

CityScene



January 2008
Volume 15 Number 1

www.independencemo.org
City of Independence, MO

Council Okays Jackson Drive Extension

The City Council in December approved an \$11.8 million contract to construct Jackson Drive from 37th Terrace north to R.D. Mize Road. The starting point is to the immediate northeast of the AMC Theater complex.

City Manager Robert Heacock said the extension of Jackson Drive is a companion piece to the Little Blue Parkway and will help open the area to future development.

"This is a significant project that will keep the economic engine moving in Independence," Heacock said.

"It will also provide better and easier north-south access to the Centerpoint Medical Center of Independence, which

is something we had promised from the beginning," Heacock said.

The 0.8-mile Jackson Drive extension will feature a large culvert, two bridges, a signalized intersection with R.D. Mize Road and a four-lane roadway with a viaduct that will provide views of the Little Blue Valley. It will extend to an area where the Independence School District has plans for two new facilities (a high school and an elementary school) and to the Metropolitan Community College campus.

Pre-construction conferences between the contractors and City staff will be held in January and construction could begin sometime in February.

Dolls on Display February 16-18

Those who collect and appreciate dolls, history and good family fun will be able to satisfy their cravings for all three in a flurry of doll related activities set for the weekend of Saturday through Monday, February 16 -18. The three-day event will include a doll exhibit at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific, sponsored by the Santa Fe Trails Doll Club.

Neil Foster, noted doll appraiser, will be available at the estate Saturday and Sunday and for a fee of \$5 per item will set a value on dolls brought in by the public.

Additional dolls will be displayed at the Chicago and Alton Railroad Depot, across the street at 318 W. Pacific, and the Vaile Victorian Mansion, 1500 N. Liberty. The exhibits will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily at all three sites. Admission at the Vaile Mansion and Bingham-Waggoner Estate will be \$5 for adults and \$2 for children, which includes tours of the homes. Admission to the Depot is by donation.

The National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific, will host a program from 10 a.m. to 11:30 on Saturday about Josephina Montoya, the Santa Fe themed doll from the popular "American Girls" doll series. Admission is \$7 per person and reservations are requested to 325-7575. Also at 2 p.m. Saturday, a professional storyteller will share legends and stories of Native Americans. This program is free with regular museum admission, which is \$5 for adults, \$3.50 for ages 6-17.

The Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Road, will present an original show, "The Doll's Marionette Show - Little Red Riding Hood", at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday and Monday. The \$5 per person ticket includes admission to the exhibits and a finger puppet.

Volunteers Honored at Breakfast

More than 300 volunteers were treated to breakfast on a recent Saturday morning served by Mayor Don Reimal, Councilmembers Lucy Young, Jim Schultz, and Marcie Gragg and several City department heads.

As the volunteers worked their way through a breakfast buffet, Mayor Reimal had the chance to thank each personally for their service. The breakfast was held at the Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple.

"The City could never afford to employ nor pay for all of the hard work done by volunteers in virtually every City department," Mayor Reimal said. "Your volunteerism is a priceless gift that reminds us just how much you appreciate this City."

Some of the areas that benefit from the volunteer program include the



Mayor Don Reimal served up biscuits at the recent Volunteer Breakfast.

Powerhouse Theatre Program, Senior Adult Nutrition Program at the Palmer Center, George Owens Nature Park, the Animal Shelter, Police and City Tourism sites.

Citizens who would like to become a volunteer can call Helen Matson at 325-7860.

WPC Urges Proper Disposal of Cooking Oil, Grease

Most of us don't think of cooking oil and grease as hazardous, except maybe to our waistline. Cooking oils, grease and fat are great for frying and coating pots and pans. But pouring the residue down the drain causes grease to stick to the insides of sewer pipes, both on your property and further down in the sewer system.

"Over time, the grease can build up and block the entire pipe," Dick Champion, Water Pollution Control director, said. "If your sewer line becomes clogged, it can back up wastewater into your home and an expensive and unpleasant cleanup may be needed.

