

Independence Welcomes New Finance Director Work Begins on Water Treatment Plant

River City Briefs

October 10, 2025

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

Para La Versión En Español

A Community in Motion

Hello community –

Fall is one of my favorite times of year as the mornings turn crisp, we still enjoy sunny afternoons, and the evenings arrive a little sooner. The rush of summer events is behind us, and the familiar rhythm of school days, football games, and fall colors returns. We have a little time to enjoy calmer days before the holiday events start to fill up the calendar.

Our community has been busy wrapping up a full season of events — from the powerful experience of The Wall That Heals, to the always-festive Hop & Heritage Festival, and the much-loved Ghost Walk. These events not only bring people together, but also bring people to our community. They create energy and activity that supports our local businesses and reminds us how vibrant and welcoming Independence truly is.

City staff and council continue to work hard on key projects that keep Independence moving forward. From planning for future growth to maintaining the infrastructure that supports daily life, much of the work we do this time of year happens quietly but has a big impact on our community in the future.



I'll be holding my regular office hours next week in the Council Chambers, from 8:30 to 10 AM — I always enjoy these opportunities to connect, listen, and hear what's on your mind.

Thank you for continuing to show up for one another and for being part of what makes this community so special.

In service to our community,
Mayor Kate

Independence Welcomes New Finance Director

Welcome!

AMANDA CAREY

Finance Director



INDEPENDENCE
Oregon's Story Begins Here



The city of Independence is honored to introduce Amanda Carey as our new Finance Director.

Amanda grew up in the Salem area and is excited to return to the Willamette Valley after spending the past decade along the Oregon Coast. She brings over 13 years of experience in government finance, along with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Accounting and a Bachelor's degree in Business Management and Analysis.

Her career includes a range of key financial and leadership roles. Amanda has worked with Central Lincoln People's Utility District (CLPUD) as an Accounting Specialist and Financial Analyst, with Salem Electric Cooperative as Operations Accountant, and most recently served as Finance Director and Assistant City Manager for the City of Toledo.

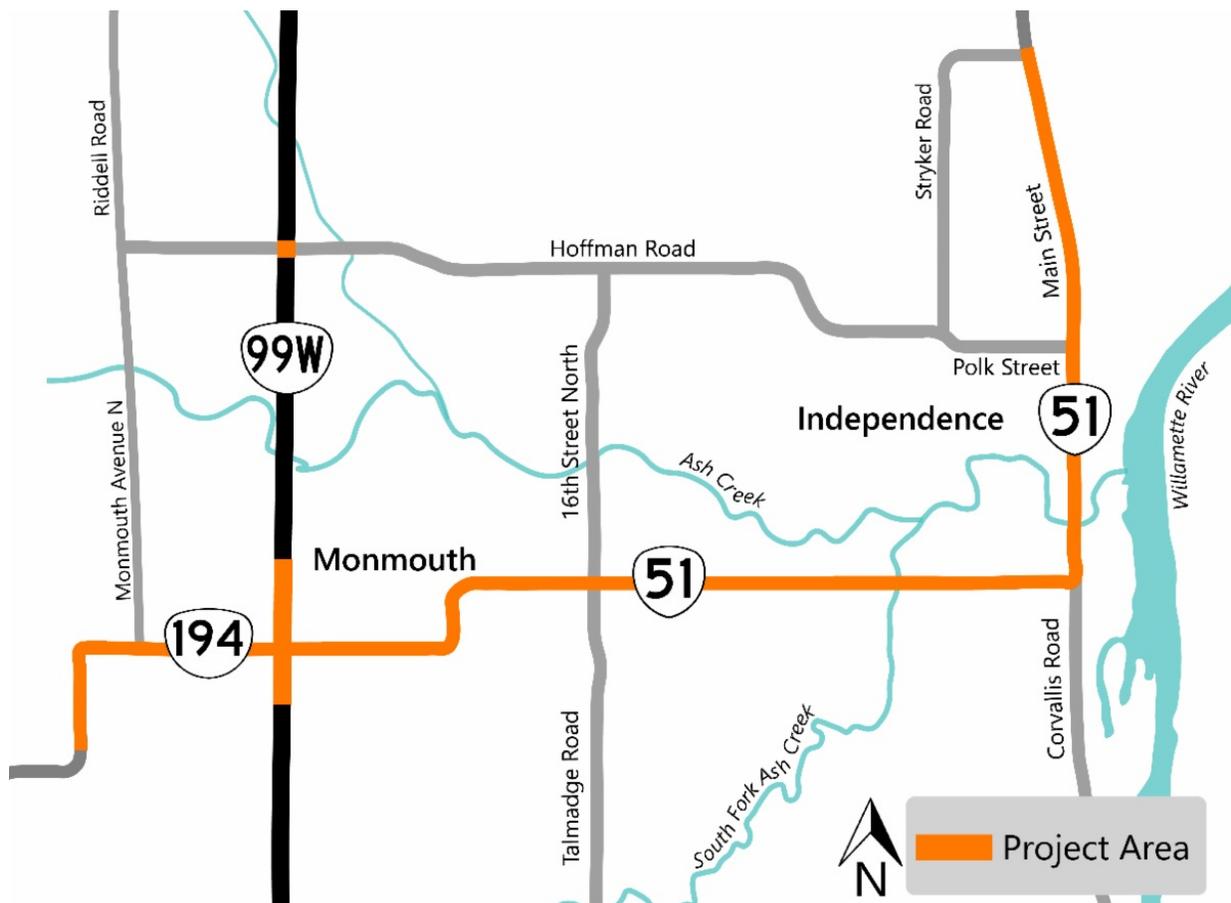
Her professional expertise includes financial and project accounting, budgeting, cost of service and rate analysis, benchmarking, financial analysis, benefit administration, and business process improvement. In

