

The Independence Post

www.IndependenceOhio.org

MAY 2021



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

POLICE/FIRE EMERGENCIES	9-1-1
Police Anonymous Tip Line.....	216-524-9699
Animal Control	216-524-3940
Building Department	216-524-1019
Chamber of Commerce	216-573-2707
Council Meetings	216-328-1477
Clerk of Courts	216-524-7719
Community Services	216-524-7373
Council Clerk	216-524-1008
Economic Development	216-524-4131
Engineering Department	216-524-1374
Finance Department	216-524-4131

Fire Department	216-524-4001
Human Resources	216-524-4131
Indy Fieldhouse	216-524-0088
Library	216-447-0160
Maple Shade Cemetery	216-524-9191
Mayor's Office	216-524-4131
Outdoor Pool	216-524-3711
Police Department	216-524-1234
Post Office	216-524-9614
Recreation Department	216-524-3262
Service Department	216-524-9191
Tech Services Dept.	216-524-9200

YOUR CITY DIRECTORY

Website: www.independenceohio.org
Email: cityhall@independenceohio.org



Gregory P. Kurtz

Mayor
kurtzg@independenceohio.org

Vern Blaze
Finance Director

Gregory J. O'Brien
Law Director

Donald Ramm
City Engineer

Jeff Markley
City Planner

Letitia Linker
Human Resources
Director

Michael Kilbane
Police Chief

Steve Rega
Fire Chief

Tom Walchanowicz
Recreation Director

Leon Karas
Service Director

David Snyderburn
Technical Services Director

Michael Gero
Building Official

Angela T. Zeleznik-Zidanic
Clerk of Courts

Dennis Zdolshek
Procurement Coordinator

Alla Lora
Communications Director

Jessica A. Hyser
Economic Development
Director

COUNCIL MEMBERS

David Grendel, Vice Mayor
Chair, Finance
grendeld@independenceohio.org
Phone: 216-678-0250

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

Tom Narduzzi
Chair, Safety/Rules
& Ordinances
narduzzit@independenceohio.org
Phone: 216-318-0383

Kenn Synek
Chair, Economic Growth
& Development
synekk@independenceohio.org
Phone: 216-513-2527

James P. Trakas
Chair, Utilities & Sewers
trakasj@independenceohio.org
Phone: 216-524-2114

Dale Veverka
Chair, Streets and Sidewalks
veverkad@independenceohio.org
Phone: 216-407-8657

Chris Walchanowicz
Chair, Public Lands & Buildings
walchanowiczc@independenceohio.org
Phone: 216-219-9789

Debi Beal
Clerk of Council
beald@independenceohio.org
Phone: 216-524-1008

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

Civil Service Commission
1st Thursday each month
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

Message from Mayor Gregory P. Kurtz



Dear Neighbors,

Let me begin by congratulating the Class of 2021! Each of you has endured an unprecedented sequence of disruptions to your academic and personal lives since March of 2020. I salute your resilience and wish each of you smooth sailing and success as you enter the next phase of your life.

The installation of high-tech surveillance cameras along the Rockside Road corridor will continue this month. This law enforcement technology collects information 24/7 and is a powerful tool that supports the outstanding efforts of our Police Department.

Thanks to all the residents who took the time to complete the Community Service/Recreation Department Survey last month. Everyone’s input and recommendations will help the City further enhance the already exceptional service we provide to residents.

Planning for Home Days on August 6 and 7 is progressing well. The event will move to Elmwood Park this year, and the celebration will be a little different, but fun and safe for the entire family. Any organization interested in participating should email Kathy Alexie at alexiek@independenceohio.org to request more information.

The City will honor military personnel who sacrificed their lives in service to our country on Memorial Day, Monday, May 31. The service on Public Square will begin at 9:30 AM in front of the Soldiers’ Monument and will be live-streamed on the City’s website. There will not be a procession to Maple Shade Cemetery, however, flags will be placed on the graves of former military men and women ahead of Memorial Day.

I want to wish all the mothers out there a restful and Happy Mother’s Day.

Sincerely,

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Memorial Day Service

Monday, May 31
9:00 AM Assemble on the Square
9:30 AM Service Begins

For those who wish to participate from home, the service will be live streamed on www.IndependenceOhio.org

All COVID protocols will be observed. There will be limited seating, and residents are encouraged to bring their own chair.

