

City of Independence Welcomes New City Manager

River City Briefs

July 8, 2022

The City of Independence, Oregon | 555 S Main St, Independence, OR 97351 | 503 838-1212

Para La Versión En Español

New City Manager Addresses Independence Residents



The City of Independence would like to officially welcome our new city manager Kenna West, JD to our community. Read Kenna's welcome address here:

"As I walked along the sidewalk in downtown Independence on a recent Saturday morning I felt a sense of home....a welcoming and open feeling that is unique to this wonderful community. Folks passing along the sidewalk offered "good mornings" like candy on Halloween with cheerfulness and smiles. Upon entering a local restaurant for a pastry and coffee, the

lovely young woman chatted with me about how beautiful the city is and how much she enjoys living and working here; and when I told her I was her new City Manager she beamed and gave me a huge "welcome".

Visiting the shops, and the theater, and then walking along the river produced the same responses: always a smile and always a "good morning" or later in the day "good afternoon". I feel truly blessed to have been chosen to serve the community and the City of Independence. As a self-proclaimed "infrastructure geek" with multiple city infrastructure

projects already “under my belt” I’m excited to join the work being done on the water, sewer, and street infrastructure....these infrastructure projects keep the structural foundation of the community strong and resilient. As an Oregon Certified Economic Development professional, I’m looking forward to continuing the absolutely amazing economic development work already in progress in this stunning city!

As a native Oregonian, raised on a cattle ranch in the Willamette Valley, I’m extraordinarily happy to have the opportunity to work with a city that supports and encourages agriculture throughout the region. As a lawyer and professional City Manager, I’m eager to work with a skilled and knowledgeable staff and a dedicated and charismatic City Council. But mostly, as your new City Manager, I am looking forward to meeting and serving the amazing community members who make up the organizations, businesses, and residents that are the heart of this stunning City of Independence." —Kenna West, JD

Movies & Concerts in the Park Returns

CONCERTS IN THE PARK



WHEN

Friday July 8, 2022
6 PM

WHERE

Independence
Riverview Park

Aching for some more live entertainment after the excitement of the 4th of July?

Join us this Friday, July 8, 2022, starting at 6 PM, as we kick off our first concert in the park of the summer: **Barracuda-America's Heart Tribute**, featuring opening acts from All Fired Up & Shooting Star (Pat Benetar & Bad Co. Tribute bands)

Get ready to rock out, dance, and enjoy some FREE live music on the

river's edge!

For more information on the complete summer series lineup, click the button below.

Full Summer Series Schedule

Community Development Update

Several items move through the Independence Community Development Department in any given month. This section of River City Briefs showcases some of the projects that are occurring in the community.

- **Liberty Place 3 and Brandy Meadows 3 Subdivisions** – The plats for the Liberty Place 3 and Brandy Meadows 3 subdivisions were recently signed. The plats, the legal documents that officially create lots, would create 29 new lots in the final phase of the Liberty Place subdivision and would create 32 new lots in Brandy Meadows. Expect new building in the areas soon.
- **Monmouth-Independence Trolley Project** – Work continues on the trolley project. Vehicles have been ordered and stop locations have been identified. Additionally, progress is being made on the branding for the service. Expect more information and requests for feedback about the branding soon.

In addition to these projects, the department has been at work on two potential development code changes:

- **Duplex Standards** – At the City Council meeting of July 12, the Council will consider a code change that would allow duplexes on all lots zoned for single-family use. This change would address recent legislation passed by the State of Oregon that requires all cities that are larger than 10,000 individuals in size, to provide “missing middle housing” options including the allowance “the development of a duplex on each lot or parcel zoned for residential use that allows for the development of detached single-family dwellings.” (see House Bill 2001)
- **Changes to Garage Requirements** – At the Planning Commission meeting of July 11, the Commission will consider a code change that would modify the requirements for garages. The changes would no longer require new single-family homes and duplexes to have a garage and would establish a set of standards for alternative parking configurations.

To see details of the proposed code changes, please click on the button

below.

