



The Independence Post

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE

MAY 2015



May is Community Cleanup Month

Let's make every effort this month to do a clean sweep of our yards and beautify our community!

To help you in this effort, the City is offering the following assistance during this month of May:

- Five paper yard waste bags will be provided to every Independence household, along with a letter containing information on how to dispose of trash and yard waste.
- If you have old, unwanted items cluttering your yard, the Service Department is offering a special discount on dumpster rentals to those who call 216-524-9191 to reserve a dumpster during the month of May.
- The Service Department will have two dumpsters parked near the Service Garage area by the compost piles each Saturday in May for residents to dispose of large items.
- In addition to Friday, we will also have Special Pickups each Monday in May *except for Memorial Day*, but please call the Service Department at 216-524-9191 prior to Monday to provide your address and items for Special Pickup.
- After your yard is cleared of old leaves and yard waste, call the Service Department to request a delivery of free compost to enhance your flower beds.

When you are finished cleaning up your yard, you may want to consider entering your property, or nominate a neighbor's property, for the **Home Beautification Award**. Details and submission forms are available at the Community Services Department and the City's website at www.independeenceohio.org. Completed forms must be received by the Community Services Department no later than July 15, 2015.

With spring weather finally here, this is a great time to spruce up your yard and enter your property in the Home Beautification Award contest!

Let's all do our part to beautify our wonderful community!

Elmwood Pool Opens Sunday, May 24!



Memorial Day, May 25
Join us at the Monument on the Square at 9 a.m. for Memorial Day Services at 9:30 a.m., followed by a procession to Mapleshade Cemetery. Discount Drug Mart is raising funds for the IHS Band, offering hot dogs for a donation. Hope to see you there!



Ride for Kids

Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation
Sunday, June 14, 2015, at the Fieldhouse



Ride for Kids[®]
Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation[®]

Ride for Kids is one of the largest and longest-running motorcycle charity events in America. Their events raise awareness and funds for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. Their mission is to eliminate the challenges of childhood brain tumors.

This scenic escorted Ride for Kids will take place on Sunday, June 14, with registration from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the Independence Fieldhouse Soccer Fields, 6354 Selig Drive, and the ride beginning at 10 a.m., rain or shine.

There is no charge to ride, but a minimum of \$40 per motorcycle is suggested to participate. There will be incentives and awards, and drawings for a Honda motorcycle and other great prizes. All participants receive a free lunch. For more information, call Pam Dengler at 216-322-9082. You can also register online at www.rideforkids.org.

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NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE & BRUNCH

Thursday, May 7, 11 a.m.
at the Community-Civic Center

Reservations are required. RSVP by May 5 by calling the Community Services Department at 216-524-7373.

Additional prayer locations can be found in the Spotlight, April Post, the City's website and at National Day of Prayer.org.

Following the Prayer Service, the Independence Garden Club will plant a tree on the Community-Civic Center grounds.



YOUR CITY DIRECTORY

Web Site: www.independenceohio.org
E-mail: cityhall@independenceohio.org

Gregory P. Kurtz
Mayor
Kurtzg@independenceohio.org

John M. Veres
Finance Director
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

Darlynn Velotta
Interim 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

Leon Karas
Service Director

David Snyderburn
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
Phone: 216-524-3039

Carl Asseff
Chair, Economic Growth & Development
asseffc@independenceohio.org
Cell: 216-410-6911

Jim Crooks
Chair, Finance
crooksj@independenceohio.org
Phone: 440-838-0833

David Grendel
Chair, Public Lands & Buildings
grendeld@independenceohio.org
Phone: 216-642-0632

Kathleen Kapusta
Chair, Community Services
kapustak@independenceohio.org
Phone: 216-538-0616

Robert Wagner
Chair, Utilities & Sewers
wagnerb@independenceohio.org
Phone: 216-642-0920

Patricia Wisnieski
Chair, Safety/Rules & Ordinances
wisnieskip@independenceohio.org
Phone: 216-524-8104

Debi Beal
Clerk of Council
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.....216-524-9699	Human Resources.....216-524-4131
Animal Control.....216-524-3940	Indy FieldHouse.....216-524-0088
Building Department.....216-524-1019	Library.....216-447-0160
Chamber of Commerce.....216-573-2707	Maple Shade Cemetery.....216-524-9191
City Meetings.....216-328-1477	Mayor's Office.....216-524-4131
Clerk of Courts.....216-524-4131	Outdoor Pool.....216-524-3711
Community Services.....216-524-7373	Police Department.....216-524-1234
Council Clerk.....216-524-1008	Post Office.....216-524-9614
Economic Development.....216-524-4131	Recreation Department.....216-524-3262
Engineering Department.....216-524-1374	Service Department.....216-524-9191
Finance Department.....216-524-4131	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



The City of Independence



Gregory P. Kurtz, Mayor

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR

Dear Resident,

Spring is here... a time for renewal and rejuvenation. Just as spring renews the earth after winter, May is the perfect time to renew our yards and properties. Therefore, May is Community Cleanup Month in Independence.

In order to encourage everyone to tidy up and renew their properties, the City will assist residents in the following four ways:

1. Five free paper yard waste bags will be delivered to each household for disposing of leaves, grass clippings, sticks and twigs, etc., as plastic bags are no longer acceptable for disposal of yard waste. When filled, simply put them out on your rubbish day and they will be picked up.
2. To encourage yard and household clean-up efforts, the regular container rental fee will be slightly discounted. Simply call the Service Department during the month of May at 216-524-9191 to reserve a container during the remainder of 2015. Also the Service Department will have two dumpsters parked near the Service Garage area by the compost piles each Saturday in May for residents to dispose of large items.
3. *During the month of May only*, Special Pickups will be held on both *Fridays and Mondays, except Memorial Day*. Simply haul large and "special" items to the curb on any Monday (except Memorial Day) or Friday in May, then call the Service Department at 216-524-9191 and give your address and items

left for Special Pickup.

4. The Service Department was able to make a lot of compost for this year. As a result, households may have two deliveries this year, rather than the usual one. Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of the free delivery of compost, which will enhance flower beds and yards throughout the City.

In addition to the above, the Independence Building Department is conducting preliminary exterior inspections of homes and properties throughout the City. With the weather becoming more conducive to working on the exterior of houses, garages and in yards, if the Building Department notices any issues regarding homes or yards that need to be addressed, a representative will contact the property owner to discuss remedies to the problem(s).

The Building Department does not seek to be an aggressive, unyielding enforcer of the City's Exterior Property Maintenance Code, but it does strive to ensure that Independence remains an appealing, well maintained and desirable community. Issuing formal citations to residents is a last resort only, but will be utilized if kinder, gentler methods don't yield the desired results.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation and willingness to keep Independence a premier community in Northeast Ohio!

Sincerely,

Greg



INSIDE CITY HALL

Finance Coordinator/Systems Analyst

- Vern Blaze

A collaboration of 11 different public sector organizations, including the National League of Cities (NLC), the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), recently issued a report entitled *State and Local Fiscal Facts: 2015*.

Following are some statements and quotes directly from that report which you may find of interest:

- While challenges remain, state and local government officials have been taking steps to replenish rainy day funds and address long-term structural imbalances.
- Among factors that negatively influence city conditions are:
 - o A decrease in federal and state aid.
 - o An increase in infrastructure demands.
 - o An increase in the cost of services.
 - o An increase in the cost of employee compensation.
- Property tax revenue is anticipated to have positive growth for the first time in five years.
- Full recovery for cities is still on the horizon.
- Bankruptcies remain rare and are a last resort for eligible municipal governments.
 - o Since 2010, only eight of 37 filings have been by general purpose governments.

