



the Current

Low Score, High Impact City of Riverside Improves ISO Rating

The City of Riverside recently earned lower ratings from the Insurance Services Office, or ISO, a private entity funded by insurance organizations, which rates municipalities in categories including building and fire codes. Though voluntary, the City chose to participate because obtaining a low ISO rating means lower property insurance rates for owners of single-family dwellings and commercial buildings in Riverside.

The ISO reviewed the City's building code adoption and enforcement per their Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule. On a scale where the worst grade is 10 and best is 1, the City of Riverside earned a rating of 5 in residential and 4 in commercial/industrial categories. Both scores are marked improvements over the rating of 6 given to both categories in 2008.

According to City Building Inspector James Fuller, the rating bolsters Riverside's reputation as a low-cost location offering high-quality services. "Considering our low property taxes, school taxes, earnings taxes and building costs, the low ISO rating just makes us an even better location for a home or business," Fuller said.

Decades of Planning Pays Off

District Takes Charge of L-385 Levee

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officially turned over the L-385 Levee to the Riverside Quindaro Bend Levee District on July 1, 2013. Construction began in 2005 and was completed in 2013. Today, the Riverside Quindaro Bend L-385 Levee provides Riverside with state-of-the-art flood protection, which has made Horizons Business Park development possible.

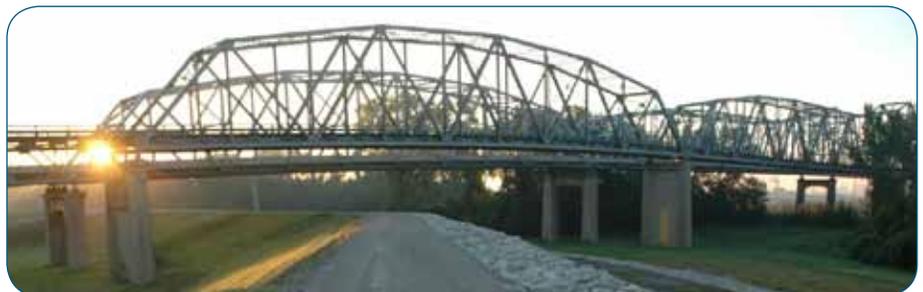


Riverside Mayor Kathy Rose; Colonel Hoffman, Army Corps of Engineers; and Levee District President Don Coleman

The finalization of complex financing allowed the responsibility for operation and maintenance of the levee to be formally transferred to the Levee District, which is composed of property owners, including individuals, businesses and the City of Riverside.

But first, some history on this levee story, nearly 75 years in the making. A Congressional Act in 1939 deemed it necessary to control the Missouri River, and in 1944 it was determined that a levee was needed to protect the Riverside and Quindaro bend. That launched decades of hard work by community members, state and local government officials, and citizens willing to take up the cause and secure the financing to build the levee and create the district.

One of those involved was current Levee District President Don Coleman, who spent 25 years to bring the levee to life. But Coleman cites teamwork as what truly built the levee. "It took many people over many years, all keeping their shoulders to the wheel, to get this done," he said.



The Riverside Quindaro Bend Levee

Fitness Classes

The Riverside Community Center offers free fitness classes and league play every week. Open Gym hours are Monday – Thursday, 3-6 pm, and Sunday, 1-5 pm. Questions? Call **816-741-4172**.

SU, 1-5 pm
M/TU/W/TH, 3-6 pm
Open Gym – Basketball

M/W/F, 8-9:30 am
Cardio, Strength, Yoga

M/TH, 10-11 am
Line Dancing & Weights

M, TH, 6-9 pm
Adult Volleyball* (open to all)

W, 6-9 pm
Pickleball (open to all)

W, 10-11 am
Stay Healthy, Stay Strong

TH, 8:30-9:30 am
Zumba

*No Volleyball 8/1 or 8/8

Stay Connected

www.RiversideMo.com
www.RiversideMo.com/blog
City of Riverside (Facebook)
[@RiversideMo](https://twitter.com/RiversideMo) (Twitter)

Trash & Recycling Schedule

Friday is trash/recycling pickup day in Riverside, regardless of holidays. **Recycle or trash it!** Much of your metal, plastic and paper waste can be recycled curbside: See a complete list at www.RiversideMo.com/publicworks/recycling

Riverside Trails Progress Update

You've read about the plans in the newsletter and seen the crews hard at work. It's all part of the efforts to expand our beautiful trail systems and provide more reasons to get out and enjoy the great outdoors. Here's what's new:

Lower Line Creek Trail

Construction has been taking place all summer and the trail is now open. The trail will connect the segments of the trail system from Cliffview Drive to Argosy Casino Parkway.

