Corvallis Road Project Recap; Independence Police Monthly Report

River City Briefs

October 9, 2026

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

Para La Versión En Español

Leaf Pickup Program Update



The city of Independence is sunsetting its leaf pickup program. This change will save the city money and reduce wear on public works equipment, allowing it to be used for the work it was intended for.

To help make the transition easier, the city is partnering with Brandt's Sanitary Service through June 30, 2027. You can request an additional

yard debris bin directly from Brandt's to help handle extra leaves and other yard debris, **free of charge.** This offer is available to Independence residents only. The extra bins are limited to the first 100 callers, and you must have a Brandt's account to request one, so don't let the opportunity blow away! Call Brandt's Sanitary at 503-838-0464 to get yours set up.

We think this partnership leaves you with a good option this fall while leaving our equipment where it needs to be, doing the work our community relies on.

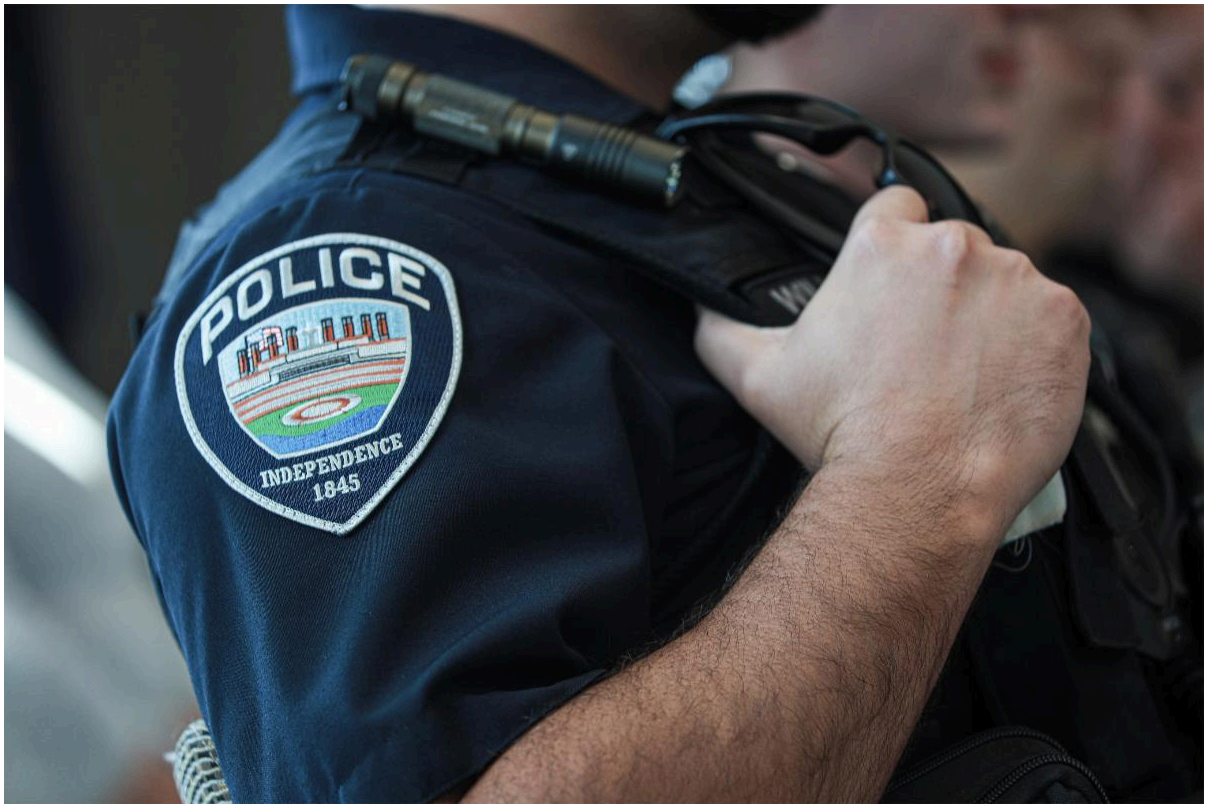
Corvallis Road Waterline Project: Summer Recap



A bumpy summer on Corvallis Road came with some big progress. Crews replaced an older, undersized waterline and extended the system toward the future Water Treatment Plant, with the $1.1 million project supported by an $880,000 EPA Community Grant. Thanks for your patience while the work moved forward!

Watch Video 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 September 2026, officers engaged in 851 activities. These included 28 arrests (adults and juveniles), 22 welfare checks, 11 domestic disturbances, 3 hit-and-run crashes, 8 emotional health calls, and 56 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

What's Happening Behind the Civic Center?



You may have noticed some serious excavation happening behind the Independence Civic Center. Don’t be alarmed, we were tracking down a tricky leak.

September meter readings showed unusually high water usage, leading Public Works to identify a leak between the water meter and the building. After some excavation, a licensed plumber replaced the entire line from the meter to the mechanical room.

The new line is awaiting state inspection before the area can be backfilled and the concrete restored. It’s a good reminder that city work can sometimes take an unexpected turn, and it pays to be prepared when it does.

Building Community Over Coffee



Thank you to everyone who joined us for Coffee with a Cop earlier this week! It was a great opportunity to connect with you all in a laid-back setting.

