



## Looking at 2021-2022 City Budget

On Monday, June 21, the Independence City Council approved the City's Fiscal Budget for 2021-2022.

This year was particularly challenging due to budgetary impacts of COVID-19. Total revenues for the General Fund in the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget are \$78,027,743 (including one-time American Recovery Plan funding). Revenue growth is primarily attributable to an estimated 1.5% increase over current fiscal year projected sales taxes revenues. Despite the loss of several major retailers in the last year, this increase is driven by the Use Tax waterfall provision. A total of \$448,000 in Use Tax revenues is expected to waterfall to the General Fund in the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget.

While the sales tax revenue has increased, other budgetary staples such as the Cable Franchise Fee, Telephone Franchise Fee, and Fines and Court Costs have continued to decrease.

To balance this year's budget as required by the Missouri State Constitution, a total of \$3,122,000 in one-time revenues from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) are contemplated for use in the General Fund. The City Council will face challenging decisions over the next year and a half to find further savings or new funding resources to maintain the constitutionally required balanced budget and a healthy fund balance for any future emergencies.

Due to this budget constriction and the lingering economic uncertainty presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, this budget does not include funding for many new programs or initiatives; instead, many of the items that align with the strategic priorities of Independence for All are funded through the ARPA.

General Fund changes of note include:

- \$20,063 for the addition of one part-time Detention Officer.
- Convert 6.0 Police Officer positions to Cadets to begin new recruitment program.
- Full-year funding for Vacant Building Registry Program.
- Full-year funding for Neighborhood Services Manager to build proactive code enforcement capacity.
- Increase of \$1,896,012 for Retiree Health Insurance.
- Continued consolidation of services to drive efficiency—all mowing and grounds maintenance will transition to Municipal Services in the upcoming fiscal year.

During the June 21 meeting, the Council approved an amendment to the proposed budget that will allow the City to reopen the National Frontier Trail Museum and adds additional funds for historic site maintenance and repairs.

They also approved the Expenditure Plan for funds received through ARPA which includes an additional \$300,000 to increase the Health Department budget. This increase is offset by reductions of \$285,000 to the abandoned vehicle enforcement program and \$15,000 for the housing study included in the Proposed Budget. ARPA funds will also be utilized to provide Police hiring incentives, public safety technology, infrastructure investments, and funds directed towards dangerous buildings and illegal dumping.

The new Fiscal Year runs from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. Read the Proposed Budget at [indep.us/proposedbudget2021](https://indep.us/proposedbudget2021).

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### Learn more at:

-  [indep.us/facebook](https://indep.us/facebook)
-  [@CityofIndepMO](https://twitter.com/CityofIndepMO)
-  [@cityofindependencemo](https://www.instagram.com/cityofindependencemo)
-  [indep.us/nextdoor](https://indep.us/nextdoor)
-  [indep.us/youtube](https://indep.us/youtube)
-  [indep.us/linkedin](https://indep.us/linkedin)

# Upcoming events and programs

## Fitness classes

Check out the Parks/Recreation/Tourism website for details on upcoming fitness classes! We are following local guidelines including social distancing and requiring masks to be worn at all times while in the facilities. Come join us for a socially distanced workout with friends at the Sermon Center or Truman Memorial Building.

Find updated information on classes available here, [bit.ly/3hr8GwI](https://bit.ly/3hr8GwI)

## Farmers' Market

Join local farmers and crafters each Wednesday and Saturday from 8AM-1PM at the Independence Uptown Market Farmers' Market.

Follow the Independence Uptown Market Facebook page, [facebook.com/IndependenceUptownMarket](https://facebook.com/IndependenceUptownMarket), for updates and details related to what crafts and produce will be there each week.

## Nature Story Time

Join us at George Owens Nature Park on Thursdays at 10 and 11 AM each week for our Nature Story Time. Dress down and wear old tennis shoes. Appropriate for ages 3—8.

- July 1 Wade in the Creek at Hill Park
- July 8 Catch Grasshoppers
- July 15 Catch Dragonflies
- July 22 Make Owl Calls
- July 29 Build a Bat

Space is limited. Please register at 816 325 7115 or email [parcs@indepmo.org](mailto:parcs@indepmo.org)

## Toddler Town on Tour

Explore playgrounds and enjoy crafts at parks through the City of Independence. Intended for children ages 2-9. Inclement weather may force cancellation. No charge, no pre-registration. Call 816-325-7114 for more info.

July 7: Dickinson Park

1700 Dickinson Rd.

July 14: Glendale Park

16010 E. Crackerneck Rd.

July 21: Santa Fe Park

2731 S. Santa Fe Rd.

July 27: Sycamore Hills

3700 S. Haden Dr.

## Independence Day

July 4 (City offices closed Monday, July 5)

## Drop-off Depot

Saturday, July 10 from 8 AM - 3 PM  
875 Vista Ave.

