



City Opens Waterfall Park During 1st Annual EcoFest

The City opened its newest park with a ribbon cutting during its first annual EcoFest Saturday, June 7. Located across the 18-acre lake from the Bass Pro Shops, the new 80-acre Waterfall Park boasts playground equipment, a shelter, restrooms and a walking trail.

As he cut the ribbon Mayor Don Reimal was joined by Councilmember Jim Schultz, Councilmember Myron Paris, Councilmember Marcie Gragg, City Manager Robert Heacock, Parks & Recreation Director Eric Urfer, Missouri Department of Natural Resources Region Ombudsman Judy Bowman, Water Pollution Control (WPC) Director Dick Champion.



The ceremony opening Waterfall Park was held in the new shelter on the water's edge. A walking trail leads from the shelter and around a portion of the lake.



Michael Cutler, above left, won the t-shirt artwork theme design contest. The Missouri Department of Conservation taught festival goers, above right, how to make native plant seed balls.

 **CityConnect**
Go to City7.TV to watch clips from the City of Independence 1st Annual Eco-Fest.

The first annual Independence EcoFest was attended by nearly 1,000 visitors and hosted by the City in partnership with Bass Pro Shops, several State agencies and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Leading the City's involvement was Dick Champion, Water Pollution Control director. "Our tag line is 'It's all about water,'" he said. "Protecting our water resources is crucial to the environment."

Champion said the festival's goal was to educate the public about the importance of water quality, local watersheds, stormwater management, and conservation. "The new Waterfall Park was the ultimate venue because it is a perfect example of an environmental paradise that we should all work to protect," he added.

Michael Cutler, a recent graduate of Tri-City Christian School, was the winner of the T-shirt artwork theme design contest. The EcoFest T-shirt for this year was created using his theme.

Festival goers visited exhibits where they learned about a variety of ecology issues ranging from water erosion, wildflowers, and the aquifer, to protecting

Work Underway On Jackson Drive

Work is well underway on a street project that will create another north-south arterial street in eastern Independence to relieve traffic congestion on M-291.

"Jackson Drive will give important access to the hospital and shopping areas along 39th Street," John Powell, Public Works director, said. "It will also provide easier access to the I-70 interchange at the Little Blue Parkway."

When completed, Jackson Drive will be a four-lane street and will extend almost a mile from its current end at 37th Terrace north to R.D. Mize Road.

It includes a new bridge over the Kansas City Southern Railroad, a new bridge over Crackerneck Creek, and a concrete culvert at the North Fork of Crackerneck Creek. A large amount of earth fill, about 180,000 cubic yards, is needed to build up the road elevation to be above the railroad and creek.

The street will have a raised median, a sidewalk along the west side and an asphalt walking or bicycle path along the east side. There will also be a new intersection, complete with a traffic signal, at R.D. Mize Road.

As part of this project the City changed the alignment of Jackson Drive, which was originally planned to connect with R.D. Mize Road about a half mile west of the intersection now planned.

In 1997, the City Council voted to shift the central portion of the roadway to the east and revised the alignment. In January, the City Council changed the name of "Little Blue Expressway," to "South Jackson Drive" and renamed the old "South Jackson Drive" to "South Ringo Road." Other streets off the old "South Jackson Drive" were also renamed: Jackson Circle to East Ringo Circle, Jackson Circle Court to East Ringo Court and Jackson Drive to Chatelain Court.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds

Tourism Partners With KCCVA to Promote Independence

Independence Tourism has partnered with the Kansas City Convention and Visitors Association in the production of a new 30-second television commercial showing attractions in both cities to run this summer in St. Louis. Independence also was featured in an exclusive commercial shown in Springfield and Omaha.

Tourism Director Stephanie Roush said these three cities were chosen because they have proven to be major Independence markets and are within a reasonable driving distance. The commercials aired on all three national networks: CBS, NBC and ABC.

Local film company Bark Productions and Kansas City-based Sprenger McCullough and Company spent three full days in May shooting interior and exterior scenes of 12 tourism attractions

throughout the City for the Independence commercial.

Roush thanked those who helped make these TV spots such a success, "Tourism is grateful for the cooperation of the attractions and tourism staff, family and friends, who graciously stepped in to serve as non-paid models for the photo sessions."

"Visiting attractions close to home makes good sense for Independence residents as well," Roush said.

Tourism has a new offer to stretch the local entertainment dollar. The three-site reduced-rate admission ticket for the Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific; Vaile Mansion, 1500 N. Liberty; and Marshal's Home, 217 N. Main; has been expanded to include the National Frontier Trails Museum (NFTM), 318 W. Pacific. The four sites now offer a combo discount

adult admission price of \$16. Visitors do not have to go to all four sites the same day, allowing visits any day between now and the end of October, when the three homes close for the season.