"Clogged pipes further downstream in the sewer system can cause wastewater to overflow into streets or yards or to back up into other homes," Champion explained.

The easiest way to prevent grease problems is to keep grease from getting into the sewer system in the first place.

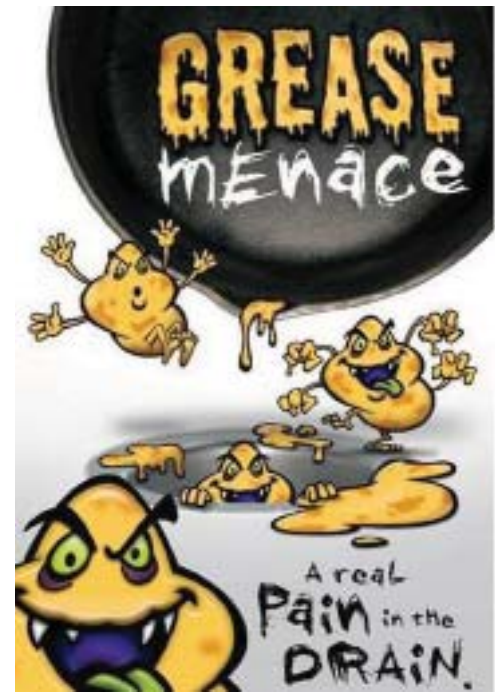
Grease is discharged in relatively small quantities from thousands of households and in larger quantities from restaurants. Restaurants are required to install grease traps or interceptors to control the amount

of grease discharged from their kitchen operations.

Champion said if residents and businesses decrease the amount of fats, oil, and grease going into the sewer system, it will benefit the health of the community, help protect the environment and decrease sewer maintenance costs.

WPC offers the following tips:

- Never dump grease down the drain.
- Scrape grease and food scraps from dishes and pans into the trash prior to washing.
- Wipe grease out of pots and pans with a paper towel before washing dishes.
- Avoid putting greasy foods into garbage disposals. Instead, use a strainer to keep grease and solids out of the sewer.
- Never dump any oil or grease into a storm drain. Storm water in Independence is not treated. Oil dumped into storm drains pollutes our local streams.
- Cooking grease, such as bacon grease, lard and vegetable shortening, which at room temperature is solid may be placed in the trash. Small quantities of liquid cooking oil should be placed in a sealed container with an absorbent material, such as paper towels, shredded newspa-



per or rags, and disposed of in the trash. The absorbent material keeps oil from leaking out of the garbage truck.

Residents can help protect homes and the environment from problems caused by improper disposal of grease and oil. For more information or to receive a free brochure titled "Fat-Free Sewers" call WPC at 325-7711.

Watch City Meetings On Streaming Video

City Council meetings and study sessions are available as live and archived streaming video on the City's Web site, www.independencemo.org

Each live City 7 TV broadcast is available online during the 6 p.m. Monday meetings. An archive of the program is available on the site the next morning for viewing 24 hours a day. Archived videos are available for a few months following their posting. If you do not have a computer but would like to purchase a copy of a Council meeting call 325-7019.

Recycling Centers

The City operates two recycling centers. The recycling centers and their operation days and times are:

35th Street Recycling Center
13600 E. 35th Street
 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Fridays
 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturdays

Vista Drive Recycling Center
875 Vista Drive
 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sundays
 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Mondays

Hot Line Directory



Barking Dogs	325-7213
Crime Stoppers Tips	474-8477
Drop-Off Trash	325-7623
Drugs	325-6272
Pit Bulls	325-7762
Potholes	325-7624
Report Power Outage	325-7550
Street Lights	325-7535
Storm Water Pollution	325-7727

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor	
Don Reimal	325-7027
City Council Office	325-7022
Councilmembers	
Marcie Gragg	District 1
Will Swoffer	District 2
Renee Paluka-White	District 3
Jim Page	District 4
Jim Schultz	At Large
Lucy Young	At Large
City Manager	
Robert Heacock	325-7170



Utility Bill Payment Options

The City of Independence offers many convenient options for paying utility bills.

