

Sign Up for Emergency Alerts; Sunset Meadows Park Breaks Ground

River City Briefs

April 12, 2024

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

[Para La Versión En Español](#)

Stay Informed with Marion-Polk Alerts



The city has received many messages regarding how folks can sign up for emergency notifications that send calls and messages directly to their phones and emails, especially those who are not on social media. Please take a moment, if you are not signed up already, to sign up for Marion-Polk Alerts and share it with your friends and family members. You can sign up and receive notifications by clicking on the link below.

[Sign Up Here](#)

Sunset Meadows Park Breaks Ground

Last week marked the groundbreaking ceremony for Sunset Meadows Park, with over 60 people in attendance. The ceremony brought

together a coalition of partners who helped contribute to the park's realization, including Representative Paul Evans, officials from the office of Congresswoman Andrea Salinas, Oregon Parks and Recreation, T-Mobile, Pacific Power, and most importantly, members of the community who shaped



the **2015 Parks Master Plan**. Attendees received complimentary snacks and bubbles under the banner of a warm spring sun.

“Today is the result of people coming together for the betterment of the whole community,” stated Independence Mayor John McArdle. “It will be exciting for all of us to watch the construction unfold.”

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. The park is located at 889 Maple Street in Independence.

[Read More Here](#)

Independence Police Release Monthly Report



Have you been curious about what our officers have been up to all month?

The Independence Police Department is sharing a sample of the calls for service each month to inform and educate community members on the work we do.

MARCH 2024

During March, Officers engaged in over 713 activities, including 21 arrests (adults and juvenile referrals), 18 check welfares, 11 domestic disturbances, 4 hit-and-run crashes, 10 emotional health calls, and 46

[Read Full Report Here](#)

Independence Honors Vietnam Veterans with Proclamation

A couple of weeks ago, Mayor McArdle joined veterans from across the region to present one of the city's most recent proclamations designating March 29 as Vietnam Veterans Day. March 29, 1973, was the day the



US Armed Forces completed their withdrawal of combat troops from Vietnam. Part of the city's proclamation reads, "This anniversary presents the opportunity to honor and thank our Vietnam Veterans for their brave, courageous military service and sacrifice."

Hosted by members of American Legion Post 33, community members and family gathered around the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in the plaza of Riverview Park for an informal ceremony that included a brief history of the monument and an opportunity for veterans to share their experiences. Mayor McArdle underscored the significance of housing Oregon's oldest Vietnam Veterans Memorial, urging everyone to uphold the legacy of courage and sacrifice embodied by Vietnam Veterans.

"It's important to continue to tell the story," said Mayor McArdle. "So that young people know what happened, what you did, and where we are today."

Today, and every day, we pay tribute to our Vietnam Veterans, who epitomize selflessness, dedication, and the enduring spirit of service.

Independence Public Works Respond to Water Main Break



On April 4, 2024, contractors working on a sewer line replacement on C street broke through a water main, resulting in low water pressure across the city. As a precautionary measure, the city issued a boil water notice until water samples could be tested for possible contamination. All tests came back negative for contaminants. During the incident, our public works crew repaired the broken main and issued a stop worker order.

In an active effort to be transparent, the city worked tirelessly to disseminate this information to the community as quickly as possible using local media, social media, the city website, partners at Central School District, the Marion-Polk Alert system, and even the Independence Public Library electronic reader board.

The city of Independence is deeply grateful for the dedication shown by our community in staying informed, sharing information with their loved ones, and actively participating. It is through our collective efforts that Independence thrives as a unique and vibrant place to call home.

If you or someone you know hasn't already, please sign up for Marion-Polk Alerts by clicking the button below.

[Sign Up Here](#)

Independence Seeks Public Input on Polk County



The city of Independence is in the process of updating their existing Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP). This work is being performed in cooperation with the University of Oregon’s Institute for Policy Research and Engagement – Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience and the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) utilizing funds obtained from the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. With re-adoption of the plan, the City of Independence will maintain its eligibility to apply for federal funding towards natural hazard mitigation projects. This local planning process includes a wide range of representatives from city, special districts, and county government, emergency management personnel, and outreach to members of the public.

A natural hazards mitigation plan provides communities with a set of goals, action items, and resources designed to reduce risk from future natural disaster events. Engaging in mitigation activities provides jurisdictions with a number of benefits, including reduced loss of life, property, essential services, critical facilities, and economic hardship; reduced short-term and long-term recovery and reconstruction costs; increased cooperation and communication within the community through the planning process; and increased potential for state and federal funding for recovery and reconstruction projects.

[Read More Here](#)

Submit Your Artwork for Artful Indy Poster Contest



What is Artful Indy? Artful Indy is an annual poster contest commemorating the annual Independence Days celebration. Independence Days is a very successful local celebration, but once it's over, it's over. Contest coordinators thought, "why not create a way to commemorate the event with an art poster contest, giving artists an additional venue for their art and residents and visitors a great way to remember the event and their visit?"

Artful Indy's inaugural contest was in 2023. Local artist Norah Steed won the contest. Norah's poster, based on the theme, "The Willamette River", was chosen as the best representative submission and a framed copy hangs in the Independence Civic Center. 2023 posters are still on sale at the Independence Heritage Museum and will soon be available at Indy Commons too.

The contest is open to:

- Independence and Monmouth residents, 14 years or older.

- Independence and Monmouth business owners and employees, 14 years or older.
- Individuals who are 14 and older and attend schools or are enrolled in a GED program in Independence or Monmouth.

Poster design must be 11" x 17" at a minimum of 300 dpi with a trim dimension of 11" x 17".

A ¼" bleed around all sides is permitted.

JPEG or PNG format

Posters can be created using any 2 dimensional medium, but the submission must be digital.

The poster must include:

- a. The 2024 theme - "Cultural Awareness" - How has the diverse culture of this region impacted you; or how has your culture impacted this region?
- b. "Independence Days 2024"

The contest opens for submissions May 14, 2024 and will close at midnight on June 15, 2024. Submission info will be available on Artful Indy social media channels once the contest opens.

The submissions will be judged by a jury composed of art professionals, gallery owners, and art instructors using a judging rubric. First prize is \$250.00.

The winning submission will be available for purchase during Independence Days 2024, at the Independence Heritage Museum and Indy Commons through the calendar year.

Please stay tuned to our social media channels for updates and reach out via email with any questions.

Instagram: [@artfulindy](#)
Facebook: [Artful Indy](#)
Email: artfulindy@gmail.com

[Contact Artful Indy](#)

**Attend the Annual Polk County Master Gardener
Association Plant Sale**

32ND ANNUAL POLK COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION



Plant Sale

Mother's Day Weekend 2024

Friday, May 10th: 9am-4pm
Saturday, May 11th: 9am-2pm

Polk County Fairgrounds

Rickreall, Oregon

www.polkmgga.org



Perennials Berries
Vegetables Native Plants
Herbs Trees & Shrubs
House Plants Country Store
LOTS of Annual Flowers
Beautiful Hanging Baskets
\$1 Kids Craft / Kids Table



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Polk County
Master Gardener™
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