



The Independence Post

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE

MARCH 2016



Anthony L. Togliatti, Mayor

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR

Dear Resident,

Winter weather hit later than usual this year, and our service crew and salt trucks are working diligently to ensure the safety of our residents and commuters traveling within our City limits. That being said, we are hoping for an early spring and sunshine as we begin our Easter Holiday and spring festivities here in Independence. Please join us for the many events our community has planned, including the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast on March 13th at the Civic Center, and Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 26th.

In preparation for the Republican National Convention this summer, we are currently working with all of our restaurants and hotels to ensure the safety of all residents and visitors during this time. We have also instructed our economic development team to market our City and welcome the RNC delegates and visitors to our area.

I would like to make note of a new addition to our City roster; I am pleased to announce and welcome our new Director of Human Resources, Lisa Zamiska, who comes to us with over 15 years of experience with the City of Brookpark. I am confident she will be a valuable asset to our administration. In addition, the Police Department is currently holding interviews to hire a new full time officer in an effort to increase our valued safety forces.

A few goals I had made upon taking office were to reduce expenditures while maximizing efficiencies and maintaining or expanding our many wonderful City services. I believe we are on the right track. I am working diligently with Finance Director John Veres and our Department Heads to ensure these goals are met. It will be a long road, but we are making progress each day. Thank you for your support and thank you for the opportunity to serve our Community.

Have a Happy and Blessed Easter!

Sincerely,

Anthony L. Togliatti

HOME DAYS

Celebrates 100th Birthday

August 5 – 6, 2016



Like any great party, it takes considerable planning, great entertainment, and fun activities so that our residents and guests will want to attend and enjoy this beloved, traditional weekend. So, we are looking for your input and participation to plan for this 100th year celebration and hope you will consider joining us on Tuesday, March 15th at 7 PM in Council Chambers to brainstorm ideas for this special Home Days year. If you are unable to attend this meeting but would still like to participate, please call City Hall 216.524.4131 by March 15th so that we can contact you for the future meetings.

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The City of Independence

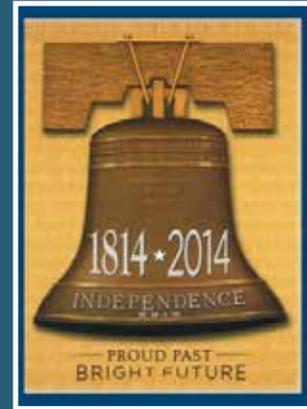
Pick up your copy of **Proud Past, Bright Future!** This complimentary 240-page book, with an updated history of Independence, has been made possible by the City of Independence (one copy per household).

This book is available at the Community Services Department at the Independence Civic Center. If you are physically unable to pick it up, please call 216-524-7373 for delivery to your home.

Also available for sale:

- Additional History Books \$20
- *Story of Independence* \$10
- Tour of Independence DVD \$15
- Independence-Opolo Games \$25

(Limited Supply)



YOUR CITY DIRECTORY

Web Site: www.independenceohio.org

E-mail: cityhall@independenceohio.org



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City Prosecutor

Deborah Nicastro & Jennifer Weiler

Judges of the Garfield Heights Municipal Court

Donald Ramm

City Engineer

Jeff Markley

City Planner

Lisa Zamiska

Human Resources Director

Jeremy Rowan

Economic Development Director

Michael Kilbane

Police Chief

Steve Rega

Fire Chief

Tom Walchanowicz

Recreation Director

Leon Karas

Service Director

David Snyderburn

Technical Services Dir.

Michael Gero

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CITY MEETINGS

Recorded Message of City's Scheduled Meetings
328-1477

Architectural Review Board

1st & 3rd Thurs. each month - 1:00 p.m.
Chairman - Norman Casini

Civil Service Commission

1st Thursday each month - 7:00 p.m.
Chairman - Peter Nelson

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 Department216-524-4001
Police Anonymous Tip Line.....216-524-9699	Human Resources216-524-4131
Animal Control216-524-3940	Indy FieldHouse216-524-0088
Building Department216-524-1019	Library216-447-0160
Chamber of Commerce216-573-2707	Maple Shade Cemetery216-524-9191
City Meetings216-328-1477	Mayor's Office216-524-4131
Clerk of Courts216-524-4131	Outdoor Pool216-524-3711
Community Services216-524-7373	Police Department216-524-1234
Council Clerk216-524-1008	Post Office216-524-9614
Economic Development216-524-4131	Recreation Department216-524-3262
Engineering Department216-524-1374	Service Department216-524-9191
Finance Department216-524-4131	Senior Services216-524-3035
	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



Project Information for the Potential Downtown Mixed-Use Development With Fairmount Properties

Jeremy Rowan
Economic Development Director

The City of Independence is pleased to announce its planning partnership with Fairmount Properties on a potential mixed-use development project for downtown Independence. To facilitate and guide the implementation of the vision articulated in the recently adopted Downtown Area Plan, a Memorandum of Intent has been executed by the City and Fairmount Properties. The adoption of the Downtown Area Plan, Downtown Planned Unit Development (PUD) District and resulting coordination with Fairmount Properties are the product of a collaborative, detailed and comprehensive public planning process.

The initial scope of the development planning will concentrate on adding new for-sale residential choices to downtown Independence, providing innovative housing options that do not currently exist in the city for young professionals, empty nesters and downsizers. An office and a complementary neighborhood retail component are also included in the initial conceptual planning for downtown.

Fairmount Properties has held two public workshops to share its initial concepts for a mixed-use development project for downtown Independence and also seek input from Independence residents. Fairmount Properties will continue to refine its concept plan for downtown Independence before officially starting the City's development review process. The initial concept plan for downtown Independence is highlighted above.

If you missed the previous public workshops, would like more information about the development review process or just want to keep apprised of the project's progress, the City has established a webpage with all information related to the potential downtown mixed-use development project. The project webpage can be reached from a link on the homepage of the City website or directly from the following URL www.independencetohio.org/Iwantto/LearnAboutDowntownRedevelopment.aspx. The content on this webpage will be updated as new material and information becomes available.

If you have any questions, please feel free to use the submit questions link provided on the project webpage, or contact Independence City Hall at 216.524.4131 or Fairmount Properties at 216.514.8700.

Older Drivers - Finding Out About Driving Problems

Declining Skills

Many adults suffer a decline in physical and thinking abilities as they age. These changes can affect driving skills. Unfortunately, many older drivers have difficulty recognizing and accepting these changes in their skills. Because the changes happen slowly, they may not recognize that a true loss of ability is occurring. Sometimes, they are aware but may not want to admit that they no longer drive safely and they can endanger themselves, their passengers, pedestrians, or other drivers. Older drivers with dementia or other cognitive impairments may lack the insight to identify a problem at all.

Driving Behaviors to Watch for

Since many older drivers may not realize the changes that are occurring, it is important that family members and friends pay extra attention and actively observe the older person's driving skills. The person observing should watch the older adult drive at different times of the day, in different types of traffic, and in different road conditions and weather. If riding with the driver is not possible, the observer may wish to follow the driver in another vehicle. Over time, a picture will emerge of things the driver can do well and things the driver may not do as well.

The person observing should be paying attention to make sure that the driver:

- Stops at all stop signs and looks both ways to check for cross traffic.
- Stops at red lights.
- Appropriately yields the right-of-way.
- Responds properly to other vehicles, motorcyclists, bicyclists, pedestrians, and road hazards.
- Merges and changes lanes safely.
- Stays in the lane when driving straight and making turns (especially left turns).
- Is not having trouble moving the foot between the gas and the brake pedals, or confusing the two.
- In addition, the observer should note if the driver is:
 - Slowing or stopping inappropriately, such as at green lights or in intersections.
 - Driving too fast for road conditions.
 - Driving so slowly as to impede the safe flow of traffic.
 - Driving aggressively.
 - Getting lost routinely on routes that should be familiar for the driver.

Obviously, some of these driving behaviors pose an immediate concern. Drivers must stop at red lights and stop signs, and yield to other cars as the traffic laws require. Failure to do these things puts the driver and others at extreme risk and requires immediate action to stop the driver.

