

City of Independence

# Administrative Report

March 8, 2019



City Manager's Office



## Police

### Stats from March 1, 2019 through March 7, 2019

911 Calls	194	Facebook Followers	6,326
Total Reports	28	Total Calls to Dispatch	1,043
Car Crashes	3	Citations/Warnings	18



From left: Captain Helkenberg, Chief Harrison, Dispatcher Hammer, Ethan, Rylan, & Officer Mendoza.

**Weekly Update** Officers had a pizza party with Ethan Hise and his guest Rylan Faller. Ethan was the first student to collect all the officers' trading cards last year. Animal Control Officer Charlie Benedict sang the national anthem at the local job fair. Dispatcher Bridget Hammer is now certified in EMD-Q which allows her to evaluate EMD compliance on medical emergency calls. She also received her TAC rating from NCIC. This means she is responsible for quality control of IPD's entries into the federal crime database. She also trains personnel for NCIC use, maintains our NCIC records, and is responsible to ensure security rules for the NCIC terminal are followed.

Chief Harrison delivered the police academy graduation speech at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center to class #254. The topic of the speech was a list of things your police chief wants you to know. The biggest news this week concerns Officer Hilary Cook.

On October 25, 2018, Officer Cook responded to a house fire. Hilary went into the burning garage and got the victim off the floor and helped the victim out. IPD presented Hilary with a life-saving award at a commission meeting last year. The Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police will be presenting Hilary with a Silver Valor award at the Valor Banquet in April. The Silver Valor award is the second highest award given to a living police officer by the KACP. Charlie Benedict earned a Silver Valor award for an incident in 2017. "We are all honored to serve with someone as courageous as Hilary," Chief Harrison said. Harrison noted that for IPD officers to earn such an award two years in a row is a testament to IPD's commitment to service.

**Employee Spotlight** This week we focus on Officer Ike Dye and Officer Devin Mendoza. Ike has been with IPD full time for a year in April and worked nine years at the sheriff's office. Devin has been with IPD for nearly two years.

**Case of the Week** Officers Mendoza and Dye collaborated to solve a string of burglaries, thefts, and property damage. Two suspects have been arrested and evidence has been recovered. The suspects are related to at least four cases. Officers worked with deputies from the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office to connect the suspects to a stolen car case that happened outside city limits.

This case is another demonstration of teamwork with area agencies to better serve our citizens as well as the citizens of Montgomery County. This case demonstrates both officers' commitment to excellence by providing high quality law enforcement services to victims in our area. Great work Ike and Devin!

## Administration

**Human Resources** Applications are being received at KansasWorks, 317 N. Penn and on the City's website [www.IndependenceKs.gov](http://www.IndependenceKs.gov) for the positions of Police Officer I, Dispatcher I, Firefighter I/EMT, Firefighter I/MICT (Paramedic), Wastewater Plant Operator I and Wastewater Plant Operator Trainee. Applications for seasonal cemetery workers are being accepted at Express Personnel, 2009 North Penn Avenue (620-331-6200).

### Memorial Hall Activities (February 24-March 8, 2019)

<b>Sunday</b>	Zion Lutheran Chick Noodle/Chili Cook Off;
<b>Monday</b>	Historic Preservation Resource Commission;
<b>Tuesday</b>	AARP Tax Prep, Bridge;
<b>Thursday</b>	City Commission Meeting;
<b>Friday</b>	First Friday, 60's Club;
<b>Saturday</b>	Main Street Gala;
<b>Monday</b>	Empower Meeting, Park Meeting;
<b>Tuesday</b>	AARP Tax Prep; Planning Commission;
<b>Wednesday</b>	Traffic Safety Meeting;
<b>Thursday</b>	Kansas Works State Wide Job Fair;
<b>Friday</b>	Tailgate Meeting; and 60's Club.



Main Street Fund Raiser

### **City Board Openings**

Applications are being received at the City Manager’s office for openings on the Planning Commission, Tree Board and Electrical Board. Applications are available on the City’s website, [www.IndependenceKs.gov](http://www.IndependenceKs.gov) or [Click here to apply](#). The application deadline is March 22, 2019.

### **Planning Commission**

The Planning Commission met on March 5, 2019 and the following action occurred:

- Reorganization with the following new officers:
  - Chair – Mary Jo Meier
  - Vice Chair – Steve McBride
  - Secretary – Andy McLenon
  
- On a 9-0 vote, recommended approval of conditional use permits for Microbreweries; Bottling and canning soft drinks and carbonated waters; and Beer, wine and alcoholic beverages – wholesale establishment in a C-3 district at 223-225 West Main Street. This will be considered for final action at the March 28, 2019 City Commission Meeting.
  
- On a 5-4 vote, initiated a public hearing on April 2, 2019 to consider a text amendment to the zoning code regarding signs at the request of Norman Chambers representing Gran Villas.

- On a 9-0 vote, initiated a public hearing on April 2, 2019 to consider a text amendment to the zoning code to allow “Bus garaging and equipment maintenance” as a conditional use in an R-4, medium density multifamily dwelling district. Superintendent Rusty Arnold appeared at the meeting and requested that this item be added to the agenda.
- On an 8-0 vote (one member had stepped out during the vote), recommended that the City Commission consider allotting funds in the 2020 budget to update the Comprehensive Plan.

**Board of Zoning Appeals** (Does not include the outside City members of the Planning Commission)

The Board of Zoning Appeals met on March 5, 2019 and the following action occurred:

- On a 6-0 vote (one member abstained), approved reviewing the status of 2016/VAR/09 relating to a variance from the hard surface requirement in an O & P zoned district at 900 W. Myrtle Street

On April 2, 2019 the Board of Zoning Appeals will also hold a public hearing to consider a variance request for an electronic church sign in a C-3 zoned district at 109-111 E. Maple Street and 200 S. Penn Avenue requested by the First United Methodist Church.

