

# River City Briefs

October 25, 2024

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

Para La Versión En Español

## 60-Second Council Report - October 22, 2024



Feeling out of the loop? Welcome to 60-Second Council—your quick, easy way to stay informed about the important work shaping our community. In just one minute, get the key takeaways from city council meetings, so you can stay connected and engaged as we work together to build a better, stronger, and kinder city.

For more details about city council discussions, visit:

<https://www.ci.independence.or.us/agenda-minutes/>

Want to stay even more in the know? Subscribe for email updates on public meetings here: <https://ciindependenceor.civicweb.net/Portal/Subscribe.aspx>

## Local Option Levy for Library, Museum & Parks

# LOCAL LEVY FOR LIBRARY, MUSEUM, & PARKS



**INDEPENDENCE**

*Oregon's Story Begins Here*

The city of Independence is seeking a five-year local option tax of \$1.82 per \$1,000 of assessed value, beginning fiscal year 2025-26, to support operations and maintenance of the City's museum, library, and parks. The levy is necessary to continue to operate and maintain the Heritage Museum, public library, and city parks for the next five years.

If approved, the levy would support continued operation and maintenance of the Heritage Museum, Independence Public library, and city parks for the next five years, ensuring that current service levels are maintained.

The Library, Museum, and Parks are funded through June 30, 2025. If the levy does not pass, city staff will evaluate options and make recommendations to the Council, which may include:

- **Reduced Services:** This could involve shorter service hours at the Library and Museum, potentially leading to staff reductions at one or both facilities.
- **Facility Closures:** The Museum and/or Library may close, which would result in staff reductions at one or both locations.
- **Maintenance Cuts and/or Closures:** Reduced maintenance across all parks with possible closure of less frequently used parks.

The proposed rate will raise approximately \$1,123,000, \$1,156,000, \$1,191,000, \$1,227,000, and \$1,264,000 over the five fiscal years, respectively.

[Read More Here](#)

# INDEPENDENCE POLICE VIDEO NEWSLETTER



In this video newsletter, the Independence Police Department addresses the critical issue of domestic violence in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Our officers discuss the signs of domestic violence, the resources available for victims, and the importance of community awareness and support in breaking the cycle of abuse. Join us as we shed light on this often-hidden problem, for together we can create a safer environment and encourage those affected to seek help and speak out.

**Please note:** This video contains discussions of domestic violence, which may be sensitive for some viewers.

[Watch Video Here](#)

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## Shape the Future of Independence's Park System

# Parks

## MASTER PLAN OPEN HOUSE #1



SHAPE THE FUTURE OF THE

## Independence Park System

The city of Independence is updating its Park System Master Plan to improve our parks and meet the needs of our growing community. We need your input! Join us at our Open House to share your thoughts on park priorities, needed improvements, and any challenges you see. This is the first of two open houses, so help us shape the future of our parks!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

**NOVEMBER 14, 2024 6:30 PM**

At the Independence Civic Center - 555 S. Main St.



**Downtown Parking Plan Adopted by City Council**



# *Independence* **Downtown Parking Management Plan**

September 2024



Over the last year, the city of Independence has worked to understand individuals' downtown parking experience and how they would like it to improve in the future.

The city of Independence received a Transportation and Growth Management grant to help study the parking situation, offer an opportunity to have a community conversation about parking in downtown, and determine how best to navigate the inherent tension between a compact/walkable area and the provision of parking.

At the October 22, 2024, city council meeting, the council adopted a new downtown parking management plan that includes an overview of the project, strategies and actions, and more. You can read the full plan by clicking the button below.

[Read the Plan](#)

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**New Interpretive Panels Detail Independence's History**





The Trustees of the Braemar Charitable Trust generously awarded a \$10,000 grant to the Heritage Museum in 2021 to support the design, fabrication, and installation of five interpretive panels within the Independence Historical District. This project aimed to enrich the community's understanding of local history by providing detailed insights into buildings that either no longer exist or have since been repurposed from their original use.

The panels were researched and designed by the museum's curator, Amy Christensen, whose expertise ensured the accuracy and depth of the content. Thanks to the grant, the entire cost of the project, including the museum staff's time and resources, was fully covered.

To further support the local economy, the museum partnered with a local fabricator to create the sturdy stands for the panels, while a nearby sign shop was entrusted with the task of printing the metal signs. These collaborations not only brought the project to life but also underscored the museum's commitment to working with the community.

The panels offer visitors a unique glimpse into the evolving history of Independence by telling the stories of significant structures that either disappeared or found new purposes over time, preserving their legacy for future generations.

The five free-standing panels highlight:

- **Former City Hall**
- **Dome Building**
- **Pioneer Park**
- **Hop Warehouse**
- **Chinese Laundry**

Visit the historical district and experience these captivating stories for themselves today!

