

## Celebrating our volunteers

Volunteers are an integral part of the City of Independence. They bolster the City's efforts across several divisions and deliver services that would otherwise be impossible to provide.

Imagine running a 5K race without the support of the Volunteers in Police Service, who block intersections and control traffic during those events. Imagine a tour of the Vaile Mansion without tourism volunteers to play your guide and host. Imagine being left to sort through the damage of a natural disaster without help from volunteers in emergency management.

These are the kinds of roles in which hundreds of volunteers for the City of Independence serve, and their service is vital to the well-being of not just our city government, but the community at large.

Frank Buhro, Historic Sites Manager for the Division of Tourism, coordinates about 150 volunteers a year across the City's six historic sites.

"An out-of-town guest comes in, and they want to know where the best restaurants are, they want to know where they should stay, they want to know the activities that are going on that the local folks would want to go to, and (volunteers are) the asset for that," Buhro said. "Our volunteers, they have an energy and passion for the city themselves, and it shows in the way they interact with the guests that we have."

Sgt. Darrell Schmidli, who coordinates the Volunteers in Police Service program for the Independence Police Department, said his department wouldn't survive without volunteers.

"In the purest sense, our volunteers are here because they want to help people, and that sounds kind of cheesy to say, but it's an important role," Geoff Hinkle, planner for the Emergency Preparedness division of the Independence Fire Department, said. "They care about the community, they are definitely giving back, and it really is a force multiplier for what we do."

As a part of Volunteer Appreciation Week (April 7-13), the City of Independence extends a huge thank-you to our many volunteers.

See and hear more from our volunteers on the latest Inside Independence at [indep.us/youtube](http://indep.us/youtube).



Tourism volunteer Alysa Speck, left, takes a visitor through the City's 2019 Visitors Guide inside the Visitor Experience Center at the Truman Courthouse.

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### Learn more at:

-  [facebook.com/CityofIndependence](https://facebook.com/CityofIndependence)
-  [@CityofIndepMO](https://twitter.com/CityofIndepMO)
-  [@cityofindependencemo](https://instagram.com/cityofindependencemo)
-  [indep.us/nextdoor](http://indep.us/nextdoor)

CityScene is published monthly by the City Manager's Office located at 111 East Maple Avenue, Independence, MO 64050. For information, call (816) 325-7086.

## Museum Partnership Pass Program

Mid-Century Public Library, the City of Independence, and the Jackson County Historical Society are collaborating to launch a new pilot program called the MCPL Museum Pass beginning April 1. MCPL cardholders will be able to check out four admission tickets for up to one week to one of the following Independence attractions: Vaile Mansion, National Frontier Trails Museum, The Chicago & Alton Depot, the 1859 Jail and Marshal's Home, and the Bingham-Waggoner Estate.

In addition, MCPL cardholders will be able

to check out admission tickets to the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum until it closes for renovation later this spring.

Museum Pass vouchers will be available for check out in person on a first come-first served basis from the following branches: Blue Springs North, Blue Springs South, Boardwalk, Buckner, Claycomo, Liberty, Midwest Genealogy Center, North Independence, North Oak, Parkville, Raytown, Riverside, South Independence, and Woodneath Library Center. For more information, visit [mymcpl.org/museumpass](http://mymcpl.org/museumpass).

# Mark your calendar - May Events

## Farmers' Market Reopens

May 4, 7AM-1PM

The Farmers' Market at the Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd., will open on Saturday, May 4. Market hours are Saturdays from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. Welcome in the growing season with a wide variety of spring produce for sale from local vendors. Local farmers and growers offer fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables, jams and jellies, honey and much more. There is also a wide array of crafts to choose from during your visit. Beginning in June, the market will be open on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

## Truman Day

May 4

The buck stops here, and you should, too. In honor of President Harry S. Truman's 135th birthday (May 8, 1884), admission to many local attractions is just \$1 on May 4. That list includes the Truman Library & Museum, Truman Home, National Frontier Trails Museum, Vaile Mansion, Bingham-Waggoner Estate, Chicago & Alton Depot and 1859 Jail and Marshal's Home. Individual attraction hours of operation apply.

In addition to \$1 admission at historic sites around town, take part in activities celebrating the life and times of Harry Truman on the Independence Square. Join in on a baking competition at Gilbert Whitney & Co. or sign a giant birthday card to our hometown hero.

For more information, go to [www.jchs.org](http://www.jchs.org).



