



# The Independence Post

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE

MARCH 2015

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Gregory P. Kurtz, Mayor

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR

Dear Resident,

What a winter this has been for us ... and there is no sign of spring yet! Let's hope March will bring us temperatures in the "normal" range, along with sunnier days.

Winter weather is one variable over which we have no control, and that hampers our ability to have complete control over all expenses.

November brought quite a bit of snow, but then we caught a break in December, which was pretty much snow-free until the last few days of the month. Then the snowfall in January and February kept the Service Department real busy, necessitating us calling in plowing crews during the night and on weekends on many occasions. Those of us who have lived in Northeast Ohio for some time know very well that March can either be the start of spring or an extension of winter with some heavy, wet snows.

The Service Department is committed to keeping the main roads (Brecksville, Pleasant Valley and Rockside Roads) and hills very clear, and the residential side streets passable, even during the worst of our storms. And when the snow tapers off and comes to an end, the plow crews then devote more time to clearing the residential side streets down to pavement.

What has challenged that dynamic recently – with all the snow that has fallen in Northeast Ohio and across most of the country – is that salt supplies to the City and even to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) began to be rationed last month.

We can still purchase salt, but not in the quantities we were able to earlier in the season. This lack of salt all over the country has caused even our Service Department to ration its supply of salt. So, for quite a few reasons, let's just hope that the end of winter is near, and those warmer, sunnier days are right around the corner!

Fortunately, one area that has been warmer than the weather is our City's economic development. Businesses moving into and growing in Independence, has resulted in higher Municipal Income Tax Revenue (MITR) to the City. Rising office and industrial building leases have contributed to a positive recent revenue trend. Finance Coordinator Blaze details some 2014 financial results that came from economic activity in the City in his page three column.

The last three months of MITR resulted in a record for the City (\$6.5 million). This is most welcome, because the harsh winter noted above has resulted in a very high cost to keep roads, sidewalks and driveways clean this winter. This will also result in numerous roads that will need extra attention after winter breaks.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Sincerely,  
*Greg*  
Greg



## Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, March 22,  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Middle School

RITA provides assistance  
for preparing municipal  
income tax returns

See Page 3



# The City of Independence

## Swiftreach Call March 7...A Test and Reminder to Move Your Clocks Ahead

### Are You on the Call List?

The City utilizes Swiftreach to provide residents with vital information in a timely manner. It is a program which can automatically dial the phone numbers of residents to provide an important recorded message. Twice a year, we perform a test of our Swiftreach system.

On Saturday, March 7, the City will conduct a test, and also remind those on the list to move their clocks one hour ahead because Daylight Savings Time begins on March 8.

If you do not receive the test message on March 7, here are two ways you can add your telephone number to the list:

#### 1. The City's Website

- a. Go to the City Website <http://www.independenceohio.org>;
- b. Go to the "I want to" menu near the top and select "Sign Up for

Swiftreach Notifications;"

- c. Fill in the information--your name, phone number(s), address and county, at a minimum, and you are welcome to add other information as well. Then click "Submit Request."

If you do not have a computer, you can use one of the public internet terminals located at the Civic Center or a public library.

If you want your number removed, put in your information and then select the "Remove" option at the bottom of the gray box.

#### 2. Call City Hall

If you cannot get to a computer, call Monica, our receptionist at City Hall, at 524-4131, and she will be happy to take your information and relay it for input into the system.

Please take the time to help us reach you in the event of an emergency or important message from the City. Thank you!



Web Site: [www.independenceohio.org](http://www.independenceohio.org)

E-mail: [cityhall@independenceohio.org](mailto:cityhall@independenceohio.org)

## YOUR CITY DIRECTORY

### Gregory P. Kurtz

Mayor  
[Kurtzg@independenceohio.org](mailto:Kurtzg@independenceohio.org)

#### John M. Veres

Finance Director  
[Veresj@independenceohio.org](mailto:Veresj@independenceohio.org)

#### Gregory J. O'Brien

Law Director

#### William T. Doyle

City Prosecutor

#### Deborah Nicastro &

#### Jennifer Weiler

Judges of the Garfield Heights Municipal Court

#### Donald Ramm

City Engineer

#### Jeff Markley

City Planner

#### Amanda Mamick

Human Resources Director

#### Jeremy Rowan

Economic Development Director

#### Vernon Blaze

Finance Coordinator/Systems Analyst

#### Michael Kilbane

Police Chief

#### Steve Rega

Fire Chief

#### Tom Walchanowicz

Recreation Director

#### David Snyderburn

Service/Technical Services Dir.

#### Mike Gero

Building Official

#### Angela T. Zeleznik-Zidanic

Clerk of Courts

#### Natalie Buc

Community Services Director

#### Gus Katsas

Purchasing Coordinator

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

#### Anthony Togliatti, Vice Mayor

Chair, Streets and Sidewalks  
[togliattia@independenceohio.org](mailto:togliattia@independenceohio.org)  
Phone: 216-524-3039

#### Carl Asseff

Chair, Economic Growth & Development  
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#### Jim Crooks

Chair, Finance  
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#### David Grendel

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#### Kathleen Kapusta

Chair, Community Services  
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#### Robert Wagner

Chair, Utilities & Sewers  
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#### Patricia Wisnieski

Chair, Safety/Rules & Ordinances  
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Phone: 216-524-8104

#### Debi Beal

Clerk of Council  
[beald@independenceohio.org](mailto:beald@independenceohio.org)  
Phone: 216-524-1008

### CITY MEETINGS

Recorded Message of City's Scheduled Meetings  
328-1477

#### Architectural Review Board

1st & 3rd Wed. each month -8:30 a.m.  
Chairman - Norman Casini

#### Civil Service Commission

1st Thursday each month-7:00 p.m.  
Chairman - Mark Kwiatkowski

#### Council

2nd Tuesday each month - 7:00 p.m.

#### Planning Commission

1st Tuesday each month  
5:30 p.m. caucus, meeting to follow  
Chairman - Dale Lytkowski

#### Board of Zoning Appeals

3rd Thursday each month  
5:30 p.m. caucus, meeting to follow  
Chairman - Mark Moreal

#### Council Workshop

4th Tuesday, TBD, City Hall

### IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Police/Fire Emergencies 9-1-1	Fire Department	216-524-4001
Police Anonymous Tip Line	Human Resources	216-524-4131
Animal Control	Indy FieldHouse	216-524-0088
Building Department	Library	216-447-0160
Chamber of Commerce	Maple Shade Cemetery	216-524-9191
City Meetings	Mayor's Office	216-524-4131
Clerk of Courts	Outdoor Pool	216-524-3711
Community Services	Police Department	216-524-1234
Council Clerk	Post Office	216-524-9614
Economic Development	Recreation Department	216-524-3262
Engineering Department	Service Department	216-524-9191
Finance Department	Senior Services	216-524-3035
	Tech Services Dept.	216-524-9200

### Meals on Wheels Program

Community Services Department  
at 524-7373

### Drivers Needed Periodically to Deliver Meals

If you can help, please call  
Community Services Department  
at 524-7373





**REGIONAL INCOME TAX AGENCY  
MUNICIPAL TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE EVENT  
FREE MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX RETURN  
PREPARATION**

The Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) invites all taxpayers who are required to file a municipal income tax return for any RITA municipality to attend a free Taxpayer Assistance Event. Agents will be on-site to answer questions and assist with RITA municipal income tax return preparation. To receive assistance please bring with you all necessary tax documentation, including the following:

- Social Security Numbers for yourself and your spouse
- W2s from all employers and Form 1099s
- Federal Schedules C, E, & F, Federal forms K-1, 2106, 3903, & 1040 (if applicable)
- Addresses and dates for each location in which you resided during 2014

RITA agents will work with taxpayers on a first come, first served basis. Depending on the size of the turnout, wait times may vary; please plan for such a possibility. One of the events will be held at:

**RITA Brecksville Office**

10107 Brecksville Road  
Brecksville, Ohio 44141

Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
and on the following Saturdays:

- 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
March 7, 2015
- March 14, 2015
- March 21, 2015
- March 28, 2015

If you would like more information on this program or another location where assistance will be provided, please contact RITA Customer Service at 1-800-860-7482.