August is a great time to re-discover the NFTM if you haven't been for a while. The "Children on the Trails" gallery walk, set for August 7, 14 and 28, highlights the experiences of children as they traveled on the Oregon/California Trails.

The Trails Museum also has a special combo ticket, which includes NFTM admission and a covered wagon ride by Pioneer Trails Adventures. Cost is \$12 per adult, and \$9 for children ages 6-12.

The NFTM Web site, www.frontier-trailsmuseum.org, now features first person historical pioneering stories. The stories are a complete autobiography or a brief vignette from pioneer life.

Don't forget the "Be a Tourist in Your Own Town" photo contest, running through September 6. For rules and entry forms, see www.visitindependence.com.



Independence Square Shopping

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event a Success

The results are in! Independence residents turned out in large numbers at the 11th annual Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event sponsored by the Water Pollution Control (WPC) Department in April to show they care about the environment. Citizens representing 602 households disposed of 71,586 pounds, or almost 36 tons, of hazardous materials.

Dick Champion, WPC director, said volunteers counted 535 vehicles (average of 134 pounds per vehicle) delivering the waste this year.

Citizens were encouraged to bring all types of hazardous waste products for proper disposal: used motor oil, fluorescent bulbs, flammable liquids, paint and paint products, poisons, batteries, etc.

The largest weight category item was latex and oil-based paint, and paint-related products such as paint thinners. The next highest categories were used motor oil, household and automotive batteries, and toxic liquids and flammables.

For the fourth year, WPC conducted a mercury thermometer exchange. This year 135 mercury thermometers were turned in, bringing the four-year total to 1,098. A free digital thermometer is given to anyone disposing of a mercury thermometer. Mercury is a highly toxic sub-

stance that is hazardous to human health and the environment. Proper disposal at a hazardous waste collection or facility reduces the risk of mercury exposure.

The Police Department collected 2,497 ammunition shells no longer wanted for shotguns, handguns, and rifles. They also received four guns, gun powder, lead bullets, and fireworks.

While the Independence HHW event is only held once a year, there are other opportunities throughout the region to dispose of hazardous materials.

The Kansas City facility at 4707 De-ramus is open all year. Appointments are required and can be made by calling 784-2080.

The Lee's Summit facility at 2101 S.E. Hamblin Rd. is open the first Saturday of the month, April through November, and is limited to 100 pounds per visit. Appointments are required and can be made by calling 969-1805.

Mobile collections for the remainder of 2008 are: August 2 – Excelsior Springs (ABOP), August 16 – Platte County, September 6 – Cass County, September 20 – Smithville, October 4 – Parkville, October 18 – Sugar Creek, and October 25 – Liberty (ABOP).

Mobile collections with ABOP mean

only antifreeze, batteries, oil, and paint will be accepted (no aerosol paints). These collections are free to Independence residents. Call the Mid-America Regional Council at 701-8226 for more information. These events and facilities are free to Independence residents.



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

City Dedicates Fire Station 4 With Ribbon Cutting

The Independence Fire Department officially opened its new Fire Station 4 on the northwest corner of Liberty and 23rd Street at 202 W. 23rd St. with a ribbon cutting ceremony in early June. The new station replaces an old one on the northeast corner of Liberty and 23rd Street at 128 W. 23rd St., which was built in 1952.



The 8,500-square-foot station features a day room, kitchen, officer's quarters, office, sleeping quarters for eight, multiple

IPD Needs Volunteers for Neighborhood Watch Program

The Independence Police Department (IPD) is looking for volunteers for the expansion of the Neighborhood Watch Program.

The Independence Neighborhood Watch Program is a volunteer-based program designed to help curtail criminal activity in an area by educating citizens on suspicious activity and crime prevention awareness. The program also works to help bring neighbors together by organizing block parties and get-togethers.

There are about 50 active block watch groups in the City of Independence. These groups range in size from 10 houses on one block to more than 1,200 houses on more than 20 blocks. These groups all

bathrooms, workout room, equipment cleanup area, and two drive-through and one back-in truck bay. It also includes a multipurpose room that serves as a library, meeting and training area; and is reinforced to provide a safe area during severe weather.

Funds from the Fire Protection Sales Tax financed the new station, which cost slightly more than \$3 million. The tax is also financing a new fire truck, which is being built and will be delivered in August for work for one common goal, making their neighborhoods safer for their families.

Independence Police Officer Rob Romey has been assigned to assist and educate the members of the Independence Block Watch Program. Officer Romey hosts monthly meetings, open to the public, on various crime-related and public safety topics. Some of these topics have included: identity theft, fraud and scams, graffiti identification, and emergency preparedness.

For more information on the Neighborhood Watch Program, or to organize your own neighborhood watch group, contact Officer Romey at the IPD Sub-Station, 10920 E. Winner Rd. or at 325-7643.

the new station. A pumper crew of four is currently assigned to the station.

