



WPC Making Improvements Throughout City

The City's Storm Water Sales Tax Program, now entering its ninth year, has surpassed its initial goals, Water Pollution Control (WPC) Director Dick Champion said.

"We should protect citizens' families by keeping them safe from floods while protecting the environment," Champion said. "That is a lofty goal, but the City has worked diligently toward that goal."

WPC objectives are flood prevention, protection of water quality, preservation of natural systems, management of storm water, maintenance of existing systems and construction of new systems.

Champion said the 1/4th cent sales tax, which funds the department's projects, went into effect January 1, 2001.

Those sales tax revenues fund three main areas: 64 percent to construction and pollution control, 28 percent to maintenance, and 8 percent to administration.

The City had promised 22 capital improvement projects, Champion said. But in reality, more have been completed.

During the last eight years, more than \$26 million was authorized for capital improvement projects. And, even though construction costs have more than doubled in the past five years, 49 projects have been completed and another 26 projects are in various stages of progression, from design to construction. In addition, 17 watershed studies have been completed.

The Ellison Place capital improvement project, completed last summer, is an example. This \$575,000 project installed 201 linear feet of conduit, 348 cubic yards of stone-reinforced open-channel waterway and nine storm water inlets.

"The Ellison Place project impacted more than 20 residential properties and reduced flooding of this neighborhood, which is in the Spring Branch Watershed," Champion said.

Another example is the \$530,000 Delaware to Pleasant capital improvement project. This project consisted of installing 1,295 linear feet of conduit and 21 storm water inlets. It impacted 30 residential properties and reduced flooding in this residential area located in the Adair Watershed.

WPC budgeted and completed \$845,000 for a two-part, Phase I Queen Ridge capital improvement project.

With the Queen Ridge project, 2,273 linear feet of conduit, 32 storm water

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Delaware to Pleasant Project



Citizens Give City High Rating

Results of the fifth citizen survey show Independence residents believe their City is not only progressing, but is also better than it was eight years ago.

Chris Tatham, vice president of ETC Institute, the Olathe market research firm that administered the survey, delivered the results to the City Council in late November. He described the City's improvements since the first survey in 2000.



CityConnect

Go to City7.TV to view the citizen survey report made to the City Council by Chris Tatham, ETC Institute vice president.

"In the past eight years you have gone from being near the bottom and below average in almost every category to now being above average in a majority of the areas we assess," Tatham said. "That didn't happen by accident. You have done a great job, staff and leaders, making investments (in infrastructure and services)."

The City, along with 20 to 30 other cities in the region, conducts the citizen survey every other year to help determine priorities for the community as part of the City's on-going strategic planning process.

The overall satisfaction index for the City of Independence increased by two points from 112 in 2006 to 114 in 2008. Since, 2000, the City's Overall Satisfaction Index has risen by 14 points while the rating for other cities in the Kansas City area has dropped about 4 points.

"The net difference, or change in perception of the City, was 18 points better than the region," Tatham said. "So you are definitely doing something right."

City Manager Robert Heacock said the survey is important.

"We have made the ETC Survey a major focus," Heacock said. "We will

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Dolls on Display February 14-16 During Presidents' Day Weekend

Looking to get "all dolled up" for Presidents' Day weekend? From Saturday, February 14 through Monday, February 16 the Independence Attractions Coalition is inviting everyone to do just that. The three-day weekend event will feature doll exhibits at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific; Vaile Mansion, 1500 N. Liberty; and Chicago & Alton Depot, 318 W. Pacific. The Depot will also display trains.

Exhibits will be open at all three sites from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Monday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission to each of the historic homes is \$5 per person or \$2 for children and includes tours of the home. Suggested admission to the Chicago & Alton Depot is \$2 per person or \$1 for children 6-17. Proceeds go toward restoration projects at the sites.

The Bingham-Waggoner displays include selections from the Santa Fe Trails Doll Club and the Independence Doll Extravaganza Association. A professional doll appraiser will assess the value of dolls brought to the estate any of the three days for a \$5 per item fee.

Dolls on display will reflect a variety of sizes, styles and types; including antique reproductions, modern dolls, Shirley Temple dolls, Madame Alexander dolls, American Girl dolls and accessories, bride dolls, ethnic dolls, historic dolls and handmade dolls.

