

Ghost Walk Returns Next Week;
New Public Records Request Portal

River City Briefs

September 26, 2025

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

Para La Versión En Español

60-Second Council - September 23, 2025 Meeting



City Council Meeting Recap

*Due to staff sickness, we are unable to bring you a regularly scheduled video of 60-Second Council, but we can still provide a recap of what happened so our community stays informed.

Mark your calendar: A public hearing has been scheduled for November 25, 2025 to consider the annexation of land for our future surface water

treatment plant—an important step toward long-term water reliability.

Investing in our future economy: Council approved a grant application to the State Department of Land Conservation and Development to fund an Economic Opportunity Analysis—a tool that helps guide how and where we grow to attract jobs and business.

Let's talk trolleys: Council approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with Monmouth to support the development of a sustainable trolley system. This is step one in a two-step process. Next up: a public hearing and proposed Ordinance. If you've got thoughts about the trolley—how it works, where it goes, or why you love (or don't love) it—stay tuned for your chance to weigh in!

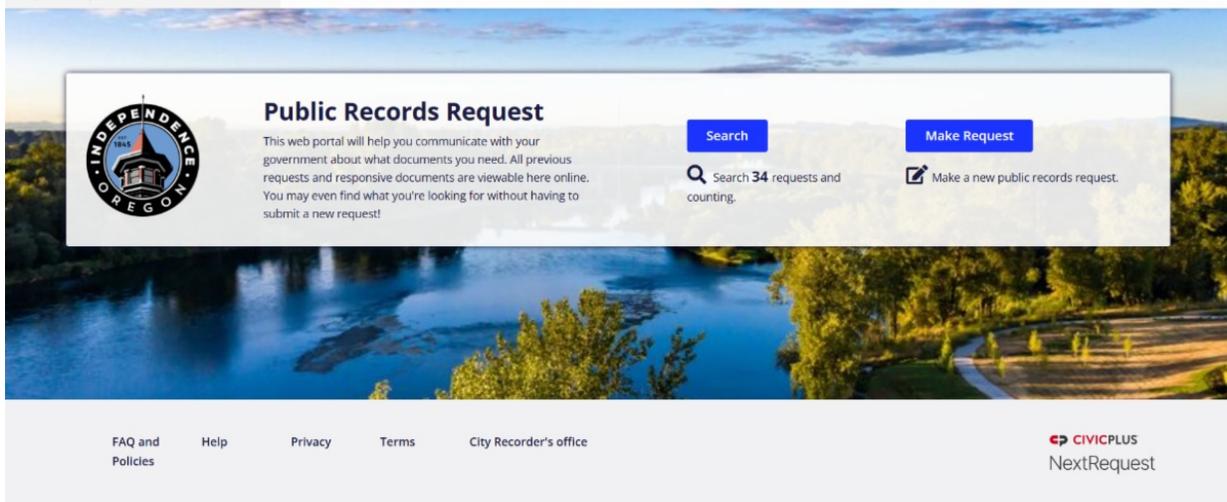
Honoring a local champion: A memorial plaque was approved for Jamie Boe, a community advocate who worked tirelessly to make Gun Club and Hoffman Road safer for everyone who walks, bikes, or drives.

Fulfilling a state mandate: Council authorized the City Manager (or designee) to respond to grievances under the State's new Public Meeting Grievance Process—a requirement now in place for all public bodies in Oregon.

New format, same goal: We also rolled out a new version of the City Manager's Report. From now on, instead of just answering Council questions in writing, the responses will be shared during Council meetings—so both the Council and the community hear the answers together. It's a small shift with a big impact for transparency.

For more information or to sign up for notices, visit the City of Independence website.

Public Records Request Portal Now Available



Public Records Request

This web portal will help you communicate with your government about what documents you need. All previous requests and responsive documents are viewable here online. You may even find what you're looking for without having to submit a new request!

[Search](#) Search **34** requests and counting.

[Make Request](#) Make a new public records request.

FAQ and Policies Help Privacy Terms City Recorder's office

CIVICPLUS
NextRequest

We're excited to share that the city of Independence has launched a new Public Records Request Portal.

This updated system is designed to be more user-friendly, making it easier than ever to submit, track, and receive responses to your records requests. In addition to streamlining the process, the new portal also enhances transparency. You can view requests submitted by others and see the city's responses, giving our community more insight into how public records are handled.

We're committed to open government, and this improved tool is another step toward making information more accessible to everyone in Independence.