Other Signs of Driving Problems

If it's not possible to observe the older person when they drive, there are other signs which may indicate that an older driver is having problems at the wheel such as:

- Vehicle crashes.

- New dents or dings in the car.
- Observations by neighbors or friends about unsafe driving.
- Two or more traffic tickets, warnings, collisions, or "near misses" within the last two years.
- Increases in car insurance premiums because of collisions or traffic violations.
- Poor vision or degeneration of current vision.
- Anxiety about driving at night.
- Complaints about the speed of other drivers or the sudden lane changes or actions of other drivers.
- Declines in cognitive abilities, such as loss of control, delayed reactions due to confusion or poor reflexes.
- A recommendation from a doctor to modify driving habits or quit driving entirely.

Questions to Ask

Asking these questions can provide answers which may tell you about an older driver's current driving habits and abilities:

- Do you get lost often, even in familiar neighborhoods?
- Have you cut back on your driving because you may be unsure of your abilities?
- Do you have trouble maintaining control of the car?
- Have you recently had any accidents, even small ones?

Keep in mind that an older adult who is cognitively impaired may not have the memory or insight to provide accurate answers. If you or other friends and family have noticed changes in memory or thinking ability, don't rely on answers to questions like those above.

Other Reasons for Driving Problems

Even when older people are not in the car, their actions, statements, or even the way they look may cause you concern or may indicate a problem that could threaten their safety and the safety of others when they are driving. Some of these things may be triggered by major events happening in the person's life, such as the loss of a spouse, moving to a new home, or a change in medications. No single sign can be taken as a warning that the person is at risk or is an unsafe driver. But if family or friends frequently observe the following behavior or signs, this can indicate a person is at risk if he or she continues to drive:

- Forgetfulness.
- Unusual or excessive agitation.
- Confusion and disorientation.
- Loss of coordination and trouble with stiffness in joints.
- Dizziness when changing positions.
- Trouble walking or tripping and falling.
- Shortness of breath and general fatigue.
- Difficulty following verbal instructions and/or not responding appropriately to those instructions.

Medical Conditions and Driving Problems

Also, certain diseases that are more common with age such as arthritis, diabetes, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, and visual problems can lead to behaviors which can affect a person's ability to drive. It can be helpful to speak to a doctor before taking action, in order to know what the best plan of action is for a loved one.

Source: NIH Senior Health

Identity Theft

Identity theft is a quickly growing area of concern, but there are steps you can take to protect yourself from this crime. If you are victimized by ID theft, please contact the Independence Police Department right away. Here are some tips from the Federal Trade Commission that can safeguard your personal information:

Lock your financial documents and records in a safe place at home, and lock your wallet or purse in a safe place at work. Keep your information secure from roommates or workers who come into your home.

Limit what you carry. When you go out, take only the identification, credit, and debit cards you need. Leave your Social Security card at home. Make a copy of your Medicare card and black out all but the last four digits on the copy. Carry the copy with you — unless you are going to use your card at the doctor's office.

Before you share information at your workplace, a business, your child's school, or a doctor's office, ask why they need it, how they will safeguard it, and the consequences of not sharing.

Shred receipts, credit offers, credit applications, insurance forms, physician statements, checks, bank statements, expired charge cards, and similar documents when you don't need them any longer.

Destroy the labels on prescription bottles before you throw them out. Don't share your health plan information with anyone who offers free health services or products.

Take outgoing mail to post office collection boxes or the post office. Promptly remove mail that arrives in your mailbox. If you won't be home for several days, request a vacation hold on your mail.

When you order new checks, don't have them mailed to your home, unless you have a secure mailbox with a lock.

Consider opting out of prescreened offers of credit and insurance by mail. You can opt out for 5 years or permanently. To opt out, call 1-888-567-8688 or go to optoutprescreen.com. The 3 nationwide credit reporting companies operate the phone number and website. Prescreened offers can provide many benefits. If you opt out, you may miss out on some offers of credit.

Keeping Your Personal Information Secure Online

Know who you share your information with. Store and dispose of your personal information securely.

Be Alert to Impersonators

Make sure you know who is getting your personal or financial information. Don't give out personal information on the phone, through the mail or over the Internet unless you've initiated the contact or know who you're dealing with. If a company that claims to have an account with you sends email asking for personal information, don't click on links in the email. Instead, type the company name into your web browser, go to their site, and contact them through customer service. Or, call the customer service number listed on your account statement. Ask whether the company really sent a request.

Safely Dispose of Personal Information

Before you dispose of a computer, get rid of all the personal information it stores. Use a wipe utility program to overwrite the entire hard drive.

Before you dispose of a mobile device, check your owner's manual, the service provider's website, or the device manufacturer's website for information on how to delete information permanently, and how to save or transfer information to a new device. Remove the memory or subscriber identity module (SIM) card from a mobile device. Remove the phone book, lists of calls made and received, voicemails, messages sent and received, organizer folders, web search history, and photos.

Encrypt Your Data

Keep your browser secure. To guard your online transactions, use encryption software that scrambles information you send over the internet. A "lock" icon on the status bar of your internet browser means your information will be safe when it's transmitted. Look for the lock before you send personal or financial information online.

Keep Passwords Private

Use strong passwords with your laptop, credit, bank, and other accounts. Be creative: think of a special phrase and use the first letter of each word as your password. Substitute numbers for some words or letters. For example, "I want to see the Pacific Ocean" could become 1W2CtPo.

Don't Overshare on Social Networking Sites

If you post too much information about yourself, an identity thief can find information about your life, use it to answer 'challenge' questions on your accounts, and get access to your money and personal information. Consider limiting access to your networking page to a small group of people. Never post your full name, Social Security number, address, phone number, or account numbers in publicly accessible sites.

Securing Your Social Security Number

Keep a close hold on your Social Security number and ask questions before deciding to share it. Ask if you can use a different kind of identification. If someone asks you to share your SSN or your child's, ask:

- why they need it
- how it will be used
- how they will protect it
- what happens if you don't share the number

The decision to share is yours. A business may not provide you with a service or benefit if you don't provide your number. Sometimes you will have to share your number. Your employer and financial institutions need your SSN for wage and tax reporting purposes. A business may ask for your SSN so they can check your credit when you apply for a loan, rent an apartment, or sign up for utility service.

Source: www.ftc.gov

Spring Wildlife Tips

by Judy Burrier, Animal Control Officer

Spring is a great time to think ahead on what you can do to prevent animals from making a home with your home! Animals like skunks may burrow underneath, tearing up your lawn and landscaping in the process. Simple fencing can save you time and



costly repairs in the summer to come! If you have a deck or a shed, it's time to think about putting a fence around it to keep animals from going underneath. If you would like information on when and how to do this, please contact your animal control officer at 216-524-3940.

March-Severe Weather Awareness week

Tornado Facts, Safety Tips & Insurance Information

Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week: March 20-26, 2016

Statewide Tornado Drill: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 9:50 a.m.

Tornado Facts

As the severe weather season approaches, take some time during Severe Weather Safety Awareness Week to make a safety plan for your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. Planning ahead will lower the chance of injury or death in the event severe weather strikes.

Tornadoes develop from severe thunderstorms. They are usually preceded by very heavy rain and/or large hail. A thunderstorm accompanied by hail indicates that the storm has large amounts of energy and may be severe. In general, the larger the hailstones, the more potential there is for damaging winds and/or tornadoes.

The most violent tornadoes are capable of tremendous destruction with wind speeds of 250 mph or more. Damage paths have exceeded the width of one mile and 50 miles long. Tornadoes generally move from southwest to northeast, but have also been recorded traveling in any direction. The forward speed of a tornado varies from 30 mph to 70 mph.

Peak tornado season in Ohio is generally April through July, but tornadoes can and have occurred at any time, during any season. On Christmas Eve last year, the National Weather Service stated that a "brief and weak" EF0 tornado touched down in Fairfield County. The 70 mph twister flipped a pickup truck and damaged multiple vehicles.

