

# CityScene



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www.independencemo.org  
City of Independence, MO

## City Joins Together to Fight Graffiti

The City of Independence, by adopting changes to its graffiti ordinance in September, is taking action to wipe out graffiti throughout the community and is asking for your help.

The City of Independence Parks and Recreation, Police, Public Works, and Utility departments and Volunteer Services are working to promote the Together Against Graffiti (TAG) program to keep our neighborhoods, parks, public spaces and business areas free of graffiti.

"This group serves as the catalyst and plays a vital role in TAG, but in order for the program to be successful, the City is asking citizens, business owners, neighborhood groups and civic organizations to get involved," Parks and Recreation Director Eric Urfer said.

As the name would suggest, Urfer explained, TAG relies on people working together to fight graffiti. The nationally recognized program is comprised of three basic components; Education, Eradication and Enforcement.

Education focuses on getting the word out about the detriments of graffiti vandalism, what to do if you see it, and suggests what to do to remove it. This is being done through the media, meetings with citizen groups and civic organizations and presentations to school groups. If you are interested in having someone talk to your group or organization, call the Volunteer Services office at 325-7860.

Eradication stresses the timely reporting and removal of graffiti. Reporting graffiti has been made easier, thanks to a new Graffiti Hotline established by the City. Residents now have a number to call to report graffiti by calling 325-7TAG. Once the tag has been reported, it is logged into a graffiti reporting and tracking system. If the graffiti is on City property, the appropriate City department is dispatched to remove it. If it is on private property, a notice to remove the graffiti is sent to the property owner.

The revised graffiti ordinance, which went into effect October 2, calls for graffiti to be removed within two business days of a property owner receiving notice of the tagging incident.

"As important as reporting it might be, removing it quickly is absolutely critical," Urfer said. "National statistics prove that the sooner the graffiti is removed, the less likely it is to return."

"The City is not trying to victimize the victim, but removing graffiti as quickly as possible sends a strong message that graffiti won't be tolerated here...not in our town," Urfer said.

Enforcement focuses on arresting and prosecuting graffiti vandals and strengthening the City's position against graffiti.

Toward this end, the Police Department has developed a graffiti task force that tracks and catalogs graffiti incidents and identifies patterns that can be used by



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## Events Center Groundbreaking

In just a little more than a year from now, Independence residents can cheer on their own hockey team in a brand new multi-purpose events center on the southeast corner of Interstate 70 and M-291 Highway in the Eastland Center.

In late September Mayor Don Reimal and Councilmembers Jim Schultz, Marcie Gragg, Jim Page and Myron Paris joined City Manager Robert Heacock, and Phoenix-based Global Entertainment Corp. executives to break ground for the 5,800-seat multi-purpose events center and community skating rink, which is scheduled to open in fall 2009.

Independence Council for Economic Development President Tom Lesnak was



the emcee for the ceremony. Chamber of Commerce representatives Board Chair Selene Madrid and Board Members Karen Downey and Steve Mauer also assisted in groundbreaking duties.

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## National Honor Given To Health Department

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) honored the City of Independence Health Department for implementing a program that demonstrates exemplary and replicable qualities in response to a local public health need. The Independence Emergency Services Committee is one of 25 local public health programs selected from across the nation to receive NACCHO's Model Practice Award.

The Emergency Services Committee serves as an advisory board to promote the goals of high quality pre-hospital emergency care and appropriate standards of care. The committee assures cooperation and communication among

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# WPC Shares Fall Cleanup Pointers

Everyone needs to help keep storm drains, gutters, and swales clear so that rain can flow freely throughout the storm drainage system.

“When you do yard work, you should not sweep, blow or allow grass clippings to go onto the curb, street or into storm drain inlets,” Dick Champion, Water Pollution Control (WPC) director, said. “Be aware that illicit discharges to the storm sewer system are prohibited by Independence City Code.”

Grass clippings, brush and leaves can be composted for later use as a soil conditioner and to protect bare ground from erosion, Champion said. “When you mow, direct the discharge back onto your lawn and not out in the street,” he said. “Check out the opportunities for disposal of yard waste at area recycling centers or through your trash hauler and plan your yard work to take advantage of these services.”

Champion also said citizens should be aware that many outdoor cleaning jobs can produce runoff containing chemicals and detergents. Be sure to use products in the correct amounts for the size of the job.

“If there are storm drain inlets or swales near where you are working, discharges of chemicals and debris must not be allowed to flow into them,” he said. “All automotive wastes must be properly disposed of or taken for recycling. Never pour used oil onto the ground, into a storm drain or ditch.