To pay by phone call 325-SERV

You will need to have your Account Access Code and your utility account number in order to pay by phone.

To pay online go to www.independencemo.org

NOTE: There is a \$1 per month discount offered to residential customers age 62 or older on their sewer bill if they receive Social Security payments (or similar retirement benefits) and their sewer usage is 100 to 400 cubic feet per month. Call 325-7930 for more information.

Parks & Rec Events Slated for February

Power Palooza

Children, young and old can attend the 4th Annual Power Palooza, a carnival event complete with games, face painting, puppet shows, and food such as cotton candy. Entertainment includes traveling troubadours and clowns.

Tickets for the games and activities range from 25 cents to \$1 and can be purchased at the door. The Power Palooza is 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday, February 2 at the Rodger T. Sermon Community Center, 201 N. Dodgion.

The event is sponsored by the Powerhouse Theatre Foundation to benefit the Powerhouse Theatre. For more information, call 325-7370.

Ballroom Valentine Dance

Put on your dancing shoes for an evening of ballroom dancing to the "Big Band" sounds. Light refreshments will be served. Dance lessons will be provided prior to the dance from 6-7 p.m. for a small fee of \$2. The Valentine Dance is 7-9 p.m., Saturday, February 9, at the Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple. For additional information, call 816-325-7843.

Valentine Cookie Party

Grandparents can create lasting Valentine memories with their grandchildren. Bring children ages 3 and older to decorate cookies at the 4th Annual Valentine Cookie Party from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, February 9 at the Palmer Center, 218A N. Pleasant St.

Each child will decorate six cookies. Cookie decorating supplies and refreshments are included in the price of \$3 for grandparents and \$1 for each grandchild. To register, or for more information, call 325-6200.



Cupid's Ball

This Parent/Child Dance is an inter-generational event for children of all ages to attend an evening of dance with the parent of their choice. The cost is \$5 for adults and children are free. The dance is 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Friday, February 15 at the Truman Memorial Building 416 W. Maple. For more information, call 325-7843.

Backpacking 101

Learn everything you wanted to know about backpacking, a physical activity that is enjoyed by millions. Learn about types of equipment, places to go and much more. This class will be from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday, February 23 at the George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Rd. Call 325-7115 to register or for more information.

Dolls From Page 1

On Monday, President's Day, the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, 500 U. S. 24 Highway, will offer fresh cookies made from the recipes of some of America's past presidents to visitors who would like to meet "Harry" himself from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event is free with regular museum admission of \$7 adults, \$5 seniors, and \$3 ages 6-18. After chatting with Harry, check out the new side-by-side exhibits on Truman, Israel, and the holocaust of World War II. The exhibits, which commemorate the 60th anniversary of President Truman's recognition of Israel, will be on view February 15 through April 13 and are free with regular paid admission.

Doll collectors who are willing to loan dolls for display at the Vaile Mansion or Chicago and Alton Depot, call Diana Marr at 325-7108.

Comfort Inn and Suites will offer a discount lodgings package for the weekend. More information is available by

calling 325-7108 or by visiting www.visitindependence.com.

IShare

UTILITY ASSISTANCE

254-4100

FREEDOM from SMOKING

FREE CLASSES!

