


CityScene



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 www.independencemo.org
City of Independence, MO



DECLARATION *for* INDEPENDENCE

At his State of the City address recently at the Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Don Reimal unveiled a new City-led initiative that serves as “a one-stop shop for anyone and everyone who cares about Independence.”

“In fact, this community is built on the ideal of spirited service and it’s time everyone in the region recognized that fact,” Mayor Reimal said. “Whether or not you realize it, everyone in this room is already ‘Declaring for Independence.’

“You are already doing something - you participate and support the community through your involvement in organizations like the Chamber, Independence Council for Economic Development, Youth Friends, Hope House, Kiwanis, Rotary, Junior Service League, Young Matrons, your place of worship...the list is long,” Mayor Reimal said.

The Declaration for Independence is about you and your community, the Mayor explained. The mission of this initiative is to inspire you to take action to make Independence

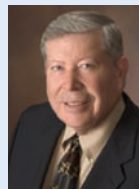
an even better place to live, work and play.

If you have served your community through volunteerism at your church or school, let us know – if you want to learn more about how you can protect our environment, this is the place. Find out how you can make a difference in supporting our local economy. Whatever you have done or are interested in pursuing, this is your opportunity to share with everyone.

So join the City of Independence,
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“The Declaration for Independence is meant to inspire you to take action to support your community. I believe that together, our individual efforts can make a big difference in our future.”

Mayor Don Reimal



City Wins Grant For \$1 Million

The City has won a \$1 million state grant to purchase equipment for enhancing energy efficiency.

With the grant, Independence will install new machinery to make the City’s wastewater treatment plant more efficient and less costly to operate.

Gov. Jay Nixon visited Independence in late March to award the grant.

“Saving taxpayer dollars by powering public facilities more efficiently benefits our communities and our citizens,” Gov. Nixon said. “Through grants like this one, Missouri communities are able to address infrastructure needs and help their local economies, all at the same time. By undertaking projects that reduce costs and waste, these cities and counties are leading the way to a more sustainable future.”

Independence’s project will replace and install new energy-efficient equipment at the Rock Creek Wastewater Treatment

See \$1 Million Grant, Page 4

United States[®] Census 2010

In March, the U.S. Census Bureau mailed forms for the 2010 Census to every household in the country. If you do not respond by mail, Census workers may contact you in person at your home to conduct the census at your home.

A complete count is important for the City of Independence because the federal government will allocate more than \$300 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data.

With only 10 questions, the 2010 Census is one of the shortest in history and takes just 10 minutes to complete. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share any information collected with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

Watch for your form in the mail. For more information contact Community Development Director Jennifer Clark at 816-325-7109 or visit the web site at <http://oa.mo.gov/mocensus/>.

Ready to sign your Declaration for Independence? Go to:

www.declareforindep.com

Saturday, May 8 Events at Courthouse Honor Harry Truman

This year, the City's birthday party for President Harry Truman, traditionally scheduled for the Saturday closest to May 8, falls on his actual birthday. Come celebrate this extra special day on The Square, beginning with the Farm and Flower Show in the parking lot around the historic Jackson County Truman Courthouse on The Square from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In honor of Arbor Day and in recognition of the 10th anniversary of Independence earning a "Tree City" designation, 400 free native species seedlings will be distributed beginning at 8 a.m. May 8 as part of the Truman celebration. Chuck Connor from the Missouri Department of Conservation will speak at 10 a.m. and will be followed by local radio personality Michael Dougherty, who is a regular guest on the Toby Tobin Show. Dougherty's five favorite trees will also be raffled off.

One of Truman's first careers was as a farmer on the family farm in Grandview. For the fifth year, the Dream Factory will honor Truman the Farmer with a benefit tractor ride, sponsored by the Kansas City Two Cylinder Club. Tractors of all types, sizes and ages will wind around the historic Jackson County Truman Courthouse. The tractors will arrive on The Square at 6 a.m., leave at 9:30 a.m. and return after lunch.

Take advantage of "buck" (\$1) daylong admission at Independence tourism sites, which include the Bingham-Waggoner Es-

tate, 313 W. Pacific; Vaile Mansion, 1500 N. Liberty; 1859 Jail and Marshal's Home, 217 N. Main; Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, 500 W. U.S. 24 Highway; Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd.; and National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific.

