

River City Briefs

December 8, 2023

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

Para La Versión En
Español

Independence trains the next generation of computer scientists with new coding program



Training the next generation of computer scientists is happening at the Independence Public Library. Thanks to a grant from the Oregon Community Foundation awarded to Indy Idea Hub and facilitated by the Independence and Monmouth Public Libraries, students from our community are gaining hands-on coding experience through the Youth Coding League, weekly classes and assignments introducing them to computer science. The students compete in national championships and even receive team uniforms.

While over 90 schools nationwide participate in the program, the Independence Public Library is the first public library in the United States to offer this program.

"This is something we can do—and should be doing more of—providing the space for kids to learn something new and enjoy it," said Library Director Patrick Bodily.

The Spring season of the Youth Coding League begins with a preseason interest session on **January 8, 2024**. If you have any questions, contact the Independence Public Library here: www.ci.independence.or.us/library-contact/

[Watch Video Here](#)

Holiday Light Display Shines All Month Long



Have you been to our Glow Holiday Light Display in Riverview Park?

Our stunning lights will shine brightly every night in Riverview Park until **January 10, 2024**, and the best part is that they are always free to walk through. Also, through the generosity of an anonymous donor and a sponsorship from MINET, two new displays are featured in the park.

Don't miss out on this magical holiday experience!

Give the Gift of Independence this Holiday Season



Looking for that perfect holiday gift?

Give the gift of Independence this holiday season with the Independence Wooden Nickel! Each nickel is worth \$5 towards your purchase of \$5 or more at any participating redemption location. Participating businesses will also be marked with special signage on their front doors and windows to mark their locations. You can purchase wooden nickels at the Independence Civic Center at 555 South Main Street in Independence, Oregon.

To see the full list of participating businesses and learn more, click the button below.

[Learn More Here](#)

Independence Leaf Pickup Program on Hold



City of Independence 2023 LEAF PICKUP PROGRAM

PICKUP WEEKS:

- ✓ October 30
- ✓ November 6
- ✓ November 13
- ✓ December 4
- ✓ December 11
- ✓ January 2

ON HOLD

Every fall the Public Works Department picks up leaves for the residents of Independence, whose property has more leaves than their yard debris container can hold. This service helps prevent leaves from clogging the city's storm drains.

Thank You for using your debris can from Brandt's Recycling Services. Please continue to use it for limbs, grass clippings, leaves, and other yard debris. The Leaf Pickup Program is for all the extra leaves that don't fit into your debris can. Pile any extra leaves following the guidelines above. Contact Brandt's at 503-838-0464 for their services.

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

Our leaf pickup program is still currently **ON HOLD** due to a malfunction on our machinery. The city is doing everything possible to fix the problem, but in the meantime, you can still dispose of any excess leaves using your yard debris cans like you usually would.

The city of Independence appreciates your patience and understanding during this time and will keep you informed with any updates as they become available.


Do You Plan to Remodel Your Historic Home?




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 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 City Staff Go to Washington



During the last week of November, city staff ventured to Washington DC to participate in the US Department of Transportation's Thriving Communities program, a pilot program meant to provide technical assistance, planning, and capacity-building support to disadvantaged and under-resourced communities, enabling them to advance

transportation projects that support community-driven economic development, health, environment, mobility, and access goals. This convening included 64 communities from around the country, with Independence being the sole representative from Oregon. The Department of Transportation covered all the costs of travel and lodging.

In addition to getting the latest information about current and upcoming federal grant programs, city staff learned about effective tools for community engagement, the importance of designing transportation systems that work for all modes and users, how to leverage multiple funding sources for projects, and exchanged ideas with representatives from the other participating communities. Staff are using this program to focus on developing transportation improvements to the Central Talmadge area (the commercial, residential, and public zones around Central Plaza and Central High School) as well as a planned south arterial and new bridge over the south fork of Ash Creek in the southwest part of Independence.

[Read More Here](#)

Independence City Manager Appointed Chair of League of Oregon Cities Finance & Taxation Policy Committee

City of Independence City Manager Kenna West has been duly appointed as Chair of the **League of Oregon Cities** (LOC) Finance & Taxation Policy Committee. Her term begins on January 1, 2024, and ends on December 31, 2025.

“Receiving this appointment is an honor,” shared West. “I look forward to bringing my expertise to the committee and continuing to serve Oregon’s 241 cities.”



The Finance & Taxation Policy Committee reviews policy decisions and recommends legislative positions and strategies related to property and income taxation; local government debt instruments; infrastructure funding; public budgeting; state revenue sharing; and financing economic development. As Chair, Ms. West will be responsible for running all committee meetings, setting the agenda, and receiving a seat on the LOC’s Legislative Committee.

[Read More Here](#)

F Street Bridge Lights Signal Project Completion

Lights, cement, bridge!



The F Street bridge is now officially connected to the power grid. This exciting step marks project completion on this pivotal piece of infrastructure in our city.

As the only crossing on the South Fork of Ash Creek on the south side of OR-51, the city prioritized the replacement of the F Street Bridge. Funded in

part by the Oregon Department of Transportation, the bridge provides a convenient way out of the south development area and, along with future projects, will continue to relieve congestion concerns at 7th and Monmouth Street.

To learn more about our public works projects, click the button below.

[Learn More Here](#)

Christmas Community Dinner For All



JOIN US FOR A

Christmas
COMMUNITY DINNER
FOR ALL

25 DECEMBER, 2024

HOLIDAY MEAL WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS
AVAILABLE FROM 11:00 TO 4:00

MONMOUTH SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTER
180 WARREN ST S. MONMOUTH, OR 97361

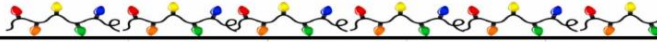
Please contact Steve Milligan at 503-269-1373 with any questions about volunteering, donating, or attending.

If you would like to be a part of community and have connection on this holiday, please join us.
EVERYONE is welcome.

Independence Public Library December Calendar



December 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Youth Coding League 4-6 pm (5th-8th Grade)	5 Family Gingerbread Houses 4 pm	6 Storytime with Miss Jo 10:30 am	7	8 Teen & Adult Paint Fun w/Jen Hibbard 4 pm	9
10	11 Library open 1:30-6 pm today Youth Coding League 4-6 pm (5th-8th Grade)	12 Family Ornament Making 4 pm	13 Storytime with Miss Jo 10:30 am	14	15	16
17	18	19 Tuesday Crafternoon Drop in Crafts for all ages 2-5 pm Mystery Book Club - 4 pm	20 Storytime with Miss Jo 10:30 am	21 Coloring Club (all ages kids-adults) 4 pm	22	23
24	25	26	27 Storytime with Miss Jo 10:30 am	28 Let it Snow! Create Fun Snowflakes. All ages -- 3 pm	29	30
31	Library Closed				Independence Public Library 175 Monmouth Street Independence, OR 97351 503-838-1811	

[Visit Library Webpage](#)

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Oregon's Story Begins Here



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

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