



## Martin Luther King Celebration



Nancy Harris, Community of Concerned Citizens, presented Cmdr. Carlton Philpot, keynote speaker, with a certificate of appreciation.



### CityConnect

Go to City7.TV to view the speech given by Cmdr. Carlton Philpot at the 2008 Martin Luther King Celebration.

**Commander Carlton G. Philpot was the keynote speaker at the 2008 Martin Luther King Celebration at the Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple. Philpot is a Navy veteran who served 24 years.**

**Cmdr. Philpot urged everyone to learn as much as they can about King's vision and spoke of President Harry S Truman's similarities to King.**

**Two students were recognized for their writing abilities. Eva Deel, Bingham Middle School, won the Middle School Essay Award and Danny Franklin, Truman High School, was awarded the John Olivarez Scholarship.**

**Nina Falls was presented the MLK Human Relations Commission Award.**

**Event Sponsors were the Community of Concerned Citizens, the City, Independence Ministerial Alliance, Independence School District, Local Investment Commission, Independence Human Relations Commission, St. Paul A.M.E. Church and Midwest Pool Management.**

## March Brings Events At Historic Homes

By March, the snow could be long gone and spring bulbs might be blooming in time for events at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific and Vaile Mansion, 1500 N. Liberty.

Doors will open at noon Saturday, March 15, at the Bingham-Waggoner for this year's "Mad Hatter's Tea Party," the Estate's 21st annual fashion show and luncheon. The Alice in Wonderland theme decorations will include teapots, playing cards, rabbits, hats and flowers.

The latest spring and summer fashions from Macy's will be modeled throughout the historic home while guests are served lunch.

"Ladies can put on their Sunday best hat and join our Mad Hatter tea," Cheryl Coffman, event co-chair, said. Tickets are \$20 per person. Reservations are required. Call 461-3491 or go to [www.bwestate.org](http://www.bwestate.org).

Clothes from the Victorian era to the 1950s will be modeled for the Vaile Mansion spring tea from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 29. The event "A Ginger Rogers Tea Party," honors dancer and movie star Ginger Rogers, whose hometown was Independence.

Volunteers will serve a traditional tea menu including finger sandwiches, petit fours, punch and desserts. There will not be a children's tea this year, but there will be refreshments and entertainment.

Attendees are encouraged to wear hats and/or historic clothing. Call 478-3334 for tickets, which are \$20 and must be purchased in advance. Learn more about the tea at [www.vailemansion.org](http://www.vailemansion.org).

With the April 1 season opening of the Bingham-Waggoner, Vaile, Chicago & Alton Depot, Pioneer Spring Cabin, and 1859 Jail and Marshal's Home, Tourism Volunteer Coordinator Cathy Offutt asks residents to consider becoming a volunteer at one of the City's historic sites. Call Offutt at 325-7112 to volunteer.

## 353 Tax Abatement Orientation in March

The City continues to accept applications and is conducting an orientation session in March for the Fairmount-Carlisle 353 Tax Abatement Program.

The orientation session will be at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 26 at the Fairmount Community Center, 608 S Ash. City staff will be available to assist residents with completing the tax abatement applications.

The Fairmount-Carlisle 353 Redevelopment Plan is designed to increase commercial and residential development in Northwest Independence by allowing tax abatements for redeveloped property.

The Fairmount-Carlisle 353 Tax Abatement area, which is comprised of the Fairmount and Carlisle neighborhoods and portions of the Mt. Washington and Bundschu neighborhoods, is located in northwest Independence.

The area is bounded generally on the far west along Brookside Avenue; the northern boundary of the city and along the boundary with the City of Sugar

Creek, along US 24 Highway, south along a line just west of Forest Avenue and along Truman Road.

"The 353 plan offers residents an incentive to rehabilitate their home by offering a tax break," Jay Leipzig, Neighborhood Services Manager, said. "Program participants are freed of property taxes for the first 10 years and receive 50 percent abatement for the following 15 years if they invest a specified amount in upgrading their property."

