



Independence Athletic Complex Ribbon Cutting Saturday, October 18

On Saturday, October 18, the City of Independence will celebrate the opening of its newest park facility with a slate of activities that starts with an opening ceremony at 1 p.m. followed by skill competitions. Concessions will be available.

The Independence Athletic Complex, 17800 E. Salisbury Road, features baseball, softball, soccer and football fields, concession stands and restrooms, a picnic pavilion, playground, an amphitheater area, walking trails and plenty of parking.

Events are scheduled from 1:30 to 4 p.m. to follow the opening ceremony and include guided tours, hayrides and sports challenges that will feature a soccer agility course, long and short accuracy soccer kicks, football (punt, pass and kick), radar gun baseball pitch, running the bases, wiffle ball home run derby, and disc golf.

Parks and Recreation Director Eric Urfer said the athletic complex is not only a unique use of land but also a much needed asset for the Independence community. "In January 2002, the City completed a Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan," Urfer said. "Among other things, additional athletic fields were identified as a primary need within our community."

The opening is a historical milestone for the City for two reasons: It is the largest ever built by Independence and it sits atop a very unusual site. The 165-acre multi-field, multi-sport park sits atop the Geo Space Center, a 4.4 million square-foot subsurface complex comprised of office, warehouse and light manufacturing space. Prior to the construction of the Independence Athletic Complex, Van Hook Park's 102 acres was the largest and it was built in the 1970s.

Choosing a location for what would become the new Independence Athletic Complex was easy. In the 1970s, the City purchased the 165 acres above Geo Space using Land and Water Conservation Funds. "The site was certainly large enough, was centrally located, and has great access by way of a major thoroughfare," Urfer said.

The Complex started with an intense engineering and geotechnical analysis. The project cost approximately \$7 million to design and construct and was funded through a Parks and Recreation Sales Tax initiative approved in 2002 by Independence residents.

The new complex will not only serve as a regional center for youth leagues, tournaments and outdoor events but will also provide a neighborhood park setting for nearby residents.

The Independence Athletic Complex lies on 165 acres of rolling land and features the following amenities: Eight soccer fields (two lighted), three lighted softball fields, two lighted baseball fields, six practice football areas (one lighted), two restroom/concession buildings, one shelter for about 100 people, one playground, one amphitheater area, more than 1.5 miles of trails and ample parking.

For more information about the opening event, call the Independence Parks and Recreation Department at (816) 325-7210.



IPL Gets Fifth FEMA Grant

The City of Independence has received a fifth grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to improve power reliability to customers. The \$900,000 federal grant, matched with \$300,000 in utility funds, will allow Independence Power & Light (IPL) to bury an additional 1,000 residential electric lines in specified areas of the City.

From 2003 through 2007, the City received four FEMA grants, totaling nearly \$6 million, to bury electric service lines running from power poles to residences. To date, more than 5,800 electric service lines have been placed underground as a result of this on-going program.

The FEMA-funded program targets residences with a high probability of electric service line damage from trees due to weather-related storms.

Due to limited funding, not all Independence residents will receive a grant. See FEMA Grant, Page 4

New City Community Development Director

Jennifer Clark is the new Director for the City of Independence Community Development Department.

As Community Development Director, Clark oversees the City's comprehensive and current planning, historic preservation, housing and community services, and building inspections.

"Ms. Clark's experience in community development, including urban redevelopment and comprehensive housing strategies, make her an ideal choice for this key position," City Manager Robert Heacock said. "I have a lot of confidence in the direction the Community Development Department will go under her leadership. She has a reputation for listening to the needs of the community and will play an important role in guiding the City's future growth and development."

Clark, who started work in late May, See New Director, Page 2

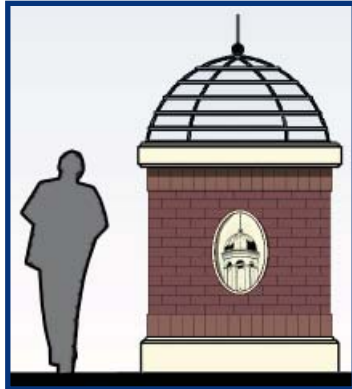
City Selects Contractor for Independence Square Streetscape Plan

To create an attractive, pedestrian-friendly atmosphere for the Historic Square Shopping District, the City of Independence established a new Independence Square Streetscape Master Plan.

In late July, the City Council selected the firm Musselman and Hall of Kansas City, MO with its bid of \$78,864 as the contractor for the first phase of the estimated \$2.3 million project. The first phase will consist of the construction of two 7-foot by 4-foot lighted pillars designating Truman Road and Main Street as the gateway to downtown, as well as sidewalk improvements and new street furniture.

The brick columns to be located at the southwest and southeast corners of Truman and Main will incorporate the design of the Historic Jackson County

Courthouse cupola by using specially designed steel domes on top of the pillars and custom medallions reflecting the cupola inlaid into the brick on the sides of the pillars. The brick color will match that of the Courthouse brick. The pillars will be illuminated with LED lights and will be able to support the use of seasonal decorations.



