



Wall-Breaking at Historic Truman Courthouse as Work Continues



Jackson County Executive Mike Sanders addressed the crowd (left) shortly before taking up a hammer with (from left) Square property owner Ken McClain, Sanders, Mayor Don Reimal, and Councilmembers Jim Page, Jim Schultz, Myron Paris and Will Swoffer. After several groups took swings at the wall, it was brought down by machine.



A ground-breaking ceremony, in the form of a “wall-breaking,” was held in late March to celebrate the renovations currently under way at the Historic Jackson County Truman Courthouse in Independence. The event took place at the corner of Lexington and Main Streets (the southeast corner of the Courthouse).

Jackson County Executive Mike Sanders; members of the Jackson County Legislature; and Independence Mayor Don Reimal and Councilmembers Marcie Gragg, Jim Page, Jim Schultz, Will Swoffer and Myron Paris “brought down the wall.” This is Phase II of the three-phase Courthouse renovation project. The goal of Phase II is to return the courthouse grounds to their 1933 appearance and address major drainage issues eroding the building’s foundation. Phase II also adds 70 street parking spaces around the Courthouse. In addition, the City is adjusting the street lights to lower elevations. Post top street lighting matching the existing lighting on the Square will be installed by Independence Power & Light.

The retaining wall being removed was installed in the early 1970s as part of an urban renewal project. Concrete stairs and slabs are also being removed and replaced with new limestone stairs at each of the four entrances. Jackson County’s Public Works Department designed the project in-house; Jim Kidwell Construction Co., Inc. is the contractor.

The Historic Jackson County Truman Courthouse at 112 W. Lexington Ave. on the Independence Square houses President Truman’s original office and courtroom from his tenure as Jackson County Presiding Judge (1927 – 1934), the Brady Courtroom and the Jackson County Historical Society office and archives. The Truman Courthouse has been on the National Registry of Historic Buildings since 1972.

City Awarded \$4.9 Million In Federal Funds

The City of Independence has been awarded almost \$5 million in transportation funding and slightly more than \$200,000 in community development block grant funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

Passed by the U.S. Congress in February, the ARRA is commonly referred to as the economic stimulus bill. It provides funding for many programs, including transportation.

“Word of this nearly \$5 million award is certainly appreciated,” Mayor Don Reimal said. “The impact of the opening of Jackson Drive and the Little Blue Valley are important to the future growth of Independence.”

The Kansas City bi-state region became one of the first areas in the country to allocate transportation ARRA funding. The Independence projects, as well as others in Kansas and Missouri, were selected through the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC).

See Federal Funds, Page 3

Happy 125th Harry!

Despite having rubbed shoulders with world leaders, President Harry S. Truman always wanted to return to Independence. “I tried never to forget who I was and where I’d come from, and where I was going back to,” he once said. True to his word, when Truman retired from the presidency, he and Bess took up permanent residency in the simple two-story house at 219 N. Delaware, where they lived until their deaths.

On Saturday, May 2, you’re invited to visit his home and library, the City’s other tourism attractions, and to gather on the Square as the City celebrates our nation’s 33rd president’s 125th birthday.

Tickets for the Truman Home must be purchased at the Truman Home National Historic Site Visitors’ Center, 223 N. Main.

The Trinity Episcopal Church, 409 N. See Harry Truman, Page 4

'Pets in the Park' Set for May 16

Think you have the biggest...or smallest...dog? You could be a winner!

The Parks and Recreation Department will host the 6th annual "Pets in the Park," an event for families and their pets, from 9:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 16 at Waterfall Park, 4501 S. Bass Pro Dr.

Pets in the Park has become a tradition for families whose pets compete in categories such as the Biggest Dog, Smallest Dog, Longest Tail, and Pet and Owner Look-Alike.

Jeff Umbreit, recreation program supervisor, said the animals range from the traditional dog and cat to other pets such as goats, iguanas, lizards, turtles, pot bellied pigs and chickens. In addition, owners learn about animal care, pet immunizations, micro chipping and animal behaviors.

Toby Cook of the Kansas City Royals will serve as emcee for the Pet Parade. There will be discount prices for micro-chipping (\$10) and rabies shots (1 year shot - \$5).

This free event is provided with support from the Kiwanis Club of Independence, The Examiner, D.O.G. (Dog Obedience Group), Animals Best Friends, PAW'S, B Vogue, and the Independence Animal Shelter. For more information call 325-7843.



IShare
UTILITY
ASSISTANCE
254-4100



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

WPC Says 'Use Lawn Chemicals Wisely'

Homeowners use 10 times more fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides per acre than farmers. If improperly applied, chemicals can harm your lawn and garden, pollute local waterways, and harm fish and wildlife.

