

Attend the Sunset Meadows Park Groundbreaking  
Ceremony; Volunteer for Independence Days

# *River City Briefs*

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March 29, 2024

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

[Para La Versión En Español](#)

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Attend the Sunset Meadows Park  
Groundbreaking Ceremony



## SUNSET MEADOWS PARK

# Groundbreaking Ceremony

**TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024 | 4 PM**  
**889 MAPLE ST.**  
**INDEPENDENCE, OREGON 97351**



Snacks, water, and giveaways are provided

Be part of the fun and join the city of Independence for a groundbreaking ceremony of Sunset Meadows Park (889 Maple St. Independence, Oregon 97351) on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 4 PM. Giveaways and snacks are provided while supplies last.

The park project will include installing Nature Play Equipment and seating suitable for picnicking by small groups such as picnic tables. A safety surface (engineered wood fiber or similar) will also be installed. The installation will include concrete work to tie the project location into the existing trail infrastructure and connect individual site elements. Funded through grants and System Development charges, this park will bring to

fruition the vision expressed by our community during the 2015 Parks Master Plan, creating an important new amenity for families in one of our city's newest neighborhoods.

Construction of the park is set to start this month and continue until October 2024.

## Independence Days Celebration Excitement Starts Early



Start the countdown to Independence early with us! Join in the excitement as we gear up for our annual Independence Days celebration from **July 3-5, 2024**, in none other than Independence, Oregon.

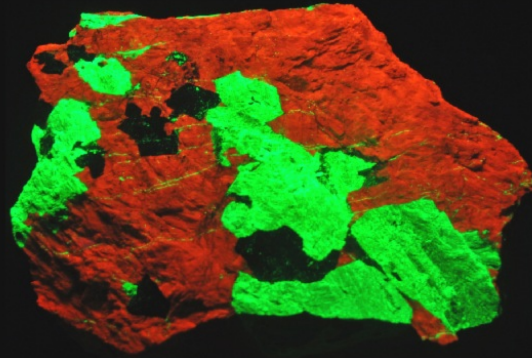
Prepare to be immersed in a festive atmosphere filled with bustling vendors, electrifying concerts, and dazzling fireworks displays. Discover firsthand why our celebration stands out as the best 4th of July event in the state.

Stay in the loop with all the latest event news and updates by expressing your interest on our Facebook event page here: <https://fb.me/e/20MV90lrx>

To volunteer for Independence Days, you can email the commission chair, Courtney Williams, by clicking the button below.

[Contact Us](#)

Experience the Heritage Museum's Latest Exhibit



# Radiant Rocks: Unveiling the Hidden Glow of Fluorescent Minerals

"Radiant Rocks: Unveiling the Hidden Glow of Fluorescent Minerals" is making its debut at the Heritage Museum. Local rock hound and Clackamette Mineral and Gem club member, Bob Oblack, worked with local carpenter and contractor, Ken Fetters, to bring this exhibit to Independence.

Fluorescent minerals are captivating. Unlike common materials that reflect ultraviolet light, these minerals emit light from within themselves. The enchanting hues they radiate are unique to each mineral, tied to its distinct physical and chemical composition.

Usually, a small amount of impurity, or activator, must be present for the mineral to fluoresce. Pure minerals typically don't exhibit fluorescence, with the shimmering exception of gold.

The intensity of these colors is due to the concentration of these activators. The interplay of fluorescence transforms into a symphony of hues, revealing the concealed beauty that naturally resides in these extraordinary minerals.

Presentations by Bob Oblack available - great opportunity for school groups!



## April 18 - May 18, 2024

Independence Heritage Museum  
281 S 2nd Street, Independence  
[www.orheritage.org](http://www.orheritage.org) | 503.838.4989

# Public Works Day at the Library

Earlier this week, we celebrated Public Works Day at the Independence Public Library with over 250 youth in attendance. Kids got to sit, interact, and play in some of the department's most notable rigs and were also given free hot dogs.

Additionally, they got a chance to meet some of the public works crew—

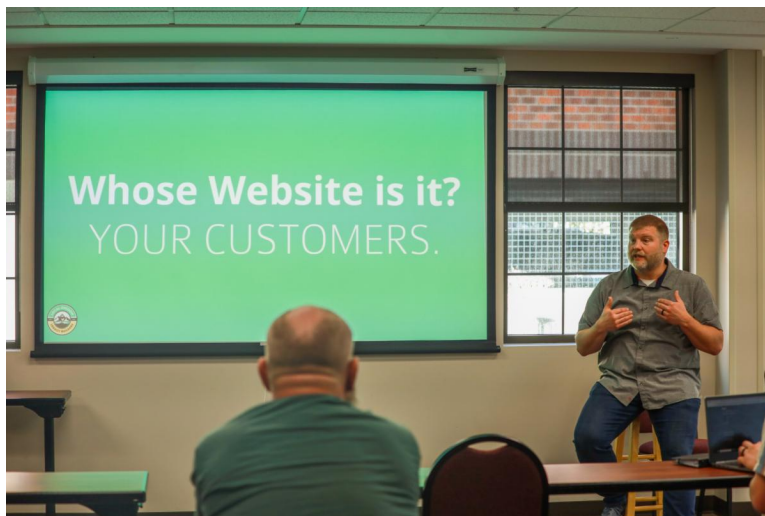
the people behind the upkeep of our city streets, sewers, and parks just to name a few. Their work is immensely valuable and does not go unnoticed!