**Finance Coordinator/Systems Analyst  
– Vern Blaze**

**Financial Year-in-Review 2014 (condensed)**

Although Municipal Income Tax Revenue (MITR, the City’s largest Revenue source by far), leveled off in 2014 for the first time in a number of years, as noted below, based on the MITR received in December of 2014 and January and February of this year, we are confident that 2015 will be a strong year for MITR.

Year	MITR	Increase/Decrease from Previous
2014	\$25,762,359	(\$ 116,603)
2013	\$25,878,962	\$1,434,404
2012	\$24,444,558	\$1,250,525
2011	\$23,194,033	\$1,195,161
2010	\$21,998,872	

The City’s **Operating Budget** (the cost of operating the City on a day-to-day basis, consisting predominantly of wages, salaries and benefits), is the largest single use of all City Revenues, with **Capital Expenditures** (e.g., equipment, building components and vehicles acquired for use by all of the departments), **Infrastructure** (sanitary sewers, storm sewers, streets/roads, sidewalks, water lines, etc.) and **Debt Service** (principal and interest payments) accounting for the vast majority of all other City Expenditures.

In 2014, the Annual Appropriations Ordinance (the City’s Budget) approved by Council appropriated \$22.5 million for the City’s Operating Budget. Actual Operating Expenses in 2014 totaled \$21,499,184, so the City was able to operate on a day-to-day basis in 2014 about \$1 million under what was budgeted.

Because of that \$1 million savings, Council and the Mayor agreed to keep the 2015 Operating Budget figure at \$22.5 million, the same as in 2014.

One of the results of all of the City’s Revenues and Expenditures is how much Cash remains after Expenditures are subtracted from Revenues. The City’s ending 2014 Cash Balance declined some from the end of 2013, as Mayor Kurtz and Council unanimously agreed to invest \$2.5 million of the City’s Cash in 33 acres of prime commercially-zoned vacant land in the Rockside Road Business District during 2014.

So, although the City’s Cash Balance declined some at the end of 2014, your City Officials unanimously agreed that the \$2.5 million investment made in our community will yield long-term benefits that will pay dividends for decades to come, once that property is fully developed.

Resolution 2014-103 was also passed in July of 2014, authorizing the investment of an additional \$1.4 million of Cash in strategically-located property in Downtown Independence. This will necessitate another large check being written when this transaction closes, but the City’s professional and proactive financial management has resulted in sufficient funds being available that is allowing the City to pay Cash for these multi-million dollar property investments.



## Older Drivers

### How Aging Affects Driving

As people get older, their driving patterns change. Retirement, different schedules, and new activities affect when and where they drive. Most older adults drive safely because they have a lot of experience behind the wheel. But when they are involved in accidents, they are often hurt more seriously than younger drivers. Age-related declines in vision, hearing, and other abilities -- as well as certain health conditions and medications -- can affect driving skills.

### Changes in Driving Habits

When people retire, they no longer drive to work. With more leisure time, they may start new activities, visit friends and family more often, or take more vacations. Like drivers of any age, they use their vehicles to go shopping, do errands, and visit the doctor. Driving is an important part of staying independent.

Most people 70 and older have driver's licenses. They tend to drive fewer miles than younger drivers. However, they are also keeping their licenses longer and driving more miles than in the past, often favoring local roads over highways. As the overall population ages, there will be more older drivers on the road.

### A Complex Task

Driving is a complicated task. It requires people to see and hear clearly; pay close attention to other cars, traffic signs and signals, and pedestrians; and react quickly to events. Drivers must be able to accurately judge distances and speeds and monitor movement on both sides as well as in front of them.

It's common for people to have declines in visual, thinking, or physical abilities as they get older. As a result, older drivers are more likely than younger ones to have trouble in certain situations, including making left turns, changing lanes, and navigating through intersections.

### Common Mistakes

Common Mistakes of older drivers include:

- Failing to yield the right of way
- Failing to stay in lane
- Misjudging the time or distance needed to turn in front of traffic

- Failing to stop completely at a stop sign
- Speeding or driving too slowly.

### Older Drivers and Accidents

Driving errors can lead to traffic accidents, injuries, and death. The risk of crashes rises with age, especially after age 75. Studies show that older drivers are less likely to be involved in accidents related to alcohol use, speeding, and driving at night; however, they are more likely to get into accidents.

- At intersections (usually in the vehicle that is struck).
- In which the front of one vehicle hits the side of another vehicle.
- Where the older driver is merging and the other vehicle is travelling faster or is in the older driver's blind spot.

### Crashes Down Among Older Drivers

Fortunately, the rate of crashes among adults 65 and over has decreased in recent years. Research suggests that this decline is due to a number of factors, including older adult's better health, safer cars, and safer roads. In addition, older drivers' ability to "police" themselves--like not driving at night--and stricter state laws for renewal of driver's licenses may help.

Most traffic deaths of older drivers occur during the daytime, on weekdays, and involve other vehicles. Older adults are more susceptible to death or serious injury in a crash if they are physically frail, but the good news is that older people are more likely to survive crashes than in the past.

### Tips for Safe Driving

- Make sure you see well enough. Be sure to have vision checked yearly.
- Check your hearing at least every three years.
- Address your attention and reaction time.
- Be sure to leave enough space between you and the car in front of you.
- Avoid driving in rush hour traffic or other heavy traffic areas.
- Drive in the right-hand lane where traffic moves more slowly.
- Avoid left turns if they make you uncomfortable. Often you can make three right turns instead of one left turn to get where you want to go.
- Make sure your medication does not interfere with driving.
- Consider taking a driving refresher course.

## Save the Date

Community Services is hosting a "Welcome to Medicare" presentation on Wednesday, April 8, at 6 p.m., at the Community-Civic Center. Please plan to join us if you are turning 65 this year. It is presented by OSHIIP (Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program). They will discuss the different parts of Medicare and your options when you are ready to enroll. Please call Jenny Flynn with any questions at 216-524-7373.

## BUILDING DEPT.

Homeowners should be aware that there is no statewide testing, licensing or registration for home improvement contractors, only trade contractors such as Electrical, Plumbing and Mechanical. The City of Independence does require all contractors to be registered with the City prior to doing any work. Permits are required for most projects. Before you start a project, begin the process by making a plan and contact the Building Department to know the appropriate process for your project.

By following a few simple guidelines, you can make selecting a contractor easier and be better prepared to make an informed decision that best suits your needs, and, most importantly, protect yourself from scams.

