

CityScene



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www.independencemo.org
City of Independence, MO

Work Progressing On R.D. Mize Road Project

Construction crews are nearing completion of a major street improvement project along R.D. Mize Road.

Public Works Director John Powell said the crews have been working all summer on improvements to R.D. Mize Road between Hidden Valley Road and the new Little Blue Parkway. When completed, the new R.D. Mize Road will be a four-lane street, with one traffic lane for each direction, a center lane for turns at drives and intersections, and a lane along the north side of the street for parking.



Crews working on R.D. Mize Road.

The construction also included adding a large drainage culvert and a sanitary sewer crossing, removing old asphalt, grading for the new street and laying new asphalt.

The City will get \$1.58 million of the \$2.93 million project costs reimbursed through a grant from federal highway funds for this section (Hidden Valley Road to Jackson Drive) of the project.

Powell said the second section will complete the project from Jackson Drive to the Little Blue Parkway and will require the installation of a large storm drainage pipe and complete replacement of the asphalt pavement. The project is scheduled for completion in late October.

Work on the second section of the R.D. Mize project from the new Little Blue Parkway to Eureka Road started in early October. Eighty percent of the \$1.52 million cost should be reimbursed through a grant from federal highway funds. This project will improve R.D. Mize into a three-lane street with curbs and sidewalks, providing one traffic lane in each direction with a center turn lane. The construction will start on the east end of the project, near Eureka Road. This portion of the project is scheduled to be finished next summer.

For more information contact Shar Dilmaghani, Public Works construction manager, 325-7611, or Doug Stewart, Public Works construction inspector, 935-1915.

Events Center Community Ice Rink Opens November 7

The new state-of-the-art Community Rink at the Independence Events Center, 19100 E. Valley View Parkway, opens to the public Sunday, November 8. So dig out your ice skates if you've got them, or rent ours, and come out for one of the two Public Skating Sessions from noon - 5 p.m. or 5 - 9 p.m.

Public skating sessions will be open to skaters of all ages and skill levels. These sessions take place at various times of the week and are usually 90 minutes per session. Skate rentals are available for \$2 per person for any age.

Resident rates for public skate session

fees: general admission, \$5; children (12 and younger), \$3; seniors (55 and older), \$3; and group of 20 or more, \$4 per person. Non-resident rates are \$1 higher for each age group.

The Community Rink will also feature regular scheduled programming including Learn to Skate Classes, Learn to Play Hockey, Open Hockey/Stick & Puck Sessions, birthday party rental and other events. For more information about the Community Rink visit the Web at www.independenceneventscenter.com or call 795-7577.

City to Update Development Plan

Many major cities in the country, including the City of Independence, have a comprehensive plan for physical growth and development. In October, the City will begin an update of the current comprehensive plan, which was adopted in July 1993.

As part of the update process, Independence residents are invited to participate by answering the questionnaire that will help guide City staff in the development of the new plan, "Independence 2030: A Comprehensive Plan." The questionnaire will be available beginning October 26 on-line or in a printed version at several locations in the City.

"A community's comprehensive plan
See Comprehensive Plan, Page 2

Ofc. Rob Romey Wins Susan Block Award

Officer Rob Romey is the recipient of the 2009 Susan Paxton Block Award for Distinguished Public Service. He was presented the award during the Monday, Sept. 21 City Council meeting. The Susan Block Award is presented annually to a



CityConnect

Go to City7.TV to view the presentation of the Susan Paxton Block Award to Officer Rob Romey.

City employee, volunteer or elected official who has demonstrated outstanding public service, valor, and job performance with leadership.

Karen Penrod, Junior Service League (JSL) immediate past president, made the presentation to Officer Romey, who is the fourth Independence Police Officer to receive the award.

"The selection committee was excited to designate Officer Robert Romey as the recipient of the award," Penrod said. "He showed strong leadership qualities in establishing the new National Night

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Susan Block Award

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Out Against Crime for the City, working to involve others and causing excitement in residents that resulted in greater citizen participation than most expected.

“His efforts were viewed as those going beyond what is normally expected of the officer,” Penrod added. “His involvement in the Crime Prevention Program has resulted in achieving efficiencies in the program.”

Barb DiBlasi, Mrs. Block’s sister, and her family attended the presentation.