There *will not be a procession* to Maple Shade Cemetery, however, flags will be placed on the graves of those who served their country.

To those who courageously gave their lives – and to those who bravely serve today – Thank You.



COMMUNITIES OF STRENGTH: MAY 2021

Every May, the Administration for Community Living leads our nation's observance of Older Americans Month. The theme for 2021 is "Communities of Strength".

Older adults have built resilience and strength over their lives through successes, failures, joys, and difficulties. Their stories and contributions help to support and inspire others. This OAM, we will celebrate the strength of older adults and the Aging Network, with special emphasis on the power of connection and engagement in building strong communities.

There are many things we all can do to nurture ourselves, reinforce our strength, and continue to thrive. Connecting with others is one of the most important—it plays a vital role in our health and well-being, and in that of our communities. From finding joy in small things and sharing our stories, to looking at the big picture and giving to others, join us in promoting the ways we are connected and strong.

Visit acl.gov/oam/2021/older-americans-month-2021 for materials, resources, and activity ideas to help you observe OAM. Don't forget to share your #OlderAmericansMonth plans and stories on social media.
Source: Administration for Community Living



National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 6, 2021

www.NationalDayofPrayer.org

The National Day of Prayer was established by Congress in 1952. On May 6, the City of Independence, local churches, schools, and other organizations will mark the day with various activities. The community is encouraged to attend one or more of the following prayer events:

7 AM:

- Independence High School/Middle School Flag Pole
- Leader: Jim Eller, Campus Life Director
- 6001 Archwood Road, Independence
- Call 440-840-0499 for more information

10 AM:

- Cornerstone of Hope Center
- Leader: Julia Ellifritt
- 5905 Brecksville Road, Independence
- Call 216-524-3787 for more information

Noon:

- Church bells will ring, reminding all to stop and pray

5:30 PM:

- Memorial on Public Square (next to Old Town Hall)
- Theme: Prayer for Essential Workers, Health Care Workers, First Responders, and Military
- Leader: Pastor Michele Thompson, Rockside Church
- 6652 Brecksville Road, Independence
- Call 216-650-6780 for more information

7 PM:

- Rockside Church
- Leader: Pastor Michele Thompson
- 4100 Rockside Road, Independence
- Call 216-650-6780 for more information



Kiwaniis Club of Independence Celebrate Freedom Flag Contest ENTRY FORM

Celebrate freedom by displaying one of an assortment of flags available in the 2021 Kiwanis Flag Contest. Winners will randomly receive one flag from past contests such as: Bennington, Civil War, First Navy Jack, Gadsen, Star Spangled Banner, Washington's Cruiser, and others. Winners may pick up their flag at the community band concert on Thursday, June 17, 2021.

To Enter and WIN a Flag:

- (1) Circle the answer to each of the questions
- (2) Complete name/address/phone information
- (3) Mail the form to the address below



You may also enter the contest online at independencekiwanis@gmail.com.

Only one entry per address/household is permitted (**Independence residents only**). All entries must be received by **Saturday, June 12, 2021**. Winners will be contacted by phone before June 14th. Winners may arrange to pick up their flags after the concert if they are unable to attend the concert.

1. How many stars were on the US flag that flew over Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861?
a) 28 b) 33 c) 35 d) 48
2. The 1777 Battle of Bennington was actually fought in what state?
a) New York b) Massachusetts c) New Hampshire d) Vermont
3. Who designed the first stars and stripes flag?
a) John Dickerson b) Samuel Reid c) Francis Hopkinson d) Benjamin Franklin
4. How many stars were on the flag that flew over Fort McHenry in 1814?
a) 13 b) 15 c) 23 d) 36
5. A person who is an expert on the history of flags is known as a:
a) burgee b) flagologist c) pennatologist d) vexillologist

Tie Breaker Question: What is the farthest point from the United States where the U.S. flag is planted?

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Mail Form to:

George Klepacz
Kiwaniis Club of Independence
6118 Dora Blvd.
Independence, OH 44131

Questions? Call: 216-524-3389





Spring Bicycle Safety

The warmer weather and longer days are prompting many people to pull their bikes out of storage to get some exercise. For children, bicycles are a way to visit friends and explore the neighborhood. Because of our proximity to the Towpath Trail, bicyclists are a common sight in Independence.

