

# ***NOTES & NEWS***

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



**For the Week Ending December 2, 2016**

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## **Call for Volunteers!**

### **Needed for Tourism Sites**

The Independence Tourism Division needs to expand its group of volunteers. There are opportunities for cashiers and tour guides at our Historical Sites including the Vaile Mansion, Bingham Waggoner Estate, Visitor Experience Center and Chicago Alton Depot. There are also opportunities to give tours at the Jackson County Courthouse. Resource material and internet access will be available to volunteers for assisting guests in activities and events in Independence and the Greater Kansas City Area. Days and hours are flexible. So if you or someone you know are looking for a way to experience history and meet new friends there is a place for you. Contact Gary Sheridan at (816) 325-7890 or [rsheridan@indepmo.org](mailto:rsheridan@indepmo.org) to learn how you can become a member of the Visitor Experience Center or Tourism Volunteer Team.

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## ***Department News***

### Fire Department

- ◆ **Certificate of Appreciation Received:** On November 3, the Fire Department was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of outstanding dedication and service to the community. This award was presented by the United Way Citizen Assist Program (CAP) at their 10 year anniversary celebration. Independence Fire and the CAP have been working together for the past 10 years to improve the lives of Independence citizens with varying degrees of need by assisting them with medical needs, social issues, accident/fall prevention, home repairs and many other issues.

### Health Department

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH**

- ◆ **New Security Cameras and Monitor Installed:** In November, an additional security camera was installed in the public hallway. This camera, along with cameras at each of the building's entrances, is now displayed on a monitor at our front desk. This ensures improved customer service and safety for both the public and staff.

#### **DISEASE PREVENTION**

- ◆ **Coordinated Community Solutions:** The first Coordinated Community Solutions meeting was attended by 12 representatives serving in various capacities throughout the community. The goals of the workgroup are to tackle complex challenges in Independence, including homelessness, and to create sustainable solutions through collaborative partnerships, policy development and system changes. Five primary areas of concern were identified and discussed including education, transportation, mental health, affordable housing and housing for homeless youth. The group will meet every two weeks.

- ◆ **Healthy Communities Leadership Academy:** The Public Health Specialist was one of 15 professionals selected to participate in the Health Care Foundation Healthy Communities Leadership Academy. The program began in November and continues through June 2017. The goal is for individuals currently working on community and environmental change to deepen their knowledge and understanding in four competencies areas: civic leadership, policy and system change, community collaboration, and resource leveraging.

## **COMMUNICABLE DISEASE AND IMMUNIZATION**

- ◆ **Missouri Council for Public Health Nursing:** The Public Health Manager was selected as a member of the Missouri Council for Public Health Nursing for the 2017-2018 term.

## **Human Resources**

- ◆ **Quarterly Supervisory Training Held:** Training held this week at the Graceland University auditorium was presented by Sandy Brown, from The Employer's Resource. The topic was 'Behavioral Health in the Workplace.' She spoke to approximately 60 supervisors, providing suggestions and strategies on working with individuals affected by this type of health issue.

## **Power & Light**

- ◆ **Cyber Security/NERC Compliance:** The NERC Compliance Team held a half-day Cyber Security Incident Response Tabletop exercise at the IPL Service Center. This drill tested aspects of several IPL plans, including the Cyber Security Incident Response Plan, Recovery Plans for BES (Bulk Electric Systems) Cyber Systems, and the Event and Disturbance Reporting Plan. The exercise included staff participation from System Operations, Support Services, Transmission & Distribution and City Technology Services. IPL is required by NERC Standards to periodically test plans to mitigate the risk to the BES as the result of a Cyber Security Incident and provide for recovery of functions performed by cyber systems to support stability, operability, and reliability of the BES. For this exercise, the compliance team expanded the incident scenarios to include areas not mandated by NERC, including elements based on actual recent nationwide physical and cyber incidents. All participants were fully engaged in this drill, and several areas for clarity and strengthening were noted.
- ◆ **Fuel Oil Transfer:** IPL recently completed removal and transfer of 16,500 gallons of useable fuel oil from Missouri City plant to Substation I combustion turbine fuel storage tanks. This fuel oil was no longer needed at the Missouri City plant and was filtered and treated to salvage the quality fuel at a low cost for power generation.
- ◆ **Electric Grid Reliability Tested:** Recently the Power and Light Department ran Blue Valley Unit 1. The test run was to ensure recent maintenance was completed and unit performance was restored to within design specifications. Quarterly test runs of units are utilized to ensure units are ready when needed and personnel are proficient on the operation. To maintain grid reliability, IPL must maintain reliable generation to ensure it is ready to respond when needed to meet demand. Regional requirements require entities to maintain generation capacity 12% above their estimated peak load.

## Public Works

- ◆ **Street Maintenance and Central Garage Prepare for Snow:** Staff at Street Maintenance and Central Garage, as well as staff from other departments who assist with snow removal, recently drove the snow routes and made preparations to be ready for the upcoming snow season.

## Water Department

- ◆ **Independence Named Groundwater Guardian Community:** For the 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive year Independence has been named a Groundwater Guardian Community by the Groundwater Foundation. The Groundwater Foundation seeks to provide motivational and inspirational education and community-based action programs that creatively involve individuals, communities, public and private entities in groundwater conservation and protection. Our primary project for this designation is the water plant tours provided to the fifth-graders in the Independence School District each year. Since 2001, nearly 15,000 fifth-grade students and their teachers have toured the water plant, learned about the water cycle and explored ways to keep their drinking water safe.