addition, Amanda served as Public Records Officer for CLPUD and co-chaired the Northwest Public Power Association's Oregon Utility Records Group, where she helped develop policies, conduct training, and provide resources to peers across the state.

"I am looking forward to joining a great finance team here at the city of Independence!" Amanda shared.

The city of Independence extends a warm welcome and congratulations to Amanda as she steps into this vital role supporting the city's financial stewardship and long-term success.

Curb Upgrades Coming to Independence & Monmouth



The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is reviewing about 150 curb ramps in Independence and Monmouth to identify upgrades needed to meet current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. This work is part of ODOT's ongoing effort to improve accessibility and safety across Oregon's transportation system.

Traffic Impact

When construction starts mid to late October, you can expect crews working during the day with lane and shoulder closures as needed. Please drive with caution and watch for workers.

Construction Impacts

We plan to start work in mid to late October. You can expect:

- Crews working during the day, Monday through Thursday.
- Occasional work at night or on Fridays as needed.
- Lane shifts as needed.
- Shoulder and lane closures as needed.
- Flaggers helping direct traffic as needed.
- Businesses near the corners we're working on to remain open during construction.
- Delays and construction noise – saw cutting can be loud!

You can sign up for project notifications, ask questions, and learn more by clicking the button below.

[Learn More Here](#)

Leaf Pickup Program Returns this November



City of Independence **2025** **LEAF PICKUP PROGRAM**

PICKUP WEEKS:

- ✓ November 3
- ✓ November 17
- ✓ December 1
- ✓ December 15
- ✓ December 29

Every fall the Public Works Department picks up leaves for the residents of Independence, whose property has more leaves than the Brandt's yard debris container can hold. This service helps prevent the impact that leaves can have on the city's storm drains and rivers.

Important Things To Remember

- Leaves only, no other yard debris
- Remove leaves blocking storm drains
- Small leaf piles need to go in your yard debris can
- Cars need to be parked at least five feet from leaf piles
- Leave a minimum of one foot between curb and leaf pile and no piles in the corners of cul-de-sacs or in front of mailboxes
- Property owners are responsible for disposal of leaves after the week of December 29th

Thank You for using your debris can from Brandt's Recycling Services. Please continue to use it for limbs, grass clippings, leaves, and other yard debris. The Leaf Pickup Program is for all the extra leaves that don't fit into your debris can. Pile any extra leaves following the guidelines above. Contact Brandt's at 503-838-0464 for their services.

For more information or tips on how to help reduce storm water impact visit
www.ci.independence.or.us/leaf-collection

[Learn More Here](#)

[Independence Police Release Monthly Report](#)



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 September 2025, officers engaged in 796 activities, including 14 Arrests (Adults and Juveniles), 15 check welfares, 13 domestic disturbances, 3 hit-and-run crashes, 10 emotional health calls, and 51 Suspicious Activity / Person / Vehicle calls.

[Read Full Report Here](#)

Work Begins on Independence's Future Water Treatment Plant



Last week, contractors were clearing debris and removing trees, preparing the Corvallis Road site for Independence's future Water Treatment Plant. Engineers and contractors are performing needed preliminary engineering work on this critical project to secure safe, reliable drinking water for the next 20+ years.

Independence owns a critical water right next to the Willamette River, but without an updated treatment and distribution system, it could lose those rights in the near future. The city's new plant, which features a water intake, treatment system, pumping station, and a 2-million-gallon reservoir, addresses long-term needs as outlined in the 2023 Water Master Plan.

This project is being developed in partnership with the city of Monmouth and Polk County, creating a regional system that can provide water to multiple communities in the future and is consistent with Polk County's Regional Water Supply plan. Design and construction are expected to continue over the next several years, with the system projected to deliver water to homes and businesses sometime around 2030.

Police Show Support for Breast Cancer Awareness



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and the Independence Police Department is proud to show our support for the fighters, survivors, and families in our community impacted by this disease.

By wearing pink, we stand in solidarity, raise awareness, and honor those whose lives have been touched by breast cancer.

You are Invited to Our Civic Leadership Workshop



City of
Independence



Civic Leadership Workshop

October 25, 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Building Stronger Communities Together

Join us for a comprehensive day of civic education and community connection! Discover how local government works and explore your role as an active citizen in this hands-on workshop designed for emerging and aspiring community leaders.