Tornado Safety Tips

Whether practicing in a tornado drill or sheltering during a warning, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness encourages Ohioans to **DUCK!**

D - Go **DOWN** to the lowest level

U - Get **UNDER** something

C - **COVER** your head

K - **KEEP** in shelter until the storm has passed

- Take responsibility for your safety and be prepared before a watch or warning is issued. Meet with household members to develop a disaster plan to respond to tornado watches and warnings. Conduct regular tornado drills. When a tornado watch is issued, review your plan – don't wait for the watch to become a warning. Learn how to turn off the water, gas and electricity at the main switches.
- Despite Doppler radar, tornadoes can sometimes occur without any warning, allowing very little time to act. It is important to know the basics of tornado safety. Know the difference between tornado watches and tornado warnings.
- Tune in to one of the following for weather information: NOAA Weather Radio, local/cable television (Ohio News Network or the Weather Channel), or local radio station.
- If you are a person with special needs, register your name and

address with your local emergency management agency, police and fire departments before any natural or man-made disaster.

- NOAA Weather Radio has available an alerting tool for people who are deaf or have hearing impairments. Some weather radio receivers can be connected to an existing home security system, much the same as a doorbell, smoke detector or other sensor. For additional information, visit: http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/info/special_needs.html.
- The safest place to be during a tornado is a basement. If the building has no basement or cellar, go to a small room (a bathroom or closet) on the lowest level of the structure, away from windows and as close to the center of the building as possible.
- Be aware of emergency shelter plans in stores, offices and schools. If no specific shelter has been identified, move to the building's lowest level. Try to avoid areas with large glass windows, large rooms and wide-span roofs such as auditoriums, cafeterias, large hallways or shopping malls.
- If you're outside or in a mobile home, find shelter immediately by going to the lowest level of a nearby sturdy building. Sturdy buildings are the safest structures to be in when tornadoes threaten. Winds from tornadoes can blow large objects, including cars and mobile homes, hundreds of feet away.
- If you cannot quickly get to a shelter, get into your vehicle, buckle your seatbelt and try to drive to the nearest sturdy shelter.
- If you experience flying debris while driving, pull over and park. Choose to either stay in your vehicle, stay buckled up, duck down below the windows and cover your head with your hands, or find a depression or ditch, exit your vehicle and use your arms and hands to protect your head. Never seek shelter under highway overpasses and bridges.

Source: www.weathersafety.ohio.gov

CVCC STUDENT JOB FAIR – THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016

3:30-5:30 PM, CVCC COMMONS

Local businesses that have job openings for summer or part-time positions or volunteer opportunities attend the Annual Student Job Fair at Cuyahoga Valley Career Center. Each business has a table and high school students will be able to talk to representatives from companies they are interested in. Tables are color-coded so students know the age group businesses hire. Most companies bring applications for students to complete that evening. Applications are also available online so students can complete them in advance.

Employers ask students about their skills, interests, and availability to work. Students should ask employers about the company, the types of positions available, and (if interested) what steps should be taken to apply for the job. Some employers even hire students that evening! Remember to dress professionally and bring your resume to make a good impression.

If you are a parent/student with questions, please contact Nanci Coleman at 440-838-8851 or e-mail her at ncoleman@cvccworks.edu. If you are a business and would like to register, online registration is now available.



Are you ready to start a home improvement project? Taking a few steps in the beginning will help your project to be completed successfully. Begin by making a plan and contacting the Building Department to know the steps necessary for your project.

Next is choosing your contractor, which may be the most important decision you will make for your improvement project. The Building Department suggests that you get a few estimates before deciding on a contractor. Although the Building Department cannot 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 to help insure successful completion. Homeowners should be aware that trade contractors such as Electrical, Plumbing or HVAC are required to have a state issued license. The City of Independence does require all contractors to be registered with the City prior to doing any work.

A few questions to keep in mind when choosing the right contractor for your project:

- How long have they been in business?
- What is the time frame for starting the project?
- Are they registered with the City of Independence?
- How many projects like yours have they completed in the past year and will they provide 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. Most reputable contractors will obtain the permits required. Permits are your protection and help ensure that the work will meet the city building codes.

The above questions will help you to establish your contractor's qualifications, reputation and to help you find the right contractor for your project. By taking the time to choose the right person for the job, you are more likely to find a contractor that is professional and committed to the success of your project.

If you have any questions, please contact the Building Department at 216-524-1019 or visit us on the web at www.independenciohio.org.

YARD WASTE COLLECTION:

Yard waste collection will begin on Monday, April 4th on your regular scheduled rubbish day.

Yard waste consists of leaves, grass, shrub clippings, plant material, etc. Place yard waste into **OPEN** 35-gallon **BROWN PAPER BAGS** or **OPEN CARDBOARD BOX** (no larger than (2'x2'x2'), or standard 35-gallon **GARBAGE CANS** not weighing more than 50 lbs. All yard waste must be placed away from or on the opposite side of your trash and recycling carts.

Brown paper bags can be purchased at Marc's, Ace, Costco, Sam's Club, and other area retailers.

PLASTIC BAGS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

The Service Department does not pick up loose grass clippings or leaves from tree lawns. The clippings and leaves must be in paper bags or open containers.

The leaf truck does not operate in the spring; all leaves must be placed with other yard waste.

Branches *less than* 1 inch in diameter should be placed in open containers or placed with other yard waste.

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 into the Service Department for a chipper stop at 216-524-9191.

COMPOST DELIVERY:

Compost is the breakdown of organic matter (leaves, grass, branches, etc.). Compost is delivered **free of charge** to all Independence residents on a first-come, first-served basis.

The guidelines for compost delivery are as follows:

- Call the Service Department at 216-524-9191 to be placed on the compost list.
- Signing up is required every year; all requests are deleted at the end of each year.
- You must provide us with your name, address, and phone number.
- The Service Department will notify you of the delivery date by phone call; if no one answers, a message will be left on voice mail. You must return the phone call in order to receive a delivery.
- Resident *must sign a waiver* with location of drop-off noted on waiver. The City will not deliver compost unless they have this waiver or someone in the household signs the waiver when compost is delivered.
- Drop off location must be in the driveway or on a hard surface.
- Compost will NOT be delivered to backyards.
- Second loads will be delivered after all first requests have been met.
- Residents also have the option to pick up their own compost outside the Service Department.
- The Service Department DOES NOT load private vehicles so bring your own container and shovel.



Historically Speaking

By Wes Gaab

Don't ask me why, but I thought this might be a good time to write a story about St. Lawrence Cemetery located on Rockside Road. The cemetery is owned and maintained by St. Michael Church. If you are shopping around for a burial site you needn't apply at St. Michael, because all lots are currently occupied, or waiting to be occupied, and there is no turnover. The cemetery is only 1.03 acres, and is the final resting place for 648, a lot of them Gaabs.

Normally I write these articles from memory and what people tell me about the topic. Since St. Lawrence was a bit before my time (1851), I had to rely on what was originally written about it. As I have said many times, "I am not a researcher", but in this case I got most of my material from the following sources. So this doesn't read like a high school term paper with quotes, footnotes, and a bibliography. The list includes "The 125th Anniversary" book from St. Michael Church; "Independence Township Cemeteries" by author Mary Kay Wisnieski; "Netscape 1999"; records from St. Michael Church (thanks Pat Higgins); "The Story of Independence"; and my memory, which is the least reliable of the group.

In 1851, just three years after the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland was established, Bishop Amadeus Rappe (Rappe Hall) commissioned Reverend Nicholas Roupp (sounds like a comedy team) to purchase land in Independence township, which could be used to create a Catholic Mission in order to accommodate the growing population of Catholics. He bought one acre of land from the Hartmueller family. Fittingly, the first burial was that of Peter Hartmueller in May of 1851. In 1852 on the Feast of Corpus Christi, a small church was dedicated not to St. Michael, but to St. Lawrence. The "Independence Township Cemeteries" book said it was a small wooden church that burned down several years later and was replaced

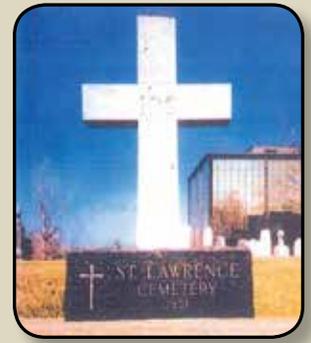
with a stone building.

