

Discover the History of Valsetz;
Independence Police Release Monthly Report

River City Briefs

November 7, 2025

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

Para La Versión En Español

60-Second Council - October 28, 2025 Meeting



City Council Work Session Recap

On October 28, the Independence City Council held a work session to review recommendations for potential fee updates.

-The discussion followed Council's direction during budget adoption to continue finding ways to save money and identify new revenue sources

-Most proposed changes are based on cost recovery, ensuring the City charges enough to cover the true cost of providing services. Many fees have not been updated in years, meaning the City has been subsidizing those services at a loss

-This topic will return to Council for further consideration at the November 25 meeting

-In other City business, "For Sale" signs are now posted on properties designated for sale to help bring funds into the General Fund, which

continues to face a structural deficit

-A reminder that City offices (except Police) will be closed on November 11 in observance of Veterans Day, and there will be no Council meeting or work session that evening

For more details, visit the City of Independence website.

[Watch Video Here](#)

Ella Curran Food Bank Extends Hours

Ella Curran Food Bank has increased the weekly shopping hours by adding:

Thursdays- 4-6:00pm.

Current Hours:

Mondays: 4:00-6:00pm

Tuesdays: 9-11:30am and 4-6:00pm

Thursdays: 9-11:30am and 4-6:00pm.



No paperwork required. Friends and families can shop for you.

Donations may be dropped off during these times.

Items needed: hearty soups, cereal, canned fruit, canned/boxed milk, canned tuna/chicken.

Holiday Light Display Returns to Riverview Park

Glow
HOLIDAY LIGHT DISPLAY
November 30, 2025 - January 11, 2026

Join us in Downtown Independence this holiday season and watch it GLOW! Enjoy a FREE walk through the lights; displays turn on everyday at dusk in Riverview Park!

Lighting Kick-off Event
Sunday, November 30 at 5:30 pm
Kick-off the festive season and watch the lights come alive! Bring the family and enjoy some caroling and community.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE

Light up your holiday season at our Glow Holiday Light Display kickoff event! Join us on **Sunday, November 30, 2025, at 5:30 PM** in Riverview Park for an evening filled with carols, cheer, and holiday spirit.

Our brilliant light displays will shine every night in Riverview Park through January 11, 2026—and the best part? They're free to walk through, so you

can jingle all the way through the park and enjoy the holiday magic! Don't miss this experience that's sure to be a seasonal treat for the whole family!

[Watch Video Here](#)

Discover the History of Valsetz

CURATOR'S CORNER

*Episode 12:
The Lost
Community of
Valsetz*



The lost city of Valsetz, Oregon, may be gone, but its stories live on. In the latest edition of Curator's Corner, we sit down with Ron Rose, a Valsetz native, to explore life in this historic company town—from the day-to-day rhythms of the community to the challenges and triumphs of living in a town built around the timber industry. We also uncover Valsetz's surprising ties to Independence and how its legacy shaped the region today.

[Watch Video 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 October 2025, officers engaged in 758 activities, including 29 Arrests (Adults and Juveniles), 9 check welfares, 19 domestic disturbances, 6 hit-and-run crashes, 21 emotional health calls, and 63 Suspicious Activity / Person / Vehicle calls.

[Read Full Report Here](#)

Upcoming Public Hearings



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

November 25, 2025 - Consideration of Revised Standards for Mobile Vendors and Food Trucks - City Council - 6:30 pm

December 9, 2025 - Annexation and Redesignation/Rezone of 12.4 Portion of 6675 Corvallis Road, and Neighboring Southern Pacific Railroad Right-of-Way - City Council - 6:30 pm

January 13, 2025 - Consideration of Changes to Standards for Single Room Occupancies and Other Requirements to address recent State Legislation - City Council - 6:30 pm

[Learn More Here](#)

Securing Safe Drinking Water for the Next 20 Years



City staff and engineers are regularly surveying the site on Corvallis Road, where contractors continue clearing brush and removing trees to prepare for Independence's new Water Treatment Plant. These early efforts mark an important step in securing safe, reliable drinking water for residents for the next 20+ years.

The Corvallis Road location was selected for its proximity to Independence's water rights on the Willamette River, a critical resource the city could lose without an updated treatment and distribution system. The future plant will include a new water intake, treatment system, pumping station, and a 2-million-gallon reservoir, all part of the long-term improvements identified in the 2023 Water Master Plan.

This project is being developed in partnership with the city of Monmouth and Polk County, allowing us to share costs and develop a regional system that's more efficient and resilient than building separate facilities — a long-term investment designed to reduce overall expenses for everyone served by the system.

Design and construction are expected to continue over the next several years, with water delivery projected around 2030.



Last month, we partnered with **Rural Development Initiatives** to host our first Civic Leadership Program, an exciting new way for residents to learn how their city government works and how community volunteers and organizations help keep Independence thriving.

Participants took guided tours of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Police facilities, explored hands-on presentations on government finance, and visited the Independence Public Library to see how local services operate day-to-day. They also heard directly from community partners including the **Ella Curran Food Bank** and the **Independence Oregon Friends of the Library**, gaining insight into the role that local groups play in supporting our community.

This program is designed to build our community's leadership capacity, encouraging residents to get more involved—whether that's serving on a city commission or volunteering with a local organization.

We're looking forward to hosting more programs like this and continuing to invest in the next generation of civic leaders right here in Independence.



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