



“Happiness is... a glass of cold water after a walk home in hot weather.”

- Unknown



The last day to register for the Aug. 2 Election is July 6. Learn more at [jcebmo.org](http://jcebmo.org)

### In this edition:

- 2 | Upcoming events and programs
- 3 | 2022-23 City Budget Theatre Performances Reporting trash and rubbish
- 4 | Protect your info Help beautify our community

### 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)

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

## Be safe in the summer heat

We have seen several very hot days so far in 2022 and it looks like we will see more throughout the summer. It is important you take steps to keep you, your family, and pets safe when temperatures and heat indexes reach triple digits.



### Know the signs of heat-related illnesses

Heat stroke can be life threatening.

Here are symptoms to look for:

- High body temperature
- Hot, red, dry, or damp skin
- Fast, strong pulse
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Confusion
- Passing out

If an individual is showing these symptoms, please call 9-1-1 right away. Move the person to a cooler place and utilize cool clothes or a cool bath to help lower their temperature until help arrives. Do not give the individual anything to drink.

Infants, children under four, people 65 years of age and older, who are overweight, who are ill, or are on certain medications are at an increased risk of heat-related illness.

### Take steps to stay cool when you can

Here are a few tips to help keep you as cool and safe as possible during hot weather:

- Wear loose fitting, lightweight clothing.
- Stay hydrated.

- Avoid outdoor activities when possible. Schedule activities outside of the heat of the day.
- Never leave people or pets in a parked car, even for a minute.
- Wear sunblock and a hat if outdoors.



### Protect your pets

If it is too hot out for us, it is likely too hot for our pets. Make sure pets have access to plenty of fresh water and a cool place to rest. Don't over exercise them and plan exercise when it is cooler outside. Beware that sidewalks and streets may be very hot and could burn your pet's paws. Look for symptoms of overheating such as excessive panting, difficulty breathing, or an increased heart rate. Call your vet if you are concerned.

### Places to cool down

When conditions are met, the Sermon Center, 201 N. Dodgion, may be activated as a Cooling Site for those in need of a cool place to rest and recharge. Watch the City's social media platforms and local news stations for updates.

You can also plan activities in air conditioned venues such as visiting your local library, shopping at the mall, or visiting a local museum. Call United Way 211 for additional cooling sites or options.



### Be prepared

Taking a few steps to prepare and educate yourself on the dangers of hot weather can help you avoid life-threatening situations for you and your family. We will continue to provide updates throughout the summer. Stay cool and stay safe!

# Upcoming events and programs - July - September 2022

## Farmers' Market Wed. and Sat. each week

The Independence Farmers' and Crafters' Market is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. weekly through September. Located at the Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd, find great local produce, baked goods, crafts, and more in the heart of downtown Independence.

## Drop-off Depot

The Drop-off Depot occurs the second Saturday of each month, April through October, weather permitting. It is located at 875 Vista Ave. and is open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. A full list of prices and what is accepted is available online at [indep.us/dropoffdepot](http://indep.us/dropoffdepot).

## Independence Day Celebration

Join us July 2, from 7-10 p.m. for the annual Independence Day Celebration.

Gates will open at the venue, 937 W. Walnut, at 5:30 p.m. Food trucks will be available and live music will begin at 7 p.m. and play through 8:45 p.m. Look for details on the musicians and food trucks available on the Facebook event here, [fb.me/e/1LSz0gtNi](https://fb.me/e/1LSz0gtNi).

The Spirit of Independence Concert Band will play at 9 p.m. and fireworks will begin at 9:30 p.m.

Please note outside fireworks and weapons are prohibited. Smoking, pets, and alcohol will also not be allowed.

## Independence Day Holiday

City offices will be closed on July 4 in honor of the Independence Day Holiday.

## American Solar Challenge Car Show

Join teams as they compete in the American Solar Car Challenge starting from our historic Independence Square.

July 8, Public Display Day – Noon – 7 p.m. Independence Square (W Maple Ave & N Liberty St)

July 9, Race Day set-up starts at 8 a.m. First car leaves at 9 a.m. (W Lexington Ave & N Liberty St)

## Crafternoons at the Uptown Market

Looking for a fun activity to fill those summer afternoons? We have a new program for you! Join us for Crafternoons every other week throughout the summer and get your craft on with family and friends at the Independence Uptown Market. Spots will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

\$5 per person or \$10 per family

Registration is recommended but walk-ins are welcome while supplies last

All community members/all ages welcome!

