

CityScene



June 2008
Volume 15 Number 6

www.independencemo.org
City of Independence, MO

Former U.S. Rep. Gephardt Receives 2008 Truman Award

Mayor Don Reimal in early May presented the Harry S Truman Award for Public Service to former Congressman Richard A. Gephardt in a ceremony in the auditorium of the Truman Presidential Museum & Library, 500 W. Hwy. 24.

Mayor Reimal also presented the Truman Public Service Special Recognition Award to Independence resident Alversia Brown Pettigrew.

Both awards are given annually to an outstanding public servant who best typifies and possesses the qualities of dedication, industry, ability, honesty, and integrity that distinguished Harry S Truman in his years of public service. The Harry S Truman Public Service Award Commission makes the selection each year.

Congressman Gephardt said he was excited and enthused when he heard he had been selected for the award. "I am truly humbled," he said.

"It will take a special place at the Gephardt Institute for Public Service at Washington University in St. Louis," Congressman Gephardt added.

Gephardt ran for president twice.

As a leader in Congress on the national stage and as Missouri's champion, Dick Gephardt only cared about getting results, not about getting credit.

"Like Harry Truman, Dick learned about politics and people by working in Missouri politics before going to Congress," Mayor Reimal said. "In Congress, Mr. Gephardt continued to



Mayor Don Reimal presented the Harry S Truman Award for Public Service (top picture, from left) to former U.S. Congressman Richard A. Gephardt. He also presented the Truman Public Service Special Recognition Award to Independence resident Alversia Brown Pettigrew.



Go to City7.TV to view the Truman public Service Award program.

listen to the concerns of ordinary citizens and serve their needs."

The Harry S Truman Public Service Award, the highest honor bestowed by the City on a civilian, was presented for the first time in 1974 when Dr. Henry Kissinger attended the ceremony and See Truman Award, Page 3



Celebrate July 4th In Independence

Make plans now to be at the ninth-annual Independence Day Celebration for an evening of music and fireworks. The fireworks display and patriotic music by the Spirit of Independence Band will be at the Mormon Visitors Center, 937 W. Walnut.

The Spirit of Independence Band will play throughout the evening and during the fireworks display, which begins at dark.

See Celebrate July 4th, Page 3

IPL Earns National Reliability Award

Independence Power & Light (IPL) is one of 84 of the nation's more than 2,000 public power utilities to earn Reliable Public Power Provider™ (RP3) recognition from the American Public Power Association (APPA) for providing consumers with the highest degree of reliable and safe electric service. IPL earned a Platinum Level award, which was announced recently during the association's annual Engineering & Operations Technical Conference, held in Indianapolis, IN.

"We're pleased to be recognized with this national award," said Leon Daggett, IPL director. "Our mission is to provide safe, reliable, low-cost electric power, and we are proud to be acknowledged for serving our community. This is certainly an achievement of which to be proud."

"RP3 designees exemplify the highest

See IPL Award, Page 4

Japanese Sister City Delegates Celebrate 30th Anniversary During May Visit

A group of adult delegates from Higashimurayama, Japan spent about a week in early May in Independence celebrating the 30th Anniversary Sister City relationship with the City of Independence. They were greeted with a late-night dinner, pictured here, at the Truman Memorial Building. The group toured the region, visiting the Liberty Memorial, Negro League Baseball Museum, and Shatto Dairy. They also spent time on the Historic Independence Square, City Hall and George Owens Park. This fall an Independence delegation, led by Mayor Don Reimal, will return the visit.



Go to City7.TV to view a video detailing the Sister City Visit and to see a video sent by the Mayor of Higashimurayama.

Parks & Recreation Summer Initiatives Include Adopt-A-Park Program, Concerts

The Independence HyVee Stores at 4545 S. Noland Road and 1525 E. 23rd Street have recently adopted Waterfall Park, located adjacent to the Bass Pro Shops.

Parks and Recreation Director Eric Urfer thanked HyVee for their partnership, and praised their cleanup crew of more than 40 volunteers. The group kicked off the first cleanup in late April, removing more than 50 trash bags of debris from the 80-acre park.

