

City Council Meeting Summary;  
Learn the History of Community Fiesta

# River City Briefs

August 15, 2025

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

Para La Versión En Español

## 60-Second Council - August 12, 2025 Meeting



### City Council Meeting Recap

On Tuesday night, the Independence City Council held a work session followed by its regular meeting.

During the work session, the Council received an update on possible future uses for the old pool property

-At the regular meeting, it was announced that the public hearing for AX/2025-02 has been rescheduled to August 26, 2025

-The Council held a public hearing on a proposed city code change to allow pre-application conferences for most new development. These conferences help applicants understand requirements before starting a project. After the hearing, the Council adopted the ordinance to make this process available

-The Council reviewed the quarterly financial report, directed the City Manager to continue discussions about the pool property, and approved removing it from the “available for sale” list for one year

-The Council extended the Ad Hoc Board for Independence Days for three months to continue work on transitioning the event from city management

For more details, visit the City of Independence website.

[Watch Video Here](#)

## Learn the History of the Community Fiesta



Our latest Curator’s Corner explores the rich history of the Community Fiesta in Independence, a tradition that has brought neighbors together for decades.

Elena Peña, the event’s coordinator for more than 40 years, shares how the Fiesta began in Independence, the traditions and memories that have shaped it over time, and her hopes for how the celebration will continue to grow in the future.

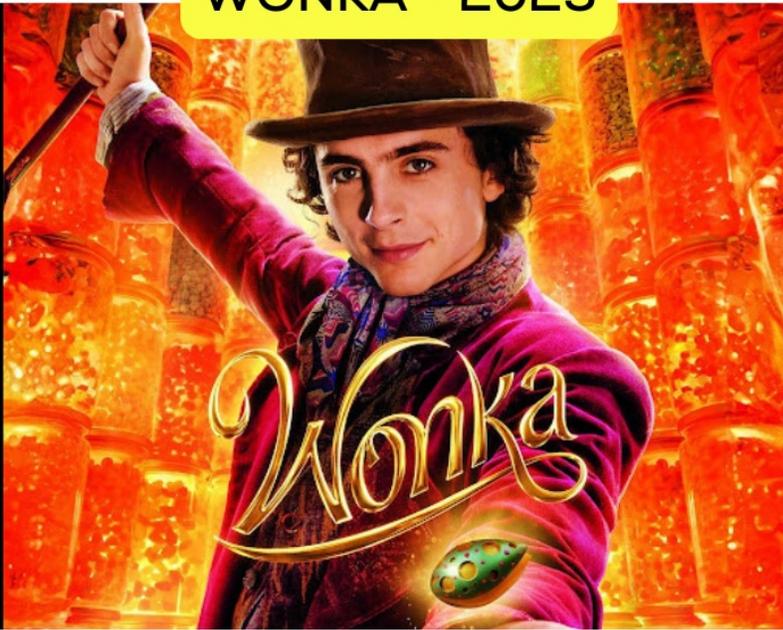
Watch Video Here

## End the Summer with a Movie in the Park



*This week's free movie in the park:*

**WONKA - 2023**



**FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 2025 AT 9:00 PM**

FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT [WWW.CI.INDEPENDENCE.OR.US/RIVERS-EDGE-SUMMER-SERIES/](http://WWW.CI.INDEPENDENCE.OR.US/RIVERS-EDGE-SUMMER-SERIES/)

The credits are about to roll on another great season. Join us for the grand finale of Movies in the Park with Wonka!

We're closing out summer with music, magic, and just the right amount of sweetness. One concession-style vendor will be serving up popcorn, shaved ice, and treats to make your night even better.

Friday, August 29, 2025  
Movie starts around 9 PM  
Independence Riverview Park

Bring your blankets, snacks, and favorite movie crew—let's end the season

[Learn More Here](#)

## Independence Seeking MINET Board Applicants

# WE ARE SEEKING

# MINET BOARD MEMBER

We are accepting applications for a vacancy on the MINET Board, representing the general public. This position is open following the expiration of a prior term on June 30, 2025.



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



The city of Independence is accepting applications for a vacancy on the MINET Board, representing the general public. This position is open following the expiration of a prior term on June 30, 2025. **The deadline to apply is 5:00 PM on September 2, 2025.**

The Independence City Council will consider applicants at their meeting on September 9, 2025. To apply, complete our Boards/Commissions/Committee application form by the clicking the button below.

[Learn More Here](#)



**MONDAY**  
**11-6 PM**

**TUESDAY**  
**11-6 PM**

**WEDNESDAY**  
**11-6 PM**

**THURSDAY**  
**11-6 PM**

**HOURS**

**NEW LIBRARY**

Beginning in September, the Independence Public Library will adjust its weekly schedule to better align with budgetary constraints. The library will be open Monday through Thursday, from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM, and closed on Fridays.