Champion said if you fertilize, consider slow-release products, especially in areas with sandy or compacted soil, steep slopes and near waterways. This can prevent excess leaching of the fertilizer into groundwater and reduce the potential for stream pollution. Unused fertilizer is hazardous waste and must be disposed of properly.

## Hot Line Directory

Barking Dogs	325-7213
Crime Stoppers Tips	474-8477
Drop-Off Trash	325-7623
Drugs	325-6272
Graffiti	325-7824
Neighborhood Watch	325-7643
Potholes	325-7624
Report Power Outage	325-7550
Street Lights	325-7535
Storm Water Pollution	325-7727

If you have a swimming pool that you enjoyed this summer, Champion said you should also do your pool maintenance in an environmentally-friendly way.

“We encourage you to drain your pool water to the sanitary sewer system through your household plumbing,” he said.

“Clear pool water with the chlorine removed can be used on your lawn, but you must prevent it from flowing onto neighbors’ yards,” he explained. “Use a hose to control the drainage rate. It is not acceptable to drain pool water containing filter backwash, chlorinated water, debris or chemicals to the street because it will flow to a storm drain and eventually to a creek or stream.”

Champion also urges citizens to take the opportunity to participate in community cleanup activities. “You can also help to spread this information so that we all help to keep our environment clean, safe and healthy,” Champion said.

Call WPC at 325-7711 for more information. Visit the Web site at [www.independencemo.org/wpc](http://www.independencemo.org/wpc).

## 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 Avenue**
- Recycling Center**
- 875 Vista Avenue**
- 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sundays
- 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Mondays

## 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 Avenue  
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.

## Turkey Fryer Oil Disposal

Follow these tips from Water Pollution Control (WPC) for the proper use and disposal of frying oil:

- \*Strain oil through fine strainer and then through cheesecloth.
- \*Store covered in refrigerator.
- \*Oil can be reused three to four times.
- \*Never pour cooking oil down the drain.
- \*Take used cooking oil to the annual Independence Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) mobile collection in April or to Kansas City HHW Center. For an appointment in Kansas City call 784-2080.

For more information or to receive a free brochure titled “Fat-Free Sewers” call WPC, 325-7711.

## Tourism Holiday Season Begins November 7

Beginning November 7 and running through January 9, the tourism sites and attractions of Independence are offering a wide variety of holiday special events for all ages.

This year, the historic Independence Square welcomes the season with the annual Holiday Open House on Friday, November 7 and Saturday, November 8. More than 30 decorated businesses will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days, with many offering special sales, new Christmas merchandise and treats for shoppers. On Saturday afternoon, the Mayor's Tree Lighting festivities are scheduled to begin as Santa arrives by sleigh at 2 p.m. Singers, dancers and musicians will entertain and sleigh rides will be offered for \$2 a person until the lights are turned on at 6 p.m. by Mayor Don Reimal.

The National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific, is hosting a \$7 children's workshop on making corn husk dolls at 10 a.m. Saturday, November 15. Call 325-7575 for reservations.

Also on November 15, the "Christmas with the Trumans" exhibit opens at the Harry S. Truman Home National Historic Site Ticket Center, 223 N. Main. The exhibit includes toys, ornaments, photos, wrapping paper, greeting cards and other holiday memorabilia, which belonged to the Truman family. The exhibit is free and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Historic homes will be dressed in their best finery for the holidays. You can visit the Chicago and Alton Depot, 313 W. Pacific, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturdays, November 29 and December 6, 13, and 20; and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sundays, November 30 and December 7, 14, and 21. Donations are accepted.

The Spirit of Christmas Past Heritage Homes Tour begins Friday, November 28 and continues through Tuesday, December 30 at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific; Vaile Mansion, 1500 N. Liberty; and Marshal's Home and 1859 Jail, 217 N. Main. The package price of \$12 allows admission into each of the homes once during the season. Homes are open from 10 a.m. to 4 pm. Mondays through Saturdays and 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays.

For a list of more holiday events, call Independence Tourism at 816-325-7111 or go to [www.visitindependence.com](http://www.visitindependence.com)

## Events Center From Page 1

"This is an economic engine for Eastern Jackson County," Mayor Reimal said. "The arena will create jobs while it is being built and as it is used. The possibilities for this events center are endless. I can't tell you how proud I am that it's in Independence."

"The events center will be a unique place for community celebration and activities that bring people and families together," City Manager Robert Heacock said. "The synergy with area businesses, restaurants and hotels will help solidify Independence as a destination spot."

