

Independence IT Director Shares His Experience

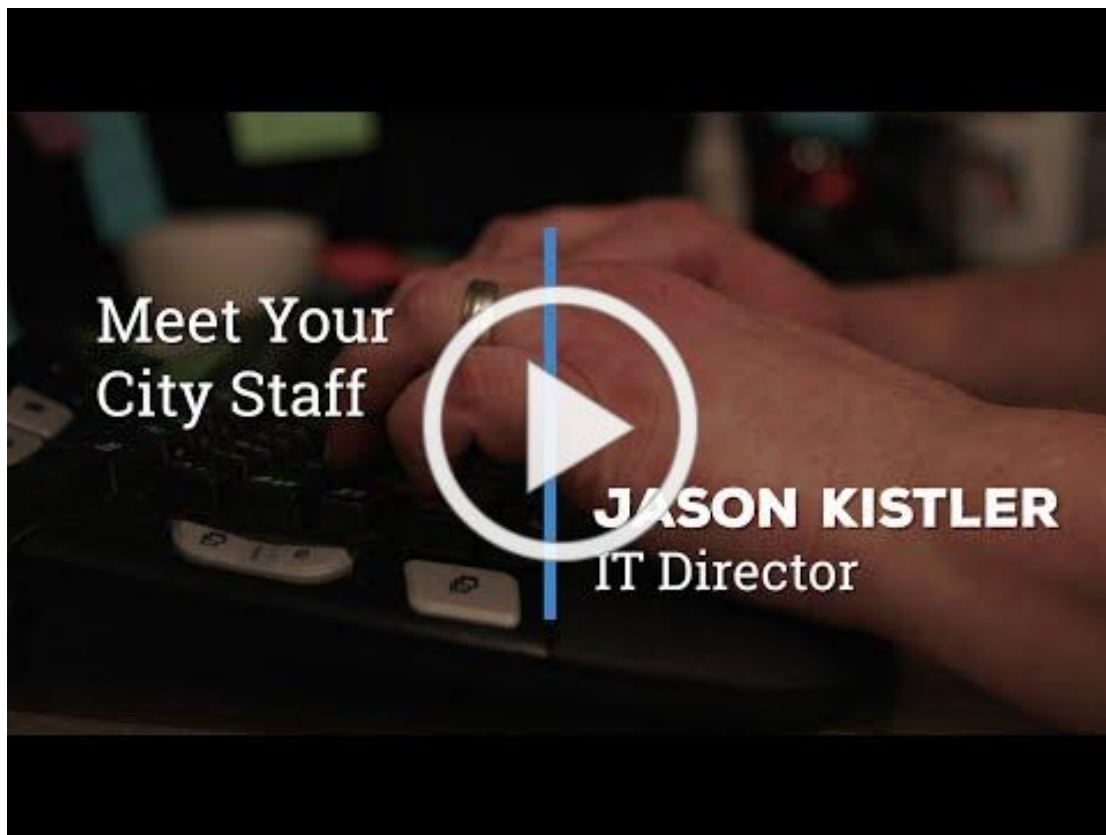
River City Briefs

October 27, 2023

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

Para La Versión En
Español

What Does an IT Director Do?



How do you become an Information Technology professional? What does a day in the life look like for them?

In our latest "Meet Your City Staff" video series, Independence IT Director Jason Kistler shares his journey to IT, what he enjoys about his job, and even showcases an innovative project that impacts our entire community.

"Meet Your City Staff" highlights individuals on the city staff and shares what they do to keep the city running.

[Watch Video Here](#)

**REMINDER:
Downtown Independence Tricks & Treats Event
Returns Next Week**



Be part of the magic and join us on **Tuesday, October 31, 2023**, in **downtown Independence from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM** for our Downtown Tricks and Treats event!

Stop by participating businesses to receive your treats, and don't forget to check out our special entertainers performing all sorts of tricks throughout downtown!

Kids will get the opportunity to see a magician and balloon twister, a singing clown duo who ride tall bikes, a professional hula hooper, a stilt walker, and more! Additionally, the Independence Public Library will be hosting a make-your-own Halloween bag craft for kids. All activities are **FREE** and family-friendly, so kick off your Halloween holiday festivities in downtown Indy. A map showing all participating businesses will be available on the Facebook event page by October 27.

[Visit Event Page](#)

Leaf Pickup Program Begins October 30



City of Independence **2023** **LEAF PICKUP PROGRAM**

PICKUP WEEKS:

- ✓ October 30
- ✓ November 13
- ✓ November 27
- ✓ December 11
- ✓ December 18
- ✓ January 2

Every fall the Public Works Department picks up leaves for the residents of Independence, whose property has more leaves than the Brandt's yard debris container can hold. This service helps prevent the impact that leaves can have on the city's storm drains and rivers.

For more information or tips on how to help reduce storm water impact visit www.ci.independence.or.us/leaf-collection

Every fall, the Independence public works department picks up leaves for the residents of Independence whose property has more leaves than the Brandt's yard recycling container can hold. This service helps prevent the impact that leaves can have on the city's storm drains and rivers.

This year, the following dates will be the pickup weeks:

October 30
November 13
November 27
December 11
December 18
January 2

Learn more about our leaf pickup program by clicking the button below.

[Learn More Here](#)

Independence Wins Statewide Award

*Original release courtesy
of the League of Oregon*



Cities

EUGENE, Ore. – During its 98th Annual Conference Friday, the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) presented its 2023 Award for Excellence to the cities of Monmouth and Independence for the “M-I Trolley” program. The award recognizes progressive and innovative

city operations and services. This year, the LOC’s Excellence Award was presented to co-recipients, with the city of Albany also winning for its biosolids composting project. Additionally, city manager Kenna West was reappointed as a board of director for the third year in a row and, as of January 2024, will become senior city manager serving on the executive committee.

