



# CityScene

February 2019

Volume 26

Number 2

City of Independence, MO

www.independencemo.org

## Creating a community for all ages

The City of Independence has been recognized as an age-friendly community that has taken the necessary steps to become "A Community for All Ages." In June 2016, the City initiated an effort to understand the needs of our aging population. The process required the City to carefully consider changing demographics; assess local ordinances, plans and policies that determine our residents' quality of life; and built environments here in Independence.

The formal assessment ended in October 2018, resulting in 17 recommendations that help Independence residents "Age in Place." Aging in Place best practices afford residents accessibility and connectivity to outdoor spaces and buildings; diversified housing design options, multi-modal transportation choices, social inclusion and participation opportunities, civic engagement and employment opportunities, and community health services.

The cities of Independence, Lee's Summit, North Kansas City and Peculiar were recognized as "Communities for All Ages" at the First Suburbs Coalition meeting on Friday, Jan. 18. The cities of Independence and Lee's Summit received both silver and gold level designations, and North Kansas City and Peculiar both attained the bronze level.

To learn more, visit the Community Development Department-Community for All Ages website at [indep.us/communityforallages](http://indep.us/communityforallages), or contact Tenia Strother via email at [tstrother@indepmo.org](mailto:tstrother@indepmo.org).

## City of Independence Citizens' Academy

The City of Independence invites you to experience a new program: The City of Independence Citizens' Academy.

The Academy will provide you a backstage pass to the City of Independence and its departments. Designed as a 9-week program, each week will feature a speaker and information showcasing one of the City's departments, what they do, and how they work for you. The program will allow you to build relationships with others and with City officials, feeling better informed as a citizen, business owner, or leader in Independence, Missouri.

The City of Independence Citizens' Academy is limited to the first 24 participants who respond by March 1. The Citizens' Academy

will kick-off at City Hall on Tuesday, March 26 at 6 p.m. Except for the final meeting and reception prior to the City Council meeting on May 20, the Academy will convene on Tuesdays for eight consecutive weeks, beginning March 26 through May 14, 2019, from 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (locations will vary). All participants are asked to commit to attend at least seven of the nine meetings.

The inaugural class of 20 citizens graduated from the Academy in November 2018. Highlights of their class included riding in the bucket of a firetruck and having a question and answer session with the Mayor.

For questions and to reserve your seat, please contact Christina Heinen at (816)325-7019 or by email to [cheinen@indepmo.org](mailto:cheinen@indepmo.org).



## National News

On Saturday, Jan. 19, Independence Police Officer Wehlermann was on patrol when he saw a flag hanging upside down at a local business on Noland Road. The top attachment had broken off following strong winds causing the flag to flip upside down.

After clearing the call, he contacted the business, but they said they were unable to fix it until Monday because the cable was welded to the top of the pole. As a U.S. Air Force veteran and longtime member of IPD's Color Guard, this wasn't soon enough for Officer Wehlermann. He reached out to Independence Fire Department's Pumper 2 and Truck 2 who were happy to assist with fixing the flag. This story was picked up nationally including Fox & Friends.

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Follow us today!

Questions? Concerns? Problems? Submit an Action Center Report, [indep.us/actioncenter](http://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](http://indep.us/city7live) or Channel 7 for Comcast customers.

## Mark your calendar - March Events

### Winter Farmers Market

**March 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. Learn more at [facebook.com/IndependenceUptownMarket](https://facebook.com/IndependenceUptownMarket).

### Antique Appraisal Fair

**March 2, 9 a.m. to Noon**

The Vaile Society's Antique Appraisal Fair will be Saturday, March 2 from 9 a.m. to noon. Admission is \$10 and includes two item appraisals. Pay at the door. There will be 4-5 antique dealers on hand to help appraise your items. If the items are very large, please bring a detailed photo of the items. Mansion tours will also be available during the event.



### 2nd Annual HOA Summit

**March 13, 6 to 8 p.m.**

Independence area Homeowner Associations (HOAs) are invited to the 2nd Annual HOA Summit on Wednesday, March 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. The Summit is designed to provide information and resources to HOA leadership while also offering them an opportunity to network with one another. This free event is open to HOA officers and will take place in the Independence Police Headquarters multipurpose room (located on the first floor), 223 N. Memorial Drive.

