



Santa Fe Road Work Progressing

Santa Fe Road is undergoing a complete transformation this year, and when work is finished in December it will be a grand improved entrance for Santa Fe Park.

The road was closed several times in the last month for water main and storm drain construction. Closings for additional storm drain construction and a new railroad crossing will be necessary later this summer.

"We're trying to keep closings and disruptions as short as possible," Public Works Director John Powell said.

"When this project is finished, it will make the neighborhood more safe and attractive," he said. "And, it will make it easier for residents to get to the City's park."

Santa Fe Road is the gateway to Santa Fe Park. The roadway is getting a complete makeover between 23rd Street and 31st Street and will become a two-lane street with new curbs, a storm drainage system and a shared bicycle/pedestrian path along the east



Crews have worked through the spring to get water main and storm drain construction complete on the Santa Fe Road Project.

side. The project also includes adding a lane as the street approaches 23rd Street to provide separate left- and right-turn lanes.

Work started in early January and is scheduled for completion in December. The \$2,992,000 project is funded with Street Sales Tax Funds.

Blue Valley Power Plant Receives Award

The Missouri Water Environment Association (MWEA) recently presented a Silver Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment Compliance Award to the Blue Valley Power Plant at the MWEA's 79th Annual meeting.

Independence Power & Light (IPL) generates much of its power at the Blue Valley Power Plant.

"We try to be very conscious of our environmental responsibilities," said Leon Daggett, Power & Light Director. "Also, it is important that we provide our citizens with economical electricity while insuring that our wastewater discharges are not harming the environment."

Silver Award winners must be in major compliance with wastewater discharge and reporting requirements, with no more than minor violations, and must have an industrial wastewater treatment facility or pollution prevention program, and a history of good relations with the nominating city or sewer district.

The MWEA has about 720 members from sewage agencies, industry, and consulting firms throughout Missouri. It is dedicated to the advancement of practical knowledge in the technology, design, construction, safe operation and management of water quality control systems and facilities.

EcoFest June 7 Opening New Park

The City, in partnership with Bass Pro Shops, the State, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), will sponsor the first annual Independence EcoFest from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday, June 7 at the City's new Waterfall Park, just south of the Bass Pro building. As part of the day's events, the City will dedicate the Waterfall Park. The day's events are free.

Leading the City's involvement is Dick Champion, Water Pollution Control (WPC) director.

"Our tag line is 'It's all about water,'" said Champion. "Protecting our water resources is crucial to the environment."

The festival's goal is to educate the public about the importance of water quality, local watersheds, stormwater management, and conservation.

A t-shirt design contest was held for area high school students. All entrants will be on display at the festival. The winning design will be featured on shirts used as EcoFest prizes.

Festival goers will collect passport stamps as they visit exhibits. Prizes will be given to those who fill their passports. In addition to ecology and water quality displays, the festival includes entertainment by Eco Elvis, Stan Slaughter and the Eco Troubadours, the Short Leaf Band, the Kite Club, and EcoFest characters.

Sponsors are the EPA, the Missouri Department of Natural Resource, the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Mid-America Regional Council, the Little Blue River Watershed Coalition, Bass Pro Shops, and the following City departments: Power & Light, Water, Health, Fire (Emergency Preparedness), Parks and Recreation, Police and WPC. For more information, visit the Web site at www.independencemo.org/wpc.

New IPD Car for Aggressive Driving Enforcement

Tailgaters beware! The Independence Police Department (IPD) received a \$46,400 grant in early April from the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) to increase traffic enforcement along I-70 in Independence, specifically targeting aggressive drivers.



The \$46,400 grant from MoDOT helped the IPD purchase this specially equipped vehicle for aggressive driving enforcement. Those working the project are, from left, Officer Todd Hargis, Capt. Keith Leap, Sgt. John Passiglia, Officer Ed Wisdom and Officer Jason Petersen.

The grant funded the purchase of a police vehicle specially equipped for aggressive driving enforcement and the overtime to do selective enforcement at various times of the day.