The late Bill Paxton, father of the late Councilmember Block, established the award to honor her memory and recognize individuals who demonstrate excellence while conducting City business. Mrs. Block represented the third council district from 1992 until her death November 11, 1996.

“Susie Block was one of those people you liked the first time you met her,” said

Mayor Don Reimal in remembering his friend and colleague. “She was a good friend and formidable opponent, always on top of the situation and never afraid to say what needed to be said. She never lost sight of the need of the people she served and what was best for the City she loved. I count myself very fortunate to have known and served with her. She was one of the best.”

The selection committee, chaired each year by the Junior Service League, was comprised of local service club presidents. Past recipients were Bob Cackler, 1999; Dan McGraw, 2000; Dennis Green, 2001; Brenda Palma, 2002; John Bullard, 2003; Larry Kaufman, 2004; Cathy Offutt, 2005; Jeff Lawhon, 2006; Bruce Lowrey, 2007; and David Dickerson and Kim Gearhart, who shared the award in 2008.

The award is \$1,000 plus a sterling silver medallion and a sterling silver lapel



From left: Karen Penrod, Officer Rob Romey and Barb DiBlasi.

pin. Proceeds come from the memorial fund established by Paxton.

September 24 was Councilmember Block’s birth date.

Comprehensive Plan

From Page 1

sets forth the official vision for the physical and economic growth and development of the city,” Community Development Director Jennifer Clark said.

“The ‘Independence 2030: A Comprehensive Plan’ is a guide designed to reveal the community’s vision of a forward-looking, environmentally-minded City with development that supports healthy neighborhoods and the City’s rich and diverse cultural history,” Clark said.

The first part of the plan focuses on land use and transportation.

Land use deals with where things should go and what they should look like, Clark said.

“An example is: where should residential uses be located as compared to industrial uses,” she said.

The transportation element asks how to best get around the city and how to access areas outside Independence.

Clark said the comprehensive planning process will take about two years to complete and will guide future development proposal decision making.

Residents are invited to answer questions in October about land uses, including residential, commercial, industrial and open space as well as transportation. In

the future, the City will also ask for input on economic development, housing, historic preservation, and other topics. The development community and those owners of undeveloped land will also be asked in the future to complete similar questionnaires.

In October two surveys are available online concerning land use and transportation: www.independencemo.org/cpsurvey-public/ or just go to the link on the City’s main Web page (www.independencemo.org). The questionnaires can be completed and submitted online with complete confidentiality between Monday, October 26 and Wednesday, November 25.

Printed versions of the surveys can be downloaded from the City’s Web site or at the following locations:

- City: Community Development Department, 2nd Floor, 111 E. Maple Ave.; Sermon Center, 201 W. Dodgion St.; Fairmount Community Center, 217 S. Cedar;

- Mid-Continent Public Library: North Independence Branch (Temporary location at former Independence Regional Hospital) 1509 W. Truman Rd. (Truman & Forest); South Independence Branch, 13700 E. 35th St.; and Midwest Geneal-

ogy Center, 3440 S. Lee’s Summit Rd.

- Metropolitan Community College - Blue River, 20301 E. 78 Hwy.

Information gathered from the questionnaires will be used to guide the completion of “Independence 2030: A Comprehensive Plan.” Drafts of the Land Use and Transportation sections will be available for review in early 2010.



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

More Than 660 Turnout for City's Flu Shot Clinic

The Independence Health Department is pleased with the results of its second annual Drive-Thru Flu Shot Clinic at the Adventure Oasis Water Park, 2100 S. Hub Dr.

"So many residents turned out for the clinic that we ran out of shots and were forced to close the event two hours early," Health Director Larry Jones said.

"The high turnout means people are listening to our message about protecting themselves from the seasonal flu," Jones said.

The Independence Health Department started out the day with 570 doses and in the first hour administered 156 shots.

Mike Jackson, Environmental Public Health Supervisor, said by 10 a.m. 546 shots had been given, and Independence had called the Clay County Health Department for additional flu vaccine doses.



Misty Countryman and two other Gradeland Nursing Students helped administer shots at the Drive-Thru Flu Shot Clinic.

The Health Department closed the clinic about noon, having administered a total of about 660 shots.

The City of Independence gave about 700 flu shots during the entire 2008-09 flu shot season.