Choosing your contractor is the most important decision you'll make in a remodeling project. Although the Building Department can not recommend any contractor, a list of contractors registered with the City of Independence is available. Registered contractors provide the City with insurance information, state license and a contractor's bond in case a code issue does arise.

Listed are a few questions to help you establish a contractor's qualifications, reputation, and to help you find the right contractor for your project.

- How long have you been in business?
- What is the time frame for starting the project?
- Are you registered with the City of Independence?
- How many projects like mine have you completed in the past year and may I have a list of references for them?
- Contact the Better Business Bureau (216-241-7678) regarding your contractor. Any complaints?
- Verify with the Independence Building Department (216-524-1019) if a permit is required. Ask for a copy of the permit from your contractor prior to the start of the project.
- Beware if they ask you to get the permit. Contractors are required to obtain the permit. Permits are your protection and help ensure that work will meet the City building codes.

By taking the time to choose the right person for the job, you're most likely getting a contractor that is professional and committed to the success of your project.

## SERVICE DEPT.

### Yard Waste

Yard waste collection will begin the week of April 6 on your scheduled rubbish collection day.

Yard waste consists of leaves, grass and shrub clippings, plant material, etc. The Service Department does not pick up loose grass clippings from tree lawns, nor will it pick up leaves from tree lawns until October. Grass clippings, leaves, and all other yard waste must be placed in the following types of containers only:

- Open 35-gallon brown paper bags or
- Open cardboard boxes no larger than 2' x 2' x 2' or
- Standard 35-gallon garbage cans weighing not more than 50 lbs. **PLASTIC BAGS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
- Do not mix rubbish, stones or dirt with yard waste
- Do not mix pet waste with yard waste
- Do not mix metal objects, such as stakes, pipes, hooks, etc., with yard waste



All yard waste must be placed a distance away from your trash and recycling carts. Brown paper bags can be purchased at Drug Mart, Ace Hardware, Marc's, Costco, Sam's Club, and other area retailers.

Branches less than 1 inch in diameter should be placed in open containers and put out on your rubbish day a distance away from your rubbish.

Branches more than 1 inch in diameter should be stacked with cut ends facing the road in piles no higher than 4 feet and called in to the Service Department for a chipper stop pickup at 524-9191.

### Dumpster Rental

Dumpsters will be provided to residents upon request beginning in April, weather permitting. The City has two sizes, 5-yard dumpsters, and 10-yard dumpsters.

When a resident has an excessive amount of trash, more than what would be put out for regular pickup, the resident should request the use of a dumpster.

Dumpsters are **not** given out during the months of November, December, January, February or March. The trucks that are used to transport dumpsters are also used for snow removal, and snow removal takes priority over dumpsters.

A dumping fee will be charged to the resident on all dumpsters according to the contents and size of the dumpster.

<u>Dumpster</u>	<u>Rental Fee*</u>
General and Construction Material: 5-yard	\$ 50
General and Construction Material: 10-yard	\$100
Logs and stumps: 5-yard	\$150
Logs and stumps: 10-yard	\$300
Railroad Ties: 5-yard	\$100
Railroad Ties: 10-yard	\$200

Items you cannot put into a dumpster: Tires, paint cans, liquids, chemicals, and food rubbish. Dumpsters cannot be overfilled. Any dumpster that is overfilled will be left at the resident's property until the overfilled material is removed.

To rent a dumpster call 216-524-9191.

\*Fee must be paid in advance, prior to drop-off of dumpster, and a waiver signed giving permission to enter the resident's property.

## Prescription Drug Drop-off Box

A secured prescription drug drop-off box is located in the City Hall lobby. It is available for residents to safely dispose of expired and unwanted prescription drugs and medications 24 hours a day. This is for personal use, not businesses or clinics, etc.

The following can be disposed of in the box:

- Prescriptions
- Prescription Patches
- Prescription Medications
- Prescription Ointments
- Over-the-counter medications
- Vitamins
- Samples of medications
- Medications for pets

Do not place the following the in the drop-off box:

- Needles
- Thermometers
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Inhalers
- Aerosol cans
- Ointments, lotions and liquids
- Medications from businesses or clinics.

These items can be placed with your rubbish.

Do not flush unwanted drugs down your toilet. Bring them to City Hall instead, where the Drug Enforcement Agency will pick up and properly destroy them.

If you can't drop them off at the Prescription Drug Drop-Off Box, you may dispose of medicine with household trash. Keep the medicine in its original container, remove the label or conceal patient information with a marker. Make the medicine unusable by dissolving pills with water or absorb liquid medication with flour, table salt, or another non-toxic substance. Seal the original container with tape and place it inside a non-transparent container and put it in your rubbish container.

### Syringes & Hypodermic Needles

Seal in an empty plastic pop bottle, label "household syringes" and discard in the trash.



## Prescription Medications

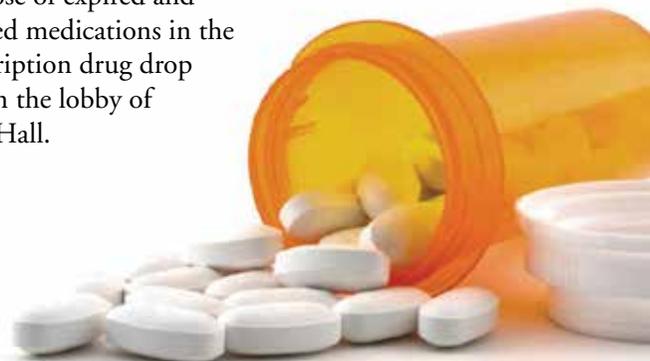
Prescription medications are used every day to treat conditions and relieve pain, but they are subject to abuse and misuse if not carefully stored, monitored and disposed of. The Independence Police Department provides a drop-off box at City hall to dispose of unwanted and excess medication. Here is some important information regarding prescription drugs and some safeguard tips provided by the Ohio Attorney general's office:

- Drug overdoses kill an average of five Ohioans every day.
- Since 2007, unintended drug overdoses have exceeded car crashes as the leading cause of accidental death in Ohio.
- There has been a 366% increase in unintentional drug overdose deaths in Ohio from 2000 to 2012.
- Unintentional drug overdoses caused 1,914 deaths in Ohio in 2012.
- The number of deaths from unintended overdoses of prescription opiates declined in 2012 for the first time since 2003, with a 12 percent reduction between 2011 and 2012 (789 deaths in 2011 vs. 697 deaths in 2012).

Keep a close watch on your family's prescription medications to protect those you love.

Follow these Important Safeguards

- Inventory all medications in your home, noting the number of pills and refills remaining.
- Keep all medicines--including over-the-counter drugs--in a locked cabinet or other safe place and monitor them closely. Urge relatives and friends to do the same.
- Maintain control of any drug prescribed to a child or teen.
- Place the national hotline for poison control centers--800-222-1222 -- near every home phone and in your cell phone address book.
- Dispose of expired and unused medications in the prescription drug drop box in the lobby of City Hall.