## Summer Concert Series

May 10, 7PM

See the Brad Cunningham Band live at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 10, at the Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd. The concert is free and open to the public. Food and drink will be offered for sale inside the venue. The concert is the first in a new, summer concert series presented by the City of Independence and the Independence Chamber of Commerce. Look out for more information on monthly concerts like this one from May-August 2019.

## Drop-off Depot

May 11, 8AM-3PM

The City's Drop-Off Depot will be open on April 13, 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. For more information, visit [indep.us/dropoffdepot](http://indep.us/dropoffdepot).

## Adventure Oasis Reopens

May 25

Adventure Oasis Water Park, 2100 S. Hub Dr., reopens for the 2019 season on Saturday, May 25.

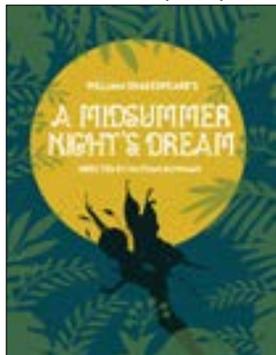
Learn more about programming and see admission pricing at [indep.us/adventureoasis](http://indep.us/adventureoasis).



## A Midsummer Night's Dream

May 30-31

The City Theatre of Independence presents Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," directed by Nathan Bowman. The production opens at 7:30 p.m. at the Roger T. Sermon Community Center, 201 N. Dodgion St., on Thursday, May 30. Additional shows



are scheduled May 31- June 1 and June 7-9. All shows begin at 7:30 p.m., excluding the June 9 performance, which begins at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15. For more information, go to [bit.ly/2Y6zpV8](http://bit.ly/2Y6zpV8).

# Celebrating Historic Preservation Month

Throughout the month of May, the City of Independence recognizes the importance of its historic built environment with a celebration of National Historic Preservation Month. This year's theme is "hidden history."

Join us in a variety of events, sponsored by regional heritage groups, including behind-the-scenes tours of buildings on the Independence Square, the 1859 Jail, and City-owned sites, like the Vaile Mansion, Woodlawn Cemetery, and Bingham-Waggoner Estate. All events are open to the public and many of the events are free.

The following is a sampling of upcoming Preservation Month events:

### Hidden Places, Secret Spaces

May 4, 1-4 p.m.

Look inside the hidden spaces on the Independence Square with an insider's tour of various locations. Self-guided tours will include a map of the sites and associated trolley stops.

### Tales of Those Interred

May 16, 6 p.m.

Learn the "secrets of Woodlawn Cemetery" with rare accounts of those interred there.



### Restoration Revealed

May 22, 12-1 p.m.

Take a peek below the floorboards and in the walls at the 1859 Jail and learn about how preservation architects are conducting research for the upcoming restoration of the site.

### Secrets of the Sites

May 25, times vary

Take a behind-the-scenes tour of the Vaile Mansion, Bingham-Waggoner Estate, and National Frontier Trails Museum. Visit the hidden nooks and crannies not on your typical public tour.

### 3 Trails Trivia Night

May 30, 7 p.m.

Local history trivia at the new 3 Trails Brewing on the Independence Square.

For a full listing of events, go to: [indep.us/historicpreservation](http://indep.us/historicpreservation) or call (816) 325-7419.



# Independence - Looking Back



Submitted by Shirley Bulen

Harry S. Truman, 33rd president of the United States, was known as the "Man from Independence." His quote, "The Buck Stops Here," defined Truman as a man of responsibility and decisiveness. In my 6-year-old

perspective he was simply a kind and friendly man who walked in our neighborhood.

In the summer of 1957, hula-hoops were all the rage. I was the proud owner of a bright blue hoop of plastic that would spin endlessly around my waist with just the right twist of the hips. With practice I had become adept at dropping the twirling hoop to my knees, then back again to my waist, up around shoulders, neck and back again.

That is how I was spending one early summer morning, when I first met Harry Truman. On his daily walk near our home, he was accompanied by two secret service agents. Impeccably dressed in suit and tie, it was the walking stick and hat that set him apart.

Though not very tall, Truman's ramrod straight posture and his purposeful steps gave him a commanding presence. As they neared I was aware of the brightness in his eyes behind his wire-rimmed glasses.

