



The last day to register for the Nov. 8 Election is **October 12**. Learn more at jcebmo.org

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

Enjoying fall and making plans

We are all excited to finally see these cooler temps and the leaves starting to change. This edition of the CityScene contains three months worth of activities and programs coming up across the City. We hope you'll add them to your family calendar and join us.

It is important to note that the calendar in this publication does not list all of the upcoming events. We encourage you to check out the City's social media accounts and website to keep up-to-date on any additional programs added to the calendar as well as upcoming Council, board and commission meetings. You can find links for all of these accounts in the lower left hand corner of this page.

You can also sign-up to receive press releases when we make important announcements and meeting agendas here, indep.us/communicationsignup.

Finally, we maintain the digital newsroom which includes links to all recent press releases, social media accounts, the Independence Today bi-weekly update and more at indep.us/newsroom.

The Communications Division is working hard to provide hundreds of updates each month with important information on closures, City services, events, and more.

Thank you for taking the time to read this publication!

What happens next? Overtime investigation next steps

The City announced in February that a Special Counsel would begin an investigation into overtime practices at the Independence Police Department in February. This investigation was the result of a whistleblower report that Independence police officers were completing construction work at IPD headquarters.

In July, Special Counsel Dan Nelson shared a recommendation report and summary of the findings of his investigation. Sharing this information was approved by the City Council. This report included more than 30 recommendations on changes within the City from policies and procedures, to timekeeping software. You can read both of these documents in their entirety at indep.us/investigationpresentation and indep.us/policyrecommendations.

[policyrecommendations](https://indep.us/policyrecommendations).

On September 12, City Manager Zach Walker outlined steps the City has started to address each of the recommendations in this report. These items have been divided into six categories: Construction and Facilities Maintenance, Procurement Compliance Program, Overtime policies and procedures, Compensatory Leave Usage, Workplace Fatigue, and Pension Padding.

A task force within the City's staff is now working on ways to address each area and the City Manager will be providing an update to the Council each month.

You can watch the full presentation provided to council here, bit.ly/3CeNtM

Upcoming events & programs - October-December 2022

Farmers' Market every Saturday in October

The Independence Farmers' and Crafters' Market is open on Saturdays from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. weekly through October. 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 last regular Drop-off Depot of the 2022 Season occurs the second Saturday of October, Oct. 8, 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.

Mayor's Trash Pick-Up

Mayor Rory Rowland invites you to join him on Saturday, Oct. 8, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Rotary Park, 10615 E. 24th St. S., to help clean-up trash and debris.

Volunteers will meet at the Rotary Park Shelter to receive trash bags, gloves, and pickers. Long pants and closed-toe shoes are encouraged.

Historic Architecture Walking Tour

Saturday, Oct. 8, 10-11 a.m.

Truman Courthouse, 112 W. Lexington Ave.

Blood! Blood! A Terrible Killing Affray at Independence - Join Mike Calvert, local historian, and visit the historic spots where great disputes led to The Last Gunfight on the Independence Square! Revisit the fear and chaos among the lives of citizens in Independence, from beginning to end.

This tour is free to the public and will be held at 10 a.m. leaving from the north side of the Truman Jackson County Courthouse.

Spirits with Spirits

Saturday, Oct. 8, 5-8:30 p.m.

Historic Vaile Mansion, 1500 N. Liberty St.

Enjoy the haunting atmosphere of the beautiful Vaile Victorian Mansion while you enjoy spirits from local distilleries and learn more about the spirits believed to haunt the mansion.

Tickets \$50, purchase online: bit.ly/3c9vLWG

Stories by the campfire

Sunday, Oct. 9 - 1:30-3 p.m.

George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Rd.

Enjoy Ghost and Goblins and Monsters and Such with story teller Jim Two Crows Wallen.

Senior Info Fair

Friday, Oct. 14, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Palmer Center, 218A N. Pleasant

Join us for a morning of helpful information, health screenings, door prize giveaways, and free refreshments!

Living a healthy life with chronic conditions

Tuesdays, Oct. 18 & Nov. 22, from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Palmer Center, 218A N. Pleasant

Learn how to better manage symptoms by learning important self-management skills and techniques, such as action planning, healthy eating, and communications with your healthcare team. This 6 week class is FREE for adults 60+. Register by October 4 by calling the Palmer Center at 816-325-6200.