# Severe Weather Week

**March 1-7**

The week of March 1 - 7, 2015, is Severe Weather Week in Ohio. On Wednesday, March 4, at 9:50 a.m., there will be a statewide tornado drill (make-up date in case of inclement weather, Friday, March 7). We will be activating our Emergency Warning system as part of this drill. For Independence residents, that means you will hear our tornado warning siren activate at 9:50 a.m. as part of this drill. Our Emergency Warning system has several different alarm tones, as follows:

- 1. ALERT:** Sirens will be on for 3 minutes continuously. An alert will take place whenever a TORNADO WARNING is issued for Cuyahoga County, OR when there has been a confirmed report of an extremely dangerous weather related situation that could threaten the safety and lives of the residents. People are urged to take cover and to keep informed of the situation by means of a weather radio, commercial radio, TV, etc. In any case, if anyone does not feel it is necessary to take cover, at least observe the conditions around you, assess the severity of the situation, and prepare to protect yourself.
- 2. WARNING (ATTACK):** Sirens will be on for 6 seconds and off for 5 seconds for a total length of 3 minutes. This will create a wavering type of sound to warn the public of an extremely dangerous situation (other than weather related) and signal them to take protective measures and stay in cover.
- 3. ALL CLEAR:** If a WARNING (ATTACK) signal has been issued, ALL CLEAR will be 1 minute of silence followed by a continuous 1 minute of sound. If an ALERT was issued for a tornado warning, the sirens will NOT be used to indicate ALL CLEAR. It is considered ALL CLEAR when the National Weather Service lifts the tornado warning.

The City's Emergency Warning system is also tested every first Saturday of the month at 12 noon. The sirens sound for one minute, 30 seconds on, 15 seconds off, twice. *It is important to remember that the siren system is intended to alert people who are outside to seek shelter*

*and listen for further instructions.* Having a weather radio to alert you while indoors is always a good idea. It is also important to familiarize yourself with terms used to identify a tornado hazard.

For those with "smart phone" capabilities, there are many apps available to warn you of severe weather. Some have the capability to "follow" you around. Should you be out of town on vacation, you would be warned of severe weather at your current location.

**Tornado Watch:** Tornadoes are possible. Remain alert for approaching storms. Watch the sky; stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information.

**Tornado Warning:** A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately.

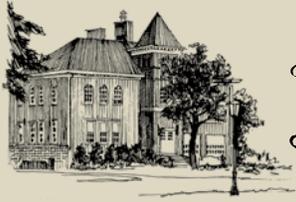
Remember to be alert to changing weather conditions.

- Listen to a weather radio, commercial radio or television newscasts for the latest information.
- Look for approaching storms
- Look for the following danger signs:
  - ◆ Dark, often greenish sky
  - ◆ Large hail
  - ◆ A large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating)
  - ◆ Loud roar, similar to a freight train.

If you see approaching storms or any of the danger signs, be prepared to take shelter immediately.

If you are in:	Then:
A structure (e.g., residence, small building, school, nursing home, hospital, factory, shopping center, high-rise building)	Go to a pre-designated shelter area, such as a safe room, basement, storm cellar, or the lowest building level. If there is no basement, go to the center of an interior room on the lowest level (closet, interior hallway) away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck. Do not open windows.
A vehicle, trailer, or mobile home	Get out immediately and go to the lowest floor of a sturdy nearby building or a storm shelter. Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes.
The outside with no shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. Be aware of the potential for flooding.</li> <li>• Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location.</li> <li>• Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas in a car or truck. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter.</li> <li>• Watch out for flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes causes most fatalities and injuries</li> </ul>

For more information please go to:  
<http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov>



## Historically Speaking

By Wes Gaab

For the fans of *Historically Speaking* (if there are any remaining), I have good news for you. I am finished with my exploits as a first-year teacher at Independence High School. I have many more teaching stories, but that's a stretch claiming them to be historic. So, let's go back to something that really is historical.

How about William H. Hunt, the first millionaire to live in Independence? Now, if you have been on one of my Independence Tours, you are already familiar with William H. Hunt and his estate. If you haven't been on a tour, you are probably wondering, "Where the heck is the Hunt Estate?" It is right next to the Hemlock Cemetery through the gate in the black aluminum fence that replaced the tall white picket fence in 2009.

The original Hunt Estate was well over 100 acres and went from just north of the Cleveland Clinic Business Operations Center next to the old Dr. Manson house, and from Route 21 on the west to Hemlock Road on the south, and then east to the old Haydite site, which is now DiGeronimo Aggregates.

Mr. Hunt was in the insurance business. He was the president or CEO (or whatever they were called back in the 20s or 30s) of the old Cleveland Life Insurance Co. He sold his interests in that company and started the Sun Life of Canada. Don't ask me why Canada, but it became the largest insurance company in the USA.

Mrs. Hunt was very active in the Independence Presbyterian Church. She hosted a meeting of the Presbyterian Men's Club in 1943 at their home in honor of her husband's 75th birthday. There appeared in the minutes of this meeting: "The hospitality of Mrs. Hunt made our January meeting one of the most enjoyable in the history of the club." Mr. Hunt passed away in 1944 and, as a memorial to her late husband, Mrs. Hunt donated a new Baldwin electronic organ to the church.

Mr. Hunt was widely known as a collector of all sorts of things. Most of them were of great value. Many Cleveland institutions have benefitted from his generosity in connection with his hobby. Unfortunately, Independence was not included in his generosity.

I apologize, but I have to tell you another teacher story.



Some of Mr. Hunt's collectables were beautiful, well-polished pieces of petrified wood. I can't recall how all this came about, but long after the death of Mr. Hunt, his wife, Mae, loaned them to Independence High School. Remember, I said loaned. Mr. Feick gave me, as the science teacher, two large boxes of the petrified wood to show my classes. We had them for about two weeks before I returned them to Mrs. Hunt with a lot of thank yous. I never counted all of the pieces, but she did and found one missing. I told her how sorry I was and that I would conduct a full investigation. I did, but never found the "missing" piece. It was also the last collection we ever received on loan from Mrs. Hunt.

The Hunt home is not very large if you compare it to some of the current substantial homes in Independence. I have never been inside the house, so I can't comment on that, but it was considered very elegant at the time. The grounds surrounding the home were beautiful. The house overlooked a stonewalled series of terraces (stone from the quarry on Hemlock Road) ending at a picturesque pond surrounded by trees of all varieties. At the far end of the pond where the overflow goes into the creek is a cut stone bridge. The picture you see is the only one I can locate which shows the view from the house looking east. Note that all the women in the picture are wearing hats.

The estate is currently owned by Dr. Cyril Marshall and his wife, Dr. Sylvia Marshall, who graciously allow us to drive through their property when I give my tours of Independence, and I really appreciate their kindness.



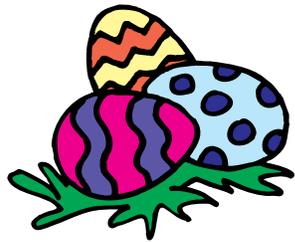
# Kiwaniis Korner

## 60th Annual Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, March 22,  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



PANCAKES HOT OFF THE GRIDDLE! All you can eat--even blueberry and chocolate chip--along with sausage and a beverage at the Independence Middle School cafeteria. Tickets are \$7 for adults, and \$4 for children 12 and younger. Our Pancake Breakfast is again chaired by Bill Morrison. Tickets are available from any Kiwanis member or at the door.



## 44th Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4, 10 a.m. to noon

Local youngsters up to 8 years old are invited to our Easter Egg Hunt at Liberty Playground.

Please bring your egg collecting basket. Mary and Jeff Smigelski are again chairing this happy event held rain or shine. No registration is required. Please arrive by 10 a.m.