This change will help the library maintain high-quality services, programs, and resources during its busiest days of the week. Patrons are encouraged to explore the library's online resources, which remain available 24/7.

For more information about library services, click the button below.

[Learn 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.

In July 2025, officers engaged in 738 activities, including 33 Arrests (Adults and Juveniles), 14 check welfares, 15 domestic disturbances, 5 hit-and-run crashes, 11 emotional health calls, 44 Suspicious Activity / Person / Vehicle, and 1 DUII calls.

[Read Full Report Here](#)

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**Community Consortium Helps Independence Parks Thrive**



If you've enjoyed a beautifully maintained park or trail in Independence lately, chances are you've seen the quiet impact of the **Community Services Consortium - CSC**, a regional nonprofit that connects people to employment, education, and training opportunities. One of the ways they do this is through hands-on job skills programs, where participants gain real-world experience while serving their community.

In Independence, that means CSC crews are out weeding, pruning, surfacing trails, and caring for parks and green spaces. Their work helps beautify public areas while building valuable skills for the future.

Our partnership with CSC goes back years, beginning with sidewalk improvements and growing into projects like the community garden at the former pool site. Since then, their presence in our parks has continued to expand.

Thank you to CSC for helping our public spaces flourish, and to the crew members who bring pride and purpose to their work every day.

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**National Night Out Brings Community Together**



National Night Out was filled with great conversations, smiling faces, and genuine community connection. We were proud to spend the evening with neighbors who make Independence such a special place.

Thank you for showing up, sharing your stories, and reminding us why we love what we do.

## Community Fiesta Returns Next Week



**COMMUNITY FIESTA  
INDEPENDENCE  
RIVERVIEW PARK  
AUG 22, 23, 24 2025**

**\$5 Admission  
\$5 entrada**

### Friday Aug 22

4p- Los Inspirados Show  
6p- Conjunto Alegre - Salsa  
8p- Sonora Dinamita  
Cumbia



Coronation of  
Queen & Princesses



Coronacion de Reina y Princesas



# Food & Craft Vendors



Puestos de comida todos dias

## Saturday Aug 23 Sigue La Fiesta



Mario Alberto



## Sunday Aug 24th



Guellagetza



Danza Ameyalmaztl



LOS VOLCANES de Eddie Rodriguez



Los Tenex de Salem

**YMCA**  
Family tent  
Sat & Sun

Thank you sponsors



OCF —  
Latino Partnership Program



Having your back & calling you back. It's called service.

Jenny Renner-Alatorre 503-606-0066  
Hablamos Español



**saif**  
Work. Life. Oregon



POLK COUNTY CULTURAL COALITION, SAN ANTONIO RESTAURANT, PENNA & JAMES ATTORNEYS AT LAW, ARENA SPORTS BAR, JONES & MAISON LAW OFFICES

## Hop & Heritage Festival Activities



**SAT, SEPT 20, 2025**  
Riverview Park  
in Downtown Independence, Oregon  
**12 noon - 8pm**

**BEER TASTING**

Purchase your Hops & Heritage pint glass and Passport. Then, use your passport to guide you to local businesses and sample local and regional beers.

**\$25**

(Includes 2oz. tastings at each location)  
**12pm-4pm**



**FAMILY FUN**

**KID ZONE**  
Let the kids run wild!  
**POP-UP VENDORS**  
Celebrate our town's HOP-HISTORY with local pop-up vendors featuring a BEER GARDEN, FOOD, CRAFTS, and YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS.  
**HERITAGE STAGE**  
Farm equipment displays, music and demonstrations.

**FREE**  
**12pm-8pm**

**ACTIVITIES**

**CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT**  
Compete in a fun, all ages, Share-The-Pot tournament.  
**\$30** entry fee (per team)

**EVENING CONCERT**  
**JFK** will headline the concert. Opening for JFK is *Nina and the Rebel Rockers*. Concert begins at 4pm.

**FREE**  
**4pm-8pm**



<https://www.facebook.com/IndependenceDowntownAssociation>

Shakespeare in the Park Coming to Independence



**INDEPENDENCE**

*Oregon's Story Begins Here*

# A Midsummer Night's Dream



Lex Bolsinger as Helenus

Cole Richardson as Demetrius

Elliot Grass as Hermia

Graham Glazner as Lysander

**SEPT. 4 & 5\* AT 6:30PM | SEPT. 6 AT 4:00PM**  
**RIVERVIEW PARK AMPHITHEATER | INDEPENDENCE, OR**  
**FREE ADMISSION | \*SEPT. 5 IS ASL INTERPRETED**

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM IS MADE POSSIBLE BY:



This Newsletter Brought to you by

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# INDEPENDENCE

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