Joseph Kuenzer, a Catholic, who owned and operated the largest stone quarry on Rockside Road, donated the stone from his quarry and the labor for a new church. It was called St. Lawrence Mission. I couldn't find the reason or the time when St. Lawrence became St. Michael. St. Lawrence was destined to remain a mission church without a permanent resident pastor for nearly 50 years. Franciscan missionaries served the church until 1887.

As the congregation grew, more room was needed. Land on Chestnut Road was purchased in 1872. A new building was begun, entirely financed and constructed by church members. In 1875 a new stone and brick structure, 30 x 75 feet was completed. It is my guess, I repeat, my guess, that it was at this time that St. Lawrence became St. Michael. The little stone St. Lawrence Church became the Cemetery Chapel until it was torn down in 1889.

When Father Gassert was Pastor the question arose, *are there any grave sites available, occupied or unoccupied, at St. Lawrence?* The answer was no. So, Father Gassert hired a company that specialized in locating cemetery burials. Now here is where it gets fuzzy. I recall reading in a Sunday Bulletin that this company had located over 30 lots that were not recorded as sold or occupied. Ruth and I had never given a thought to dying, let alone owning a grave site. So on Monday morning I'm down at St. Michael buying two of the unsold lots. I was shown the map where these plots were located. There was lot #1 and lot #2. Great, I'm finally going to be number 1 at something! Ruth is buried in lot #2, and #1 awaits me.

Ruth became really upset when they started to widen Rockside Road. She said, "Do you know how close they are coming to 'our place'?", as Ruth always referred to our grave sites. They did come close enough to build a brick wall so I wouldn't landslide out on to Rockside Road during a heavy rain. Check out "our place" the next time you're traveling west on Rockside. The gray marble marker on the southwest corner – Number 1!



Kiwanis Korner

Tickets are still available for our 61st annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 13th **at the CIVIC CENTER, 6363 Selig Blvd.** Same menu...same price...same good service from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Along with sausages and beverage you have a choice of blueberry, chocolate chip, or plain pancakes. Only \$7 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and younger. Purchase tickets from Kiwanis members or at the door.

Our 45th Easter Egg Hunt is set for Saturday, March 26th, at Liberty Playground. Mary Smigelski is again planning this happy event for children up to eight years old. No registration is required. Just arrive by 10 a.m. so youngsters may be sorted into age groups. Please supply your child with a basket for collecting eggs. Prizes for all participants! See the March-April *Community Spotlight* for more details.

At our January 25th meeting Gil Freilino introduced his friends Ed and Wendy Crann -- leaders of *W.A.G.S. 4 KIDS*. For 12 years the Cranns have been providing "Working Animals Giving Service for Kids." These specially-trained service dogs provide amazing help for children with various disabilities. Another benefit of this

award-winning program is training a select group of inmates at Grafton Correctional Institution to train the dogs, an apprenticeship program of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. Independence Kiwanis donated \$500 to this double-purpose program of hope and help. Ed and Wendy Crann are located in Berea. For more information, go to their website at www.wags4kids.org.

Judge Deborah Nicastro is the Kiwanis advisor for the Cuyahoga County Community College newly-formed Circle K International (CKI) at the main campus in Cleveland. Kiwanis sponsors student leadership programs at every grade level. We have K-Kids at Primary and St. Michael Schools; Builders Club at Middle School; and Key Club at Independence High School. Now we partner with Brecksville and Garfield Heights Kiwanis clubs to sponsor this new Tri-C Circle K. Judge Nicastro will encourage our graduating seniors planning on attending Tri-C to find new friends and purpose at Circle K.

We welcome new members Bruce Flower, Chris Janouska, and Barbara Juliani. For more Kiwanis information visit our website at Independencekiwanis.com or visit us on Facebook.



David Grendel
Vice Mayor



Carl F. Asseff, M.D
Councilperson



Kathleen Kapusta
Councilperson



Tom Narduzzi
Councilperson



Jim Trakas
Councilperson



Robert Wagner
Councilperson



Patricia Wisnieski, CRC
Councilperson

COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 9, 2016

Mayor Anthony Togliatti called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m. Present were Council Members Vice-Mayor David Grendel, Dr. Carl Asseff, Kathleen Kapusta, James Trakas, Bob Wagner and Patricia Wisnieski. Also present were Law Director Gregory O'Brien, Finance Director John Veres, City Engineer Don Ramm, Assistant Community Services Director Marilyn Senick, Recreation Director Tom Walchanowicz, Lieutenant Len Mazzola, Fire Chief Steve Rega, Building Official Michael Gero, Service Director Leon Karas and Technical Services Director Dave Snyderburn. Councilperson Tom Narduzzi was not in attendance. Also not in attendance were Community Services Director Natalie Buc and Police Chief Michael Kilbane.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of January 12, 2016 were approved.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was no audience participation.



MAYOR TOGLIATTI'S REPORT

Mayor Togliatti said tonight we have many pieces of legislation before us that are ultimately preparing the City for the spring like weather and the upcoming construction season. These include contract renewals for our road and sewer maintenance inspection services, street striping and engineering for some of our larger planned road repairs. This legislation allows the City to contract with numerous firms to perform many of the activities that help to maintain and improve our City's infrastructure. Because much of this work is very specialized, it is in the best interest of the City for us to contract this out to the appropriate industry specialists rather than attempting to do the work in-house. I do applaud the Engineering Department for managing and overseeing all the individual projects that will come out of these ten different pieces of legislation; and I also thank Council for prioritizing individual projects and prudently budgeting for them in the Five-Year Capital Plan.

Also on tonight's agenda is the refinancing of existing debt and the issuance of \$2.1 million dollars of notes for new City debt. This

\$2.1 million dollars of new City debt stands to pay for projects that were either completed or entered into last year. In 2015 the City completed the resurfacing of Oak Tree Boulevard South at a cost of approximately \$1.5 million dollars and the repair of a storm sewer on Oak Tree Boulevard North began last year at a cost of \$450,000, as well as the relocation of CEI utilities in the right-of-way on Rockside Road at a cost of \$340,000. I want to stress that although we have transitioned from old leadership to new and added some new Council Members, the City's business has not hiccupped. It does not start and stop during the election, and as such we move forward; and so to exemplify this point, today we are borrowing money to pay for work that was entered into last year. The positive that comes out of this is that based on our scheduled debt payments throughout the year, we will end the year with less debt than we began it.

I also want to make note that, due to our Council meeting tonight, our Council Members and Directors are not able to attend the Internet Safety Program this evening; but based on the amount of media attention and positive feedback that I have received, I am sure that it will be a success. We are videotaping it, and it will be available for Council to view if they are so interested. Thank you to Angie and everyone involved in 25 & Alive for coordinating this valuable program.

OFFICIALS' REPORTS:



FINANCE DIRECTOR VERES

Finance Director John Veres reported that since the last Council meeting in January we were able to close the books officially for 2015 in the Finance Department, and I'm very happy to report that our actual unencumbered cash balance for all funds compared to the estimated amount is \$2.6 million dollars higher than the estimated amount. Of that \$2.6 million dollar increase, \$1.5 million of that is in our unrestricted funds which total \$3,856,561.00. That number is typically what Moody's looks at and compares to our General Fund expenditures which were \$19,635,023.00. So, that percentage, the \$3.8 million compared to \$19.6 million is 19.64% of our General Fund expenditures from last year. So, it's a good way to start 2016.

On tonight's agenda we have Ordinance 2016-16 which would be hiring MAS Financial as the municipal financial advisor for the City. This is a relatively new position, if you will, that has been created as a result of some security law changes. A

lot of these services used to be performed by our bond underwriting company that we would hire; but as we went through this discussion in the recent Finance Committee meeting we found out that the bond underwriting company has their fiduciary responsibility to the investor, not to the City. That is probably the main reason why the securities laws wanted to create a protection for the City. A municipal advisor has a fiduciary responsibility to the City. So, in the past when we would go to the market, at the end of the day the bond underwriter would be looking out for the investor not the City's interest. I ask Council to support this ordinance.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ASSEFF - ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Councilperson Asseff reported that the Fairmount Properties is a work in progress. They will be meeting at a Special Council meeting on February 16, and hopefully we will have some new and additional information coming forward. So, we wait for that, and they have two additional meetings that they are planning. I believe its two more meetings to present to the citizens their findings and recommendations.