Wise use of lawn chemicals benefits the environment and saves money. Follow these guidelines for safe use:

- Test soil before using fertilizers. The local University of Missouri Extension office provides soil testing services for a minimal charge.
- Choose pesticides and herbicides with the lowest toxicity.
- Buy only the amount you will use. Transport pesticides in the trunk of the car or back of a truck.
- Before applying chemicals, examine the area to determine if there are plants, animals, or pets that could be harmed. Avoid spraying on windy days.
- Wear protective gear indicated on the label. Don't eat, drink or smoke when using pesticides; avoid wearing soft contact lenses.
- Read labels carefully; apply products sparingly. Extra product does not provide extra benefit.

- Don't mix chemicals. Dangerous and deadly interactions can result.
- Allow proper drying time for liquid chemicals, and never use lawn chemicals before a heavy rainfall.
- Use caution on slopes and lawn edges so fertilizer will not wash into nearby storm sewers or waterways. Sweep excess fertilizer back onto the lawn.
- Store lawn chemicals out of the reach of children and pets and protected from exposure to rain and wind. Store chemicals in their original containers with the labels visible and intact. Mark the date on the containers and use the oldest first.
- Set containers in plastic tubs or bins to catch any spills or leaks.
- Dispose of chemicals properly by taking them to a household hazardous waste collection. Do not flush them down the toilet or down the sink. Do not pour them out on the ground or down a storm drain.
- Contact the MU extension office, 252-5051, for information on lawn chemical use or visit www.muextension.missouri.edu/explore. For more information or to receive a free brochure on soil testing, call Water Pollution Control, 325-7711.

City Drop-Off Depot

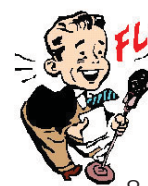
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Second Saturday Of Each Month
March thru November!

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.



Federal Funds From Page 1

The MARC Board of Directors, in its role as governing body of the Metropolitan Planning Organization, voted to accept the recommendations received from regional transportation committees in funding 23 projects totaling about \$27 million for local government projects in the Missouri part of the Kansas City metropolitan area.

In Independence, the Little Blue Parkway extension from R.D. Mize Road to Necessary Road will receive \$3.3 million in federal funds. This project builds a new four lane street, a sidewalk, bicycle path, storm drainage improvements, and a new intersection with a traffic signal at Necessary Road.

Jackson Drive construction between Holke Road and 78 Highway (23rd Street) will receive \$1.44 million in federal stimulus

funding. This project adds two traffic lanes along the east side of Holke Road, installs curbs, installs sidewalks, and adds turn lanes with a new traffic signal at the 78 Highway intersection.

“Both projects have been under development, which allows them to meet the federal funding requirement for the projects to be ready for construction,” Public Works Director John Powell said.

“In both cases, the economic downturn negatively impacted the project funding,” Powell said. “These new funds will allow us to move forward to construction more quickly. Construction is to start this year and to finish next summer on both projects.”

The City is already working to extend Jackson Drive from its current end at 37th Terrace

a mile north to R.D. Mize Road. This project will give important access to Centerpoint Medical Center, shopping areas along 39th Street, and the new Events Center and shops just south of I-70. Tax Increment Funding from the Centerpoint Medical Center development is financing the \$11,892,221 cost of the phase presently under construction.

Work is also underway on the Little Blue Parkway, now being built through the Little Blue Valley from 39th Street to R.D. Mize Road. Work on this phase will be completed this fall. The entire stretch to 24 Highway should be completed by late 2010 and will have intersections at Missouri 78 (or 23rd Street) and Necessary, Truman and Bundschu roads.

The Community Development Department also received word that it will receive funds from the federal stimulus package through HUD. Community Development Department Director Jennifer Clark said Independence will receive \$202,906 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).

“We are pleased Independence will benefit from these funds,” Clark said. “There are always more demands than funds available through this program.

HUD has not designed the guidelines yet for the types of projects that can be funded, but initial information indicates it will be geared toward economic development activities that are currently eligible through CDBG,” Clark said.

Areas that could be included are business development, job creation, commercial facade, business relocation, blight remediation – those activities that impact jobs and economic development.

Mayor Reimal said efforts will continue to be made to seek funds for other areas related to City services.

Annual Bike Rodeo May 2



that we can help prevent these mishaps from occurring,” he added. “The Independence Police Department, as well as Parks and Recreation, are committed to helping teach children safety in the roadway.”

Join the Independence Police Department Bicycle Unit and Parks and Recreation for the City’s annual Bicycle Rodeo from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 2 on the south side of the Community of Christ Auditorium, 1001 W. Walnut.

