



**INDEPENDENCE**  
★ MISSOURI ★

A GREAT AMERICAN STORY

# MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT

## JULY 2019

### Dear City Council and Citizens,

This month the City of Independence took over operations of the Jackson County Regional Animal Shelter. This is the culmination of months of conversations between the City, County and Great Plains SPCA. We are proud of the collaboration that has helped lead into a smooth transition of operations. The City officially began operations on July 16. We have been working diligently to ensure we are running at a full staff from day one and learning all we can from our friends at Great Plains SPCA. Look for more information on this transition in this month's CityScene and for further updates on the City's website, social media and City7.

Additionally, we are now in the heart of construction season. Our Public Works and Parks | Recreations | Tourism teams are overseeing the day-to-day maintenance of our many City properties, parks and green spaces. Further, contractors are actively working on our Asphalt Overlay projects and Intersection Improvement projects across the City. We regularly receive questions on how these projects are determined. The City of Independence understands the importance of roads in our community and works diligently to maintain nearly 1,200 lane miles each year. As part of this we use complex analysis to determine the condition of the roadways and which roads need additional attention each year. This information is then used to create and bid for the Asphalt Overlay and Intersection projects you are seeing take place now. We encourage our citizens to report issues in their neighborhoods so we can address small problems before they become big ones. If you have a pothole or problem in your area, please submit an Action Center request at [indep.us/actioncenter](http://indep.us/actioncenter). Thank you for assisting us as we keep our roadways safe.

Sincerely,

Zach Walker  
City Manager  
City of Independence

# IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS IN JULY

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## **JULY 1 - CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

- The Council will meet for a regularly scheduled Council Meeting at 6 PM in the Chamber of City Hall, 111 E. Maple Ave.
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## **JULY 8 - COUNCIL STUDY SESSION CANCELLED**

- Due to scheduling conflicts this meeting has been cancelled.
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## **JULY 15 - CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

- The Council will meet for a regularly scheduled Council Meeting at 6 PM in the Chamber of City Hall, 111 E. Maple Ave.
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## **JULY 22 - COUNCIL STUDY SESSION**

- The Council will hear a presentation on the new rate design.
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## **JULY 29 - NO MEETING**

- There is no meeting on the fifth Monday.
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## **AUGUST 5 - CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

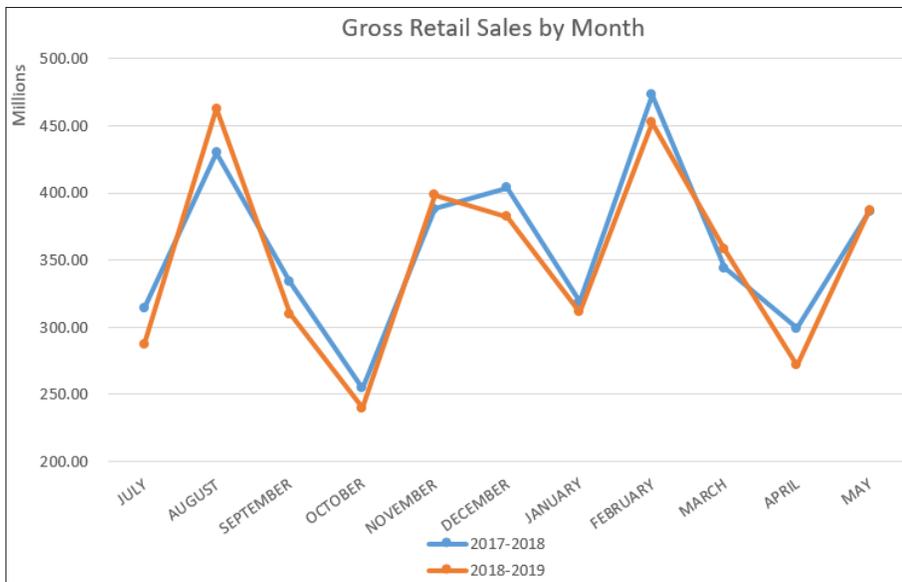
The Council will meet for a regularly scheduled Council Meeting at 6 PM in the Chamber of City Hall, 111 E. Maple Ave.

## **LOOKING FOR MORE EVENTS?**

You can find a variety of events, programs and classes on the City's website at [indep.us/events](http://indep.us/events) or on Facebook at [facebook.com/CityOfIndependence](https://facebook.com/CityOfIndependence).