Fire Chief Sandra Schiess said this station is critical to fire protection in the City because it is centrally located, making it a key second response company for all fire calls in central and western Independence.

Jackson Drive From Page 1

from the Centerpoint Medical Center development are financing the \$11,892,221 cost.

Construction, which started the first week of February, is currently about 50 percent finished and is scheduled for completion in March 2009.

Powell said there are other plans and funds for the future to continue the Jackson Drive construction north to 78 Highway within the next two years.

EcoFest From Page 1

the environment. In addition to ecology and water quality displays, the festival included entertainment by the following groups: Kansas City Kite Club, Eco Elvis, Short Leaf Band, Eco Street Actors, and Stan Slaughter, also known as the "Eco Troubadour."

Exhibitors were Bass Pro Shops, Blue River Watershed Association, Civil Air Patrol, EPA, Lakeside Nature Center, Little Blue River Watershed Coalition, Mid-America Regional Council, Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri Native Plant Society, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri State Water Patrol, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, United States Geological Sur-



Children spent time at the Department of Conservation stream table, which showed the effects of erosion.

vey, and Windswept Farms.

City of Independence departments and commissions participating were Fire, Health, Parks & Recreation, Police, Power & Light, Water, Water Pollution Control, Beautification Commission, and Tree Commission.



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.

Parks & Recreation Late Summer Activities

Adult Flag Football - New this fall, the six-week recreational Adult Flag Football League begin Wednesday, August 20 at Mill Creek Multipurpose Fields, 1717 N. River Blvd. Gametimes are at 6 p.m.

Pre-registration is required by 5 p.m. Wednesday, August 13 at the Truman Memorial Building, 416 West Maple. To register or get more information call 325-7843.

Youth Tennis Party- If you are between the ages of 5-18 and want to try tennis lessons and meet other kids, then head to the free Youth Tennis Party from 10 a.m. – noon Saturday, August 9 at Santa Fe Trail Park, 2731 S. Santa Fe Rd.

Teen Dodgeball Tournament - Get a team together for this old school playground game and enter the Teen Dodgeball

Tournament which will be from 6 - 9 p.m. Friday, August 15 at the TMB. Teams may have six to 10 players. National Amateur Dodgeball Association rules will be followed. Register your team for by Friday, August 8 at the Truman Memorial Building. The entry fee is \$30 per team.

The Santa-Cali-Gon Quilt Show - The Independence Piece Makers Quilt Group, which meets weekly at the Roger T. Sermon Community Center, will host the Santa-Cali-Gon Quilt Show from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday, August 30; noon - 6 p.m. Sunday, August 31; and 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday, September 1, at the Sermon Center, 201 N. Dodgion. Hundreds of quilts will be on display. Vendors will be on hand with material, kits, quilting supplies and demonstrations.

Rideshare Offers Carpool Matching

With gasoline prices doubling since 2003, motorists are looking for ways to make fewer auto trips. Commuting costs are also becoming a top concern for employers, as commute distances get longer, parking lots get fuller, and travel costs rise for their employees.

More and more people are choosing to use transit or share rides to save money getting to work, to reduce wear and tear on vehicles, and to pollute less.

The Mid-America Regional Council's RideShare program offers a free, Web-based carpool matching tool called Carpool Connection. It enables users to search for people who live nearby and have similar travel schedules and needs. Commuters can create an online account and:

- Generate real-time matches with other carpoolers
- Search for prospective carpoolers in a confidential, password-protected environment
- See a map of their carpool matches
- Contact matches instantly via e-mail
- Specify the number of people they want to commute with
- Manage their preferences — commute start and end times, meeting location, smoking/non-smoking

“Carpool Connection is especially useful for people who commute 20, 30 or 40 miles or more one way,” said Marge Gasnick, RideShare program manager. “A significant amount of their income is spent on transportation, and when gas prices go

up, they are especially hard hit.”

Establishing a robust alternative transportation program is also an effective way for a company to assist employees with transportation challenges.

Employers can request that Carpool Connection be customized for their company, giving employees the ability to search for someone to share the ride both within the company and in the regional database. RideShare's employer module helps support sustainability by allowing employers to track how many employees are sharing rides and how many harmful emissions are prevented.

RideShare is a publicly funded program that provides commuter resources to individuals and employers in the metro area. To learn more about RideShare or its Carpool Connection tool, call 816/842-RIDE or visit www.marc.org/rideshare. RideShare Program Manager: Marge Gasnick,

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Don Reimal	325-7027
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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.

Hot Line Directory



Barking Dogs	325-7213
Crime Stoppers Tips	474-8477
Drop-Off Trash	325-7623
Drugs	325-6272
Neighborhood Watch	325-7643
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