- Long-term issues such as outdated methods of taxation, rising health care costs and growing pension liabilities, are already being discussed by state and local government leaders, and changes in many areas are underway.
- Although some state and local government pension trusts are fully funded with enough assets for current pension obligations, there are legitimate concerns about the extent of underfunding in certain jurisdictions.
- Between 2009 and 2014, every state made changes to pension benefit levels, contribution rate structures, or both.
 - o Since 2009, 36 states have increased required employee contribution rates.
- Although pension obligations in some states are backed by explicit state constitutional protections or statutes, states generally are permitted to change retiree health benefits, including terminating them, as they do not carry the same legal protections.
- As of September 30, 2014, state and local retirement trusts held \$3.7 trillion in assets.

Most of the above issues have been dealt with here in Independence since 2009, and the overall financial condition and health of Independence has improved. This is due to the proactive measures which the people elected and appointed to manage public funds have taken on your behalf.



We celebrate Older Americans Month each May to recognize older Americans for their contributions to our community. In honor of the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Older Americans Act (OAA), we are focused on how older adults are taking charge of their health, getting engaged in their communities, and making a positive impact in the lives of others. The theme for Older Americans Month 2015 is "Get into the Act."

History of Older Americans Month

When Older Americans Month was established in 1965, only 17 million living Americans had reached their 65th birthday. About a

third of older Americans lived in poverty and there were few programs to meet their needs. Interest in older Americans and their concerns was growing. A meeting in April 1963 between President John F. Kennedy and members of the National Council of Senior Citizens led to designating May as "Senior Citizens Month," the prelude to "Older Americans Month."

Historically, Older Americans Month has been a time to acknowledge the contributions of past and current older persons to our country, in particular those who defended our country. Every President since Kennedy has issued a formal proclamation during or before the month of May asking that the entire nation pays tribute in some way to older persons in their communities. Older Americans Month is celebrated across the country through ceremonies, events, fairs, and other such activities.

Here in the City of Independence, we carry on the tradition of acknowledging and honoring our Seniors, especially during the month of May. We do so with a variety of activities and programs that are outlined in our "Spotlight" publication. Hope you can join us for some of these events.

May is Better Sleep Month

Six Health Risks of Poor Sleep and Six Ways to Avoid them

Many sleep disorders can disrupt your night and jeopardize your health. You are in bed tossing and turning. The minutes tick by and you can't seem to relax. Or maybe you fall asleep, only to awaken a few hours later. The next day, you are tired again.

According to the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which calls insufficient rest a public health epidemic, approximately 70 million Americans experience sleep problems. About a third of working adults, 41 million people in all, get less than six hours of sleep a night.



Unfortunately, getting a good night's sleep becomes trickier with age. "As we get older, our sleep gets a little bit lighter."

"You might get the same amount of sleep, but its intensity in stages 3 and 4, more commonly known as our periods of *deep sleep*, tends to decline, becoming less physically and mentally restorative. As our sleep patterns shift away from deeper states, we sleep lighter and are more likely to wake up in the middle of the night.

Common middle-age health issues can also contribute to the problem. "Disorders such as sleep apnea and leg movements increase with age, and are found in a majority of adults over age 70," says Donna Arand, Clinical Director of the Kettering Sleep Disorders Center in Dayton, Ohio. "Sleep may also be affected by medications or medical conditions, especially those associated with pain."

For women experiencing menopause, she adds, "hormonal

changes, including hot flashes, can disrupt sleep, while decreased estrogen and progesterone levels in post-menopausal women can cause insomnia."

Stress can have a detrimental effect on our sleep, too. Caregiving, divorce, unemployment, the death of a loved one and the financial pressures of preparing for retirement can all undermine our best nighttime intentions.

Most adults need about seven hours of sleep daily, but only 20 percent of us actually get it. Yet the more we learn about the links between sleep and health, the more we realize how crucial it is to improve our rest.

Six Health Risks of Poor Sleep

- **Cognitive Decline** - People who don't get enough sleep are at a greater risk of cognitive decline.
- **Weight Gain and Diabetes** - When you don't get enough sleep, you often make poor food choices and hormone levels change, potentially leading to Type 2 diabetes.
- **Mood Disorders** - We are all grumpier when we don't get enough sleep. Poor sleep puts people at greater risk for depression.
- **Heart Disease** - Sleeping too little raises your risk for heart attack, stroke, and congestive heart failure.
- **Car Accidents** - Insufficient sleep can slow your reaction time and impair your judgment behind the wheel.
- **More Pain** - If you suffer from arthritis, fibromyalgia or back pain, you already know that less sleep equals more pain.

The Path to Better Sleep

- Stay on a schedule.
- Have a bedtime routine.
- Exercise regularly.
- Limit alcohol and caffeine intake.
- Keep your bedroom cool, dark and quiet.
- Have a good supportive bed and pillow and consider room darkening shades for the windows.

Property Maintenance

Now that the warmer weather is approaching, it is time to see if your property has experienced any damage from the winter season. Your yard, the exterior of your house and the condition of any accessory buildings or sheds may need to have some maintenance done to them.



The City of Independence Codified Ordinances, Chapters 1365 and 1143, contain the Property Maintenance Code and the Storage of Recreation Vehicles Code the City enforces. These are a few of the items addressed:

- Landscaping
- Lawns mowed and maintained
- Shrubbery trimmed and not overgrown
- Removal of any trash or debris and repair any damaged fencing
- Houses and Accessory Buildings
- Remove peeling paint and repaint
- Repair damaged siding and any broken windows, tuck point any brick or stonework including chimneys
- Repair roof, gutters and downspouts
- Recreational Vehicle Storage
- Motor vehicles parked in the approved areas
- Stored in the rear yard of your property
- Vehicles are not routinely parked on front, side, or rear lawns of property

In order to maintain the quality appearance of the City, property maintenance inspections will be performed. Should the inspector find an area of your property that needs attention, you will be notified. Remember that maintaining your property is your responsibility as a homeowner.

The Building Department is available to homeowners for any questions or information that might be needed with regard to the maintenance of your home. We can also supply you with contractors who are currently registered with the City should you need to hire a contractor. Please feel free to contact the Building Department at 216-524-1019, email building@independenceohio.org or access the Building departments web page at www.independenceohio.org/Departments/Building.

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.

Listed below are the guidelines for compost delivery:

- Call the Service Department at 524-9191 to be placed on the compost list.
- Sign up is required every year; all requests are deleted at the end of each year.
- Your name, address, and phone number are required.
- Resident must sign a waiver with drop-off location noted for the City to deliver a load of compost, or have someone in their household sign a waiver at delivery.
- Location must be on the driveway or a hard surface.
- We will not deliver compost to backyards.
- The Service Department will notify you by phone call of the delivery date. If no one is home, a message will be left on your answering machine. You must return the phone call in order to receive a delivery.
- The limit is two loads for 2015.
- A compost pile for residents who want to pick up their own is available outside the Service Department.
- The Service Department DOES NOT load private vehicles, so bring your own container and shovel.

Yard Waste Collection

Yard waste collection is on your regular scheduled rubbish day. Yard waste consists of leaves, grass, shrub clippings, plant material, etc. Place yard waste in open 35-gallon brown paper bags or open cardboard boxes no larger than (2 feet by 2 feet by 2 feet, or standard 35-gallon garbage cans weighing not more than 50 lbs. Plastic bags will not be accepted.

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 Drug Mart, Marcs, Ace Hardware, Costco, Sam's Club, and other

area retailers.

The Leaf Vac is not out in the spring. Please bag all leaves for yard waste pickup.