An artist's rendering of lighted brick pillars that will serve as a gateway to the Historic Independence Square.

The City Council approved the Independence Square Streetscape Plan in July 2007. It is the first phase of the Independence Square Revitalization Plan, which was adopted by the Council in 2005.

The firm Brian Clark and Associates and WBI Architects created the Streetscape Plan with input from several Independence Square Merchants.

"Independence is fortunate to have a unique, thriving historic downtown that attracts visitors," Mayor Don Reimal said.

"The area gives Independence its personality and is a physical evidence of our past. The Streetscape Plan we have adopted brings attention to that historic character and complements the investments made by private business owners."

Mayor Reimal also said the Square Streetscape Plan creates a signature entrance to the heart of Independence.

"Historic downtown areas convey a town's accumulated story and creates an inviting, outdoor room feeling for the area," he added.

Construction on the project will begin in September after Santa Cali-Gon Days and should take between 60 and 90 days to complete.

The \$325,000 second phase for the project will consist of renovating the adjacent parking lots that face Truman Road. The initial design for this phase is complete and surveying and final design is expected to be complete at the end of 2008. Construction on phase two is estimated to begin in late February or early March 2009, weather permitting.

New Director

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comes to Independence from the City of Albany, GA where she was Director of Community and Economic Development.

While in Albany Clark's major projects included a pilot program project for removal of neighborhood blight through collaboration with a local nonprofit and the creation of a developer lot program to sell federally purchased land in bulk to developers for redevelopment thus reducing the inventory and costs to the City.

Clark also worked as a Single Family Marketing Specialist for the Southeast Texas Housing Finance Corporation in Houston, TX; was Director of Neighborhood Housing Development for the City of Kilgore, TX; and Housing Services Specialist, Housing Technician, Planning Technician and Planning Intern at the City of Longview, TX.

Clark has a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with Honors Degree from Drury University, Springfield, MO and a Masters of Business Administration with Honors Degree from Webster University, St. Louis, MO.

She is a member of the National As-

sociation of Local Housing Finance Agencies and the National Community Development Association.

She was a member of the Junior League of Longview; on the capital fundraising team for the Longview Habitat for Humanity; and past board member of Leadership Longview and the Longview Nonprofit Coalition.

Clark and her husband Shawn have two children.



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

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 Avenue
 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sundays
 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Mondays

Spooky Sights, Sounds Await Visitors at Several Fall Events

The Independence Square Association, 1859 Jail and Marshal's Home and Pioneer Trails Adventures are presenting the return of the Friday Night Ghost Tours every Friday night in October. Residents can choose from tours at 7, 8, 9 or 10 p.m. October 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31. Each tour begins in the original cell block of the 1859 Jail and Marshal's Home Museum, 217 N. Main, where famous outlaws and haunted events have created a unique history. After the tour you can board a covered wagon for a ride around the Square, complete with ghost stories about local people and places. The cost is \$18 for adults, \$12 for children 12 and under. Prepaid reservations are required. Call 461-0065.

John Mark Lambertson, archivist and director of the National Frontier Trails Museum (NFTM), 318 W. Pacific, will present a series of lectures entitled "Tombstone Talks" at 7 p.m. Thursdays, October 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. Lambertson will share his life-long study of cemeteries, funerary art and personalities of the past.

In addition to tombstones from around the world, Lambertson will show examples found in Lee's Summit, Kansas City and Independence cemeteries.

For a list of lecture titles, see either the NFTM Web site, www.frontiertrailsmuseum.org or the Tourism Web site, www.visitindependence.com. Cost is \$20 for the series or \$5 each for a single lecture. Call 325-7575 for reservations.

Health Director Elected to National Board

City of Independence Health Director Larry Jones has been elected to a two-year term on the board of directors for the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO).

NACCHO is the national organization representing the nation's nearly 3,000 local health departments (LHDs). NACCHO provides resources, tools, and assistance to LHDs in the following focus areas: Community Health - promote health and prevent disease; Environmental Health - promote human health and safe environments by focusing on the relationship between people and their environments; Public Health Infrastructure and Systems program - core functions and essential services; and Public Health Preparedness - enhance readiness to respond to emergencies.

Don't forget the annual Family Fun Day on the Independence Square, set for Saturday, October 25. Square shops displaying balloons outside will welcome miniature ghosts and goblins for trick or treating from 1 to 3 p.m. The Halloween Parade sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce begins at 3 p.m. About 100 entries, ranging from clowns to marching bands and floats, are expected. For more information or entry forms, call 252-4745.

The Bingham-Waggoner, 313 W. Pacific, has added a Halloween "Spooktacular" event this year for adults from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, October 25. A \$15 admission includes haunted mansion tours, chili dinner and dancing. For reservations, which are required, call 461-3491.

