

CityScene



February 2009
Volume 16 Number 2

www.independencemo.org
City of Independence, MO

'The Dream That Changed the World' 2009 Martin Luther King Celebration



The Rev. Wallace S. Hartsfield II, was presented a certificate of appreciation after his speech by Nancy Harris.

CityConnect

Go to City7.TV to view the program and speech given by the Rev. Wallace S. Hartsfield II.



Sandra Jones directed the Celebration Community Choir.



Zachary Selz, left, was given his award by Blake Roberson, Independence School Board president.



Joshua Anderson, left, was presented his scholarship by John Olivarez.

The Rev. Wallace S. Hartsfield II was the keynote speaker at the 2009 Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration at the Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple.

The Rev. Hartsfield urged everyone to think of the intentions of King's "I Have a Dream" speech and to consider living King's dream all year, not just the third Monday of each January.

Several Independence residents were recognized during the event.

Brent Schondelmeyer of the Local Investment Council was awarded the 2009

See Martin Luther King, Page 2

Tax Abatement Orientation

Revitalization of northwest Independence neighborhoods continues. The City is accepting applications for the Fairmount-Carlisle Parcel Specific Tax Abatement Program and will conduct several orientation sessions explaining the process throughout the year from January 28 through December 16 at the Fairmount Community Center, 608 S. Ash.

The Fairmount-Carlisle 353 Redevelopment Plan gives property owners tax relief for repairing their homes. The tax abatement area is comprised of the Fairmount, Carlisle, Procter and Bristol 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 south of Truman Road to 18th Street and west to Fuller.

Property taxes are completely abated for the first 10 years and by 50 percent for the following 15 years if property owners

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Teens Can Apply For Sister City Trip

Independence High School students can travel to Japan to visit the Independence Sister City, Higashimurayama, to learn about the country's culture and to meet people as part of a group promoting peace and understanding among nations.

Student groups visit every other year. This July, 10 Independence students will spend two weeks visiting Higashimurayama. When they return a group of Japanese teenagers will come with them to visit Independence.

See Sister City, Page 3

Season Opening Events on Tap for Historic Homes

The first activities of the tourism season for the Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific, and the Vaile Mansion, 1500 N. Liberty, are scheduled the last two weekends in March.

On Saturday, March 21 a spring fashion show and luncheon, "A Beary Berry Tea," will be held at the Bingham-Waggoner.

Bears and berries will be key luncheon themes. The newest spring and summer fashions, primarily for women, but with some for men, will be modeled. During the fashion show, guests will be served a light lunch. Door prizes donated by local businesses will be awarded.

Organizers invite attendees to dress up and join their friends for an afternoon of fun, food and fashion. The luncheon will begin at noon and tickets are \$20 per person. For reservations, which are required, call 461-3491 or go to www.bwestate.org.

On Saturday, March 28, the Vaile will be "unveiled" for the 2009 tourism season during its annual tea party from 2 to 4 p.m. This year, the theme is "Lavender and Old Lace." Volunteers will serve traditional tea sweets, finger sandwiches, petit fours, punch and desserts. Organizers of the event said live harp music by Pam Block

will add a touch of elegance to the modeling of vintage clothing from the Victorian era fashions and following decades.

The tea party runs from 2 to 4 p.m. and is appropriate for ages 8 and older. Guests are encouraged to dress in vintage hats and/or historic clothing. Tickets are \$20 per person and must be purchased in advance. Call 325-7430 or visit www.vailemansion.org.

For a historic twist on family fun in March, try a new gallery walk at the National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific. Museum staff will lead "Daily Life on the Trails" at 2 p.m. Thursdays, March 5, 12, 19 and 26. The half-hour walk is geared to interest all ages and is free with regular museum admission: \$5 for adults, \$4.50 for seniors, \$3.50 for ages 6-17, and free for those 6 and younger. Call 325-7575 for more information or go to www.frontiertrailsmuseum.org.

The Friends of the Museum are also presenting their Annual Friends Benefit Dinner and Program Saturday, March 28. Dr. Mary Ellen McVicker, will talk about George Caleb Bingham and his students. Snacks and wine will be served at 12:30 p.m., with dinner at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$30. For reservations call 325-7575.