The process is simple and any homeowner is eligible, Leipzig said.

Applications for the Fairmount-Carlisle Parcel Specific Tax Abatement Program are available at two locations:

City Hall, Community Development Department, 111 East Maple, Independence, Missouri 64050

Fairmount Community Center, 608 S. Ash Avenue, Independence, Missouri 64053

Another tax abatement orientation is planned April 23.

## Coupons to Ease TV Transition

If you use “rabbit ears” or a rooftop antenna with your analog television, you must take some action to continue receiving television broadcasts.

At midnight on February 17, 2009, all full-power television stations in the United States will stop broadcasting in analog and switch to 100 percent digital broadcasting. Digital broadcasting promises to provide a clearer picture and more programming options. More importantly, it will free up airwaves for use by emergency responders.

To help ease transition for citizens, the Federal Government has developed a coupon program to help owners of older televisions buy the converter boxes in anticipation of the nation’s switch to digital broadcasting.

Congress created the TV Converter Box Coupon Program for those households wishing to keep using their analog TV sets after February 17, 2009. This program allows U.S. households to obtain up to two coupons, each worth \$40, which can be applied toward the cost of eligible converter boxes.

### A television connected to cable, satellite or other pay television service does not require a converter box from this program. Consumers have a variety of options, including:

## Hunter Education Classes in March, April

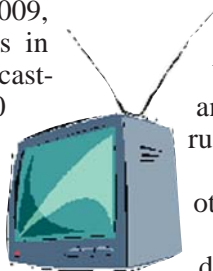
The Parks and Recreation Department in partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation will offer Hunter Education courses in March and April at the George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Rd.

The sessions are from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday March 4, 5 and 6 or April 15, 16 and 17.

Hunter education classes provide a foundation in hunting safety and ethics that helps hunters focus on more than just being successful in the pursuit of game. Students receive 10 hours of classroom training and must take a written examination.

Upon course completion, students will have been informed of:

- How to be a safe, ethical hunter
- How to handle firearms safely
- Respect for landowners and their property
- Obeying the law
- Recognizing the importance of hunting and the role hunters play in wildlife management.



lite or other pay television service does not require a converter box from this program. Consumers have a variety of options, including:

- Keep your existing analog TV and purchase a converter box. The box plugs into your TV and will keep it working after February 17, 2009; or
- Connect to cable, satellite or other pay service; or
- Purchase a television with a digital tuner.

Between January 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009, you can request a coupon while supplies last in one of four ways:

- Apply online through the City’s web site at [www.independencemo.org](http://www.independencemo.org). A PDF application form is available in addition to a link to the Department of Commerce Web site: [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov)
- Call the Coupon Program 24-hour hotline at 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009), TTY 1-877-530-2634
- Mail a coupon application to: P.O. BOX 2000, Portland, OR 97208-2000
- Fax a coupon application to 1-877-DTV-4ME2 (1-877-388-4632)

Anyone born on or after January 1, 1967 must obtain an approved hunter education certificate card before purchasing a hunting license.

Classes are a minimum of 10 hours and are for persons 11 years of age or older.

Registration is required at least three business days before the course by calling 325-7370.

## 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](http://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.

## Yard Sign Guidelines

Have you asked why your yard sale sign has disappeared? Are you a Realtor missing your sign? Independence City Ordinance SEC.17.01.005 states what makes an illegal sign.

Yard sale signs are allowed just prior to a sale, but must be removed as soon as the sale has ended.



City Ordinance states that no person shall print, paint, place, post or otherwise affix any sign, hand-bill or poster on any sidewalk, street, street right-of-way or other public property or public easement, or to or upon any utility pole, street sign, light pole, tree or other structure located on public property or public easement.

All illegal signage will be removed by volunteers who want to see this city cleaned up of these signs that regularly become litter on the streets.