Bicycles are considered vehicles under Ohio law and can legally operate on the roadway (except freeways). A cyclist must exercise due care when passing and obey all traffic rules applicable to vehicles. Cyclists operating on the roadways must:

- Stop at red lights and stop signs.
- Yield to pedestrians using sidewalks.
- Use a rear red deflector and a front white light. Light must be used from sunset to sunrise and when there is low visibility due to weather conditions.
- Ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable and in the direction of traffic.
 - o Cyclists are not required to ride at the right edge of the roadway when it is unreasonable or unsafe due to surface objects, hazards, or when the lane is so narrow that a car cannot safely pass the cyclist.

Tips for Motorists Sharing the Road with Bicyclists:

It is critical to always be aware of your surroundings and avoid distractions while driving. Most bicycle crashes occur when a driver:

- Turns left at an intersection into an oncoming cyclist
- Turns right at an intersection and “hooks” a cyclist proceeding straight through the intersection
- Fails to see a cyclist and hits the cyclist from behind
- Fails to see the cyclist when pulling out from a stop sign, side street, or parking lot
- Passes and sideswipes a cyclist by failing to allow a safe distance when passing

Bike Riding Tips for Children:

A helmet protects your child from serious injury. Wearing a helmet at all times helps children develop the helmet habit. Your child needs to wear a helmet on every bike ride, no matter how short or how close to home. Many injuries happen in driveways, on sidewalks, and on bike paths, not just on streets. Children learn best by observing you. Set the example: whenever you ride, put on your helmet.

When purchasing a helmet, look for a label or sticker that says the helmet meets CPSC safety standards. A properly fitted helmet should cover the forehead and be level on the head - not tipped forward or backwards. The strap should be securely fastened but should have enough clearance to fit two fingers between the chin and strap. The helmet should be snug on the head but not overly tight. The head and helmet should move together from side to side. Helmet sizing pads can be used to adjust and improve the fit.

Do not push your child to ride a two-wheeled bike without training wheels until he or she is ready. Consider the child's coordination and desire to learn to ride. Stick with coaster (foot) brakes to start. Hand brakes are for older and more experienced children. Consider a balance bike with no pedals for young children to learn riding skills. Take your child with you when bike shopping so that he or she can try it out. The value of a properly fitted bike far outweighs surprising your child with a new one. Buy a bike that is the right size, not one your child has to “grow into”. Oversized bikes are especially dangerous.



Emergency Vehicles on the Road

Q: What should I do when a fire truck or ambulance approaches me from behind on an emergency run with red lights flashing and siren sounding?

A: You must yield the right-of-way to the emergency vehicle. Pull over to the right (to the curb if practical) and stop parallel to the curb. Keep your foot on the brake pedal so the emergency driver can see your brake lights.

Q: What if I turn left, and there are cars to my right when the emergency vehicle is coming up behind me?

A: The law says you must yield, so you should slowly pull your vehicle parallel to the line of traffic and come to a complete stop. The public safety vehicle driver will decide if the safest route to pass you is on the right or left side.

Q: Why do fire trucks sometimes block both the accident lane and the next lane when there's an accident on the highway?

A: Both lanes are blocked to create a safe work zone for the emergency personnel and any injured motorist(s). Each year emergency personnel are killed while assisting others on highways.

Q: What should I do if I am in the right lane of a local highway and an ambulance, fire truck, police car, or ANY vehicle with flashing lights is stopped ahead in the right lane or right berm?

A: Move to the left and slow down while cautiously proceeding past the stopped emergency vehicle. If there are three lanes of traffic headed in the same direction, move cautiously to the far left lane if possible.

Q: What should I do if a fire truck stopped ahead of me with a fire hose extending onto the roadway?

A: Never drive over the hose - it is a criminal offense. Driving over a hose can cut off the water flow, which endangers the lives of emergency personnel operating the hose and pump.

Q: If I dial 911 for a medical emergency, can I follow right behind the ambulance that is taking my family member or friend to the hospital?

A: No. If the ambulance is making an emergency transport using lights and a siren, you may not follow closer than 500 feet behind the vehicle or proceed through red stoplights.

