

# Learn the History of Hop Picking in Independence

## River City Briefs

September 15, 2023

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

Para La Versión En  
Español

Hops and Heritage: Anita Cantu-Carrillo Shares Her Experience Picking Hops in Independence



Independence, Oregon was known as the Hop Capital of the World from the late 19th to the early 20th century. Every harvest season, droves of hop pickers from around the country arrived in Independence searching for work. A hub of annual social and cultural events, the hop season culminated in a Hop & Heritage Festival in mid-September, a celebration that continues

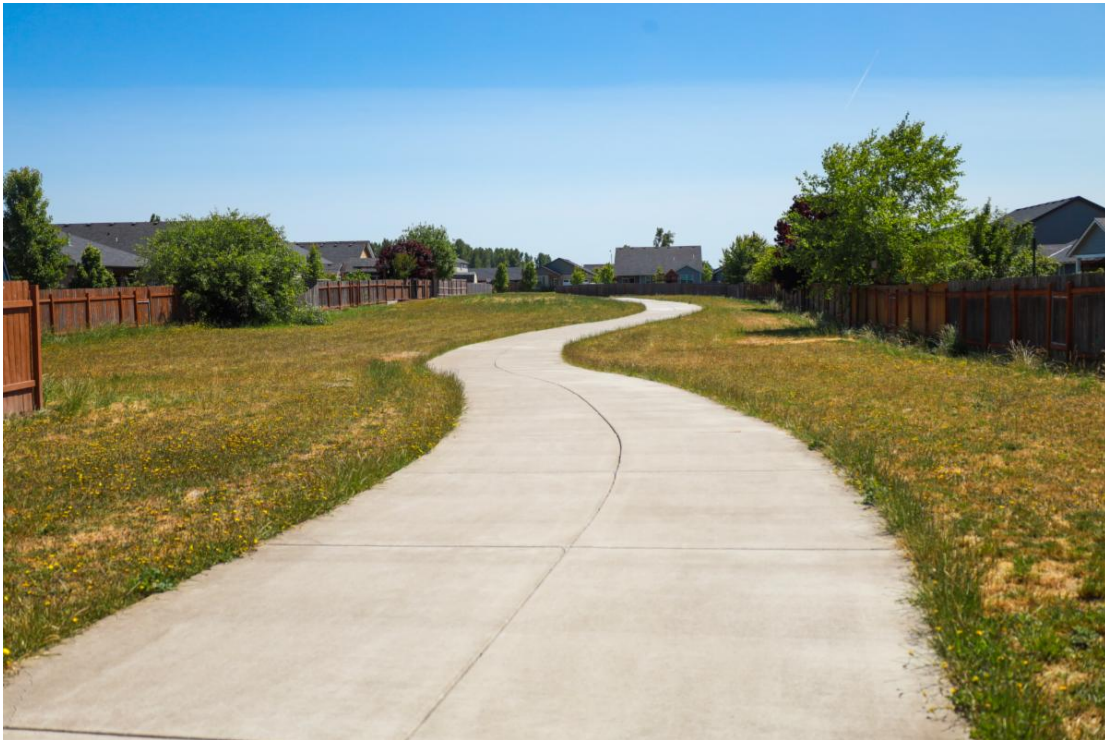
to this day.

While some pickers migrated to Independence seasonally, some planted their roots in the community.

Join museum curator Amy Christensen as she talks with Anita Cantu-Carrillo, a former hop picker, about her experience in Independence during the mid-20th century.

[Watch Video Here](#)

## What Would You Name this Park?



The city of Independence needs your help naming the park unofficially known as "Sunset Meadows."

Submitted recommendations will be sent to the Independence Parks and Recreation Board, which will narrow the list to their three favorites. After considering the three options, the official name will be adopted by the Independence City Council.

Share your suggestion by clicking the button below.

[Take Survey Here](#)


Do you Plan to Remodel Your Home, Structure, or Outbuilding in the Independence Historic District?




## DO YOU PLAN TO *Remodel*

Your Home, Structure or Outbuilding in  
the Independence Historic District?

*The city of Independence has hired local experts to offer **FREE** design assistance to help you think about how best to do the work while preserving the character of the district.*

 Receive design assistance from a local architect to help you envision your project.