I felt my face flushing as they approached, my hula-hoop whirring around my body. Mr. Truman stopped on the sidewalk at the side yard of my home. Reaching up, with a broad smile and slight nod of his head, he tipped his hat respectfully. No one had ever tipped a hat to me before. I didn't know if I should bow, or curtsy, so I simply stopped my spinning hula-hoop and smiled back.

"Now, do you suppose an old man could learn to do those tricks," he asked.

"Well, it's really very easy," I answered, as I handed him my hula-hoop. "Just keep your hips moving like this." And I demonstrated the hip twist that made the hula-hoop twirl.

"All right," he answered. Handing me his walking stick, he said, "Now you just hold this for me while I give it a try."

The hula-hoop went over his head and around

his waist. Giving it a spin and a twist of his hip the hula-hoop twirled down his pant leg past knees and ankles and came to a spinning stop on the sidewalk at his feet. The two men with him threw back their heads and laughed out loud.

I was too timid to laugh, so I responded, "It's probably very hard to do when you are dressed in a suit."

With that, Mr. Truman joined the laughter. He returned my hula-hoop and I returned his walking stick, then he said, "You keep practicing your tricks, and I'll look for you again to see how you are coming with it."

Tipping his hat once more, they resumed their walk, Mr. Truman with his walking stick leading the way.

I decided I liked this man, this former president of our United States. A man who had shouldered the responsibility of the world could still take the time to be interested in a 6-year old girl's distraction. Harry S. Truman, the "Man from Independence," was also the neighbor.

## Pesticides, Herbicides and Fertilizers

Pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers can make our yards lush and green, but, when used improperly, they can also pollute our waterways. If you use too much or apply them at the wrong time, they can easily wash into storm drains and eventually flow untreated into lakes and streams.

Fertilizer contains "nutrients" such as nitrates and phosphates to fuel plant growth, whether it's in your garden or bodies of water. Excess nutrients over-stimulate the growth of aquatic plants and algae. Some types of algae blooms such as Blue Green Algae are toxic to wildlife, pets or people who contact it. Additionally, the breakdown of organic matter from dying algae depletes dissolved oxygen, resulting in water which cannot support aquatic life.



General Guidelines for Pesticide, Herbicide, and Fertilizer Application

- Apply according to manufacturer's directions. The label is the law for pesticide usage.
- Apply pesticides and herbicides only when needed and avoid application to hard surfaces such as streets, driveways or sidewalks.

- Accurately diagnose the problem first. Disease and insect symptoms can mimic each other in many plants. Fungicide will not control an insect, and insecticide will not control a disease.
- Select pesticides and herbicides best suited to the characteristics of the target site and the particular pest or weed.
- Be aware that commercial chemical applicators must receive thorough training, have certifications and licensure prior to using chemicals.
- Know characteristics of the application site, including depth to groundwater and soil type to avoid chemicals migrating into groundwater. Do not apply near natural springs or sink holes.
- Recognize that it is not realistic for a landscape to be completely pest-free or weed-free. Consider using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies to minimize chemical usage.
- Keep pesticide and fertilizer equipment in good repair and properly calibrated according to the manufacturer's instructions. Recalibrate equipment periodically to compensate for wear in pumps, nozzles and metering systems.
- Mix products and fill sprayers and spreaders on a solid surface that liquids cannot pass through such as asphalt, concrete or a plastic tarp.

Look for more details on this and other topics from Water Pollution Control at [indep.us/wpc](http://indep.us/wpc).

## Independence Home Energy Loan Program

Independence Home Energy Loan Program is a partnership between the City of Independence Power & Light Department and the City Credit Union to provide low-interest loans for eligible energy efficiency measures. Loans can be up to \$15,000 and up to a 10-year term.

Owner-occupant residents in Independence can take advantage of the Home Energy Loan Program if they want to replace their current heating and cooling system, water heaters, add insulation to their home, replace windows and exterior doors that meet or exceed ENERGY STAR® specifications.

The process is simple: 1. The home owner first submits a Home Energy Loan Application to Independence Power and Light. 2. Once approved by the City the home owner will apply for the terms and conditions of the loan with the City Credit Union. The City Credit Union will notify the home owner of approval. 3. The home owner works with contractors from the approved contractor list. All contractors on the approved list are licensed and insured to work in the City of Independence and follow the Independence HELP requirements. 4. The contractor and home owner schedule an installation date. Once the work is completed the home owner notifies IPL to schedule for the Certificate of Completion to be completed. 5. The home owner takes the Certificate of Completion to the Credit Union for proceeds to be issued to the contractor. For more info, please visit [indep.us/iplhelp](http://indep.us/iplhelp) or call (816)325-7485.