Upper Line Creek Trail

This segment of the trail will connect I-29 to Homestead Park, and it is a partnership among the City of Riverside, the City of Kansas City, Mo., and Platte County. Construction began in late June and should be completed in the fall. ↪

Resident Catches Sewer Bill Error

In the May issue of *The Current*, an explanation of how to read your sewer bill was provided, and residents were urged to carefully review their sewer bills each month. Recently, Riverside resident Vicky Pate did just that and discovered an error. She contacted KCMO Water Services and worked with them through the issue, which was an incorrect transcription of information from Missouri American Water. Thanks to Vicky's diligence, KCMO Water Services conducted a review of all Riverside sewer bills to ensure that any other errors impacting Riverside residents would be corrected. So be like Vicky, and review your sewer bill! Contact Kansas City Water Services Customer Service at **816-513-1313**, or email water.customerservice@kcmo.org with questions. ↪



Girls 3rd – 5th Grade: Run With Us!

Love to have fun? Want to make new friends?
Learn to run a 5K this fall in a program designed for girls just like you.

When: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5:00 – 6:15
Where: E. H. Young Park
Registration: August 3 – 30, \$105 fee*
Details: www.gotrkc.org

*Qualify for free/reduced lunch program at school? Riverside Fire/Police Athletic League has scholarships available. Contact Meredith Hauck at 816-372-9023 for info.

Officer Enlists Budding Journalists

Students' Safe Haven Video a Hit

When Chief Greg Mills appointed Riverside Police Sergeant Dean Noll to the KC Safe Haven for Newborns Coalition, little did Noll know he would have a hand in creating new video that would serve as a model for Safe Havens in all 50 states. But that's exactly what happened.

Designed to "protect newborn children from injury and death caused by abandonment," the laws exempt a relinquishing parent from prosecution, according to certain guidelines. Instead of abandoning an unwanted baby, a parent can hand an uninjured baby to someone who is on duty at an officially designated Safe Haven* location, without fear of prosecution for abandonment.



Safe Haven Location Signage



Sergeant Dean Noll

Last year, Sgt. Noll viewed a Safe Haven informational video produced by college students in Florida. He shared it with Park Hill School District officials in the hopes of using it to bring the message to students, but they felt it didn't speak to high schoolers. Undeterred, Sgt. Noll hatched a creative solution: Why not ask students at Park Hill South High School to create a Safe Haven video of their own?

He contacted the school's Broadcast Journalism teacher, Justin Ford, about the idea, and in January the cameras started rolling. Students finished the video in the spring and posted it on YouTube. Not only was it a hit with students and Safe Haven officials but also with legislators in Jefferson City, who recommended that the video be shared in high school health classes across the state.

According to Debbie Howland of the KC Safe Haven for Newborns Coalition, it wouldn't have happened without Sgt. Noll's creative determination. "He didn't give up, and found a clever way to solve the problem and effectively get the word out," she said.

"Students know best how to reach other students, and this group did an incredible job," said Sgt. Noll. Watch the video at www.youtube.com/riversidemo.

Note: A change to legislation slated for August will allow a parent to turn a baby over to a Safe Haven from birth to 45 days. Sgt. Noll hopes to work with Mr. Ford and his students to update the video. ~

* See box at right for Safe Haven program details.

Community Calendar

August 6

Board of Aldermen, 7 pm

August 7

Park Board, 6 pm

August 8

F/PAL Pool Party, 6 pm

Planning and Zoning Commission, 7 pm

August 20

Board of Aldermen, 7 pm

August 22

Planning and Zoning Commission, 7 pm

August 26

Senior Dance, 1 pm

August 24

Midwest Camaro Fest

(All day, E. H. Young Park)

**NO ONE
EVER HAS TO
ABANDON A NEWBORN**

You have a safe choice.
Instead of abandoning or putting
your baby in danger,
HAND YOUR BABY
to someone at a Safe Haven.

MISSOURI: hospitals; ambulance,
police or fire stations.

KANSAS: hospitals, fire stations,
city and county health departments.

**YOUR
NEWBORN
WILL BE SAFE
at a
SAFE HAVEN**

For more
information dial
2-1-1 or
866-320-5764
www.kchc.net

Building Permit Fees Waived for 15 Homes

On July 2, the Riverside Board of Aldermen approved an ordinance waiving building permit fees for single-family homes construction and remodeling. City officials are hopeful the incentive program will help spur home construction while encouraging the construction of additional single-family residences and reinvestment in existing homes per the Master Plan.

Permit fees will be waived for a total of 15 new single-family homes, with five waivers being distributed among each of the City's three wards. The building permit fee waiver is good through the remainder of 2013 with some limitations on new single-family home construction. Permit fees for single-family home remodels will be waived through the end of 2013 with no limit on the number or ward.



Questions? Contact Jackie Carlson, Planning and Business Services, at (816) 741-3993. ~

City Code Open House

Thursday, August 15
4:30 – 6:30 pm
City Hall

The City recently wrapped up an extensive review of city codes looking for out-of-date, incorrect or missing information. Now that the work is complete, changes are likely affecting pet ownership, noise, property codes, and more. Residents are encouraged to attend the Open House to learn what's new and to provide input before new codes are adopted. ~

Note: an overview of significant changes will soon be available at riversidemo.com