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# MAY BY THE NUMBERS



## SALES TAX RECEIPTS THRU MAY 2019

FUND	2019 YTD
General	\$15,852,256
Streets	\$7,465,417
Parks	\$3,732,693
Storm	\$3,732,694
Police	\$1,997,616
Fire	\$1,866,314
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$34,646,990</b>

BUILDING PERMITS	Month	Year-to-date	MAY 2019 Valuation	Year-to-date
<b>Residential</b>	<b>Permits   Units</b>	<b>Permits   Units</b>		
Single Family	12	38	\$2,186,453	\$7,491,411
Duplex Units	0	4	\$0	\$644,000
3&4 Family	0	0	\$0	\$0
Apartments	0   0	5   280	\$0	\$36,596,000
Additions, Alterations, Misc. *	83	306	\$853,338	\$3,712,525
<b>Subtotal Residential</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>\$3,039,791</b>	<b>\$48,443,936</b>
<b>Commercial</b>				
New Commercial Building	1	8	\$682,150	\$6,090,078
Additions, alterations, tenant finish	9	38	\$1,695,741	\$10,096,562
Signs, Misc. **	31	160	\$297,276	\$1,293,277
<b>Subtotal Commercial</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>\$2,675,167</b>	<b>\$17,479,917</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>\$5,714,958</b>	<b>\$65,923,853</b>

\* Includes re-roofs, pools, detached accessory buildings, demolitions and structural modifications such as decks, remodels and room or garage additions.

\*\* Includes fuel storage, fire alarm, fire sprinkler, hood suppression, tent, cell tower and fences.

BUSINESS LICENSING	May 2019	Year-to-date
New applications received	121	665
Renewals	372	1,842
<b>Total applications</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>2,507</b>
<b>Payments received</b>	<b>\$258,307.70</b>	<b>\$781,652.04</b>

# MAY BY THE NUMBERS

## WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

- 655 million gallons of wastewater treated
- 27,998 feet of pipe inspected
- 513 manholes inspected
- 397 storm structures inspected
- 12 pipe repairs
- 422 water samples tested (1673 tests performed)
- 78 environmental regulatory inspections

## POWER AND LIGHT

- 35 distribution poles changed out
- 21 transformers were replaced
- 8 street light poles changed due to car accidents
- 48 new tenant turn-ons
- 22 diversions inspected
- 91 various services calls completed
- 168 electrical inspections performed
- Completed 18 environmental compliance sampling and reporting efforts related to protection of stormwater and groundwater resources
- 78,374,000 kWhs of electricity provided to customers
- Peak demand 192 MW
- Generated 4,596,000 kWh from units in Independence
- Solar farms produced 1,811,000 kWh
- 24 safety events including equipment testing, audits, training and drills

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

8,579 calls for service. The call types with the highest numbers included:

- 1,927 traffic stops
- 542 suspicious persons/activity
- 496 disturbance
- 205 domestic disturbance - physical
- 229 domestic disturbance - verbal

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

- 1,899 total service calls with an average response time 4:51 minutes.
- 16 structure fires, average response time 4:46 minutes
- 1,186 EMS calls, average response time 5:23 minutes
- 258 commercial fire inspections
- 10 public education demos, reaching 870 people

## WATER DEPARTMENT

- 902.8 million gallons of water pumped
- 11 water main leaks/ breaks and repairs
- 20 minute average response time from when a water main break was reported
- 344 fire hydrants inspected and flushed
- 3 fire hydrants replaced
- 496 valves located and inspected

## PUBLIC WORKS

- 1,695 potholes filled
- 113 building repair work orders addressed
- 153 sidewalk and right-of-way work orders addressed
- 18 traffic sign work orders addressed
- 14 mowing/debris/misc. work orders addressed.
- 4,335 crew labor hours
- 2,940 engineering staff labor hours

# DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Notable Projects Submitted during April

The Independence School District submitted construction plans to renovate William Yates Elementary School at 3600 S. Davidson Ave. The project includes a 5,500 square-foot multi-purpose gym/high shelter including a connecting hallway.

Dunkin' Donuts submitted construction plans to renovate the current Dunkin' Donuts at 2400 S. M-291 Hwy to add Baskin-Robbins ice cream dipping counters, ice cream freezers and counters.

Ronson Manufacturing submitted construction plans to renovate the 135,474 square-foot former K-Mart building at 16200 E. US 24 Highway.

### Notable Projects Issued during April

The Independence School District has been issued a building permit for Truman High School at 3301 S. Noland Rd to renovate the entry space, add storage at the gym and renovate the weight room and science room.

Black Bear Diner has been issued a building permit to build a 5,500 square-foot sit down restaurant in the Menards development at the northeast corner of I-70 and Little Blue Parkway.



## POWER & LIGHT

The Power and Light Department oversees an aggressive tree trimming program which has resulted in 524 trees trimmed, 573 trees over 4" in diameter removed. These efforts help when storms move into our area. In April, IPL restored power to 3739 customers in 550 minutes due to 59 different events.