Special Pickups

Special Pickups occur every Friday and must be scheduled prior to Friday by calling the Service Department at 216-524-9191. Please call by Thursday to schedule a special pickup for Friday. If you are calling in the evening, leave your address and description of the item for special pickup on the answering machine. Items must be curbside by 7:30 a.m. the day of pickup.

Special Pickup items include:

- Hot water tanks.
- Appliances (refrigerator doors must be removed).
- Items weighing more than 50 lbs.
- Fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).
- Paint and oil in closed containers.
- Computers and monitors.
- Tree logs over eight inches in diameter (cut into log-size pieces). Large amounts require a dumpster rental.
- Any items that do not fit into your rubbish cart which the City supplied.

Memorial Day Rubbish Pickup

The Service Department is closed for the Memorial Day on Monday, May 25. If your pickup day is Monday, your rubbish, recycling and yard waste will be picked up on Tuesday, May 26. All other pickup days remain the same.

Please do not overload your rubbish cans. Rubbish lids must be closed and garbage should not spill out over the rubbish can. Any items that do not fit into your rubbish cart must be called into the Service Department for a Special Pickup prior to Friday at 216-524-9191.

Additional rubbish carts can be purchased at the Service Department. The cost is \$64 for a large can and \$56 for a small can.

All rubbish must be placed at the curb prior to 8 a.m. on the day of your pickup. There is no specific time for rubbish pickup on your street.

Pedestrian and Bike Safety

With warm weather approaching, there will be an increase in the number of pedestrians and bicyclists out and about. Drivers should be watching for these as well as other vehicles on the roads. According to the Center for Disease Control, motor vehicle accidents kill more than 4,000 pedestrians and injure another 75,000 pedestrians every year.



Drivers can

- Look out for pedestrians, especially in hard-to-see conditions, such as at night or in bad weather.
- Slow down and be prepared to stop when turning or entering a crosswalk where pedestrians are likely to be.
- Stop at the crosswalk stop line to give drivers in other lanes an opportunity to see and also yield to pedestrians.
- Be cautious when backing up - pedestrians, especially young children, can move across your path.

Pedestrians can

- Be predictable. Follow the rules of the road, cross at crosswalks or intersections, and obey signs and signals.
- Walk facing traffic and as far from traffic as possible if there is no sidewalk.
- Pay attention to the traffic moving around you. This is not the time to be texting or talking on a cell phone.
- Make eye contact with drivers as they approach. Never assume a driver sees you.
- Wear bright clothing during the day and reflective materials (or use a flashlight) at night.
- Look left-right-left before crossing a street.

In Ohio, bicycle riders are required to follow the rules of the road the same as car drivers. One-way streets, stop signs, riding on the right side of the road, and yielding to pedestrians are some of the requirements for bicycle operators. Remember, safety is the responsibility of everyone on the road.

Here are some bicycle safety tips from The Ohio Department of Transportation:

Be a SAFE Bicyclist

1. Obey all traffic law - bicycles are vehicles; drive your bike accordingly.
2. Ride with traffic.
3. Wear a properly fitted helmet.
4. Keep your bike in working order and always check the tires and brakes before riding.
5. Use turn signals.
6. Ride respectfully - single file if necessary, allowing cars to pass when it is safe.
7. Be predictable - don't pass stopped or moving cars on the right.
8. Use head and taillights at night - it's the law. Wear something light and bright, such as a yellow or orange reflective vest.
9. Respect pedestrians, adults - do not ride on sidewalks.
10. Do not ride in the "door zone" to avoid getting hit by a parked car's opening door.

Do you know the Hidden Hazards in your Home?

If someone asked you to think of a place where you feel safe, chances are your home would be near the top of the list. But, your home can full of potentially dangerous situations.

In the Kitchen

- Pot handle sticking out from the stove - Pot handles can easily be bumped while cooking or pulled over by a small child. Always turn handles to the back or the side of the stove to avoid spills or serious burns.
- Person reaching over the stove - Reaching over the stove can cause a clothing fire. Only wear close-fitting clothing with short or rolled up sleeves when cooking. If your clothes catch fire, smother the fire by stopping immediately, dropping to the floor and rolling to smother the fire.
- Toaster under a cabinet or paper towel holder - Toasters produce a great deal of heat. Always move them forward on the counter to avoid combustibles, such as the cabinet or paper towels. Always unplug your toaster when not in use.
- Chemicals under sinks - Cleaning supplies may be a serious poison hazard for young children. Keep supplies on high shelves or locked in cabinets.
- Extinguisher not accessible - If you have a fire extinguisher in your kitchen, place it near the doorway where it will be accessible if an emergency occurs when you are in another room in your house. This eliminates the possibility of the fire being between you and your extinguisher.
- Items stored in oven: Food, skillets and dishes stored in ovens can spell disaster. Make it a habit to check the oven prior to using.

In the Living Room

- Smoking - Careless smoking is the number one cause of fatal fires. Stay alert while smoking--don't lie down or recline, and don't smoke if you have had alcohol or medications that might make you drowsy.
- Fireplace with no screen - Sparks and embers can easily ignite rugs, papers and other combustibles. Keep the screen closed when the fireplace is in use.
- Frayed cords - Worn or frayed electrical cords are a major cause of residential fires. Check your cords regularly for cracks, worn spots and loose plugs. Check you vacuum cord as well.
- Overloaded outlets - Do not overload outlets beyond their intended capacity.
- Electric space heaters - Heat of any sort placed too close to combustibles can cause fires. Remember, space heaters need space!



In the Bedroom

- Smoke alarms with no battery - It is recommended to have smoke alarms in all sleeping rooms and hallways. Check the battery at regular intervals (monthly). A working smoke alarm doubles your chances of surviving a fire in your home.
- Clothes irons left plugged in - Clothes irons can cause serious burns and are also hot enough to ignite combustibles. Unplug them when not in use.
- Candles - The number of residential fires caused by candles has increased significantly. Burn candles in holders designed for such purpose. Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Blocked windows - In case of fire, your window may be your only means of escape. Move furniture and other obstructions from in front of windows and make sure you can open them easily.
- Clutter - Clutter, such as piles of clothes or paper, can feed flames as well as hinder your escape if there is a fire. Keep escape routes clear and clutter to a minimum.
- Lamps with clothing on them - Light bulbs become very hot and can scorch or ignite combustibles. Maintain a safe distance from anything that can burn, such as furniture, curtains or clothing.

If you have any questions, please contact Lt. Don Reis at the Independence Fire Prevention Bureau, 216-524-5886.



Historically Speaking

By Wes Gaab

I recently read in the Cleveland Plain Dealer where an agricultural scientist from Ohio State University warned chicken farmers in Ohio to be on the lookout for avian (chicken) flu. Several nearby states have found it in their flocks. You might recall a few years ago when this virus swept through China killing a great many people. You also may have seen where chicken farmers were slaughtering billions of chickens to prevent the spread of the virus.

This got me thinking. What would have happened if this occurred fifty or 75 years ago? That's when chicken coups could be found in many of the backyards in Independence.

Daisy Avenue, where I lived, had twelve houses total, and six had chicken coups. I'm guessing that each family had anywhere between six and twenty chickens.

If you happened to be up and about at sunrise, you would be greeted by a chorus of roosters announcing the beginning of a new day. I also like the solo performance of a big ol' Plymouth Rock perched on the highest object in the chicken yard with his neck arched and crowing. Crowing isn't the correct word for describing the authoritative sound of "Let's get going world, and let's get those eggs coming, girls."

Some families had free-range chickens. That was OK if you lived way out in the country, but if you had close neighbors, it didn't make you too popular.

