

# How Are Biosolids Removed from City Lagoons?

## *River City Briefs*

July 7, 2023

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

[Para La Versión En Español](#)

### How Are Biosolids Removed from City Lagoons?



Have you ever wondered where your waste goes after you flush the toilet? And does it ever pile up?

Luckily, city of Independence Public Works Director Gerald Fisher walks you through the complicated process of removing biosolids from the city's lagoon system.

[Watch Video Here](#)

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## Five Things to Know About Independence Fiscal Year Budget 2023-24



Want to know some quick facts about your city's budget?

Check out our video below to learn five things you should know about the services we provide.

For more information on the City of Independence fiscal year budget 2023-24, visit: [www.ci.independence.or.us/finance/](http://www.ci.independence.or.us/finance/)

[Watch Video Here](#)

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Heritage Museum Volunteer Service Fosters Gratitude



The allure of the Oregon trail isn't always far away. Sometimes, it can even find us. John Young, a volunteer at the Independence Heritage Museum, can attest.

Originally from around Independence, Missouri, he and his wife moved to Independence, Oregon, nearly 20 years ago after a long career in the United States Army. With a love of history, natural and otherwise, John's fascination soon turned to service by becoming a board member of the local historical society.

But lately, John's interest in history has turned to gratitude.

"I think it makes us really grateful for what we have," said John. "Really honoring the people who did the things that got us to where we are today."

While the Oregon Trail may be complete, travelers from places near and far are still finding adventure along its well-worn path.

[Watch Video Here](#)

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**Summer Movies & Concerts in the Park Return  
Next Week**

# RIVER'S EDGE SUMMER SERIES



In just ONE week, our annual River's Edge Summer Series returns with **Disney's Jungle Cruise** and **Eagle Eyes (Eagles Tribute Band)**. Brought to you by the City of Independence, these community events span seven weeks of family-friendly fun, from **July 13 — August 25**. Movies start around 9:30 PM and concert openers start at 6 PM and Headliners start at 8 PM.

Experience the best free entertainment available in Oregon, right on the edge of the Willamette River, at the Riverview Park Amphitheatre in downtown Independence.

To find the full lineup, parking spots, what to bring, and prohibited items, click the button below.

[Full Movie & Concert Lineup](#)

## Independence Celebrates Independence Day

Thousands gathered in Riverview Park earlier this week to usher in another exciting Independence Days celebration.



Filled with stirring live music, delicious vendor treats, and community spirit aplenty, celebrating our nation's birthday doesn't get any better than in Independence, Oregon.

We offer a great deal of gratitude to our volunteers, community

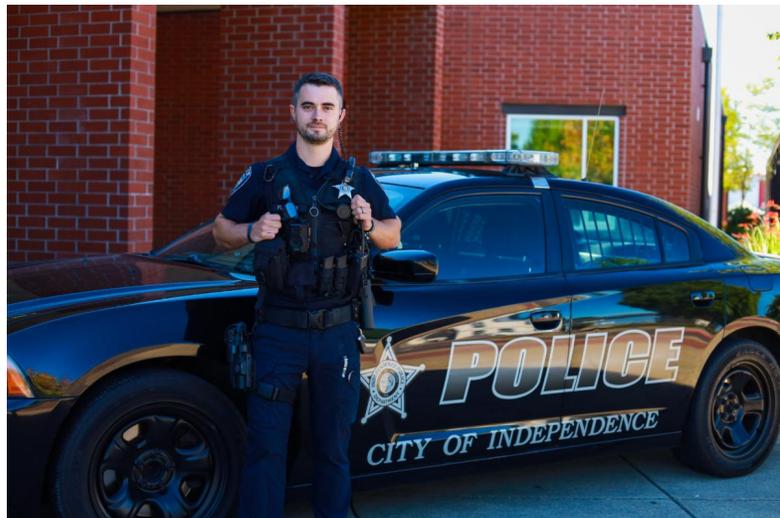
members, and city staff for helping bring another successful celebration to our region.

See you all next year!

## Officer Thomas Fleming Awarded Officer of the Year

The Independence Police Department Officer of the Year has been awarded to Officer/Detective/SRO Thomas Fleming.

As part of his recognition, his colleagues were asked to comment on some things that would make him suitable for the award. Here are some of the comments:



“Thomas has been a workhorse for our department for the last couple of years. Between his investigations, assignments, SRO designation, and covering patrol shifts, his performance and attitude in the field are consistently great. Thomas is definitely deserving of the title of Officer of the Year.”

“We applaud all our officers for the work they do to keep our community safe,” said Chief Robert Mason. “Officer Fleming has shown himself to fully embody our core values of Integrity, Excellence, Courage, and Compassion.”

Congratulations, Officer Fleming!

## Independence Building Department Welcomes New Intern



The Independence Building department welcomes summer intern Omar Jovanny Parroquin Cruz to the team.

Omar comes to us from the Chemeketa Community College Applied Sciences Building Inspection Technology program where he is participating in a cooperative work experience internship. This internship allows students to gain hands-on experience in their chosen field while earning college credit.

"This program incorporates the two things I enjoy: going to

school and construction," shared Omar.

Omar found out about the internship when Jeff Kennedy, the city of Independence's building official, was conducting an inspection of his family's home in 2021.