A free display of American Girl dolls is also planned at the Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee's Summit Rd. The Center is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday.

The National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific, is creating a display entitled "Trails Puppets and Dolls," high-

lighting handmade marionettes from the "Lewis and Clark: A Dog's Eye View" puppet show, as well as other puppets and dolls. The exhibit will be open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Monday and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday. It is free with museum admission: \$5 for adults, \$4.50 for seniors 62 and older and \$3 for children ages 6-17.

On Saturday the NFTM is offering a doll quilt making workshop from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. All materials except quilting needles are included in the \$20 per person cost. Reservations to 325-7575 are required.

The movie "The Queen's Dollhouse" will be included with regular admission at 2 p.m. Saturday and Monday at the NFTM. The museum will present a corn husk doll making workshop at 10 a.m. Monday. Cost is \$10 per person, with reservations to 325-7575 required.

The Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd., will present an original show "The Doll's Marionette Show - Little Red Riding Hood" at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday and Monday. The \$5 per person ticket includes admission to the institute exhibits and a finger puppet.

On Monday, the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, 500 U. S. 24 Highway, will serve fresh cookies made from the recipes of some of America's past presidents. Visitors can also meet "President" Truman from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Both the cookies and visit with Harry are included with museum admission: \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors 65 and older and \$3 for ages 6-15. While at the library, visit the traveling exhibit "School House to the White House: Education of the Presidents" on loan from the National Archives in Washington, D. C.

Doll collectors willing to loan dolls for display at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate, Vaile Mansion or Chicago & Alton Depot, can call Diana Marr at Tourism, 325-7108. For more information about the doll weekend or lodgings packages call 325-7111 or go the Tourism Web site www.visitindependence.com.

The following weekend, Saturday, February 21 a murder mystery dinner theater is planned at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate, which will serve as a Prohibition Era speakeasy. Guests will be served appetizers, dinner, wine, desserts and chocolates during the interactive play. Period costumes are encouraged. The event runs from 6 to 9 p.m. The cost is \$45, with reservations to 461-3491 required.

CITY COUNCIL

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

PARENTS

UNIVERSITY



Helping You Help Your Children

**For Parents of Children
Birth to 12th Grade**

A workshop for all parents and caregivers offering brief educational sessions and a showcase of resources available in our community.

**8 a.m. to Noon
Saturday, March 7**

Pioneer Ridge Middle School
 1656 Speck Road
 \$5 per Adult
 Free Breakfast Provided

Children's activities available from 8:30 a.m. to Noon at no cost for REGISTERED children ages 6 weeks to 12 years. To register and reserve a child care slot go to: www.coalition4childsafety.org to download a registration form. Or call 325-7186. Sponsored by Coalition for Child Safety, Fort Osage School District, and Independence School District

New Chief for Independence Police Department

Thomas J. Dailey is the new Chief for the Independence Police Department (IPD). Dailey reported for duty in early September and replaces Chief Fred Mills, who retired in March.

“Tom has extensive experience with local law enforcement, and will bring a collaborative management style to the department and community,” Heacock said. “He has a reputation for being very open to new ideas and innovation, and is committed to aggressively addressing crime.”

“Not only am I honored, but I am also humbled at having been selected from such a wide range of national candidates,” Dailey said.

For the past 27 years, Dailey served with the Kansas City Missouri Police Department (KCPD). He has worked in all four KCPD bureaus gaining a wide variety of experience in patrol, investigation and administration functions; and was a major when he left to come to Independence.

“I have known and worked alongside the talented men and women of the Independence Police Department for numerous years and in every instance have found it to be a quality organization,” Dailey said.

“The IPD and the City as a whole are fortunate to have good citizen support,” Dailey added. “There is a sense that people like and support the police department here and that they want to be involved in crime prevention. That support of the community is a key to the success of any police department.”

Dailey was appointed to the KCPD in December 1980. Starting as a Patrolman in the East Patrol Division, Dailey was promoted to Sergeant in June 1985, to Captain in January 1991, and Major in February 2001.