## Fire/EMS

**March 6<sup>th</sup>** The newest edition to our fleet arrived today and is in service as Medic 1 (photo right).

**March 8<sup>th</sup>** We will be hosting a high school student who is in the 1<sup>st</sup> Leadership class. She will be doing a job shadow as one of the requirements for the class.



## Retirement Coming Soon!



### Pat Pomeroy

Longtime Firefighter/Paramedic has announced that he will be retiring on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Pat will be leaving a large pair of boots to fill with his vast experience and training. As is common, especially in EMS, Pat has worked in various places over his tenure as a paramedic.

1985- 1986 DeCauter County  
1986- 1987 Hays EMS  
1987-1989 Fredonia EMS  
1989-2002 Independence EMS  
2002-2007 DeCauter County  
2007-2009 Coffeyville Community College(Instructor)  
2009-2013 Norton County EMS  
2013-Present Indy Fire/EMS

Pat will be deeply missed here at Independence Fire/EMS and we wish him the best of luck in his retirement and his life without pagers and radios!

**Calls** Our call volume at this time is at 24 Medicals, one Helicopter Stand-By, and one Outside Fire.

## Safety-Fire/EMS-Code Enforcement

### Healthcare Update

Ambulance Activities for 2019 – **442 responses**

Ambulance Activities for March 2019

- **36 Request EMS for Medical Calls**
  - **15** patients transported to the emergency room
    - **13** patients to Independence ER
    - **1** patient to Labette ER
    - **1** patient to WCMC
  - **12** transfers from the Independence Emergency Room
    - **5** patients to inpatient care at Labette Health
    - **3** patients to inpatient care at Jane Phillips
    - **1** patient to inpatient care at St. John’s Tulsa
    - **2** patients to inpatient care at Freeman - Joplin
    - **1** patient to inpatient care at Via Christi – Wichita

**Excellence Recognition** Special recognition of Capt. Matt Kent, FF-Paramedic, Kayla Baugher, FF-EMT, Lead Medic Ranelle Rice, FF-Paramedic and Alex Martin, FF-EMT. They responded to a medical emergency this past week and found a patient in cardiac arrest. Their efforts successfully obtained “ROSC” or return of a pulse and the patient was transported to Independence-ER and later flown to tertiary care.

## Emergency Management

Floodplain Map changes Don Cushing and Tailor Dyke attended the final Mitigation meeting for our area as communities prepare to adopt the new FEMA Floodplain maps. Information was obtained at this meeting on possible ways floodplain insurance premiums can be reduced for our citizens. City Staff is working to determine if we can obtain those savings for our citizens.

## Building and Code Enforcement

- Tailor Dyke began her code enforcement duties this week. Since starting, Tailor has received multiple phone calls and complaints. She has spent this week addressing these complaints and working with citizens. **14 notices have been issued through Thursday.**
- The “Quick Win” Community Wide Clean-up had a great first weekend. The dumpsters were filled, and several people took loads to the sanitation yard during recycle time on Saturday morning.
- Tailor is beginning to receive request for dumpsters to be placed in certain locations to assist citizens in the clean-up efforts. Staff is working to determine how we can best accommodate these requests and still provide the dumpsters on the weekend as advertised for the community clean-up efforts.
- If you need to reach Tailor with questions or concerns, please contact her at [tailord@independenceks.gov](mailto:tailord@independenceks.gov) or 620.714.1758.

## I.T. and City Network

City Clerk’s Office staff will be **unable to do any transactions on Wednesday March 13, 2019**. Tyler Technologies will be installing new updated software to the clerk’s office computers and programs. This upgrade will have the clerk office computers down all day on Wednesday March 13, 2019.

- **City offices will be closed Wednesday March 13, 2019 from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. for Quarterly Employee Safety Training.**

## ADA Update

- Director Cowan has received numerous calls and visits this past week regarding the ADA and accessibility in our community for those who are disabled. The adopted **Strategic Plan Directive 2 – Infrastructure** has a key initiative by the citizens to maintain commitment to ADA compliance. Our action plan to meet this directive is to first present the transition plan to the commission and then provide funding options for the Commission to consider. The transition plan is close to completion and should be presented soon. If you have ADA concerns, please contact me at [davidc@independenceks.gov](mailto:davidc@independenceks.gov) .
- The City commitment to ADA continues with the 2018 Phase IV ADA project starting this spring. This includes work at Riverside Park, 10<sup>th</sup> street curb ramps, 5<sup>th</sup> street curb ramps, and addressing several complaints. A timeline of scheduled work will be available soon.



## Parks/Zoo/Cemetery

**Zoo Update** – Zoo staff have been setting post at the tortoise and donkey exhibit. Paul Lemon and the Cemetery crew installed the drain to the tortoise pool. Our electrician is working on the electric.

Tommy our male elk shed his antlers last Monday. We keep the antlers and auction them off at a FORPAZ Fundraiser.

Dr. Cooper was out on Wednesday for TB Testing and wellness check on the monkeys (photos). The Vet Tech students were also present for educational purposes.



Drew Jordan with WDM Architects came and presented idea's to members from the Park Board, FORPAZ and Zoo Staff. We all exchanged idea's for Drew to work on. Plans are to have a Zoo Plan to present to the commission and the public.

**Park** – Staff have been working on the carousel doing regular maintenance. This past week they have been cleaning the telescopes assembly and re-greasing them. It's a pretty dirty job, but it must be done. Our ride inspector will be here on March 23<sup>rd</sup> so we are preparing for him.



**Just for Fun!**



"I like it! It has something for everybody."

---

Have a warm weekend.

Sincerely,

D. Craig Whitehead  
City Manager