Spooky Skate

Thursday, Oct. 20, 5-8 p.m.

Cable Dahmer Arena, 19100 E. Valley View Pkwy

Enjoy this free trick or treating event at the Cable Dahmer Arena with kids crafts, games, a costume contest, and a free learn to skate min-session from 5-5:30 p.m.. New this year - a Haunted House brought to you by the City Theatre of Independence.

Enchanted Forest

Oct. 21 & 22 - 7-9 p.m.

Oct 28 & 29 - 7-9 p.m.

George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Rd.

Join us for non-scary Halloween fun! Come see some of your favorite characters come to life! \$3 a person. All ages welcomed! Call (816) 325-7115 for questions.



Skate Competition

Saturday, Oct. 22 - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Hill Park, 2201 S. Maywood Ave.

The 8th annual Skateboard competition will take place at Hill Park Skatepark. There will be hot dogs and prizes given away throughout the competition.

Donation Drive

Monday, Oct. 24, 4-7 p.m.

Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd

Join the Independence Health and Animal Services Department, Independence Fire Department, and Independence Police Department as they collect toy donations for the Community Services League.

Trunk-or-Treat with IPD

Thursday, Oct. 27, 6-8 p.m.

Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd

Join the Independence Police Department for this free event!

DEA Drug take-back day

Saturday, Oct. 29 - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

City Hall north parking lot, 111 E. Maple Ave.

IPD will be accepting unneeded medication at the Independence City Hall.

Halloween Parade

Join us on Sat., Oct. 29, at 10 a.m. for the 74th annual Halloween Parade on the Independence Square.

Veteran's Day

City offices will be closed on Friday, Nov. 11, in honor of the Veteran's Day Holiday.

Historic Architecture Walking Tour

Saturday, Nov. 12, 10-11 a.m.

Truman Courthouse, 112 W. Lexington Ave.

Experience the life of a pioneer traveling to Independence, Missouri in the 1840's!

This tour is free to the public and will be held at 10 a.m. leaving from the north side of the Truman Jackson County Courthouse.



Upcoming events & programs cont.

Best Little Arts & Craft Show

Friday, Nov. 18, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 19, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sermon Center, 201 N. Dodgion

Join us for the 40th Annual Best Little Arts & Crafts Show this November! This year there will be four floors with more than 100 vendors.

Square Lighting

Friday, Nov. 18, 6-8 p.m.

It's an Independence tradition! Join us as singers, dancers, and more help us light up the town. We are collecting toys for Community Service League's Christmas store. Bring your own chair if you would like to sit and enjoy the fun. The first 800 people will receive a free light up snowflake necklace.

After watching the Square, Uptown Market and Hiram Young Park light up for the holidays – visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus over hot chocolate and cookies inside the Uptown Market. Make a special holiday ornament that will be added to the Mayor's Christmas Tree for Living Windows on Dec 2.

Enjoy sleigh rides from Pioneer Trails Adventures for only \$5 per person.

This evening is brought to you by the Independence Square Association and the City of Independence.

Thanksgiving

City offices will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 24, and Friday, Nov. 25 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Historic Homes open for Holiday Season

Nov. 25 - Dec. 30.

Historic Vaile Mansion and Bingham-Waggoner Estate

Enjoy beautiful Victorian holiday decorations throughout these historic homes. The homes are available for pre-arranged tours Monday through Wednesday. Open for tours Thursdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m.

Both locations will be closed Dec. 23- 25 for the Christmas holiday. Find more details at vailemansion.org and bwestate.net.

Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

Wednesday, Nov. 30, 7:30-9:30 a.m.

Midwest Genealogy Center 3440 S. Lee's Summit Rd.

Look for ticket information and prices to come out soon.

Living Windows

Friday, Dec. 2, 6-8 p.m.

Join us for this holiday tradition on the Independence Square as shop windows come to life with beloved holiday scenes. You'll find community members acting out favorite holiday movies, music, and more at this great event made possible by the Independence Square Association.

Mayor's Christmas Concert

Sunday, Dec. 4, 1-2 p.m.

