staff wanted to formally meet and discuss opportunities for collaboration and issues that might arise.

### **DISEASE PREVENTION**

- ◆ **Smoke-free Multi-unit Housing Residents Council Meeting:** Staff attended a meeting with Southview Apartment's Residents Council to discuss a tobacco-free multi-unit housing policy. Monthly meetings with Southview Residents Council are part of the Health Care Foundation's Healthy Communities grant which the Health Department receives. During this meeting, Health Department staff discussed options for tobacco cessation and provided materials and resources to the Residents Council to be distributed to tenants at Southview Apartments. Additionally, staff provided tenant surveys to the Residents Council for distribution in order to determine tenant characteristics, smoking behavior and preferences.
- ◆ **Clean MO Air Training:** Megan Cooper, Public Health Specialist, worked with Clay County Public Health Center to lead the Clear MO Air Training. This training was for 40 youth from Truman High School, William Chrisman High School, Excelsior Springs High School and Smithville High School, along with their youth team mentors. This training was to help the school teams establish action plans to complete throughout the school year relating to activities to improve or enforce tobacco prevention policies within their schools or their communities. This training was part of the Youth Leadership in Tobacco Prevention Contract with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

## Human Resources

- ◆ **Staff Assists Future Job Candidates:** On November 10, Human Resources Staff participated in Employer Mock Interview Week at the University of Central Missouri. A total of 498 students were served during the week. This is a great opportunity for the City to reach out to future candidates while helping college students prepare for interviewing for professional positions.

## Parks / Recreation / Tourism

- ◆ **33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tourism Volunteer Banquet:** The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tourism Volunteer Banquet was held November 10 at the Hilton Garden Inn. Mayor Eileen Weir spoke, thanking the volunteers for their service to the city. The Director of Parks/Recreation/Tourism presented Mayor Weir with a check in the amount of \$384,730.74, which represents payment for the 18,054 hours of time donated by the volunteers at the Independence historical sites. Attending the banquet were 199 persons including volunteers and guests, as well as representatives from the Independence City Council and the Tourism Commission. Volunteers received special recognition for 5, 10, 15, and

20 years of service. The Annual Tourism Banquet is a special “thank you” to the many volunteers who dedicate so much of their time and energy to our special historic assets.

- ◆ **McCoy Park Inclusive Play Project:** On November 10 the Variety KC 5 to 12-year-old playground was opened, which was the final phase of the McCoy Park Inclusive Play Project. There were hundreds of kids and their families in attendance to enjoy the largest inclusive playground in the Greater Kansas City area. This entire project was a team effort and would not have been possible without help from all City departments, our donors, and contractors. We would like to thank everyone for their hard work to make this park a reality. Be on the lookout for some new inclusive recreation programs this spring!
- ◆ **USTA Missouri Valley Serving Up Tennis Grant:** Independence Parks/Recreation/Tourism Department was recently awarded \$1,000 by the United States Tennis Association. This grant will be used to purchase equipment and marketing materials for adaptive and wheelchair tennis programs.

## Police Department

- ◆ **Color Guard Participates in Veterans Day Ceremony:** On the morning of Veterans Day, the Police and Fire Departments’ Color Guards teamed up for a ceremony at the HyVee at US 40 Hwy. and Noland Road. HyVee hosted a large Veterans Day event, giving free breakfast to military veterans.
- ◆ **Shop With A Cop Event Planned:** IPD will work with the 39<sup>th</sup> Street Chick-fil-A on Thursday, November 17, for a fundraiser for this year’s Shop with a Cop. Chick-fil-A is donating a portion of the restaurant’s sales for the day to the event and the Community Services League (CSL) will also be taking donations. CSL will collect the money, select the families and work with a local retailer for the Shop with a Cop event next month. Police Officers will be at Chick-fil-A all day to assist with the fundraiser and meet with the public.

## Power & Light

- ◆ **Production Technician Attends Training:** Power Plant Instrument/Pneumatics Technician attended and successfully completed the Foxboro Training course on “Continuous Loop Control” in Houston, TX the week of October 17. This course and its content will further help IPL Production techs maintain, troubleshoot, and modify the Digital Control System utilized on steam turbine generator and boiler controls of Units #1, #2, and #3 at the Blue Valley Power Plant.
- ◆ **Wind Power Production Update:** The City has Power Purchase Agreements with two wind farms: Marshall Wind and Smoky Hills II. The Smoky Hills II agreement entitles the City to 15MWs peak output on hourly basis of the 148.5MW wind farm. The Marshall Wind agreement entitles the City to 20MWs peak output on hourly basis of the 72MW wind farm. The table below contains totals for the amount of energy required to serve IPL customers and total energy produced by the wind farms in MWhs. The highest monthly capacity factor recorded for the months listed below was 51.3% in October, which means the farms produced 51.3% of their potential full output (35MWh 24hours/day every day of the month). On October 10, almost 30% of the city’s energy needs were supplied by wind, the highest percentage since the start of the PPA agreements with the wind farms.

Wind Farm Production - 2016			
	August	September	October
Capacity Factor	34.9%	50.3%	51.3%
Total Output (MWh)	9082	12681	13349
Total Load (MWh)	117911	96904	76581
% of Load	7.7%	13.1%	17.4%

- ◆ **Director Speaks at Annual Conference:** The IPL Director presented at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Outage Response and Restoration Management Conference in New Orleans on October 25 – 27. The presentation highlighted the proactive steps that IPL takes to prevent outages, which includes our undergrounding program and aggressive tree trimming program, which has been recognized as a best practice by the Arbor Association through Tree Line USA. In the event of power outages, the IPL team has processes in place with a state-of-the-art outage management system that identifies outages and allows IPL personnel to respond quickly and efficiently restore power.

## Public Works

- ◆ **Drop-Off Depot Now Closed for Season:** The last Drop-Off Depot for the season was held last Saturday with a total of 751 vehicles going through with trash and brush, compared to last year's November total of 649. The total number of vehicles counted through the gates from March through November 2016 was 6,731. The Depot will open again the second Saturday of March 2017.

- ◆ **Construction Projects Updates**

- ◆ **Street Improvements**

- ◆ **M-78 and Truman Road Project** - Bids were opened on November 17 for the M-78 and Truman Road Project. The apparent low bidder is Pyramid Excavation Construction with a base bid amount of \$1,761,682.35.

## Technology Services

- ◆ **Independence Top-Ranked in 2016 Digital Cities Survey:** The City of Independence has been ranked third in its population category (75,000 - 124,999) in the 16th annual Digital Cities Survey conducted by the e.Republic's Center for Digital Government and Digital Communities magazine. The Digital Cities Survey is open to all U.S. cities with population of 30,000 or more. This is the fourteenth year Independence has been ranked as one of the most technology-advanced cities in America.

The survey provides an annual measure of city performance and innovation in using technology and evolves each year to evaluate and identify emerging best practices. Survey participants were asked to share feedback on what programs and initiatives they were most proud in the areas of citizen engagement, policy, operations, and technology and data.