The second thing I have is the Economic Growth & Development Committee supports Ordinance 2016-15, and that's an ordinance to reaffirm the Cuyahoga County business retention and attraction protocol which means we play the game fairly, and hopefully everyone else around us does; but we are willing to stand up if they don't play the game fairly.

GRENDL - STREETS & SIDEWALKS COMMITTEE

Vice Mayor Grendel reported the Streets & Sidewalks Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 23 at the City Hall Council Conference room. It will be the second meeting of the year as the committee met on Tuesday, January 26 to listen to a presentation by the GPD Group's Michael Hobbs regarding Resolution 2016-22. Council will be voting on that legislation this evening as it relates to GPD Group's proposal to provide professional services to perform an Interchange Modification Study for inclusion with the grant application resubmission for the Rockside Road/I-77 Interchange Project in an amount not to exceed \$49,450.00. The Streets & Sidewalks Committee voted to recommend passage of this legislation.

The Planning Commission met briefly on Tuesday, February 2 and approved the application for a lot split and consolidating for a resident on Brecksville Road.

In addition to the four pieces of legislation on Second Reading on tonight's agenda, there are two new pieces of legislation being introduced by the Streets & Sidewalks Committee. Ordinance 2016-20 authorizes the retention of Donald G. Bohning & Associates, Inc. for professional surveying and engineering services in connection with the Plaza Drive and Heritage Way improvements, and Ordinance 2016-21 accepts the proposal of The Western Reserve Surveying Company for professional services in connection with the Serio Drive and Oakwood Drive improvements. Serio Drive is slated for construction in 2016, and the Oakwood Drive Improvement Project is slated for 2017 construction. I think plans are that we will be voting on the second ordinance, 2016-21, this evening. Ordinance 2016-20, which is in regards to Plaza Drive and Heritage Way; that will be referred to the committee meeting that will be held in two weeks.

This past weekend was very special to our family as my son, Matthew, was inducted into the I.H.S. Sports Hall of Fame. Congratulations are in order to Matt as well as the following outstanding lady athletes from the Class of 2008: Arian Martin, Megan Osysko and Hannah Stretar Wyman. Thank you to Mayor Togliatti and to Finance Director Veres for your attendance at Saturday's luncheon. That was a special class, and those four athletes were almost no-brainers as far as their admission to the Hall of Fame.

I would also like to thank everyone that made the Inaugural Ball a special event. For that one special evening, my wife and I felt like we were part of Camelot.

KAPUSTA - COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councilperson Kapusta said I wish to express my sympathy to the families of the following: George Grabowski, Ann Lazeration, Dolores Schwanek, Geraldine Spsychalski and Betty Tubero. I am very sorry for the loss of your loved ones.

We have Resolution 2016-16 on tonight's agenda, a resolution of commendation to former Councilperson Jim Crooks. I would like to add my personal appreciation for his decade of service to the City, which did include his Chairmanship of the Charter Review Committee in 2010. Thank you, Jim.

I will be supporting Resolution 2016-22, a resolution accepting the proposal of GPD Group for professional engineering services in connection with the Rockside Road/I-77 Interchange. Recognizing the economic strength of Rockside Road businesses to our community, it is imperative that we remain cognizant of the needs of our business partners and thoughtfully expend the City resources to meet these needs and sustain our partnership. This resolution represents just one small step in that direction.

Recently our residents received a mailing from NOPEC, our utility aggregation organization. This newsletter will reach residents beyond the February 24 deadline for action that was indicated in that letter. However, for future reference, I wanted to emphasize that mailings from NOPEC have valuable information regarding utility services and rates. Therefore, I am encouraging you to review them thoroughly upon receipt. If you have questions regarding them, you can call the number on the mailing or contact our Community Services Department. For those of you who are in attendance tonight, I would recommend that you to look at that mailing which you should have received probably over the weekend and perhaps even share that with family and friends who may be in NOPEC communities. It can be very valuable to you.

I want to encourage all residents to exercise their right to vote. While elections are all significant, in November of this year we have the opportunity to elect the next President of the United States. A first step in this process for many of us in Ohio will come on March 15 when we have our Primary Election. Our polls are at Elmwood Recreation and the Field House. Please check in advance where you are to vote. This is the important part of why I mention it now. For those wishing to vote by mail, remember you must complete an application to request a ballot. Applications are available at the library, the Civic Center and online to name a few. If you are not registered to vote, I encourage you to please consider doing so because it is a right and a privilege; and I assure you, each of your votes does matter.

Also having had the opportunity to attend the Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony this past weekend, I do join Vice Mayor Grendel in congratulating four very outstanding I.H.S. athletes.

NARDUZZI - PUBLIC LANDS & BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

Councilperson Narduzzi was absent, therefore, no report.

TRAKAS - UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Councilperson Trakas reported that the Utilities Committee did meet during the month of January. We have two pieces of legislation, one that was reviewed in committee and one that we would also like to recommend to you. First we have Ordinance 2016-08, authorizing the City to enter a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District. This is a \$25,500.00 expenditure. It is something that the Clean Water Act mandates communities do, although we don't have to contract with this specific agency; but it is our recommendation that not only do we do that, but we do it enthusiastically. Cuyahoga Soil and Water came, made a very dynamic presentation about what they do on our behalf. I think that Engineer Ramm has worked closely with them with respect to inspections. They do a very good job of working particularly on residential, but certainly on the commercial work that goes on. We were very impressed with the type of work they do. They provide services through the Independence Public Schools. We encourage them to provide more information to our school children and particularly to our residents in that perhaps we would work closer with them to get this information out through our website and through our newsletters concerning storm water.

For example, we have the season coming up where residents who choose to contract with companies that provide fertilization services during the course of the summer time, what type of things to ask for and look out for in fertilizer. There are a lot of chemicals in fertilizers that just aren't really particularly good for the streams and water and that are in these packages. I hope we can publish that here before people start entering into those types of contracts. We do recommend the approval of that enthusiastically.

The committee also has Resolution 2016-20, this is for the Storm Water Maintenance Program, a highly successful program in the City. We go over budget every year, but that's okay because that means we are working to help residents who encounter problems. It is a very worthwhile program, and I think it has certainly paid dividends for us.

As my colleague Councilperson Wisnieski had indicated, I personally, along with my colleagues and the Mayor, sponsored Ordinance 2016-13 which would allow for Independence to be part of Ohiocheckbook.com. Treasurer Josh Mandel felt very strongly that this type of financial information should be more accessible to the public. So, the goal of Ohiocheckbook.com, and what we would like to try to see accomplished here with the cooperation and support of Finance Director Veres is to see basically 25% of expenditures that the City of Independence undertakes with vendors for services; you get to see all this information about who we are utilizing, our services, who the taxpayers pay for these services and what amount and at what time. It's a tool that we use as a budgeting process internally as well as externally. It is designed to create maximum transparency of City funds or how they are expended, and most importantly to help residents to go onto this tool that is available and to find this information without having to call City Hall or ask for public records requests that might be easier to access in an on-line basis and much quicker to access in an on-line basis. We appreciate the fact that our Finance Department has been working on this already. We hope to answer any questions related to this legislation, and at the appropriate time to pass it.

Finally, Mayor, thank you and your staff for an excellent Inaugural Ball. I couldn't help but thinking the first Inaugural Ball we went to as a family was for Mayor Wisnieski, and it was a big band. I don't know what kind of band you had at that thing, but my mother liked the big band better; but I thought we did a very good job. It was highly classy and appropriate for a very high class community and to inaugurate a new era in Independence.

I would just lastly note that Mayor Kurtz always honored Valentine's Day. He didn't mention it until he met Lyn, and then every Valentine's Day talked about the importance of everybody being on board with Valentine's Day. In absentia I would just say Happy Valentine's Day to everybody on behalf of Mayor Kurtz who found love here as Mayor and made sure everybody else find love as well, particularly my colleague who got engaged on that day.