Dino Dress-up - July 13, from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Summer Succulents: Terrarium Making - July 27 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Back to school: Zipper pulls and bracelets - August 10 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

For more information or to register, contact Amanda at 816-325-7983 or [ahoernicke@indepmo.org](mailto:ahoernicke@indepmo.org)

## Bingham-Waggoner Estate Antique and Craft Fair

Experience the 33rd annual Antique and Craft Fair on July 9 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Stroll through over 100 booths containing everything from grandma's antique rocking chair, handmade jewelry, and bath soap.

Listen to the music of the Independence Music and Arts Institute and the Independence Spirit Band throughout the day while enjoying a burger from the Chuck Waggon Café or a bag of freshly made kettle corn.

Admission and parking are free. For further information please call 816-461-3491 or go to their website at [bwestate.net](http://bwestate.net). Come and join the fun!

## Fun in the Park

Join Parks | Recreation | Tourism staff on July 15 for oodles of interactive games and equipment at the Carriage Hill Green Space, 16841 E. 41 St. S. from 9-11 a.m. We'll help families with kids of all ages get started in fun, unique and engaging outdoor activities designed to increase activity and connections with friends and neighbors! (816) 325-7115 for details.

## Dragonfly Days

Join us on Saturday, July 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. as we hunt for different types of dragonflies including: Dragonhunter, Sulphur-tipped Clubtail, Halloween Pennant just to name a few. Catch and learn about the dragonflies we have at George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Rd. We will supply the nets and humane containers while we identify the dragonflies we catch!

## Historic Property Owner Workshop

Join Historic Preservation Manager Wendy Shay on July 30 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the National Frontier Trails Museum Auditorium, 318 W. Pacific Ave, to learn how to research historic properties and other relevant information for those who own and maintain historic homes in the City of Independence. Free, no reservations needed.

Contact her at [wshay@indepmo.org](mailto:wshay@indepmo.org) or call (816) 325-7419 for questions.

## SantaCaliGon Days

We join the Independence Chamber of Commerce marking the 50th SantaCaliGon Days Festival September 2-5. Take a walk back in time along Main Street 1849, enjoy great live music, your favorite festival foods, and crafters from across the country. Find the latest at [santacaligon.com](http://santacaligon.com).

Interested in volunteering as an individual or group? Contact [fbuhro@indepmo.org](mailto:fbuhro@indepmo.org) to learn more.

## Hummingbird Festival

The Hummingbird Festival returns September 8 through the 10 at the George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Rd. Enjoy dozens of hummingbird feeders along our beautiful walking trails, learn more about these beloved creatures from experts and more. Look for details on specific events and times to come throughout the festival.

## Stories by the Campfire

Join us and storyteller Joyce Slater for Pirates Speak! AARRH on Friday, Sept. 16 from 6:30-8 p.m. at George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Rd. Bring your lawn chair and sit by a roaring fire with great stories. For individuals and families of all ages. Call (816) 325-7115 for more information.





# A look at the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget

On June 21, 2022, the Independence City Council approved the 2022-23 Fiscal Year Budget. The City's fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. The approved budget totals \$338,538,661.

## The process

Each year City staff begin reviewing and preparing for the next fiscal year's budget in December. Staff evaluate current operations, programs, services, and staffing to ensure they are efficient and effective.

Department directors work with the City Manager to review each of their budgets and propose packages targeting key goals of the citizens as outlined in the City's strategic plan, service updates needed to provide top-quality programs for residents, or necessary equipment to keep things moving forward.

The City Manager then works with the Budget Manager to prepare the proposed budget. The proposed budget is presented to Council in May and the Council votes on the approved budget before June 30. The City is required by state statute to have a balanced budget.

## Citizen input

The City has worked to incorporate citizen feedback and input at several points in the budget development process. This includes surveys, town halls, public hearings, and monitoring service request levels across the City's departments.

## Current challenges

Inflation isn't only hitting pocketbooks at home. The City is also facing challenges regarding increased costs for services and equipment. This is further exacerbated with decreased revenues.

As outlined in the Proposed Budget message from City Manager Zach Walker, "Over the past six years, focus has been on prioritizing services, managing expenditures, and

developing and executing plans to address the ongoing structural imbalance that has negatively impacted the City's financial position and service delivery for many years."

## Looking to the future

While the challenges are very real, the City continues to look for innovative ways to deliver the high-quality services our residents rightfully expect.

