



Your holiday planning is off to a great start. Check page 2 for events and programs throughout November and December.

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A new look at economic development

On Monday, August 5, the Independence City Council approved three major economic development incentive packages at the recommendation of the newly formed Independence Economic Development and Incentive Commission.

"This group was formed with an eye toward encouraging growth and forward thinking," Mayor Eileen Weir said.

"The Independence Commerce Center, Englewood Community Improvement District, and Ronson Manufacturing's relocation to the former K-Mart on 24 Highway are all success stories for our community."

Ordinance 19-046 approved an industrial development in the Little Blue Valley. This project would add more than 500,000 square feet of industrial space, which is currently in significant demand across the region. Additional industrial space has been a goal of the City Council and Economic Development Council for several years and part of the Independence for All Strategic Plan. The project would be located on the west side of Little Blue Parkway, north of R.D. Mize and east of Jackson Drive.

"Adding industrial space adds skilled jobs with higher wages, bolstering our tax base," City Manager Zach Walker said. "It also adds to our demand for utilities, which helps stabilize utility rates."

The Council also approved a petition establishing the Englewood Community Improvement District at the same meeting. Merchants in the district will charge a 1% sales tax, and the revenues will be used to fund infrastructure improvements and beautification projects in the area.

"This was a business and citizen-led effort," 1st District Councilmember John Perkins said. "There is great energy in the Englewood Arts District and an excitement for all of the possibilities that could be here. The CID is a major step forward and we are now working with everyone involved to continue that momentum."



The final project approved at the August 5 meeting will help locally-owned Ronson Manufacturing move to the former K-Mart on 24 Highway.

"We have heard from concerned citizens since K-Mart announced they were leaving the 24 Highway location and this move marks a major step forward for the 2nd District," 2nd District Councilmember Curt Dougherty said. "We are helping an established, local business move to an existing building and positively impacting a major corridor in our community. This is a big win for all of us."

The Independence Economic Development and Incentive Commission was formed as an advisory body to the City Council as it relates to the consideration of economic development and incentive proposals submitted by interested parties or initiated by any public agency. You can learn more about its members at indep.us/iedic.

Have you signed up to receive digital CityScenes and press releases?

Did you know you can now get CityScene in your email inbox? Those who would like to receive a digital newsletter and other information from the City can register at indep.us/email. You can also find many

pieces of information on our social media accounts in the column to your left.

Those who wish to receive a print version of CityScene can email mlewis@indepmo.org or call (816) 325-7086.

Upcoming Events - November and December

November

Steel Magnolias

7:30 p.m. | Nov. 1-2 & 8-9

2 p.m. | Nov. 10

City Theatre of Independence

Don't miss City Theatre of Independence's production of Steel Magnolias, American comedy-drama about the bond a group of women share in a small-town Southern community.

Full Moon Hike

5 p.m. | Saturday, Nov. 9

Little Blue Trace Trail (Jackson Dr. entrance)

Explore new parks in the dark. Reserve your place by 5 p.m. on the day before the hike at (816) 325-7115. Each hike is limited to 15 participants.

Second Saturday Autumn Architecture Walking Tours

10-11 a.m. | Saturday, Nov. 9

Discover a different side of Independence on a guided tour of our unique and historic bungalow homes. Meet at the north entrance of the Truman Courthouse on the Independence Square. Tours go rain or shine. Please wear comfortable shoes.

Bret Michaels Hometown Heroes Tour

7 p.m. | Sunday, Nov. 10

Silverstein Eye Centers Arena

Bret Michaels Hometown Heroes Tour with Night Ranger, Lita Ford and a very special guest appearance by country superstar Joe Diffie.

Uptown Flea Market

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. | Sunday, Nov. 10

Independence Uptown Market

The Independence Uptown Flea Market meets the 2nd Sunday of each month from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Best Little Arts and Craft Show

10 a.m. | Nov. 22-23

Sermon Center

Enjoy 110 vendors, all with original merchandise that fill the four floors of the Roger T. Sermon Community Center. No admission and free parking.

Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

7:30 - 9 a.m. | Tuesday, Nov. 19

Community of Christ - Laurel Club

Tickets are \$10 each or \$80/table of 8. Special guest is Dan Meers, better known as KC Wolf. Email kosborne@indepmo.org for details.

Victorian Date Night

4-6 p.m. | Saturday, Nov. 22

1859 Jail, Marshal's Home & Museum

Enjoy a night of Victorian courtship traditions. Learn traditional parlor games, courtship "rules," and how to write love letters using dip pens and ink. Refreshments, beer, wine, and cider will be served.

Make a Joyful Noise Holiday Tours

Beginning Friday, Nov. 22-Dec. 30
(Closed Dec. 23-25)

Bingham-Waggoner Estate

Join us for a special holiday tour at the historic Bingham-Waggoner Estate, which is extravagantly decorated for Christmas each year. This year's theme is Make a Joyful Noise.

