

Support Small Businesses this February; Appreciation
for Winter Weather Responders

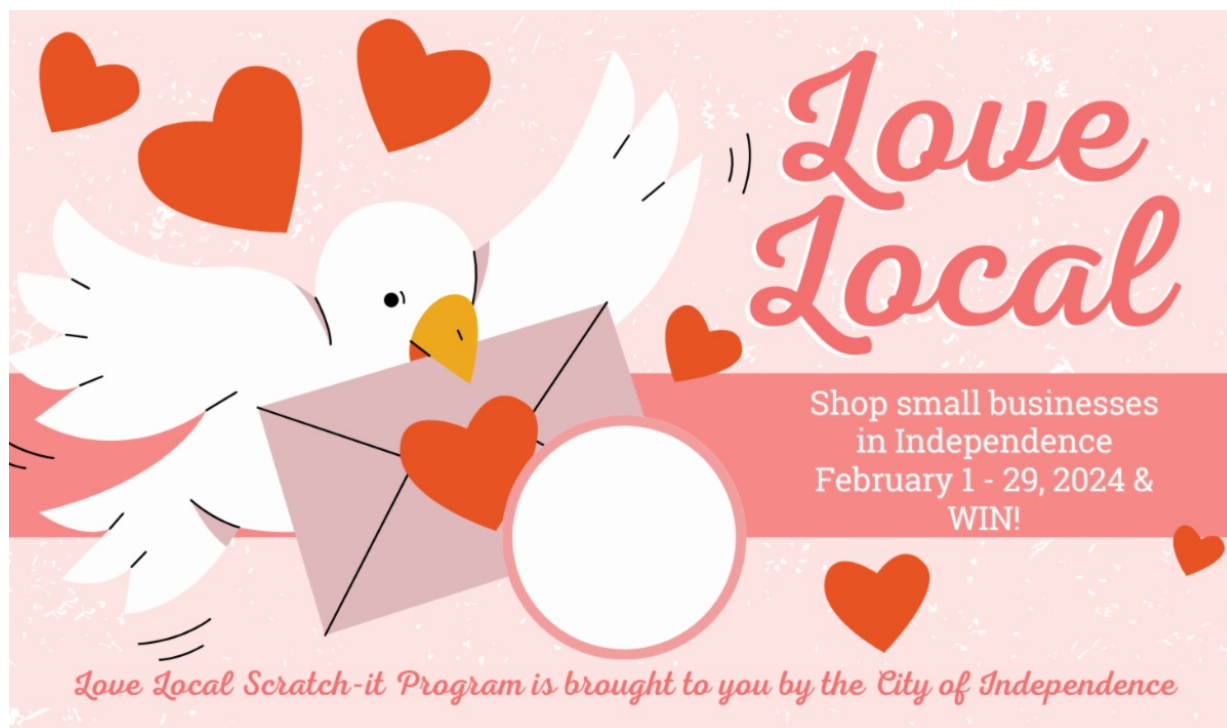
River City Briefs

January 19, 2024

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

Para La Versión En Español

Love Local Scratch-It Program Returns



Our Love Local Scratch-It program returns this February!

From February 1-28, 2024, shop at any of the 19 participating businesses and receive a Love Local scratch-it with every purchase of \$5 or more while supplies last. Scratch-its can be used towards your next purchase, and every scratch-it is a winner! Scratch-it values vary between \$1, \$5, \$10, and \$20.

Here is the complete list of participating businesses:

- The Collection on Main
- Jubilee Champagne & Desserts
- Golden Hop Saloon
- Brew Coffee & Tap House
- Gilgamesh: The River
- Arena Sports Bar & Grill
- Maganda Glassworks
- Melting Pot Candy
- The Little Pumpkin Cat Cafe
- The Tap Station
- Painted Pony Coffee & Cream
- Indy Commons
- Territory
- Starduster Cafe
- Chase Bar & Grill
- Ovenbird Bakery
- Pink House Cafe
- Bramble Boutique
- Willow Design NW

Share Your Voice at Central Talmadge Plan Community Meeting



What kinds of businesses, activity centers, or healthcare services would you like to see in the area near Central Plaza? As part of our Central Talmadge Plan, you can share your input at a community meeting on **January 23, 2024, from 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM** at the Independence Civic Center.

The plan will build on the Independence Vision 2040 Plan and the Independence Transportation System Plan as well as other previous

planning and engagement efforts to:

- Redevelop the area around Central Plaza to create a more dynamic commercial, retail and service hub in the heart of the town
- Link developments including apartment complexes and nearby manufactured home parks to the downtowns of Independence and Monmouth, and nearby goods and services
- Open existing vacant properties to new mixed-use development and affordable and/or senior-oriented housing
- Identify zoning changes necessary to enable and promote a more vital, walkable/bike able, mixed-use development pattern in the area

To learn more about the Central Talmadge project, such as the complete study area, project timeline, and more, click the button below.

[Learn More Here](#)

LAST CALL: Register for the First Marketing Mondays Class



Marketing your business is hard work—learn how to make it easier!

