

The City of Independence Welcomes You

River City Briefs

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

Para La Versión En Español

Interim City Manager Robert Mason Addresses Independence Residents



Dear residents of
Independence,

Serving as your interim City Manager for the last few months has been an interesting, challenging but ultimately rewarding experience. Since the start of my time as City Manager, Independence has created and supported many great things, including a partnership with Polk County to provide residents with an all-inclusive resource center, a holiday gift guide and light show, business expansions,

Love Local scratch-its, the F-street Bridge construction, and much more.

In addition, the City is currently reviewing applicants for the permanent City Manager position, taking into account your feedback from our community surveys. We look forward to interviewing candidates who are as in love with our community as we are.

Looking towards the future, there is so much to be excited about: Independence Days is on the horizon and the Heritage Museum opens April 30th in its new location across from the post office! Follow our social media channels to stay up to date on the latest happenings and more.

Finally, thank you for your continued support of our city. Through the endless contributions of our volunteers, business owners, and residents alike, our city continues to harbor a vibrant spirit unlike anywhere else in the Willamette Valley. Thank you for continuing to call Independence home.

—Robert Mason, Independence Police Chief/Interim City Manager

Independence Invites Innovation into Agriculture



Did you miss the sixth film in the [Center on Rural Innovation's](#) Rural Edge Series?

Watch to learn how the City of Independence is working with partners like [Indy Commons](#) and [SEDCOR](#) in an effort to empower technology, agriculture, and entrepreneurship in our community.

The Center On Rural Innovation (CORI) created the Rural Edge series to highlight the people who are changing the narrative about what's possible in rural America.

Watch the video by clicking the button below.

Watch Video

Historic Tree Considered for Removal



MARCH 28TH @ 5:30 PM - INDEPENDENCE CIVIC CENTER

The City of Independence, Oregon, is brimming with history. It quite literally grows here.

The historic preservation commission is meeting at the Independence Civic Center on March 28th, at 5:30 PM, to discuss the removal of a cedar tree located behind the historic Spurling Building in Downtown Independence, Oregon. Currently, the tree appears to be dead.

The Sperling Hotel was built by Albert Sperling in 1913 after a fire destroyed the Little Palace Hotel located on the southeast corner of 2nd and "C" Street. Originally, the building was named the Lerona Hotel after Sperling's two daughters Leona and Rowena. The Sperlings came from North Dakota in 1910 and settled one and one-half miles north of Independence, where they operated a meat market and slaughterhouse. The hotel was a very prominent structure in town and had a bank, dining room, lobby, baker, and sample room on the first floor. By 1925, the hotel was under the management of Moss Walker, a prominent citizen in the area, and renamed the Beaver Hotel.

We hope to see you there on March 28th at the Independence Civic Center.

[Watch Video Here](#)

Low-Income Housing Water Assistance Program Now Available

**NEED HELP
PAYING YOUR
WATER BILL?**

**APPLY TO
LOW-INCOME
WATER
ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM**

TO QUALIFY

- Be under 60% State Median Income.
- Have a water bill in an adult household member's name. **if your water bill is in your landlord or property management company's name, contact your local Community Action Agency to discuss and apply, as there are some extra steps in that case.

TO APPLY, CONTACT:

MWVCAA - Energy Services
Phone: 503-588-9016
Address:
• (Drop-off) 1850 45th Ave NE Suite 101 Salem, OR 97305
• (By Mail) 2475 Center St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

Hours of operation: Monday-Friday 8:00 AM-5:00 PM (may differ for holidays)



INDEPENDENCE
Oregon's Story Begins Here



[Learn More Here](#)

Proposed Change to Independence Development Code

A key item moving through the community building department this month is a change to the Independence Development Code to address the requirements of Oregon House Bill 2001 - state legislation passed in 2019. The legislation requires cities with a population of over 10,000 to allow "the development of a duplex on each lot or parcel zoned for residential use that allows for the development of detached single-family dwellings."

The proposed changes to the code:

1. Would allow duplexes as a permitted use in all residential zones and
2. Would limit the ability to construct new single-family homes in commercial zones to limit the associated potential to build duplexes (on lands planned for business).

A detailed description of the proposed changes is available at <https://www.ci.independence.or.us/planning/page/duplex-and-missing-middle-standards>. If you have questions about how the changes may affect your property, please contact Fred Evander, Community Planner at (503) 837-1168 or by email at fevander@ci.independence.or.us.

The Independence Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposal on April 4th (at 7:00 pm) at Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main Street.

[Learn More Here](#)

Come Work for the City of Independence



**JOIN
OUR
TEAM**

Hiring Multiple Positions

The City of Independence is seeking candidates for multiple positions within city departments. Competitive pay and excellent benefits package included.

Learn more and apply at:
www.ci.independence.or.us

Want to work for an innovative and forward-thinking organization while also serving your community?

The City of Independence is seeking candidates to fill the positions of Accountant 2, Code/ Permit Specialist, Library Assistant 1, Public Works Operations Manager, Park Host, and Seasonal Utility Worker. A competitive pay and excellent benefits package are included.

View our job openings by clicking the button below.

[View Job Openings](#)

Spring Break Art Workshops Still Available



There are still spots open for the Ash Creek Art Center's Spring Break Art Workshops.

Click the GET TICKETS button or visit ashcreekarts.org/calendar to sign up

- Ages 5-8 on March 21st & 22nd (9am-12pm)
- Ages 9-12 on March 21st (1pm-3pm)
- Ages 13-16 on March 22nd & 23rd (1pm-3pm)

(Scholarships can be provided to those who request by emailing ashcreekarts@gmail.com)

[Get Tickets](#)

Spring Break Kits Available at Independence Public Library



The Independence Public Library is creating take and make crafting kits with activities for each day of Spring Break! Kits will be available starting Friday, March 18, and will contain materials with something to do for each day of Spring Break Week, March 21-26.

Additionally, the library will be holding a Spanish-language storytime on Zoom this coming Monday, March 21 at 5:30 PM. Join us online for a Spanish-language storytime about vaccinations, health, and staying connected. Sponsored by a Communities for Immunity grant from the Associated Science and Technology Centers in partnership with Western Oregon University.

Join by clicking the Zoom link below.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

City of Independence Partners with Local Non-Profit



A partnership between Indy Idea Hub and the City of Independence has brought forth a multitude of opportunities for entrepreneurs in our region. The last few years have seen the creation of several supportive programs including networking events, assistance

programs, startup weekends, and more. Recently, Indy Idea Hub acquired USDA grant funds for a shared-use commercial kitchen housed within the Indy Commons co-working space.

Kate Schwarzler, owner of Indy Commons and Executive Director of Indy Idea Hub, has been at the forefront of these successes. Her passion, hard work, and dedication to Independence's local economy are unparalleled.

"We're giving people steppingstone options to explore opening a business," said Schwarzler. "If nothing else, we've given them a safe place to try it out without risking everything."

[Read More Here](#)

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INDEPENDENCE
Oregon's Story Begins Here



City of Independence | 555 S Main St, Independence, OR 97351

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