

NOTES & NEWS

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



For the Week Ending November 23, 2016



***Happy Thanksgiving!
City offices will be closed
Thursday and Friday, November 24-25.***

Department News

Health Department

Environmental Public Health

- ◆ **New Businesses Open:** Permitted Establishment staff conducted the pre-opening inspections for My Place Hotel, 20105 E Valley View Parkway and Menard's, 4101 S Little Blue Parkway the week of November 13. Both establishments passed their inspections, received their Health permits, and opened.
- ◆ **Animal Services Officer Completes Training:** Sarah Taula, Animal Services Officer, has completed her initial training, which included 7.5 weeks joint field work and 10 exams to ensure comprehension. She is now in the field, conducting investigations and has been placed in the rotation to be on-call after hours.

Disease Prevention

- ◆ **2016 Farmers' Market Season Purchases:** Staff presented at the City Council Study Session on the successes of the Farmers' Market marketing campaign allowed through the Farmers' Market SNAP Support Grant the Health Department received. This is a two-year grant and after the first year, SNAP transactions at the market increased 16%, SNAP redemptions increased 18%, and there has been an overall increase in traffic at the market.
- ◆ **Start Right Program:** Health Department staff met with local child care centers which participated in the Start Right Program to provide them with MyPlate and 12345 Fit Fantastic! Promotional items. MyPlate paper plates and 12345 Fit Fantastic posters were distributed to child care centers to be used within their facility for health promotion messaging and educational purposes. The Start Right Program is a voluntary facility recognition program geared to promote policy implementation in eight categories which include: Physical Activity, Nutrition, General Safety, Indoor Safety, Outdoor Safety, Communicable Disease, Emergency Preparedness, and Safe Sleep.

Communicable Disease and Immunization

- ◆ **Influenza Vaccinations Clinic:** Nursing staff provided influenza vaccinations to children and families at Luff Elementary School during the evening hours. This clinic was meant to catch

any children who may have missed our school based clinics as well as their family members. Staff will continue to promote vaccination in the community. A limited supply of vaccine is also still available for City employees, dependents, and retirees. Please call (816) 325-7186 or email lmagruder@indepmo.org for an appointment.

Human Resources

- ◆ **Planning for New FM/HR System Continues:** Staff from Human Resources took part in meetings last week with consultants from Berry Dunn, the group assisting the City with the selection of a new FM/HR system. Human Resources attended numerous sessions over a three day period where input was provided on Employee Records, Applicant Tracking, Benefits, Performance Management, Payroll and Time Entry. The department will continue to be involved in this process over the coming months.

Power & Light

- ◆ **American Public Power Association Conference:** IPL Support Services staff attended the American Public Power Association's Community Connections Conference. This conference provides an excellent opportunity to share ideas with other public power entities regarding new technologies, how to communicate with customers, implementation challenges when introducing the new technologies, and working to improve the relationship between the utility and its customers.
- ◆ **Backup Control Center Reliability Tested:** IPL maintains two control centers in which the electrical system can be monitored and controlled. Periodically operations are transferred to the backup site to ensure operating personnel are proficient in operating at the backup site and all systems continue to work as required should there be a true failure of equipment. Power & Light transferred operations to the backup on November 1. The Trouble Dispatchers and System Operators operated from the backup site continuously for a period of 10 days.
- ◆ **MCC Business and Technology Campus Visited:** An IPL staff member was asked to attend the Site-KC GEM (girls in manufacturing) day at MCC Business and Technology campus. There were 130 girls in attendance. They were escorted through the manufacturing labs, and had lunch with Women in STEM careers in Kansas City. During lunch a panel discussion was held in which the girls were able to ask questions about being a woman in a STEM career and how to pursue an education in this area.

WPC

- ◆ **Monitoring Report Quality Assurance Met:** For the fourteenth year in a row the Rock Creek Treatment Plant Laboratory achieved 100% accuracy on the Environmental Protection Agency's National Discharge Monitoring Report Quality Assurance (DMR-QA) Program for Laboratories by correctly analyzing and quantifying pollutants in unknown samples.