IPL secured two \$5,000 DEED grants from American Public Power Association to offset the salaries of two interns. The grants will pay for about 80 percent of the salary of the interns. Steven Lee, a KU Engineering student and Max Anderson, student at Missouri School of Science and Technology. Steven will be working under our Operations Division working on RTU wiring diagrams and Max is working under the Engineering Division reviewing databases used for distribution analysis.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Independence Fire Department began the month of May with a Graduation and Promotion Ceremony which welcomed seven new recruits and celebrated the promotions of nine department members.

On May 2, Fire Inspector Glenda Knisely was recognized by the Independence School District at the ISD Academy Awards.

On May 16, five IFD personnel were recognized as part of the Centerpoint Hospital Great Saves event. Captain Kirk Stobart, FEO Bryan Barker, Firefighter John Fisher, Captain Mike Veit and Captain Justin Gravitt received awards for a rescue following a two car motor vehicle accident in June of 2018. The event reunited the IFD responders with the individual they helped extricate from the car.

The week of May 19-25 was also Emergency Medical Services week. Thank you Back Yard Burger for the special luncheon.

## PARKS|RECREATION|TOURISM

Parks | Recreation | Tourism continues to complete projects across the City to improve the parks and venues provided to citizens and visitors of Independence. Here are some of the projects completed in June.

This month the City completed work at the Blackburn

Pickleball Courts which included converting two tennis courts into six pickleball courts. The project cost \$32,000 and was paid for out the Park Sales Tax.

The changes were well received by the public, with patrons taking advantage of the space even before work was completed. (Image provided by citizen)



Crews were actively working at Glendale Park on the new playground. This project replaces the five and older playground equipment and is estimated to cost \$120,000 funded through the Parks Sales Tax.

Crews will begin working on updates and repairs to the 12 tennis courts at Santa Fe Park in July. This project is estimated to cost \$180,000 funded through the Parks Sales Tax.

# DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Here are some of the most significant events that occurred during the last two weeks of May:

On May 18, officers were called to a disturbance at a residence in the 1500 block of S. Appleton. The caller told officers that the suspect arrived and began beating/damaging the front door demanding to see the victim. When the caller opened the door, the suspect rushed into the residence waving a black handgun and dragged the victim outside. At some point, the victim left with the suspect in a vehicle. Officers arrived and were able to locate another address for the suspect. Outside this residence, officers located the suspect vehicle and they could hear subjects inside with the female crying. Officers were unable to get anyone to come to the door or answer a phone. The SWAT team arrived after a perimeter was established and both subjects finally came outside. Inside the residence, officers located several handguns. The suspect was booked on domestic violence aggravated assault.

On May 21, officers responded to the area of 22nd street and Home Avenue on a call of multiple shots fired in the area. Upon their arrival, they found several spent shell casings in the roadway and several neighbors reported seeing suspects run to a vehicle and flee the area. Surveillance video from one of the residences showed that another vehicle may also have been involved. While on scene, the officers received information that a victim had walked into Research Hospital in KCMO reporting he'd been shot in the area of Hill Park while playing basketball. Officers and detectives responded to the hospital where it was learned through interviews that victim actually went to buy marijuana from both suspects and they attempted to rob him. When they resisted, the suspects shot at the victims as they fled in their vehicle, striking the victim in the back and in the leg causing non-life threatening injuries. Suspect descriptions were obtained but no one was taken into custody.

On May 23, officers responded to assist the Independence Fire Department on a fire at a hotel in the 4500 block of S. Trace Park Ct. IFD located smoke in the east stairwell after responding on a reported alarm. Evidence located that suspects attempted to start a fire which activated the sprinkler system. The hotel evacuated and additional officers responded. IFD responded to one of the rooms due to video footage of suspects attempting to start the fire. IFD located a suspicious package inside the room. The IPD Bomb Squad responded to the scene. The room and package was cleared by the Bomb Squad. An arson investigator from the Criminal Investigations Unit responded and the scene was determined to be safe.

On May 24, officers responded on an armed robbery at a retail store in the 4000 block of S. Bolger. The suspect stole items from the store and when store security attempted to stop him he stated that he had a gun and would kill them, and then reached into his waistband to pull the gun. He fled on foot and was last seen entering a nearby restaurant. The suspect was taken into custody without incident as he was

called out of the bathroom. Inside the bathroom, a loaded handgun and the stolen merchandise from the store was recovered. The suspect was placed on an investigative hold for armed robbery.