WAGNER - FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilperson Wagner reported that I would like to thank the Directors, Administration and the Mayor for posting the legislation we are viewing tonight two Fridays prior to tonight's meeting and also making it available to the residents at the same time; and the fact that the first eight items on tonight's agenda, are on Second Reading. I will add that this is the type of transparency that we like to see and hope to see. It benefits everybody collectively when we do that.

The Council, Mayor, Vice Mayor and Finance Director participated in our third review of the budget on February 2 and a fourth one today at 4:00 p.m. We did pass a temporary budget in January allowing for this detailed review to take place. I would like to thank Finance Director Veres for the excellent job he has done in preparing and presenting materials for us for those meetings. The budget will be presented and voted on at the March Council meeting.

Ordinance 2016-05 is the necessary annual renewal of the City's major software support maintenance agreement. This was programed in the annual budget. It's on a Second Reading, and I support the ordinance.

Resolution 2016-20 is presented as a Change Order for the sanitary storm sewer inspection repair contract with United Survey. A contract of this purpose is an annual necessity. The amount was programed in the budget. It's on a Second Reading, and I also support that ordinance.

Resolution 2016-22 is for professional engineering services in conjunction with the Rockside Road/I-77 Interchange. It is necessary and in the City's best interest in order for the City to apply for major ODOT and NOACA funding. I support that resolution.

The Finance Director talked about Ordinance 2016-16 which is a proposal for the MAS Financial Advisory Service. This also is most certainly to the City's advantage. Procedures have changed which allow us to have somebody working directly for us and looking out for our best interests; not only is the cost just a transfer from one funding source to another, but now we have a person with special expertise who will help us better negotiate the rollover rates for our bonds.

WISNIESKI - SAFETY/RULES & ORDINANCES COMMITTEE

Councilperson Wisnieski said reporting from the Safety Committee, we have one piece of legislation on tonight's agenda, Ordinance 2016-22 authorizing the purchase and delivery of three new 2016 Ford SUV Interceptors for the Police Department in an amount not

to exceed \$67,490.00. This purchase includes the trade-in of a 2010 Dodge Charger with 49,468 miles and a 2008 Dodge Charger with 35,677 miles. These purchases are being executed per our Five-Year Capital Plan for 2016.

As I mentioned last month, the Safety Committee has a meeting scheduled next Tuesday, February 16 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Caucus room. The items on the agenda will include Item Number 1, we will review our existing Codified Ordinance 618.01 created in 2008 related to dangerous or vicious dogs, control of dogs and other animals. Just to be clear, I am not looking to enact any breed specific legislation, only to review the legislation created in 2008 to make sure it is still appropriately protecting our residents.

Item Number 2 will be discussion of the Republican National Convention just in terms of how it affects our safety budget for the community.

Item Number 3 will review both the Police and Fire Department's budgets to make sure no immediate adjustments are needed for 2016 and then begin to plan for 2017.

Item Number 4 will be discussion of the City newsletter. Traditionally, this committee reviews the drafts of the newsletter; so we will discuss the goal of this type of review for that committee and whether it is even a necessity for the committee to continue to review. We will also review the overall budgeting aspects of our newsletter, again, the monthly newsletter and the Spotlight.

Item Number 5 will be a discussion of public participation at City meetings. It is my hope that with some type of a discussion that we come up with a game plan for City Council to better define public participation at meetings. We have had several requests from residents asking how do we participate in some City meetings. They were told that either they couldn't talk at the meetings or couldn't ask questions. So, my suggestion would be to maybe have us add some verbiage to every meeting agenda that clarifies when exactly residents can ask questions. In addition, we should somehow respond to resident questions, especially if they come up here at a regular Council meeting. We should either respond to them immediately or have some type of a follow up discussion with them. Those are the goals of that meeting.

There are two pieces of legislation I would like to comment on tonight's meeting. Ordinance 2016-13, and that's an ordinance authorizing the use of Ohiocheckbooks.com in participation with the Ohio Treasurer's office to advance open and transparent government. I would like to thank Councilperson Trakas for introducing that legislation. We had a nice presentation tonight. Again, the benefits of being involved with the Ohiocheckbooks.com is increased transparency, additional analytics that would be offered for us to internally look at the budget from year-to-year broken down by departments and also decreasing time spent on consuming record requests. If you would like to take a look at a little bit more information about that, go to Ohiocheckbook.com. There is a FAQ page and some nice information on that.

I would also like to comment on Ordinance 2016-16, an ordinance accepting the proposal of MAS Financial Advisory Service, LLC to serve as the City's independent registered municipal advisors. For those of you that don't know, I hold investment licenses with FINRA and the State of Ohio. I am also a certified retirement counselor. So, regulations in this industry are changing quite a bit, they are changing fast. It is a very complicated industry. I like the idea that they will act as fiduciary for the City so they will have to look out for the City's best interest and look out for us. I like the idea that we will have someone doing that for us.

I would also like to say thanks to the Independence Police Department, the FBI, Ohio Internet Crimes Against Children's Task Force, and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles Investigations for presenting The Dark Side of Social Media, an internet safety awareness program for parents. This program has become essential in light of the recent

internet based child abductions in the suburbs of the Cleveland area. The one-hour presentation being done tonight, parents are learning about the realities of abduction, how predators work to lure and groom children, appropriate sites and apps for children and much more including how to register your child with ID R Kids Program. For those of you who could not attend, it is my understanding that there's going to be maybe a link provided or a replay of the presentation on our cable channel. If you are able to attend, do so because a lot of good information will be provided.

Finally, Happy Valentine's Day to my husband Red. This is a special one for us because we got engaged on Valentine's Day. It is a milestone. This Valentine's Day we will be engaged 25 years ago. So, Happy Valentine's Day to my husband Red, and to everybody out there in the community.

Mayor Togliatti said and relative to the Internet Safety Program this evening, we are videotaping it, but it is an adult only program so it was advised that we do not televise it. We will have it available for Council to view; and if there is interest in the community, we will do a showing at the Willow Room in the Civic Center, but we will make sure that its adults only.

Councilperson Trakas said it's highly appropriate given the Willow Theatre here in Independence.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS



BUILDING OFFICIAL - GERO

Building Official Michael Gero reported that over the last month, the Building Department sent out 22 sets of construction drawings for plan review. Thirty-five commercial permits were issued. Plans were approved for a 6,530 square foot tenant build out at 4700 Rockside Road and tenant alterations at 6480 Rockside Woods Blvd. and 6100 West Creek Road. Occupancy permits were issued for alterations at 5505 Valley Belt Road and a 22,341 square foot tenant build out at 5990 West Creek Road.

The Department also issued 13 residential permits. Plans were reviewed and approved for a 300 square foot detached garage on Dania Drive and a 490 square foot addition to an existing house on Sunset Ave. An occupancy permit was issued for a 224 square foot sunroom addition on Chestnut Road. Five new homes continue to be under construction in the City. Plans for two new homes were recently submitted for plan review.



CITY ENGINEER - RAMM

City Engineer Ramm reported that last month the Engineering Department issued five right-of-way permits, all for fiber optic work in the Rockside Road area. Three plumbing permits were issued for residential properties and one for a commercial property on Rockside Place. One tree clearing and timbering permit was issued for future phases of the Chestnut Woods subdivision. Two site plans for new homes were submitted, reviewed and approved for Sublots 75 and 87 on Linden Lane in the Chestnut Woods, Section 3, Phase 3 Subdivision.

The January weather really cooperated, which allowed two active projects to be substantially completed. Final topsoil and lawn restoration is all the work that remains for the St. Maron's detention basin project. Roadway pavement was last week, and the road was fully opened to traffic yesterday on the Oak Tree Boulevard North Emergency Conduit Replacement and Improvements project. Final site cleanup and guardrail installation is all the work that remains on that project.

The contractor for CEI began underground power cable relocation on Rockside Road just west of I-77 in anticipation of our road and ramp widening project planned for late summer. We are presently working with the Law Department on the necessary property acquisition to facilitate this \$2 million dollar construction project.

We prepared bid documents and are currently advertising for our 2016 Crack Seal program. Bids are due February 17, and we are hopeful to put forth contract award legislation for the March Council meeting.