[Learn More Here](#)

Ghost Walk Event Returns this Spooky Season

PRE - GHOST WALK

APPARITION AVENUE

Both Are Free Community Events

MEET AT THE TOP OF RIVERVIEW PARK TO COLLECT YOUR TOUR MAPS AND VISIT LOCAL VENDORS

Independence Heritage Museum Presents

GHOST WALK

In Downtown Independence, Oregon

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4
4PM - 6PM

AN ADDITION TO THE GHOST WALK!
FIND LOCATIONS OFF MAIN STREET

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4
7PM - 9PM

DARE TO ENTER THE MUSEUM'S SPOOKY ODDITIES DISPLAY!
OPEN DURING APPARITION AVENUE & GHOST WALK.

The Ghost Walk, a free community event hosted by the Heritage Museum, returns on Saturday, October 4, 2025!

Pick up your Ghost Walk maps at either the Umpqua Bank parking lot or Riverview Park by the fountain. Arrive early and enjoy a meal at one of our downtown restaurants!

Apparition Avenue kicks off from 4 PM to 6 PM, a pre-ghost walk event where guests can explore off-the-beaten-path locations just a few blocks from Main Street. Don't miss the vendors by the fountain while you're there!

[Watch Video Here](#)

[More Housing, Same Neighborhood](#)

MORE HOUSING
SAME NEIGHBORHOOD



Need more housing... without changing the character of your neighborhood? Have we got an idea for you!

It's called infill housing.

Infill housing means building new homes on vacant lots or underused spaces within existing neighborhoods. Think accessory dwelling units (ADUs), townhomes, or small groups of houses that blend right in.

Here in Independence, infill housing is already part of the landscape—you can see it throughout the community. It's a smart way to create more housing options while making the most of the infrastructure we already have.

That's why the city of Independence is considering a code change to support more of this type of housing. The goal: More Housing, Same Neighborhood.

Infill housing is about making room for more neighbors while keeping the community feel that makes Independence special.

[Watch Video Here](#)

Upcoming Public Hearings

The city of Independence encourages residents to stay informed and take part in upcoming public hearings that help guide local growth and development:

October 6 – Consideration of Revised Standards for Mobile Vending Units

The Wall that Heals Draws Thousands



This past week, thousands gathered in Independence to pay their respects at The Wall That Heals, a traveling replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Day and night, visitors came to reflect, honor, and remember the names of the more than 58,000 service members who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Independence was humbled and deeply honored to be the only city in Oregon to host this powerful memorial in 2025. Veterans, families, and community members from across the region shared quiet moments of reflection, left keepsakes and notes, and connected with volunteers who helped guide them through the experience.

The week included moving ceremonies, from the Blackhawk helicopter flyover that opened the memorial to the wreath laying, 21-gun salute, and Taps that closed it. School groups and community tours added to the impact, ensuring future generations understood the legacy and sacrifice represented by the Wall.

This event would not have been possible without the support of countless volunteers, sponsors, and community partners who came together to ensure the memorial was welcomed with the honor and respect it

deserves.

The Wall That Heals has now moved on to its next stop, but the memories, stories, and shared moments in Independence will remain with us for years to come.

Community Health Fair



COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

FREE Medical Exams • OHP Enrollment & Navigation • Resource Connections

YOU'RE INVITED!

Join us for a FREE Community Health Fair open to individuals and families of all ages. This event will offer access to important health services and information in a friendly, welcoming environment.

EVENT DETAILS

SEP 27, 2025

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Bilingual staff available!
Walk-ins welcome - No appointment needed

LOCATION

Polk County Family & Community Center
1407 Monmouth/Independence Highway
Monmouth, Oregon 97361

WHAT'S AVAILABLE

- ✓ **FREE MEDICAL SCREENINGS**
 - Blood Pressure, Glucose, Cholesterol, Vision, and more
 - On-site Health Professionals Available
- ✓ **OREGON HEALTH PLAN (OHP) ENROLLMENT & NAVIGATION**
 - Get help applying or renewing your OHP
 - Bilingual Navigators Available (English & Spanish)
- ✓ **SOCIAL SERVICES & COMMUNITY RESOURCES**
 - Housing Assistance
 - Mental Health and Wellness Support
 - Nutrition and Food Programs
 - Child & Family Resources
- ✓ **FREE GIVEAWAYS & REFRESHMENTS**
 - Healthy snacks
 - Community raffles
 - Children's activities





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