

NOTES & NEWS

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



For the Week Ending December 9, 2016

Department News

Health Department

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

- ◆ **New Restaurant Opening:** Permitted Establishment staff conducted the pre-opening inspections for El Savor Authentic Mexican Grill, 600 E. US 24 Hwy. The restaurant passed its inspection, received its Health Permit, and opened to the public on December 2.

DISEASE PREVENTION

- ◆ **Healthy Eating on a Budget:** Health Department staff was requested by Mid-Continent Public Library to present on the topic of healthy eating on a budget. Class participants learned how to plan, purchase, and prepare healthy meals for a family on a budget. The class was a free event and open to the Independence community. There were nine people in attendance.
- ◆ **Every Body Walks! Grant Submission:** Health Department staff applied for the Every Body Walks! Micro Grant from America Walks. If received, grant funds will help advance walking events over the summer for the community.

Human Resources

- ◆ **Subsidy Payment Collected:** The Human Resources Department has collected a subsidy payment in the amount of \$96,341.33 from Medicare Part D, which will go into the Stay Well Health Plan Fund. The fund will also be receiving an additional Medicare Part D subsidy payment of \$80,243.81.

Parks / Recreation / Tourism

- ◆ **Boy Scouts Volunteer for Fall Cleanup:** This past Saturday, December 3, members of Boy Scout Troop 228 spent the morning participating in a fall cleanup of the Log Cabin/Pioneer Spring area by the Sermon Center. Their hard work is greatly appreciated!
- ◆ **Palmer Center Craft Group Helps Those in Need:** The Tagalima Craft group which meets at The Palmer Center every week recently came together to knit/crochet 216 winter caps for the Salvation Army. The crafters used every bit of donated yarn at The Palmer Center to make the caps for the homeless in Independence. The Salvation Army was very pleased and thankful to get the homemade hats, which they will distribute to those in need of a little extra warmth this winter. The Tagalima Craft Group is now in need of more yarn and will gladly accept donations at The Palmer Center!
- ◆ **Palmer Seniors Celebrate Christmas:** On December 2, The Palmer Center hosted the annual Seniors' Christmas Celebration with 224 seniors in attendance. The event included a complimentary photo with Santa, a catered lunch by HyVee, door prizes, and musical

entertainment. Volunteer help was provided by the Power & Light Department and the Jackson County Professionals in Aging.

- ◆ **Annual Mayor's Christmas Carnival:** More than 450 people joined Mayor Eileen Weir at the annual Mayor's Christmas Carnival last Saturday, December 3. Attendees enjoyed a visit with Santa, carnival games, balloon creations, face painting, inflatables and snacks. A special thanks to our volunteers from IPL and the Health Department, as well as local high schools and the Young Marines.

Power & Light

- ◆ **Presentation Made to Kansas Municipal Energy Agency:** An IPL engineer presented at the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency (KMEA) Annual Conference in Wichita, KS. The topic was titled: *LED Lighting – A Case for Independence*. Discussion focused on the conversion of more than 12,000 street lights in Independence. Although LED lighting is gradually becoming a norm for new lighting solutions, many municipalities, and others, are concerned about taking the big step of a complete conversion. The topic was well received and expanded on many of the issues that arose before during and after the project. The KMEA appreciated the presentation and extended an invitation for the IPL staff to attend future conferences.
- ◆ **Electric Grid Reliability Summit:** A member of the IPL NERC Compliance staff participated in a Misoperation Summit at Southwest Power Pool (SPP) Headquarters. The nationwide summit, hosted by SPP, included representatives from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) as well as representatives from seven of the eight Regional Entities, technical experts and compliance staff. A Misoperation is defined as a failure to operate or an unnecessary operation of relays, breakers and devices designed to isolate faults and protect the Bulk Electric System. Misoperations allow disruptions in the electric grid to spread and threaten the stability of the system. The purpose of the Summit was to gather industry and regulatory experts to discuss ways to prevent misoperations and increase electric system reliability. IPL personnel contributed to a discussion in describing how a rigorous testing and preventive maintenance program has had a positive impact on the number of misoperations experienced on the IPL electric system.
- ◆ **Staff Assists With Senior Christmas Celebration:** Power and Light Employees volunteered their time at The Palmer Center to serve lunch at the annual Senior Christmas Celebration. The seniors enjoyed a delicious catered meal, a tap dance performance and a visit from Santa Claus, (who is also an IPL employee).

Technology Services

- ◆ **November Web Statistics**

- Public website**

- Page views: 292,100
 - Sessions: 81,491
 - Users: 51,923

- CityNet**

- Page views: 128,793
 - Visitors: 21,368

- Vimeo**

- Plays: 433

- Twitter**

- Followers: 3,911

- Facebook**

- Likes: 4,822