 Receive expert advice about how best to replace, maintain, or repair your wooden windows.



Looking to remodel your historic home?

Thanks to funding from the National Park Service, administered by the Oregon Historic Preservation Office, the city of independence has hired local experts to offer **FREE** design assistance to help you think about how best to do the work while preserving the character of the district.

Funds are limited, and interested individuals will be served on a first come, first-served basis.

[Learn More Here](#)

## Residents Donate Benches to Willamette River Trail



Walkability in any city is vital. So is relaxation. Luckily, you can find both in Independence with the recent addition of two new benches located along the beautiful Willamette River Trail. One is situated near the Independence dog park, and the other is just south of the

Independence Sports Complex. Patrick and Marianne Fugeman donated the

two benches to the city and were part of a ribbon-cutting event that unveiled the finished product.

Part-time residents of Independence, as well as the state of Delaware, the Fugemans traveled across the globe and were impressed with the walkability and accessibility present in some countries. It reminded them of home in Independence. Upon returning to the States and visiting the Willamette River Trail, they desired to add this accessibility to one of their favorite places.

“We just saw a need,” shared Patrick.

[Read More Here](#)

## Independence and Monmouth Honored with SEDCOR's Community Leadership Award

Last week, the cities of Independence and Monmouth were awarded the Community Leadership Award at the **Strategic Economic Development Corporation's (SEDCOR)** annual awards meeting at the Salem Convention Center.



Mayors John McArdle and Cec Koontz were met on stage with applause to commemorate the collaboration between the two cities.

Part of the award statement read, "Attitude. That's what it comes down to. A willingness to work toward a common goal and set aside personal interests. Independence and Monmouth believe in the power of partnership—not for ourselves, but for the betterment of our communities. Visit us soon and see for yourself why our cities are always stronger together."

We are honored and thrilled to be met with such an appreciation. We look forward to cultivating a stronger Willamette Valley with our partners and colleagues, especially the city of Monmouth.

[City Council Meeting Recap](#)



Here is a recap of the work your city council and staff completed at the September 12, 2023 city council meeting:

- Mayor McArdle made a proclamation recognizing September as Attendance Awareness Month. He noted the importance of a good education for our children and encouraged all children to attend school.
- The city council approved a mural for a new business located at 240 Monmouth Street (Damn Good Bread). We are always happy to welcome new businesses to the city and excited to see them succeed!
- Downtown Manager, Courtney Williams, provided an Independence Days after-action report. Despite some challenges, the event was a success including new vendors, fabulous volunteers, compliments on the talent show and the fireworks display, and over 35,000 people in attendance.
- The council adopted an updated Capital Improvement Plan. The updates included water projects brought forward from the adopted Water Master Plan and a street improvement at 7th and Monmouth. The city's capital improvement plans provide a roadmap for staff to follow as we plan for necessary improvements and updates to the city's essential infrastructure.
- The council discussed an updated SDC fee for transportation to help fund the required street improvements at 7th and Monmouth. The council requested additional information from staff, so the matter has been rescheduled for the first Council meeting in October. Also rescheduled to that meeting is the consideration of a new fee schedule to include the SDC fee updates (if adopted by the city council).

To watch the full city council meeting, click the button below.

[Watch Video Here](#)


## Celebrate Hop and Heritage Festival in Downtown Independence


The Independence Downtown Association presents:



# The Hop and Heritage Festival

September 16 | 12PM - 8PM | Downtown Independence  
[www.downtownindependence.com/hops](http://www.downtownindependence.com/hops)

*A family friendly community celebration sponsored by:* 



Independence is famous for being the historic hop capital of the world. The Hop & Heritage Festival continues to celebrate our community's hop history!