The events center will be home to Independence's own Central Hockey League team, and will host a variety of family-oriented concerts, shows, community activities as well as local and professional sporting events. Public skating sessions



Participating in the September groundbreaking for the Events Center were Mayor Don Reimal, second from left, and, from left, Councilmembers Jim Schultz, Marcie Gragg, Jim Page and Myron Paris.

and lessons, and other events will be held at the community skating rink.

## Health Department From Page 1

all agencies involved in emergencies: the Independence Health, Police, and Fire departments; American Medical Response; and Centerpoint Medical Center. The committee has strengthened working relationships and has been a forum to discuss issues and protocols to ensure community satisfaction.

"We are proud to receive NACCHO's Model Practice Award. The award is evidence of our commitment to develop responsive and innovative public health programs that improve the health of Independence citizens," said Larry D. Jones, MPH, Health Director of the City of Independence Health Department.

A committee of peers selected the Independence Health Department's Emergency Services Committee from a group of 118 local health department applications.

The Model Practice Awards program honors initiatives – including programs, resources, and tools – that demonstrate how local health departments and their community partners can effectively collaborate to address local public health concerns.

The Emergency Services Committee will become part of an online, searchable database of successful public health practices in areas ranging from immunization and maternal and child health to infectious diseases and emergency preparedness. The database will allow NACCHO to

share information about what is working across the county in local public health.

This is the fourth year the Independence Health Department has been honored by NACCHO. Last year the Hawthorne Community Garden, the Regional Public Health Response Trailer, and the Disaster Animal Response Team programs were recognized.

In honoring the Independence Emergency Services Committee, NACCHO officials said the City of Independence Health Department joins a special group of health departments that exemplify the forward thinking, proactive attitude of our nation's public health system. NACCHO officials congratulated the City of Independence Health Department on this important recognition.

For more information about the NACCHO Model Practice Awards, go to [www.naccho.org](http://www.naccho.org). For information on the Health Department, visit [www.independencemo.org/health](http://www.independencemo.org/health).



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# Change a Light, Change the World

Independence Power & Light (IPL), with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, General Electric, Westlake Ace Hardware Stores and other Missouri electric utilities, is again participating in the annual Change a Light, Change the World campaign to encourage consumers to use ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent lights (CFLs).

CFLs use up to 75 percent less energy and last up to 10 times longer than traditional incandescent lights, helping the environment by saving energy and helping consumers save on their energy bills.

During the Change a Light campaign, which kicked off October 1, Independence Westlake Ace Hardware stores at 415 E. 24 Highway and 4545B S. Noland Rd. will provide instant rebates of \$2 per CFL to IPL customers as long as supplies last. Up to six CFLs can be purchased with the instant rebate coupon available at the stores. Proof of residency, such as a driv-

ers license, will be required.

Because CFLs contain a very small amount of mercury, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends that CFLs be recycled where possible to maximize the environmental benefit of CFLs.

During the 2008 Change a Light campaign, CFL recycling bins will be located at the two Westlake Ace Hardware stores. Residents may dispose of used CFLs at these locations until the bins are filled.

Used CFLs can also be taken to the Independence Home Depot on Lee's Summit Road or other recycling centers in the metro area. To get information on which recycling centers take CFLs contact Bridging the Gap at [www.bridgingthegap.org](http://www.bridgingthegap.org) or by calling 816-561-1087.

For more information on the Change a Light campaign and CFLs, including product information and proper disposal, visit the [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) Web site or call IPL at 325-7494.

**IShare**  
**UTILITY**  
**ASSISTANCE**  
**254-4100**



## 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](http://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.

## TAG From Page 1

law enforcement.

The new graffiti ordinance makes it unlawful for persons under age 18 to purchase spray paint or have in their possession graffiti implements. The ordinance also increases the penalties for committing a graffiti crime. For those found guilty of committing a graffiti crime, the ordinance allows for fines of up to \$500, up to 6 months in jail, restitution for damages and losses and at least 40 hours of community service.

Citizens can assist by:

- Reporting graffiti immediately by calling 325-7TAG

- Removing graffiti within 48 hours of it occurring.

- Getting involved with your neighborhood or business association and schedule a graffiti presentation by calling 325-7860.

- Being an active member of your neighborhood watch program. If there isn't one in your neighborhood call the Police Department at 325-7269 for more information about how to start one.

- Becoming a TAG volunteer and organize your neighbors or group to help. For more information call 325-7860.

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



## 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](http://www.City7.TV)

\*Denotes live meeting, all others are rebroadcasts.

**Game Night**

POWERED BY:

**PLATINUM RELIABILITY AWARD WINNER**