The event includes free bike tune-ups, inspections, and challenge courses geared at keeping kids safe while riding.

Also on hand will be the Volunteers in Police Service, offering child identification kits at no charge. The Independence Fire Department will offer tours of a fire truck.

Free bicycle helmets will be available courtesy of the American Legion Post 21 Auxiliary (limited supply). Helmet fitting will be courtesy of Peddler’s Bike Shop 139 E. Lexington Ave., on The Square.

“This is a free, family-orientated event, and we hope that you will be able to take a few hours out of your Saturday to educate our children on how to be safe,” Officer Romey said.

For more information call Officer Romey at 325-7643.



As the weather starts to warm we will all start to see one of the largest indicators of summer’s return, children riding bicycles, Officer Rob Romey says.

“Every year thousands of children across the United States are injured or killed while riding a bicycle,” Officer Romey said. “Often, these accidents are the results of poor training or preparedness on behalf of the kids. Whether the kids did not see, or understand a road sign, did not pay attention to traffic in the roadway, or chose not to wear a helmet, these poor decisions can lead to serious injuries.”

“As with most accidents, there are ways

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

IPL's Surge Protection Program

It's quiet now. But springtime storms will return to the Midwest, bringing with them a generous supply of lightning and the ominous potential for electrical surge damage.

According to Independence Power & Light Director Leon Daggett, customers needn't worry, because with IPL's Surge Protection Program they can protect their home and all its cord-connected contents against electrical surges which can enter through the electrical service entrance.

Customers signing up for the program will have a "whole house" surge protection device installed between the meter and the electrical service entrance. This protection device will send most of the excess electricity occurring from electrical surges across the power line to the ground before it can enter the home and damage household appliances.

The IPL surge protection device does

not protect household electrical equipment from power surges entering the home through television cable or telephone lines.

Customers participating in IPL's program receive a warranty against damage to appliances from power surges entering the home through the power line. The cost for IPL's surge protection is \$4.95 per month.

To receive the service, homes must be adequately grounded. Most homes are already adequately grounded, but for those homes that require electrical grounding customers can opt to have IPL install a ground rod at a cost of \$50.

IPL's surge protectors are installed and maintained by IPL.

To get more information on the IPL surge protection service and an application for service, go to www.independencemo.org/pl or call 325-7485.

Harry Truman From Page 1

Liberty, where Harry and Bess were married, will offer free tours from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The tour features stories and personal artifacts about Truman heritage and family events which occurred at the church.

One of Truman's first careers was as a farmer on the family farm in Grandview.

The Dream Factory Tractor Parade will honor Truman the farmer with a caravan of 150 to 200 tractors from 6 to 7 a.m. and on display until 10 a.m. on The Square.

Due to the construction at the Historic Jackson County Truman Courthouse, all Tourism and Square events will be at the parking lot on the southwest corner of Maple and Liberty.

The annual Lawn and Garden Show from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. features herbs, flowers and garden ornaments. Watch for children's activities, such as face painting, and specials in the Square shops and restaurants.

It is also opening day for the Independence Farmer's Market at the parking lot on the northwest corner of Liberty and Truman.

In honor of Truman's quote, "The Buck Stops Here," tourism sites will offer \$1 admission all day. Participating attractions include the Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd.; Harry S. Truman Home Historic Site, 219 N. Delaware; Vaile Mansion, 1500 N. Liberty; Harry S.

Truman Library & Museum, 500 W. 24 Highway; National Frontier Trails Museum and Chicago and Alton Depot, both at 318 W. Pacific; 1859 Jail & Marshal's Home, 217 N. Main; and the Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific.

For a buck a person, catch a trolley from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at The Square. The trolley will run from The Square to all participating sites except the Puppetry Arts Institute.

The public is invited to enjoy free birthday cake with Harry at the trolley pick-up location from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

On Friday, May 8, the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum has scheduled a ribbon cutting for the new exhibit gallery, "Truman's Working Office." A new photo exhibit, "Truman 125: A Life in Photographs," will also premier Friday.

On Saturday, May 9, the library will host a public wreath-laying ceremony at 9 a.m. at the Truman graves, followed with the serving of a 125-foot-long birthday cake and an original Truman puppet show entitled "Happy Birthday, Harry." The puppet show created by Joann McMillan of the Puppetry Arts Institute presents a whimsical look at Truman's childhood.

For a complete list of events, call Tourism, 325-7111 or go to www.visitindependence.com



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Watch City Meetings On Streaming Video

City Council meetings and study sessions are available as live and archived 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 posting. To purchase a copy of a Council meeting call 325-7019.

CITY COUNCIL

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Don Reimal	325-7027
City Council Office	325-7022
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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

*Denotes live meeting,
all others are rebroadcasts.