## Community Garage Sale

Saturday, April 11, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Our Kiwanis Community Garage Sale will be held at Elmwood Recreation Center. For \$10, you can purchase a table to sell your items--limit is two tables and for residents only. For more information call 216-524-3262. The registration deadline is April 1. Proceeds from table rentals go to our Dorothy Ornas Scholarship Fund.

## Passport to Fishing

More fun for local children on Saturday, April 25, is the Passport to Fishing by certified instructor Larry Pisarick at the Elmwood Recreation Center, Elmwood

Park. For local children ages 6-17 who must be accompanied by a parent or adult.

Two sessions are scheduled:

9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Limit 25 children per session who will be instructed in fishing skills and water safety by "Fisherman Larry," assisted by Joe Vanecek, a retired Independence police officer. Each child receives a free rod and reel courtesy of the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife. Register by calling Donna Agan at 216-524-6195 or Cindy at 216-524-3262.

More 300 Club winners: Michelle Grande, Larry Pisarick, and Lorrie Ramm. For more information about Kiwanis events visit our website at [www.IndependenceKiwanis.com](http://www.IndependenceKiwanis.com) or find us on Facebook.



## Meals on Wheels Volunteer Drivers Needed!

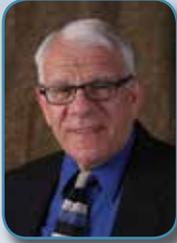
The Community Services Department is currently experiencing a shortage of volunteers for our Meals on Wheels Program. When you deliver meals to homebound seniors, you make a real difference in the lives of older adults who may not be able to prepare a hot, nutritious meal themselves. Your smile may be the only one they see all day.

If you have about two hours one day a week, or one day a month, to volunteer as a driver or a substitute, we can use your help! Please call Jenny Flynn at 216-524-7373.





Anthony Togliatti  
*Vice Mayor*



Carl F. Asseff, M.D.  
*Councilperson*



Jim Crooks  
*Councilperson*



David Grendel  
*Councilperson*



Kathleen Kapusta  
*Councilperson*



Robert Wagner  
*Councilperson*



Patricia Wisnieski  
*Councilperson*

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**FEBRUARY 10, 2015**

Mayor Kurtz called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. Present were Vice Mayor Togliatti and Council Members Dr. Asseff, Crooks, Grendel, Kapusta, Wagner and Patricia Wisnieski. Also present were Law Director O'Brien, Finance Director Veres, Service/Technical Services Director Snyderburn, Community Services Director Buc, Building Official Gero, Fire Chief Rega, Police Chief Kilbane, Engineer Ramm and Recreation Director Walchanowicz.

Pastor Chris Statz of the United Methodist Church said the prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of January 13, 2015, and the Council Workshop of January 20, 2015 were approved.



### MAYOR KURTZ'S REPORT

Mayor Kurtz said we have a relatively light Legislative Agenda this month! One important ordinance on tonight's Legislative Agenda is Ordinance 2015-03, the rolling over of certain short-term notes. \$4,700,000 of short-term (one year) notes are scheduled to come due this spring, and Ordinance 2015-03 would allow for \$4,300,000 of those notes to be rolled over into another one-year note, and \$400,000 of principal would be paid off.

The City has been achieving very low borrowing interest rates on these short-term notes the last few years, usually at a fraction of a single percent! So, it has, and continues, to make sense for the City to keep some of its debt in short-term maturities with the current very low interest rate environment.

Resolution 2015-19 requests Council's approval of Leon Karas as the City's Service Director. Leon has worked his way up to this position from a part-time position, and his background in the trucking/hauling business, as well as his tour in the Marine Corps., eminently qualifies Leon to further succeed in this role and position.

Finally, IT Director Jim Gibbs has been able to put together approximately \$20,000 worth of IT investments via Resolution 2015-21 that will result in totally eliminating \$8,500 of current monthly expenditures. This equates to almost \$100,000 of operating overhead being eliminated by this \$20,000 investment, or a two-and-a-half

month payback period. This is a huge financial savings for the City! Great job Jim!

Hope everyone has a Happy Valentine's Day!

## OFFICIALS' REPORTS



### FINANCE DIRECTOR - VERES

Finance Director Veres said on the agenda tonight we have Ordinance 2015-02 which is our first amendment to our annual appropriations. Part of this amendment is due to the fact that we needed to update our beginning estimated balances in our funds to actual unencumbered cash balances in each fund since we passed the annual budget prior to the end of the year. That change from estimated to actual increased the estimated total amount of unencumbered cash from \$6,300,000 to over \$8,100,000. So, that was a positive movement in actual cash to begin the year in all of our funds.

As a result of that increase in the beginning balances, some estimated resources were adjusted and some appropriations were changed because of the lack of a need for a transfer amount to some of the funds.

Also on the agenda tonight we have Ordinance 2015-03 which will be left on First Reading. What we are doing is applying \$400,000 of principal to our \$4,700,000 of outstanding short-term notes. It is key to point out that the \$400,000 is coming from TIF revenue. So, that's an additional revenue source that the City would not have had if these TIF districts not been in place. So, we are using additional resources to pay down that \$400,000 in principal.

Since the inception of the Tax Increment Finance Program which started back in 2005, we have collected \$9,157,858 that would have went to the County. It now comes to the City of Independence, and we can use that for public infrastructure improvements that qualify throughout the City.

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

### ASSEFF - ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Councilperson Asseff said the Economic Growth and Development Committee, as well as the Council, itself, has received plans

from our consultants on the Rockside Road and Downtown area. We are still going to be meeting to hear from the Cloverleaf, main campus and the Pleasant Valley areas for their recommendations of how they see development should go forward. After that, hopefully we will have that meeting in March if it can be arranged. We will need to have a lot of hard work and input to decide what is then best to carry this City forward in the future.

## CROOKS - FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilperson Crooks thanked all the members of Council, the Mayor, Vern, and the Finance Director for attending the Strategic Planning Committee meeting which was held on Saturday, January 24, 2015. As Dale Veverka mentioned, he was one of the residents that stayed the entire time, the only resident. Thank you for coming.

During this retreat-like meeting held at the Bramley House from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m., the City leaders reviewed and discussed the Mission Statement for the City, the Vision Statement, reviewed and discussed areas of focus for the upcoming year.

The mission of the City will remain the same, and that is to provide essential services and to enhance the quality of community life in the most efficient manner possible. We discussed growing this mission to an even greater level by posting it on the website and hanging it in even more places throughout the municipal campus. Why? So that people who know the City can know that we have a purpose, and that we have a defined scope of operation to provide services in a fair and equitable manner.

We reviewed the Vision Statement, which is to be the premier City in which to live, work, visit and raise a family. This demonstrates the desire of the City to be the cream of the crop in terms of delivering those services for virtually everyone who comes in contact with the City of Independence. High standards we accept, and we know that the residents will keep us accountable. City leaders have met over the years at a public meeting in a multi-hour session because of the importance of having such goal-oriented discussions has increased with the overall growth of the City in staffing, and a level of complexity of the services we provide for both the business and residential community. I thank you all, once again, for those who participated.

Some have already commented on Ordinance 2015-03, and I will do the same. It essentially allows the City to pay down approximately \$400,000 in short-term debt in the month of April. Please note that this is not new debt, but it memorializes the payment towards existing debt, reducing our short-term liabilities from \$4,700,000 to \$4,300,000. The balance of the debt is considered to be long-term. It is also important to note, as John did, that the funding comes from an alternative source, the TIF revenue, an alternative source of funding, not from our General Fund, money generated from Tax Increment Financing, the powerful economic development tool that required foresight and planning in the past as John mentioned in 2005, so that the City can realize a financial benefit today.