My grandfather Gaab had a very nice chicken coup that he built with about an 8' x 12' yard. One of the real joys of living close to your grandmother was all the delicious bakery items she turned out from her ol' cast iron coal burning stove. Another one was when she told me to go out and see if there were any eggs.

Chickens not only provided eggs, the universal food, but my grandfather somehow knew when a hen was not laying eggs any longer. It was then that she became a nice roast for a Sunday

dinner. I won't describe how my grandfather dispatched the old hen as I watched in fascination, but I understood the term, "Running around like a chicken with its head cut off."

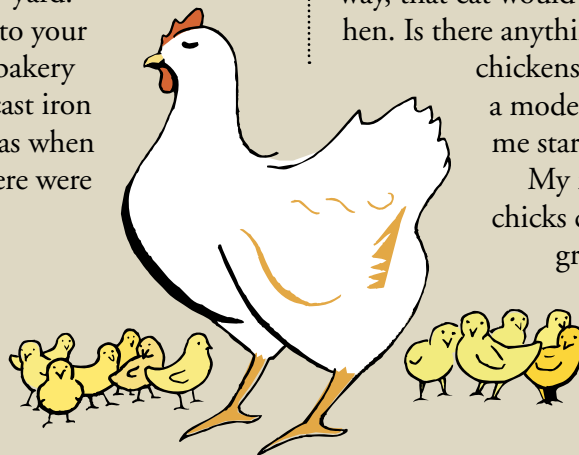
Grandma Kurtz, who lived on Rockside Road, also raised chickens. I say it was my grandmother who raised the chickens because my grandfather Kurtz died at the age of 54 from "stonecutter's disease" leaving Rosa with eight children. She had a large chicken coup that housed at least two dozen chickens. She needed that many chickens to help feed her family. If you're wondering, not all eight were living there because her older ones were getting married. I remember that some continued to live at home.

My chicken memories from grandma Kurtz were a little different from my Daisy Avenue grandparents because of distance. She still allowed me to gather eggs when I got big enough to reach the nesting boxes.

You placed a hen that was "clucking," indicating that she wanted to raise a family, and you had better not try taking her eggs. Once time I stuck my head in the brooder house to see what was going on, and that old hen charged out of there with wings extended and her bill clacking... and me yelling for my grandmother. I never tried that again!

Once the peeps were hatched, the mother hen would lead her brood out to see the world. One of the lessons she would teach them was not to mess with the cat. By the way, that cat would not get within 20 feet of that mother hen. Is there anything cuter than a baby chick? Those baby chickens had free range, unlike the chickens in a modern mega-chicken farm. Now, don't get me started on that.

My memories are of a dozen cute yellow chicks clustered around their mother exploring grandma Kurtz's backyard the way nature had intended it to be. Not jammed together in cages with their feet on wire and no mother to guide them.





Kiwanis Korner

Our 96th Chicken Barbecue is set for Sunday, May 17, at the Kiwanis Pavilion in Elmwood Park, serving from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. For \$12 you get a grilled chicken half, a heap of french fries, coleslaw, rolls, beverage, and dessert! Ticket price for children under 12 is \$5. Tickets can be purchased from Kiwanis members. Pre-sale ticket holders will be honored before at-the-door tickets are sold. Do come early.



Please don't throw away your old shoes. Instead, drop them into the big box at the BBQ on Sunday, May 17--any size, any style, any condition. This is a summer service project of the Kiwanis Ohio District benefiting Shoes for H.O.P.E. in collaboration with Mission in Motion International. There are thousands of people in many countries who have no shoes. Their bare feet are exposed to bacteria and parasites that lead to nasty diseases. Boxes for donated shoes will be at Kiwanis events through Home

Days. Or give a bagful to a Kiwanis neighbor.

Middle School Builders Club started a Penny War... their fund raiser for Lymphoma Leukemia Society. To date they raised over \$700.

Kiwanis member George Klepacz continues to gather clothing--men's, women's and children's--along with personal products, such as toothpaste, shampoos, soaps, and household items for the West Side Catholic Center.

Golfers, please mark your calendar for the Kiwanis Golf Outing on Friday, July 17. You may go to our website www.IndependenceKiwanis.com to download a reservation form right now! This is a charity event for the Independence Kiwanis Foundation.



When you take your children for a fun time at Liberty Playground we would like you to know that Independence Kiwanis provided \$15,300 back in 1997 for this happy place. This is one of many local projects Kiwanis has funded during our 63-year history.

CITY COUNCIL NEWS



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

APRIL 14, 2015

Mayor Kurtz called the meeting to order at 7:46 p.m. Present were Vice Mayor Togliatti and Council Members Dr. Asseff, Crooks, Kapusta, Bob Wagner and Wisnieski. Also present were Law Director O'Brien, Finance Director Veres, Service Director Karas, Technical Services Director Snyderburn, Fire Chief Rega, City Engineer Ramm, Adult Program Coordinator Stayanchi on behalf of Community Services Director Buc, Building Official Michael Gero and Recreation Director Walchanowicz. Councilperson Grendel, Community Services Director Buc and Police Chief Kilbane were not in attendance.

Deacon Jim Vincent of St. Michael's said the prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

PRESENTATIONS

Pam Dengler said all of us can agree that the City of Independence is a very special place to live in, and part of that reason is because we have a lot of citizens who take pride in their community to give their time and talents to make their community a better place to live. Then there are a handful of people who take the concept of volunteer work and dedication and notch it up several levels. Two such citizens are Jim and Patty Crooks whom we are recognizing tonight. Everything that Patty does, whether it is baking, painting, commandeering the Historical Society or loving on her children and her grandchildren, she does with passion and integrity and with quiet intensity that few can match.

Quite a few years ago I started baking for the Home Days Baking Contest. I am proud to say that I won a few ribbons, but I could never beat this woman Patty Crooks. Her name was always on this blue ribbon, and I'm asking who is this woman? Well, in about 2006 or 2007 I decided to pop into a

Historical Society meeting, and there was Patty. That was beginning of my getting to know the Crooks family.

When Dottie Ornas died, it was Patty who took up the responsibility of leading the Independence Historical Society as its President. She was the guiding force of navigating through reams of paperwork and documentation to get a grant from the State of Ohio to get a partial restoration going on the Bramley House. Patty was the one to deal with the insurance company to get payment for damage that occurred to the Bramley when the water pipes burst and basically ruined the interior of the house.

Then, right beside her is Jim. If Patty is the inspiration, Jim is the wingman for the Historical Society. With this vast knowledge and experience he was able to take all the dollars that we received for the Bramley restoration and stretched them as far as they could possibly go. His background in a wide variety of construction trades and his contact with local tradesmen helped the project come to fruition.

The bottom line is that if it was not for the monumental efforts of Patty and Jim, more than likely the City of Independence and all of its residents would not be able to enjoy the quaint and unique charm of the Bramley House. The Bramley House is only one of their efforts. There have been Spring Banquets, Ice Cream Socials, Christmas Open Houses at Historic Hall, and the list goes on and on.

One of the most remarkable things about Jim and Patty are their quiet assuming natures. They give their time and effort for a cause that is close to their hearts. They never want or expect to be in the limelight. They are what I would call quiet warriors of good, and one should never forget the most important legacy in that of their family. I know how much Jim and Patty love and care for their family, James, Rachel and Jessie. While some think that history is memorizing dates and places, some of us in the Historical Society know that history is also people and relationships that we forge during our life to be the things that should be most remembered.