# Council approves new City Brand

The Independence City Council approved a new brand on February 19. This followed a year of research including more than 2,000 survey and interview responses from citizens and regional counterparts. Part of the new brand is an updated logo. While only part of the overall branding project, the logo is perhaps the most visual. As part of the research for this project, the Brand Steering Committee and ChandlerThinks, a third-party contractor, looked at the more than 40 logos used to represent the City. This makes it hard for citizens to identify City Departments and programs. It also poses challenges for Tourism and Economic Development as they market in the region and beyond. A strong brand and a logo to support it can be valuable tools to attract visitors and businesses alike. But this brand and its tag line are focused on the residents of Independence and the many great American stories that started and continue here today. The pre-existing associations with the name "Independence" is already a big part of the brand story for our community. For this reason, the logo intentionally made the name the hero. The Independence flame is a symbolic beacon that stands for Independence. It's a place where anyone should be inspired to pursue their dreams in personal or professional endeavors. It

is a respectful nod to the "Eternal Flame of Freedom" dedicated to the memory of President Harry S. Truman and on display at the Truman Library and Museum. The Independence flame consists of three strokes, representative of the historic Santa Fe, Oregon and California Trails whose origins began in Independence, and yet another example of pursuing A Great American Dream.

The City will be working with stakeholders throughout the community to address the opportunities outlined in branding and citizen satisfaction survey results. History was a big theme throughout the surveys and interviews. It is impossible to focus on "A Great American Story" without collecting stories from our residents to share

their stories of Truman, the Trails and their family's history like that of Ms. Bulen seen on page three of this issue.

It is important to note that the logo is not replacing the City seal which is well-known for its mule-drawn covered wagon. The City Seal is used for official documents, correspondence, proclamations and resolutions. This is to show its importance. It will not be replaced with the new City logo.

Look for more info to come as the brand implementation continues.



## 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**

<b>John Perkins</b>	District 1
<b>Curt Dougherty</b>	District 2
<b>Scott Roberson</b>	District 3
<b>Tom Van Camp</b>	District 4
<b>Karen DeLuccie</b>	At-Large
<b>Mike Huff</b>	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).

# City7

## City of Independence

Government Access Television

<p><b>City Council Meetings</b>                  Live meetings at 6 p.m. on Mondays                  9 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays                  1 p.m. Sundays</p>	<p><b>Planning Commission Meetings</b>                  Live meetings at 6 p.m. on 2nd and 4th                  Tuesdays of month                  10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays                  1 p.m. on Saturdays</p>
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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.	<table border="0"> <tr><td><b>Municipal Court</b></td><td>325-7230</td></tr> <tr><td><b>Neighborhood Watch</b></td><td>325-7643</td></tr> <tr><td><b>Park Vandalism</b></td><td>325-7208</td></tr> <tr><td><b>Police Non-Emergency</b></td><td>325-7300</td></tr> <tr><td><b>Fire Non-Emergency</b></td><td>325-7123</td></tr> <tr><td><b>Potholes</b></td><td>325-7624</td></tr> <tr><td><b>Report Power Outage</b></td><td>325-7550</td></tr> <tr><td><b>Street Lights</b></td><td>325-7535</td></tr> <tr><td><b>Stormwater Pollution</b></td><td>325-7727</td></tr> <tr><td><b>Utilities</b></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>    Customer Service</td><td>325-7930</td></tr> <tr><td>    Pay by Phone</td><td>325-SERV</td></tr> <tr><td>    Payment Assistance</td><td>254-4100</td></tr> <tr><td><b>Weeds, Trash</b></td><td>325-7193</td></tr> </table>	<b>Municipal Court</b>	325-7230	<b>Neighborhood Watch</b>	325-7643	<b>Park Vandalism</b>	325-7208	<b>Police Non-Emergency</b>	325-7300	<b>Fire Non-Emergency</b>	325-7123	<b>Potholes</b>	325-7624	<b>Report Power Outage</b>	325-7550	<b>Street Lights</b>	325-7535	<b>Stormwater Pollution</b>	325-7727	<b>Utilities</b>		Customer Service	325-7930	Pay by Phone	325-SERV	Payment Assistance	254-4100	<b>Weeds, Trash</b>	325-7193
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## 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!**