Q: If I stop behind a school bus that is off-loading children and a fire truck with red lights and a siren comes up behind me, what should I do?

A: Cautiously pull to the right and stop. Ohio law says you may not drive past the school bus while the "stopped" signals are displayed or the bus is loading or unloading children. Likewise, the fire truck driver may not proceed past the school bus until the bus driver confirms that all children are safely out of the way.

Parts reprinted with permission: Lawrence T Bennett, Esq., Program Chair, Fire Science & Emergency Management, University of Cincinnati.

Holiday Rubbish, Recycling, and Yard Waste Pick Up:

The Service Department will be closed for Memorial Day on Monday, May 31, 2021. Residents whose trash day is Monday will have their rubbish, recycling, and yard waste picked up on Tuesday, June 1. All other collection days will remain the same this holiday week.

RECYCLING

Items placed in curbside collection for recycling should be empty, clean, and dry.

- **Leave recyclables loose – not bagged:** Plastic bags do not belong in your recycling bin or cart. Plastic bags get tangled in the sorting machines at the recycling facilities and cause major problems in the recycling process. Residents can recycle plastic shopping bags at many retail locations including Drug Mart, Giant Eagle, Lowe's, Marc's, Target, and Walmart stores.
- **Ensure it is clean and empty:** Rinse residue from cartons, containers, bottles, jars, and any other recyclable that may contain food particles. Greasy pizza boxes are not accepted.
- **Keep it dry:** When it comes to paper and cardboard, keeping it dry is imperative for the recycling process. Also, please flatten all cardboard boxes.
- **Recycle, don't "wishcycle":** Think you can throw everything into your recycling bin and it will get sorted out at the recycling plant? Think again. Here are the five core items you can combine in your home or curbside recycling container. Do not bag these items - keep them loose.
 - **CANS:** Empty and rinse
 - **CARTONS:** Empty, rinse, and replace the cap (too small to recycle separately)
 - **GLASS BOTTLES & JARS:** Empty and rinse
 - **PAPER & BOXES:** Flatten cardboard items and cereal boxes
 - **PLASTIC BOTTLES & JUGS:** Empty, rinse, and replace the cap. Acceptable plastic bottles and jugs must have an opening or neck narrower than the body.
- **Clothing:** Do not include clothing or fabric in your curbside recycling. Cloth tangles and ties up sorting equipment at recycling facilities. Donate usable clothing, fabric, and other textiles to local charities with collection drop-off bins or stores.
- **Syringes and Sharps:** Check with your health care provider or health facility to find out if they have a needle take-back program. If not, used needles and syringes from

self-injections may be placed in the **regular trash** ONLY if certain safeguards are followed to protect sanitation workers and others in the waste industry from being stuck by a needle.

1. Place used needles and syringes in a rigid plastic container with a sealable lid such as a Sharps container or a plastic laundry detergent bottle with a screw top.
2. Seal the lid with tape.
3. Write "Caution: Sharps" on the container.
4. Place the container in your regular trash. **Do not** place the container with your recyclables.

MAPLE SHADE CEMETERY

Fresh-cut flowers are encouraged throughout the year. The Sexton checks the condition of flowers every Friday and removes any that have deteriorated. No more than two arrangements are permitted on any space at one time.

For safety reasons, plant hangers of any kind and glass containers, vases, and adornments are prohibited. The Sexton will remove these items from the cemetery.

All cut or artificial flowers, wreaths, and other adornments are removed according to the schedule below.

- **March 1** – Christmas decorations are removed to prepare for Easter arrangements.
- **May 1** – Easter arrangements are removed to prepare the cemetery for Memorial Day and summer decorations.
- **Last Week in May** – Veteran emblems and flags will be placed on graves and removed after July 4.
- **November 1** – All decorations are removed to prepare for Christmas wreaths and holiday arrangements.

CEMETERY HOURS

Maple Shade Cemetery is open from sunrise to sundown 365 days a year. Anyone found on the cemetery property outside of visitation times will be prosecuted for trespassing according to the law. Anyone who desecrates, damages, or vandalizes a monument, headstone, memorial structure, building, tree, plant, flowers, or other cemetery property will be prosecuted.

For information on Maple Shade Cemetery, please call the Service Department at 216-524-9191.

