

Independence Police Monthly Report;
City Council Meeting Recap

River City Briefs

September 11, 2026

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

Para La Versión En Español

Remembering September 11



Twenty-five years later, we remember September 11, 2001, and the nearly 3,000 lives lost that day.

We honor the families who continue to carry that loss and the first responders and public safety personnel who showed extraordinary courage and service.

Here in Independence, we are grateful for those who serve and protect our community every day.

We remember. We honor. We will never forget.

Answering Your City Finance Questions



In this latest episode of We've Heard, we're taking a closer look at some of the finance questions we hear most often. We talk about the financial challenges the city has been working through, the steps we've taken to improve financial practices and transparency, and why certain funds have to remain dedicated to the services they were collected to support.

City finances can be complicated, but understanding where the money comes from, where it goes and what it can be used for is important.

Watch the latest episode of We've Heard to learn more about how we manage public dollars, the financial challenges we're working through and our commitment to transparency.

[Watch Video Here](#)

60-Second Council - September 8, 2026 Meeting



City Council Meeting Recap

Tuesday night included a work session followed by a full council meeting covering several community priorities:

- During the work session, the city's in-house attorney explained the process for creating a Parks District. This is a community-initiated process that takes years. Neither city staff nor the council can initiate it.

- The council approved converting streetlights to LED. Most of the cost will be reimbursed by Energy Trust, with the remaining cost expected to be recovered through energy savings in about nine months. After that, the change is expected to save the city nearly \$14,000 annually.

- The council approved two grant applications supporting housing and economic development. One would support a regional wetland mitigation pilot project to help make residential, commercial, and industrial development easier, while the other would help Habitat for Humanity build additional housing in Independence.

- The council continued the Municipal Judge's contract and later met in executive session regarding negotiations for the potential sale of city-owned properties. After returning to council chambers, the council approved a resolution to strengthen recreational immunity and discussed expanding the city's volunteer program.

- The council also approved legislative priorities focused on utility ratepayer assistance, water and wastewater infrastructure, economic and workforce development, land availability, streamlined land-use processes, and clearer public meeting laws.

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

[Watch Video Here](#)

Community Services & Parks Closure Information



In August, 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](#)

Independence Police Monthly Report



Have you been curious about what our officers have been up to all month? The Independence Police Department shares a sample of monthly calls for service to inform and educate community members about the work we do.

In August 2026, officers engaged in 895 activities. These included 32 arrests (adults and juveniles), 13 welfare checks, 16 domestic disturbances, 6 hit-and-run crashes, 18 emotional health calls, and 68 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](#)

Get Involved in Your City

SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

We are looking for passionate individuals like you to join our boards and commissions and make a positive impact on our community.

INDEPENDENCE
Oregon's Story Begins Here



Want to help shape the future of Independence?

The city has openings on two community boards, and we're looking for residents who want to get involved and help guide decisions that affect our community.

