

CityScene



May 2010
Volume 17 Number 2



www.independencemo.org
City of Independence, MO

Independence Athletic Complex Hosts Full Slate of Sports, Programs

A lot is happening at 17800 E. Salisbury Road this spring. On any given weekend and on most late afternoons and evenings, the air is filled with the sounds of cheering parents and the familiar smell of hotdogs and popcorn. The highly anticipated Independence Athletic Complex is in full swing.

Funded by the Parks and Recreation Sales Tax and nestled among rolling hills and trees, the 165-acre, \$7 million Independence Athletic Complex is on its way toward meeting community needs that were identified in the 2001 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.

Among other things, the Plan called for the development of a multi-sport/multi-field outdoor athletic venue that would serve not only as a regional center for youth leagues, tournaments and outdoor events, but would also provide a neighborhood park.

In fall 2009, the Athletic Complex kicked into gear with

youth soccer and football teams playing games and practicing on eight of the 17 fields.

"It was a nice prelude for things to come as all the fields would be in play in 2010," Parks and Recreation Director Eric Urfer said.

The spring started with high school baseball games being played for the first time on the two new baseball fields located on the northwest corner of the Athletic Complex, Urfer said.

"Twenty-three high school baseball teams were introduced to the facility's thick grass infields, tightly trimmed base paths and finely groomed warning tracks," Urfer said. "Add to the mix great field lighting, a lot of spectator space, plenty of parking and a nearby restroom and concession facility, the Complex is proving to be a great place to play baseball."

After the high school teams hang up their cleats for the season, it will be time for players from the Kiwanis/Sonic Baseball League, American Legion Baseball League and the Kansas City Amateur Baseball Association to take the field. About 500 players participate in these programs.

April 2010 also marked the first spring season at the Athletic Complex for the Soccer Association of Independence. The league is has started the season with games scheduled on all eight soccer fields. More than 700 youths play for SAI and

See Athletic Complex, Page 3



City's 3rd Annual EcoFest June 5

The third annual Independence EcoFest – "It's All About Water!" – to teach children and families about protecting the environment will be from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday, June 5, at the City's 80-acre Waterfall Park south of the Bass Pro Shops. Last year about 800 visitors attended the EcoFest.

The City of Independence sponsors the event in partnership with the Missouri Departments of Conservation (MDC) and Natural Resources (MDNR), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Little Blue Watershed Coalition and several local groups. City departments participating are Water Pollution Control, Parks and Recreation, Power & Light, Water and Health.

"Protecting our water resources is crucial to the environment." WPC Director Dick Champion said "Our goal with this

See EcoFest June 5, Page 2

City Continues Update of Plan

The City of Independence is starting the second phase of updates to its Comprehensive Plan, a project which started last fall when the City invited citizens to share their thoughts and opinions on Land Use and Transportation.

The next phase of the update will focus on Housing and Economic Development. The Comprehensive Plan for Independence was last updated in 1993. Many cities in the country, including the City

See Comprehensive Plan, Page 4



Follow us

Keep up to date on City news and events. Become a fan of the City of

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

HHW Collection Brings 82,796 Pounds of Waste

While it wasn't a record year, the 13th annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection event held April 3 in Independence was extremely successful with 518 vehicles, representing 628 households, delivering 82,796 pounds of waste products for proper disposal.

Water Pollution Control Director Dick Champion said that every year the Independence event is the largest collection event sponsored by any city in the region.

Heritage Environmental Services, the environmental contractor for the event, reported that Independence residents delivered an average of 160 pounds per car, which is 30 percent higher than any other HHW event held in the region, and 40 percent higher than the national average.

The types of products dropped off in the largest quantities were paint, oil, cleaning products, batteries, pesticides/toxics, and flammable liquids. The Independence Police Department also was on hand and collected firearms, miscellaneous ammunition, fireworks, and flares.

Champion said in the 12 previous years Independence citizens have disposed of more than 343 tons of hazardous waste.

The remainder of the year, residents can take household hazardous waste products to one of the other mobile events held by regional participating communities free of charge. Call Water Pollution Control



at 325-7711 for more information about other mobile collections or visit the WPC website at www.independencemo.org/wpc.

There are also facilities open all year where residents can take HHW products.

Residents can make an appointment at the Kansas City facility, 4707 Deramus, by calling 513-8401. Days of operation are Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays and it is free to Independence residents. The facility is closed Sunday and Monday.