The Trinity Episcopal Church, 409 N. Liberty, where Harry and Bess were married, will also offer free tours from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Mormon Visitors Center, 937 W. Walnut and Community of Christ Temple and Auditorium, 1001 W. Walnut and 201 S. River; Chicago and Alton Depot, 318 W. Pacific; and Truman Home Visitors Center, 223 N. Main; are free all day. Independence Tourism will also provide \$1 trolley rides from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., with the trolley running a continuous route among the tourism sites listed above. The public is invited to share birthday cake with Harry from noon to 1 p.m. or until the cake is gone.

The Truman Library plans to start the day with a 9 a.m. wreath-laying ceremony in the courtyard where Harry and Bess are buried. At 2 p.m. an original puppet show, "Hats off to Harry," created by the Puppetry Arts Institute, is scheduled. The show uses vignettes from Truman's childhood to introduce young children to the Missouri farm boy who would grow up to be president of the United States. After the show, children are invited to participate in a free make and take puppet

craft activity.

While visiting the Library, don't miss the new exhibit, "Memories of Korea." June 25, 2010 marks the 60th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War. For the people of Korea the war caused great suffering, for Americans it was a "forgotten" war. This exhibit recalls the region, the war and its legacy through the letters, diaries, photographs, films and personal memorabilia of the people who lived and fought there. If you miss seeing this exhibit on May 8, you can return anytime during the remainder of 2010. The exhibit is included with regular museum admission.

For a complete list of tourism sites, attractions and events, go to www.visit-independence.com or call Independence Tourism at 325-7111.

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UTILITY
ASSISTANCE
254-4100



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Stay current on City news and events. Become a fan of the City

of Independence on facebook at <http://www.facebook.com>.

Declaration

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civic leaders, schools, local businesses, non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, and neighbors in Declaring for Independence. Tell us how you will commit to making your community a stronger, healthier, better place.

Supporting Independence could be as simple as shopping local, doing something for the environment, donating food to the local pantry, voting in the next election, getting involved in your neighborhood, or volunteering.

You can sign up to volunteer at a school, offer assistance to an elderly

neighbor, dogs at the shelter, or your professional skills with a local non-profit organization. The options are endless.

For more information call: Nickie Lee at 325-7495, Ann Smith-Tate at 325-7796, or Irene Baltrusaitis at 325-7019.



walk animal share fes-



CityConnect

Go to City7.TV to view the Declaration for Independence kick-off video.

Ready to sign your Declaration for Independence? Go to:

www.declareforindep.com

Recycling Centers

The City operates two recycling centers. Items accepted at the centers include paper, cardboard, paperboard, steel and aluminum cans, plastic, glass food and beverage containers, 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

Annual Bike Rodeo May 1

As the weather starts to warm we will all start to see one of the largest indicators of summer return...children riding bicycles.

“Every year thousands of children across the United States are injured or killed while riding a bicycle,” Independence Police Officer Rob Romey said.

“Often, these accidents are the results of poor training or preparedness on behalf of the kids,” Officer Romey said. “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.”

Officer Romey said there are many reasons why these tragedies happen, but often, as with most accidents, there are



ways that we can help prevent these mishaps from occurring.

The Independence Police and Parks and Recreation Departments are committed to helping to teach children safety in the roadway, Officer Romey said.

Join the Independence Police Department Bicycle Unit, and Independence Parks and Recreation for the City’s annual Bicycle Rodeo from

11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 1 on the south side of the Community of Christ Auditorium, 1101 W. Walnut. They will provide free bike tune-ups, inspections, and challenge courses geared at teaching safe bicycle riding skills.

Also on hand will be the Volunteers in Police Service, offering child identification kits at no charge and the Independence

Health Department, Partners Give 16,000 Flu Shots

When the H1N1 vaccine became available in October 2009, the Health Department partnered and collaborated with 44 local health care facilities and other agencies to distribute and administer the H1N1 vaccine to 16,000 Independence residents.

Cockerell and McIntosh Pediatrics administered 1,612 H1N1 vaccinations to their patients. It was the greatest number of vaccinations given by any provider.

The Health Department thanked partners for their support and service during the vaccination process by hosting an appreciation breakfast at the Hilton Garden Inn. Representatives from local physician offices, pharmacies, long-term care facilities, school district staff and other agencies were in attendance, along with Health Department staff. More than 60 guests attended and were honored with plaques.