Lastly, we have coordinated with Donald G. Bohning & Associates and the Western Reserve Surveying Company for planned 2016 and 2017 capital road projects on Plaza Drive, Heritage Way, Serio Drive and Oakwood Drive. Ordinances 2016-20 and 21 on tonight's agenda would authorize surveying and engineering contracts with these two firms for these capital road projects.



COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR - BUC

Assistant Community Services Director Marilyn Senick said just a reminder, if you haven't picked up your free copy of the City of Independence History Book, please do at the Community Services Department.

Community Services is working with other cities on a collaborative grant for programs for seniors and those with disabilities.

The Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast will be held on Sunday, March 13. This year it will be held at the Civic Center, not at the middle school. Please help support this wonderful event.

On Thursday, March 17 the seniors will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day at the Civic Center with a lunch. Please register by Thursday, March 10.



FIRE CHIEF - REGA

Fire Chief Rega reported that Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 20 through March 26. On March 23 at 9:50 a.m. there will be a statewide tornado drill. We will be activating our emergency warning system as part of this drill. As a reminder, the siren is activated whenever a tornado warning is issued in

Cuyahoga County, and is intended to notify the individuals who are outside to seek shelter inside. More information on how the emergency warning system works will be in our March issue of the Independence Post.

I would like to thank Pete Nelson for his two years of service as Executive Director for Quad City CERT. Pete is stepping down at this time. This is a very important organizational position for our four community organization. The Director guides the activities and trainings of the team which focus on emergency planning and preparedness. Steve Peine will be stepping in to take his position. Steve has years of experience as a firefighter and CERT member, and he will do a good job in that position.

Quad City CERT will also be offering its FEMA training course April 6 through April 25. Participants receive 24 hours of hands-on training. The classes meet every Wednesday evening and are free of charge. More information on the course can be found at the Quadcycert.org website.

Finally, Ordinance 2016-14 on the agenda this evening is a Memorandum of Understanding between the communities of Independence, Brecksville, Cuyahoga Heights, Valley View and Newburgh Heights. The MOU is a requirement of a regional assistance firefighter grant application that we recently applied for. Independence is the host department for this grant. If awarded, the grant will provide radio equipment for all the participating fire departments.



POLICE CHIEF - KILBANE

Lieutenant Leonard Mazzola said I am filling in for Chief Kilbane tonight. The Chief is over at our high school participating in a program in conjunction with a couple of other agencies on The Dark Side of Social Media. He asked me to come here to Council tonight and stand in for him.

Ordinance 2016-22 is on the agenda tonight authorizing the purchase of three Ford Police Interceptor cruisers for the Police Department. This is part of our fleet analysis program to ensure that we are getting maximum use and performance from all of our police vehicles and only replacing them when necessary. I would like to recognize the efforts of our fleet manager, Lieutenant Jim Kroeger, for the hard work he puts in to ensure that our fleet is operating as efficiently and effectively as possible. Purchasing Director Gus Katsas also did a terrific job in obtaining the best possible pricing on these vehicles, negotiating a price that was actually less than the State purchasing plan pricing.

On February 9 there was a short power outage that affected a large portion of the city. I would like to remind everyone that in the case of a power outage please call First Energy at 888-544-4877. If you have an emergency call 911, but please do not call 911 or the Police/Fire non-emergency lines for information regarding the power outage. This allows our dispatchers to handle the emergency situations caused by these outages.

Mayor Togliatti said at our meeting today, we discussed having a Swiftreach call ready to be sent out to all residents if a power outage occurs or any other incident that would temporarily inconvenience our residents and may cause them to call 911 for any reason. We will have Swiftreach in the future to alert them and notify them of the proper information to relieve that stress on the dispatch center.



RECREATION DIRECTOR - WALCHANOWICZ

Recreation Director Tom Walchanowicz reported that the first and second grade basketball program concluded this past weekend, and we would like to thank all the high school basketball players who volunteered to assist their coaches in conducting this program. We appreciate all your hard work and efforts which go into making our program successful. I would also like to thank Jim Wotowicz and his helpers for conducting a special basketball program for just kindergarteners.

Over at the Field House, our schedule of activities and events are really ramping up. This weekend the Field House will be hosting one of its biggest events since its inception. The X-treme Gymnastics event which is fittingly called "Frozen in February" will attract over 400 gymnasts from all across Ohio and western Pennsylvania. This event begins on Friday evening and runs through late on Sunday. Please note the Field House track will be closed to walkers and runners during this event.

Just a reminder, our newly added lineman and quarterback camps begin this coming Sunday, and there still is time to register.

Finally, we would like to wish "good luck" to our Blue Devil swimmers who will be traveling to Akron this coming weekend for sectionals.



SERVICE DIRECTOR - KARAS

Service Director Leon Karas said well it's February 9, 2016 and winter has finally arrived. During this snow season, due to lack of snowfall, we have used only roughly 850 tons of salt. In a typical snow season we average nearly 7,000 tons of salt. Over the last two winters we have seen our average jump to nearly 9,000 tons of salt per

season. In addition to the savings on salt, the City has experienced reductions in overtime for plowing, and a reduction in the wear and tear on the vehicles. I know there are still a few weeks left of winter, so we are not out of the woods yet; however, the Service Department is more than ready to handle any snow event that may come our way.

As spring is around the corner, I would like to remind all the residents to call the Service Department and reserve your load of compost. Over the last two years, we have refined our process and procedures and developed a very good product for the residents of Independence. So good in fact, that residents have said our compost is just as good if not better than the compost bought in stores. We will again be limiting the compost delivery to one five yard load per household as we have in the past.



TECHNICAL SERVICES DIRECTOR - SNYDERBURN

Technical Services Director Snyderburn reported that the Technical Services Department met with Rob Martin who is a General Electric Rep, and we were able to come up with a solution for the can lights here at City Hall. The current fixtures need a warm up and cool down time making it frustrating at times. The new LED fixtures, with an instant on, along with much better light distribution using 75% less electricity; we will demo these fixtures in a couple of rooms for feedback from the employees. The work will take place in the next couple of weeks.

Also, in collaboration with the Service Department, Tech was able to do preventative maintenance on seven emergency generators through the City. We used three of the seven generators yesterday. We had a power outage for about a half an hour, and each one of them performed flawlessly. So, we are very happy with them. It was a big job. It's very important to have those emergency generators.

LEGISLATION:

SECOND READING

ORDINANCE 2016-05 An Ordinance authorizing the renewal of the City's current major Software Support maintenance agreements. *(For the period from February 15, 2016 through February 15, 2017 in a total amount not to exceed \$97,417.91.)* **Enacted 6 yes/0 no.**

ORDINANCE 2016-08 An Ordinance authorizing the City to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District for educational and technical assistance in carrying out Clean Water Act responsibilities related to NPDES Rules *(Not to exceed \$25,500.00.)* **Enacted 6 yes/0 no.**

ORDINANCE 2016-09 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Independent Contractor Agreement with Kyle Beeke to provide professional services for the Engineering Department for 2016 *(At the rate of \$50.00 per hour, and for a total contract amount not to exceed \$75,000.00.)* **Referred to Streets & Sidewalks Committee.**

RESOLUTION 2016-16 A Resolution commending and expressing appreciation to Jim Crooks for his distinguished service as a

Councilperson of the City of Independence. **Adopted 6 yes/0 no.**

RESOLUTION 2016-18 A Resolution authorizing Change Order No. 2 and final payment to the 2015 Asphalt Road Maintenance and Repairs Contract with Chagrin Valley Paving, Inc. (Not to exceed \$15,297.02 and for a total contract amount not to exceed \$255,532.12.) **Adopted 6 yes/0 no.**

RESOLUTION 2016-20 A Resolution authorizing Change Order No. 1 to the 2015 Sanitary and Storm Sewer Maintenance, Inspection and Repairs Contract with United Survey, Inc. *(Not to exceed \$150,000.00 and for a total contract amount not to exceed \$300,000.00.)* **Adopted 6 yes/0 no.**

RESOLUTION 2016-21 A Resolution authorizing Change Order No. 1 to the 2014-2015 Street Striping Program with Dura Mark, Inc. *(Not to exceed \$125,000.00 and for a total contract amount not to exceed \$249,000.00.)* **Adopted 6 yes/0 no.**