## Mayor McArdle Receives Hatfield Statesmanship Award

Original release courtesy of the League of Oregon Cities

BEND, Ore. – The League of Oregon Cities' (LOC) prestigious Mark O. Hatfield Statesmanship Award was presented to Independence Mayor John McArdle during the LOC's 99th Annual Conference in Bend. The award is presented to a deserving "statesman" who has provided lasting benefits to the quality of life for Oregon citizens.

One of the longest-tenured mayors in Oregon, Mayor McArdle is a selfless leader who convenes, leads challenging conversations, then generates momentum for achieving goals. Throughout his 26 years leading Independence, Mayor McArdle has advocated for community-led initiatives, which include broad vision plans and citizen guidance.



[Read More Here](#)

## Public Works Team Cleans Up Ash Creek at Pioneer Park



It's amazing what you can fish out of a creek—spoiler alert, it's not always fish!

Last week, members of our public works crew teamed up with the **Luckiamute Watershed Council** and the **Ash Creek Water Control District** to clean a section of Ash Creek next to Pioneer Park. Residents alerted the city about trash,

pollutants, and other debris in the creek, highlighting the need for a collaborative solution. In response, the city reached out to the Luckiamute Watershed Council for assistance, prioritizing the preservation of the creek's natural integrity. The team successfully hauled out an impressive amount of trash, including plastic, remnants of a railroad trestle, and a surprising amount of tires—all of which pose significant threats to the surrounding wildlife.



Pioneer Park, known as Independence's first park, was included in the original town plat back in the 1800s. Nestled at the corner of Seventh and C streets, the park sits at the confluence of the South Fork and Main Stem of Ash Creek and features an intact native riparian zone.

The city of Independence appreciates the teamwork and dedication that made this cleanup possible, improving the health of our local waterways. To learn more about the Luckiamute Watershed Council's efforts in the area, visit: <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/>

## 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!**

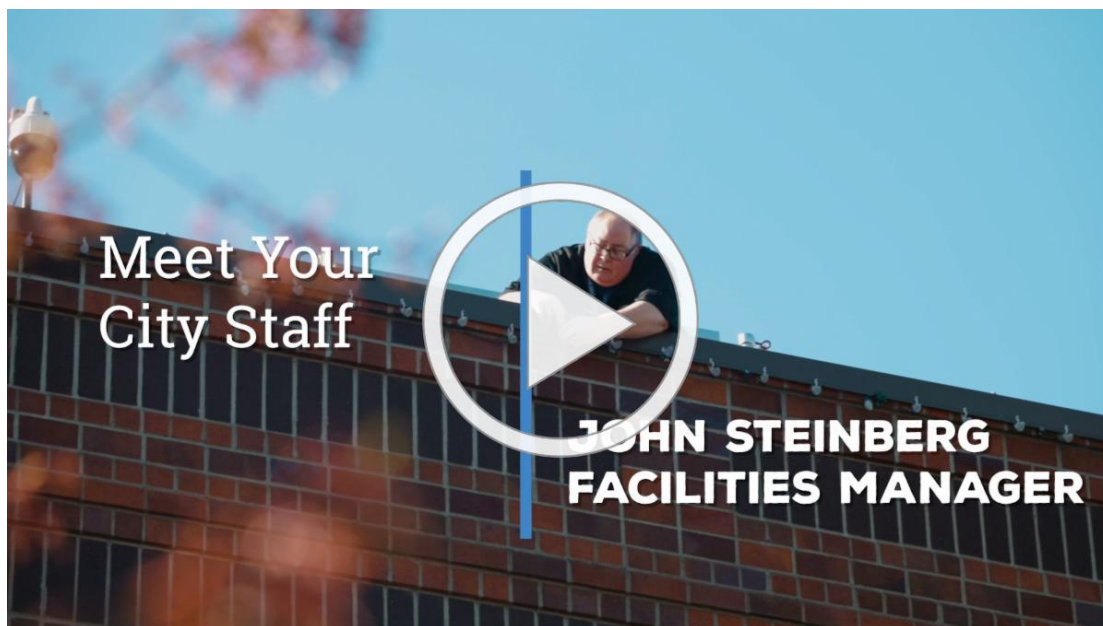
Tuesday | 29 October | 4 PM

889 Maple Street Independence, OR. 97351



Meet Your City Staff - Facilities Manager





Facilities management is an integral, yet often unseen, part of any organization. It ensures everything runs smoothly behind the scenes, enabling the organization to function at its highest capacity. In our latest "Meet Your City Staff" video, we introduce John Steinberg, the dedicated Facilities Manager for the city of Independence. Often described as a quiet artist, John's behind-the-scenes work is crucial to the operation of our city services. From overseeing vehicle and building maintenance to managing contractors, John ensures that our civic center runs smoothly and efficiently.

John shares his philosophy on the importance of attention to detail in facility management: "It's all in the details," he says. "If you take care of the details, then it takes care of the larger issues before they become large issues." Discover how John's humble approach, personal hobbies, and dedication contribute to keeping our city functioning at its best.

[Watch Video Here](#)

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