

CityScene



April 2008
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www.independencemo.org
City of Independence, MO



Mayor Don Reimal spent time before the meeting talking with residents.

Neighborhood Initiative Action Plans Presented



City Manager Robert Heacock unveiled the action plans the five groups had in common.

Citizens collaborating with City staff in the First Council District have completed the first stage of the Great Northwest Independence Neighborhood Initiative project to create a vision and identity for western Independence.

The process, which began with neighborhood meetings, is a collaboration among residents of the First Council District, business leaders and City staff.

The five neighborhoods taking part are Group 1 - Fairland Heights, Bristol and Hill Park; Group 2 - Bundschu and Proctor; Group 3 - Fairmount, Harrison,

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Independence Water Tasty!

The drinking water for thousands of Independence and Eastern Jackson County residents is the best tap water in the area and the fourth best in the world!

The City's water placed fourth in the 18th annual Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting contest held recently in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia. It is the world's largest and longest-running water tasting contest. The Independence water was shipped to the competition.



"We are fortunate to have an excellent water source and staff who work tirelessly for our customers," Water Department Director Dan Montgomery said. "Our water source always has a consistent temperature and chemical makeup, which makes our water easier to treat and better tasting."

More than 120 water sources competed for top honors. A panel of 10 journalists and food critics sampled tap, sparkling and bottled water from 19 states and nine foreign countries, including Canada, New Zealand, Romania, Macedonia and the Philippines.

The Water Department, established in 1883, supplies water to about 250,000; which includes Independence residents and 11 wholesale customers, including Blue Springs, Grain Valley and Lee's Summit. The water is supplied from 40 wells at the Courtney Bend Water Treatment Plant. The wells receive water from the Missouri River Alluvial Aquifer, a groundwater source. The well water is softened and disinfected at the treatment plant, and meets or exceeds all federal, and state quality regulations.

The 2008 title of the Best Municipal Water is shared by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which services Los Angeles; and Clearbrook, British Columbia.

Farmers Market Opens Saturday, May 3

The Independence Farmers Market/Craft Market will open its 2008 season Saturday, May 3. The Market is located at the corner of Truman Road and Main Street. Hours of the Market are from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

The Farmers Market/Craft Market will also be open on Wednesdays beginning June 4. Hours are the same as Saturdays.

The last day the market will be open this season is Wednesday, October 29.

All items sold at the Farmers Market/Craft Market must be grown within a 75-mile radius of Independence, and Crafts must be handmade within a 75-mile radius of Independence.



Farmers and Craft vendors interested in selling their home-grown fruits, vegetables, flowers, plants or handmade crafts should contact Market

Master Joe Antoine at 252-8860.

Events to Celebrate Historic Preservation Month

Parks & Rec May Events

Noland Home Tour

Join the National Park Service in a tour Friday, May 2 of the historic Noland Home, 216 N. Delaware.

Learn about the Noland family, their ties to Harry Truman and Park Service plans to rehabilitate the home, which is not currently open to the public. The free tours begin at 2 p.m. in front of the house across from the Truman Home. Each tour group is limited to eight.

Lunch & Learn Talks

Bring a brown bag lunch and attend any of the Wednesday free talks at the Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple. All are from noon to 1 p.m. and include drinks and dessert. Topics are: Identifying historic architecture and architectural features, May 7; Going Green: tips for an energy efficient home in summer, May 21; and Financial Incentives for Rehabilitation of Your Property, May 28.

Civil War Battlefield Tour

Walk back in time to October 1864, when the Battle of the Little Blue was fought in Eastern Jackson County as a part of the larger Battle of Westport in the last days of the Civil War.

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri is presenting a guided bus tour Saturday, May 10 from Independence into Kansas City to retrace the action of Confederate General Sterling Price's last foray into Missouri. The tour begins at 9 a.m. at the Blue and Grey Book Shoppe, 106 E. Walnut, and will end there about 5 p.m. There will be an hour for lunch on your own.

The cost of the tour is \$30 and includes membership in the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri for the rest of the year and souvenir program books for the Battle of the Little Blue and the Battle of Westport. Make checks payable to "CWRTWMO" and mail to P. O. Box 3019, Independence, MO 64055. For more information visit littlebluebattlefield@comcast.net or call 478-7648.

Evening Workshop

Proper Preparation and Paint Application for Your Home is the topic of a free workshop from 6 – 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 14 at the Fairmount Community Center, 608 S. Ash.

Woodlawn Cemetery Tour

Ever wonder what's behind the stone wall and caretaker's building that has long been a landmark along Noland Road? Join historian LaNita Cooper at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 17 for an hour-long tour of the Historic Woodlawn Cemetery, 701 S. Noland Rd.