The IPD used \$15,200 in Public Safety Sales Tax funds to purchase four dual-purpose lasers that will determine the length of time between cars in addition to clocking speed. If there is less than one-and-a-half seconds between cars, officers can issue a ticket for following too closely. MoDOT awarded the grant in conjunction with the "Destination Safe" aggressive driving enforcement campaign sponsored in mid-April by the Missouri Coalition for Safer Roadways.

"The IPD has been on this journey with the Missouri Department of Safety

for many years." Acting Police Chief Dave Lamken said. "This program targets drivers who follow too closely, and make quick lane changes, both of which are signs of aggressive driving.

"We want to help make every driver as safe as possible," Lamken said.

MoDOT reports there were 211 traffic crashes in the year between March 1, 2006 to February 28, 2007 along I-70 in Independence. These crashes resulted in 51 injuries and two deaths. MoDOT said of those 211 crashes, 79 could be attributed to following too close and 51 to improper lane use.

Youth Fishing Derby

Children ages 5-12 can learn how to fish at the Youth Fishing Derby from 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 14. Fishing skills will be taught by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Bring your own fishing pole and bait. A hat, sun screen, and drinking water are also recommended.

This event is catch and release at George Owens Nature Park, 1601 South Speck Road. The fee is \$2 per child.

For more information, call 325-7115.

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

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.

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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 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



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

Noland Road Bridge Over I-70 Opens Month Early

The detour signs are gone. Drivers along Noland Road can once again cross over I-70. It was a month sooner than expected, but the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) opened the Noland Road Bridge Sunday, April 13..

MoDOT spokesmen said crews worked seven days a week, almost around the clock, since demolishing the old bridge on February 16. Even with the weather complicating matters, this project was completed well ahead of schedule.

MoDOT Assistant District Engineer Chris Redline thanked the contractor, APAC – Kansas, and the City of Independence, its business community and residents for allowing them to completely

close the bridge. Doing so enabled them to reopen this vital link in the community much quicker.

Work continues on the four ramps connecting I-70 at Noland Road. MoDOT plans to close one ramp at a time for up to two weeks until all four are reconstructed. Much of the ramp work is already under way. Landscaping and other off-highway work will continue throughout the spring and summer.

So go ahead, take a drive down Noland Road again.

For more information about other projects in the area, please visit MoDOT's Web site at www.modot.mo.gov/kansascity.



The Noland Road Bridge over I-70 reopened in April, a month early.

Midwest Genealogy Center Opening in June

The grand opening for the new Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee's Summit Road, is Saturday, June 21. From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. visitors will be treated to free tours, genealogy classes, live music and historic re-enactors.

When open, the \$8 million, 50,000-square-foot facility will be the largest free-standing public genealogy center in America. It will be open from 9 a.m. to



9 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Fridays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays.

Holdings will include U. S. Census records, Civil War histories, Native American records, biographical archives, Black history records, and a large variety of state records for Missouri and other states.

Other Independence resources for family history and historical research are The Jackson County Genealogical Society Research Library, 1111 W. Pacific; Merrill J. Mattes Research Library at the National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific; Jackson County Historical Society Archives, 112 W. Lexington; and Family History Center for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 705 W. Walnut.

"Each year thousands of people come to Independence for genealogy and research," Tourism Director Stephanie Roush said. "We are excited and privileged to have this wonderful library. If

you combine our attractions and support amenities with all of our research facilities, we truly offer a first class experience for visitors."

Saturday, June 7 Events

From 7 to 9:30 a.m. feast on breakfast at the annual Trails Breakfast, held on the grounds of the Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific. Reserved tickets cost \$7 per person; call 461-3491 or go to www.bwstate.org for details. House tours are \$5 per person.

At 8 a.m. the Show Me Rods Car Show begins on the Square. Vintage and collector cars will be on display until 4 p.m. Call 252-0400 or go to www.theindependencesquare.com to learn more.