Each year hundreds enter the Enchanted Forest, a non-scary Halloween event sponsored by the Powerhouse Theatre Foundation and Independence Parks and Recreation. Visitors travel along the candlelit trails at George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Rd., as tour guides move them along the trails from one scene to another depicting fairy tales, storybooks, or movies.

Characters from movies have included "Shrek," "Batman and Friends," "Princess and the Pea," "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" and others.

"While the Enchanted Forest is targeted for children ages 3-9, the young and young at heart will also enjoy the evening," Eric Urfer, Parks and Recreation

"I am not surprised by this election," City Manager Robert Heacock said in recognizing Jones' selection. "Larry has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life through public health in this state, region and city. He is an extraordinary advocate for public health."

"The City of Independence is fortunate to have a person of his caliber and dedication working for us. He has made enormous contributions to this community and has spent countless hours working to improve the quality of life for all our citizens."

Jones has been the health director for the City of Independence since December 2001. In this role, he provides leadership for the Health Department, the Kansas City metropolitan region and the state.

director, said.

More than 100 volunteers work together to create a safe, fun, inexpensive family outing. The adventure begins with greetings by Effie the Forest Fairy and ends with a hayride past park lakes and a light display by Independence Power and Light.

The Enchanted Forest is 7 - 9 p.m. Fridays, October 17 and 24 and Saturdays, October 18 and 25. Admission is \$2 per person. Call 325-7370 for more information.

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 Drop-Off Depot

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

875 Vista Avenue
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.

Where Did You Say I Could Get Rid of That?

If you have ever wondered where to get rid of something you no longer want or can use, we may have the answer. The three “Rs” (reduce, reuse, and recycle) are the “buzz words” of the day and protection of the environment is a hot topic. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) asks that citizens “reduce” the amount and toxicity of trash discarded, “reuse” containers and products; “repair” what is broken.

Although putting used or unwanted items in the trash seems to be the easiest solution, it is not always the best solution. There are options for disposing of almost anything if you know the right place to go.

The City offers the Drop-Off Depot at 875 Vista Ave. from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. the second Saturday of each month March through November. There is a fee charged for this service. Call 325-7623, or see the advertisement on page 3 of this newsletter for list of items accepted and the pricing for each.

A one-stop recycling information Web site is offered by Mid-America Regional Council at RecycleSpot.org or call 474-8326 if you don't have access to a computer. Use this search tool to find places to recycle, donate, sell or buy used items throughout the Kansas City region. The interactive online database of recycling

Tax Abatement Program Still an Option

Tax abatement is available for the Northwest Independence area. This revitalization program, the Fairmount-Carlisle 353 Redevelopment Plan, gives property owners tax relief for repairing their homes.

The tax abatement area is comprised of the Fairmount and Carlisle neighborhoods and portions of the Mt. Washington and Bundschu neighborhoods.

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 24 Highway; and south along a line just west of Forest Avenue and along Truman Road.

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.

In 2007, there were 36 properties ap-

information can direct you to companies and the items they accept. Always call first to confirm the products they will accept.

Other agencies that provide information about recycling are www.bridgingthegap.org and www.kcfreecycle.org.

Cell phones can be disposed of several ways: they can be sent to Secure the Call Foundation (www.donatemycellphone.org). This organization provides a pre-paid mailing label to be used for mailing used, unwanted cell phones for refurbishing to them for use as free emergency phones.

Several local stores also accept old cell phones for recycling – PetSmart provides an envelope for mailing used cell phones; and Best Buy and Radio Shack accept them at their stores.

The Consumer Electronics Association reports that one old analog television set can leak eight pounds of lead into the environment. These Web sites offering recycling information for old TVs: www.mygreenelectronics.org or www.earth911.org.

The EPA lists its “plug-in” partners at www.epa.gov/rcc/plugin which will transfer you to corporate sites that detail their recycling program; or call the U.S. Environmental Recycling Hotline at 1-800-253-2687.

proved for abatement. In 2008 to date, 74 participants are proceeding with repairs. Another 40 participants have applications pending.

To participate call Pat Robinson, Tax Abatement administrator, at 325-7426. City staff will assist residents in applying for the program.

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

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pendence residences can be included in the program. Those residences where the electric service line to the home has tree limbs in close proximity will most likely be selected for the program.

There is no direct cost to customers and customer participation is voluntary. IPL notifies households of their selection in the program.

“We are pleased to be able to continue this program to reduce the number of electric service lines subject to damage from storms,” said Leon Daggett, IPL director. “With this new grant, we will be working to bury additional electric service lines during the next two years.”

For information on areas being served and qualifications, call IPL at 325-7523 or e-mail jmedrano@indepmo.org.

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 City Council 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.



Watch City 7 TV

City of Independence
Government Access Television

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
7 p.m. Thursdays

For more information:
www.City7.TV

*Denotes live meeting,
all others are rebroadcasts.