

# Local Vietnam Veteran Tells the Story of Independence's Veterans Memorial

## River City Briefs

November 10, 2023

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

Para La Versión En Español

Celebrate Veterans Day by Learning Local History

### CURATOR'S CORNER

*Episode 5:  
Vietnam  
Veterans  
Memorial*



Did you know Independence, Oregon, is home to the oldest Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Oregon? In fact, it is the oldest Vietnam Veterans memorial West of the Mississippi.

Dedicated on July 4, 1982, the memorial was hand-built by local veterans and originally located in the center of the plaza in Riverview Park. In 2004, it was moved to its current location. Join Museum Curator Amy Christensen as she talks with Billy Whisenant, Vietnam Veteran and local author, to learn the memorial's history, its significance, and about an upcoming dedication at its site.

The city of Independence, Oregon, thanks all veterans for their service today and every day. We see and honor your sacrifices for our great nation.

[Watch Video Here](#)

## Holiday Lights Return to Independence in November



**LIGHTS START SHINING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26 AT 5:00 PM**  
**RIVERVIEW PARK | DOWNTOWN INDEPENDENCE**

This holiday season, visit downtown Independence, Oregon and watch it GLOW.

Starting Sunday, November 26, 2023 until January 2024, holiday lights and displays will be shining bright every night in Riverview Park. These lights are always free to walk through.

Help us celebrate the season by joining us for the lighting ceremony and community caroling kick-off event on **Sunday, November 26, at 5 PM in Riverview Park.**

[Learn About Downtown Parking at Community Event](#)

**INDEPENDENCE**

*Oregon's Story Begins Here*



You're  
Invited

Downtown Parking Experience

# OPEN HOUSE

## DATE & TIME

November 14, 2023 at 5:00 - 6:30 PM

## LOCATION

Independence Civic Center  
555 S Main Street  
Independence, Oregon

## MORE INFORMATION

[www.ci.independence.or.us/  
downtown-parking-experience/](http://www.ci.independence.or.us/downtown-parking-experience/)



Downtown parking affects everyone in our community. Whether your parking experience is positive or negative, or you don't drive at all, your thoughts matter and hold value.

Be part of the process and learn some of the findings of our Downtown Parking Experience project on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Independence Civic Center. Stick around for the city council meeting following the presentation if you wish.

To learn more about the Downtown Parking Experience project, click the button below.

[Learn More Here](#)

[Museum Hosts New Exhibit About Domestic Violence](#)







## Downtown Tricks and Treats Event Draws Hundreds



Our Downtown Tricks and Treats event last week was an absolute blast, and we loved seeing everyone in their costumes perusing our local businesses. Coupled with ghosts and ghostbusters, magicians and mayhem, and even an appearance from Officer Indy, bright colors aplenty blanketed the streets and made for a wholesome,

family-friendly event. We especially would like to thank our local businesses who made it all possible, as well as Central High School for joining us in the fun with their trunk-or-treat event in Riverview Park.

Join us next year for another evening of excitement and community

## Sandbag Filling Station Now Available at Independence Cinema

In case you haven't noticed, the wet weather is back! That's why our public works department has re-established a free sandbag filling station in the parking lot of the Independence Cinema. These sandbags can help absorb water and prevent flooding near you and your home. For extra protection, consider cleaning the leaves beside your nearest storm drain; this will help keep our city clean and prevent excessive flooding to neighboring homes and businesses. Lastly, please refrain from placing trash inside the sandbag bin.



The city of Independence appreciates you doing your part to keep our community safe and livable for everyone.

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## City of Sweet Home Visits Independence



Last week, members of our city staff and Mayor McArdle met with representatives from the city of Sweet Home, Oregon, to share Independence's story of success and explore the roadmap we took to get there. It was an excellent opportunity for both cities to learn from each other and strengthen their connections.

Sweet Home and Independence have a lot in common, including beautiful waterfront property and a population of 10,000 residents. During the visit, representatives from Sweet Home were able to see firsthand the progress and success Independence has achieved in recent years. They also learned about the strategies and best practices that have helped us get here, such as leveraging parks and recreation to create economic opportunity.

Overall, the visit was a great success and further strengthened the bond between our two communities. We look forward to continued collaboration and sharing of ideas with our friends in Sweet Home.

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## Polk County Offers Holiday Assistance Program

POLK COUNTY REGIONAL

# Holiday Assistance

POLK COUNTY RESIDENTS  
REGISTER NOW!



**WHO CAN APPLY:**

Polk County individuals and families experiencing a financial hardship and need assistance with food and/or gifts this holiday season.

REGISTER BY GOING TO THIS WEBSITE  
AND CLICKING SIGN UP:

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/  
POLKCOUNTYSI](https://www.facebook.com/polkcountysi)

Register Here

This Newsletter Brought to you by

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





City of Independence | 555 S Main St, Independence, OR 97351

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