Independence Virtual Academy Teachers

Recognized As "Portraits of Awesome"

The unprecedented challenges schools faced dealing with COVID-19 inspired author, filmmaker, and philanthropist Ted Dintersmith to launch What School Could Be, a teacher- and student-centric platform created to support a student-led learning model. The online community consists of educators from around the world who collaborate and share ideas and explore innovative teaching methods that redefine education.



When a team from What School Could Be "Portraits of Awesome" learned about the Independence Virtual Academy and teacher Jill Wagner's virtual trip to the Great Lakes Science Center, they had to find out more.

Representatives talked with Independence Virtual Academy (IVA) Principal Mike Pennington and Ms. Wagner about the "virtual" class she held for her students to learn about dissecting owl pellets. They were so impressed with the field trips, virtual clubs, and outreach outside of the curriculum that the What School Could Be "Portraits of Awesome" have recognized Ms. Wagner and fellow teachers Annette Hudak and Laura Janosek as recipients of their Portraits of Awesome Award and grant. Beyond the national recognition, each teacher will receive a \$250 grant.

Kim Kalish, Director of Outreach for What School Could Be "Portraits of Awesome", said this about the IVA staff:

"... you've got one amazing group of teachers,



Top L-R: Jill Wagner, Mike Pennington
Bottom L-R: Laura Janosek, Annette Hudak

especially Jill. I've had the pleasure of speaking to many teachers around the country, and Jill's passion just floored me."

Wagner insisted that IVA's success resulted from Principal Pennington's leadership and the teamwork of fellow teachers Hudak and Janosek.

INDEPENDENCE CITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE!

Join your neighbors and participate in our first-ever city-wide garage sale! We'll take care of all the advertising – just sign up and start cleaning out your closets!

June 24, 25, and 26

Thursday & Friday: 9 AM - 4 PM

Saturday: 9 AM - 2 PM



**GARAGE SALE
PERMITS WILL BE
WAIVED THIS
WEEKEND ONLY
FOR ALL
PARTICIPANTS**

To participate, sign up through our website, email CS@IndependenceOhio.org, or stop at the Civic Center.

Send us your address, a brief list of items for sale, and what day(s) you will participate. We will provide a map and list of addresses for shoppers on our website the week prior.

**Deadline to Sign Up: Thursday, June 17
Call 216-524-7373 for more information.**

Advertisements will be placed in all city publications, online, and on social media. Participants are responsible for the signage at their own home.

Congratulations Mrs. Lozar!

Every so often, an extraordinary teacher leaves a mark in her students' hearts and her fellow teachers, and the community. Kelly Lozar is one of those exceptional instructors.

After 25-years of dedicated service with the Independence Co-op Preschool, Mrs. Lozar is retiring. As Lead Teacher and Director, she touched countless lives and created an abundance of memories for families to cherish with their children forever. Everyone who knows her recognizes that as a teacher, she valued learning and had a keen sense of seeing the potential in each of her students.

Lozar earned a degree in Learning Disabilities and Elementary Education and taught Kindergarten in Illinois before meeting her husband, Bernie, and moving to Ohio. She taught second grade for a few years before taking some time off to begin raising a family.

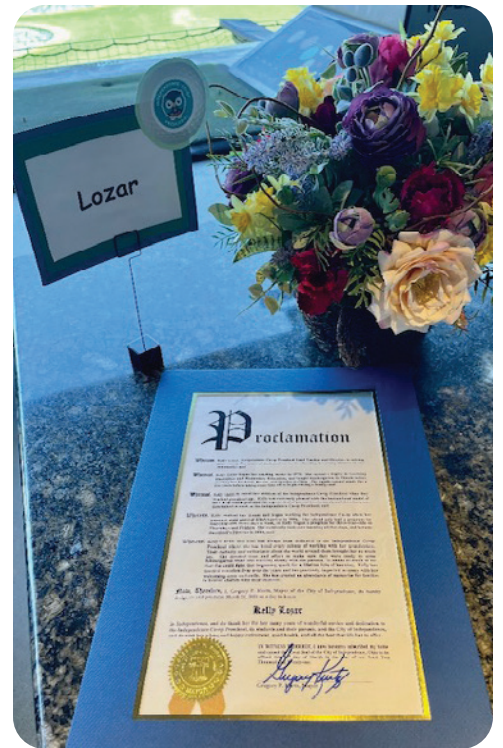
Kelly was so pleased with the instructional model of the Co-op when she enrolled her children; she was

determined to work at the Independence Co-op Preschool.