This year the City will undertake the development of two Master Plans focusing on the future of the National Frontier Trails Museum and Tourism within the City.

Steps are underway to strategically drawdown the fund balance for capital investments in system infrastructure in the Sewer and Water Funds, which allows for the multi-year Water Main Replacement Program.

The Council also approved changes to the City's Personnel Policies and Procedures which will align overtime policies with the Fair Labor Standards Act and best practices among several metro cities.

The City is self-insured and provides health plans to active employees, spouses, and their families as well as retirees, spouses, and their families that are not yet eligible for Medicare. Work is underway to resolve a structural imbalance within this fund—the Stay Well Fund—by the August 1. A cost-avoidance of \$1 million is budgeted and adjustments to the plans must be made to account for the loss of \$6.25 million in ARPA funds that have been directed to the plan between last fiscal year and this fiscal year. Based on the current population, \$145 per capita is spent on health care.

## Learn more

Residents can read the full proposed budget on the City's website here, [indep.us/proposedbudgetfy2223](https://indep.us/proposedbudgetfy2223). The final approved budget will also be added to the website soon.



## Upcoming Community Theatre Performances

The Children's Performing Theatre and Encore Theatre of Independence will present Roald Dahl's Matilda: The Musical on July 8, 9, 15, and 16 at 7 p.m. and July 10 and 17 at 2 p.m. in the Powerhouse Theatre located at the Roger T. Sermon Community Center. Call (816) 325-7367 for reservations.

The City Theatre of Independence will be performing A Midsummer Night's Dream for free to the public on July 15 and August 19 at 8 p.m. at the Liberty Lounge, 110 S. Liberty St.

City Theatre of Independence is performing "Urinetown: The Musical" September 9 through 11, and 16 through the 18. For ticket info call (816) 325-7367.

## Concerns about trash or rubbish in your neighborhood?

The City of Independence Code Enforcement Division responds to citizen complaints about trash and rubbish on private property. Trash accumulation has potential to attract pests such as insects and rodents, creating potential issues for the health and welfare of the public.

The property owner and occupant are sent notification of the violation and given time to correct. However, in some cases when the trash is creating an immediate threat to public health and safety the violation may be deemed an emergency and will be cleaned up by the city with no notification to the owner or occupant. Repeated violations at the same property within a calendar year will result in less time to correct.

Complaints may be filed online at [indep.us/indepnow](https://indep.us/indepnow) or by calling 816-325-7193 option 5.



# Protect your info as you travel

Are you protecting your information when you travel? Here are a few tips to help keep you and your information safe from cyber criminals.

- Update your devices. This can help fix any security flaws and help keep you protected.
- Keep an eye on your devices. While the devices themselves may be costly to replace, the information on them could be even more valuable.
- Delete data from your rental car. If you connect your device to a rental car for navigation or music, be sure to securely remove the device so the car's system

doesn't keep your address book, text messages, or other sensitive info.

- Limit what you share. Criminals may be monitoring social media to know when you are away from home and use that info to contact your family or friends.
- Only use public wifi when you have to. These systems may pose a security risk and allow bad actors to access your information.
- Scan for viruses when you get home. Check for viruses and malware when you get back to make sure you didn't bring anything extra home with you.

**COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES**  
Independence Sustainability Commission is seeking partnerships with local community and neighborhood groups on

**BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS**

INDEPENDENCE MISSOURI

The City's Sustainability Commission is looking for opportunities to partner with local community and neighborhood groups to increase community building and beautification of the city. Activities could include litter cleanup, neighborhood outreach and education, and other beautification projects.

If you or your community group would like to work with the Sustainability Commission regarding a beautification project please contact:

Josh Eis, Environmental Compliance Manager at [Jeis@indepmo.org](mailto:Jeis@indepmo.org) or at (816) 325-7054.

**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**  
21001 E. Hwy 78, Independence, MO

**Help find these pets a forever home.**

Call (816) 325-7207 to set up an appointment.

INDEPENDENCE ANIMAL SERVICES

## 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

Online at [indep.us/citycouncil](http://indep.us/citycouncil)  
Email at [kosborne@indepmo.org](mailto:kosborne@indepmo.org)  
Call (816) 325-7027

### Councilmembers

Rory Rowland	Mayor
John Perkins	District 1
Brice Stewart	District 2
Mike Steinmeyer	District 3
Daniel Hobart	District 4
Jared Fears	At-Large
Vacant	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