So, while the Historical Society is charged with remembering things in the past, it is also a delight commemorating the history. I am very happy to award this plaque on behalf of the Independence Historical Society, the City of Independence, and all the residents here, to Jim and Patty for their work of past, present and future. We thank you for your efforts.

Mayor Kurtz said Pam was very eloquent, she has worked with Patty and Jim very closely over the years. I can tell you from my experience, Dorothy Ornas, God Bless her, actually, it was on May 10 she passed away, was very committed to the Bramley House. She was very committed to the Historical Society. You have to always ask yourself, who is going to fill those shoes? Well, I can't think of a better team in the City of Independence than Jim and Patty Crooks, because they represent the true core of what the City of Independence is all about, and we can all be proud of what they have accomplished at the Bramley House. There are those of us at the City who utilize the Bramley House for certain events; if you haven't been there, you need to go there, because it is really an experience, especially when you go downstairs and you see what somebody did a hundred and some years ago. It's amazing what those two have done. It's been perspiration, not just inspiration. They have that drive and that leadership. The two of them, what they have done for this City and the Bramley House, you have a great legacy. You have continued a great legacy with the Bram-

ley House, and we want to proclaim today as Patty and James Crooks, Sr. Day in the City of Independence. We want to thank you for all you do to make this good community a great community. You are an example for some young people in the room. You are an example for those who have labored hard and contributed in a positive way for this community, and you will be an inspiration for future generations. That is your legacy. Not only what you accomplished, but the core of what you stand for, and that's what you carry on for future generations. I know you have done it with your children, and I know your grandchildren.

We appreciate everything you have done for the City of Independence. Thanks for being such good friends, and God Bless both of you.



Patty and James Crooks, Sr., were honored by the Independence Historical Society and Mayor Kurtz at the April Council Meeting for their dedicated work in restoring The Bramley House. Pamela Dengler, on behalf of the Independence Historical Society, presented Patty and Jim with a beautiful black granite plaque etched in white with a drawing of The Bramley House, and Mayor Kurtz presented them with a proclamation. (Left to right Mayor Gregory Kurtz, Pamela Dengler, Patty Crooks and James Crooks, Sr.)

The audience applauded.

Patty Crooks said everybody knows that nothing gets done by one person, and I have a team of people who I can count on every time an event comes up. They are the best. They are always willing to help out and do something. We don't do it alone, that's all I have to say; and the City and the Service Department, they are always willing to help us.

Mayor Kurtz said thank you very much. Thank you to the Historical Society, because as Jim and Patty will tell you and Patty did articulate, it's all of you that really have contributed so much to the community over the years, and so much to making the Historical Society significant; and the Bramley House is just an extension of that.

Mayor Kurtz said, on behalf of the City, I want to thank all of you and all the residents, because it's really something we can all be proud of. It just transcends generations, and we are all blessed. And thank you, very much for taking the time to be here this evening.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of March 10, 2015 and the Minutes of the Council Workshop of March 12, 2015, were approved.



MAYOR KURTZ'S REPORT

Mayor Kurtz said I hope everyone had a Blessed Easter, and you are enjoying the much anticipated Spring!

There is no Spring slowdown to our work, as this evening's Legislative agenda features two ordinances and 17 resolutions. I won't comment on all of them but will on the following:

Resolution 2015-32 – Although this resolution can remain on Second Reading this evening as it does not have to be voted on yet, it is a very important part of our overall economic development efforts. The eventual passage of this resolution and the ensuing work it will authorize, will eventually result in opening up a large area of undeveloped land at the current northern terminus of Rockside Woods Boulevard North for development.

Resolution 2015-35 – The terms and conditions of the approval for Phase 4 of Section 3 of Chestnut Woods Subdivision were unanimously approved by all members of the City's Planning Commission. Approval of this resolution will allow for the next phase of this subdivision leading out to Hillside Road to be constructed.

Ordinance 2015-06 – The City has had a Zoning and Sign Code expert working with our Law Department to update the City's codes relating to signs, signboards and billboards. We have held one joint meeting with Council to review a first draft of some proposed updates. No action will be taken on this ordinance this evening as a Public Hearing on it still needs to be scheduled, hopefully on the night of the May Council meeting.

Resolution 2015-41 – The lowest and best bid a few years ago to repair an area adjacent to Hillside Road that potentially threatened the integrity of the pavement surface was in the \$800,000+ range. More recently, a total of \$1,000,000 was included in the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan to complete this project in 2017. Through the clever work of the City Engineer Don Ramm and his Engineering team, the City is now able to get this project completed for less than \$105,000.00. Great job Don and team!

Resolution 2015-43 – One condition of the approval for a Springhill Suites Hotel by Marriott to be built on Rockside Place was a streetscape and landscaping upgrade to Rockside Place. Completion of these upgrades will result in the encouragement of more pedestrian traffic between the local hotels and restaurants in that area, and a more appealing streetscape as well.

Resolution 2015-44 – In addition to the millions of dollars that are being re-invested this year on roadways such as East Pleasant Valley Road, Beverly Drive and Oaktree Boulevard South, we still need to complete many smaller roadway maintenance and repair projects on various City streets throughout the community and approval of this Resolution will facilitate those maintenance and repair projects.

Resolution 2015-50 – In continuing with our efforts to not only save money but to also be environmentally friendly and conscious, this resolution proposes to convert the lighting at the Field House to

LEDs. The payback period for this expenditure is attractive, and we are hoping for some additional grant reimbursements, making this already attractive project even more financially beneficial.

To all our beautiful mothers, whether here on earth or in heaven... God Bless, and have a wonderful Mother's Day!

OFFICIALS' REPORTS



FINANCE DIRECTOR - VERES

Finance Director Veres reported that on the agenda tonight we have Ordinance 2015-05, an amendment to our annual appropriations. The main reason for this amendment is just to increase the appropriations for the northeast quadrant TIF by \$130,000 in order to pay for streetscaping and landscaping improvements in the area. It is key to note that these improvements will be paid, and paid for with additional revenue generated from the Springhill Suites hotel that is going up in the near future. You can see they have already broken ground there. This is additional revenue that would have went to the County, and we are expecting \$1,500,000 over the next twenty years to come from TIF revenue generated from this hotel.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ASSEFF - ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Councilperson Asseff asked do we get a Service Department report tonight?

Councilperson Asseff reported that Economic Growth and Development has two resolutions tonight, 2015-43 and 2015-45. Resolution 2015-43 is the landscape agreement relative to the new Springhill Suites that will be going up in Independence, and that will be a real shot in the arm for a top-notch hotel complex. It should be ready for the Republican convention.

The second one is the creation of a job creation grant to Polymer Additives which will bring additional revenue into the City.

CROOKS - FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilperson Crooks reported that I will start my report by reminding my colleagues that we should not violate the integrity of Executive Session about potential or pending legal matters.

The Finance Committee met on Thursday, April 2, 2015, and discussed a number of issues; some of which I will introduce tonight, and then I will come back to in the future for more elaboration. With the help of Jim Gibbs, our IT Director, and Debi Beal, our Clerk of Council, the committee participated in a tutorial from a company that provides various electronic and web based solutions for increasing government transparency and accessibility. It also enhances citizen participation, improves media efficiency and manages legislation. A simple example is that our City government could store near endless amount of public meeting data which would be easily accessible at the click of a button, or track the progress of different versions of legislation over time, including public input. When one considers that the Council office was

estimated to go through some 37,000 pieces of paper in a given year for agendas, legislation, memos, etc., I think it is only appropriate that it explore potential new and more efficient ways to improve, enhance and take to a whole new level the way it communicates and performs its business. Naturally, this is only an introductory discussion. Some of us plan to explore the way this program is helping other nearby communities, and there are costs to evaluate which we will do. Thank you to the individuals who helped to prepare this presentation, and to be continued.