Her dream became a reality in 1996 when she became a part-time teacher. She eventually took over teaching full-time and became the school's Director in 2000.

She devoted time and effort to make sure every student was ready to enter Kindergarten while also working closely with the parents. It meant so much to her that she could light that beginning spark for a lifetime love of learning.

Last month during a retirement gathering at Top Golf, Vice Mayor David Grendel presented Mrs. Lozar with the Mayor's Proclamation designating March 21, 2021, as a day to honor her.



Independence Home Days: Dancing in the Streets

From rides and games for children to live bands, food trucks, a car show, raffles and so much more, the **Independence Home Days on August 6 and 7, 2021**, will have something for everyone!

The theme is “Dancing in the Streets,” and the celebration will move to Elmwood Park.

In addition to non-stop live music, here are some of the exciting activities that are planned:

Live Bands
Car Show
Food Trucks
Dancing

Kidz Zone
Home Run Derby
Adult Zone
50/50 Raffle

Children's Rides
Mini-Tournaments
Surprises!



This year there will not be a parade, talent show, carnival games, or booths. The importance of social distancing necessitated putting a hold on these traditional Home Days elements.



Local organizations interested in being part of Home Days or interested in opportunities to fundraise should email Kathy Alexie at alexiek@independenceohio.org.

The City will have shuttles available to take residents from the parking areas and plenty of hand-washing stations and sanitizers.

It's Okay, To Not Be Okay

The pandemic raised feelings of fear, anxiety, and frustration around the globe. Because of the stress associated with the health emergency, mental health issues are finally getting the attention they deserve.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), health is “A state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease.”

Mental health is often misunderstood because it is complex. It affects thoughts, feelings, and actions and can fluctuate in response to life events or daily stresses. Taking care of our well-being is as beneficial as eating healthy, exercising, having regular medical check-ups, and getting enough sleep.

New research from the University of South Australia highlights the indiscriminate nature of mental illness. It found that a happy and secure childhood, did not protect someone from developing mental illness later in life. Researchers believe a person's ability to adapt – or not adapt -- to unexpected scenarios may influence their mental health.

Here are five behaviors that may enhance mental well-being:

- Connecting with others provides a sense of belonging,

self-worth, and emotional support.

- Physical activity relieves stress, raises self-esteem, and improves sleep.
- Learning new skills promotes a feeling of accomplishment and can increase social interaction.
- Helping family and friends with tasks and projects or volunteering creates a positive sense of purpose.

25 & Alive, is a community partnership between the City, schools, churches, families, and businesses. The City and ILS have established a prevention specialist for the schools. This licensed social worker provides individual counseling and behavior intervention to students and families that have been referred. The prevention specialist has recently been addressing issues with anxiety, depression, stress, suicide prevention, grief, family conflicts, substance abuse, and coping with COVID-19.

For more information about “25 & Alive,” email Angie Zidanic at ZidanicA@IndependenceOhio.org.



Tax Day Is May 17

Due to the pandemic, the IRS postponed the deadline to file 2020 taxes to May 17 and Ohio followed. That's just 24 days away. Here are some tax facts to consider:

- Don't wait if you're owed a tax refund. By delaying filing, you're also pushing back how soon you might get a tax refund.
- The IRS has received 93.2 million individual tax returns through April 2 and has issued 62.3 million income tax refunds. The average refund of those issued through April 2 was \$2,893.

- The IRS did not begin processing tax returns until Feb. 12 — a more than a two-week delay from last year.
- Don't forget about stimulus checks. Make sure that you are providing your tax preparer with a correct number for the amount of money that you received for two stimulus payments. The first rolled out starting last April and the second rolled out in January.
- Anyone who was eligible but did not receive both stimulus payments or only received one can claim the stimulus money through the Recovery Rebate Credit program.