On May 27, officers responded to a restaurant in the 1300 block of S. Noland Road on a robbery in progress. The caller advised that the suspect was inside the business armed with a handgun and taking cash from the safe. Officers were in the area at the time of the call and observed the suspect exiting armed with a handgun. The suspect fled on foot through the neighboring yard, running to the west. A perimeter was set with K9 and drone being ordered. While awaiting their arrival, the suspect was observed by one of the officers and held at gunpoint prior to being taken into custody by assisting Officers. Earlier that day, officers responded to a residence in the 3600 block of S. Park on an aggravated domestic violence assault with shots fired. An intoxicated adult male became involved in a disturbance with a juvenile. The adult male suspect, a convicted felon, fired a weapon inside the residence but fortunately no one was struck. The victim was able to call police and officers were able to gain entry before the situation turned into a barricade. The suspect was taken into custody.

On May 28, officers responded to a fast food restaurant in the 17800 block of US 24 highway on a shooting. They located a victim lying in the parking lot suffering a gunshot wound to the hip area. Information was provided to the officers from witnesses about other subjects who were involved in the incident and they were later located by patrol officers. The case was left open to the Criminal Investigations Unit. Later that day, a person using an ATM at the credit union in the 11400 block of E. 23rd Street reported that he was robbed by a subject with no shirt on and covering his face with a bandanna. The case was left open to Criminal Investigations Unit.

On May 30, officers were dispatched to a disturbance in the 17400 block of E. Medical Center Parkway. Several subjects were having a disturbance in the parking lot of the business and the victim, an employee, went outside to tell them that they needed to leave. The suspect partially pulled out a pistol from his waistband, placing the victims in fear for their safety. The suspect and another subject left the area and ditched the firearm. The suspect and firearm were both located. The suspect was a convicted felon and taken into custody. Earlier that day officers were called to the parking lot of a business in the 9000 block of E. US 40 Hwy on suspicious activity. A person was passed out in a vehicle. When the officers make contact with the subject he exited the vehicle and fled on foot into a thick wooded area. The vehicle was stolen out of KCK and a sawed-off shotgun and ammo were located inside. IPD K9 and drone were both used to locate the subject hiding in the woods and he was taken into custody.

Learn more about the Independence Police Department including activities, programs and events on Facebook at [Facebook.com/ipdinfo](https://www.facebook.com/ipdinfo).

# DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

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## PUBLIC WORKS

The Annual Mill & Overlay project is underway for the 2019 construction season. This important street preservation program helps keep our roadways in good shape throughout the City. This year's program is especially important following the rough winter we had this year. With the 15 winter storm events we experienced, micro-cracks quickly turned in to potholes and our street maintenance crews have been working tirelessly to keep up with patching while also keeping up with our many responsibilities throughout the City.

In recent years, the City has used a pavement analysis and management system that utilizes technology to scan and assess all the roads in the City every three years. By scanning the roads, we are performing an actual physical inspection of every street in the City and are able to determine the actual condition of the roadways. By assigning numerical condition ratings, paired with input from our patching crews, we are able to prioritize areas that need it the most. It is important to note that when we look at what streets to include in the annual program we take into account the entire system, not just a particular street.

The program is also transitioning toward the use of a more structured format that will reduce ongoing impact on major roads and neighborhood streets. The City's most-traveled roads will be placed on a 10- or 15- year cycle depending

on traffic volumes. From there the City will be focusing on repaving larger areas in neighborhoods at one time instead of stretching work out over multiple years. The goal of this transition is to create a more predictable program that reduces impact on people traveling through our major corridors and living in our neighborhoods.

Our annual street maintenance also includes an Intersection Rehabilitation program. This year's intersections will include full replacement of the pavement at Blue Ridge Blvd & 39th Street and Chrysler Ave & 39th Street. The project will also replace the pavement on Chrysler Ave at 23rd Street; since 23rd Street is a MoDOT-maintained roadway, the City will be making repairs on Chrysler up to 23rd Street.

If you have questions about what roads will be included in this year's Overlay program or any active roadway projects, the City website has information about projects currently under construction here: [www.ci.independence.mo.us/PublicWorks/ProjectList](http://www.ci.independence.mo.us/PublicWorks/ProjectList).

**Coming Soon!!** The Public Works Department will soon be publishing a new, interactive map that will show all active projects in design or construction. Users will be able to zoom into areas to see projects near them, and click on those projects to find out what they include and when to expect construction. Use the link above to check out this new tool once it comes available.

Looking for more information from the City? Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/cityofindependence](https://facebook.com/cityofindependence), Twitter [@CityOfIndepMo](https://twitter.com/CityOfIndepMo), [Nextdoor](https://www.instagram.com/cityofindependence) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/cityofindependence).