

60-second council report;  
Sunset Meadows Park Grand Opening

# *River City Briefs*

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October 11, 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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## 60-Second Council Report - October 8, 2024



Feeling out of the loop? Welcome to the 60-Second Council, a video series we created to make it easier for you to understand the important work happening in our community. Our goal is to keep you informed and engaged, ensuring that together, we can continue to build a better, kinder, and stronger city.

For more information on what happens at our city council meetings, visit:

Receive email updates on public meetings by subscribing here:  
<https://ciindependenceor.civicweb.net/Portal/Subscribe.aspx>

Watch Video Here

## Attend the Sunset Meadows Park Grand Opening

You're Invited to the

# GRAND *Opening*

*of Sunset Meadows Park*

Sunset Meadows Park is complete and ready for you to enjoy! Join us for the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate and explore all the new features the park has to offer.

**We can't wait to share it with you!**

Tuesday

**29**  
October

4 PM

889 Maple Street Independence, OR. 97351



## City Addresses Customer Concerns Over Higher Water Bills as New Meter System Enhances Accuracy



The city is currently transitioning its aging inventory of water meters to newer, more accurate, and more reliable meters supporting the most accurate billing for our water customers. We have experienced some challenges in this effort including technical issues translating meter readings to consumption and billing statements.

The city recently installed approximately 500 of the new, updated meters. Some customers identified significant increases in billed consumption for the August billing period relative to prior months. As a result, the city researched those accounts and tested a sample of the new meters to ensure they were measuring accurately. Contributing to the high consumption was the timeline for meter installation and reading those meters.

[Read More Here](#)





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

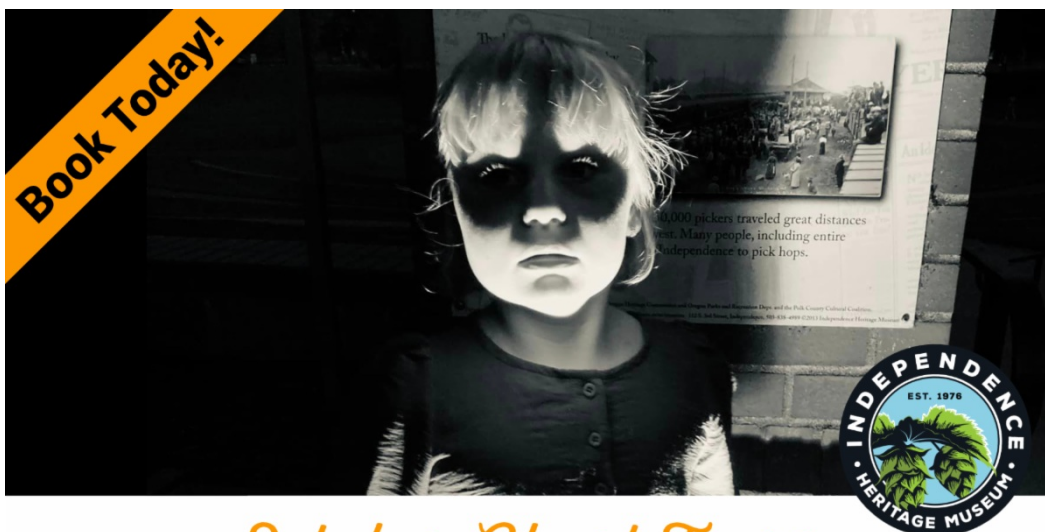
The Independence Police Department is sharing a sample of the calls for service each month to inform and educate community members on the work we do.

#### SEPTEMBER 2024

In September, officers engaged in 906 activities, including 29 Arrests (Adults and Juvenile), 24 check welfares, 19 domestic disturbances, 4 hit-and-run crashes, 17 emotional health calls, and 57 Suspicious Activity / Person / Vehicle calls.

[Read More Here](#)

## Book a Personal Ghost Tour



*October Ghost Tours*

Did you miss the Ghost Walk this weekend? Or did it leave you wanting more?

Good news! This October, the Heritage Museum is offering special additional Ghost Tours. Join Marilyn Morton, author of "Haunted Independence, Oregon", for a captivating private Ghost Tour that you won't want to miss.

Whether you're looking for a private tour or prefer to join a group of up to 20, we have options to fit your preference. Don't wait—visit our website to reserve your spot for a thrilling, family-friendly, one-hour journey through the haunted history of Independence.

[Book a Tour](#)

## Karin Johnson Presented with City Recorder of the Year Award

The Oregon Association of Municipal Recorders (OAMR) presented Independence City Recorder Karin Johnson, MMC, with the 2024 City Recorder of the Year award. Ms. Johnson received the award at the association's

Annual Banquet held at Wildhorse Resort and Casino in Pendleton, Oregon, on September 26, 2024.



The guidelines for Recorder of the Year state any OAMR member, City Manager, or Mayor may submit a confidential nomination to acknowledge recorders and recognize their excellence and professional accomplishments. The nominee must have made an outstanding contribution or performed outstanding service to OAMR, to the profession of Municipal Recorder, or to an individual city during the association fiscal year. This award recognizes outstanding service and performance over and above the person's job description. Some possible strengths might include areas such as Public Relations, Records Management, Legislative or Council Procedures, or even a special project.

[Read More Here](#)



## Temporary Mid-Block Crossings Yield Impressive Data



The city of Independence recently removed the temporary crosswalks installed on Monmouth Street.

The crosswalks were part of a demonstration project in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Transportation to study how many people would use the crossings if available. Detailed counts

of the use of the crossings were conducted one day during the demonstration. On that day, 728 crossings occurred at the three crosswalks – 642 at the crossing by the high school, 64 by Waremart, and 24 on 13th Street.

The data collected demonstrates the importance of additional improved crossings and will be used to design permanent crossings and apply for grants in the future.

## Permanent Ballot Box Now Available Outside Independence Civic Center

A permanent Polk County ballot drop box has been installed outside the Independence Civic Center. Ballots for the upcoming election will begin mailing out on October 16, 2024.

To ensure your vote is counted, any ballots returned to an Official Drop Site must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Night, November 5, 2024.



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