



INDEPENDENCE  
★ MISSOURI ★

A GREAT AMERICAN STORY

# MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT

MAY 2019

## Dear City Council and Citizens,

We are committed to providing you quality, reliable services from the City of Independence and have continued to look for new ways to communicate with the public as we work to be more customer-focused under *Independence for All*. This new report is designed to share key information from the past month while also giving insight into upcoming topics of interest. This month we look back at March which includes the wrap-up of snow storm responses and the transition to our spring services.

We have separated this report into Important Dates and Events in May, March by the Numbers, and Department Highlights.

I hope this report provides you new insight into the work that is going on every day in the City of Independence as City staff are committed to providing the highest quality services.

Sincerely,

Zach Walker  
City Manager  
City of Independence

# IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS IN MAY

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## MAY 6 - CITY COUNCIL MEETING

- The Council will hear the second reading of the Power Supply RFP and discuss potential next steps for the Blue Valley Power Plant on east Truman Rd.
  - Councilmembers will review proposed changes to the Council rules and procedures.
  - The Council will review Contract for services between the Economic Development Council and the City of Independence.
  - The Council will review contract between the Independence Chamber of Commerce and the City for the annual Santa-Cali-Gon Festival.
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## MAY 8 - TRUMAN DAY

City offices will be closed in honor of President Harry S. Truman's birthday.

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## MAY 13 - COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

- City Manager Zach Walker will present the Proposed 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget to the Council.
  - Ongoing discussion of power purchasing and financial implications.
  - Lockton will present on the City's Stay Well Plan.
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## MAY 15 - BUDGET TOWN HALL

Bring your questions related to the proposed 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget to the Truman Memorial Building at 6 p.m.

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## MAY 20 - CITY COUNCIL MEETING

- Proposed 2019-2020 Budget Public Hearing will take place.
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## MAY 27 - MEMORIAL DAY

City offices will be closed in honor of Memorial Day.

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## MAY 28 - COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

- Update on Justice Center Project.
  - Council will hear the results of the Cost of Service Study related to utility rates.
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## MAY IS HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH

Look for a variety of activities and events throughout the month. Details can be found here, [indep.us/historicpreservation](http://indep.us/historicpreservation).

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## MAY 25 - ADVENTURE OASIS OPENS

Pool season officially begins in Independence on May 25. See prices, hours, party info and more at [indep.us/adventureoasis](http://indep.us/adventureoasis).

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# MARCH BY THE NUMBERS



SALES TAX RECEIPTS THRU MARCH 2019	
FUND	2019 YTD
General	\$13,256,579
Streets	\$6,176,951
Parks	\$3,088,460
Storm	\$3,088,462
Police	\$1,670,282
Fire	\$1,544,195
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28,824,927</b>

BUILDING PERMITS	Month	Year-to-date	March 2019 Valuation	Year-to-date
<b>Residential</b>	<b>Permits   Units</b>	<b>Permits   Units</b>		
Single Family	4	12	\$695,080	\$2,151,840
Duplex Units	4	4	\$644,000	\$644,000
3&4 Family	0	0	\$0	\$0
Apartments	5   280	5   280	\$36,596,000	\$36,596,000
Additions, Alterations, Misc. *	68	134	\$747,550	\$1,351,156
<b>Subtotal Residential</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>\$38,682,630</b>	<b>\$40,743,996</b>
<b>Commercial</b>				
New Commercial Building	2	7	\$2,146,550	\$5,407,928
Additions, alterations, tenant finish	12	23	\$6,369,551	\$7,815,421
Signs, Misc. **	34	99	\$216,719	\$692,405
<b>Subtotal Commercial</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>\$8,732,820</b>	<b>\$13,915,754</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>\$47,415,450</b>	<b>\$54,658,750</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	March 2019	Year-to-date
New applications received	113	335
Renewals	358	1,042
<b>Total applications</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>1,377</b>
Payments received	\$124,653.66	\$351,873.37

# MARCH BY THE NUMBERS

## WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

- 319.9 million gallons of wastewater treated
- 103,517 feet of pipe inspected
- 719 manholes inspected
- 379 storm structures inspected
- 46 pipe repairs
- 37 environmental regulatory inspections

## POWER AND LIGHT

- Storms caused power outages on 3 days - March 9, 28, and 29, resulting in 2,172 total outages with average restoration time of 101 minutes.
- A pole fire resulted in an outage impacting 1,676 customers and a car hit a pole knocking out power for 15 customers.