During the day-to-day, Omar's work consists of reviewing plans, conducting inspections, and communicating with clients and contractors, with the latter being his favorite part of the job so far.

"Meeting people and learning things from them I didn't expect is great," said Omar. "It's been really fun."

After his internship and another year of school, Omar plans to graduate, earn his certifications through the Internal Code Council, and find a fulfilling career.

"I couldn't have done it without all the support from my parents," said Omar.

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Save Time and Pay Your Utility Bill Online

# xpress

## BILL PAY

Did you know you can save time and pay your utility bill online?

The city of Independence partners with Xpress Bill Pay, the premier provider of online payment systems, to deliver a fast and accessible form of utility payment.

When you sign up for online bill payment, you will get a secure password to access your personal account at [xpressbillpay.com](http://xpressbillpay.com). Every month they will send you a reminder email to let you know when your bill is online.

Then, just login through your web browser or the Xpress Bill Pay Mobile App and view your bill. Select payment type—credit card, debit card, or electronic funds transfer—enter the information, and you're done! It's that easy and it only takes a few minutes each month.

Sign up today and see why so many people consider this method as the best way to pay their bills.

[Sign Up Here](#)

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**Exercise Caution When Entering the Willamette River**



We all want a safe and happy summer season—that's why we encourage you to exercise caution when entering or recreating near the Willamette River.

The Willamette River is a beautiful natural landmark that connects cities and people together throughout the Willamette Valley. However, its underwater currents can be dangerous even to the most trained swimmer. To help keep you safe, the city of Independence has two lifejacket stations right at the edge of the river. Consider using or encouraging your friends and family to use the community lifejackets when near the river.

The city of Independence thanks you for your cooperation and understanding. Stay safe and cool out there!

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## Heritage Museum Participates in Multi-Stop History Tour

# Exploring History and Feeding the Mind



Join us for a multi-stop history tour. We will begin the day at the Independence Heritage Museum to view the traveling exhibit from the National Library of Medicine, *Fire & Freedom: Food and Enslavement in Early America*. From there, travel to the Corvallis Museum to explore the exhibit *Letitia Carson: An Enduring Spirit of Hope & Freedom*. This exhibit was created by Oregon Black Pioneers, as part of the Letitia Carson Legacy Project. Participants will have time to explore both exhibits and have time to visit other parts of each museum.

After visiting the museum, attendees will head to the Reciprocity Garden for a meal and a facilitated conversation about Black foodways and food sovereignty/justice, hosted by Oregon Black Pioneers' Executive Director Zachary Stocks and Co-Creator of the Reciprocity Garden, Charlotte Epps.

To learn more about the event and purchase tickets, please visit: [www.orheritage.org/history-tour](http://www.orheritage.org/history-tour)



CORVALLIS MUSEUM



Oregon State University

Saturday, July 8th, 2023 | 3PM  
\$55 per person

*Fee is nonrefundable and transportation not provided.*



3PM Independence Heritage Museum  
3:45PM Depart

4:15PM Corvallis Museum  
5:15PM Depart

5:30PM Reciprocity Garden

Four organizations have come together to bring the Willamette Valley an extraordinary event! The Independence Heritage Museum, the Corvallis Museum, Oregon Black Pioneers, and OSU's Reciprocity Garden have created a multi-stop history tour called *Exploring History and Feeding the Mind* which will occur on **July 8, 2023**.

First, visitors will go to the Independence Heritage Museum to view *Fire and Freedom: Food and Enslavement in Early America*. This exhibit, along with the companion website, was produced by the National Library of Medicine with guest curator, historian, author, and educator Psyche Williams-Forsen, Ph.D. (University of Maryland, College Park).

The traveling exhibition explores ways in which meals can tell us how power is exchanged between and among different peoples, races, genders, and classes. In the Chesapeake region during the colonial era, European settlers relied upon indentured servants, Native Americans, and enslaved Africans for labor, life-saving knowledge of farming, and food acquisition, to gain economic prosperity. *Fire and Freedom* details life at George Washington's Mount Vernon plantation and the labor of enslaved workers to learn about the ways that meals transcend taste and sustenance.

[Learn More and Register Here](#)

Independence Public Library July Calendar



# July 2023

Summer Reading Continues...



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Independence Public Library</b> 175 Monmouth Street Independence, OR 97351 503-838-1811 <a href="http://www.ci.independence.or.us/library">www.ci.independence.or.us/library</a>						1
		<b>Friends Book Sale</b> 10-3 pm (Old Library)	5	<b>Kid's Paint Fun</b> led by Jen Hibbard 3 pm	<b>Teen &amp; Adult</b> <b>Learn to Crochet</b> 3 pm	8
9	10	<b>ALEX ZERBE</b> 4 PM <b>Riverview Park</b>	12	<b>Stuffed Animal Sleepover</b> 3 pm	14	
16	17	<b>Mystery Book Club</b> 4 pm	19	<b>Kid's Garden-themed Painted Rocks</b> 3 pm	20	22
23	25		26	<b>Angel Ocasio</b> <b>Riverview Park</b> 3 pm	27	<b>Teen &amp; Adult Pop Tart Art</b> 3 pm
30				<b>Kid's String Art</b> 3 pm	28	

[Visit Library Webpage](#)

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**INDEPENDENCE**  
*Oregon's Story Begins Here*



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