

Independence Ghost Walk Returns Next Week

# River City Briefs

September 29, 2023

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

Para La Versión En  
Español

Learn Local History by Attending  
Independence Ghost Walk



Usher in the spooky season with the Independence Ghost Walk, a free and self-guided tour through notable historic properties in downtown Independence. With the assistance of over 30 volunteers, attendees can choose from 20 downtown locations to hear well-researched stories, both historic and a little eerie, grounded in local lore. Additionally, some

volunteers go the extra mile and wear period-style clothing, use appropriate props, and sometimes assume the personality of the characters in their stories.

Join the fun on Saturday, October 7, 2023, from 7 - 9 PM, starting at the fountain at the top of Riverview Park. Also, stop by our hearse car show from 5 - 9 PM in the Umpqua Bank parking lot.

For more information, visit: <https://www.orheritage.org/ghostwalk>

Watch Video  
Here

## Serve Your Community on an Independence Board or Commission

Serve your  
community on  
an  
Independence  
*Board or  
Commission*



Learn more and apply at: [www.ci.independence.or.us](http://www.ci.independence.or.us)

Want to make a difference in your community and be part of the process? Consider applying for one of our open board or commission positions.

Currently, we have openings on the following boards and commissions:

- Independence Library Board
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Parks and Recreation Board
- Traffic Safety Commission

To apply, fill out an application (click the button below), checking all those that you would like to apply for and turn in to city hall or email [Karin Johnson, City Recorder](#).

Learn More and Apply

## 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](#)

## Independence Public Library Celebrates 20 Years in Current Location

The Independence Public Library ushered in twenty

years in its current location earlier this week with a community-wide celebration that included sweet treats, raffle prizes, historical photo binders, former library employees, and remarks from Mayor McArdle and Library Director Patrick Bodily. Over 150 people came to the event.



"It takes great people to make a great place," said Mayor McArdle. This is an example of what Independence is: a warm, welcoming place."

Legally established in 1909 and originally housed in a storefront on Main Street, the Independence public library location saw much movement prior to its current resting place. In 1929, they moved to a new building at 311 Monmouth St., the current site of the Ash Creek Arts Center and where the Friends of the Library hold occasional book sales. In 2000, residents approved a bond for the current library location. With additional support from vigorous fundraisers, the new library opened in 2003—providing almost five times more space and a reservable meeting space. In 2022, the Independence Public Library had over 74,000 visitors and checked out over 72,000 physical items and over 11,000 digital items.

"I firmly believe that the library is the cornerstone of any community," said Bodily. "I'm so proud that the Independence community has not only used and supported us over the past 115 years but that they continue to do so every day."

To learn more about the Independence Public Library, click the button below.

[Learn More Here](#)

## Remembering Community Leader Pat Jaffer

Community leader Patricia (Pat) Jaffer passed away on September 16, 2023, at the age of 94.

Pat was born in Iowa right at the beginning of the Great Depression. The daughter of first-generation farmers, Pat grew up instilled with a great passion for justice and service.



After meeting and marrying her husband, Mo, in North Dakota, Pat and her family moved to Monmouth, Oregon so that Mo could take a teaching position at Oregon College of Education (now known as Western Oregon University).

Despite being in a new place, both Pat and Mo were heavily involved in the Monmouth-Independence community. Pat served as director of the Ella Curran Food Bank in Independence for over 25 years, and as a board member, coordinator, and treasurer of the non-profit Neighbor's Helping Neighbors, providing low-income housing in Independence for nearly 30 years.

Moreover, she served as a Monmouth city councilor and a member of the Polk County Planning Commission.

"Pat was an amazing leader and humanitarian in our community." shared Ella Curran Food Bank Director Patty Nevue.

Pat was a two-time recipient of the Monmouth-Independence First Citizen award for her efforts both in community building and on behalf of others.

"We were blessed to have a person that cared so much about others in our community," said Mayor John McArdle. "She inspired so many. We will miss her."

A woman of faith, Pat helped shepherd the local Methodist church through many iterations serving on multiple church boards and committees, pushing for action on social issues ranging from food insecurity and the lack of support for underprivileged children in the local area to the plight of refugees worldwide.

"She really believed in what she did and made it happen," said her son Danny Jaffer. "She didn't take no for an answer."

When asked what he wanted his mother's legacy to be Danny shared, "She lived the truth she believed in."

Donations in tribute to Pat may be made to the Ella Curran Food Bank (food donations to: 854 N. Main St., Independence, 97351; cash to: PO Box 547, Independence), the Central Lions Club of Monmouth-Independence (P.O. Box 101, Independence), or to the Mo & Pat Jaffer Scholarship Fund, WOU Foundation (345 Monmouth Ave. N, Monmouth, OR 97361).

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Independence and Neighboring Agencies Participate in  
"Recovery Process" Tabletop Training

Last week, the city of Independence had the opportunity to partake in a tabletop exercise focused primarily on the "recovery process" after a tragic incident. Gathering with neighboring agencies, cultivating new and established relationships, and forming a plan, were some of the key takeaways from our experience.



The city would especially would like to thank **Central School District 13J** for spearheading the effort and convening the event. Our communities are safer and more prepared because of exercises like this.

## Independence to Host Oregon Main Street Conference



Independence is hosting this year's Oregon Main Street Conference, an annual, statewide gathering of organizations and individuals focused on historic preservation, economic development, and revitalization within downtowns. This means from **October 4 - October 6, 2023**, there will be over 200 visitors from around the state, learning and gathering information on how to better their communities.

Independence has won win three Oregon Main Street grants in the past few years, including the renovation of 370 Main Street (Gilgamesh Brewing: The River), 240 Monmouth Street (Parallel 45 Brewing), and 268 Main Street (the Independence Opera House).

To learn more about Oregon Main Street or the upcoming conference, click the button below.

[Learn More Here](#)

Learn How to Make Healthy Meal Choices through



Join us at the **Heritage Museum**, along with Carly Kristofik, the OSU Extension Service SNAP-Ed Program Coordinator, for **FREE** cooking and healthy eating classes for the entire family!

## Mix & Match Grain Bowls



**THURSDAY, OCT. 12**  
**1PM**

In this session you will learn how to make a customizable healthy meal using common pantry ingredients.

## No More Mealtime Madness



**TUESDAY, OCT. 24**  
**5PM**

Learn the fundamentals of maintaining a basic pantry, and ways to involve kids in the meal planning to create more buy-in at mealtime.



Limited spots available. Scan or visit [www.orheritage.org/events](http://www.orheritage.org/events) to register.

[Register Here](#)

**LAST CHANCE: 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](http://aarp.org/ORSummit23)

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

Collaborating Partners:



Host Committee:



**Register Here**

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*Oregon's Story Begins Here*







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