## WATER DEPARTMENT

- 805 million gallons of water provided to customers
- 19 water main leaks/ breaks and repairs
- 25 minute average response time from when a water main break was reported
- 222 fire hydrants inspected and flushed
- 10 fire hydrants replaced
- 2 fire hydrants repaired
- 500 valves located and inspected
- 3 valves repaired

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

7,850 calls for service. The call types with the highest numbers included:

- 1,886 traffic stops
- 548 suspicious persons/activity
- 392 disturbances
- 399 domestic violence disturbances

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

- 1,796 total service calls with an average response time 4:41 minutes.
- 12 structure fires, average response time 3:23 minutes
- 1130 EMS calls, average response time 5:21 minutes

## PUBLIC WORKS

- 15 winter storms (Nov. 8, 2018 - March 4, 2019)
- 4,800 tons of salt used for winter season
- 14,900 crew hours for all 15 storm events
- 20,200 combined lane miles treated over 15 storm events.
- 3,080 potholes filled between Nov. 8 and March 4.
- 6,725 potholes filled Jan. 1-April 30.

# DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Notable Projects Submitted during March

Black Bear Diner submitted construction plans 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.

The A.G. Spanos Company submitted construction plans to build a 280-unit Ansley Apartment project located south of 39th Street and east of Jackson Drive. The project will include five apartment buildings, a community building and a swimming pool.

The Independence School District submitted construction plans to renovate Truman High School and Korte Elementary School. The renovations to Truman High School include renovating the entry space, adding storage at the gym and renovating the weight room and science room. The Korte Elementary renovations include renovating classroom and administrative office spaces.

Royal State Storage submitted construction plans to build a 15 building residential storage project east of the former K-Mart building at the northeast corner of M-291 and U.S. 24 Hwy.

Englewood Art Gallery submitted construction plans to renovate the 5,000 square-foot space at 10922 E Winner Road in the Englewood Arts District.

### Notable Projects Finished during March

Cube Smart completed the renovation of the former Babies-R-U's building east of the intersection of U.S. 40 and Noland Road. This project converted the former space into a climate controlled storage facility.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Independence Fire Department has added new educational outreach efforts through #FireFriday videos this year. These short videos cover important information related to fire safety, ordinances and the department itself.

Citizens can find these videos on the City's Facebook page, [facebook.com/cityofindependence](https://www.facebook.com/cityofindependence), Twitter @CityofIndepMo, and Nextdoor. Citizens have responded positively to these videos reaching hundreds of viewers each week. Please like, share and ask questions on these videos each week.



## PARKS|RECREATION|TOURISM

Parks | Recreation | Tourism was very busy in the off-season. Some of the notable projects they completed over the winter include:

- Silverstein Eye Center Arena and Community Ice Rink LED Lighting Replacement Project - All sports and event lighting in the main bowl of the Arena and the Community Ice Rink was replaced with modern LED lighting that has the ability to change colors. This project cost \$389,300 and was funded through the IEC CID.  

- Arena Wi-Fi Installation - A new state of the art public Wi-Fi system was installed in the Arena. This project cost \$369,163 and was funded through the IEC CID.
- Arena Video Board Replacement Project (Phase 1) - Two new top of the line video boards were installed to replace the original video boards that were 10 years old. This phase cost \$409,000 and was funded through the IEC CID.
- Clothier Park Outdoor Fitness Center - A new outdoor fitness center is being installed featuring 12 pieces of equipment/activities. This project cost \$20,644 and was funded through a grant and the Parks Sales Tax.  


On April 1, the Tourism venues across the City opened for the 2019 season. PRT staff are working on a number of projects throughout the City at various locations. Here are a few major projects in the works or coming up this year:

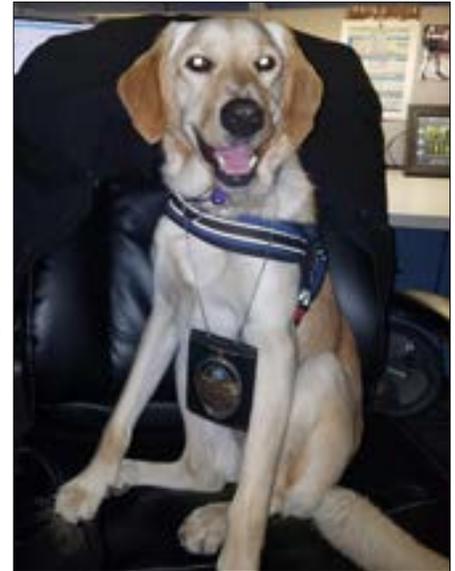
- Blackburn Pickleball Courts - The two existing tennis courts located in Blackburn Park are being converted into six Pickleball courts. This project is estimated to cost \$32,588 and will be funded through the Parks Sales Tax. Estimated completion - June 2019.
- Santa Fe Park Tennis Courts - All 12 courts at the Santa Fe Tennis complex will receive crack filling and color coating. This project is estimated to cost \$180,482 and will be funded through the Parks Sales Tax. Estimated completion - July 2019.

# DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- George Owens Picnic Pavilion - The old shelter has been removed and is being replaced with a new shelter and picnic tables. This project is estimated to cost \$47,748 and will be funded through the Parks Sales Tax. Estimated completion - May 2019.
- Glendale Playground - The playground geared to children five and older is being removed and replaced with new play pieces. This project is estimated to cost \$120,000 and will be funded through the Parks Sales Tax. Estimated completion - July 2019.
- Arena Video Board Replacement Project (Phase II) - The second phase of the video board replacement project will replace the current end boards with state of the art digital video boards. This project is estimated to cost \$1.1 million and will be funded through the IEC CID. Estimated completion date - August 2019.



On March 13, 2019, the Independence Police Department announced the start of a police service dog program. That week, we met “Josie,” our new police therapy dog. Josie is a two-year old golden retriever/ border collie mix who is a trained therapy and PTSD dog. She was donated to the Independence Police Department by K9’s for Freedom and Independence, a non-profit organization that trains and donates dogs to military veterans and first responders.



## POLICE DEPARTMENT

During the month of March, Independence police officers had several engagements with armed suspects. On March 1, officers were dispatched to the FavTrip convenience store at 23rd and Ralston in regards to a male walking around the parking lot carrying a rifle. Upon arriving, the suspect fled carrying an AR-15 rifle with a 50 round drum magazine. The suspect eventually surrendered to the officers who recovered the rifle.

On March 3, officers responded on a suspicious auto call in the 17100 block of E. 7 Terr Ct. N, and, upon arriving, the occupant of the vehicle kept reaching for his pocket in a suspicious manner. Once the officer removed the occupant from the vehicle, a struggle ensued, and, once the occupant was taken into custody, a loaded handgun and narcotics were found in the pocket. On March 10th, an officer attempted to stop a vehicle in the area of 29th and Westport leaving a known drug house. After a short vehicle pursuit, the driver fled from the vehicle on foot and then subsequently shot himself while trying to remove a handgun from his waistband while running from the officer.

Finally, a shooting in the 17300 block of Susquehanna left a victim paralyzed and depleted an extensive amount of police resources as the suspect barricaded himself inside a residence and would not surrender to officers on scene. SWAT, negotiators and an indoor drone from KCPD were utilized, and the suspect eventually surrendered to police. These are just a few of the incidents in March in which officers encountered individuals that were armed or had just been involved in a shooting incident, and fortunately no officers were injured during these incidents.

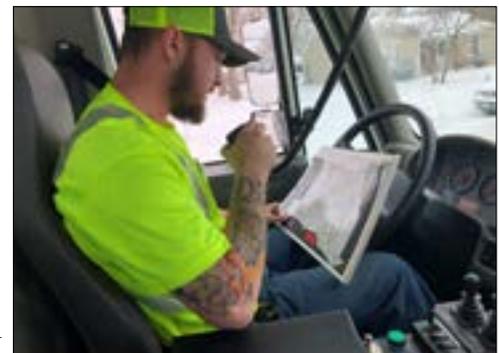
## POWER AND LIGHT

Power and Light Department has an aggressive tree trimming program which has earned us the Tree Line USA designation for the 20th year! Tree trimming helps in the reduction of power interruption by trimming and pruning branches that are close to our power lines. As a result of the tree trimming in our service territory, our outages are not only reduced but restoration times are also minimized. We were also awarded the APPA 2018 Reliability Award for achieving exceptional electric reliability in 2018. Our service restoration average for the year was 43.992 minutes.

An ordinance requesting funds to update the Substation E transformer failed in November 2017. Transformers are important for our reliability measures. A request for bid to rewind the transformer versus replacing it was posted, and we are in the process of making a selection. We anticipate awarding the contract after the May 6 council meeting. The project cost is anticipated to be \$900,000.

## PUBLIC WORKS

Following the 15 winter storm events, which took place between Nov. 8, 2018 and March 4, 2019, staff is currently working to streamline our current snow route maps. The goal is to reach residential streets more quickly during an event while still



# DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

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clearing the priority routes. It's our hope that by simplifying the routes and zones we can provide not only a higher level of service to the public but also simplify our snow route training for new employees that join our team.

Along with this, staff are currently reviewing technology that we hope to implement by next year called AVL or Automatic



Vehicle Location Technology. The system can track snow plow trucks in real time as they either plow or treat the roads during a winter storm event. The system would not only track vehicles and their progress, but it can collect

valuable data from each truck in the field and inform the

drivers in real time the progress of their routes along with other drivers in the area. Ultimately the goal is to provide a portal that the public can access to monitor in real time plow operations in their neighborhoods.

Throughout the 15 winter storm events, Public Works crews also filled just over 3,080 potholes between storms. These were filled with a cold mix asphalt available during the winter months which may require crews to fill multiple times until early spring when the asphalt plants are open and we can repair with a more permanent fix using a hot mix asphalt.



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