## GREDEL - PUBLIC LANDS & BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

Councilperson Grendel reported that the Public Lands & Buildings Committee has not met since January's Council meeting, but I do plan to get the committee together in late April or early May to get

an update on the Hemlock Trail and discuss further the expansion and future of Maple Shade Cemetery. In addition, we will plan our yearly tour of the City's building with representatives from the City Administration.

I would like to briefly comment on two meetings that Council held in January. The Council Workshop on January 20 was a presentation and discussion led by Jamie Greene that focused on two primary areas of the City, the Rockside Road Corridor and Downtown. The more than two-hour presentation and discussion between Mr. Greene and the City officials was informative and exciting. It stimulated feedback from the Mayor, Finance Director, Council and residents.

It is true that many of our duties as Councilpersons deal with the here and now, but we would be negligent of our responsibilities if we didn't discuss and implement plans that could guarantee the economic health and vitality of our City for the near and distant future. We must not think of maintaining the status quo, but we can all move Independence to an even greater place as a community of residents and commercial businesses. The future is unlimited and the future begins now.

I commend Councilman Jim Crooks and all of Council, the Mayor and Finance Director for an excellent Strategic Planning Committee meeting that was held on Saturday, January 24.

Finally, congratulations to our Independence High School Wrestling team that placed fourth out of fifteen teams in the Chagrin Valley Conference Championship meet. That's all big schools, medium-size schools and small schools, and they meet in one tournament. We had a very representative team out there and did a great job.

## KAPUSTA - COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councilperson Kapusta said I would like to express my sympathy to the following families that have recently lost loved ones: Bizon, Boodjeh, Burke, Calevich, Chuha, Kross, Shaw, Spoerke and Svoboda. I am very sorry for your loss.

On Monday, February 9, all Council members were invited to attend a meeting of the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center (CVCC) Vision 8 Group. This was to learn more about a new venture, RAMTEC. RAMTEC stands for the Robotics and Advanced Manufacturing Technology Education Collaborative for which the CVCC was awarded \$1,500,000 in a grant. This resource has significant potential for the youth of our community who may be considering careers in the growing field of manufacturing.

The City Club Forum just last week in Cleveland featured a speaker from the National Association of Manufacturers, who stated that since 2009 there have been 855,000 new jobs in manufacturing added to the U.S. economy. A November 2014 "Manufacturer's News Report" said that this is the third straight year of growth in industrial employment in Ohio. So, once a City and an area that was known as "Rust Belt" is having some resurrection, Ohio is now home to 17,261 manufacturers, employing 883,000 workers. This same report identified that in Cuyahoga County we have 122,000 jobs. I applaud the administration and staff of the CVCC for taking this progressive move with RAMTEC to expand career opportunities to the young people of Independence.

Resolution 2015-17 on tonight's agenda asks Council to authorize \$50,000 in

additional spending for road and right-of-way repairs necessitated by numerous water main breaks. Recognizing that we have an aging water/sewer infrastructure, it is likely we will continue to experience such breaks and related expenditures. This may warrant consideration among Council of future budgetary changes. Our City will be working with the Cleveland Water Division to request some potential reimbursement for these related expenses.

Just as we tend to the dated issues as I just referenced, so, too, do we have a responsibility to keep pace with the communication system updates that will enhance City services. I will be supporting Resolution 2015-21. This also authorizes the acceptance of the quotes of Bearcom and Marjet companies in a combined total of \$19,991. Funding is for the purchase and installation of cable equipment for media conversion and fiber communication.

Finally, the quarterly meeting of the Community Services Committee will be held on Thursday, February 26, in the City Council Conference room at 4:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

## TOGLIATTI – STREETS & SIDEWALKS COMMITTEE

Vice Mayor Togliatti reported that the Planning Commission met this month on February 3 and heard three applicants. The Clark gas station on the corner of Brecksville and Sprague Roads received approval for the station's exterior site plan. The work on the gas station must be completed by May 31, 2015 or their approval will expire.

The Shell gas station on the corner of Brecksville and Rockside Roads presented a proposal to remove their existing sales building and car wash structure and construct a new 3,120 square foot sales building located approximately where the existing car wash now stands. This proposal was tabled by the Commission pending Architectural Board of Review's approval along with the applicant addressing some concerns raised by the Planning Commission.

Perrico's request for preliminary approval for a continued expansion of the Chestnut Woods subdivision was tabled to allow both parties to study the safety issues of the proposed intersection onto Hillside Road in more detail.

The Streets & Sidewalks Committee has two pieces of legislation on tonight's agenda. The first, Resolution 2015-18, allows for the expenditure of \$125,000 towards our annual Crack Sealing Program. Sealing the cracks in our roads prevents water intrusion and damage to the roadway from water and ice. This program helps to maintain the integrity of our roads and extend the useful life of our pavement.

Second, Resolution 2015-20 accepts the proposal of GPD Group for the completion of the formal interchange safety study for the Rockside Road/I-77 interchange. For the last two years the City has been in the planning stages of an upgrade to the Rockside Road/I-77 interchange. An upgrade in this area is greatly needed to allow for better traffic flows and easing of congestion. This safety study will meet the ODOT Highway Safety Program Funding eligibility requirements and, hopefully, resolve the State of Ohio funding a substantial portion of the project, thus easing the financial burden on the City for this construction project.

## WAGNER - UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Councilperson Wagner reported I support Ordinance 2015-03 which will remain on First Reading tonight. This is time based, roll-over of existing debt. It leverages low interest rates, anticipating a .23% interest rate which is less than 1% on short term debt and concurrently reduces the principal by \$400,000 using revenue generated from TIF pilots. This ordinance relates to the management of existing debt. There is no new debt being added. Finance Director Veres' strategy is a good balance of short and long-term debt management, reducing principal and taking advantage of the best interest rates.

I support Resolution 2015-19 confirming Leon Karas as the Service Director. The City has gone through a rotation of personnel with Dave Snyderburn moving to the Technical Service Department, Leon Karas having been hired two years ago to enhance safety procedures, and then ten months later being promoted to the Assistant Service Director in November 2013, and Tom Avsec's move to the Service Department.

I do not favor increased personnel growth with the City, the growth of additional supervisory positions, nor high salary levels for expertise above that required for the work to be performed. We must be very mindful of the ratio of supervisors to workers, as well as the number of assistants and admin personnel from within the City's highest and largest offices and Directors to the smallest office.

I reviewed the Service Department and Technical Service Department salaries from 2008 to 2015, and neither of the departments reflects dollar growth in annual salaries during that seven-year period, which is very commendable. Good management and technology have contributed to that. For example, we purchased one-armed bandits for collection of trash and recycling, anticipating manpower savings, which we achieved.

This rotation of supervisors does not equate to additional personnel hiring, unless there is an additional hiring, which hopefully will not be the case. I am impressed with Leon's leadership approach, his teamwork, his priorities and his vision over the past year.

Finally, I believe Leon's appointment will place a very experienced and highly qualified leader in a position he is well qualified to assume on the City's behalf. Leon, I would ask you to continue your keen focus on efficiency, effectiveness, safety, team building and innovation. Some of your initiatives have already been implemented with very impressive efficiencies and cost savings, and, finally, keep a good balance between meeting current requirements and long term planning.