Independence residents only. Residential items only. No commercial waste allowed. Find prices, accepted items and more at [indep.us/dropoffdepot](https://indep.us/dropoffdepot).

## Popsicles in the Park

We invite you to enjoy this annual, family-favorite from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesdays through July. Performers vary by date.

July 13: Country Club Park

Janie Next Door

Wicked Liars Comedy & Magic

July 20: Glendale Park

Dino O'Dell

Wicked Liars Comedy & Magic

July 27: Sycamore Hills

Drum Safari

Priscilla Howe - Story Telling

## Dragonfly Daze

Saturday, July 17 at George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Rd., 10 AM - 1 PM

Catch all kinds of dragonflies and lots of them. We supply nets, humane containers, dragonflies, and supplies to make your own dragonfly.

## Electronic Recycling

Saturday, July 24 - 9AM - 1PM  
Cable Dahmer Arena Parking Lot

### Recycle for Free:

Computer towers, printers, keyboards, laptops, hard drives, speakers, cell phones, pagers, radios, scanners, VCRs, DVD players, fax machines, answering machines, non-PCB ballasts, stereos, furnaces, water heaters, stoves, microwaves, power tools, restaurant equipment, and more!

### Recycle for a fee:

Console & True Big Screen/Projection TVs - \$50

CRT TVs - \$30

LED, LCD, or Plasma TVs - \$20

Freon containing devices - \$10

CRT monitors - \$5

CASH OR CARD PAYMENTS ACCEPTED

## Loan program available

The Independence Home Energy Loan Program is a partnership between the City of Independence Power & Light Department (IPL) and the City Credit Union to provide low-interest loans to homeowners when they make energy efficient updates to their home. 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 homeowner first submits a Home Energy Loan Application to IPL.
2. Once approved, the homeowner 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 homeowner 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 homeowner schedule an installation date. Once the work is completed the homeowner notifies IPL to schedule for the Certificate of Completion to be completed.
5. The homeowner takes the Certificate of Completion to the Credit Union for proceeds to be issued to the contractor.

For more information please visit our website at [independencehelp.org](https://independencehelp.org) or call (816) 325-7485.

## Historic Homes now open!

The beautiful historic Vaile Victorian Mansion and Bingham-Waggoner Estates have reopened for public tours and events.

The Vaile Mansion is open on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is open on Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The Bingham-Waggoner Estate is open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. - to 4 p.m. They are open on Sundays from 1-4 p.m. The the last tours begin at 3 p.m.



# Celebrating Missouri's Bicentennial

Independence joins communities across the state in the celebration of Missouri's Bicentennial this summer. While the official date is August 10, 2021, events have been planned throughout the summer and across the region:



## Mid-continent Public Library Bicentennial activities

In honor of 200 years of Missouri statehood, MCPL is inviting kids, teens, and adults to "Show Me" their summer reading during its annual Summer Library Program! Program participants who read at least 20 minutes a day can earn free books and qualify to win great prizes, including tickets to the soon-to-reopen Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum. In addition, the Library has a variety of online resources, virtual events, and reading lists related to the state's history.

Learn more at [mymcpl.org/ShowMe](http://mymcpl.org/ShowMe).

## My Missouri Photograph Project at the Midwest Genealogy Center - June 30 - July 11

See work from professional and amateur photographers across Missouri who capture the vast geographic and cultural diversity of our state.

## Mule power to Solar Power - August 2 and 3

See solar cars from colleges across the globe as they compete in the American Solar Challenge. Cars will be on display for the public on the historic Independence Square on August 2 between noon and 7 p.m. Teams will begin their race following the historic Santa Fe Trail at 9 a.m. on August 3. Look for more event details to come.

## Celebrating our state's history and ice cream social

### - August 14, 10 AM to 4 PM

Join us for a fun day of activities at the National Frontier Trails Museum. The Puppetry Arts Institute will have shows at

11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Patrons will be able to explore the Museum free, including the newly restored Pioneer Cabin. The day will end with an Ice Cream Social. Look for more details to come.

