

City Council Meeting Recap; Community Services Closure Information

River City Briefs

August 28, 2026

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

Para La Versión En Español

Two Parks Reopen Through Community Support



Riverview Park and Independence Landing reopened to the public on August 27, 2026, and remain open through December 31, 2026, following

a \$30,000 grant from Friends of Community Parks to support park operations.

This support was not anticipated as part of the city's park closure. We are grateful that Friends of Community Parks stepped forward to help preserve access to Riverview Park during this difficult financial period.

At the same time, it is important to be clear that this support does not resolve the city's broader financial situation. The other park closures remain in place because the city does not have sufficient funding to operate the parks system.

We are thankful for this community support and for the opportunity to keep Riverview Park open through the end of 2026 while we continue to face the larger challenge of finding sustainable funding for our parks.

Additional information and answers to frequently asked questions are here: <https://www.ci.independence.or.us/closure-faq/>

[Watch Video Here](#)

Community Services & Parks Closure Information



This week, the city of Independence began service and facility closures following changes to the funding available for Parks, Library and Museum

services.

The city's adopted FY 2026–27 budget included revenue from a Community Services & Parks Fee to support the continued operation of these services. A referendum petition regarding the ordinance establishing the fee has qualified for the November election. While the referendum process is underway, the city cannot collect the fee.

Because the adopted budget relies on this fee revenue and the city does not have sufficient reserves to bridge the resulting funding gap until the election, temporary closures and service reductions became necessary.

Service reductions include:

- **All city parks, besides Riverview Park, Independence Landing, Inspiration Garden are closed to the public.**
- **The Independence Heritage Museum is closed.**

The city is continuing to evaluate available funding and operational options. The temporary closures are expected to remain in place while the funding situation is addressed and through the November election process.

The page below is intended to provide factual information about current closures, affected services, and what residents can expect in the coming months. It is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended to advocate for or against any ballot measure.

[Learn More Here](#)

60-Second Council - August 25, 2026 Meeting



City Council Work Session Recap

At Tuesday's council work session, the council discussed grants, urban renewal, and the city's ongoing financial challenges:

- The council received an update on grants awarded to the city and how outside funding is supporting community projects and services.
- The council took a deeper look at how the Urban Renewal Agency works, including its role in managing urban renewal properties and funds.
- The council received an update on the city's structural General Fund deficit, a longstanding financial challenge that developed over decades. Staff also reviewed steps taken over the past four years to address the issue, including staffing and service reductions, improved financial practices, personnel allocations, and efforts to increase economic development.
- The council reviewed the financial impact of maintaining Library operations through November 10, as required by Oregon law. To preserve funding for the Library during that process, the city has reduced costs in other areas, including the closure of the Museum and city parks.
- Since Tuesday's meeting, Friends of Community Parks has graciously awarded the city a \$30,000 grant, allowing Riverview Park and Independence Landing to reopen through December 31, 2026.

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

[Watch Video Here](#)

Traffic Notice: Main Street Paving September 1



TRAFFIC NOTICE

**Main Street Paving
September 1**

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A contractor will perform paving work on Main Street on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, as part of a private project.

Crews are expected to begin around 6:30 a.m. and finish in the early afternoon. During the work, traffic will be reduced to one lane in the affected area.

Drivers are encouraged to plan for minor delays, use caution when traveling through the work zone, and follow posted traffic control measures.

The work is expected to be completed that afternoon. The city appreciates the community's patience while this work is completed.

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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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