RESOLUTION 2016-22 A Resolution accepting the proposal of GPD Group for professional engineering services in connection with the Rockside Road/I-77 Interchange. *(Not to exceed \$49,450.00.)* **Adopted 6 yes/0 no.**

FIRST READING

ORDINANCE 2016-10 An Ordinance to provide for the Issuance of Notes of the City of Independence, Ohio in the principal amount of \$3,950,000 in anticipation of the Issuance of Bonds for various purposes and declaring an emergency. **Placed on First Reading without objection.**

ORDINANCE 2016-11 An Ordinance to provide for the Issuance of Notes of the City of Independence, Ohio in the principal amount of \$1,650,000 in anticipation of the Issuance of Bonds for road improvements and declaring an emergency. **Placed on First Reading without objection.**

ORDINANCE 2016-12 An Ordinance to provide for the Issuance of Notes of the City of Independence, Ohio in the principal amount of \$450,000 in anticipation of the Issuance of Bonds to pay costs of sewer improvements, together with the necessary appurtenances thereto, and declaring an emergency. **Placed on First Reading without objection.**

ORDINANCE 2016-13 An Ordinance authorizing the use of ohiocheckbook.com in partnership with the Ohio Treasurer to advance open and transparent government. **Placed on First Reading without objection.**

ORDINANCE 2016-14 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Brecksville, Village of Cuyahoga Heights, Village of Newburgh Heights and the Village of Valley View to provide portable radios, mobile radios, base stations, related equipment and training for use of same on a regional basis. **Adopted 6 yes/0 no.**

ORDINANCE 2016-15 An Ordinance reaffirming the Cuyahoga County Business Retention and Attraction Protocol. **Adopted 5 yes/1 no (T).**

ORDINANCE 2016-16 An Ordinance accepting the proposal of MAS Financial Advisory Services, LLC to serve as the City's independent registered municipal advisor. **Adopted 6 yes/0 no.**

ORDINANCE 2016-17 An Ordinance authorizing the expenditure of funds to the City's Planner for various professional city planning services. **Placed on First Reading without objection.**

ORDINANCE 2016-18 An Ordinance authorizing the retention of QCI-CE, Inc. to provide general construction engineering and inspection services to the Engineering Department (*On an as-needed and as-directed basis in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00.*) **Placed on First Reading without objection.**

ORDINANCE 2016-19 An Ordinance authorizing the retention of GPD Group to provide general construction engineering and inspection services to the Engineering Department. (*On an as-needed and as-directed basis, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00.*) **Placed on First Reading without objection.**

ORDINANCE 2016-20 An Ordinance authorizing the retention of Donald G. Bohning & Associates, Inc. for professional surveying and engineering services in connection with the Plaza Drive and Heritage Way improvements. (*In a total amount not to exceed \$50,000.00.*) **Referred to Streets and Sidewalks Committee.**

ORDINANCE 2016-21 An Ordinance accepting the proposal of the Western Reserve Surveying Co. for professional services in connection with the Serio Drive and Oakwood Drive improvements. (*Including field surveying and base-mapping, in a total amount not to exceed \$32,000.00.*) **Adopted 6 yes/0 no.**

ORDINANCE 2016-22 An Ordinance authorizing the purchase and delivery of three new 2016 Ford SUV Interceptors for the Police Department. (*Not to exceed \$67,490.00, which amount includes the trade-in of a 2010 Dodge Charger and a 2008 Dodge Charger.*) **Adopted 6 yes/0 no.**

ORDINANCE 2016-23 An Ordinance directing the Mayor and Finance Director to enter into a Final Settlement Agreement and Release with Bruce Flower. (*Not to exceed \$20,000.00.*) **Adopted 5 yes/1 no (T).**

RESOLUTION 2016-23 A Resolution authorizing additional funding for road and right-of-way repairs necessitated by numerous water main breaks. (*Not to exceed \$50,000.00 and for a total amount not to exceed \$325,000.00.*) **Adopted 6 yes/0 no.**

There being no further business to discuss, the Regular Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m. on February 9, 2016.

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 21, 2016

1. 8501 East Pleasant Valley Road, CSA America Incorporated

- Requesting a variance to 1151.10(b)(3) of 8 sq. ft. of sign face to permit a directional sign to be 11 sq. ft. in single face sign area (3 sq. ft. permitted, 11 sq. ft. requested) and a variance of 2 ft. to permit a directional sign to be 5 ft. in height (3 ft. permitted, 5 ft. requested).

Approved

2. 6060 Rockside Place, SpringHill Suites – Requesting the following variances as indicated on the drawing provided:

Sign #1:

- (a) A variance to 1151.08(d)(1) of 100 sq. ft. to permit a wall sign to be 175 sq. ft. (75 sq. ft. permitted, 175 sq. ft. requested)
- (b) A variance to 1151.08(d)(1) of 2.5 sq. ft. in height to permit a wall sign to be 5.5 ft. in height (3 ft. permitted, 5.5 ft. in height requested) **Approved**

Sign #2:

- (c) A variance to 1151.08(d)(1) of 100 sq. ft. to permit a wall sign to be 175 sq. ft. (75 sq. ft. permitted, 175 sq. ft. requested)
- (d) A variance to 1151.08(d)(1) of 2.5 sq. ft. in height to permit a wall sign to be 5.5 ft. in height (3 ft. permitted, 5.5 ft. in height requested)
- (e) A variance to 1151.08(d)(1) to permit an additional 175 sq. ft., 5.5 ft. in height sign on the building (one sign permitted) **Approved**

Sign #3:

- (f) A variance to 1151.08(d)(1) of 29 sq. ft. to permit a wall sign to be 104 sq. ft. (75 sq. ft. permitted, 104 sq. ft. requested)
- (g) A variance to 1151.08(d)(1) of 3.5 sq. ft. in height to permit a wall sign to be 6.5 ft. in height (3 ft. permitted, 6.5 ft. in height requested)
- (h) A variance to 1151.08(d)(1) to permit an additional 104 sq. ft. and 6.5 ft. in height wall sign on the building (one sign permitted) **Approved**

Sign #4:

- (i) A variance to 1151.08(d)(2) to permit a pylon sign to be closer than the minimum of 10 ft. from the right-of-way and a variance to permit a pylon sign to be in the 35 foot triangle (not permitted) **Approved**

Sign #6 & 7:

- (j) A variance to 1151.08(d)(5) of 7.36 sq. ft. to permit two directional signs to be 10.36 sq. ft. (3 sq. ft. permitted, 10.36 sq. ft. requested)
- (k) A variance to 1151.08(d)(5) of .5 ft. in height to permit two directional signs to be 3.5 ft. in height (3 ft. permitted, 3.5 ft. in height requested)
- (l) A variance to permit the two directional signs to be closer than the minimum of 10 ft. from the right-of-way (not permitted) **Approved as Amended**

PLANNING COMMISSION RESULTS February 2, 2016

7468 Brecksville Road, Jerry & Leslie Narduzzi – Represented by Attorney Fred Ramos for a lot split and consolidation of .0040 from PPN 563-18-065 to be added to PPN 563-18-006. **Approved**



Daylight Savings Time: March 13

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



Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, March 13, 2016
9 AM to 2 PM

Civic Center, 6363 Selig Blvd.

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	Planning Commission Meeting following Caucus 5:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting 4 PM	2	3 Architectural Board of Review Meeting 1 PM	4	5
6	7 Mayor's Listening Night at 6 PM	8 Caucus 5:30 PM Regular Council Meeting 7 PM	9	10	11	12
Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast 9 AM -2 PM Daylight Savings Time Begins	14	Community Services Committee Meeting 5 PM Home Days Meeting Council Chambers 7 PM	16	St. Patrick's Day Architectural Board of Review 1 PM Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting following Caucus 5:30 PM	18	19
20 Spring Begins	21	22	23	24	25 Good Friday	26 10 AM Easter Egg Hunt Liberty Playground
27 Easter	28	29	30	31	1	2

Please confirm Caucus and Council Committee Meeting times by calling the "Council Meeting Line" at 216.328.1477 or www.independenceohio.org