Victorian Seasons Greetings Holiday Tours

Beginning Friday, Nov. 29-Dec. 30
(Closed Dec. 23-25)

Vaile Victorian Mansion

Join us for a special holiday tour at the historic Vaile Mansion. Each year, the 31-room, circa-1881 Victorian mansion is shut down through most of the month of November to be decorated for Christmas.

December

Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting and Living Windows

6 p.m. | Friday, Dec. 6

Hiram Young Park

Join us for this fun family tradition.

Champagne & Chandeliers

5-8 p.m. | Saturday, Dec. 7

Vaile Victorian Mansion

An adults-only holiday event at Vaile Mansion. Tickets \$15 per person or \$25 per couple.

Mayor's Christmas Carnival

9 a.m. to noon | Saturday, Dec. 7

Sermon Community Center

Children's Performing Theatre presents Annie, Jr.

7:30 p.m. | Dec. 6, 7, 13, 14

2 p.m. | Dec. 8 & 15

City Theatre of Independence

Don't miss the Children's Performing Theatre's production of Annie, Jr. \$8 adult, \$7 senior, \$4 youth.

Winter Farmers' Market

9 a.m. - noon | Saturday, Dec. 7

Independence Uptown Market

Come shop around and explore the selection of seasonal produce. Winter Farmers' Market will be open the first Saturday of each month, December to April.

Mayor's Christmas Concert

2:30 p.m. | Sunday, Dec. 8

Community of Christ Auditorium

Uptown Flea Market

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. | Sunday, Dec. 8

Independence Uptown Market

The Independence Uptown Flea Market meets the 2nd Sunday of each month from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Winter Solstice Torch-lit Hike

5-6:30 p.m. | Wednesday, Dec. 12

George Owens Nature Park

Walk a forest trail lit by torches and lined with snowmen. It will lead you to owls, ice sculptures, telescopes and a bonfire. Free hot chocolate and the first 200 guests will receive free commemorative mugs.

Full Moon Hike

6:30 p.m. | Friday, Dec. 13

7:30 p.m. | Saturday, Dec. 14

George Owens Nature Park

Reserve your place by 5 p.m. on the day before the hike at (816) 325-7115. Each hike is limited to 15 participants.

Find more events at visitindependence.com



Beware of FOG!

What Is FOG? FOG stands for Fats, Oils, and Grease. FOG buildup can clog your sewer pipes, which can result in overflows and costly damage. Each time grease is poured down the drain, it coats the inside of pipes. Over time, grease and oil can build up blocking the entire pipe. This not only affects the inside of the sewer pipes on your property but it can affect the pipes further down the sewer system. If your sewer line becomes clogged, wastewater can back up into your home or restaurant. Eventually this can lead to expensive and unpleasant cleanup. Clogged pipes can cause wastewater to overflow onto streets, yards, creeks and streams or other homes. The best and easiest way to prevent grease problems is to keep the grease out of the sewer system completely. You can help by following these tips:



- Never dump grease or oil down the drain or garbage disposal.
- Scrape grease and food scraps from dishes and pans into the trash prior to washing.
- Wipe grease out of pots and pans with a paper towel prior to washing.
- Never dump grease or oil into a storm drain.

- Cooking grease, such as bacon grease, lard and shortening may be placed in the trash when it becomes solid.
- Small quantities of liquid cooking oil should be placed in a sealed container with an absorbent material, such as paper towels, shredded newspaper or rags, and then disposed of in the trash.
- Turkey fryer oil can be filtered and reused. Store the filtered oil in the original container between uses.
- Although not considered hazardous, used oil can be taken to a hazardous waste disposal drop-off free of charge in the spring or to a facility in Kansas City year-round. Call (816) 513-8401 for more info or go to recyclespot.org. Residents can help protect homes and the environment from problems caused by improper disposal of fats, cooking oil and grease.

Additionally, the City of Independence Water Pollution Control Department (WPC) enforces FOG regulations and conducts routine FOG inspections of restaurants, hotels, grocery stores and gas stations. All food service establishments are required to follow "best management practices" of canning the grease, as well as cleaning and maintaining all grease traps, and yellow grease dumpsters.

For more information about FOG please call Water Pollution Control at (816) 325-7711 or visit indep.us/wpc.

Susan Paxton Block award winner



Sheila Saxton, Executive Assistant to the City Council, has been named the recipient of the 2019 Susan Paxton Block Award for Distinguished Public Service. Saxton has worked for the City since 1983, starting in the Tourism/Historic Preservation area, then transitioning into a public information capacity, answering citizen complaints and finally moving to her current position as Executive Assistant in 1988. In her 36 years of service she has seen many changes in the City and worked for dozens of councilmembers and five mayors.