If you have questions about the projects or anything else, please contact Fred Evander, Community Planner at (503) 837-1168 or by email at fevander@ci.independence.or.us.

[See Proposed Code Changes](#)

Garage Conversion Code Change to be Considered at Upcoming Planning Commission Meeting



Daniel Alvarado wasn't always looking to convert his garage into a bigger living space, but, as with anything, necessary growth requires adaptable solutions.

After moving back to Independence from West Salem, Daniel bought his home in 2013 under conditions that were less than ideal.

"The place was a dump," shared Daniel.

Upon discovering his need to expand his garage, Daniel contacted the Community Development Department at the City of Independence. Soon after, they told him his garage conversion blueprints were not in accordance with the current city code. Daniel was then encouraged to attend a planning commission meeting to tell his story and advocate for an amendment to the current garage building code.

Now, with the next planning commission meeting set for Monday, July 11, at 7 PM in the Independence Civic Center, a proposed change to the garage conversion code is on the docket.

Watch Video Here

Ironman 2022 Volunteer Opportunity

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Teamwork makes the dream work!

HEAD HERE TO SIGN UP FOR A SPOT!
[BIT.LY/BIKE-INDY-IRONMAN22](https://bit.ly/bike-indy-ironman22)

IRONMAN 70.3 OREGON
SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2022

Bike Indy Oregon is in need of volunteers to join them at the Bike Indy aid station during the Ironman Oregon race, just outside of Independence, Oregon. If you want to support some serious athletes, get a new pair of Bike Indy socks, check out what an Ironman event looks like, or just really love cheering for people, we need you on our volunteer team!

You can sign up by clicking the button below.

If you've already signed up, now is the time to convince your friends/coworkers/teammates/Strava pals to join you for this awesome morning of volunteering.

If you have any questions about the event, please reach out, Bike Indy is more than happy to help!

Sign Up Here

Shop with the Polk County Community Gift Card

Summer in POLK

Polk County, Oregon



Buy \$25 Get \$5
Buy \$50 Get \$15

 **ShopPolk.com**

Offer available through 9/6/2022 while supplies last, bonus cards expire 10/31/2022

The Polk County Community Card is an electronic gift card that makes it easy to support your favorite local businesses and discover some new ones! For every gift card you buy, you receive either \$5 or \$15 to spend at one of your favorite participating local businesses.

Supporting local businesses strengthens our local economy at a time when small businesses need your help most to survive the impacts of the pandemic.

So give a gift that keeps on giving and check out their seasonal **promotions!**

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CORI AmeriCorps VISTA Program**



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PROGRAM BENEFITS

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- Relocation allowances

"The AmeriCorps VISTA program accepted my candidacy at a crucial time in my life. After a decade as a working artist and administrator, the pandemic put a hard stop to my career. The VISTA program gave me the opportunity to rehab my career with supervisors and a team that supported continued development and goals."
(M. de Roiz Yankee)

END-OF-SERVICE BENEFITS

- Education award or end-of-service stipend
- Non-competitive eligibility for one year post-service

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Be 18 years or older
- Be a US Citizen or legal resident

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TODAY THAT YOUR
FUTURE SELF WILL
THANK YOU FOR.**

*Give back to your community by
volunteering.*

Are you ready to gain experience and leadership skills that put you on track for a life of service in the public, private, or nonprofit sector?

For more information, go to:
[CORI VISTA Service Opportunities](#)
AmeriCorps.gov

Scan QR
Code here for
full job
description!



[Learn More and Apply Here](#)

Thank You, Independence Days Volunteers!



Although our annual Independence Days celebration may be over, we did not want to miss the chance to thank all of our wonderful volunteers who dedicated their time to wristband sales, park clean-up, technical assistance, and more. Their selfless contribution to the success of this community-wide event does not go unnoticed and could not be possible without their hard work.

To all those who volunteered, and also those who attended our celebration, we appreciate you beyond words and we hope to see you again next year.

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INDEPENDENCE
Oregon's Story Begins Here



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