TO: Council Members  
City Directors  
FROM: Mayor Anthony L. Togliatti  
DATE: April 19, 2019  
RE: Administrative Update  

EASTER ACTIVITIES:  

This past weekend the Civic Center was abuzz with Easter-activity beginning with the Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, April 13th from 8:30 am to 9:45 am. The sold-out crowd of parents and eager children enjoyed a delicious pancake breakfast complete with sausage and fresh fruit. After breakfast, everyone had the opportunity to have their photo taken with the Easter Bunny himself!
Diving for Eggs has also become a favorite Easter activity at the Recreation Department. This year there were two sessions scheduled on Sunday, April 14th at the indoor main pool and activity pool. Approximately 110 children enjoyed the afternoon’s activities of diving for a total of 380 weighted eggs and finding out what surprises were inside each egg… including my own two boys who had a great time!

Thank you to both our Community Services Department and our Recreation Department for creating and organizing these special events for our residents to enjoy!

KIWANIS EASTER EGG HUNT:

The 48th Annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, April 20th for Independence residents up to age 8. Please arrive at Liberty Playground at 10:00 am and remember to bring your basket. Children will be broken down into various age groups and are guaranteed a fun time!

Thank you to the Independence Kiwanis Chapter for providing this beloved event to our residents for so many years and to John and Janet Young for chairing this year’s event.

ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL THIRD GRADERS ENJOY GENIUS HOUR:

St. Michael School third graders in Mrs. Diane Patterson's class are enjoying their weekly Genius Hour. Each Friday, her class spends time challenging themselves to learn beyond the textbook. They have walked along the Great Wall of China through virtual reality glasses, created an
electronic burglar alarm and electromagnet, met design challenges with legos, used the engineering process to design, test, and improve a marble run, learned to write a computer program using Python to solve their math problems, and used coding to make class robots Dash and Dot tell jokes or welcome Principal Mrs. Margaret Campisi into their room. They have become artists, writers, problem solvers, reporters, electricians, engineers, programmers, and geniuses.

HAWKS, OWLS, OPOSSUMS AND SNAKES VISIT ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL:

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History Science-to-Go program stopped by the St. Michael School campus on April 11 for an all-school assembly. The museum representative, Josh, showed students animals such as a turtle, hawk, owl, opossum, and even a snake. Students had a great time asking about these animals and answering the questions asked of
them. “Hands-on and engaging learning is what makes St. Michael School shine,” said Principal Margaret Campisi, St. Michael School.

LOOKING FOR SEASONAL SUMMER PART-TIME:

Applications are currently being accepted for seasonal summer positions, including lifeguards, camp and summer playground counselors, parks maintenance, concessions and Service Department staff. Apply online any time through the City website at www.independenceohio.org.

COMMUNITY TREE RECOVERY PROGRAM:

Every year the City of Independence invites our community’s fourth grade students to come to City Hall for a variety of Government Day/Arbor Day activities. One of those activities involves discussing the importance of trees in our environment and then the students get to help plant a tree donated by the Independence Garden Club in honor of Arbor Day.

Keeping that in mind, along with all the natural disasters that have been happening around the country where countless numbers of trees have been destroyed each year as a result, I was inspired to involve our fourth graders and our community in an effort to help replenish the tree canopy across the country. It is my hope that this effort will reinforce the importance and benefit of trees in a community, but more importantly, it can raise the awareness that we can all play a part in restoring the beauty and hope to areas and communities where so much has been lost.

That said we have initiated a Community Tree Recovery Program donation drive that will run Monday, April 1 through Friday, May 3rd. Donations can be made in cash or by a check made out to the Arbor Day Foundation and can be dropped off at City Hall and/or the Civic Center. All donations will be presented to the Arbor Day Foundation to be distributed to replenish trees in areas where they are most needed.
A donation of $5.00 or more made in honor of someone special in your life will receive a Certificate recognizing that contribution. Donations made in someone’s honor can be the perfect gift for that “hard to buy for” person in your life or a great way to say Happy Mother’s Day or Father’s Day!

All donors will receive a “green” bracelet as our way of saying “Thank You” for helping to plant a tree.

Please consider joining this very important community initiative and our 4th grade students in our effort to bring hope in the wake of disaster!

