



A safer Halloween

In mid-September the CDC issued guidance regarding Halloween and trick-or-treating. While traditional trick-or-treating is considered a high-risk activity due to the many interactions that might occur with individuals not from the same household, they did provide a few suggestions on how to decrease risks. Here are some of their suggestions and guidance:

- Carve or decorate pumpkins with family members.
- Decorate your home or living space.
- Hold a neighborhood scavenger hunt spotlighting decorations or landmarks.
- Have a virtual Halloween costume contest.
- Participate in one-way trick-or-treating where individually wrapped goodie bags are lined up for families to grab away from the front of your home.
- Have a neighborhood costume parade outdoors and socially distanced.
- Halloween masks do not meet most mask guidelines. Please wear a cloth mask or face covering that adequately covers your nose and mouth.



1. The event must follow current gathering guidelines as determined by the Jackson County phase criteria.
2. If the event involves vehicles (such as trunk-or-treat), vehicles must have at least 6 feet of space between opened doors.
3. If games are included in the event, they should be single use items or items that can be thoroughly sanitized between each participant.
4. Snacks, treats, or candy should be single serve with an individual wearing a mask and gloves handing it out to participants.
5. Drive-thru events are preferred.
6. All participants should wear a face covering or mask as outlined by the Jackson County order. This does not include costume masks.
7. No homemade goods or snacks should be provided.
8. Event organizers should maintain a list of volunteers for a minimum of 14 days after the event in case an outbreak is connected to the activity.

And finally, the Independence Police Department would like to remind everyone to wear reflective clothing or a reflective item if trick-or-treating to alert drivers in the area after dark. Look for families and children cross the street and decrease your speed in residential areas. Do not eat items that look as though they may have been tampered with and report any suspicious activity as soon as possible.

These guidelines may change as the situation changes at the local, state and federal levels. Please follow the City on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Nextdoor](#) for updates.

The holiday will not look the same this year but together, we can keep everyone safe and healthy.

You can find a full list of suggestions from the CDC here, [bit.ly/cdchalloween](https://www.cdc.gov/halloween/).

If you are planning a Halloween event, here are some guidelines from the City of Independence: Please verify if your event needs permits, road closures or inspections through our Special Events application. You can find details at indep.us/specialevents.

For those organizations wishing to hold a Halloween event these are the guidelines from the City of Independence:

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Learn more at:

indep.us/facebook

[@CityofIndepMO](https://twitter.com/CityofIndepMO)

[@cityofindependencemo](https://www.instagram.com/cityofindependencemo)

indep.us/nextdoor

indep.us/youtube

indep.us/linkedin

CityScene is published by the City Manager's Office, located at 111 E. Maple Ave., Independence, MO, 64050.

For information, call (816) 325-7086.

Your family can be part of the Gingerbread Trail

Decorate a Gingerbread person (gingerbread mask optional) for the trail on this year's Winter Solstice Torch Lit Hike at George Owens Nature Park with your family, friends, organization or coworkers and let's brighten everyone's holiday season!

Beginning Tuesday, November 3, you can pick up your 4 foot tall cutout for \$15 at either Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity Restore locations. Completed Gingerbread people can be dropped off at George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S Speck Rd, Independence, MO 64057, beginning November 28 and will be open for viewing beginning December 9.

Funds generated go to support Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity's mission.

A special Thank you to the Ft. Osage High School Woodworking classes for cutting out this year's design!

Pickup and Purchase locations:

Available – while supplies last!

Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity ReStores

505 N. Dodgion

Independence, MO 64050

Tues.-Fri: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

1219 NW 7 Highway

Blue Springs, MO 64014

Tues.- Fri: 10 a.m.- 5 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.



**NOW MORE THAN EVER...
GET A FLU SHOT**

Did you know you can get the flu and COVID-19? It is possible to get both the flu and COVID-19 at the same time, which means this year flu vaccinations are more important than ever. Get a flu shot before the end of October, and don't neglect other vaccines.