Community of Christ Auditorium, 1001 W Walnut St

Enjoy music from local 4th grade students as we celebrate the holiday season. Event is free but donations will be accepted to assist the efforts of the Community Services League.

19th Annual Winter Solstice Torch-lit Hike

Wednesday, Dec. 7 - 5-7 p.m.

George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Rd.

Enjoy the changing of the season with ice sculptures, a campfire, raptors, and more.

Winter Trail at George Owens

December 8, 2022 - January 31, 2023

George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Rd.

Walk the paved trail filled with tree cutouts decorated by local families, businesses, and organizations.

Christmas Holiday

City offices will be closed on Friday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 26, in honor of the Christmas holiday.

Prepare your home for winter

The temperatures are still warm outside, but winter is quickly approaching and now is the time to prepare your home for colder weather. A few simple steps can help you save money by using less energy, and it can also improve the comfort of your home.

- Block drafty windows and doors - If you have drafty doors and windows, you can apply weather stripping to your door frames and the bottoms of windows to prevent the air from leaking in. You can also insulate your windows by installing plastic sheeting or heavy curtains which can help block cold air from getting into your home.
- Use the Sun - On sunny days open your blinds and curtains to let the sunshine through your home. The sun can heat up your home during the day and when the sun sets at night close the blinds and curtains to keep the warm air in.
- Change your furnace filter - Dirty furnace filters obstruct air flow and make your furnace work harder to push warm air throughout the house.
- Use a programmable thermostat - Set your thermostat to a lower temperature during the day when you are away and at night when you are sleeping. Just a couple degrees can save on energy usage.

Working on a residential remodel?

Are you painting, wallpapering, carpeting, tiling, installing cabinets or installing countertops? If you answered yes, then you do not need a building permit. However, if you are doing any of these items and additional work is also associated with this work, such as moving, adding or removing plumbing fixtures or electrical fixtures (such as outlets and lights), a building permit is required. The City of Independence Building Inspection Division issues permits for residential remodels.

Most plans for permits can be drawn and submitted by the homeowner themselves. Our ordinances also allow for a homeowner and occupant of a residence to act as their own contractor. If you have questions about your project, feel free to reach out to us at 816-325-7409, or bpermits@indepmo.org. We have a variety of information packets for various projects.



Focusing on community health

Hoping to get an accurate pulse on Independence's current health needs, the Independence Health and Animal Services Department is launching the 2022 Community Health Assessment. The key part of the assessment is a survey that will be mailed to a randomized sample of households across the city.

"The survey is designed to tell us what is going on in the community, so we can develop programs in response," Health and Animal Services Director Christina Heinen said. "It will allow us to help identify and address the public health needs of the community."

Participants in the current survey will be asked questions about health-related topics such as diet/nutrition, mental health, exercise, tobacco use, alcohol consumption, etc. Once survey data is compiled, health and service organizations will meet to discuss

trends pointed out by the data and develop plans to address major concerns.

Data collected then can be used by the department and other agencies to target grants and other funding. It also will help the department track outcome data related to their current grants and health programs.

The survey will be mailed to a sample of households in early October. Those contacted will be asked to spend about 15 minutes answering the survey questions. Residents who complete the survey can also enter in a drawing for one of 10 Fitbit Charge 5 that will be given away in November.

For additional information on the 2022 Community Health Assessment, which is being conducted in conjunction with the Local Public Health Disparities Initiative, contact the Independence Health and Animal Services Department at 816-325-7186.

CITY COUNCIL

Online at indep.us/citycouncil
 Email at 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
Municipal Court	325-7230
Continuances	325-7236
City Prosecutor	325-7222
Neighborhood Watch	325-7643
Parks Recreation Tourism	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

Snow reminders

It's October and unfortunately in Missouri that means snow can happen at any time. Here are a few reminders to help keep you safe and our City staff safe as we respond to winter weather.

To avoid getting your car snowed in, please park off the street. If parking on the street is unavoidable, vehicles should be parked along

the north side of east-west streets and along the west side of north-south streets.

Please don't crowd our plows. Plows are moving large amounts of snow and visibility is limited. Help us get everyone home safe and give them plenty of space to work.

Look for updates on our social media pages throughout each storm.

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

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