Join the cities of Independence and Monmouth for **Marketing Mondays**, a free, easy-to-follow marketing class focused on helping you maximize your time and marketing budget. The first class will occur on **Monday, January**

22, 2024, from 10 AM - 12:30 PM, at the Independence Civic Center (555 S Main Street), and will concentrate on 2024 Marketing Trends.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to better your business!

For more information and to register for our first class, click the button below.

[Register Here](#)

City Council Issue Two Proclamations

January 9, 2024
Proclamations

INDEPENDENCE
Oregon's Story Begins Here



At our latest city council meeting, two proclamations were read, one for National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and one for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Read the full proclamations by clicking the button below.

[Read More Here](#)

Independence Public Works and Police Departments Brave Winter Storm to Ensure Community Safety

In the face of the recent winter storm, the unsung heroes of our community stepped up to the



challenge, working tirelessly to keep Independence safe and accessible. The combined efforts of the Independence Public Works crews and the Independence Police Department during this daunting weather event showcased their unwavering dedication to the well-being of our residents.

As snow and ice began to blanket our streets, the Public Works crews were quick to mobilize their resources. Armed with plows, sand spreaders, and a determination to combat the elements, they ventured into the icy streets to clear the way for emergency vehicles, commuters, and pedestrians alike. These dedicated individuals worked around the clock, navigating through treacherous conditions to ensure that our roads remained passable and safe.

Simultaneously, the Independence Police Department played a crucial role in managing the storm's impact on public safety. Whether taking calls or responding to weather-related emergencies, our police force went above and beyond their regular duties. Their visible presence on the streets reassured the community, emphasizing the commitment of law enforcement to safeguarding our well-being even in the most challenging weather conditions.

[Read More Here](#)

Independence Development Update



A mixed-use project at 478 S. Main Street recently broke ground. The project received Historic Preservation Commission and staff approval in 2022 and seeks to construct a building with 14 apartment units and roughly 3,000 square feet of commercial space on the ground floor. Parking spaces and stormwater treatment will also be included as part of the project.

Receive Income Tax Assistance & Tax Counseling



AARP and the IRS sponsor the VITA/TCE program, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs offer free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals. The VITA program has operated for over 50 years. VITA sites offer free tax help to people who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns, including:

- People who generally make \$60,000 or less
- Persons with disabilities; and
- Limited English-speaking taxpayers

The local TCE program, known as AARP Tax-Aide, also offers free tax help

for low-income taxpayers (without a specific income ceiling) and for those who are 60 years of age and older.

There are certain limits on the type of information our VITA/TCE volunteers may report on tax returns prepared through the programs, but many simple income tax returns qualify for assistance. When you call to make your appointment, the scheduler will ask some general questions about what is included on your tax return to make a preliminary determination of whether we can assist.

Tax assistance will be available this year, beginning in February. There will be three sites in Polk County.

The AARP Tax-Aide Monmouth site will return to **Ash Creek Annex, 1483 16th St N, Monmouth**. The phone number for appointments is 971-915-0316. We started taking phone calls on January 15 for appointments beginning February 2. The Ash Creek Annex site will be open on Mondays, Fridays, and Saturdays. The forms that need to be filled out before your appointment will be available later this month at the Independence Library and the Monmouth Library. Please check the Monmouth AARP Tax-Aide Facebook page for additional helpful information.

A new VITA site will also operate for the first time at Western Oregon University during this coming tax season. This site, **located on the WOU Campus in West House at the corner of Monmouth Ave N and Jackson St W**, will open later in February. The phone number and website link for appointments will be available soon. Please leave a message with the Monmouth Tax-Aide site at 971-915-0316 and ask to be added to the WOU Notification List to receive a follow up call when appointments may be scheduled.

An additional AARP Tax-Aide site will operate at the **Dallas Public Library** on Mondays and Wednesdays. If this location is more convenient, please call 971-289-5492 to make an appointment. The forms that need to be filled out prior to all appointments will also be available at the Dallas library and at the Dallas Senior Center.

[Visit Facebook Page](#)

New Polk County Resource Center Hosts Open House



OPEN HOUSE

TUESDAY
JANUARY 30TH
4PM-7PM

POLK COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

1407 MONMOUTH INDEPENDENCE HWY. MONMOUTH, OR
DIRECTLY BEHIND ROTH'S ON THE "S" CURVES

The Polk County Family & Community Outreach Department invites you to the new Polk Community Resource Center. Come tour our new space and meet the agencies who will be co-locating to provide services in the new resource center.

A brief welcome and address from Commissioner Craig Pope will take place at 4:30pm

Light refreshments provided.



Spread Your Message of Love Through the
Walk of Hearts



The Independence Walk of Hearts is BACK!

Express your sentiment on a bright red heart branded with a personal message. Each heart will be hung on the lamp posts in downtown Independence. One side for \$35, or both sides for \$60.

Your creative expression helps benefit the Independence Downtown Association's efforts to beautify downtown, brings more visitors to local businesses, and makes your sweetheart happy.

You can place your order online, or print the order form and deliver it to the Heritage Museum, along with payment.

[Order Here](#)

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