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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.

## Introducing At-Large Councilmember Bridget McCandless

At-Large Councilmember, Dr. Bridget McCandless, was elected to her first term on the Independence City Council in November 2022 to fulfill the unexpired term of Councilmember Karen DeLuccie. She was sworn in on Nov. 23, 2022.

Dr. McCandless attended University of Missouri-Columbia for her undergraduate degree in Biology followed by her Medical Degree. She completed her residency in Internal Medicine at University of Virginia and later an MBA in Healthcare Leadership from Rockhurst University. After private practice, she founded and ran the Shared Care Free Clinic in northern Independence where she served uninsured adults for 15 years. In 2013, she became the President/CEO of the Health Forward Foundation, a large regional grant making and policy organization. She has served on many local, regional and state boards, and collaboratives.

She and her husband, Dennis, are long-term residents of Independence and have three grown children.

You can contact Dr. McCandless at [bmccandless@indepmo.org](mailto:bmccandless@indepmo.org) or via phone at 816-325-7015.



## Mark your calendar for upcoming Council meetings

The City Council of Independence meets for regular meetings on the first and third Monday of each month. These meetings are moved to Tuesday if there is a holiday on Monday. The Council meets for at least one study session each month. Here are upcoming Council meeting and Study Session dates:

- Tuesday, Jan. 3 - Council Meeting
- Monday, Jan. 9 - Study Session
- Tuesday, Jan. 17 - Council Meeting
- Monday, Feb. 6 - Council Meeting
- Monday, Feb. 13 - Study Session
- Monday, Feb. 20 - Council Meeting
- Monday, March 6 - Council Meeting
- Monday, March 13 - Study Session
- Monday, March 20 - Council Meeting

These meetings will occur in the Council Chambers, located on the lower level of City Hall, 111 E. Maple Ave.

Meetings begin at 6 p.m. and are open to the public. You can also watch them from home on the City's website, our YouTube channel, or for those with Comcast/Xfinity Channel 7.

Watch the City's event calendar, [indep.us/calendar](https://www.indep.us/calendar), for updates or additional meeting dates as they are confirmed.

You can also find agendas for upcoming meetings and videos from past meetings at [indep.us/councilmeetings](https://www.indep.us/councilmeetings).

You can find a recap of key items discussed in each Council Meeting in the bi-weekly Independence Today. This is shared on the City's social media platforms and archived in the newsroom at [indep.us/newsroom](https://www.indep.us/newsroom).

Watch our website and social media for any updates due to weather.



# Upcoming events & programs - January - March 2023

## Winter Farmers' Market

The Independence Winter Farmers' and Crafters' Market is open on the first Saturday of the month December through April from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. 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.

## Winter Trail at George Owens

Available through 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.

## Miracle on South Division Street

January 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, and 15

Powerhouse Theatre, 201 N. Dodgion

Fri. & Sat., 7-9:30 p.m., Sun., 2-3:30 p.m.

The City Theatre of Independence welcomes you to Miracle on South Division Street. A tale of family, secrets, and miracles. It's a show with heart and hilarity sure to entertain.

Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$11 for seniors/students, and \$5 for children.

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

City offices will be closed on Monday, Jan. 16, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

## Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Join us on Monday, Jan. 16, from 7-9 p.m. at the Truman Memorial Building to celebrate the legacy and impact of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Winter Clothing Drive

Thursday, Jan. 19, 3:30-6:30 p.m.

Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd

The City is once again working with the Community Services League to gather winter clothing items for families in need in our community.

## Hogabaloo

Thursday, Feb. 2, 2-4 p.m.

Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd

Did you know National Hedgehog Day is an ancient Roman tradition predating our celebration of Groundhog's Day? Celebrate all things hedgehog at this free event with a children's story, hedgehog craft, and a special appearance from two prize-winning hedgehog guests!

## Paint and Sip

Friday, Feb. 10, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd

Join us at the Independence Uptown Market from 6:30-9 p.m. for a couple's paint and sip. Enjoy each other's company while tasting wine and painting. The event is \$15 per person.

## Give a book, take a book

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2-4 p.m.

Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd

Share the love with our Give a Book, Take a Book event at the Independence Uptown Market.



We welcome all ages to this book exchange for National Book Giving Day. This is a free event to the public.

## Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Feb. 24-26, March 3-6

Powerhouse Theatre, Sermon Community Center, 201 N. Dodgion

The Children's Performing Theatre presents The Wizard of Oz! Performances feature children ages 5-15. Come support the hard work of these great young actors.

Performances on Friday and Saturday begin at 7 p.m. Sunday performances begin at 2 p.m.

Call (816) 325-7367 or visit the Sermon Center front desk, 201 N. Dodgion, to reserve your seats. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors, and \$4 for children 12 and younger.

## International Women's Day Celebration

Wednesday, March 8, 7-9 p.m.

Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd

Join us at the Independence Uptown Market on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 as we recognize International Women's Day! This year's theme is #EmbraceEquity. Grab your gal pals and celebrate with us, and don't forget to wear purple! Additional details of the celebration will be shared closer to the event.

## Chia Day

Thursday, March 23, 7-9 p.m.

Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd

How's this for a Throwback Thursday- we will be making our very own Chia pets from clay and, you guessed it: Chia seeds. Did you know that Chia pets were invented in the 80's? Or that Chia seeds are one of the rare superfoods because of their amazing nutritional value? Learn more fun facts and how to create your very own pet when you come and celebrate Chia Day in the best and only way we can think of! Registration information will be available soon.

## Little Princess Ball

Friday, March 24, 6-9 p.m.

Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple

Create a special memory with the little girls in your life at the Little Princess Ball! This Father-Daughter dance returns to the Truman Memorial Building on March 24, from 6-9 p.m.

Look for ticket details to come closer to the event.

## Vaile Spring Tea - Celebrating Queen Elizabeth

Saturday, March 25

Vaile Mansion, 1500 N. Liberty St.

Mark your calendars for this fun event. More details to come.



## Winter ready - get the scoop on ice melt

In Missouri, ice and snow are an inevitable part of winter. Having ice melt is an important way to help keep your sidewalks safe. Here are a few steps you take in de-icing to help your yard, driveway, the environment, and the stormwater system.

### Shovel Snow

Minimize snow and ice by shoveling. By shoveling often during a snow event, the easier it will be. Don't wait until after all the snow has fallen.

### De-icer: Do not overuse

Remember, the job of a de-icer is to loosen ice from below making it easier to shovel or plow. Use the right de-icer for the job. There are many types of de-icers and their application rates and effective temperatures can vary significantly. Using more than recommended may seem like it will make your job easier. Instead, it will cause harm to your driveway, sidewalks, plants, and local streams when the snow melts. Be cautious with de-icing product. Over application may cost you more money fixing these issues later on. Products that contain nitrogen-based urea, magnesium chloride, potassium chloride and calcium chloride maybe advertised as pet and environmentally safe, but they are also common fertilizers. With over application it can be harmful to creeks and streams. De-icers have different effective temperatures and below that loose effectiveness. Remember that the ice melt

you apply to the driveway can runoff into the street, down the stormwater drain, and pollute our local lakes and streams. Fertilizer pollution is a driving factor in algae blooms in the spring and summer. Avoid Using Kitty Litter and Sand Neither melts snow nor ice, and they tend to get messy when it warms up. Sand may provide traction in the snow and ice. However, once the area dries, sand quickly becomes a hazard, making roads and sidewalks slippery. Kitty litter is clay based and, once saturated, becomes gooey and messy. Part of the winter challenge is balancing personal safety, environmental safety, and the cost of snow and ice removal. Keeping these simple tips in mind will help your winter de-icing chore be more efficient and your spring will have a better chance of being green.

The following are popular ice melts and their effective temperature range.

Ice Melt Type	Effective Temps
Rock Salt (Sodium Chloride)	12°F
Calcium Chloride	-25°F
Magnesium Chloride	5°F
Potassium Chloride	20°F
Urea	20°F
Calcium Magnesium Acetate	20°F

## Looking back and what's coming up

A new year, new goals, new decisions to make. Looking back at 2022, there were several important steps taken to improve the services and programs provided by the City of Independence to our residents, businesses, and visitors but there is more to do. Here are a few key steps taken in 2022:

- Changes were made to the pavement management program (such as increasing the use of intermediate maintenance treatments) to help improve road quality ratings and bring them in line with national and regional standards. This also enabled the treatment of more lane miles this year than in the past.
- We completed a community health assessment, receiving almost 1,000 responses from our residents. Results will be made available at the beginning of 2023.
- We significantly increased the number of proactive code enforcement and significantly increased our compliance with dangerous buildings.