For the latest updates on changes to services, closings and cancellations in the City of Independence related to COVID-19, please visit indep.us/coronavirus.

Arthritis Foundation Walk With Ease Virtual Program accepting applications

The Arthritis Foundation Walk With Ease Program is an exercise program that can reduce pain and improve overall health. If you can be on your feet for 10 minutes without increased pain, you can have success with Walk With Ease.

Benefits to You

Walk With Ease will help you:

- Motivate yourself to get in great shape
- Walk safely and comfortably
- Improve your flexibility, strength and stamina
- Reduce pain and feel great

Best of all, it's FREE for adults 60+ to participate!

These classes will take place from 10-11 AM on Tuesdays & Thursdays from October 13 through November 19

To register contact The Palmer Center at 816-325-6200 or cdehaan@indepmo.org.

This program is made possible through a collaboration with the Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging and the Missouri Regional Arthritis Centers.

Winter Market

Mark your calendars for the Winter Farmers' Market at the Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd. The Winter Market will occur on the first Saturday each month, December through April. The hours will be 9 AM to 1 PM and will take place on the following dates.

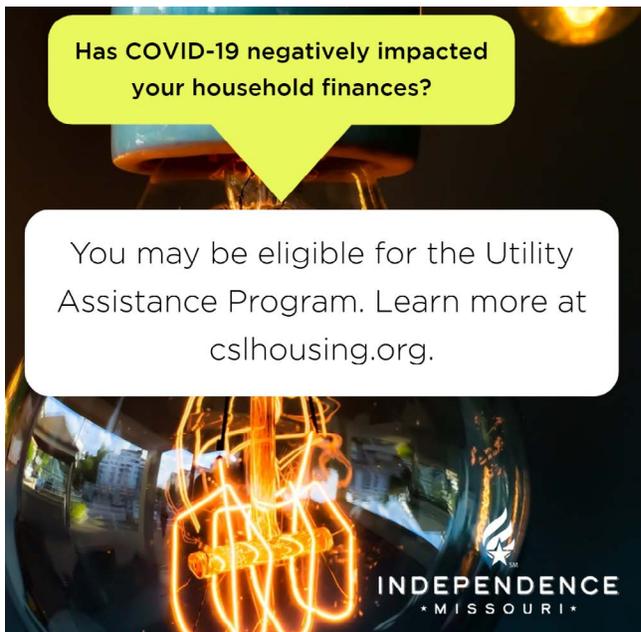
- December 5
- January 2
- February 6
- March 6
- April 3

Follow the Independence Uptown Market Facebook page, [facebook.com/IndependenceUptownMarket](https://www.facebook.com/IndependenceUptownMarket), for updates and details related to vendors at these events.



Utility Assistance Program

Has COVID-19 negatively impacted your household finances? Are you behind on your City of Independence Utilities payments? You may be eligible for the Utility Assistance Program administered by the Community Services League. Visit cslhousing.org to learn how hundreds of Independence residents have already received help paying their bills and finding additional resources in our area. There is nearly \$2 million in assistance available.



Has COVID-19 negatively impacted your household finances?

You may be eligible for the Utility Assistance Program. Learn more at cslhousing.org.

Drug Take Back Event Oct. 24

IPD will participate in a [Prescription Drug Take Back event](#). From 10:00 am to 2:00 p.m. on October 24, the IPD will take and properly dispose of your unused, expired, or unwanted medication. The event will be located in the north City Hall parking lot at 111 E. Maple Ave. just off Truman Road.

The purpose of the event is to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications.

The most common question we receive is regarding the labels on pill bottles. No, they do not have to be removed. Everything recovered is sealed in a box and transported to an incinerator. We can only accept "pharmaceutical controlled substances", no liquids. We also cannot collect any needles/syringes/sharps or inhalers.

The drop-off is anonymous. No ID or proof of residency is required.

We will have a marked police vehicle in the lot where we will accept the items. Please share this with your family and friends who may have old and unused medications in their home.