[Read More Here](#)

Independence Police Swear-in Newest Officer

Last week, the Independence Police Department swore in Officer Alberto Meza as the newest member of our team during an official ceremony that included family, friends, and city staff.

Alberto comes to us from the Marion County Sheriff’s Office, where he worked as a Deputy in the institutions division. His goal from the beginning was to work on the enforcement side of this profession. Prior to working in law enforcement, Alberto worked at Salem Health in their security department. Alberto grew up in Independence and is a Central High School alumnus, graduating with the class of 2015. Following high school, he attended Chemeketa Community College and received his criminal justice certificate and associate degree in law enforcement.

During the ceremony, Sergeant Gilbert read from the criminal justice code of ethics. Part of the document reads, “As a criminal justice officer, my fundamental duty is to serve humankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect all persons against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the Constitutional rights of all people to liberty, equality



and justice.”

Welcome to our team and congratulations, Officer Meza!

Central Talmadge Plan Hosts Outreach Event



Earlier this week, city staff, along with our project consultants, staged an “open storefront” event at the Gate for our Central Talmadge Plan, a project aimed at creating a new center within the community, focused around the commercial, cultural, social, and health service activities available near Central High School.

Conversations were had with community members about the neighborhood’s needs, safety concerns, and the need to make the area more accessible for students. Additionally, large poster boards visualized the project area and the possibilities present in each section of the neighborhood.

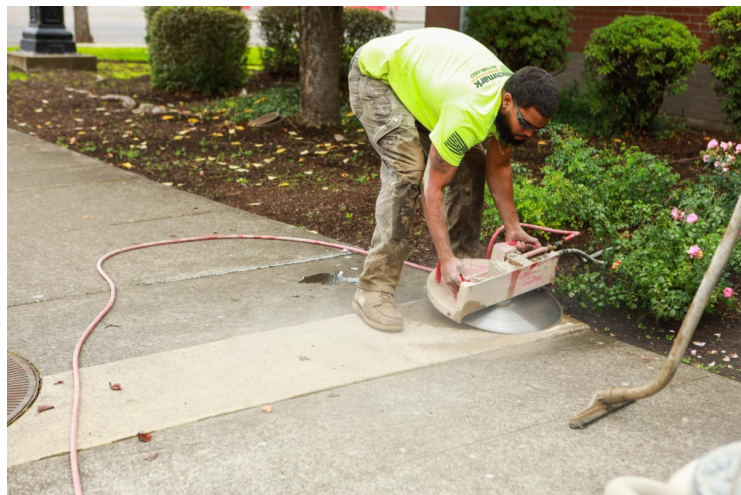
What do you think this neighborhood needs? Share your thoughts with us by clicking the button below.

[Take Survey Here](#)

Download Indy Works App to Report Issues in the City

Did you know the city of Independence has an app where you can submit service requests, like fixing a pothole, reporting graffiti, and more? Here's an example:

Earlier this week, public works contractors cut and ground sidewalk trip hazards around the Independence Public Library, an issue brought to our attention through our Indy Works app.

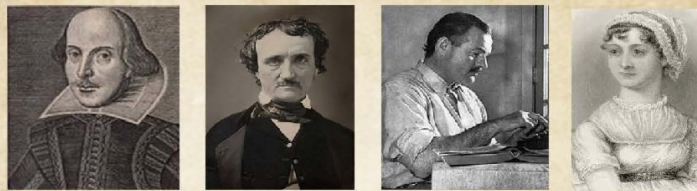


If you see or hear of any street, sidewalk, or park issue, please report it here: www.ci.independence.or.us/indy-works/, or download the app from any app store available.

Download App Here

Hear Local Authors' Work During Free Event

YOU ARE INVITED



M-I STORY NIGHT

FEATURING ORIGINAL STORIES:

SHORT WORKS WRITTEN BY LOCAL AUTHORS,
MOSTLY UNDISCOVERED.

ALL WRITERS RECEIVED A WRITTEN INVITATION
TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS INTRODUCTORY EVENT

DATE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023

TIME: 7 PM

LOCATION: BREW COFFEE & TAP HOUSE,
MAIN & C STREETS, INDEPENDENCE

COST: FREE

*AUTHORS PICTURED: WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, EDGAR ALLAN POE,
ERNEST HEMINGWAY, JANE AUSTEN, AGATHA CHRISTIE, CHARLES DICKENS,
ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, AND MARK TWAIN*



What Does a Positive, Sustainable Future Look Like?

IMAGINE OUR FUTURE

*a community art & writing project
for all ages*



Showcase: Earth Day, April 22
Submissions: January 15 - March 31

The Monmouth-Independence Climate Group is inviting artists and writers of all ages in our community to help answer the question: what does a positive, sustainable future look like?

Submissions will be open from January 15 to March 31, 2024. The showcase will open on Earth Day, April 22, 2024. Learn about awards and more by clicking the button below.

[Learn More Here](#)

Donate Coats at the Independence Civic Center

GREENWOOD GROUP PRESENTS
**THE 7TH ANNUAL
WINTER COAT DRIVE**

BEGINNING OCTOBER 10TH, 2023
THRU THE 2022/23 WINTER SEASON

OUR EFFORTS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT
THE ELLA CURRAN FOOD BANK



DONATION BOXES AVAILABLE AT

EXP REALTY OFFICE
(163 D ST, INDEPENDENCE)
AND AT THE CITY OF
INDEPENDENCE CIVIC CENTER

OREGON LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKERS
LIZ BOISVERT 541-243-2547 LIZ@GREENWOODGROUPOREGON.COM



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