

Latest Historic Homes Roadshow Video;
Osprey Camera Improvements

River City Briefs

February 27, 2026

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

Para La Versión En Español

60-Second Council - February 24, 2026 Meeting



City Council Work Session Recap

On Tuesday evening, the city council held a work session to discuss several topics impacting the community:

- The city council received a presentation from SEDCOR, the region's Enterprise Zone manager, outlining how an Enterprise Zone works, how it can help attract new businesses and jobs to Independence, and key benefits and considerations of the program.

- The council received an update on grant activity. Between 2023 and 2025, the city was awarded nearly \$16 million in grant funding, primarily for water, sewer, and street infrastructure. In the first two months of this year alone, the city submitted more than \$15 million in applications, largely for major infrastructure projects.
- The council reviewed proposed updates to the Public Works Code and requested revisions. The updated draft will return in the coming months with additional attorney input.
- As part of that discussion, the council supported transitioning to fully digital agenda packets for council and boards and commissions. This operational change will reduce printing costs, save staff time, and improve clarity. A single printed “desk copy” of the agenda will still be available before, during, and after meetings.

The next planned meeting is a city council meeting on March 10, 2026. For more information, visit the city of Independence website.

[Watch Video Here](#)

Mayor Kate Invites you to Pub Talks

Pub Talks
Everyone is Welcome

with Mayor Kate Schwarzler

<p>Event #1 Understanding City Revenue: How Independence Is Funded</p> <p>THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026 PARALLEL 45 BREWING 6:00-7:00 PM</p>	<p>Event #2 Understanding City Expenses: Where the Money Goes</p> <p>THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026 PARALLEL 45 BREWING 6:00-7:00 PM</p>
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EVENT ADDRESS: 240 MONMOUTH ST. INDEPENDENCE, OR 97351

**Un resumen del evento estará disponible más adelante en inglés y español.*



Understanding City Expenses: Where the Money Goes

In advance of this year’s budget process, join Mayor Kate for a public conversation about how the city of Independence allocates its resources.

This session will:

- Explain major spending categories

- Clarify fixed vs. discretionary costs
- Break down what's mandated by law
- Explore thoughtful ideas for efficiency and cost savings

This is a constructive conversation focused on innovation and stewardship — not personnel decisions or criticism of individuals.

All are welcome.

Event Details:

Thursday, March 26

6:00 – 7:00 PM

Parallel 45 Brewing

Historic Homes Roadshow: Episode 5 - 336 S 7th Street



In Episode 5 of Historic Homes Roadshow, we explore the history of 336 South 7th Street, a charming Queen Anne–style cottage with roots dating back to the 1880s.

Originally part of the John Ellis Davidson Donation Land Claim, this property was once one of two nearly identical homes built side by side. While its twin did not survive, this home endured thanks in large part to generations of families who helped preserve this small but distinctive piece of Independence history.

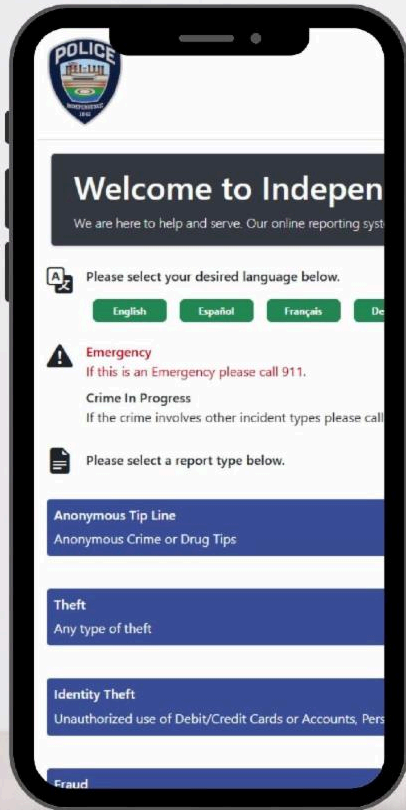
[Watch Video Here](#)



Independence Police Department

MyPDConnect

Online Police Reporting that allows you to provide information about your situation



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- Theft**
- Fraud**
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[Learn More Here](#)

Be the Solution to Water Pollution



Storm water is water from rain or melting snow. Not all water runoff soaks into the ground, it flows from rooftops, over paved streets, sidewalks and parking lots, across bare soil and through lawns and storm drains.

Untreated storm water, drains directly into nearby creeks, streams, and rivers. Polluted storm water contaminates local waterways. It can harm plants, fish, and wildlife, while degrading the quality of water.



Comes from soil erosion or from decomposition of plants and animals.

EPA lists sediment as the most common pollutant in rivers, streams, and lakes



Natural erosion produces nearly 30% of the total sediment in the U.S.

Learn More About Storm Water Management at:

www.ci.independence.or.us/stormwater/



When it rains, it drains... straight into our local waterways.

Stormwater runoff carries sediment and pollutants from streets, rooftops, and bare soil into nearby creeks and rivers. In fact, sediment is the most common pollutant in rivers and lakes.

We can all be part of the solution. Simple steps at home and in your neighborhood help protect the water that supports plants, fish, and wildlife.

Learn more and read our tips by clicking the button below.

[Learn More Here](#)

Community Support Powers Osprey Cam Improvements



Last Friday, we teamed up with **Polk County Fire District No.1** to clean up, prepare, and upgrade our Live Osprey Camera at Riverview Park. All of the work completed on the osprey camera was fully covered thanks to the generosity of community donors.

Polk Fire brought their ladder engine so crews could safely reach the osprey nest high above the Willamette River. With their help, the site was cleaned, equipment was checked, and audio was added to the camera system, hopefully giving viewers an even more immersive experience this season.

The live feed is expected to resume in March or April. Be sure to subscribe to the city of Independence YouTube channel to be notified as soon as the stream goes live.

Thank you to our donors and to Polk Fire for helping make this community staple possible.

We look forward to welcoming our feathered residents back soon.

Guide the City's Stormwater Master Plan System



STORM WATER

Master Plan Open House #1

The city of Independence invites community members to attend an open house to learn about the Stormwater Master Plan and share feedback.

This plan will guide how the city manages stormwater, reduces flooding risks, protects local waterways, and plans for future infrastructure improvements.

Thursday, March 12, 2026 6:00 - 8:00 PM

at the Independence Civic Center

EVERYONE IS WELCOME




Independence Public Library March Calendar



March

Independence Public Library



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 	2	3	4 Storytime 10:30 am ----- Kid's Coding 4 pm	5	6	7 
8	9 	10	11 Storytime 10:30 am ----- Kid's Coding 4 pm	12 Family Coloring Club 4 pm	13	14
15	16	17 Mystery Book Club 4 pm	18 Storytime 10:30 am ----- Kid's Coding 4 pm	19 	20	21
22 Spring break →	23	24 Indy Works 3 pm	25 Storytime 10:30 am ----- Kid's Coding 4 pm	26 Kid's Paint w/Jen 3 pm	27	28 
		31 Teen & Adult Eggs-citing Spring Flowers! 4 pm			<div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px;"> <p>Independence Public Library 175 Monmouth Street Independence, OR 97351 503-838-1811 www.ci.independence.or.us/library Open Monday–Thursday 11-6 pm</p> </div>	

2C1C March 2026



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