Workshop Highlights

- ✓ **Guided Tours:** See local government in action
- ✓ **City Government 101:** Learn about municipal operations
- ✓ **Networking Lunch:** Meet other local leaders
- ✓ **Community Engagement:** Explore effective collaboration

Workshop Details

Date: October 25

Time: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM; lunch included

Location: Independence Event Center

Price: Free, registration required.



In English & Espanol

For more information contact
Shawn Irvine, (503) 838-1212
irvine.shawn@ci.independence.or.us



To register, scan the QR Code or visit
<https://rdiinc.org/ld-programs/lt/>

Learn More Here

Heritage Museum Kicks Off Winter Speaker Series



HERITAGE MUSEUM PRESENTS WINTER SPEAKER SERIES



NOVEMBER FEATURED SPEAKER
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH AT 6:00 PM
@ THE VALKYRIE WINE TAVERN



BOB OBLACK

GEOLOGY AND PACIFIC NORTHWEST BEAUTY

Buy a drink and join us for an evening of conversation and insight as Bob Oblack shares the story of Oregon's natural past. Discover a new perspective on our state's landscapes and gain a deeper understanding of how Oregon's breathtaking scenery was formed.

SUGGESTED DONATION AT THE DOOR

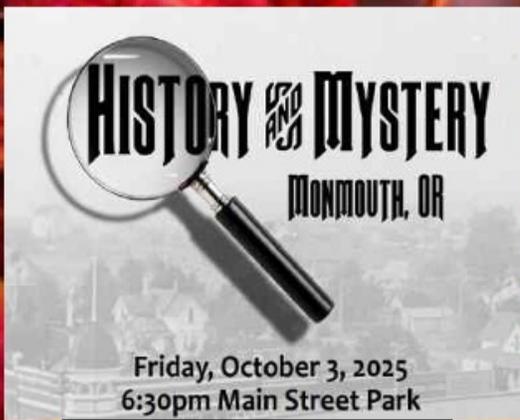
Drinks are not included in your donation
All proceeds support the Heritage Museum Society

THIS TALK KICKS OFF OUR WINTER SPEAKER SERIES!

JOIN US MONTHLY THROUGH FEBRUARY FOR MORE
ENGAGING SPEAKERS AT THE VALKYRIE WINE TAVERN
301 S MAIN ST, INDEPENDENCE

-No minors or outside drinks permitted-

2C1C October 2025



HISTORY & MYSTERY
MONMOUTH, OR

Friday, October 3, 2025
6:30pm Main Street Park



201C
Two Cities Community
OCTOBER



HOMECOMING
and *Reunion* 2025
WEEKEND
18 | OCTOBER | 2025

W O U

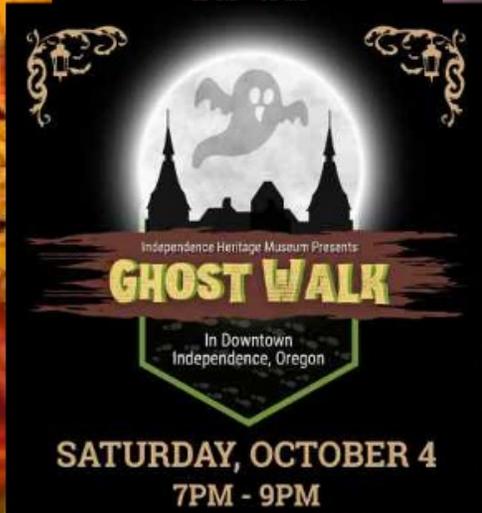


PRE - GHOST WALK
APPARITION AVENUE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4
4PM - 6PM



COMMUNITY
HALLOWEEN
PARTY!



Independence Heritage Museum Presents
GHOST WALK
In Downtown
Independence, Oregon

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4
7PM - 9PM



CMTown Halloween
TREATS
HERE
OCT 31

[Learn More Here](#)

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month



Celebrate the diverse cultures of the Hispanic and Latino communities in Oregon at the Oregon Capitol Hispanic Heritage day. This event will have a musical celebration as well as dancing and free activities provided by our Capitol History Gateway partners. This year's celebration will take place on Saturday, October 11, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The presenting sponsor for this event is the Oregon State Capitol Foundation. Sponsors are Oregon Commission of Hispanic Affairs, El Grupo ERG of the Oregon Health Authority and Instituto de Cultura Oregoniana.

This year's program is as follows. All performances take place in the Rotunda:

- 10 a.m. Capitol doors open on State Street at the center entrance
- 10:15 p.m. North Salem High School Color Guard
- 10:30 a.m. Azúcar Cuban Dance y Mas performance
- 11 a.m. Antonio Huerta, floreo charro (rope performance)
- 11:30 a.m. "Making History Accessible: English Launch of The Hispanic Origins of Oregon" Discussion led by Instituto de Cultura Oregoniana in Hearing Room F
- 12 p.m. Casa de la Cultura Tlanese performance
- 12:30 p.m. Western Oregon University Mariachi
- 1:15 p.m. Corazón Oaxaqueño performance
- 2 p.m. Closing

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