Apart from this, the committee also outlined its budget calendar for the year, and I thank the committee, the members of Council in attendance, the Finance Director, the Mayor and his team for proactively scheduling not only the days and times that the committee will meet throughout the year, but also the topics that we will discuss at those meetings. In fact, next Tuesday, April 21, the committee will come back together again and begin its discussion of examining the next five years of its Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan, which is due to be adopted at the end of September just in time for us to begin the budgeting process for next year. The budget calendar lays the entire planned topics out for the entire year and is now available on the City's website.

GREDEL - PUBLIC LANDS & BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

Councilperson Grendel was absent, therefore, no report.

KAPUSTA - COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councilperson Kapusta said I would like to express my sympathy to the following families that have recently lost loved ones, Bryll, Doglega, Faehnrich, Golias, Kalman, Mack, Putka, Riha, Rose, Sidaway, Tubero and Zidanic. I am very sorry for your loss.

I also want to take a moment also to alert our residents to the contract NOPEC has for the provision for natural gas with NextEra Energy. We recently were informed that some residents who enrolled in the most recent opt out offering may have been billed incorrectly on their current bill. If that was the case, I want to assure you that adjustments will be made by the gas company to the next bill. I also wanted to reiterate that the City of Independence has participated in NOPEC, which stands for the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council, since its inception in 2000. This has afforded our residents the opportunity to better control their utility costs related to gas and electricity. If residents have any questions or want to explore the variable rate for gas service, I would encourage them to call 1-855-667-3201.

I will be supporting Resolution 2015-45. It symbolizes our ongoing commitment to striving towards the growth of our business community. I applaud our Economic Development department and all the City staff who contribute to these efforts. The 21st century is certainly a new era in business operations, and the City of Independence remains on the cutting edge.

Finally, the Community Services Committee has not met since our first quarterly meeting. We do however look forward to resident participation in the First Annual Home Beautification Award in which our committee was involved in the development. Remember to pick up your applications, and all residents are welcome to participate.

TOGLIATTI - STREETS & SIDEWALKS COMMITTEE

Vice Mayor Togliatti reported that due to lack of applicants, this month's Planning Commission meeting was canceled. However, we do have one piece of legislation from the Commission on tonight's

agenda. Resolution 2015-35 authorizes the approval of the preliminary plan for the Chestnut Woods Subdivision's continued build out to Hillside Road. Both Council and the Planning Commission discussed this plan at length with much of the debate related to safety improvements on the southern side of Hillside Road. The Planning Commission determined the improvements along the southern edge of Hillside Road are necessary to insure vehicle safety, and I'm pleased that Council has decided the City will share the cost of these safety improvements, as the developer's construction activity is focused almost exclusively on the northern side of Hillside Road.

The Streets & Sidewalks Committee held a meeting to discuss City road construction and maintenance projects slated for this summer and next. All members of Council were informed of the scheduled maintenance costs and major projects planned. I thank Don Ramm and his team for the wonderful job they did presenting the information.

Now that the weather has broken, road work is underway throughout the City. The last of our annual road maintenance contracts is on our agenda tonight. Resolution 2015-44 accepts the bid of Catts Construction for concrete road maintenance throughout the City in an amount not to exceed \$387,266.43.

A meeting was held with the residents of Beverly Drive to discuss the final plans for the total reconstruction of their roadway. Residents expressed concerns, both to the plan and increase in the size of the cul-de-sac on Beverly Drive, and it was agreed to reduce the radius of the cul-de-sac from 50 feet to 40 feet. Construction will soon be underway on Beverly with the road slated for completion at the end of August. Resolution 2015-48 is on tonight's agenda approving \$45,000.00 to QCI-CE Incorporated for inspection services of the construction work on Beverly Drive.

Finally, Resolution 2015-41 accepts the proposal of Geostabilization International for the Hillside Road slope repair. As you may be aware, lower Hillside Road has a significant slip along the southern edge. The Engineering Department has been monitoring the slip for a number of years. Council bid the project two years ago, and at the time the lowest bid was approximately \$800,000. Don Ramm recently discovered a company from Colorado that uses a horizontal pinning technique to stabilize the hillside. They will install multiple rows of drilled super nails, up to 20 feet long, into the hillside and under the roadway. Each of these nails having their ends protruding through the soil. They will then cover the area with steel plates at the end of the nails and a 10 foot tall band of high-strength steel mesh. This work is guaranteed for a period of five years and has been proven to last many decades in other areas of the country.

My hat goes off to Don Ramm on discovering this stabilization technique and essentially saving the City \$700,000 on this repair.

Lastly, I would like to wish my mother, my wife and all mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

Mayor Kurtz said the only point of clarification is that the City is considering contributing to the Hillside Road intersection, correct?

Vice Mayor Togliatti said yes.

Mayor Kurtz said okay, thank you. That is the intersection for the proposed Chestnut Woods Section 3, Phase 4.

WAGNER - UTILITIES & SEWER COMMITTEE

Councilperson Wagner reported that the Utilities and Sewer Committee had a very informative meeting on March 24 and was attended by the Mayor and all members of Council. The primary subject was

the issue of the sewer, not such that you normally want to talk about it I suppose, but the sewer that takes care of Rockside Place and the buildings along Rockside and also Rockside Woods North to a degree. Unfortunately, that current sewer where the sewage leaves the City and goes under a thousand feet under the highway is failing. The issue was what repairs are there for that. In looking to replace that sewer line, taking it in a different direction, heading from the end of Embassy Suites basically and going all the way over to the AAA building and then 60 to 70 feet under Rockside with horizontal drilling down to the Cuyahoga Valley. An interesting project that will affect a number of businesses, and we had a good discussion on how that project will be funded and that it is continuing to be developed, but an important project for that whole area as the growth of businesses expands.

WISNIESKI - SAFETY/RULES & ORDINANCES COMMITTEE

Councilperson Wisnieski said I would like to ask for a moment of silence for the passing of our colleague, Barb Mack. Barb was not only our colleague, but she was a good friend of mine. I just want to mention that historically Barb was our first woman police officer. Kudos go out to her. I once saw a picture and she actually had a skirt on. She did her job in a skirt, which was quite interesting. It was unheard of at that time to be a woman police officer. Historically, that was quite an accomplishment. She also gave countless hours to the School Board, the Clerk of Courts, and then again as a City Council member. Barb was not shy. You definitely knew where Barb stood. I remember walking out of a meeting and still laughing a couple of days later as to Barb telling you just as it is. You knew exactly how she felt, and she didn't mince words. I learned a lot from her. I had a lot of respect for her, and she will be dearly missed.

The Safety Committee has three pieces of legislation on tonight's agenda. Resolution 2015-38 and 39 relate to the City's public warning systems. Resolution 2015-38 is authorizing the Mayor and Finance Director to execute such documents as are necessary for the purchase and delivery of eight FCH VHF siren controls and one FSP-ware Windows software package for the Technical Services Department from Federal Signals through the State Cooperative Purchasing Program in an amount not to exceed \$14,264.60. Resolution 2015-39 is authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Bearcom Wireless Worldwide for installation of the equipment and reconfiguration of the dispatch console in an amount not to exceed \$3,419.

Kudos go out to Jim Gibbs and the Technical Service Department for not being satisfied with the status quo. They really looked at it and knew that they could do better. They pursued this change. So, kudos go out to them.

The third piece of legislation is Resolution 2015-40 authorizing the Mayor and Finance Director to execute such documents that are necessary for the purchase and installation of the police vehicle equipment on four of the new Ford SUV interceptor units for the Police Department in an amount not to exceed \$31,359.69.