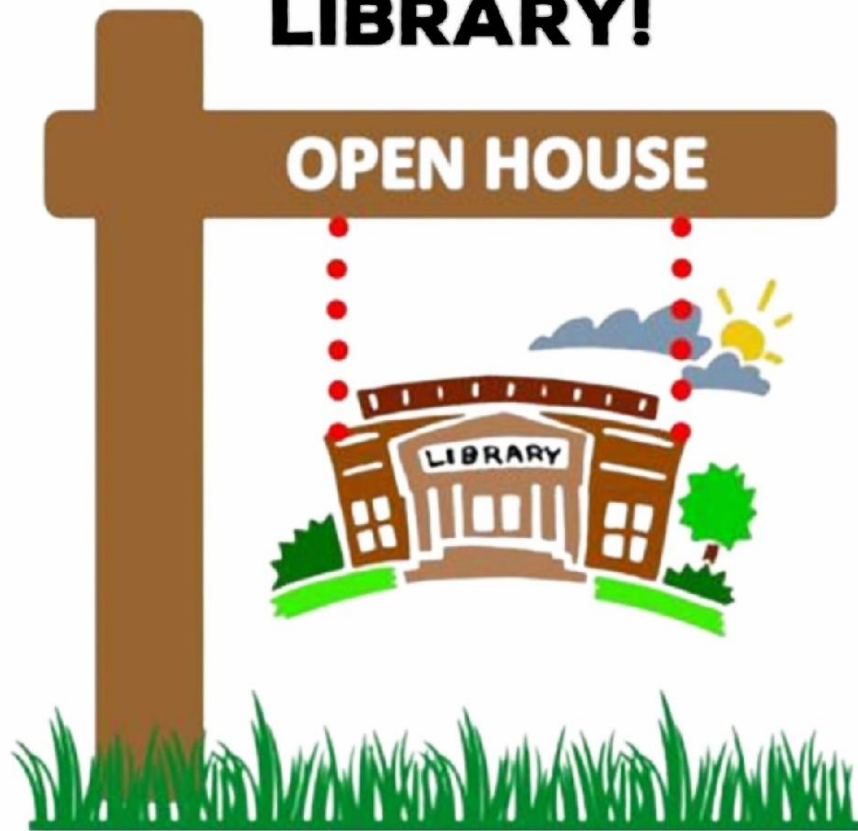
Concentrated in Downtown Independence, the Hop & Heritage Festival showcases Independence's unique heritage and vibrant community.

The festival is a family-friendly event. You can look forward to live music, a sensory garden, a cornhole tournament, craft beer and soda, hop history, and more!

[Learn More Here](#)

## Celebrate 20 Years at the Independence Public Library's Current Location

# **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, INDEPENDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY!**



**Celebrating 20 years at the "New" Library  
location and 115 years of Library service!**

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

**Drop in for Refreshments  
& Door Prizes for All Ages!**

**Sept. 27**

**4-6 pm**

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[Register for the Age-Friendly Oregon Summit 2023](#)



## Toward Our Shared Future

### Age-Friendly Oregon Summit 2023

The best way to predict the future is to create it!

Join Age-Friendly champions from around Oregon to shape our shared future. Explore new ideas, promising practices, and policies critical to helping to make our state and communities great places for people of all ages and abilities to live, work and play. Connect with neighbors, advocates, and thought leaders who are driving community change.

#### Summit sessions include:

- Key Issues for an Age-Friendly Oregon
- Creating a Multi-Sector Plan for an Age-Friendly State
- Role of Philanthropy in Building Inclusive & Equitable Communities for All Ages
- Workshops on Housing, Health & Behavioral Health, Economy, Civic & Social Participation

*Registration is free, but space is limited. Meals and snacks provided. Scholarships available to support attendees from rural, BIPOC, and LGBTQIA+ communities and those traveling from a distance.*

#### AGE-FRIENDLY SUMMIT

**Tuesday, October 10**  
9am-5pm

**COMMUNITY DAY**  
Tuesday, October 11  
(An optional day of learning organized by our local host committee.)

**Western Oregon University**  
Werner University Center  
400 Monmouth Ave N  
Monmouth, OR 97361

Learn more: [aarp.org/ORSummit23](https://aarp.org/ORSummit23)

Register:  
[events.aarp.org/ORSummit23](https://events.aarp.org/ORSummit23)

#### Collaborating Partners:



#### Host Committee:



[Register Here](#)

Fall Native Plant Sale





PRE-ORDER NOW!

# Native Plant Sale

OCT. 13 & 14



Polk Soil & Water Conservation District

[Learn More Here](#)

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