Budget Committee: 1 position

Parks Board: 2 positions

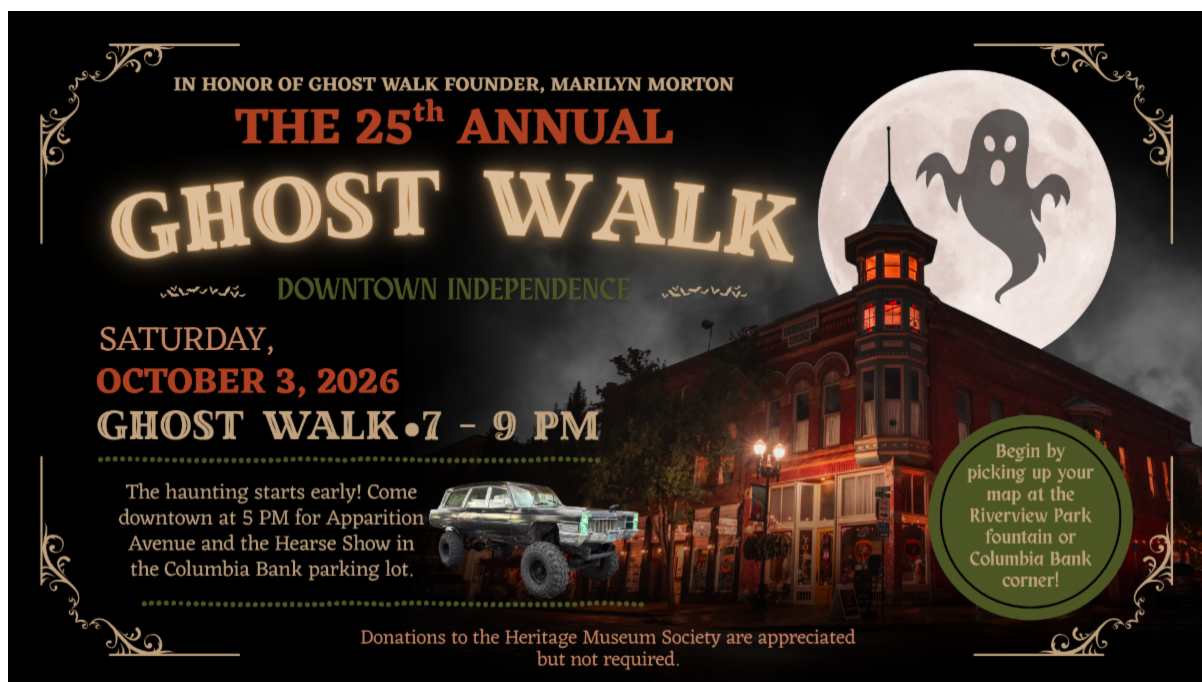
The Budget Committee plays an important role in reviewing the city's proposed budget, while the Parks Board helps advise our community's parks system.

The deadline to apply for this quarter is September 30, 2026.

If you're interested in serving your community, we'd love to hear from you.

[Apply Here](#)

25 Years of Ghosts in Downtown Independence



Spirits are returning to downtown Independence... some of them never left.

Join the Heritage Museum Society on Saturday, October 3, 2026, for the 25th anniversary of the Independence Ghost Walk, a free evening of ghostly stories, local history, and maybe a few spirits of another kind.

At 5 p.m., explore downtown with Apparition Avenue, followed at 6 p.m. by Imbibing the Spirits, a \$20 haunted pub crawl featuring sample pours and spooky stories at Arena, Gilgamesh, and Valkyrie. Space is limited to 30 people, so click the link in our bio to reserve your spot.

Then at 7 p.m., join us at Riverview Park for the **free** Ghost Walk, celebrating the legacy of Marilyn Morton, who created and loved this Independence tradition.

Come for one event or join us for the whole evening. You never know who you might meet.

[Learn More Here](#)

Corvallis Road Paving Now Underway



We know road conditions along Corvallis Road have been rough, and we understand the frustration of traveling through the work area.

The good news is that preparation and paving for the Corvallis Road Waterline Project is currently underway and will continue through approximately September 18, barring unforeseen circumstances. Drivers should expect construction activity and traffic delays during this work as we move toward completing the project.

Thank you for your patience as this important infrastructure project moves toward completion

Learn About the Local Wetland Inventory



The city of Independence is conducting a Local Wetland Inventory of portions of the city's existing Urban Growth Boundary that remain outside city limits. The inventory is part of Oregon's statewide land-use planning requirements for identifying and evaluating natural resources, including wetlands. The information gathered will help the city better understand potential wetland resources as part of its long-range planning. Pacific Habitat Services Inc. has been contracted to provide technical and scientific expertise for the inventory.

The city is hosting an Open House to explain the inventory process and give community members an opportunity to ask questions and share concerns. Representatives from the city and Pacific Habitat Services will provide a brief presentation and be available to answer questions.

If you have questions or concerns about the project, please come to the Open House on **September 21, 2026 from 5:30-6:30 pm** at the Independence Civic Center (555 South Main Street, Independence, OR 97351).

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AND MAKING SUMMER UNFORGETTABLE!**



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We're incredibly grateful to Capitol Subaru, Oregon State Credit Union, State Farm – Jenny Renner-Alatorre, Heather Spike with Country Financial, Les Schwab Tires, Western Oregon University, The Independence Hotel, The Arena Sports Bar & Grill, MINET, and Copy Cats for helping make this summer unforgettable.

Your support helps bring people together and keeps live music thriving in our community.

Thank you for investing in Independence and making River's Edge possible!

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