Thomas J. Dailey

His most recent assignments with the KCPD include co-chair of the Kansas City Regional Terrorism Early Warning Center; executive board member of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Joint Terrorism Task Force; co-chair and executive committee of the Mid-America Regional Council’s Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Committee; adjunct

faculty member teaching emergency planning at the Webster University Graduate School; and the KCPD Intelligence, Tactical, Homicide, Media, Patrol Support, Traffic Enforcement, Traffic Investigation, Communications, Communications Support, Building Operations and Internal Affairs units.

Dailey has a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg; a Masters of Public Affairs, Public Management from Park University, Parkville; Master of Arts, Securities Studies, Homeland Security and Defense from the Naval Postgraduate School – Center for Homeland Defense and Security, Monterey, CA; and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, Quantico, VA. He has also completed the Organization Leadership for Executives at the Army Command & General Staff College, Kansas City.

Electric Rate Increase Coming in January

Last November the City Council approved a five-part rate increase for the Power and Light Department. The first step is a 9 percent base rate increase that will become effective with the bills mailed to customers during the month of January 2009. The increase is to help offset rising maintenance and material costs and affects all customers of the utility.

“What this 9% increase means for the average residential customer during the winter is that their bill for approximately 700 kilowatt hours will increase by \$5.65,” said Leon Daggett, Power and Light director. “For the summer months when the average use is nearly 1,100 kilowatt hours, the customer will see an increase of \$9.34.

“Like everyone else, the utility is facing ever increasing costs,” Daggett said. “In order to insure that our customers have electricity when they want it, we must maintain our equipment and facilities and the cost to do that keeps going up.”

Daggett also pointed out that the customer has the opportunity to control how much their bill increases by controlling how much electricity they use.

“There are conservation measures that the customer can take to help reduce their usage and hold down their electricity costs,” he said.

Some of those measures include:

- Home weatherization
- Adjusting the thermostat to reduce usage
- Buying and using Energy Star rated appliances
- Replacing incandescent lights with compact fluorescent lights
- Conducting a home energy audit

To learn more about ways IPL can help you reduce your energy consumption and save on your electric bill, visit their Web site at www.independencemo.org/pl or call 325-7485.

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WPC Projects From Page 1

inlets and a regional detention basin were built. The storm detention basin is near 23rd Street and Lee's Summit Road and included installing 1,001 cubic yards of retaining walls and the excavation of 14,850 cubic yards of soil.

Two projects currently under construction are the 10th Street and Sunset neighborhoods.

The 10th Street Neighborhood capital improvement project, located in the Sugar Creek Watershed, cost \$453,000 and consists of installing 1,166 linear feet of conduit and 23 storm water inlets.

The \$529,000 Sunset project in the Spring Branch Watershed includes the installation of 1,184 linear feet of conduit and 24 storm water inlets.

"The performance of the system has significantly improved because of the high quality repair and maintenance by a very dedicated staff," Champion said.

In the years before a sales tax was approved, WPC was able to make about 93

repairs per year, or 744 during an eight-year period. Since the sales tax went into effect more than 1,600 repairs have been completed for an average of 204 per year.

The City also promised maintenance of the system would be doubled. Prior to the sales tax, the average number of structures cleaned each year totaled 1,450. Since the passage of the sales tax, maintenance has more than quadrupled to 6,200 per year and more than 49,100 total for the eight-year period.

Champion said repair and maintenance activities, and citizen education programs will continue to be a WPC priority.

WPC serves more than 50,000 customers and maintains more than 578 miles of sanitary sewers, more than 300 miles of storm sewer systems, and more than 13,000 storm sewer structures. The department also operates the City's wastewater treatment plant, 10 pumping stations, and 14 regional detention basins.

Citizen Survey From Page 1

break down the results in great detail. Each department will then be expected to produce a plan of action to address any level of dissatisfaction that showed up in the survey.

"We know there is work to be done," Heacock added. "This survey instrument is important and will help us press on to move satisfaction even higher."

Mayor Don Reimal was pleased with the report.

"The public has confidence in us and has given us the ability to accomplish the many improvements in our parks, streets and storm water system," Reimal said. "It is because of their trust and generos-

ity that we have been able to accomplish so much."

To view the survey and its results visit the City's Web site at: www.independencemo.org.



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.

IShare
UTILITY
ASSISTANCE
254-4100



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

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.