



CityScene

City Manager Zach Walker - City Goals for 2019



Each fall the City Council sits down together to look back at the successes of the year and ahead toward what is next for the community. This

conversation is what sparked the five-year strategic plan, *Independence for All*.

There is no question 2018 was a year of change, and there are very important questions the Council will be addressing in 2019. Here are the key areas the Council and City staff will focus on during the next year:

- 1. Improve public infrastructure and corridors.** In the next calendar and fiscal year (2019-2020), we will focus on making our corridors more welcoming by improving streets, sidewalks, curbs, lighting and striping. This will be a concentrated effort in key areas that we hope to expand over time. Additionally, we will be completing a comprehensive historic sites assessment plan which includes convening community stakeholders.
- 2. Reduce blight.** The Council has targeted blight successfully the last two years and will continue this year focusing on trash and litter.
- 3. Create a desirable mix of housing types/price points and quality neighborhoods.** This year, City staff will work with community leaders to create a master housing strategy that will assist

in our long-term goals of increasing the number of residents working and living here.

- 4. Ensure City finances are stable and sustainable.** We must address the impact of long-term financial obligations while ensuring we provide the high quality services our citizens need. City staff will continue to look outside of traditional municipal budget methods to find new ways to creatively address these changing times.
- 5. Improve the perception of public safety.** To address this, City staff will be looking at strategic policing, staffing, equipment and facility needs, and how we can better utilize technology to serve the community.

Each of these goals will require us to communicate with our citizens, community leaders and business partners as we develop funding strategies and the budgets behind them.

Planning for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year is now underway. I will present the proposed budget to the City Council in May, and we will once again be holding a Budget Town Hall to gather public feedback before the Council votes in June.

Look for regular updates on projects, programs and plans here in CityScene, as well as on the City's website, Facebook, Nextdoor and Twitter pages. Check the Independence for All dashboard at indep.us/dashboard. We encourage citizens to attend Council meetings, ask questions and get involved as we shape the future of our City. Here's to a great 2019!

Independence - looking back

I grew up and have spent my life in Independence. Now, at 72, I have seen many changes over the years, and I miss the simpler times. I grew up on Cedar Street, one block from 15th Street, also known as Truman Road. As a child, I loved playing outside with friends - tag, hide-n-seek, adventures by the creek and lightning bugs. The big event in the summer was drinking lemonade and watching oil & gravel being put on the road.

Soon after that would be time to get on a bus with Mom and shop on the Square for school clothes. Always an exciting time for me. I was anxious to get shopping, but my mom was taking forever with an older gentleman on the sidewalk. I was dancing around, as most 8-year-olds might do, when the gentleman tussled my hair that my mom had made me comb. I was already a little angry he was detaining my mom from our shopping and now he'd messed up my hair! Not sure this man knew anything about girls. I kept pulling at my mother's dress until she finally told the man she had better take me shopping before I tore her dress.

On the way home, I asked who the man was that messed up my hair and talked forever. She said that was President Truman. I quickly told her she was wrong, that President Eisenhower was President. Then she told me I wasn't as smart as I thought I was, every President gets to keep his title forever. I thought that was confusing, and I liked Eisenhower better - he didn't mess up my hair.



- Joy Titus, Citizen

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- indep.us/nextdoor

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Questions? Concerns? Problems? Submit an Action Center Report, indep.us/actioncenter.

CityScene is published monthly by the City Manager's Office located at 111 East Maple Street, Independence, MO 64050.

For information, call 325-7086.

Did you know you can watch the City Council Meetings live? Tune in online at indep.us/city7live or Channel 7 for Comcast customers.

Mark your calendar - February Events

Trails to Truman Trivia: Civil Rights Edition

February 1, 6:30 p.m.

Back by popular demand -- trivia night! In honor of Black History Month, your favorite Independence sites are hosting the "Trails to Truman Trivia: Civil Rights Edition" on Friday, Feb. 1, at 6:30 p.m. at the Harry S. Truman Library & Museum.

This is the second in a series of trivia nights. Questions will be spread across traditional categories including entertainment, history, sports, and a few others. Prizes awarded to the top three teams; complimentary appetizers and beverages provided for all. Sign up your team of 4-6 individuals by sending an email to: truman.events@nara.gov. This event will fill up quickly as it is free, so be sure to register soon. Brought to you by Mid Continent Public Library, National Frontier Trails Museum, Harry S. Truman Library & Museum, the Harry S. Truman Historic Site and the Jackson County Historical Society.