For more information about this event visit: deatakeback.com

What to do with your fall leaves

Keeping your leaves out of streets and storm drains is just as important as not pouring gasoline or used oil into the street, drain, or creek. Leaves may seem harmless, but if you rake your leaves into the street, those leaves can wash into storm drains and clog them up, which can lead to flooding. They can also deposit too many nutrients into the streams or creeks, which is bad for the environment.

Leaves, like grass, are best managed with frequent mowing to mulch them into the soil. The nutrients from the leaves may not be good for streams but they are great for your soil. If you're going to put down mulch anyway, why not put down a layer of leaves

first and then mulch over the top? You can also compost your leaves, which is a great way to return the leaves to the environment safely. To learn more about compost, visit <http://www.marc.org/Environment/Water/compost.htm>. Or, check out the opportunities for disposal of yard waste at area recycling centers and plan your yard work to take advantage of these sites. Visit http://www.marc.org/Environment/curbside_yard_waste.htm.

For more information about keeping our local streams healthy, contact Municipal Services at 325-7711 or visit our website at independencemo.org.

Best Little Arts and Craft Show goes virtual

Due to COVID-19, the Best Little Arts and Craft Show will be virtual this year. Follow the City's Parks | Recreation | Tourism Department Facebook Page, facebook.com/IndependenceParksandRecreation, for updates on the event and ways to contact participating vendors.



Register to vote.

INDEPENDENCE MISSOURI

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BALLOT BOX

The Voter Registration Deadline in Missouri is October 7. Check your registration status, find your polling location, learn more about absentee voting and see a sample ballot from the Jackson County Election Board at icebmo.org.



Help those in need

The City of Independence Utilities offer utility assistance for low-income seniors and disabled customers through the IRAP program.

For program information, please contact the Community Services League at 816-254-4100 or their offices located at 404 N. Noland Rd.



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 |
| Brice Stewart | District 2 |
| Mike Steinmeyer | District 3 |
| Daniel Hobart | District 4 |
| Karen DeLuccie | At-Large |
| Mike Huff | At-Large |
| City Manager Zachary Walker | (816) 325-7170 |

Where can I...

Pay my Jackson Co. 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 jacksongov.org.

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

CITY7 City of Independence Government Access Television

City Council Meetings

Live meetings: 6 p.m. on Mondays
Replays: 9 a.m. on Mon., Wed., Fri.
1 p.m. on Sun.

Planning Commission Meetings

Live meetings: 6 p.m. on 2nd & 4th Tues./month
Replays: 10 a.m. on Tues. and Thurs.
1 p.m. on Sat.

Learn more at indep.us/city7

Numbers to Remember

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|----------------------|----------|
| Animal Shelter | 325-7207 | Parks & Recreation | 325-7843 |
| Adopt-a-Street | 325-7602 | Park Vandalism | 325-7208 |
| Barking Dogs | 325-7213 | Police Non-Emergency | 325-7300 |
| Building Permits | 325-7401 | Fire Non-Emergency | 325-7123 |
| Business Licenses | 325-7079 | Potholes | 325-7624 |
| City Council Office | 325-7022 | Report Power Outage | 325-7550 |
| City Manager's Office | 325-7170 | Street Lights | 325-7535 |
| Crime Stoppers Tips | 474-8477 | Stormwater Pollution | 325-7727 |
| Drop-Off Depot/Trash | 325-7600 | Utilities | |
| Drugs | 325-6272 | Customer Service | 325-7930 |
| Graffiti | 257-7824 | Pay by Phone | 325-SERV |
| Mayor's Office | 325-7027 | Payment Assistance | 254-4100 |
| Municipal Court | 325-7230 | Weeds, Trash | 325-7193 |
| Neighborhood Watch | 325-7643 | | |

Regional Animal Shelter

Help them find a forever home.
Adopt a homeless pet.

21001 E. Hwy. 78, Independence
Call (816) 325-7207 to set up an appointment today.



Always spay or neuter.