The Lee's Summit facility at 2101 S.E. Hamblin Rd. is open from 7 a.m. to noon the first Saturday of the month April through November and is also free. There is a limit of 100 pounds per visit. Appointments are required and can be made by calling 969-1805.

Swope-Hyde Murders Re-enactment June 12

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Swope Mansion Murders, you are cordially invited to watch "the trial of the century" in the Midwest. Be there when the verdict is handed down!

The Jackson County Historical Society in partnership with the Independence Parks and Recreation Department will present an historical re-enactment of the Swope-Hyde murder trial at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 12 at the Truman Memorial Building, 416 West Maple. Tickets are \$10, or \$5 for JCHS members.

For the uninitiated, the Swope murders were a fascinating "whodunit" of the 1900s, filled with local history and medical and legal intrigue.

In the early 1900s, Dr. Clark Bennett Hyde married the daughter of a prominent Independence family whose wealthy patriarch was Col. Thomas Swope. The eccentric Uncle Tom Swope never married. However, he was known for his philanthropy including bequeathing the land for Swope Park to the community.

In 1909, Dr. Hyde was charged with murdering Col. Swope and two other members of the Swope family in their Victorian mansion at 406 S. Pleasant.

Did he actually do it? Scholars vigorously disagree. In any case, what followed were three dramatic trials complete with colorful witnesses, flamboyant lawyers and electrifying media coverage.

Everyone will enjoy this glimpse into Independence history recounted in Giles Fowler's recent book, *Deaths on Pleasant Street*. Fowler will be at the performance to sell and sign copies of his book.

For more information contact the JCHS at 461-1897.

EcoFest June 5 From Page 1

festival is to educate the public about the importance of nurturing and protecting the environment."

The festival provides education and information about the importance of water quality, local watersheds, stormwater management, conservation, and energy conservation.

Interactive displays such as edible ice cream aquifers (MDNR), a stream table that demonstrates stream bank erosion (MDC) and water-themed games will be located along the park trail so participants can learn about various water and conservation topics.

Festival goers will collect stamps for their "Eco-Passports" by answering quiz questions as they visit various exhibit booths throughout the park. Each exhibitor will have a question associated with their theme. Participants will receive a

prize for completed Eco-Passports.

In addition, the festival will include entertainment by Eco Elvis, Stan Slaughter's Green Spirit Band, and the Eco-Street Characters. The Kansas City Kite Club will fly banners and kites. There is no admission fee.

"Make plans to come out to support this water quality educational event for our community," Champion said.

For more information, visit the City's Web site at www.independencemo.org/wpc and www.indepmo.org/ecofest or call WPC at (816) 325-7711.

IShare

UTILITY ASSISTANCE

254-4100

FREEDOM from SMOKING

FREE CLASSES!

REGISTER TODAY! CALL 816-325-7185

INDEPENDENCE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Only Rain Down the Drain

Storm sewers, unlike the sanitary sewers (indoor sinks and toilets), do not go to a wastewater treatment plant.

Those storm sewers flow into area streams, rivers and lakes, so anything that enters the storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterways we use for swimming, fishing and other recreation.

“Polluted runoff is one of the greatest threats to clean water,” Water Pollution Control Director Dick Champion said. “Washing your car on your driveway or in the street can send detergents and other contaminants through the storm sewer system.

“Dumping automotive fluids into storm drains has the same result as dumping the materials directly into a water body,” Champion added. “Products advertised as ‘biodegradable’ are typically not safe for our waterways either – even small amounts of chemicals entering storm drains can affect water quality.”

These are examples of “illicit discharges” – discharges not composed entirely of storm water. The City’s “illicit discharge” ordinance prohibits dumping or discharging substances other than storm water into storm drains.

Teams of WPC employees, with assistance from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), will survey Adair Creek this year to look for illicit discharges. Illicit

discharges can be detected when storm drains carry measurable flow during dry weather.

The teams investigate dry weather discharges by sampling for pollutants. They also look for illegal trash dumping and other debris in the storm sewer system. Pictures are taken and GPS locations obtained for locations where illegal discharges and dumping are observed.

Under the City’s state regulatory storm sewer permit, field screening is part of the storm water management program. The field screening activities supplement WPC’s ongoing efforts to eliminate illicit discharges reported by citizens or discovered by field crews.

Last summer the teams conducted field screening of Rock Creek and Independence portions of the Little Blue River and the East Fork of the Little Blue River. Detergents in two samples exceeded federal standards for protection of stream life. Car washing or other outdoor washing may have been the source.

