

# CityScene



June 2010  
Volume 17 Number 6



www.independencemo.org  
City of Independence, MO

## U.S. Sen. Christopher Bond Receives 2010 Truman Award

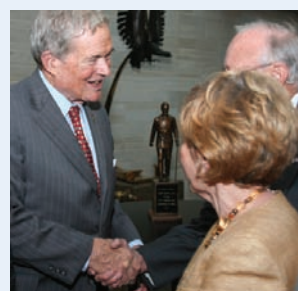


**CityConnect**

Go to City7.TV to view the Harry S. Truman Award for Public Service Program.



Mayor Don Reimal presented the 2010 Harry S. Truman Award for Public Service May 7 to U.S. Senator Christopher "Kit" Bond and the Harry S. Truman Special Recognition Award to former Mayor Barbara Potts. U.S. Rep. Ike Skelton and U.S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver also spoke about Sen. Bond's service.



## New Bus Service Starting July 6

Early next month the City of Independence will start enhanced bus service to provide more options for riders to access medical and governmental resources.

Beginning Tuesday, July 6, the new service will operate from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. The service is the first to intersect with existing fixed routes at points other than the Transit Center, providing more options to riders.

The City originally announced the new service in April.

"This new route is significant because it responds to a number of transit access needs, while also fulfilling a commitment to enhance service to Centerpoint Medical

See New Bus Route, Page 2

## Celebrate July 4th In Independence

The City's 10th annual July 4th celebration of traditional patriotic music and fireworks is scheduled for Saturday, July 3 at Mormon Visitors Center, 937 W. Walnut.

In honor of the Declaration for Independence project, the City will provide free ice cream to the first 500 people who come through the gates when they open at 8 p.m.

The Spirit of Independence Community Concert Band will begin playing at 8:30 p.m. and the fireworks display begins at dusk.

The public is invited to bring lawn chairs and/or blankets for seating. Sponsors of the event are the City, the Mormon Visitors Center and Truman Presidential Museum and Library.

**Ready to sign your Declaration for Independence?**

**Go to: [www.declareforindep.com](http://www.declareforindep.com)**



# Centerpoint

From Page 1

Center," Mayor Don Reimal said.

The new Silver Route will start at the Transit Center, travel east to Lee's Summit Road and then south on Lee's Summit Road to the Midwest Genealogy Library. From there it will travel west on 35th Street to Noland Road, where it intersects with the Purple Route (#284), which runs north and south along Noland Road, and has stops at 35th and 39th Streets. Returning east along 39th Street to Lee's Summit Road, the service then proceeds south where it will stop at the Social Security Administration office, 4240 S. Lee's Summit Rd.

The last stop on the route will be at Centerpoint Medical Center, where it will intersect with the Green Route (#183) which runs north and south primarily along Missouri 291. The bus will reverse back to the transit center with a total round trip time of 1½ hours. Bus schedules will be available two weeks before start of the new route. For more information, contact the KCATA at 816-221-0660 or visit their

website at [www.kcata.org](http://www.kcata.org).

Bus fare will be equivalent to other routes; passengers will be able to use all KCATA passes and discounts on the route. The Silver Route vehicle for the service will be a 12-passenger minibus with two positions for wheelchairs. This is more than other 12-passenger vehicles which generally have one wheelchair position.

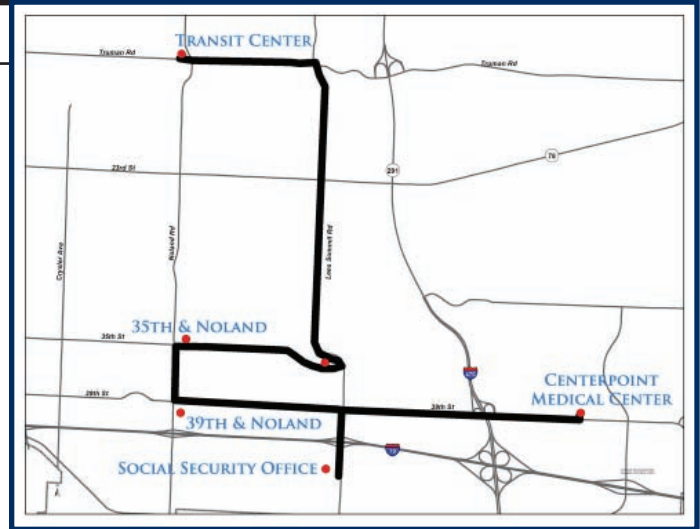
The estimated \$96,071 annual cost of the route is provided through the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Agreement with HCA. The TIF Plan called for funding to be allocated to provide transportation services to/from the redevelopment area at the new Centerpoint Medical Center.