The cemetery is the resting place of early settlers, Civil War soldiers, a 19th Century African-American entrepreneur, city builders, veterans, the famous and infamous of Independence. A variety of cemetery art, mausoleums, and monuments are part of this locally designated historic site.

Truman's Office Preservation

The Harry S. Truman Library and Museum is working to preserve the office of former President Truman and to improve the interpretive experience for the Library's museum visitors. Learn about the three-step process underway to protect and preserve the Truman Office at 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 20 in the Francis Family Theater at the Truman Library, 500 W. 24 Hwy.

Pitcher Cemetery Walking Tour

Join historian Kathleen Tuohey on a free walking tour of the Pitcher Cemetery from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, May 31. The tour includes the burial sites of Revolutionary and Civil War soldiers. To join the tour, meet at the cemetery entrance on Blue Ridge Cutoff just north of 40 Highway.

For more information on any of these events, contact Wendy Shay at 325-7419 or via e-mail at wshay@indepmo.org.

Adventure Oasis Water Park

It has been a long, cold winter but with warm weather comes the great fun at Adventure Oasis Water Park, 2100 Hub Drive (north of 23rd Street and west of M-291). The park opens to the public Saturday, May 24. Not only is there fun for the entire family but Adventure Oasis also offers swim lessons, water aerobics, lap swimming, and river walking. For more information and class times, call 325-7946 or visit www.independencemo.org/parksandrec.

Pets in the Park

Show off your pet at Pets in the Park. Enter the Pet Parade, compete in the "Judging" competition, learn about animal care and watch demonstrations by sheep dogs from Quarry Kennels, the Independence Police Department K-9 Unit, and other local animal groups. This program is also provided with support from the Kiwanis Club of Independence and the Independence Animal Shelter. This event is 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Saturday, May 3 at Santa Fe Park, 2731 S. Santa Fe Rd. For more information, call 325-7843.

Tennis Block Party

Have you ever thought about playing tennis but wanted to try it before enrolling in class? Or are you a tennis buff that hasn't used your back-hand in a while and are curious if you still have it? Both adults and children are invited to the United States Tennis Association Tennis Block Party 10 a.m. – noon Saturday May 3, at the Mill Creek Tennis Courts, 1717 N. River. This is a free event. For more information, call 325-7843.




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Hot Line Directory

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

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

USGS Checking City's Streams for Water Quality

As soon as weather permits, Water Pollution Control (WPC) employees, with assistance from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), will again be walking Independence streams and tributaries this year. Dick Champion, WPC director, said this year the teams will survey Adair, Burr Oak, Bundschu and Rock Creek watersheds.

"They look for illicit discharges carried by the storm sewer system to local streams," he said. "Illicit discharges are those not composed entirely of storm water and can be detected when storm drains carry measurable flow during dry weather."

The teams investigate dry weather discharges by sampling for pollutants. They also look for illegal trash dumping and other debris in the storm sewer system.

Champion said pictures are taken and GPS locations obtained for locations where illegal discharges and dumping are observed. Under the City's state-issued storm water permit, field screening is part of the storm water management program.

"The field screening activities supplement WPC's ongoing efforts to eliminate illicit discharges reported by citizens or discovered by field crews," he said.

Dry weather field screening was performed in 2007 in Adair Creek, Rock Creek, and portions of Mill Creek and Sugar Creek watersheds located within Independence city limits. "We were surprised to find that road salt was affecting the Adair Creek watershed near Interstate 70 as late as April," Champion said. "Additional sampling is planned this year."

City ordinance prohibits illicit discharges. Storm water is not treated, other than by natural processes that may occur as the water travels through the environment. Detecting and eliminating illicit discharges helps to protect our local waterways and the fish and wildlife they support.

To report illicit discharge activities, call the storm water pollution hot line, 325-7727. For more information call WPC at 325-7711 or visit www.ci.independence.mo.us/wpc.

Teens Can Apply for Sister City Trip

Independence High School students can travel to Japan to visit the Independence Sister City,



Higashimurayama to learn about the country's culture and to meet interesting people as

part of a group promoting peace and un-

derstanding among all nations.

Teens interested in visiting tourist sites and living with a Japanese family for 15 summer days should apply now. Participants will be selected in the next month. Applications for the 2009 trip are now available at www.ci.independence.mo.us/SisterCity/exchange_program.aspx.

Send all applications and questions to jsg@hfmlegal.com.

GNWINI

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Mount Washington and Carlisle; Group 4 - Kentucky Hills and Ott Christian (District 1 area only); and Group 5 - McCoy, Heart of Independence, Town Hall (District 1 area only), and Benton (District 1 area only).

Action Plans that outline short-term steps for investment in Northwest Independence were presented to a group of more than 50 citizens at a late March meeting.

Mayor Don Reimal, First District Council Person Marcie Gragg, and City

Manager Robert Heacock each spoke to the group.