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

- A Streets and Sidewalks Committee Meeting is scheduled for 4:30 pm in the Council Caucus Room at City Hall on Tuesday, April 23rd.

- “Indulge in a Celebration of Artistic Expression” is once again being planned this year for Thursday, May 2, 2019. The Art Show will be displayed in the lobby of the SpringHill Suites (6060 Rockside Place) from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm and will feature artistic works created by students of the Independence Local Schools.

- An Adult Education Open House is scheduled to take place at the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center on Thursday, May 2nd from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm.

This event gives people the opportunity to learn about classes, programs and certifications. Additionally, guests can meet instructors and visit classrooms/labs as well as receive an overview of funding and financial aid options. For more information visit:
The City will once again participate in the National Day of Prayer by hosting a luncheon at the Civic Center on Thursday May 2nd. Doors will open at 11:00 am and a short prayer service will begin at 11:30 am. Residents are free to attend; however, guests will be charged $5.00. To register, please call the Civic Center at 216.524.7373 by April 30th.

A complete list of prayer services scheduled throughout the day can be accessed on the City’s website, [http://www.independenceohio.org/Home.aspx](http://www.independenceohio.org/Home.aspx).

The Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce will be hosting their annual State of the Schools on Wednesday May 15th 2019 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Holiday Inn Rockside. The cost is $25 for Chamber Members and $30 for Non-Members.

### DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Following are some highlights of recent activity, updates, events and/or statistics from various departments:

**The Police Department Reported- (Week ending April 12)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Misdemeanor Arrests</th>
<th>Felony Arrests</th>
<th>Traffic Citations</th>
<th>OVI Arrests</th>
<th>Accident Reports</th>
<th>Calls for Service</th>
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<td>0</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>0</td>
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**The Fire Department Reported: (Week ending April 12)**

- EMS Incidents: Week 27, YTD 425
- Fire Incidents: Week 18, YTD 218
- Mutual Aid:
  - Engine Responses: Week 0, YTD 2
  - Squad Responses: Week 0, YTD 9

**The Recreation Department Reported- (Week ending April 12)**

- Saturday April 6:
  - The Kiwanis Garage Sale took place on this day at the Fieldhouse from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. A total of 84 tables were sold which resulted in raising $955 that went to the Dorothy Ornas Scholarship Fund.
Sunday, April 7:
  o Staff began the process of draining the mail outdoor pool in preparation for power washing and cleaning the pool.

Monday, April 8:
  o Recreation staff cleaned and power washed the main outdoor pool.
  o Two (2) fields were prepped for High School games.
  o All tables that were used for the Kiwanis Garage Sale were transported back to the Elmwood Recreation Building.
  o The Board of Health made a surprise visit to do pool inspections. All pools passed and no problems were discovered.
Tuesday, April 9:
  - A banner was hung in the Civic Center Atrium for all to enjoy which was painted by the Primary School’s 4th grade class.
  - The sanding and paint staining of the new pond gazebo took place today.

Wednesday, April 10:
  - The Fieldhouse was set-up for the Solon Cage Classic Basketball Tournament which ran Wednesday to Sunday.

Thursday, April 11:
  - All Recreation Department’s equipment which was stored in the Kiwanis Pavilion over the winter season was cleaned and moved out of the Pavilion in preparation for the upcoming summer season.

Friday, April 12:
  - Table and Chair rentals for the weekend: 17 Tables 68 Chairs going to 6 resident homes.
  - The Elmwood Pond wall was power washed and cleaned.

General:
  - Preventative Maintenance on the City grounds’ equipment was performed.
  - Work continued on the new pond gazebo including staining, roof sheeting, and tarpapering.

The IT Department Reported – (Week ending April 12)

- They addressed 16 helpdesk tickets this week.
- Received 57 calls for assistance including 1 after hours call.
- In addition to helpdesk, weekly project highlights included:
  - Thin client image updated.
  - Replaced two hard drives in storage servers.
  - Repaired two police MDT’s (in car computers).
  - Weekly status meeting with Building for new software.
  - Resolved issue with HP SAN (storage) redundancy.
  - Department took Kent State University Project Management Training.

*Have a beautiful Easter Weekend!*