This new service fulfills the intentions [www.newindependencesquare.com](http://www.newindependencesquare.com) or call Parks & Recreation at 325-7870.

The 23rd annual Antique and Craft Fair is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 10 at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific. More than 150 Midwest vendors display antiques and crafts on the grounds of the historic home, which sits along the Santa Fe Trail that led pioneers west. At noon, the Spirit of Independence Concert band will play. Concessions for sale include walking tacos, hot dogs, smoked sausage, freshly made kettle corn and roasted nuts. The Bingham's volunteers will sell homemade cookies and lemonade. Guided home tours are \$5 for adults and \$2 for children ages 6-16.

Wednesdays and Saturdays until October you can begin your day at the Independence Farmer's Market in the parking lot on the northwest corner of Main and Truman Roads. Buy fresh locally grown produce and handmade crafts or sell your own at this twice weekly market from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. For information or to rent booth space, call Joe Antoine at 816-252-8860.

For a complete list of events, call Tourism at 325-7111 or go to [www.visitindependence.com](http://www.visitindependence.com).



New Silver Route gives access to medical and governmental services.

of the TIF Plan. No City General Fund dollars are being used to pay for the new route. For more information, contact Community Development Director Jennifer Clark at (816) 325-7109 or [jlark@indepmo.org](mailto:jlark@indepmo.org).

## July Tourism Events Start at NFTM

Get in the patriotic mood by taking a gallery walk any July Thursday afternoon at the National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific. Museum staff will present a 30-minute walking tour, "Fourth of July on the Trail," at 2 p.m. starting July 1.

Pioneers hoped to reach Wyoming's Independence Rock by July 4, an important milestone on their trek west. Come learn how pioneers celebrated the July 4th holiday. The tour is free with regular admission: \$5 for adults, \$4.50 for seniors, and \$3 for those ages 6 - 17.

Families will enjoy Thursday evenings on the Independence Square with free concerts and a movie. The movies begin at 8:30 p.m. in the west parking lot of the Pharaoh Theater, on the corner of Liberty and Maple. Movie titles will be announced at [www.newindependencesquare.com](http://www.newindependencesquare.com). Bring your own lawn chair.

Music performers are the Doo Dads (Children/Family Music) 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. July 1; BaliRoot (Variety, Classic Rock, Disco & Country Music) 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. July 8; and Four Fried Chickens and a Coke (12 Piece Rhythm & Blues, Funk & Swing Showband) 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. and Vesuvius Tribe (Fire Art Performance Tribe/Acrobatic performers) 7:40 - 8:30 p.m. July 15. For more information visit

### 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

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

## Electric Rate Increase Coming This Summer

The third phase of the City Council approved electric rate increase will take effect on July 1. This increase is set at 5 percent and is the third phase of a five-part rate plan. The increase will be used to offset the rising costs of maintaining IPL's facilities.

The last increase was in July 2009.

"Utilities are facing rising maintenance costs as well as increased costs associated with replacing old facilities," Power & Light Director Leon Daggett said.

"To continue delivering electricity reliably, we must maintain our facilities and this work has become more costly," Daggett stated. "While costs of doing business have gone up, customers can lessen the rate impact on their utility bill by reducing the amount of electricity used."

Daggett noted customers can reduce electricity costs through energy efficiency measures such as:

- Adjusting thermostat settings

## Knowing Proper Water Safety Could Save a Life

As the weather heats up many of us find our way to the nearest pool, lake, stream or beach to get cool. But, when we look forward to enjoying the cool water, injuries and even fatalities aren't always on our minds.

The U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports that drowning is the leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 4, and that three children die every day as a result of drowning.

Drowning is the third largest cause of death for children ages 4-11. Nonfatal drowning can cause brain damage resulting in long-term disabilities including memory problems, learning disabilities, and permanent loss of basic functioning (i.e., permanent vegetative state).

Parents can take preventative steps by taking water safety awareness classes or signing their children up for swim lessons.

Water Safety Awareness programs teach drowning prevention strategies, basic water safety, use of lifejackets, and rescue techniques for aquatic emergencies.

A 2009 study in the Archives of Pediatric and Adolescence Medicine reported participation in formal swimming lessons was associated with an 88% reduction in the risk of drowning in children aged 1

- Weatherizing residences
- Replacing incandescent lights with compact fluorescent lights
- Making sure air conditioning equipment is operating efficiently

In addition, customers can take advantage of Power & Light programs and services including:

- Web-based tools including an online energy audit, energy calculator and energy efficiency information through "Energy Depot,"
- Rebates for qualifying high efficient heat pumps and air conditioner equipment,
- Home weatherization for income qualified households, and
- Free "Energy Savers" booklets.

