

Tricks and Treats Event Comes to Downtown Independence

River City Briefs

September 30, 2022

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

Para La Versión En Español

Independence's Story - Inspiration Garden



Continuing with stories submitted by our community, our residents wanted to learn more about the history and "inspiration" behind Inspiration Garden.

Back in 2012, the Polk County Master Gardeners were looking for a space that would help them teach, create, and share in the beauty of gardening. After much searching throughout the county, they were led to Mountain Fir Park in Independence, Oregon. With the natural asset of Ash Creek as a notable amenity and over 7 acres of fertile land available, the former site of

the Mt. Fir Lumber Mill emerged as the best option for their gardening pursuits. Soon after, the gardeners and other volunteers began clearing the land to make way for the destination now known as Inspiration Garden.

Led by Polk County Master Gardener Bill Leedy, the designs for the respective gardens were crafted to meet the needs and scope of the natural landscape. Since 2013, and through additional material donations made by Western Interlock, Elk Creek Lumber, and many others, the gardeners have continued to develop and maintain the southern portion of Mt. Fir Park.

"It's amazing the support you can get when you get involved in the city—and businesses within the city—that really made it happen," shared Bill.

With over 1,500 plant species, over 250 species of trees, and a plethora of dedicated volunteers, Inspiration Garden continues to add new life and vibrant color to our beautiful river city.

To learn more about Inspiration Garden or to volunteer, visit their website [here](#).

Inspiration Garden is open every day from 8 AM - 8 PM in Independence, Oregon.

[Watch Video Here](#)

Tricks and Treats Event Comes to Downtown Independence

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31ST 3PM-5PM
DOWNTOWN INDEPENDENCE

MORE DETAILS CAN BE FOUND AT   @INDEPENDENCEOREGON AND AT WWW.EXPERIENCEINDYOREGON.COM

Be part of the magic and join us on October 31, 2022, in downtown

Independence 3 PM -5 PM for our Downtown Tricks and Treats event! Stop by any participating business to receive your treats, and don't forget to check out our special entertainers performing all sorts of tricks downtown. Kids will get the opportunity to see a magician, a balloon twister, a singing clown duo who ride tall bikes, a contact juggler, a stilt walker, and more! Additionally, the Independence Public Library will be hosting a make-your-own Halloween bag for kids.

All events are **FREE** and family-friendly, so kick off your Halloween holiday festivities right in downtown Indy. A map showing all participating businesses will be available on our Facebook event page on October 29, 2022.

If you're a business outside of downtown Independence that would like to participate, please reach out to our Downtown Manager, Courtney Williams at cwilliams@ci.independence.or.us to see how you can be part of the magic, too!

Oregon Hop Run Draws Record-Breaking Participation



Saturday, September 17, 2022, saw the return of the annual Oregon Hop Run in Independence, Oregon.

Setting a new participation record with over 160 runners, athletes from all over Oregon gathered to have a little fun while supporting a great local

non-profit. All the proceeds from the race went to benefit the Ella Curran food bank.

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped make this event possible, including the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce, who helped organize and host the race. If you would still like to donate to the Ella Curran Food Bank, click the button below.

We look forward to seeing our community lace up their sneakers next year for the 5th annual Oregon Hop Run!

[Learn More & Donate Here](#)

City of Independence to Host Housing Needs Analysis Panel Discussion

WHAT ARE YOUR HOUSING NEEDS?



On October 10, 2022 (from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM), the City of Independence will host a virtual panel discussion that seeks to answer the question:

- How can the City of Independence encourage more affordable housing options?

The panel will be composed of affordable housing providers, local developers, and the City's consultant for the Housing Needs Analysis Project.

Key questions the panel will address include:

- Why are prices so high?
- What could be done to make housing options more affordable?
- What are various ways to consider affordability (i.e. what makes

housing affordable for one person is not affordable for all)?

- Is affordability just a problem in Independence?
- Are there lessons that we can learn from other communities that could help us minimize the cost of housing?

The panel discussion will be broadcast live on the City of Independence YouTube page [here](#). Viewers will be invited to ask questions during the discussion.

Spanish translation will be available.

The discussion will be conducted as part of the City of Independence Housing Needs Analysis project. For more details about the project, click the button below.