“There are not enough words to truly express our appreciation for your hard work in vaccinating and protecting members of our community from the H1N1 virus,” Health Director Larry D. Jones said. “Your efforts have greatly assisted in the well-being and health of our local population.”

Agencies recognized included Azanipolo Child Care Center, Centerpoint Medical

Center, Cockerell and McIntosh Pediatrics, Cerner Corporation, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, City of Independence Communications Division, City of Independence Technology Services, Encompass Medical, Family Medicine, Fifty Plus Pharmacy, Fort Osage School District, Graceland University, The Groves, Hawthorne Place Apartments, Healthcare for Women, Healthy Solutions, Heartland Medical Care, Independence Events Center, Independence Manor Care Center, Independence Pediatrics, Independence School District, Independence Women’s Clinic, Kansas City Allergy and Asthma, Kmart Pharmacy (24 Highway), Kmart Pharmacy (Noland Road), Matt’s Medicine Store, Medical Reserve Corps of Greater Kansas City, Stephen Mesa, DO, Metropolitan Community College-Blue River, Mid America Internal Medicine, Midwest Occupational Health and Wellness, Minute Clinic (24 Highway), Minute Clinic (Noland Road), Nativity of Mary Church and School, Noland Family Care, Noland Towers, OHS Compcare and Adult Quick Care, Olde Oak Tree Apartments, Palmer Center, Park University, Southview Manor, Take Care Health Clinic (Noland Road), Target Pharmacy, and Dr. Robert Williams.



Fire Department, offering fire truck tours. Free bicycle helmets will be available (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.



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

Drop-Off
Depot

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.

\$1 Million Grant From Page 1

Plant, replacing an older mechanical process to aerate (expose to air) the water. The project will allow the City to better control the aeration basins in the plant and optimize the systems, which will reduce energy consumption.

It is estimated that the project will result in annual energy cost savings of \$147,647 and increase the plant's capacity. This in turn delays the need for a costly plant expansion.

Construction plans will be finalized by late May, Water Pollution Control Assistant Director Rob Patten said. The project should be complete in 12 to 14 months.

Power & Light staff coordinated on-site energy audits of the Wastewater Treatment Plant as well as other City facilities and buildings conducted by Energy Solutions Professionals. The energy audits were funded through the City's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) award received last September. The results of the energy audit were used to apply for a grant to improve energy efficiency at the Wastewater Treatment Plant through the State of Missouri's "Energy

Adventure Oasis Water Park Opens May 29

We've made it through a long, snowy, cold winter and now is the time to enjoy warm weather and fun in the water," Parks and Recreation Director Eric Urfer said. "Adventure Oasis Water Park is opening in May."

Adventure Oasis Water Park, 2100 Hub Dr. (north of 23rd Street and west of M-291) opens Saturday, May 29.

Adventure Oasis offers a variety of options for families. Season passes and 5-punch passes are currently on sale at the Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple Ave.

Swim lessons, water aerobics, lap swimming, and river walking programs are available throughout the summer. Adventure Oasis also offers party packages for birthdays and other celebrations. For more information on party packages, season passes or classes call 325-7946 or visit www.independencemo.org/parksandrec/AdvenOasis.aspx

Pets in the Park

Have you been told that your pet and you look alike? Do you believe that you have the biggest...or smallest...dog? Bring your pet to compete in categories such as

Missouri Communities" program.

Gov. Nixon praised Mayor Don Reimal, City Manager Robert Heacock and other City employees saying the grant process was extremely competitive, making the selection process tough.

A total of \$11.3 million is being distributed to 58 Missouri communities through the Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant program. Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and administered by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, these funds have been directed to communities which developed plans for energy efficiency upgrades and submitted applications detailing those plans.

Completion of the funded projects across the state will save Missouri communities and counties more than 47.7 million kilowatt-hours of energy per year and reduce CO2 emissions by 11,657 tons, the equivalent of removing 2,022 cars from the roads.

More information on the EECBG program can be found online at www.mo.gov.

the Biggest Dog, Smallest Dog, Longest Tail, and Pet and Owner Look-Alike at the Parks and Recreation Department's 7th annual "Pets in the Park." This year's event is from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 22 at Waterfall Park, 4501 S. Bass Pro Dr., and also offers pet owners information about animal care, animal behaviors, discount pet immunizations, and discount micro chipping.

Each year the animals range from the traditional dog and cat to other pets such as goats, iguanas, lizards, turtles, pot bellied pigs and chickens.

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

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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.

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 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.