To learn more about ways IPL can help you reduce energy consumption and save money on your electric bill, visit Power & Light on the web at [www.independencemo.org/pl](http://www.independencemo.org/pl) or call 325-7485.

to 4 years.

Independence Parks and Recreation has several programs for children this summer at Adventure Oasis Water Park, 2100 S.



Hub Dr.

Swim Lessons session dates for those ages 6 months and older are June 7 - 17, June 21 - July 1, July 12 - 22, and July 26 - August 5.

Also offered are two free, one-day Water Safety Awareness Clinics June 12 and June 26.

"Always remember there is no substitute for adult supervision," Parks and Recreation Director Eric Urfer said. "No child should be left to play in a pool, lake, stream or beach of any size without a responsible adult in attendance at all times. A child can drown in the few minutes it takes for an adult to run inside, to answer the phone, the door or use the bathroom."

For more information or to enroll in the aquatics programs call the Parks & Recreation Department at 325-7843.

Sources: <http://www.cdc.gov/safechild/drowning/>

<http://www.hhs.gov/asl/testify/2008/05/t20080501e.html>

<http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/163/3/203>

## Green Lawn Care

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.

Water Pollution Control Director Dick Champion urges wise use of lawn chemicals to benefit the environment and save money. He offers the following guidelines for proper lawn care:

- Landscape with native plants to reduce or eliminate the need for lawn chemicals.
- Consider compost or natural lawn chemical alternatives.
- Test soil before using fertilizers. Contact the local University of Missouri Extension office for soil testing services at 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,

See Green Lawn, Page 4



### 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.

## Power & Light Tree Trimming an Annual Program

Every year, Independence Power & Light (IPL) must go out and trim trees away from overhead electric lines. This is necessary to prevent power outages during severe weather events and to allow personnel to work on the lines to make repairs and upgrades.

“This work is necessary and unavoidable if we are to have dependable delivery of electricity to our homes and businesses,” IPL Tree Trimming Superintendent Jim Martin said.

In an effort to trim properly and keep trees healthy, IPL does not top trees. Instead, IPL uses natural trimming practices. This practice allows trees to retain more of their natural form and results in healthier trees and reduced costs, since following natural trimming practices means tree trimming can be done less frequently.

“Almost everyone wants trees along the street in front of their homes and businesses,” noted Martin. “Trees provide shade for parked cars in the summer. They

display vibrant colors in the fall. They present a more ‘friendly’ atmosphere for the neighborhood.”

“IPL can remove some trees in conflict with power lines and replace them with utility-friendly trees through IPL’s Tree Replacement Program,” Martin added.

“Some of these replacement trees are very attractive but will not grow tall enough to reach the overhead wires,” Martin said. “Therefore, the utility will need to do little, if any, pruning. These trees will still provide shade and other important benefits, but their branches will not grow sufficiently to come in contact with the wires.”

IPL recommends that when a homeowner purchases a tree to be planted anywhere in the proximity of power lines, they should first find out how tall the tree will grow and how wide the branches will spread out to make sure the tree will not grow into power lines. This information is usually on a tag or label attached to

the tree.

Homeowners with questions about what trees to plant and where to plant them, can get a free copy of “The Right Tree in the Right Place.” It guides homeowners on how to choose and plant trees for energy efficiency and proper spacing from overhead power lines. A little forethought and planning can prevent major problems 20 years later.

IPL has been recognized as a Tree Line USA Utility for 11 years by the national Arbor Day Foundation for its efforts to provide quality tree care and annual worker training on quality tree care practices, and working with the public on healthy tree trimming and selection practices.

Call 325-7494 to receive a free copy of “The Right Tree in the Right Place” or a brochure on IPL’s Tree Replacement Program. Information is also available on IPL’s Website, [www.independencemo.org/pl](http://www.independencemo.org/pl).

## Green Lawn From Page 3

animals, or pets that could be harmed. Avoid spraying on windy days.

- Wear protective gear as indicated on the label. Don’t eat, drink, smoke, or wear soft contact lenses when using pesticides.

- 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 off walks and 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 unwanted 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 on the ground or down a storm drain.

Contact the MU Extension office, 252-5051, for lawn chemical use information or visit [www.muextension.missouri.edu/explore](http://www.muextension.missouri.edu/explore). For more information or to receive a free brochure on soil testing, call WPC at 325-7711.



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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

printed on recycled paper

## Watch City Meetings On Streaming Video

City Council meetings and study sessions are available as live and archived streaming video on the City’s Website, [www.independencemo.org](http://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**  
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[www.City7.TV](http://www.City7.TV)  
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 all others are rebroadcasts.