The strategic Action Plans are scheduled to be presented to the City Council this spring.

IShare

UTILITY ASSISTANCE

254-4100

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

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.

City Drop-Off Depot

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Second Saturday Of Each Month
March - November

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.

Tree Trimming Important Role at IPL

Independence Power & Light (IPL) is responsible for trimming trees around the electric distribution lines that run from pole to pole. Trimming trees plays a vital role in the utility's power reliability efforts.

IPL has a policy of not topping trees. Instead, IPL trims trees using natural pruning practices which allows trees to retain more of their natural form and results in healthier trees and reduced clearance costs, since natural pruning has to be done less frequently than topping.

With its tree trimming program, IPL has made a commitment to quality tree care and planting. The IPL tree planting program provides eligible customers with free replacement trees which will not interfere with power lines. Replacement trees are planted two times each year: in the spring for trees removed September 1 - February 28 and in the fall for trees removed from March 1 - August 31.

IPL has information available to consumers on proper tree selection and planting practices. Independence residents can get a free copy of "The Right Tree in the Right Place" which guides homeowners on how to choose and plant trees for energy efficiency and proper spacing from overhead and underground utilities.

IPL has been recognized as a "Tree Line USA Utility" by the National Arbor Day Foundation for its efforts to provide quality tree care and annual worker training on quality tree care practices, and working with the public on healthy tree pruning and selection practices.

To receive a free copy of "The Right Tree in the Right Place" or a brochure on IPL's tree replacement program, call 325-7494. Information on IPL's tree trimming programs and policies, as well as general information on proper tree care, is available on IPL's Web site, www.independencemo.org/pl.



How to Hire an Arborist

The Independence Power & Light (IPL) Forestry Division is responsible for trimming trees around electric lines from pole to pole to help provide safe, dependable electrical service to residences. If you have trees not interfering these power lines that do require professional trimming, the following information will assist you in knowing how to hire an arborist.

Arborists are those who make a career of caring for the urban forest. Some are self-employed, while others work for tree care companies. While hiring an arborist does cost money, a mistake in pruning a tree can be even more expensive and long lasting.

Hiring a tree care specialist deserves careful consideration and caution. Use diligence to ensure an arborist has proper insurance and provides a written agreement before starting work.

An arborist will recommend topping a tree only in rare circumstances, such as saving a tree after severe physical damage to the crown. Arborists will not use climbing spikes if the tree is to remain in the landscape. Arborists will recommend removing a living tree only as a last resort.

For more information, go to www.arborday.org/bulletins or call the IPL Forestry Division at 325-7557.

A Very Truman Birthday Celebration

Join the City in celebrating the birth of Harry S. Truman, our nation's 33rd chief executive. Explore his home, ponder his decisions in his Presidential Library, and visit the places he knew and loved as the City pays tribute on Saturday, May 3.

One of Truman's first careers was as a farmer on the family farm in Grandview. The Dream Factory Tractor Parade will salute farmer Truman with a caravan of 150 to 200 tractors. They will converge on the Square from 6 to 7 a.m and remain on display until 10 a.m.

To honor Truman's famous quote "The Buck Stops Here," tourism sites will offer \$1 admission all day. Attractions include the Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd.; Harry S. Truman Home Historic Site, 219 N. Delaware; Vaile Mansion, 1500 N. Liberty; Harry S. Truman Library & Museum, 500 U.S. 24 Hwy.; National Frontier Trails Museum and Chicago & Alton Depot, both at 318 W. Pacific; 1859 Jail & Marshal's Home, 217 N. Main; and the Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific. The Community of Christ Temple, 201 S. River, and Mormon Visitors Center, 937 W. Walnut, are free all day.

For a buck a person, you can also catch a trolley in front of the Truman statue on Main Street (between Lexington and Ma-

ple) from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The trolley will run from The Square to all sites except the Puppetry Arts Institute. The Trinity Episcopal Church, 409 N. Liberty, is a new stop on the trolley circuit this year. Founded in 1837, this is where Harry and Bess were married. Free tours will be offered between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

If you stop in the Harry S. Truman Ticket and Visitors Center, 223 N. Main, you can also see the exhibit, "Soldier to Senator" on display until June 1.

The Tourism Department will serve free birthday cake provided by the Square Association with "Harry" in front of the Truman statue from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"We are so fortunate to live in a community that is steeped in American tradition," Tourism Director Stephanie Roush said. "We invite everyone to make this annual celebration a part of their tradition."

Tourism is also partnering with The Examiner newspaper to sponsor a photo contest focusing on tourism sites and events. Watch for details, rules and deadlines in The Examiner and on the Tourism Web site.

For more information about Truman's birthday or tourism sites and events, call 325-7111 or go to www.visitindependence.com.

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