Finally, I also would like to send out kudos to our resident, Tony Appolzer. He lives in Dalebrook Estates and probably for the last 8 to 10 years. Without anybody asking him, it is not a paid thing he does, he just does it. He puts up our Christmas decorations. He gets out there and cleans up the landscaping. If you are familiar with Dalebrook, that's a long entrance way. Recently I saw him going up and down just picking up trash. So, again, nobody asks him to do that. I just want to send out shout out to him and tell him thank you.

Finally, Happy Mother's Day.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS



BUILDING OFFICIAL - GERO

Building Official Gero reported that over the last month, the Building Department issued 22 commercial permits. Nineteen sets of construction drawings were sent out for plan review. Plans were approved for two tenant expansions, 1,519 sq. ft. on Summit Park and 2,674 sq. ft. on Oak Tree Blvd. Occupancy permits were issued for alterations to two existing tenant spaces at 6100 Oak Tree Blvd.

The Department also issued 42 residential permits. Plans were approved for a 502 sq. ft. addition on Cliffview Drive. An occupancy permit was issued for alterations to a home on Oakhurst Circle. The number of new homes under construction is ten. Plans for two new homes have recently been submitted for review.



CITY ENGINEER - RAMM

City Engineer Ramm reported that last month the Engineering Department issued a total of six right-of-way permits for a variety of utility work. Those permits went to OneCommunity, Dominion and First Energy. Seven separate permits were issued for site construction work on the Marriott Springhill Suites hotel on Rockside Place.

Two site plans for new residential homes were submitted for review, one for Sublot 26 in the Lake Charles Subdivision, the other for Eastview Drive.

We have been coordinating repair work for three slope failures on lower Hillside Road. Our Creek, Utility, Infrastructure Maintenance contractor Geotech Services, Inc. has, to date, repaired two of the three locations. For the third and most significant failure location, Resolution 2015-41 on tonight's agenda authorizes an emergency signed contract with Geostabilization International utilizing drilled soil nail construction technology to make the repair. If approved tonight, the work will be scheduled to begin the first week of May and should take approximately one week to complete, weather permitting. The road will be closed to thru traffic during execution of this work.

We have prepared bid documents for the 2015 Concrete Road Maintenance & Repair Contract. Resolution 2015-44 authorizes a contract to the lowest and best bidder, Catts Construction, Inc.

Lastly, we hosted both a resident kickoff meeting as well as a pre-construction meeting for the contract for the Beverly Drive reconstruction project. This project is slated to begin this month and should be substantially complete in August. Resolution 2015-48 on tonight's agenda, authorizes an inspection services contract with QCI-CE Inc. for this construction project.



COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR - BUC

Adult Program Coordinator Stayanchi, on behalf of Community Services Director Buc, reported that yesterday was the first day to register for Summer Playground and Summer Camp programs. In one day we registered 105 children for Summer Playground for a total of \$15,225 and 122 children for Summer Camp for a total of \$80,000.

May is Older Americans Month, and the theme for this year is "Get into the Act." We plan to get our residents into the act by providing a variety of

activities for them at the Civic Center. Some of the new programs are a Victorian Tea for ladies only and a Country Breakfast for gentlemen only.

We will begin Older Americans Month by offering our Annual Health Fair on Friday, May 8, from 9 a.m. to noon in the Civic Center gym. All are welcome to stop in to get more information from the vendors and get your blood pressure checked while you are there.



FIRE CHIEF - REGA

Fire Chief Rega reported that within the next month our Fire Department will be heading out to our elementary schools in town. They will be utilizing their regional safety trailer to educate our first and fourth graders on fire safety. The trailer has a simulated kitchen and bedroom where children can be shown how to prevent accidents and what to do in the event of a fire. They will also be instructed to tell their parents about what they have learned. It is important that every family put together an escape plan for getting out of their home in the event of a fire. The plan should have two ways out and a meeting location outside of the home where our firefighters can see you. With the warmer weather just around the corner, now is a good time to put your plans together and practice them. It is also a great way to test your smoke detectors at the same time.



RECREATION DIRECTOR - WALCHANOWICZ

Recreation Director Walchanowicz reported that with Spring finally here our outside activities are now underway. Our soccer programs are going in full force and travel baseball has just begun practicing with games soon to follow. There are many high school baseball and softball games scheduled. If you have the opportunity, stop down at the park and watch some of the talented athletes we have here in Independence.

There are just a few more days left to register for our Little League baseball program. Teams will be formed in the next two weeks, and practicing will begin soon after. Again this year, we will be offering our "kick-Start" T-ball program for all 3 and 4 year olds. This program will be on Saturday mornings in the month of June.

The annual Swim for Diabetes will be held on Saturday, April 18, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the indoor pool. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause, please stop by the recreation desk where we will be taking donations during the month of April.

The Fieldhouse has been busy and is going to continue to be a very busy place. Last month's SneakerCon event attracted over 3,500 guests. The Solon Cage Classic Basketball Tournament, which begins tomorrow, will bring in over 200 teams from all across Ohio. The weekend of April 25 will be the King James Basketball Tournament, which is one of the largest in the country.

Finally, the Kiwanis garage sale which was held this past Saturday brought in over \$500. All this money will go to the Dorothy Ornas Scholarship Fund.



POLICE CHIEF - KILBANE

Police Chief Kilbane submitted the following report.

This week is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week as designated by Congress in 1991. Chief Rega and I would like to recognize our experienced, dedicated dispatch center staff for the outstanding service they provide to our citizens. They are the first point of contact for all police, fire and EMS calls in Independence and are a crucial part of our public safety team. Each dispatcher is also certified in Emergency

Medical Dispatching (EMD), allowing them to provide lifesaving advice to callers and obtain vital medical information for paramedics before they arrive at the scene of the emergency. Our dispatchers are on duty 24/7 and are prepared to deal with a wide array of emergency situations. We salute the efforts of our dispatch team: Head Dispatcher Mark Kwiatkowski Jr., Dispatchers Sarah Spieth, Traci Ricco, Ken Kaye, Brenda Wadle, Bonnie Campomizzi, Donna Trattar, Jessica Stepka and part-time Dispatchers Denise Balog, Cheryl Muller-Estergall and Kyle Zayac.

SERVICE DIRECTOR - KARAS

Service Director Karas reported that the Service Department has two resolutions on the agenda, 2015-37 and 2015-49. Resolution 2015-37 is for the purchase of one 2012 Holland backhoe loader. The current backhoe we have is nearly 20 years old and has seen better days. \$95,000 was budgeted for the backhoe, and the amount that we will be spending is \$64,081 after we trade in our current machine. That is a budget savings of \$31,000.

Resolution 2015-49 authorizes the City to participate under the Cuyahoga County's Solid Waste District Recycling Consortium. The City has been involved in the consortium since 2010. As you see, there are rebates of nearly \$50,000. I believe that as long as we continue to be involved in the consortium which controls several thousand tons of recycling materials, the City will benefit from the high volume rebates.

I would like to remind residents that the department has begun delivering compost; 475 yards have been delivered so far this year. Also this year we have a greater than normal supply of compost material so residents are not limited to the usual one 5-yard load, they can have two. Please call the Service Department to schedule delivery.



TECHNICAL SERVICES DIRECTOR - SNYDERBURN

Technical Service Director Dave Snyderburn reported that Tech Services has been busy with the outdoor pool boiler replacement and, along with opening the comfort stations, installing outdoor drinking fountains and reporting annual p.m.'s on the ice machines and equipment. We have been taking bids for brick work for several areas. These areas include the north side of Historic Hall, the steps and the ramp walls at Old Town Hall, various tree rings on Brecksville Road, the stainless steel marquee at the Old Town Hall, and touch ups on the Independence sign on Rockside, and so on.