Winter Farmers Market

February 2, 9 a.m. to Noon

Visit the Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd., on the first Saturday of each month December through April for the Winter Farmers Market from 9 a.m. to noon. Local farmers and crafters will have seasonal offerings for patrons to enjoy in the new, year-round venue.



PowerPalooza

FEB. 2, 2019 — 10 A.M. - 4 P.M. — SERMON CENTER

- CARNIVAL GAMES • FOOD
- PERFORMANCES • AND MORE!

Brought to you by the Children's Performing Theatre and Encore Theatre

Presidents' Day

February 18

City offices will be closed in honor of Presidents' Day on Monday, February 18.

Historic Sites Closed through March

Jan. - March

The following City of Independence historic sites will be closed to the public January through March: Bingham-Waggoner Estate, Chicago Alton Depot, Vaile Mansion and 1827 Log Courthouse. These sites will reopen for the official tourism season on April 1, 2019.

Learn more about upcoming events and attractions at VisitIndependence.com.

Adult Fitness Programs and Activities

Looking to keep that resolution or just to try something new? Check out the full list of adult fitness programs and activities sponsored by Independence Parks, Recreation and Tourism.

From just-for-fun to challenging, there's something for everyone. View the full calendar of programs at indep.us/parksrecreactivities or check us out on Facebook at facebook.com/IndependenceParksandRecreation.

Adventure Oasis Passes On Sale Now

Mark your calendars: Adventure Oasis opens on May 25, 2019! Passes are available at two locations:

Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple Ave., (816)325-7843

Sermon Center, 201. N. Dodgion Ave., (816)325-7370

Visit indep.us/adventureoasis for pricing details.

Looking for a great show?
... fun for the whole family?
... a new place to eat?
... a new adventure?
... a new experience?

Check out
VISITINDEPENDENCE.COM

Register your alarm

The City began implementing the False Alarm Reduction Program in July of 2018. Citizens and business owners who have an alarm on their property should have received a letter from the third-party contractor, Cry Wolf Services, notifying them of the registration procedure. Additionally, information was shared in CityScene, on both the Independence Police Department and City of Independence Facebook Pages, Nextdoor, YouTube and City7.

This program is part of an ongoing effort to strategically deploy police services by more efficiently dispatching officers across the City. More than 99 percent of alarm calls have been false in previous years, but staff time did not allow for greater oversight of City ordinances around alarms, maintenance and registration. The Council approved an updated ordinance and the use of the third-party administrator to help register alarms and with the goal of decreasing the number of false alarms Police and Fire Department staff respond to so efforts and resources can be dedicated to emergencies.

Several citizens have expressed concerns about this new program. Please see information below about how to register your alarm, including the website and phone number for any questions about the program.

Thank you for registering your alarms and helping us ensure our first responders are available when we need them most. Please share this info with your family and friends.

IPD
INDEPENDENCE POLICE DEPT.

Register Your Alarm

The Independence Police Department has implemented changes to its existing alarm program to reduce the number of false alarm activations in the city. The *Independence False Alarm Reduction Program* requires all alarm owners to register their home and commercial alarms.

Our police officers currently dedicate up to around 3,000 hours a year responding to alarm calls. This valuable time could be better spent reducing crime and disorder in the community.

For more information and to Register Online, please visit:
www.crywolfservices.com/independencemo

If you have any questions, please call:
(855) 732-9029

Your assistance in reducing the number of false alarms is greatly appreciated!

2018 Citizen Satisfaction Survey Results

The City of Independence has released the results of the 2018 Citizen Survey. The survey was conducted by ETC Institute to measure the satisfaction of Independence residents with various city services. This is the ninth time the City has administered a citizen survey, with the last having been conducted in 2016. The results help the City Council determine priorities of the community.

The survey was administered by mail and online to a random sample of households in the City. A total of 700 households completed the survey, and demographics were analyzed to ensure the survey respondents were representative of the community as a whole.

City services that received the highest level of satisfaction were fire services (88%), police services (71%), City parks and recreation programs and facilities (63%), and City water and sanitary sewer utilities (61%). The three major categories of City services that citizens believe should be emphasized over the next two years are the maintenance of City streets, City electric utilities, and police services. The top three reasons residents reported they would stay in the City for the next ten years were the affordability of housing (61%),

the proximity to family or friends (54%), and access to a variety of shopping and entertainment options (49%).