After it receives more doses, the City will eventually be giving flu shots between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Wednesdays at the Health Department, 515 S. Liberty. In addition, H1N1 shots will be administered when the vaccine becomes available later this fall. For more information call the City's H1N1 Information line 325-6300.



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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



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 513-8401.

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

Household Hazardous Waste
New Phone Number
For Kansas City Facility

513-8401



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.



City Drop-Off Depot

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Second Saturday Of Each Month

November Last Month
Until Spring!

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.



Independence Gears Up for the Holidays

Tourism sites in Independence have a full season of family fun planned for November.

The first event, set for Friday, November 6 and Saturday, November 7, is the annual Open House on The Square. Shops will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., as they invite shoppers into their decorated shops.

On Saturday, visit the Historic Jackson County Truman Courthouse for the Independence Square Tree Lighting. Fresh kettlecorn will be available at 4 p.m. and you can take a sleigh ride any time during the afternoon with Pioneer Trails Adventures in a mule-drawn sleigh for \$2 a person. Santa will make an appearance, followed by a reading of "The Night Before Christmas" by County Executive Mike Sanders. Mayor Don Reimal and Sanders will throw the switch turning on Christmas lights. Following the lighting, Santa will receive visitors until 7 p.m.

Children can learn about pioneer-era crafts at the "Corn Husk Doll Making" workshop from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, November 14 at the National Frontier Trails Museum (NFTM), 318 W. Pacific. The cost is \$10 per person and reservations to 325-7575 are required.

Free covered wagon rides are available with paid admission Saturday, December 5 at the NFTM. And, each Saturday in December at the NFTM will offer cider and cookies, visits with Father Christmas from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and live music from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Beginning Sunday, November 15, two holiday displays will be unveiled. "Nativities from Around the World" display that will be open through Wednesday, December 23 at the Community of Christ Temple, 201 N. River. The Truman Home Visitor Center, 223 N. Main, will present a "Christmas with the Trumans" display until Friday, January 8. Both exhibits are free.

The Best Little Arts and Crafts Show in Independence returns from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, November 20 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, November 21 at the

Sermon Center, 201 N. Dodgion Ave. The free show features more than 120 booths with original crafts, candies, candles, Christmas décor and more.

Historic homes sparkle when dressed in their holiday best.

"A Visit From Saint Nicholas" display can be seen at the Chicago and Alton Depot, 313 W. Pacific, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturdays November 28 and December 5, 12, and 19; and from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sundays November 29 or December 6, 13, or 20. Donations are accepted.

The Spirit of Christmas Past Heritage Homes Tour begins Friday, November 27 and continues through Wednesday, December 30 at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific; Vaile Mansion, 1500 N. Liberty; and Marshal's Home at the 1859 Jail, 217 N. Main. One package price of \$12 allows admission into each of the homes once during the season.

Homes are open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays and 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays.

Handel's Messiah comes to life with the 250-voice Independence Messiah Choir, accompanied by the Kansas City Symphony, at 8 p.m. Saturday, November 22 at the Community of Christ Auditorium, 1001 W. Walnut. Tickets range in price from \$10 to \$35 each. Call 471-0400 for reservations.

"Holly Follies" puppet show will be performed at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, December 5, 12, 19 and 26 at the Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd. Tickets are \$5 per person and include museum admission and a finger puppet. Reservations to 833-9777 are recommended.

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

Mayor's Christmas Carnival

For more than 50 years, hundreds of Independence families have visited the annual Mayor's Christmas Carnival, hosted by the Independence Parks and Recreation Department. For many families it is a tradition that has survived from generation to generation.

"The Mayor's Christmas Carnival has become a family tradition for three generations in my family," Helen Matson, the City's Volunteer Services Coordinator, said. "I attended as a child, and then took my children when they were growing up to the event when it was held at the Truman Memorial Building. Now I take my three grandchildren to the carnival to usher in the holiday season at the Roger T. Sermon Community Center. My grandchildren enjoy the carnival-like atmosphere and I enjoy spending the special time with them."

The Mayor will be joined by special guests including Santa and his elves. This free event features carnival games, balloon creations, snacks and of course, a personal visit with Old Saint Nick.

The holiday tradition continues this year with Mayor Don Reimal from 10 a.m. - noon Saturday, December 5 at the Sermon Center, 201 N. Dodgion Ave.

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 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.

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