Remember that at the end of every storm sewer is a stream – a home for fish, crawdads, frogs and plants. By practicing healthy household habits, homeowners can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, and automotive fluids off the ground and out of storm water. To help protect streams, rivers, and lakes, follow these simple tips:

- Never discard trash or yard waste down storm drains or in the street.
- When mowing, discharge toward the yard, not the street.
- Sweep driveways and sidewalks clean instead of hosing them.
- Pick up after your pets.
- Repair auto fluid leaks and never place used oil in the trash or pour down storm drains. Visit www.recyclespot.org to find the nearest oil recycling center or call 816-474-TEAM.
- Wash your car at a commercial car wash or in a grassy area; not on a driveway or in the street.
- Dispose of toxic household and lawn chemicals at a household hazardous waste collection center or mobile collection.

To report spills, illicit discharges, and storm water quality problems, call the storm water pollution hot line, 325-7727.

For more information call WPC at 325-7711 or visit www.ci.independence.mo.us/wpc

Athletic Complex

From Page 1

now call the Athletic Complex home.

Not to be forgotten, the three new softball fields are also seeing plenty of action. After years of playing games at a Jackson County-owned and operated facility, the Independence Girl’s Softball Association finally has a place of their own.

Some 500 girls, ages 5 to 14 christened the softball tri-plex this spring with 48 league games.

In addition, the Kansas City Metro Senior Softball League has taken the field. With players as young as 82, these guys aren’t spending their retirement years in a rocking chair!

Tournament organizers from around the metro have taken notice of the quality fields now available for play in Independence. Six girls’ fast-pitch softball tournaments, six youth and adult baseball tournaments, and two youth soccer tournaments have already been scheduled. In addition, the complex will play host

to the local and sectional Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit and Run contests and a number of soccer, baseball and softball camps and clinics.

The Independence Athletic Complex is not just a place for organized sports; family-oriented community events will also take place there. With serving a variety of interests in mind, a wide range of activities are planned such as a Family Sports Night, an archery program, Popsicles in the Park, Toddler Town on Tour, a 5K walk and a National Night Out event.

“If that is still too organized for you, we invite you to venture out on your own and take advantage of the playground, picnic shelter and 1.5 miles of walking trails,” Urfer said.

Visit the Independence Park & Recreation Web site at <http://www.independencemo.org/parksandrec/> or the spring catalog for the full programming schedule. For more information call 325-7843.



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.

Comprehensive Plan From Page 1

of Independence, have a comprehensive plan that guides the physical growth and development of the city over a 20-year period.

By answering the questions, residents can help guide City staff in drafting the new plan.

“A community’s Comprehensive Plan 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.

“Housing deals with providing the right types of housing for current and future residents and locates them in the right places. Economic Development focuses on enhancing job opportunities for residents and supporting the tax base of the City,” Clark said.

“An example is: how many single-family homes should we have compared to senior housing and have we secured enough land for industrial purposes in the right places, allowing us to compete with other communities in bringing or expanding businesses in Independence.” she said.

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

In the future, the City will also ask for input on sustainability, historic preservation, parks and open space.

The surveys concerning Housing and Economic Development are available beginning Tuesday, May 4 until Friday, June 11 online at: www.independencemo.org/cpsurveypublic/ or just go to the link



CityScene is published monthly by the City Manager’s Office, 111 East Maple Street, Independence, Missouri 64050. Editor: Irene Baltrusaitis, Communications Director, 325-7019. The City’s webpage address is www.independencemo.org

on the City’s main Web page (www.independencemo.org). Printed versions of the surveys can be downloaded from the City’s Web site or picked up at:

- ◆ City Hall, Community Development Department, 2nd Floor, 111 E. Maple Ave.;
- ◆ Sermon Center, 201 N. Dodgion St.;
- ◆ Palmer Senior Center, 218A N. Pleasant St.
- ◆ Kansas City Public Library – Trails West branch, 11401 E. 23rd St.;
- ◆ Fairmount Community Center, 217 S. Cedar;
- ◆ Mid-Continent Public Library:
 - North Independence Branch, 1509 Truman Rd.
 - South Independence Branch, 13700 E. 35th St.
 - Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee’s Summit Rd.

Information gathered from the questionnaires will be used to guide the completion of “Independence 2030: A Comprehensive Plan.”

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 |

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.



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.



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