David Grendel
Vice Mayor



Kathleen Kapusta
Councilperson



Tom Narduzzi
Councilperson



Kenn Synek
Councilperson



Jim Trakas
Councilperson



Dale Veverka
Councilperson



Chris Walchanowicz
Councilperson

COUNCIL MEETING – APRIL 13, 2021



MAYOR KURTZ'S REPORT

Speed and resilience have been fundamental characteristics of the COVID-19 pandemic. It hit fast, sped-up decision making, and provided massive opportunities for the City to reassess operations and emerge as a more robust and responsive operation.

Using the City's success in 2020 as a springboard, I want to maintain the momentum and build on its lessons. We were flexible and responded to the pandemic with purpose and creativity. The City recognized that the recovery would be digital and began to assess ways to upgrade systems to keep pace with the way people do business today and in the future.

Council's approval of the Tyler Technologies enterprise management system last month will serve as a giant leap forward for the City as we migrate to digital technologies. Tyler will enable us to modernize recordkeeping/data analysis, manage resources and expenditures, and improve workflows and accountability. There is no turning back.

There are two pieces of legislation on tonight's agenda to upgrade different technologies used around the City. Ordinance 2021-43 is a proposal to replace computers that have reached or surpassed their End of Life stage. Because of fast-paced technological advances, these machines are not viable to repair.

Ordinance 2021-51 will authorize the purchase of video cameras for all Police vehicles. When police departments across the nation are under scrutiny, we must provide our safety forces with this powerful tool.

We adjusted to all the disruption and restrictions of 2020 by temporarily reassigning some staff to other departments to realign with the evolving needs. Because of people's willingness to adapt and take on new assignments, the City reduced inefficiencies and maintained the highest level of resident services.

The new technology and updated operating protocols will require an investment of time and training. The transition will also create many new and exciting opportunities for people who want to learn and continue to grow with the City. I've asked my team to evaluate any existing constraints, identify solutions, and survey their staff to bring fresh ideas to the process. Again, there is no turning back.

On behalf of the City, I want to congratulate Mike Guzi, who retired from the Fire Department last month after more than 36 years. In recognition of his tireless service, Council and I have authorized for Mike to retain his Independence Fire Department helmet and duty badge. May you have a long, healthy, and rewarding retirement.

Finally, the traditional Memorial Day service on Public Square will take place on Monday, May 31, starting at 9:30 AM, and will observe all COVID protocols. There will not be a parade to Maple Shade Cemetery. However, the service will be live-streamed on the City's website and Facebook page.



FINANCE DIRECTOR BLAZE'S REPORT

To highlight the importance of finances and the Finance Department in local government and Council's role as an oversight body of the spending aspect of those finances, it is noted that 16 of the 20 Ordinances and Resolutions on this evening's Legislative Agenda are finance and monetary related.

If all 16 of those finance-related Ordinances pass this evening, over \$7.8 million of capital and infrastructure investments from the 2021 – 2025 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan will have been approved by Council during the final months of 2020 and the first four months here in 2021.

Ordinance 2021-55 contains proposed amendments to the 2021 Annual Appropriation Ordinance. Note that no spending increase amendments are proposed to the Operating Budget (Day-to-Day expenses). In fact, the proposed amended Total Appropriations ("Appropriations" are allocations) requested in Ordinance 2021-55 are just over \$2.0 million less than what was appropriated in the original 2021 Annual Appropriation Ordinance that was passed in December. The City ended the First Quarter of 2021 with a healthy cash balance. By the time this report is published in the May city newsletter, that cash balance will likely have decreased some as the closing on the City's purchase of the two brick buildings at the northeast corner of Brecksville and Stone Roads should have occurred by then.

The contract price for these two properties is \$1,175,000. They are key parcels needed to implement a redevelopment of them as well as the adjacent former middle school property. There are leases on all of the occupied units in these two buildings, so nothing will be happening with them in the immediate future. But controlling these two key parcels that front on Brecksville Road will be key to redevelopment in that area that will allow for the vibrancy and appeal that is appropriate for a small-town downtown of Independence's size and character.

All states and most municipalities across the country are now in line to receive funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 that was passed earlier this year. Some states are set to receive billions of dollars, and large, major cities are set to receive hundreds of millions of dollars (Cleveland - \$541 million).

Some local cities will receive significant funds too. Lakewood is in line to receive just over \$50 million and Parma is set to receive just over \$24 million.