The Susan Block Award is presented annually to a City employee, volunteer or elected official who has demonstrated outstanding public service, valor, and job performance with leadership. Junior Service League Past-president Stephanie Merriott presented the award at the September 16 City Council meeting.

Winter crime prevention tips from IPD

As we approach the cooler weather of fall and winter, the Independence Police Department has a few crime prevention tips to keep our citizens safer.

- Never leave your car running unattended. Not even to run back inside your house or a gas station for just a minute. This is a common occurrence and thieves like their cars warmed up and ready to go. This is also illegal to do in the city and you could be charged (This does not include cars with remote starting systems)
- Always lock your vehicle when you park. This makes your car a much less desirable target for someone to enter it to see what is inside.
- Never leave valuables in plain view in your car. This includes GPS systems, purses, cell phones, and laptops. Take these items with you or secure them in your trunk.
- Never leave firearms in your car. Far too often, these get taken from cars and land in the hands of those who do not need them.

- Do not leave garage door openers in your car and park outside. This is an easy way to get into your home for a criminal.
- Do not leave ground-level windows open when you leave your home when the weather is nice.
- If you carry a purse please keep it with you and secured. Across your body is always better than just on one shoulder.
- Check around your vehicle as you approach it to make sure there is no one nearby.
- Make sure to carry light when holiday shopping. Only take the cash or credit cards necessary to make your purchases and secure them at the cash register before your leave.
- Use trusted online shopping merchants to ensure your shopping experience is a positive one. You can always check with the Better Business Bureau to see about a web based business.
- Stop your mail

and other deliveries until you return from holiday travelling. Have a trusted neighbor keep an eye on your property until you return. Consider getting a box on your porch that you can have delivered packages secured in.

- Avoid leaving your purchases in plain view while holiday shopping. Be cautious of your Christmas tree full of gifts being visible to those outside your residence.
- Be vigilant when it comes to protecting your family and property. Make sure you have good lighting on your home and the area is clean of debris and areas for criminals to hide.
- If you see something concerning, call the police. 911 for emergencies or 325-7300 for non-emergencies.

Connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, Neighbors by Ring, and Nextdoor to stay informed.

POLICE
INDEPENDENCE, MO



City takes steps to decrease gun violence

The Independence City Council began the discussion to update City ordinances around minors in possession of firearms and other deadly weapons in September. This continues to be a regional conversation as Kansas City recently approved ordinances on this topic.

“Gun violence has been on the rise in our region and it is more important than ever that we work together to ensure our communities, citizens and visitors are safe,” Mayor Eileen Weir said. “Our Safe Streets Regulations have been on the books since 1995, helping us limit the access of minors to firearms and other deadly weapons but it was time to dust them off and bring them into compliance with state laws. Experience has shown that those minors involved in incidents with a firearm have been exposed to them for years. By shining new light on this issue as a region, we have an opportunity to show our citizens in the Kansas City region their leaders are committed to finding real solutions for this growing problem.”

The Independence Police Department echoed Mayor Weir's sentiments on this issue.

"When we work together across jurisdictions to ensure our laws mirror one another we create an understanding that no jurisdiction is more lenient on bad guys than another," Major John Cato said. "These ordinance updates also remind parents the importance of proper gun education for minors in their home and that there can be very real consequences for the entire family if firearms are misused in our community."

In addition to updates to the ordinance, the

Independence Police Department announced it has established a Gun Squad. This squad was formed in June and is made up of one sergeant with four detectives. One of the detectives is also part of the ATF Task Force. This is the most comprehensive program the City has implemented to attack gun violence in Independence to date

“This Gun Squad in partnership with the ATF will focus on tracking illegal guns,” Police Chief Brad Halsey said. “We encourage citizens to continue to provide tips and information as we look into these incidents.”

Safety and crime are consistently one of the top concerns in the Citizen Satisfaction Survey. Additionally, funds from the recently approved Proposition P, which dedicates online sales tax funds toward the addition of 30 new police personnel for the City, will eventually allow the IPD to create more focused groups like the Gun Squad and Street Crimes Unit. In less than one year, the Street Crimes Unit has successfully removed nearly 100 illegal guns from the street.

You can watch the full update on these ordinance changes and the Gun Squad from the September 9 Council Study Session on the City's YouTube Channel here, indep.us/sept92019studysession.

Citizens are encouraged to attend or watch Council meetings on the first and third Monday (unless there is a holiday) each month at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers on the lower level of City Hall, 111 E. Maple Avenue. You can also watch live online here, indep.us/City7, or on channel 7 for Comcast users.

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.

City7

City of Independence
Government Access Television

City Council Meetings

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

Planning Commission Meetings

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

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
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

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 (816) 325-7207



Always Spay or Neuter!