Also joining the Adopt-A-Park Program is the Eco-Explorers Homeschooled Youth Group, which has adopted Benton Park, 707 S. Crane. Any group or organization interested in adopting a park should call Helen Matson, City Volunteer coordinator, at 325-7860.

Urfer said local service clubs, sports teams, youth organizations, church congregations, neighborhood groups, fraternal organizations, schools, businesses, families and friends are welcome and encouraged to adopt a park.

Urfer explained that when adopting a park sponsors agree to visit that park monthly to help keep it clean, and to make note of conditions that require attention by park maintenance employees.

“By adopting a park and helping to keep it clean, you extend your tax dollars by allowing City parks employees to spend more of their time on major renovations, repairs and maintenance work,” Urfer said. “You can also take pride in the

fact that you are helping to improve the quality of life in your hometown.”

Sounds on the Square - Thursday Concerts

Come to the Independence Square this July to enjoy the sights and sounds of the historic Independence Square. Parks and Recreation will sponsor a series of free concerts from 6 - 8 p.m. four Thursdays in July. The concert dates and bands are: July 10, Rumble Jets; July 17, Dan Bliss; July 24, Grand Marquis; and July 31, Rain-dogs. A free outdoor movie at The Pharaoh Theater follows each of the concerts.

Spend the Day with Grandpa/Grandma

Are your grandkids hanging out with you this summer? If so, check out these activities to help you spend quality time with them. The classes are: canoeing at 2 p.m. Sunday, July 6; and camping at 2 p.m. Sunday, July 20. Co-sponsored with Bass Pro Shops, the programs will be at the Bass Pro Shops and are free. Pre-registration is required by calling

IShare

UTILITY ASSISTANCE
254-4100



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



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.

Be a Tourist in Your Home Town Photo Contest

If you missed the mid-May kick-off of the photo contest sponsored by Tourism and The Examiner, it is not too late to join in the fun. Photographers of any age have until Saturday, September 6 to take and submit digital photographs of participating attractions or their events, programs or activities.

Selected digital photos will be posted for display on the Tourism Web site, www.visitindependence.com and all entries will be available for viewing on the Examiner web site "Spotted" gallery at www.examiner.net.

Prizes will be awarded for the three best adult contest entries (ages 19 and older) and for the three best youth entries (ages 18 and younger). The first place prize for each category will be worth \$300, second place prizes, \$200 and third place prizes, \$100.

The six best photos will also appear in print in late September in The Examiner, as well as on-line. Photos may also be selected for use on the Tourism Web site, for release to the media or in future Tourism publications.

ism publications.

"This is an opportunity for residents, of all ages, to explore the City's many tourism-related sites and attractions from a personal, unique point of view," Tourism Director Stephanie Roush said. "We are excited to see the variety of images and creativity that will be presented."

For a complete list of participating Tourism sites and the remaining events associated with the contest, go to www.visitindependence.com or call 325-7111.

The Fourth of July celebration could supply a variety of photo contest opportunities. A children's parade from 23rd Street along Main Street to the Square begins at 10 a.m. After the parade, head to the Harry S Truman Library & Museum, 500 U. S. 24 Highway, to see the new long-running temporary display "Lincoln: The Constitution & the Civil War," which was created with youngsters in mind. On July 4, the Library will offer \$5 reduced admission for adults.

Another photo opportunity is the 21st annual Antique and Craft Fair at the Bing-



Bingham-Waggoner
Antique & Craft Fair

ham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 12.

More than 150 vendors will display antiques, art, crafts, jewelry, stuffed animals and furniture on the shady grounds of the historic home. Concessions such as kettle corn and walking tacos are also available.

The Spirit of Independence band, as well as a bluegrass band, will perform.

Guided tours of the home will be available throughout the day for \$5 adults, \$2 children ages 6-16.

