Independence Police Monthly Report; Latest City Council Decisions

River City Briefs

July 17, 2026

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

Para La Versión En Español

Community Services & Parks Fee Information

The FY 2026-27 budget addresses a long-standing structural imbalance between ongoing General Fund revenues and the cost of providing city services. Over the three fiscal years preceding adoption of the FY 2026-27 budget, the city reduced expenditures in an effort to close this budget gap by eliminating or leaving vacant 11 positions and reducing service levels in multiple departments.

On June 9, 2026, the city council adopted the FY 2026-27 budget, which incorporates revenue from the Community Services and Parks Fee to fund library, museum, and parks services. On June 23, 2026, the council adopted the ordinance establishing the fee. The adopted budget relies on

this revenue to fund the ongoing operation of library, museum, and parks services at the budgeted service levels.

Read more facts by clicking the button below.

Read More Facts Here

60-Second Council - July 14, 2026 Meeting

City Council Meeting Recap

On July 14, the city council addressed a variety of community, development, and financial topics:

-The meeting began with public comment in support of the Community Services and Parks Fee, followed by a presentation from ODOT on the upcoming Center Street Bridge improvement project, including the construction timeline and planned activities.

-The council received an update from the city's MINET liaison, who reported that MINET remains on schedule to repay its loans to both member cities.

-During the city manager's report, the council received updates on the Independence Public Library's summer programs and welcomed Dustin Lueckenotte as the city's new Public Works Director.

-The council held a public hearing on Community Development Block Grant funding for a Habitat for Humanity project and approved a change-of-ownership liquor license for Mendi's Pizza.

-Following a public hearing, the council adopted Ordinance No. 1638, approving Development Code amendments that implement recommendations from the city's Housing Production Strategy. Public testimony was received in support of both public hearing items.

-The council received its third-quarter financial report, including a discussion of the city's debt summary and the nearly $4 million General Fund loan made to the Urban Renewal Agency during fiscal year 2017-18.

-The mayor made appointments to the Library Board and the Ad Hoc Library, Museum, and Parks Sustainability Committee.

-Following an executive session on real property negotiations, the council directed the city manager to continue negotiations regarding the proposed sale of the Museum building.

For more information on these topics, visit the city of Independence website.

Watch Video Here

Concerts in the Park Every Friday

This Friday, it'll be "Moves Like Jagger"... all the way to Riverview Park.

The River's Edge Summer Series continues with Animals, an incredible Maroon 5 tribute band, bringing all your favorite hits to the stage. The evening kicks off with Infamous Soul, performing your favorite '80s and '90s pop rock classics.

Friday, July 17
Gates open: 5:00 p.m.
Opening band: 6:00 p.m.
Headliner: 8:00 p.m.
Tickets: $10

Bring your lawn chairs, enjoy local food vendors, and spend a summer evening along the beautiful Willamette River with great music and good vibes.

Get your pre-sale tickets and learn more by clicking the button below.

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 June 2026, officers engaged in 896 activities. These included 20 arrests (adults and juveniles), 12 welfare checks, 16 domestic disturbances, 12 hit-and-run crashes, 14 emotional health calls, and 65 suspicious activity/person/vehicle calls. The activities listed above represent just a portion of the calls to which officers respond. Other incidents may include resident contact calls, tows, attempts to locate, assistance to other agencies, crashes, and other service requests.

Read Full Report Here

Public Notice: Abolishing the City of Independence Library

PCIO26-327 PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ABOLISHING THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE LIBRARY NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Independence will hold two public hearings pursuant to ORS 357.621 to hear comments regarding the proposed closure of the City of Independence Library.

The hearings will be held at the Independence City Hall, located at 555 S Main St., Independence, OR 97351, at 6:30 p.m., on the 11th day of August 2026 and at 6:30 p.m., on the 10th day of November 2026. 07/01/26, 07/08/26.

***This notice originally published in the July 1, 2026 edition of the Polk County Itemizer-Observer.**

EPA Tours Corvallis Road Waterline Project

Earlier this week, city staff met with representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to tour the ongoing construction of the Corvallis Road Waterline project.

This project is a key investment in our community's future, replacing aging infrastructure and strengthening the reliability of our drinking water system. It also lays the groundwork for the future regional water system that will serve Independence, Monmouth, and Polk County for decades to come.

The project is funded through a partnership of local investments and federal support, including an $880,000 EPA Community Project Funding grant secured by Congresswoman Andrea Salinas with support from Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden. We're grateful to our local, state, and federal partners for helping invest in infrastructure that will benefit our region for generations.

Free Water Conservation Kits Now Available

As part of our state-mandated Water Management and Conservation Plan, the city's public works department is offering free water conservation kits for residents wanting to participate in water conservation efforts. The kits include:

1 Trigger Nozzle
1 Plastic Shut-Off Coupling for Garden Hoses
1 Rain Gauge
1 Smart Soil Moisture Meter

These kits are limited in supply and available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Don't wait: Call 503-837-1181 and get yours today before they dry up.

For more information on the Water Management and Conservation Plan, water conservation tips, and resources, visit:
https://www.ci.independence.or.us/water/

Public Hearing on Park Dedication Standards

At their meeting on August 3 (6:30 pm), the Independence Planning Commission will consider potential revisions to the park and open space dedication requirements for new subdivisions and apartments. Reconsideration of the standards was suggested as part of the recently amended Park and Open Space Master Plan for Independence.

For Subdivisions

What is the Problem?
Existing standards in the Independence Development Code require the dedication of 6.25 percent of the land in new subdivisions for parks and open space purposes, or the payment of a fee-in-lieu of 13 percent of the market value of the land in lieu of the land dedication. As written, however, the requirements do not offer guidance about appropriate sizes or locations of parks, or provide any detail about floodplains, wetlands, or stormwater ponds and whether they are “suitable and adaptable for park and recreation uses.”

What is Proposed?
The proposed revisions would establish basic standards for park suitability and articulate new standards for subdivisions that are tailored for different portions of the community A flexible option that would allow developers to suggest an alternative approach to the City standards is also included in the draft.

Learn More Here

Polk County Agencies Unite for Law Enforcement Torch Run

On July 3, agencies from across Polk County laced up their running shoes for the **Oregon Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics**. Officers from the Independence, Monmouth, Dallas, and Grand Ronde Police Departments, along with the Polk County Sheriff's Office, carried the torch through the county to raise awareness and support for Special Olympics athletes. We even had runners, including Police Chief Banuelos, who completed the entire 14-mile route!

The most heartwarming part of the day came during the final stretch into Riverview Park, where local Special Olympics athletes joined law enforcement to cross the finish together.

Thank you to everyone who cheered us on, volunteered, donated, and helped make the day such an unforgettable event.

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