The only other thing I want to tell everybody, is that I received a bunch of calls about the missing clock hands on the cupola up here at City Hall. I took the hands out and shipped them to the company that we originally purchased the clock from. They are going to refurbish them along with putting in a unit that will adjust the time automatically for the hour time change and any kind of loss of electricity.

Last, but not least, there's a resolution tonight for new lighting at the Fieldhouse. I would like to thank Marty Kurkul for doing a lot of work on the new LED technology. It's a great system, and I'm sure there's going to be a lot better lighting in the Fieldhouse.

LEGISLATION SECOND READING

RESOLUTION 2015-32 A Resolution of necessity to construct a sanitary sewer extension on Rockside Woods Boulevard North. (Directing the City Engineer to prepare an estimated assessment of the cost of the sanitary sewer extension on Rockside Woods Boulevard North.) Placed on Second Reading without objection.

RESOLUTION 2015-35 A Resolution authorizing the approval of a Revised Preliminary Plan for Perrico Property Systems, Inc., Chestnut Woods Section 3, Phase 4. Placed on Second Reading without objection.

FIRST READING

ORDINANCE 2015-05 Amended Annual Appropriation Ordinance. Enacted 6 yes/0 no.

ORDINANCE 2015-06 An Ordinance amending Chapter 1151 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Independence relating to signs, signboards and billboards. Placed on First Reading without objection and scheduled for Public Hearing at 6:45 p.m. on June 9, 2015.

RESOLUTION 2015-36 A Resolution authorizing funding for occasional weather emergencies and/or other catastrophic events 2015. (*Not to exceed \$50,000.*) Adopted 6 yes/0 no.

RESOLUTION 2015-37 A Resolution authorizing the purchase and delivery of a 2012 New Holland Model B110C Loader Backhoe for the Service Department through the State Cooperative Purchasing Program. (*Not to exceed \$64,068.12; includes a trade-in value of \$26,523 for 1996 Cat 446B Loader Backhoe.*) Adopted 6 yes/0 no.

RESOLUTION 2015-38 A Resolution authorizing the purchase and delivery of eight FCH VHF Siren Controls and one FSPWare Windows Software Package for the Technical Services Department through the State Cooperative Purchasing Program. (*Not to exceed \$14,264.60.*) Adopted 6 yes/0 no.

RESOLUTION 2015-39 A Resolution accepting the quote of BearCom Wireless Worldwide for professional services in connection with the installation of eight FCH VHF Siren Controls and the reconfiguration of the Dispatch Console for the Technical Services Department. (*Not to exceed \$3,419.*) Adopted 6 yes/0 no.

RESOLUTION 2015-40 A Resolution authorizing the purchase and installation of police vehicle equipment on four new Ford SUV Interceptor units for the Police Department through the State Cooperative Purchasing Program. (*Not to exceed \$31,359.69.*) Adopted 6 yes/0 no.

RESOLUTION 2015-41 A Resolution accepting the proposal of Geostabilization International for professional services in connection with the Hillside Road Slide Repair and declaring an emergency. (*To stabilize and repair the landslide opposite 9103 Hillside Road; not to exceed \$103,800.*) Adopted 6 yes/0 no.

RESOLUTION 2015-42 A Resolution authorizing the purchase of the Ahola iSolved Human Capital Management Software Program for use by City employees. (*Not to exceed \$12,350.52.*) Adopted 6 yes/0 no.

RESOLUTION 2015-43 A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a landscape agreement relative to Springhill Suites. Adopted 6 yes/0 no.

RESOLUTION 2015-44 A Resolution accepting the base bid of Catts Construction, Inc. for the City's 2015 Concrete Road Maintenance and Repairs. (*Not to exceed \$387,266.43.*) Adopted 6 yes/0 no.

RESOLUTION 2015-45 A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Job Retention and Creation Grant Agreement with Polymer Additives, Inc. to expand its operations within the City. Adopted 6 yes/0 no.

RESOLUTION 2015-46 A Resolution authorizing payment of the Cuyahoga County Treasurer for the City's 2015A Estate Tax Settlement. (*In the amount of \$10,364.29.*) Adopted 6 yes/0 no.

RESOLUTION 2015-48 A Resolution accepting the proposal of QCI-CE, Inc. for professional services in connection with construction engineering inspection of the Beverly Drive Reconstruction Project. (*Not to exceed \$45,069.50.*) Adopted 6 yes/0 no.

RESOLUTION 2015-49 A Resolution authorizing participation in the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District Recycling Processing Consortium. Adopted 6 yes/0 no.

RESOLUTION 2015-50 A Resolution authorizing the purchase and installation of a DC Voltage Lighting System for the Independence Fieldhouse from Lighting IQ, LLC. (*Not to exceed \$80,248.*) Adopted 6 yes/0 no.

RESOLUTION 2015-51 A Resolution accepting the bid of Akron Tractor & Equipment, Inc. for the purchase and delivery of a 60 horsepower tractor loader for the Service Department. (*Not to exceed \$44,419.*) Adopted 6 yes/0 no.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked the Mayor if he wants to recognize some students in the audience.

Mayor Kurtz asked the young men to stand up and state their name and purpose.

Students John Desmarteau, Dominic (inaudible) and Sean Michaels of St. Ignatius High School introduced themselves.

Mayor Kurtz asked the students what they learned tonight. One of the students said it went a lot smoother than Cleveland.

Mayor Kurtz said the students were more than welcome to come back next month, the following month, all summer long.

Mayor Kurtz said thanks for stopping in this evening. God Bless you and your families.

There being no further business to discuss, the Regular Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

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.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

March 19, 2015

4725 Eastview Drive, Mark Pillar – Granted a variance to 12' variance to construct at new dwelling with an 87 ft. front setback (75 ft. permitted, 87 ft. requested).

Hillside Road and Hawthorne Trace, Ryan Homes – The request for a variance to permit a temporary project ground sign to be located on a parcel not currently being developed in the subdivision (not permitted) was withdrawn.

PLANNING COMMISSION

April 2015

The Planning Commission meeting scheduled for April 2015 was cancelled due to lack of applicants.



6800 Brecksville Road
Independence, OH 44131-5045

Happy Mother's Day

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**COMMUNITY
CLEANUP DAY**
SATURDAY, MAY 16

SAVE THE DATE MAY 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	1	2  8:30 a.m. – Noon Kiwanis Fishing Derby at Elmwood Pond
3	4	5 5:30 p.m. Planning Commission Caucus, Meeting to follow	6 8:30 a.m. Architectural Board of Review Meeting	7 National Day of Prayer	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11 5 – 6 p.m. Mayor's Listening Night	12 7 p.m. Council Meeting	13 Deadline for the May 20 Architectural Board of Review Meeting	14 Deadline for the May 21 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting	15	16 Armed Forces Day Community Cleanup Day!
17 11:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Kiwanis Chicken BBQ Kiwanis Pavilion	18	19	20 8:30 a.m. Architectural Board of Review Meeting	21 5:30 p.m. Zoning Board of Appeals Caucus, Meeting to follow	22	23
24 Outdoor Pool Opens	25 Memorial Day 9:30 a.m. Memorial Service on the Square	26 Deadline for the June 2 Planning Commission Meeting Council Workshop TBD	27 Deadline for the June 3 Architectural Board of Review Meeting	28	29	30
30	1	2	3	4	5	6