"It is important for us to regularly check with our citizens to gauge how we are doing and where priorities have changed," City Manager Zach Walker said. "We look forward to continuing to address the concerns outlined in this survey and through our ongoing conversations with citizens. The Council and City staff are utilizing these results to prioritize the budget for the next year."

The ETC Institute recommended these three major priorities for investment in the next two years:

- Maintenance of City streets
- City electric utilities
- Enforcement of City codes & ordinances

View the complete results of the citizen survey here, indep.us/citizensurvey2018. The complete report includes additional information such as the survey instrument, open-ended comments, and maps of the results according to census block groups.

Snow response

Did you know a typical winter storm generally takes between 12 and 16 hours to treat or plow Level 1 (generally 3 or 4 lane roads), Level 2 and Level 3 streets after the snow stops? High winds, extremely cold temperatures and additional rain or snowfall will lengthen this time.

Level 4, residential streets will be plowed with one pass. This may not clear the road to pavement. The goal is to provide enough bare street to get traction when driving. Residents are asked to park vehicles off the street when snow is forecast. If parking on the street is unavoidable, vehicles should be parked along the north side of east-west streets and along the west side of north-south streets unless otherwise posted.

Snow operation shifts are staffed 24 hours a day during winter storm events. Crews work on 12-hour, alternating shifts to provide continuous operations until roads are safely passable. Learn more about the process and how to request snow response at indep.us/snowremoval.

Follow the City's Facebook (facebook.com/CityofIndependence), Nextdoor (indep.us/nextdoor) and Twitter ([@CityofIndepMO](https://twitter.com/CityofIndepMO)) for updates throughout and after a storm.

Can I flush that?

To flush or not to flush, that is the question. Some paper products and wipes are advertised as "flushable", but they are not. Sure, they may flush down, but that is not where the story ends. These products can cause damage to the sewer system and affect the environment.

The only things that should go down the toilet are the 3 P's: Pee, Poop, and toilet Paper. Toilet paper is the only type of paper product that should go down the toilet because it is specifically designed with multiple layers that can easily break down in water. Often products such as baby wipes claim to be flushable. However, they are made of plastics and wood pulp fibers that do not break down. Many of these manmade fibrous products turn out to be nearly indestructible. These "wipes" or "rags" often have the power to wreak havoc! These unflushables combine with grease and cooking oils to form fatbergs,



causing sewer backups and overflows. Backups can cause problems for homeowners and businesses, with sewage seeping up through bathtubs, sinks, and toilets. Additionally, they can damage machines, break pumps, and clog screens and filters at the wastewater treatment plant. If unflushables make it to the treatment plant, they must be removed and sent to the landfill. So cut out the middleman and put those in the trash from the get go.

Pharmaceuticals are another misconception people have about what they can flush. It is still common to hear people say to flush old prescriptions. We now know that the wastewater treatment process cannot remove many of the drugs we take for our health. What this means is that these prescription drugs pass through the treatment plant and into our local rivers. This results in damaging and unknown effects to fresh water habitats as well as drinking water sources. All medications need to be disposed of in another way. Prescriptions can be mixed with other inedible items and disposed in the trash.

The City of Independence Water Pollution Control Department also offers a Household Hazardous Waste Program once a year. This program will take medications as well as other chemical wastes such as paints, cleaners, pesticides, antifreeze, motor oil, and gasoline in order to provide an environmentally responsible alternative to these wastes being dumped, flushed, or poured down the drains. For year-round service, contact the Regional

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility located at 4707 Deramus Ave., Kansas City, MO, or by phone at (816) 513-8400.



Here is a list of items that should never go down the toilet:

- Wet wipes
- Sanitary products
- Diapers
- Q-tips
- Shop towels
- Medications
- Chemicals
- Cooking oil and fats.

Items that can go down the toilet:

- Poo
- Pee
- Toilet paper.

For more information on protecting your sewer lines, disposing of household hazardous waste, or to receive free brochures and pamphlets, contact Water Pollution Control at (816)325-7711 or visit our website for more information indep.us/wpc.