Bottom line, this appointment is a good decision and is in the City's best interest.

This week's Administrative Update addressed Perrico's request for preliminary approval of Section 4, Phase 4, of the Chestnut Woods Subdivision. In a forward thinking City with numerous future development plans, I would ask the Planning Commission and City Engineer to review and be mindful of the cumulative timelines, delays and added costs from start to finish that the City can influence to ensure our approval process and actions not only protect the City's best interest, but are also welcoming and supportive of current and future developers.

I thank Councilman Crooks for his planning, preparation, and ex-

ecution of Council's annual Strategic Planning workshop on Saturday, January 24, at the Bramley House. I thank all Council members and the Mayor for what I thought was a very productive discussion.

On January 20, Council received a partial briefing on potential economic development initiatives for five development areas within the City. To date, Council has not received the written report, not completed the slide briefing, nor made any decisions on any aspects of the planning or proposals. I look forward to continuing that discussion at the soonest possible opportunity. Until such time as the complete briefing has been presented, and then, only after Council has had the opportunity to discuss and prioritize the issues presented, we will not be able to make meaningful decisions or recommendations to advance the merit of the study.

## WISNIESKI - SAFETY/RULES & ORDINANCES COMMITTEE

Councilperson Wisnieski reported that the Safety Committee does not have any pieces of legislation on tonight's agenda; however, since our last meeting, I have spoken to both Fire Chief Rega and Police Chief Kilbane just to discuss what they have coming down the pipeline and the needs for a future meeting. Stay tuned for that sometime in the spring.

I couldn't help to think about when Finance Director Veres was talking about the TIF financing. So, he was a young Finance Director when he first introduced that concept, and I remember he was a young whippersnapper with more hair introducing this concept. I remember a couple former Finance Directors, maybe a couple of Council, thinking "What is this new concept? This can't work, there's got to be a catch." Kudos go out to you John for introducing that. It has really been a good vehicle for the City.

Finally, I just want to send out kudos to the Building Department, specifically Mike Gero, because recently on Dalebrook we have had a couple of things that needed to be addressed. I just commend him for that responsiveness and professionalism that he showed and just the follow up. I want to thank him and Debi for everything they did.

## DIRECTORS' REPORTS



### BUILDING OFFICIAL - GERO

Building Official Gero reported that over the last month, the Building Department issued 17 commercial permits. Eight sets of construction drawings were sent out for plan review. Plans were approved for a 2,208 square foot tenant build out on Summit Park.

An occupancy permit was issued for the 7,405 square foot build out of the eighth floor at the Cleveland Clinic on Rockside Road.

The Department also issued 15 residential permits. An occupancy permit was issued for alterations to a home on Chestnut Road. Occupancy permits were also issued for three new dwellings, a 4,980 square foot home on Victoria Circle, a 2,991 square foot home on Linden Lane, and a 3,020 square foot home on Chestnut Road. The number

of new homes at some phase of construction is now at nine.



### CITY ENGINEER - RAMM

City Engineer Don Ramm said the Engineering Department reports the following items from this past month's activities:

Three right-of-way permits were issued for various utility jobs, two to AT&T to replace/repair fiber optic cable on Rockside Road (at West Creek), and at 6200 Rockside Woods Boulevard; and one to OneCommunity to locate aerial and underground cable along Brecksville Road from E. Pleasant Valley Road to Old Town Hall, including up Selig Drive to the City Hall Annex.

One Miscellaneous Commercial Permit was issued to a business on E. Pleasant Valley to replace a portion of the existing parking lot. One Flood Plain Development Permit was issued to a business on Granger Road.

One site plan was submitted for review for a new home on Sublot 11 Lake Charles Drive. We have been reviewing the preliminary plan for the Chestnut Woods Subdivision, Section 3, Phase 4, which has been before the City Planning Commission.

We prepared bid documents and received bids for the 2015 Crack Seal Program. Resolution 2015-18 on tonight's agenda authorizes a contract with Specialized Construction, Inc.

We have worked with our consulting traffic engineering firm, GPD Group, on a fee proposal to perform an Interchange Safety Study for the Rockside Road / I-77 Interchange. Resolution 2015-20 on tonight's agenda authorizes a contract with GPD to perform the study and to submit a grant application to ODOT under their Highway Safety Program.

Lastly, we prepared bid documents for two of our annual maintenance contracts-- 2015 Sanitary and Storm Sewer Maintenance, Inspection and Repairs Contract and the 2015 Creek, Utility and Infrastructure Maintenance and Repairs Contract.

Bids for both contracts are due later this month, and we hope to make award recommendations for both contracts at the March Council Meeting.



### COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR - BUC

Community Services Director Buc reported our new fireplace donated by the DiStefanis family in memory of their mother, Rose, has been installed in the atrium. Stop by at the Civic Center to relax and enjoy it.

Be sure to check out the exciting programs and trips listed in Spotlight. It should be coming out at any time. Residents that are over 55 can celebrate St. Patrick's Day on Tuesday, March 17.

Registration for spring camp begins on March 5. Dates for spring camp are Monday, April 6, through Friday, April 10.



## FIRE CHIEF - REGA

Fire Chief Rega said Ohio's Severe Weather Awareness Week will be from March 1 through March 7. As part of this Awareness Week, there will be a statewide tornado drill on March 4 at 9:50 a.m. Our community emergency warning system will be activated as part of this drill. As a reminder, the siren is activated whenever a tornado warning is issued for Cuyahoga County and is intended to notify those individuals that are outside to seek shelter inside. More information on how our emergency warning system works will be in the March issue of the Independence Post.

I would also like to report that we have received the State reimbursement check for the May flooding of 2014. This reimbursement amounted to \$167,527. This was 75% of the total cost of the damages for that event. This was a long process which could not have been completed without the combined efforts of many of the City's departments.

The requirements for reimbursement were very strict. Only damaged and cleanup costs on locations on public property qualified for reimbursement. Special thanks should go to Don Ramm and Clark Merdes and others from the Engineering Department. Their detailed documentation of the infrastructure damage was very important, and it helped qualify our damages to the State.

The requirements for reimbursement were very strict. Only damaged and cleanup costs on locations on public property qualified for reimbursement. Special thanks should go to Don Ramm and Clark Merdes and others from the Engineering Department. Their detailed documentation of the infrastructure damage was very important, and it helped qualify our damages to the State.



## POLICE CHIEF - KILBANE

Police Chief Kilbane said we would like to remind our residents that Safety Town registration is coming up on April 7. Registration will be held at the Civic Center from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and is open to Independence and St. Michael's students who are enrolled in kindergarten for 2015. Safety Town will be held June 8

to 19 with morning or afternoon sessions available, or from June 22 to July 3 morning session only.

Sergeant Brad Borowy and Patrolman Cris Collise will teach our students important topics including pedestrian and bicycle safety, stranger danger, riding the school bus and animal safety. Our friends from the Fire Department will also teach the kids about fire safety. Please call the Police Department at 216-524-1234 if you have any questions.



## RECREATION DIRECTOR - WALCHANOWICZ

Recreation Director Walchanowicz reported our youth basketball program is approaching their final games of the regular season. Playoffs will begin next week. After the playoffs, some of our all-stars will be entering the Seven Hills Annual All-Star Tournament which begins in March.