Celebrate July 4th

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The schedule for the evening is as follows:

8 p.m. Gates Open

8:30 p.m. Spirit of Independence Band

9:30 p.m. Fireworks Display

There is limited parking. People are encouraged to bring blankets or lawn chairs for the lawn viewing area. Families may also bring food and beverages for

the lawn viewing area. No alcohol, open flames or personal fireworks allowed. Portable toilets and trash bins are available.

The annual Independence Day Celebration is sponsored by the City, the Mormon Visitors Center and Truman Presidential Museum and Library.

In the event of inclement weather, a rain date will be announced.

Truman Award

From Page 1

accepted the first Truman Statuette. Last year's winner was former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright

When introducing Mrs. Pettigrew, Mayor Reimal spoke of her long history of community involvement.

"Mrs. Pettigrew, a life-long Independence resident, is a woman whose dedication to service, love of family, veracity and integrity are all rooted in early childhood," Mayor Reimal said.

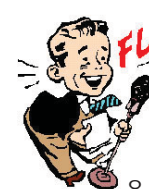
She grew up in the "Neck" neighborhood and in her book, "Memories of a Neck Child," Mrs. Pettigrew chronicles a story that is an important piece of Independence history.

The Neck was a predominately black neighborhood which existed from the mid-1880s to the mid-1960s. The Neck was nestled in the very "heart" of what is now known as McCoy Park.

The McCoy Neighborhood Council, with the help of Mrs. Pettigrew, was successful in the procurement and placement of a bronze marker in McCoy Park.

"Maybe, just maybe," Mrs. Pettigrew said, "I've touched someone in Independence."

"I am so happy to stand here in this place, in this moment in time," she added.



City Drop-Off Depot

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Second Saturday Of Each Month
March thru 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.

Garage, Yard Sale Guidelines

About this time each year garage and yard sales blossom around the city. They are a great way to get rid of household clutter and make some extra cash at the same time.

And just like most cities, Independence has regulations in place governing garage sales. Those regulations are:

- Residents are limited to no more than two garage sales in any given calendar year.
- Duration of a sale must not exceed three consecutive calendar days.
- A garage sale may not be used to sell items purchased for resale.
- The placement of signs, flyers, directions, etc. is prohibited in any street right-of-way or on any public property, including street signs and posts, traffic signs or posts, or on any public utility pole.



•Any sign properly placed on private property must be removed on or before the last day of the sale. The person conducting the sale is responsible for removing the signs.

Fire Chief Sandra Schiess said a lot of neighborhoods join together for group garage sales and urges them to practice safety and common sense when holding these sales. “Remember to keep streets open for emergency vehicles,” Chief Schiess urged. “It would also be helpful if you notified the Fire Department of your large area sale so that responding emergency vehicles can be made aware of the possibility of heavy traffic.”

If your neighborhood is planning a large garage sale, call 325-7123 to notify the Fire 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

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

IPL Award

From Page 1

standards of utility operations,” said Paul Allen, vice president, engineering at Nashville, Tenn., Electric Service and chair of APPA’s RP3 Review Panel. “These utilities are leading the way in providing reliable and safe electric service to their communities.”

The RP3 recognizes public power utilities that demonstrate proficiency in four key disciplines: reliability, safety, training and system improvement. Criteria within each category are based on sound business practices and represent a utility-wide commitment to safe and reliable delivery of electricity. Utilities seeking RP3 designation are given a score for their achievements in each of these areas. Safety factors account for 25 of 100 pos-

sible points.

To receive RP3 designation, a utility must score at least 80 out of 100 points. RP3 designation is awarded at three levels – gold (80 points); platinum (90 points) and diamond (100 points). To maintain RP3 recognition, utilities must submit application documents every two years. IPL also earned a Platinum award in 2006. Utilities winning awards must wait a year before reapplying.

This is the third year that the Reliable Public Power Provider award was offered. APPA is the national organization representing more than 2,000 not-for-profit, community- and state-owned electric utilities. It is located in Washington, D.C.

CITY COUNCIL

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

Recycling Centers

The City operates two recycling centers. Items accepted at the centers include paper, cardboard, paperboard, steel and aluminum cans, plastic, toner cartridges and dry cell batteries. 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.

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