To obtain a copy of this ordinance call 325-7015.



## City Drop-Off Depot

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Second Saturday Of Each Month

Starting New Season  
In March!

875 Vista Drive  
325-7623

Truman Road  
East of M-291,  
One Mile North  
On Vista Drive  
Next to Animal Shelter



Trash: Cars, \$10;  
Vehicles Larger Than Car, \$15;  
Trailers 8 Feet or Longer, \$25  
Brush: Limbs, Firewood, Bushes,  
Stumps. No Leaves or Grass: \$10  
per load

Major Appliances: \$15 Each  
Batteries & Lawnmowers:  
Free

Tires: Car, \$1; Mounted Car, \$3;  
Truck, \$4; Mounted Truck, \$10;  
Farm/Tractor, \$15

Residential vehicles only, no commercial. No vehicles larger than a pick-up truck. Proof of residency required.

## Enroll Now for the 32nd Independence Police Academy

For a first-hand look at the Independence Police Department, residents can sign up for the 32nd Independence Police Academy, which begins Thursday, March 6 at the Police Headquarters Building, 223 North Memorial Drive. The class is scheduled to meet from 6:30 to 9 p.m. every Thursday. The 12-week academy will conclude May 22.

"The academy is a program popular with all who attend," Sgt. Don Fowler, Independence Police Department (IPD) Academy coordinator, said. "The academy is free to all and will familiarize you with how the department operates."

Sgt. Fowler said several academy students have become IPD volunteers or

used the information and networking to enhance their effectiveness in other civic organizations.

The classes are designed to teach a basic understanding of the laws, policies, and procedures that govern the IPD, and provide hands-on experience to understand various aspects of police functions. As part of the curriculum, students will tour the Police Building and have the opportunity to ride along with police officers. Each week of class will feature a new speaker to present information on different topics related to police work.

Chief of Police Fred Mills will make introductions and opening remarks. Representatives from the following units will

make presentations: Traffic, Investigations, School Resource/Truancy Officer/D.A.R.E., Special Response Team, Explosive Ordinance Disposal (Bomb Squad), Training, Patrol Division, K-9, Drug Enforcement Unit, Communications, Hope House, Crime Lab, and Community Services.

The IPD Citizens' Police Academy, which started in 1992, has had 748 graduates. To sign up for the next Citizens' Police Academy contact Sgt. Fowler at 816-325-7876 or at [dfowler@indepmo.org](mailto:dfowler@indepmo.org).

Each student must fill out an application and submit to a background check before classes begin.

## March Parents University at Pioneer Ridge

Parents University, an educational conference for parents, will be from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 1 at Pioneer Ridge Middle School, 1656 S. Speck Rd.

The conference theme is "Helping You Help Your Children, Things You Never Learned in School." Parents University will feature a variety of session topics ranging from children and fire safety to adolescents and sexual integrity. Four classes (Signs of Drug Dependency, Becoming a Love & Logic Parent, Child Abuse: Prevention and Recognition and Diabetes: What is the Big Deal?) will be presented in Spanish. Parents can choose to attend three class sessions. There will

also be a showcase of locally available goods and services for families.

Free breakfast will be served to all attendees. Free childcare activities are provided for ages 6 weeks through 12 years.

Parents University is sponsored by the Coalition for Child Safety in partnership with other community sponsors.

All parents in the community are welcome and encouraged to attend. For registration information, contact Robin Neill at 325-7186 or visit <http://www.coalition4childsafety.org/ParentsUniversity.html>. Registration is required. The cost of the event is \$5 for adults, but children may attend at no charge.

## Residents Should Check Homes for Radon

During the recent National Radon Action Month, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Surgeon General urged all Americans to protect their health by testing their homes for radon.

"You can't see, smell, or taste radon, but it could be present at a dangerous level in your home," Independence Health Director Larry Jones said.

Jones said radon is the leading cause of lung cancer deaths among nonsmokers in America. While radon claims the lives of about 20,000 Americans each year, exposure to radon is a preventable

health risk.