- Departments across the City collaborated on the Homeless Initiative along with community members and organizations.

Now what are some key things coming in 2023? Here are a few to watch for:

- The Independence Police Department is developing a new Strategic Plan and updating their Patrol Division deployment structure.
  - A Tourism and National Frontier Trails Museums Master plan is now underway and the results will be shared with the public in 2023.
  - Several development projects approved in 2022 may start construction in 2023.
  - Several enhancements to the Right-Of-Way process will be implemented in 2023. This includes enforcement improvements to ensure a higher level of accountability for contractors that conduct work in the right-of-way.
- Look for updates on these items in future CityScenes and at Council meetings throughout 2023.

## Dangerous and unsafe buildings

The City's Dangerous and Unsafe buildings are handled by the Building Inspections division of the Community Development Department.

Structures are tagged dangerous or unsafe based on criteria listed in the City's municipal code. Unsafe structures are usually due to unsanitary living conditions or other conditions that present health, safety and welfare concerns. Dangerous structures usually have structural issues or have been left abandoned in excess of six (6) months.

Both dangerous and unsafe to occupy cases are relegated to strict procedures, mainly laid out by state statutes. Every step is crucial in making sure an owner has due process before the City takes action.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Community Development Department at 816-325-7404, or [SRinehart@indepmo.org](mailto:SRinehart@indepmo.org).

## Volunteers wanted

The City of Independence has nearly 40 boards and commissions, all filled by citizen volunteers. This is a phenomenal way to get involved in your community. From the Public Utility Advisory Board to the Human Relations Commission, these boards are regularly providing feedback and policy recommendations to the City Council which will shape our community for decades to come.

You can find a full list of boards and commissions, including all current openings at [indep.us/boardscommissions](http://indep.us/boardscommissions). At the bottom of this page you will also find the application to be considered for any of these openings.

**Your voice matters. Help shape our community by serving on a board or commission.**  
Learn more at [indep.us/boardscommissions](http://indep.us/boardscommissions)





# Tips to help prevent frozen pipes

In December 2022, we saw dangerously cold temps and received many calls from citizens with frozen pipes. Unfortunately, we don't know what is in store for the rest of this winter but we do know a few simple steps that can save you and your wallet a bit of pain.

- Know the location of your master water shut off valve and educate all household members where it is located in case of an emergency.
- If you will be away from home for an extended time, shut off the water supply and drain the system.
- If you leave for only a few weeks, set the thermostat high enough so the temperature in your basement will offset a severe temperature drop.
- If your kitchen or bathroom sink is located against an outside wall, insulate the wall.
- For mobile homes, make sure the skirting is in place.
- Water pipes under the trailer can be wrapped with insulation and/or heat tape.
- Be sure pipes in unheated parts of your home, including crawl spaces, are insulated.
- Wrap exposed water pipes with

insulation and/or heat tape. Pipe wrapping materials can be found at local hardware stores.

- Plug up drafty cracks and repair broken window panes.
- Keep the Garage Door closed as much as possible.
- Prior to freezing temperatures, remove hoses from outside faucets and be sure they are drained and shut off.
- Keep meter box lids closed to prevent cold air from freezing the water meter.
- Provide ventilation to pipes by allowing warmer air to circulate around the pipes, such as opening cabinet doors below the sink.
- If you have experienced problems in the past – during sub-zero periods, keep steady streams of water the size of the lead in a pencil running from the faucet highest in the house. **Do this only if the pipes are not already frozen.**
- NEVER use antifreeze to keep pipes from freezing. The chemicals could be drawn back into the water supply and contaminate the system. Antifreeze residue is also very difficult to remove from your water pipes.

Find more tips and information at [indep.us/frozenpipes](http://indep.us/frozenpipes).

## 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
Dr. Bridget McCandless	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

# 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)

Expand your family by four feet.

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

## Regional Animal Shelter

21001 E. Hwy 78, Independence, MO



## 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