The Strawberry Festival begins at 9 a.m. at the Vaile Mansion, 1500 N. Liberty. Until 4 p.m., browse antique, plant and craft vendor stalls, indulge in a strawberry treat and watch live entertainment. House tours cost \$5, as do carriage rides. For more information, call 325-7430 or visit www.vailemansion.org.

Shop NFTM Online

If you enjoy online shopping, check out artwork, books and souvenirs now available in the virtual gift shop of the National Frontier Trails Museum. Visit the site at www.frontiertrailsmuseum.org.

For a listing of tourism attractions and events, call 325-7111 or go to the Web site: www.visitindependence.com.



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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.



New Play Feature at Adventure Oasis Water Park Opening Saturday, May 24

Parks and Recreation Director Eric Urfer says swimmers at Adventure Oasis Water Park this year are in for a “splashing good time” with the addition of the new Cactus Climb, a poolside climbing wall.

When Adventure Oasis opens Saturday, May 24 patrons can try this new water feature that will test their balance, strength and agility. “Swimmers can work to develop their upper body and core strength while having fun,” Urfer said.

Cactus Climb is interchangeable with the Cactus Iles and will be located in the pool adjacent to the water slides.

Traditional aquatic programs including swim lessons, lap swimming, river walking, Toddler Town, and two new safety programs are also on the schedule this summer.

Adventure Oasis Fees

Daily admission rates: resident youths/seniors, \$6; non-resident youths/seniors, \$7; resident adults, \$8; non-resident adults, \$9; resident family of four \$22; non-resident family, \$25. Infants under age 2 are free with a paid adult admission.

Season pass prices for residents only: youths/seniors, \$75; adults, \$105; family of four, \$250.

Popsicles in the Park Starting 5th Year

Popsicles in the Park kicks off its fifth season with a performance by “Eco Elvis” June 3 at Van Hook Park.

Residents can join Parks and Recreation Department staff at a different Independence park from 6:30 – 8 p.m. every Tuesday for eight weeks throughout the summer. Planned activities and free popsicles are included.



Picadilly Productions will present three shows during the season with live music provided by Dino O’Dell, Funky Mama or Eco Elvis. Prizes will be awarded to a few lucky youth each night.

The schedule for Popsicles in the Park is: June 3, Van Hook Park, 3231 S. Shrank Ave. (Use Crackerneck Road entrance); June 10, Hill Park, 2201 S. Maywood

Prices for 5-Punch Passes: resident youth/senior, \$24; resident adult, \$32; resident family of four \$88; non-resident youth/senior, \$28; non-resident adult, \$36; and non-resident family, \$100.

For more information, call 816-325-SWIM.

Water Safety Awareness Clinic

The clinic is a free introductory course that will cover the use of life jackets, rescue equipment and basic water safety. Children younger than age 10 must be accompanied by a swimming parent. Pre-registration is required. To register call 816-325-7843. The clinic will be from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 7 and 21.

Junior Lifeguard Classes

This class is for ages 11-14 who are interested in becoming a lifeguard. Participants will practice endurance swimming, water rescues and basic first aid/CPR. Students must be able to complete a 50-yard continuous swim using good form prior to enrolling. Pre-registration required. To register call 816-325-7843. The class fee is \$40. Class sessions are from 8:30-11:45 a.m. Monday - Thursday, July 7-17 or July 21-31.

Ave.; June 17, George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Rd.; June 24, Firehouse Park, 11305 E. 35th St. South; July 1, Mill Creek Park, 1717 N. River Blvd.; July 8, Waterfall Park, 4501 S. Bass Pro Dr.; July 15, Santa Fe Park, 2731 S. Santa Fe Rd.; and July 22, Independence Athletic Complex, 17800 E. Salisbury Rd.

For directions or more information, call 325-7843. This is a free event.

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11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Saturday & Sunday
11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Holidays
Open Daily May 24 thru August 17
Weekends Only August 23 thru September 1

\$1 OFF ADMISSION

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Present this coupon for \$1 off daily admission price
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CityScene