

Independence Police Monthly Report; What's Really at the Library?

River City Briefs

August 14, 2026

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

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60-Second Council - August 11, 2026 Meeting



City Council Meeting Recap

At the August 11 city council meeting, the council covered several community and city business items:

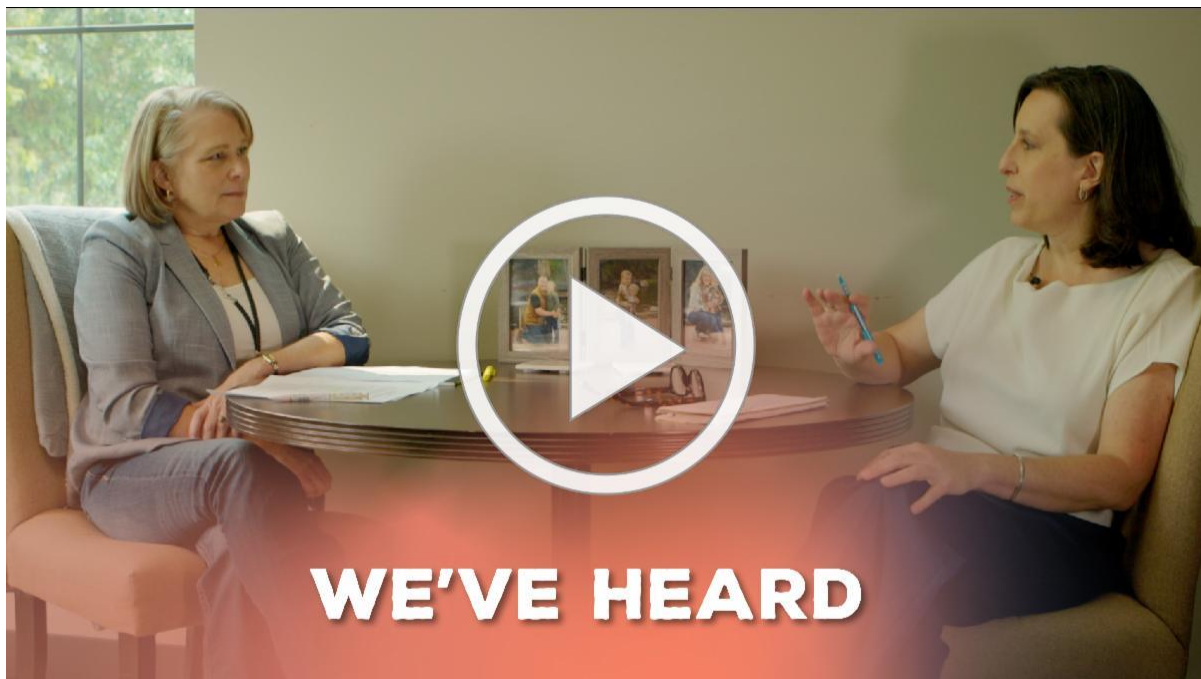
- The council received updates from the mayor and council liaisons to the Library Board and Continuum of Care. The city manager also provided additional information about the city's finances, and Cindy Wilson, President of the Independence Downtown Association, shared an update on the organization's work.

- The council honored the life and service of Councilor Marilyn Morton, recognizing her years of dedication to the community.
- The council held a public hearing regarding the potential closure of the Independence Public Library. The hearing was part of the process required under state law after a referendum was filed on the community services and parks fee previously approved by the council. The meeting was standing room only, with 26 people signed up to speak. Nearly everyone who testified spoke in support of keeping the library open. Several also spoke in support of the fee, while others focused on the importance of the library and its services.
- The council then met in executive session regarding negotiations involving the potential sale of the Museum building. After returning to open session, the council directed the city manager to continue negotiations.

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

[Watch Video Here](#)

Your Library Has More Than You Think



Think the library is just books? In this episode of We've Heard, Mayor Kate Schwarzler and City Manager Kenna West explore everything our library has to offer, from Wi-Fi hotspots, telescopes, musical instruments, and coding programs to story times, community events, and online resources.

They also discuss how the library serves as a welcoming community space and warming and cooling center for residents throughout the year.

They also provide an update on the Corvallis Road project, including the latest construction timeline and why the work being completed now will benefit the community for years to come.

Have a question you'd like us to discuss in a future episode? Email mayor@ci.independence.or.us.

[Watch Video Here](#)

Historic Homes Roadshow: Episode 10 - Whiteaker House



In the latest episode of Historic Homes Roadshow, we visit 357 B Street and explore the people, stories, and architectural changes that shaped this home over the years.

Built in 1910, the home was originally owned by Lucy Whitaker, a prominent member of the local Women's Christian Temperance Union. Later, it became home to Donald McCarthy, who operated one of the area's largest hop operations, and James Hart, a local Ford dealer and city councilor.

Take a look inside the latest episode to learn more about this unique piece of Independence history!

[Watch Video Here](#)

Community Services & Parks Fee Information



Wondering what the Community Services and Parks Fee is and what it supports?

The Community Services and Parks Fee provides ongoing funding for library, museum, and parks services in Independence.

The fee was adopted as part of the FY 2026-27 budget to address a long-standing gap between the cost of providing these services and the city's available ongoing revenues. In recent years, the city has reduced expenditures, including leaving 11 positions vacant or eliminating them, and has reduced service levels in several departments.

On June 9, 2026, the city council adopted the FY 2026-27 budget, which includes revenue from the Community Services and Parks Fee. The fee was formally established by ordinance on June 23, 2026.

Looking for more information? Click the button below to explore facts and answers about the Community Services and Parks Fee.

[Read More Facts Here](#)

Traffic Notice: Stryker Road Work Planned



TRAFFIC NOTICE

**Stryker Road Work Planned
August 14 & 17–19**

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Stryker Road will experience temporary traffic impacts on August 14 and August 17–19, 2026, as crews complete road widening and paving associated with a private project. Work will take place on the north end of Stryker Road between approximately 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. and will require one-lane traffic through the work area, which may result in delays for drivers.

Crews will work to complete the improvements as efficiently as possible while minimizing impacts on drivers and nearby residents. Drivers are encouraged to use caution, follow posted signage, and allow extra time when traveling through the area.

We appreciate the community's patience and understanding while this work is completed.

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 July 2026, officers engaged in 970 activities. These included 36 arrests (adults and juveniles), 23 welfare checks, 9 domestic disturbances, 6 hit-and-run crashes, 17 emotional health calls, and 45 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 Works Repairs Decades-Old Water Line



You probably never noticed it, and that's exactly the point.

Last week, our Public Works crew repaired a broken water line at the city's South Wellfield. The line had reliably served the community since the 1960s, but after decades of doing its job, it needed a little TLC.

As infrastructure ages, repairs and replacements become increasingly important to maintaining reliable water service and preparing these systems for the future. While this work often happens out of sight, it's an essential part of keeping our community running.

Community Foundation Grants Now Open

MICF *Summer* COMMUNITY GRANTS *Open August 1!*



APPLICATION PERIOD:

August 1 –
September 1, 2026



GRANT AWARDS:

Typically \$1,000
to \$5,000



SUPPORTING PROJECTS

that strengthen and
enrich our community



INVESTING IN IDEAS

that make a meaningful
difference



APPLY TODAY!

If your organization has a project
that will make a positive impact,
we encourage you to apply!



*Learn more
and apply at:*
www.mifoundation.net



The MICF Community Grant Fund supports innovative,
community-driven projects that make a meaningful
difference in the lives of local residents.



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