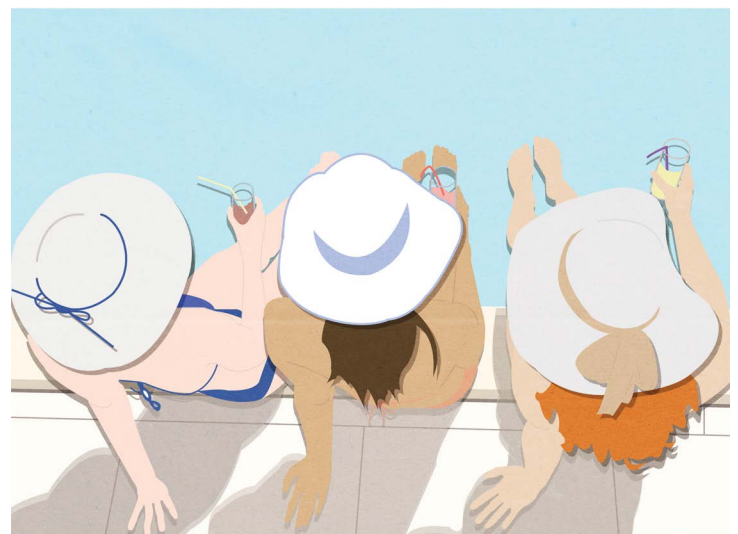
## SantaCaliGon Festival returns - September 3-6

The Annual SantaCaliGon® Days Festival in Independence, Missouri, commemorates the origin of the Santa Fe, California, and Oregon trails during the country's great westward expansion in the 1800s by adventurous pioneers. Today more than 300,000 attendees celebrate family & fun over Labor Day Weekend. This year we celebrate 200 years of Missouri statehood and the 200-year anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail. This event honors and celebrates Independence's role in westward expansion. Attendees celebrate with food, music, arts and crafts, dance, etc. that reflect today and yesterday. There is no admission charge to festival grounds or for concerts. The 2021 Festival is scheduled for September 3-6. Learn more at [santacaligon.com](http://santacaligon.com).

## National Adoption Week Special at Regional Animal Shelter

Independence Animal Services is celebrating summer by partnering with PetSmart for National Adoption Week! For every animal adopted during July 19th – 25th PetSmart will donate \$25 to the Jackson County Regional Animal Shelter.

There will also be an adoption special! Starting July 19 and ending July 25, adoption fees for adult cats are just \$25 and adult dogs are just \$50. Whether you are looking for a partner to enjoy some fun in the sun, or looking to beat the heat in the cold AC, we have the perfect friend for you! This adoption special excludes High Profile Pets. Find all of our adoptable pets at [indep.us/adoptablepets](http://indep.us/adoptablepets).



Spend the summer poolside, not bedside. Get the COVID-19 vaccine today and enjoy those pool parties.



For more information, visit [indep.us/vaccines](http://indep.us/vaccines)

COVID-19 vaccines are free for anyone 12 and older. Find upcoming vaccine clinics and regional vaccine options at [indep.us/vaccines](http://indep.us/vaccines).



# Keep firework left overs out of our streams and waterways

While enjoying the 4th of July celebrations around your home or neighborhood this year, please remember to cleanup any trash from your firework display. Firework debris left on the ground, driveway or in the street pollutes our creeks and streams.



Fireworks contain plastics, heavy metals such as lithium and barium, nitrates, sulfur and other chemicals.

Firework debris can clog storm drains causing flooding. It is also a hazard for vehicles and pedestrians.

Remember the following:

- Soak fireworks in water before they are thrown away
- Never throw fireworks including smoke bombs into storm drains
- Use a broom to clean up smaller pieces
- Do not dump debris into the storm drain
- All storm drains drain directly to the creek

- Be a good neighbor and pick up after your celebration

Remember if it is on the ground, it is in our water.

## FIREWORK SAFETY



Store fireworks in a cool dry place

Light only one firework at a time and use only a punk or an extended butane lighting device

## 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](http://indep.us/city7)

## 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.**



## Where can I...

Pay my Jackson Co. property taxes:  
Historic Truman Courthouse  
112 W. Lexington, Suite 114  
Phone: (816) 881-3232

Apply for a marriage license:  
Historic Truman Courthouse  
112 W. Lexington, Suite 30  
Phone: (816) 881-4608

Pay a ticket issued by the City:  
Independence City Hall  
111 E. Maple  
Phone: (816) 325-7230

## 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
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

## Numbers to Know

Animal Shelter	325-7207
Adopt-a-Street	325-7602
Barking Dogs	325-7213
Building Permits	325-7401
Business/Liquor Licenses	325-7079
City Council Office	325-7022
City Manager's Office	325-7170
COVID-19 Questions	325-7019
Crime Stoppers Tips	474-8477
Drop-Off Depot/Trash	325-7600
Drugs	325-6272
Graffiti	257-7824
Health Department	325-7019
Human Resources	325-7390
Mayor's Office	325-7027
Municipal Court	325-7230
Continuances	325-7236
City Prosecutor	325-7222
Neighborhood Watch	325-7643
Parks & Recreation	325-7370
Park Vandalism	325-7208
Police Non-Emergency	325-7300
Fire Non-Emergency	325-7123
Potholes	325-7624
Report Power Outage	325-7550
Risk Management	325-7061
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
Zoning questions	325-7421