If a high radon level is detected in your home, you can take steps to fix the problem to protect yourself and your family. Test your home and protect your health during National Radon Action Month.

To receive a FREE radon testing kit, go to [www.dhss.mo.gov/Radon](http://www.dhss.mo.gov/Radon)

For more information, contact the Health Department at 325-7182.

### 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

## FREEDOM from SMOKING

# FREE CLASSES!



REGISTER TODAY! CALL 816-325-7185



INDEPENDENCE

## HEALTH

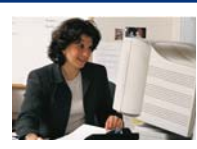
DEPARTMENT

## IShare

UTILITY ASSISTANCE

254-4100





### 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](http://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.

# Fireplace Safety Tips

The use of fireplaces or wood burning stoves is a cozy way and sometimes essential way of generating heat for our homes. Sawn wood or other fuels such as wood pellets, or fuel oil bring risk of fire.

The Fire Department offers the following information to help prevent fire hazards associated with fireplace or other fuel burning operations:

- Hire a professional chimney sweep to clean the flue as often as needed, usually once a year if you use your fireplace on a regular basis. Most professionals recommend that a build-up of 1/8 of an inch or more requires the flue to be cleaned.
- Refrain from burning treated or painted lumber to reduce creosote build up inside the flue liner.
- Open the flue liner before igniting a fire.
- Be sure that all the joints of the fire brick inside the fire box are solid

and filled with mortar.

- Clear a 36-inch space around and/or in front of the wood or oil burning device.
- Install a chimney cap or spark arrestor at the top of the flue liner to prevent rain, bird nests, animals and other debris from entering the flue area.
- Use glass doors or a screen in front of the fireplace box to prevent logs and sparks from escaping the fire box.
- When using natural gas or propane as a starter, make certain the flue is open, do not charge the fire box with too much flammable vapor, and light the gas or pilot light immediately.
- When cleaning the fireplace, allow ashes to cool completely before placing in a metal container. Place the container several feet away from your home.



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## 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

## 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

## IPL Security Lighting Program

Independence homeowners and businesses can use the Independence Power & Light (IPL) Security Lighting program as an effective tool for deterring vandals and break-ins.

The utility offers five choices for dusk-to-dawn lighting. The monthly lease program includes the installation, maintenance and electricity usage for each light. Security light monthly charges, which are applied to the customer's utility bill, run from \$10.62 to \$18.40, depending on the wattage and type of light.

After the initial one-year obligation

customers can cancel the security lighting agreement at any time.

Security lights can usually be installed within two weeks on an existing power pole. An IPL Security Lighting representative will visit your location and help you select the light fixture which will best meet your lighting needs. If there is no pole in the location where the light is needed, IPL can sometimes install a pole for an additional monthly charge of \$5.02.

For more information call 325-7494 or visit the IPL Web site at [www.independencemo.org/pl](http://www.independencemo.org/pl)

### Sodium Vapor Flood Lights



Directional lighting can be adjusted by IPL to aim light toward a specific area.

- 70 Watt \$11.01 per month**  
Suitable for residential areas. Best option for limiting light going into neighboring yards. Mounted at a 25-foot height.
- 250 Watt \$15.54 per month**  
Suitable for medium-to-large commercial areas. Mounted at a 30-foot height.
- 400 Watt \$18.40 per month**  
Suitable for large commercial areas. Mounted at a 30-foot height.

### Sodium Vapor Area Lights



Shines in broad circular pattern around the base of the pole.

- 70 Watt \$10.62 per month**  
Lights a 300-square-foot area. Suitable for residential areas. Mounted at a 25-foot height.
- 150 Watt \$13.23 per month**  
Lights a 600-square-foot area. Suitable for residential or small commercial areas. Mounted at a 25-foot height.



**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](http://www.City7.TV)