This year, representatives from the Independence Police Department Community Service Unit will present on Crime Prevention Tips, the Neighborhood Watch Program, and the Citizens' Police Academy. The Fire Department will share information on Emergency Preparedness and Fire Prevention. Parks, Recreation and Tourism staff will speak on the upcoming programs and events for 2019.

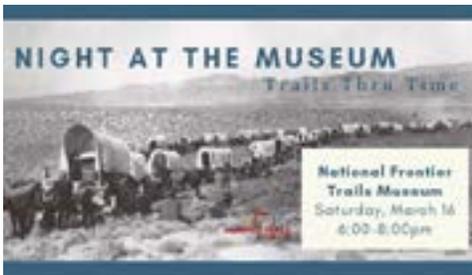
Those interested in attending should RSVP to [jmayfield@indepmo.org](mailto:jmayfield@indepmo.org). If you have questions on the Summit or HOA resources, please contact John Mayfield at (816)325-7394.

### Night at the Museum: Trails thru Time

**March 16**

Join the National Frontier Trails Museum for an unforgettable evening where characters from the past come to life. Follow the trails through history as pioneers share their stories of migration. From the Great Wagon Road of the colonial era to the railroads of the late 1800s, visitors will learn about the many trails which have spread diverse people, ideas and culture throughout America. Refreshments provided. Sponsored by Friends of the National Frontier Trails Museum.

Admission is \$18, \$15 for members of the Friends of NFTM, OCTA, SFTA, and their local chapters. Call the museum to reserve your tickets (816)325-7575.



### Spring Tea with Jane Austen

**March 30**

The Vaile Mansion presents its annual Spring Tea with Jane Austen at 2 p.m. on March 30. Attendees will have the opportunity to visit with "Jane" and learn about some of the social customs during her lifetime. Victorian collections will also be on display. Seating limited. Reservations required. \$50/person. Call (816)478-3334 with questions.



### 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. They may open for special events.

Learn more about upcoming events and attractions at [VisitIndependence.com](http://VisitIndependence.com) or at [facebook.com/visitindependence](https://facebook.com/visitindependence).

## Drop-Off Depot starting back up in March

The City's Drop-Off Depot will open for the year on March 9, weather permitting. The Drop-Off Depot is open the second Saturday of each month March-November at 875 Vista Ave. from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fees are based on the type of vehicle used, not the contents of the load (except tires and appliances).

- Car - \$20
- Pickup, SUV, Van - \$25
- Trailer 8 feet or less - \$30
- Trailer over 8 feet - \$40
- Tires - 5 or less - No fee
- Tires - More than 5 - Above vehicle fees apply

Vehicles pulling trailers - If both the vehicle and the trailer contain items for disposal, you will be charged for both.

There is a \$15 fee for accepted appliances. Accepted appliances include: refrigerators, freezers, stoves, dishwashers, hot water heaters, washers, dryers, etc.

There is no fee for lawn mowers but they must have all fluids drained. There is no fee for auto, boat, lawn mower or motorcycle batteries.

Please note the following items are also accepted: furniture, mattresses & box springs, carpet, plumbing fixtures, sheet rock, windows, shingles, fencing, landscape timbers, bricks, paving stones, etc. Additionally, brush - limbs, firewood, bushes and stumps are accepted. However, bagged leaves or grass will not be accepted.

Finally, televisions, computer monitors, liquids, gas tanks, and sealed drums are not accepted.

In the event of a storm, this is also the location where storm debris can be dropped off. The City will provide information on dates and times in the event a storm debris Drop-Off is needed.

You can learn more about the Drop-Off Depot at [indep.us/dropoffdepot](http://indep.us/dropoffdepot). You can find dates and times on the City's website calendar and the City's Facebook page, [facebook.com/cityofindependence](https://facebook.com/cityofindependence).



## Get ready - Couch to 5K Starts in March

Have you ever wanted to participate in a 5K? Well, 2019 is your year! Join the City of Independence's Couch to 5K program to take you from minimal activity to completing a 5K in just six weeks. Join us at Waterfall Park, 4501 S. Bass Pro Dr., every Tuesday evening to walk or run beginning March 12. Make sure to show up at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12 to register to participate. Each week, there will be a walking group and a walk/run group for anyone who would like to challenge themselves. This free program is for walkers and runners of all ages and abilities. Everyone who attends all Tuesday evening walk/run events with the City of Independence will receive a free Park Trot shirt.