[Learn More Here](#)

Independence Awarded \$75,000 for Nature Play Area at Sunset Meadows Park

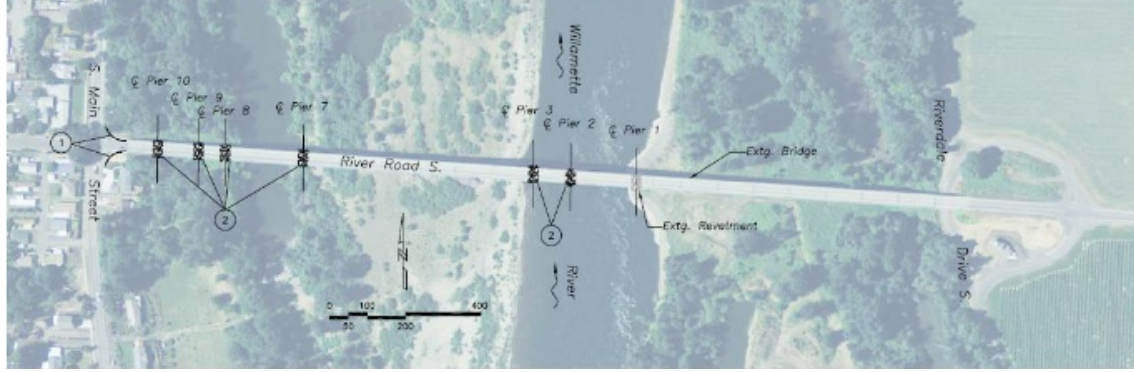


The Oregon Parks & Recreation Department has awarded the City of Independence a grant for \$75,000 to complete a Nature Play Area at Sunset Meadows Park. The project will include installing Nature Play Equipment (currently identified as Climbing Net, Log Crawl, Stepping Logs, Small Swing set with ADA Accessible Swing, Play Canoe, Basalt Crawl, Balance Beam), and seating suitable for light picnicking by small groups such as picnic tables. A safety surface (engineered wood fiber or similar) will

also be installed. The installation will include concrete work to tie the project location into the existing trail infrastructure and connect individual site elements.

[Read More Here](#)

Independence Bridge Repair to Take Place Summer 2023



Marion County has received State funding for making much needed bridge foundation protection measures around bridge bents (footings) 3 – 7 illustrated in the aerial photo above. The County has hired a highly qualified consultant firm to conduct the design and prepare plans to construct scour repairs on the existing Independence Bridge. Marion County has an existing agreement with Polk County regarding Maintenance of the bridge, which allows Marion County to perform maintenance activities as required to maintain and operate the bridge.

This project will extend the service life of the bridge by addressing scour issues at the bridge piers. Construction is expected to begin in the summer of 2023 and be completed by the Fall.

This project will NOT affect traffic patterns along the Independence Bridge.

[Learn More Here](#)

What Gardening Topics Interest You?
Share Your Thoughts!



The OSU Extension Polk County Master Gardener Program needs your help planning our 2023 gardening classes.

All classes will be held in person at the beautiful Inspiration Garden in Mt. Fir Park in Independence.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to share what interests you!

[Share Your Thoughts Here](#)

[Learn About Energy Conservation at Upcoming Event](#)

Our planet is warming up.

You're invited to learn about how the Inflation Recovery Act will cool it down!

Save Energy...Save Money...Save the Earth



October 27 @ 7:00 pm



**Monmouth Public Library
168 Ecols St. S.
Monmouth, OR 97361**



Learn about how Oregon residents could save up to \$14,000 in Federal tax credits through the High Efficiency Home Rebate Program. Also get information about the Oregon Department of Energy and Energy Trust of Oregon incentives for solar and other energy efficient improvements, including extended incentives for low-income homeowners.

Presenters:

Julie Williams - Seeds for the Sol Corvallis, Wealth-Sharing Non-Profit

Pure Energy Group - Solar Installer

Peak Electric - Ductless Heat Pump Installer

Join the Luckiamute Watershed Council for Their Next
Sips 'n' Series: Kalapuyans of the
Central Willamette Valley



OCTOBER 18TH 6:30 - 8 PM KALAPUYANS OF THE CENTRAL WILLAMETTE VALLEY – HISTORY AND CULTURE

Join David Lewis, member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, OSU Assistant Professor and Tribal Historian, for the first Sips 'n' Science talk of our Fall/Winter series! This free presentation will address various Kalapuyan tribes and bands of the central valley. We will look at their original culture, how they stewarded their lands and the adjustments they had to make when settlers arrived. We will dive into the removal process, treaties, encampments and payments, and the likely understandings of the Kalapuyans, and work by Indian agents to remove them all to the Grand Ronde Indian Reservation. Finally, we will address their context on the reservation for the first 20 years.



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Oregon's Story Begins Here





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