

River City Briefs

June 21, 2024

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

Para La Versión En Español

City Budget Adopted with Reduced Public Safety Fee



On June 11, 2024, the Independence City Council adopted the city budget in the amount of \$53.9 million, with the addition of a public safety fee included. The public safety fee will begin in January 2025 at a rate of \$20/month for the first six months and then be reduced to \$17/mo starting July 2025. In July 2026, the public safety fee will be reduced to \$10/mo and then be indexed each year in December based on inflation as calculated in the CPU-West Region moving forward.

The public safety fee will stabilize the Independence police department budget, allowing for an increase in officers over time to bring Independence

near the national average for a city population of 10,000. This public safety fee will provide \$1.06 million annually for our police department.

Moreover, in July the Council will consider whether to place an Arts and Culture Operating Levy on the ballot(s) in 2024-25. If placed on the ballot(s), the Independence community can vote on whether to fund the Independence Public Library, the Independence Heritage Museum, and city parks. If passed, the levy will generate \$1.065 million per year and translate to a rate of \$1.82/\$1,000 assessed value or about \$548 per year on a home valued at \$300,000. If this levy fails, beginning in the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the city will assess operations to determine how best to close departments that are not funded.

To learn more about the city budget and its process or watch our budget committee meetings, click the button below.

[Learn More Here](#)

Independence Days Celebration Kicks Off July 3



2024 FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Wednesday, July 3rd

NO WRISTBANDS REQUIRED



- 12:00PM** Gates Open
Vendors Open
Fun & Games Field Opens
-FREE Inflatable Fun
-Themed crafts by the YMCA
-Games & prizes by the YMCA
-Special festival activities
- 5:00PM** Indy Days Community Talent Show
9:30PM Movie in the Park



For more event details, please visit:
www.ci.independence.or.us/independence-days-celebration

The 2024 Independence Days celebration schedule is here! From fun & games and the annual talent show to live concerts and the best fireworks show in Oregon, we are jam-packing July 3-5 with community-centered excitement! We are especially excited to announce we will feature season 24 The Voice finalist Jacquie Roar as the final concert of the night on July 4! Get ready to sing, dance, and celebrate the things that make our great nation so special.

Wristbands are currently on sale for \$10 and are required for entrance on July 4 and July 5. July 3 remains free of charge. Children ages 6 and under are also free of charge on all three days. Additionally, we are pleased to offer a special discount for Independence residents: from June 3 to June 28, wristbands can be purchased for just \$6 at the Independence Civic Center. To take advantage of this discount, residents will need to show proof of residence, such as an ID, utility bill, or a piece of mail. Please note that the \$6 price is limited to six wristbands per family.

You can also purchase your wristbands at the following locations:

- Independence Public Library

- Independence Heritage Museum
- Independence Cinema
- Monmouth-Independence YMCA
- Polk County Fire District No. 1

To see the full schedule, click the button below.

[Learn More Here](#)

Water Rate Adjustment Effective July 1, 2024



On May 28, 2024, the city council approved a water rate adjustment effective July 1, 2024. This 5.5% adjustment will result in a \$2.99 increase in the average single-family monthly water bill. Additionally, the city will transition to a tiered water rate structure as part of a state-mandated Water Management and Conservation plan. This plan intends to promote conservation and water stewardship within the city.

Why are my utility bills going up?

The city adopted a Water System Master Plan on March 28, 2023, and the Water System Development Charge Methodology Resolution on February 27, 2024. The city council held a work session on April 22, 2024, to review the water rates required to fund the capital improvements plan. The April 2024 Water Rate Study recommended a 5.5% increase for the next 5 years to cover inflation, debt, and ongoing operation and maintenance costs of

the water system.

Moreover, as part of the state-mandated conservation plan, ratepayers who use 15-30 centum (100) cubic feet per month will be charged a 10% premium over the base block price. Payers who use over 31 centum cubic feet will be charged a 25% price premium over their base block. Based on historical data, most of our community members (63%) will not be affected by the state-mandated conservation plan changes.

To learn more about how this process was conducted, watch the city council work session and meeting here:

[Learn More Here](#)

Section of Willamette River Trail to Temporarily Close for Repairs



Trail Closure Notice: Please note that a section of the Willamette River Trail will be closed for essential repairs related to erosion from July 9 to September 30, 2024. During this time, for your safety, we recommend the following detour: Stroll up to Main Street and then turn right onto Grand Street to continue along the path. You can also start your walk from the north end of the trail or even at the Independence Dog Park.

City staff surveyed and walked the trail to find an alternate detour, either

through the nearby forest or around the area of construction. Neither option provided sufficient distance between the construction equipment and pedestrians, nor did they provide easy access for everyone.

Your safety is our top priority, and we appreciate your cooperation during this temporary closure. Stay tuned for updates on the progress of the repairs and the reopening of the trail!

Independence Leads Discussion with Congresswoman Andrea Salinas

The city recently participated in a Rural Economic Development Round Table discussion hosted by Congresswoman Andrea Salinas at the Independence Civic Center. This event brought together several small, rural cities across Oregon's 6th district to highlight project successes and positive actions, with state and federal agencies on hand to provide technical advice and updates. The discussion also offered cities an opportunity to share their challenges and propose ideas to their federal representatives.



Independence Mayor John McArdle kicked off the meeting by acknowledging key collaborators who have been instrumental in the city's revitalization efforts. For example, we collaborated with the Oregon National Guard to help build our iconic amphitheater and sports complex. Moreover, Independence collaborated with state agencies to secure funding for significant projects such as the F Street Bridge, the Central Talmadge Plan, and waterfront development, among others.

"The big thing I want to share with you all is the importance of building a relationship with your state and federal elected and agency staff," said McArdle. "They can point you to support and funding sources to help make your vision a reality. They certainly did it for us."

This roundtable marked a significant step forward in our mission to enhance rural economic growth. Independence looks forward to continuing to strengthen relationships with our state and federal partners.



M-I STORY NIGHT

VOLUME 3

A FREE EVENT

LOCAL AUTHORS READ ALOUD THEIR
ORIGINAL SHORT WORKS

JULY 12, 2024

7 PM

SING FAY RESTAURANT

198 MAIN ST W, MONMOUTH
(21 & OVER ONLY, PLEASE)

**THIS EVENT SHOWCASES
LOCAL WRITERS,
INVITED TO PARTICIPATE,
PROBABLY NEVER PUBLISHED**

TO LEARN MORE, OR TO BECOME
FEATURED WRITER (OR A READER),
CONTACT
DONPATTEN01@GMAIL.COM OR
MARILYN97351@GMAIL.COM

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VETERAN OF THE MONTH

JULY 2024

BRANCH OF SERVICE:

U.S. Army

RANK:

Major

ENTRANCE DATE:

1959

DISCHARGE DATE:

1980



James Colton Corr

February 1, 1936 - July 9, 2014

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!!

Provided By: Polk County Veteran Services Office (503-751-1644)



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Oregon's Story Begins Here



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