To learn more about what our amazing public works department does, click the button below.



[Learn More Here](#)

## Season Finale of Marketing Mondays Delivers Insights from Digital Experts



Last week saw the last Marketing Mondays class of the season, featuring an informative class that provided insights into creating a successful website for small businesses. Rick Saffeels from Local Oregon Legacy Builders and Mike Peterson from Hite Digital brought their expertise in building engaging

websites for customers and offered hands-on advice to attendees on how to improve their current sites.

Thank you to everyone who came to our classes this season! We trust these classes have been enlightening and stimulating, fostering growth and proficiency in your entrepreneurial journey.

# Enjoy the Weather with New Independence Downtown Association Event



## April 20, 2024 | A New Downtown Event!

The Puddle Hopper is a day-long event celebrating Oregon's April weather, downtown fun, and shopping and eating local. The day includes a hunt for the golden umbrella, a decorated downtown, and a ticketed evening reception.

### How Do You Benefit?

Our hope is to encourage folks to come visit downtown to shop and eat. We hope you will join us and embrace the rain and umbrellas! **Is there a special you want to offer?** Let us know and we will add it to our advertising.

### Window Decorating Contest!

Announcing a window decorating contest in conjunction with the event.

**Please have windows decorated by April 1.**

1st Place: \$100

2nd Place: \$75

3rd Place: \$50

People's Choice: \$50

*Judging will happen  
on April 20 with  
winners announced at  
the evening reception!*

The IDA board will determine the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. Folks visiting downtown will be able to vote on their favorite window.

### Golden Umbrellas

IDA will hide three golden umbrella's for visitors to find for a prize.

### Marketing

This event will be marketed on social media utilizing videos, boosts, and an event listing. A press release will be distributed to local media (tell us what you have planned so we can include it!) We will have it listed in local newsletters and have posters hanging in local businesses in Polk County.

### Calling All Artists!

We are looking for artists to decorate umbrellas that can be auctioned off at the evening reception.

Interested?

Email: [info@downtownindependence.com](mailto:info@downtownindependence.com)



Ready to participate? Entry forms can be completed electronically. The umbrellas for decoration and paper entry forms can be acquired at the Independence Heritage Museum beginning Feb. 29, 2024.

Submit umbrellas by March 29, 2024.

We will try to display the umbrellas downtown prior to the evening event.

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Tour Inspiration Garden with Polk County  
Master Gardeners

# TREES

for small spaces

Join us for a Tour  
through the  
Inspiration Garden!

**SATURDAY • APRIL 20 • 10 A.M.**

Rain or shine, this no cost outdoor drop-in event is on mixed paved and packed gravel surface. Dress for the weather!

Meet us at the Gathering Place at the  
Inspiration Garden at Mt. Fir Park  
799 F St. Independence, OR 97351

<https://beav.es/ciK>



Questions?  
brooke.edmunds@oregonstate.edu  
503.623.8395



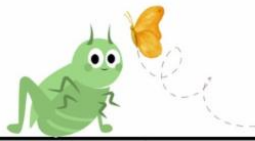
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[Learn More Here](#)

Independence Public Library April Calendar



# April 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Youth Coding League 4-6 pm (5th-8th Grade)	2 Celebrate Children's Book Day! Drop in for a FREE kid's book. 11-6 pm	3 Storytime 10:30 am	4 	5 Family Movie: Migration 3 pm	Friends Book Sale 10-3 pm (Old Library)
7	8 Youth Coding League 4-6 pm (5th-8th Grade)	9 Tuesday Crafternoon: Trolls Crafts! 4 pm	10 Storytime 10:30 am 	11	12 Teen & Adult Paint Fun w/Jen Hibbard 4 pm	13
14	15 Youth Coding League 4-6 pm (5th-8th Grade)	16 Mystery Book Club 4 pm	17 Storytime 10:30 am	18 Coloring Club (all ages kids-adults) 4 pm 	19 Youth Coding League 4-6 pm (5th-8th Grade)	20 
21 	22	23 Tuesday Crafternoon: Garden Crafts 4 pm	24 Storytime 10:30 am 	25	26	27
	29	30			Independence Public Library 175 Monmouth Street Independence, OR 97351 503-838-1811 <a href="http://www.ci.independence.or.us/library">www.ci.independence.or.us/library</a>	

## This Newsletter Brought to you by

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



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