A special thank you to Brew Coffee & Tap House for hosting us and helping make the event possible. We look forward to cultivating stronger relationships with our entire community through opportunities like this in the future.

Cyclocross State Championships Coming to Independence

The Oregon Bike Racing Association's State Championship Cyclocross event is coming to Independence October 24-25, 2026.

The event is expected to bring hundreds of riders, friends and family to our community for a weekend of racing, with both championship and non-championship races available. Riders under 18 race for free.

Spectators are welcome at no cost. The course will travel through portions of Riverview Park and surrounding areas, so visitors may occasionally

need to wait briefly for riders to pass at designated crossings. Course marshals will be in place to help keep everyone safe.

A note about Riverview Park: The park is currently open for permitted events, and this event was reserved through the city's normal park rental process. The organizers are paying the applicable park rental and camping fees at a level that supports use of the park areas included in the event. **The playground and river will remain accessible to the public, although visitors may occasionally need to wait briefly for riders to pass at designated crossings.** They will also be responsible for restoring any areas of the course that may need attention following the event.

Parking in the area may be limited, and some participants will be camping at Riverview Park Friday and Saturday nights.

We're excited to welcome riders and visitors from throughout Oregon and showcase Independence to new visitors while supporting local businesses.

Learn More 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:

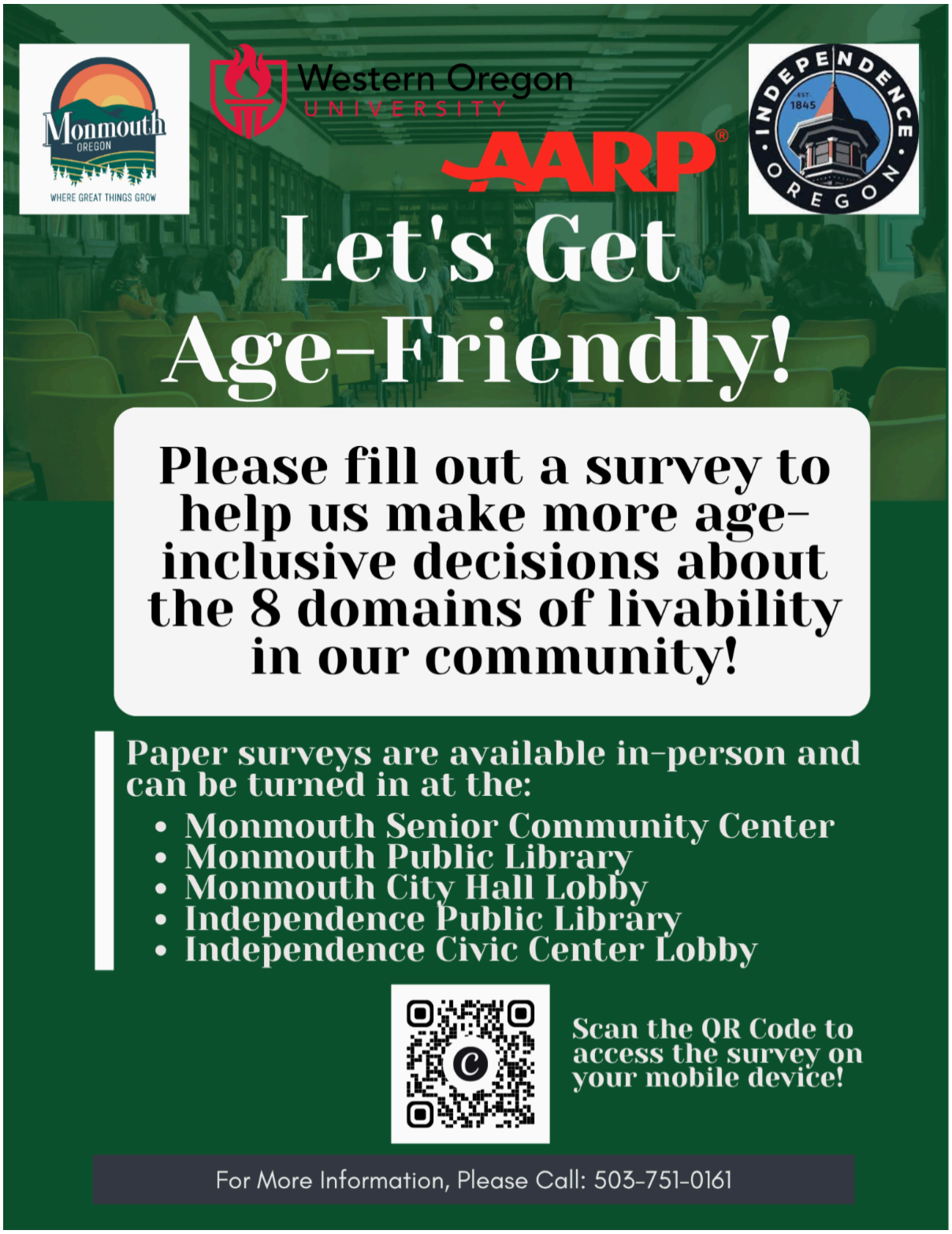
- **All city parks, besides Riverview Park, Independence Landing, Inspiration Garden are closed to the public.**
- **The Independence Heritage Museum is closed.**

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.

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