Corridor Code Enforcement starts on Truman Road

The City of Independence began the Corridor Code Enforcement (CCE) initiative along Truman Road on December 17. The CCE is designed to address various City code violations through proactive inspections of properties on Truman Road and has been divided into five sections – Brookside Avenue to Cedar Avenue, Cedar Avenue to Northern Boulevard, Northern Boulevard to Sterling Avenue, Sterling Avenue to Forest Avenue, and Forest Avenue to River Boulevard. This sweep started in December will continue through January.

“The Corridor Code Enforcement effort has been incredibly successful for the City, and I’m excited to see the impact it will have along Truman Road,” 1st District Councilmember John Perkins said. “We started this initiative along 24 Highway two years ago and were blown away by the positive response from citizens and businesses. Since that first year, we have inspected more than 500 properties along major corridors in our community. The biggest part of this effort though is that, of the 294 cases initiated, only 55 tickets were issued, and 17 abatements conducted. The voluntary compliance of our property owners



demonstrates the support and engagement with this initiative as we work to improve the appearance of our key corridors”



Community Development Department staff will be checking for zoning and property maintenance violations on the exterior of each property. Staff will also ensure that businesses have appropriate City licenses. If necessary, a building inspector will provide support when addressing potentially dangerous structural issues. They will be working in collaboration with members of the Independence Police Department and Fire Department as appropriate. It is expected that it will be completed in January with follow-ups through the spring.

This initiative will eventually expand to 23rd Street, 291 Highway, and the remainder of 24 Highway on the east side of the City in later phases. The City worked on the west side of 24 Highway over the winter of 2016/2017 and 40 Highway over the winter of 2017/2018.

Look for updates on the results of the CCE for Truman Road on the City's website, Facebook, Nextdoor and Twitter pages over the coming weeks.

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Eileen Weir (816) 325-7027
City Council Office (816) 325-7022
Online at indep.us/citycouncil.
Email at citycouncil@indepmo.org.

Councilmembers

John Perkins	District 1
Curt Dougherty	District 2
Scott Roberson	District 3
Tom Van Camp	District 4
Karen DeLuccie	At-Large
Mike Huff	At-Large

City Manager

Zachary Walker (816) 325-7170

Where can I...

Pay my Jackson County property taxes:

Historic Truman Courthouse
112 W Lexington, Suite 114
Independence, MO 64050
Phone: (816) 881-3232

Apply for a marriage license:

Historic Truman Courthouse
112 W Lexington, Suite 30
Independence, Missouri 64050
Phone: (816) 881-4608

Apply for a business license:

Independence City Hall
111 E. Maple
Independence, MO 64050
Phone: (816) 325-7079

Pay a ticket issued by the City:

Independence City Hall
111 E. Maple
Independence, MO 64050
Phone: (816) 325-7230

Some tickets may be paid online at indep.us/paytickets.

For more information on Jackson County offices, visit www.jacksongov.org.

For more information on City offices, visit www.indepmo.org.



City of Independence
Government Access Television

City Council Meetings

Live meetings at 6 p.m. on Mondays
9 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays
1 p.m. Sundays

Planning Commission Meetings

Live meetings at 6 p.m. on 2nd and 4th
Tuesday of month
10 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursdays
1 p.m. on Saturday

Learn more at indep.us/city7.

Numbers to Remember

The City of Independence has an automated voice-response telephone system. Call (816) 325-7000 and say the name of the person or the department you wish to contact.

- Adopt-a-Street 325-7602
- Barking Dogs 325-7213
- Building Permits 325-7401
- Business Licenses 325-7079
- Crime Stoppers Tips 474-8477
- Drop-Off Depot/Trash 325-7600
- Drugs 325-6272
- Graffiti 257-7824

- Municipal Court 325-7230
- Neighborhood Watch 325-7643
- Park Vandalism 325-7208
- Police Non-Emergency 325-7300
- Fire Non-Emergency 325-7123
- Potholes 325-7624
- Report Power Outage 325-7550
- Street Lights 325-7535
- Storm Water Pollution 325-7727
- Utilities
- Customer Service 325-7930
- Pay by Phone 325-SERV
- Payment Assistance 254-4100
- Weeds, Trash 325-7193

Regional Animal Shelter Operated by Great Plains SPCA

21001 E. Hwy. 78, Independence
Help them find a forever home.
Adopt a homeless pet.
Noon - 7 p.m. Wed.-Fri.
11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sat.-Sun.
Call (913) 808-3370



Always Spay or Neuter!