The full schedule:

- Week 1: Tuesday, March 12  
5:30 p.m.: Register to participate  
6 p.m.: 1-mile walk
- Week 2: Tuesday, March 19  
6 p.m.: 1.5-mile walk/run

Week 3: Tuesday, March 26

6 p.m.: 2-mile walk/run

Week 4: Tuesday, April 2

6 p.m.: 2-mile walk/run

Week 5: Tuesday, April 9

6 p.m.: 2.5-mile walk/run

Week 6: Tuesday, April 16

6 p.m.: 3.1-mile walk/run

You've made it! Now it's time to participate in the Park Trot 5K on Sat. April 27 at 8 a.m.

To register for the Independence Park Trot 5K Walk/Run, go to [independenceparktrot.com](http://independenceparktrot.com). This race is free, family-friendly, and will take place at Waterfall Park, the same route that the Couch to 5K program will follow. For more info on the Couch to 5K program or the Park Trot 5K, contact Selena Good at (816)325-7817 or [sgood@indepmo.org](mailto:sgood@indepmo.org). Look for weather cancellations on Facebook at [facebook.com/CityofIndependence](https://facebook.com/CityofIndependence).

## Legislative Priorities

The 2019 State Legislative Session began on Wednesday, January 9. Each year the City of Independence creates a list of legislative priorities based on Council Goals and the Strategic Plan. This year's top priorities are:

- Pursue legislation that may allow cities to suspend Missouri driver's licenses when people repeatedly fail to appear in Municipal Court
- Pursue a Regional Crime Lab in Independence operated and funded by the Missouri Highway Patrol.
- Continue to advocate for local control over poles and small cell phone attachments for cellular service.

The last day legislation will be considered by the 100th General Assembly is May 17, 2019 and the Session ends on May 30. The Governor must approve or veto bills by July 14. An update on the Legislative Session will be provided to the public in March and after the end of session in June.

## Stream in my backyard

In Independence, we have over 241 miles of streams. Our streams are important amenities and infrastructure for our community providing:

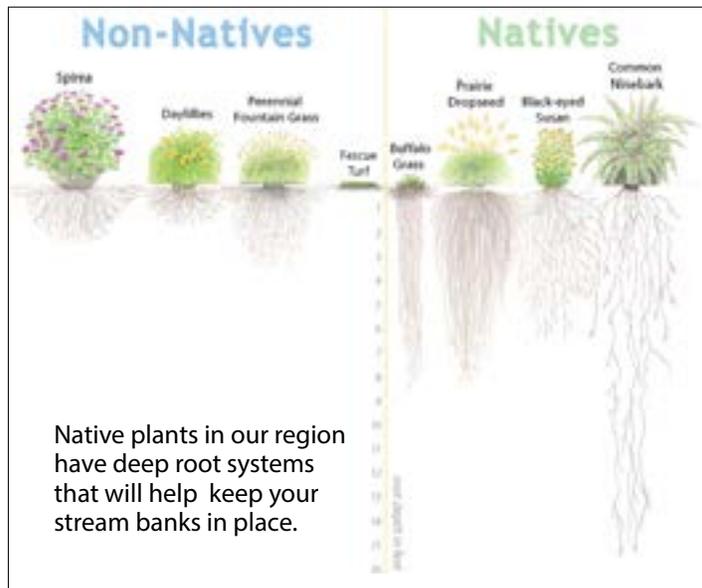
- increased property values;
- air and water quality protection;
- beauty;
- connection to nature and community;
- recreational opportunities;
- wildlife habitat;
- flood protection.

Runoff rates are much higher today than 150 years ago. The same amount of rainfall causes strain not just on the region's water bodies, but on built infrastructure. We rely on our streams to carry storm water runoff during rainfall events—critical to protecting life and property in Independence. The City has created a Stream Corridor Protection Program. This program is intended to lessen the severity of flooding during large storm events, protect stream corridors from the impacts of future development, and safeguard the City's natural resources and beauty.

Are you a streamside manager? The strip of land bordering a stream channel is called a stream corridor or riparian corridor. The stream corridor is part of the floodplain and a very important part of flood protection. The City and private landowners share a responsibility to manage and maintain stream corridors.

You may have a stream in your backyard. The first and most basic stream management

approach is to keep the existing stream corridor—set aside a stream buffer that includes trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants, and excludes permanent structures or impervious surfaces. This basic step will go a long way to stabilizing stream banks and cleaning runoff entering the stream.



Native plants in our region have deep root systems that will help keep your stream banks in place.