The K-2 basketball program is in its final week, and we thank the high school boys and girls basketball coaches and players for conducting this program.

The Fieldhouse is entering into a busy season of weekend tournaments and activities. This weekend we will host a National Qualifier

Field Hockey Tournament which will consist of 32 teams from all around the northeastern states. A good portion of these participants will be staying in our Rockside Road hotels, which is a great benefit for our local businesses.

Finally, a quick update on the Elmwood Pond--if the cold temperatures persist as predicted, we should be open for skating later in the week.



## SERVICE/TECHNICAL SERVICES DIRECTOR - SNYDERBURN

Service/Technical Services Director Snyderburn said with over 20 inches of snow this month, the Service Department has devoted the bulk of its time to plowing and salting, and allowing sidewalk clearing and clean up after the storms. Along with the freeze/thaw, we started to see a lot of potholes. If you happen to come upon or see any potholes, especially dangerous ones, please report them to the Service Department at 524-9191.

Tech Services attended a seminar at G.E.'s Nela Park plant this week. The theme was many ways we can benefit with the use of LED lighting. Not only saving energy and having much brighter lights, the controls in the traffic lights that are now functioning are a huge added benefit.

We just recently completed an LED project at the indoor pool, and what an amazing difference. It's 100% better lighting. We will continue to use LED lighting where applicable in the City.

## LEGISLATION FIRST READING

ORDINANCE 2015-02 2015 Amended Annual Appropriation Ordinance. Enacted 7 yes/0 no.

ORDINANCE 2015-03 An Ordinance to provide for the issuance of notes of the City of Independence, Ohio in the principal amount of \$4,300,000 in anticipation of the issuance of bonds for various purposes. Placed on First Reading without objection.

RESOLUTION 2015-16 A Resolution authorizing payment to the Division of Water for annual charge for water based on the number of hydrants. (*Not to exceed \$20,500.*) Placed on First Reading without objection.

RESOLUTION 2015-17 A Resolution authorizing additional funding for road and right-of-way repairs necessitated by numerous water main breaks. (*Not to exceed \$50,000; total amount not to exceed \$150,000.*) Adopted 7 yes/0 no.

RESOLUTION 2015-18 A Resolution accepting the bid of Specialized Construction, Inc. for the 2015 Crack Seal Program. (*Not to exceed \$125,075.*) Placed on First Reading without objection.

RESOLUTION 2015-19 A Resolution confirming the appointment

by the Mayor of Leonidas Karas as the Service Director. Adopted 7 yes/0 no.

**RESOLUTION 2015-20** A Resolution accepting the proposal of GPD Group for professional engineering services in connection with the Rockside Road/I-77 Interchange. *(In connection with the preparation and submittal of a formal Interchange Safety Study for the Rockside Road/I-77 Interchange, in accordance with the ODOT/ FHWA Highway Safety Program's funding eligibility requirements in an amount not to exceed \$19,950.)* Adopted 7 yes/0 no.

**RESOLUTION 2015-21** A Resolution accepting the quotes of Bearcom Wireless Worldwide for the purchase and installation of media conversion equipment and Marjet Communications for the purchase and installation of fiber communication cable and equipment at the Technology Center, Crown Centre and the Radio Shack. *(Not to exceed \$7,756 for media conversion equipment; and not to exceed \$12,235 for the purchase and installation of fiber communication cable and equipment.)* Adopted 7 yes/0 no.

### UPCOMING LEGISLATION

**ORDINANCE 2015-\_\_** An Ordinance amending Chapter 1151 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Independence relating to signs, signboards and billboards.

Mayor Kurtz asked if there is anybody here from the Boy Scouts tonight looking for merit badges. Please stand up and state your name. This is a public forum.

Robert Artrip stood up and said I'm here from the Boy Scouts. Mayor Kurtz said thank you very much.

Mayor Kurtz thanked everyone for being here this evening, and said don't forget Valentine's Day. If you haven't handled that yet, get it handled.

*There being no further business to discuss, the Regular Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.*

### COUNCIL WORKSHOP FEBRUARY 24, 2015

A Council Workshop was held to discuss amending Chapter 1151 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Independence relating to signs, signboards and billboards.

Minutes of the Council Meeting(s) are unapproved at the time of this publication and have been condensed. These minutes will be available in their entirety at the Clerk of Council's Office after they have been approved, and can also be found on our City's website.

### BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS January 15, 2015

5233 Eastview Drive, Scott and Sally Dubitsky - Granted a variance of .6' to permit an addition to be located 14.4' from the side yard (15'

required, 14.4' requested).

Marriott Springhill Suites, Rockside Place – Granted a variance to Chapter 1354 with regard to the Riparian and Wetland Setback Requirements as indicated on the site plan.

### PLANNING COMMISSION February 3, 2015

Chestnut Woods Section 3, Phase 4, Perrico Property Systems, Perry Homes – The request for approval of the preliminary construction plan for Section 3, Phase 4 of Chestnut Woods Subdivision to include 42 sublots was tabled.

7752 Brecksville Road, Clark Service Station – Granted approval of the site plan for site work and modifications to existing canopy, subject to certain conditions.

6178 Brecksville Road, TrueNorth Energy, LLC – The request for approval of plans for removal of existing sales building and car wash and construction of a new 3,120 sq. ft. sales building with replacement of underground storage tank system and renovation of canopy fascia and signage was tabled.

### St. Michael Fish Frys Fridays, through March 27 from 4 to 7 p.m.

The Holy Name and Altar & Rosary Society will have their Annual Lenten Fish Frys every Friday in Lent (except Good Friday) at the Church Hall, 6540 Brecksville Road.

#### Menu items include:

Baked Cod Dinner	\$9.00
Shrimp Dinner	\$9.00
Fried Cod Dinner	\$9.00
Combo Dinner	\$9.00
Pierogi Dinner	\$8.00
Child's Dinner	\$4.50



No transfats used in fried foods - Weekly specials and desserts

All dinners include french fries or baked potato (limited quantity), fresh-made coleslaw, fruit cup or applesauce, roll and butter, beverage and condiments.

If you have any questions, call Tom Luvison at 216-702-5024 or Ed Frantz at 216-520-0341. Remember, no fish fry on Good Friday.



**Daylight Saving Time: March 8**

Don't Forget to move your clocks one hour ahead!

See Page 2.



**St. Michael Fish Fry**

Fridays, through March 27

See Page 15

## SAVE THE DATE MARCH 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3 5:30 p.m. Planning Commission Caucus, Meeting to follow	4 Architectural Board of Review Meeting 8:30 a.m. City Annex	5	6	7
8 Daylight Saving Time Begins Turn Clocks Ahead	9 5 – 6 p.m. Mayor's Listening Night	10 7 p.m. Council Meeting	11 Deadline for the March 18 Architectural Board of Review Meeting	12 Deadline for the March 19 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting	13	14
15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Architectural Board of Review Meeting 8:30 a.m. City Annex	19 5:30 p.m. Board of Zoning Appeals Caucus Meeting to follow	20 First Day of Spring	21
22 9 a.m - 2 p.m. Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast Middle School	23	24 Council Workshop TBD	25 Deadline for the April 1 Architectural Board of Review Meeting	26	27	28
29 Palm Sunday	30	31 Deadline for the April 7 Planning Commission Meeting	1	2	3 Good Friday	4