REGISTER TODAY! CALL 816-325-7185

INDEPENDENCE

HEALTH

DEPARTMENT

CityScene is published monthly by the City Manager's Office, 111 East Maple Street, Independence, Missouri 64050. Editor: Irene Baltrusaitis, Communications Director, 325-7019. The City's webpage address is www.independencemo.org

City Council

6 p.m. Mondays
10 a.m. Tuesdays
7 p.m. Wednesdays
2 p.m. Sundays

Planning Commission

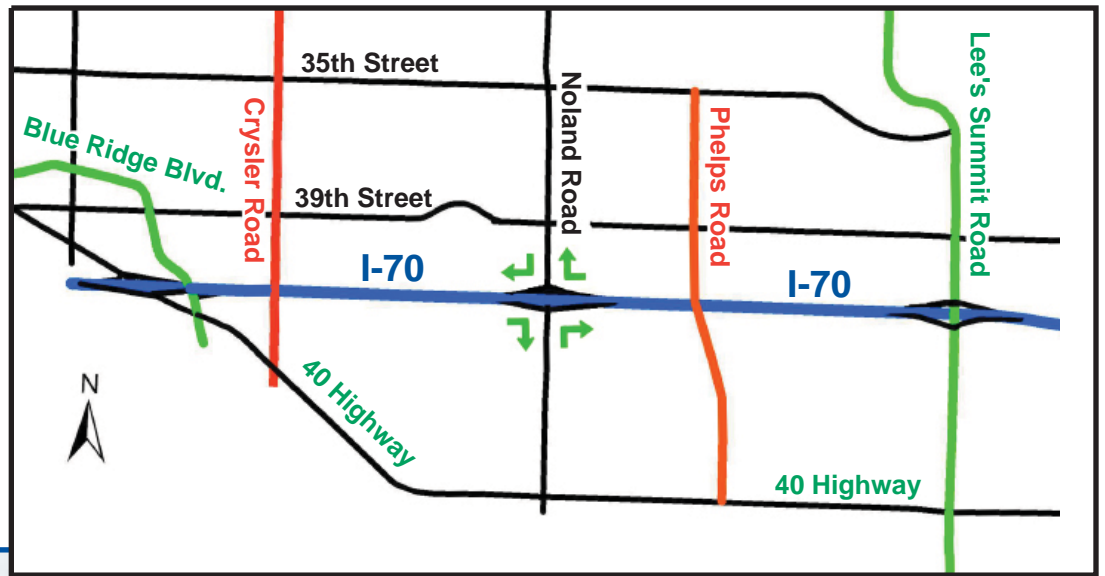
6:30 p.m. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays
10 a.m. Wednesdays
2 p.m. Thursdays

For more information:
www.City7.TV

Noland Road Bridge Over I-70 Replacement



The Noland Road Bridge over I-70 will be closed for three months beginning in late February 2008. It will reopen to traffic in May.



Bridge Construction

Detours with ramp access to I-70 during construction:

- *To the east of Noland Road use Lee's Summit Road
- *To the west of Noland Road use Blue Ridge Boulevard and 40 Highway

Streets over I-70 with no ramp access:

- *Crysler Avenue
- *Phelps Road

Ramp Construction

- *Ramps will be open during bridge work
- *Reconstruction of the ramps begins when the new bridge is open to traffic
- *Ramps will close one at a time for no more than 14 days while each is being reconstructed

Even though the bridge will be removed and travel over I-70 at Noland Road will not be possible during bridge construction, motorists can still access I-70 from Noland Road. For example, drivers traveling north on Noland Road from 40 Highway will be able to exit to eastbound I-70.

During the entire construction project there will be electronic message boards along Noland Road and I-70 giving direction to motorists. We'll do all we can to keep you updated so you can prepare for any delays or road closures. Your patience is appreciated during this construction project.

What: Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) will remove and rebuild Noland Road Bridge over I-70.

Why: Noland Road Bridge is 40 years old and near the end of its useful life. The bridge must be replaced to ensure traffic safety on Noland Road and I-70.

Bridge Construction: February-May 2008

Ramp Construction: May - September 2008

Cost: \$9.26 Million

For more information:

Check the City's Web site at www.independencemo.org for updates.



Acting Public Works Director
John Powell
Traffic Engineer
Donna Coatsworth
816-325-7600



MoDOT Project Designer
Susan Nelson
816-622-6500