Avoid mowing to the stream's edge. Instead, preserve and restore native plants around your streams. Native plants in our region have deep root systems that will help keep your stream banks in place.

Avoid soil disturbance. Disturbed soil can easily wash away starting erosion that can be difficult to control. Do not fill or dump, including soil, trash, and yard waste, in the stream corridor; dumped materials are not only pollution, but can change how water

flows, possibly moving the stream channel in unexpected ways or creating flooding on your property or your neighbor's property.

Do not use, store, or apply pesticides in the stream corridor, except for spot spraying of noxious weeds or non-native species consistent with recommendations of the City.

Be flexible. Stream conditions will change with surrounding development patterns. Management strategies need to be flexible and allowed to change over time to respond to natural communities.

Our stream buffer program is intended to reduce property damage and loss of life, protect the City's valuable infrastructure, prevent the degradation of streams and water quality, and increase property values and economic opportunity. Through partnership between the City of Independence and our citizens, we can protect our resources and enhance our quality of life.

Do you have Blue Thumb? Find out more about planting for cleaner water: [marc.org/Environment/Water-Resources/Landscaping-and-Lawn-Care/Native-Plants.html](http://marc.org/Environment/Water-Resources/Landscaping-and-Lawn-Care/Native-Plants.html).

How healthy are your streams? You can find the regional stream health index on the Greater Kansas City Green Region Explorer: [arcg.is/158nrH](http://arcg.is/158nrH).

You can find the City of Independence Stream Buffer Restoration Manual:

[marc.org/Environment/Water-Resources/pdfs/setback\\_toolkit/Stream\\_Buffer\\_Restoration\\_Manual.aspx](http://marc.org/Environment/Water-Resources/pdfs/setback_toolkit/Stream_Buffer_Restoration_Manual.aspx).

## Independence - Looking back on my Independence story

Independence is rich in history, certainly from its days as a stop along the Oregon Trail, to the hometown of 33rd President Harry Truman, but also in the more recent history shared by many of our present day citizens. I should know, because like many of you, my life has been part of and influenced by the historic legacies of this city we call home.

For me, nearly three decades of my life has been at home in Independence. Before I was born in 1983, my grandparents, Gene and Virginia Ball, called western Independence their home. In the late 1950s, they built their house in the Stuart Place subdivision at 9th Street and Forest Avenue - not far from the old Independence Utilities office. In 1959, they opened the Starlet Drive-In restaurant at the southeast corner of 24 Highway and Forest Avenue. Residents and visitors to Independence would patron my grandparents' restaurant for a classic American drive-in menu, including everything from tacos to my grandmother's extraordinary pie recipes, which remain in my family today. My grandparents had six nieces, three on my grandmother's side, and three on my grandfather's side - and each took their turn spending summers in Independence as a car-pool at the drive-in.



Thanks to the generosity, loyalty and patronage of Independence, my grandparents had a successful 20-year run in the restaurant business before deciding to retire, closing the Starlet in 1979. They were proud to call Independence their home until their deaths in 1984 and 1992, respectively.

My father, Jimmy, was raised in Independence. He tells me stories of how he would be on or near the Square, and see former President Truman walking along the streets. He went to school in Independence from kindergarten through high school, graduating from William Chrisman in 1978. From there, he joined the U.S. Postal Service in 1985 as a union letter carrier.

When you have a mail carrier for a dad, you learn geography - how to read addresses and street signs, determine neighborhood blocks and tell directions at a young age. For nearly 20 years, I spent a great deal of time with the men and women who would say they 'delivered Harry S. Truman's hometown.'

I grew up in Susquehanna, attending Fort Osage Schools K-12. And while I left Independence for a short time as an adult, I realized I was never as happy, never as part of my own history as I was when I lived in Independence. It is why my wife and I choose to raise our own children here and are proud to call Independence our home. I am thankful for what this city and community has done and meant for my family for 60 years. And I hope my story inspires many happy and nostalgic thoughts of your own lives, families and histories here in Independence.

- Eric Ball

## CITY COUNCIL

**Mayor Eileen Weir** (816) 325-7027

**City Council Office** (816) 325-7022

Online at [indep.us/citycouncil](http://indep.us/citycouncil).

Email at [citycouncil@indepmo.org](mailto: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](http://indep.us/paytickets).

For more information on Jackson County offices, visit [www.jacksongov.org](http://www.jacksongov.org).

For more information on City offices, visit [www.indepmo.org](http://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](http://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 |
| Stormwater 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!**