The Vaile Mansion annual tea party features traditional refreshments served at teas.

April 1 marks the official opening of the Chicago & Alton Depot, 318 W. Pacific; Pioneer Spring Cabin, 201 N. Dodgion; and 1859 Jail, Marshal's Home and Museum, 217 N. Main.

Martin Luther King

From Page 1

Human Relations Commission Award.

Centerpiece Restoration School senior Joshua Anderson was the recipient of the John Olivarez Scholarship for his best King-related essay for high school seniors.

The middle school essay award went to Zachary R. Selz, an 8th grade student at Jim Bridger Middle School.

Entertainment for the event included performances by the Truman High School Jazz Band, VIBE City of Independence Volunteer singing group, the Celebra-

tion Community Choir, pianist Tony L. Fishback and Opal Blankinship and the Agape Dancers.

The William Chrisman A.C.E. Club served as ushers and the Van Horn ROTC posted the colors.

Event sponsors were the Community of Concerned Citizens, the City, the Examiner, Local Investment Commission, Independence School District, Independence Ministerial Alliance, St. Paul A.M.E. Church and Midwest Pool Management.

IShare
UTILITY
ASSISTANCE
254-4100



City 7



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.



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.

Discover Independence...Where is it?



Photo Courtesy of Herbert Webb

'Where is it?'

The City of Independence is home to numerous historic and infamous sites and buildings. These great places to visit in your home town will be featured in photographs several times

in the coming months in 'Where Is It?' We challenge you to find and explore a piece of what makes Independence special. The answer to this month's location will appear in the next CityScene.

Clue: You will find this tower in a quiet north Independence neighborhood.

Sister City

From Page 1

Sandy Peoples, a member of the City's Japanese Sister City Commission, said her daughter, Susan, was part of the group that went in 2007 and continues to be active with the organization.

"We are lucky Independence offers this opportunity," Peoples said. "After 30 years of experience with this program both cities know how to show the teens a good time and make it a life changing event!"

Applications for the 2010 Student Ambassadors are now being accepted and are available at www.independencemo.org/sistercity.

Students will be interviewed and selected this May. Contact Jeannae Segura-Brown at jeannae_segura_brown@indep.k12.mo.us for more information.



Part of the 2007 Independence delegation with their Sister City counterparts.

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



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FLASH! 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.

Fire Training Facility Construction

Construction of a new \$2,498,563 training facility for the Independence Fire Department is underway at Missouri 78 and Powell Road.

Fire Chief Sandra Schiess said the facility is expected to be complete by December 2009.

“This new facility will allow firefighters and cadets to train at a state-of-the-art burn building that will simulate any situation firefighters could

encounter,” Chief Schiess said.

“This is something we need for the safety of our department,” Deputy Fire Chief John Green said at a recent ground breaking ceremony. “It will give firefighters real-world training in a safe, controlled environment.”



Construction is progressing at the Missouri 78 site.

The 5,600-square-foot facility is funded

by the Public Safety Sales Tax approved by voters in 2004.

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.

Abatement From Page 1

invest a specified amount in upgrading their property.

In 2007 and 2008 combined, there were 64 properties approved for abatement. To date, 108 participants are proceeding with repairs. Another 66 participants have applications pending.

Tax abatement informational seminars at the Fairmount Community Center will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesdays February 25, March 25, April 22, May 27, June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, October 28, November 18 and December 16.

Tax Abatement information will also be available during the monthly potluck lunch from 11 a.m. to noon the second Thursday of each month from February through December at the Fairmount Community Center.

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



Get Ready For Summer!!!

**Adventure Oasis
Season & 5-Punch Passes
Available at Reduced Price
Now Through March 20
at the**

**Truman Memorial Building
416 W. Maple Ave.
Independence, MO 64050**

(816) 325-7843



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

2009 Opening Day Saturday, May 23

Adventure Oasis Water Park
2100 S. Hub Dr.
Independence, MO 64050