Independence is set to receive just about \$700,000 in Round 1 within the next few months, and then a similar amount in Round 2 sometime in 2022.

There are restrictions on the use of these funds, so recipients of them aren't able to utilize them just any way they want to. I'm sure Mayor Kurtz, Council and the Finance Office will engage in a thoughtful discussion as to how Independence's funds can best be utilized under the restrictions that come with them.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

GRENDL – FINANCE

The Planning Commission met on April 6th and a vigorous discussion took place regarding Saucy Brew Works' application seeking approval for an accessory use to operate a brewery and the company's corporate offices on the premises. The parking issue and the current lack of parking spaces needs to be resolved to move forward with this excellent and needed project. The matter was tabled to focus on getting a clearer view of available options. CSA America Testing & Certification, LLC was granted a variance to Chapter 1383 to permit encroachment into the steep slope setback and a variance for additional parking. Finally, a Public Hearing was set for 5 pm on May 4th regarding Independence Auto, LLC's request for a Special Conditional Use Permit for a used car dealership at 8600 Pleasant Valley Road.

Another month and two more Job Relocation and Creation Grant Agreements have been unanimously

approved by Council for MAI Capital Management, LLC (Ordinance 2021-45) and Investors Diversified Realty, LLC (Ordinance 2021-54). In five-years, MAI will increase its yearly payroll from \$16.5 million to \$21.3 million and will ultimately lease 60,000 square feet with a ten-year lease in the Park Center development. Within three-years, Investors Diversified will increase its payroll from \$4.9 million to \$6 million and lease 4,300 square feet in the Summit Park 3 building. Council also voted to purchase computer hardware from Dell Marketing L.P. as well as a new compact excavator and chipper for the Service Department.

The high school's spring sports season is in high gear. The baseball team sports an overall record of 6-2 and are first in the conference standings with a 5-1 record. The Lady Devils softball team is second in the conference with a 2-1 league record and stand 7-2 in all games. They have independent wins over North Royalton and Padua. Keep up the great work Blue Devils.

KAPUSTA – COMMUNITY SERVICES

I would like to express my sympathy to the families of Louis Bontempo; Len Chipchak; and Robert Wagner of Pleasant Valley Road. I am so sorry for the loss of your loved ones.

The Community Services Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, March 23rd. Angie Zidanic, Clerk of Court, provided an update on drug prevention programming. Joint efforts between the schools and the City continue to move forward, even during these difficult times of the pandemic. Most recently, an invitation was extended to all to watch the production "Angst." This is yet another tool to assist the families and youth of our community.

Tom Walchanowicz, Recreation Department Director, provided a summary of operations during the first quarter of the year. Following all protocols of safety, more activities and programs are opening up for our residents. He further expanded upon some of the planned programs, activities, and events for the remainder of the year. The focus is to resume programs to the fullest extent possible,

respecting restrictions and needed safety and health measures. Finally, Director Walchanowicz elaborated upon planned capital improvements and their related timeframes.

Community Services Department report was given by Amber Veverka. She provided a review of the last quarter, as well as discussing upcoming and new programs. The new provider for Meals on Wheels will be our community partner, Vista Springs. A continued focus of the Department will be upon collection of food for our area food pantries. As the need for food is increasing, all are asked to consider donations. Food is collected regularly at City-sponsored activities and at the Civic Center. Your food donation is greatly appreciated.

NARDUZZI – SAFETY

No report.

SYNEK – ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

No report.

TRAKAS – UTILITIES

Good evening Mayor Kurtz, Vice Mayor Grendel, Finance Director Blaze, Members of Council, citizens of Independence. The Utilities Committee will meet on 29 April 2021 at 4:30 p.m. to go over 2021 Spring-Summer priorities.

Tonight, I am introducing Ordinance 2021-56, which would establish the Residential Property Storm Water Public Private Partnership Program. The legislation, if enacted would allow the City to assist resident homeowners to maintain their properties and share the cost of expensive stormwater projects over a period. These partnerships would allow the city to leverage the buying power of city resources to the benefit of residents. The cost of the project would be partially picked up by the city under certain qualifying parameters, and the homeowner can pay the bill over time by placing the cost on their annual property tax bill.

Too often, very expensive projects involving storm

water maintenance are deferred by residents because the financial resources are just too large to absorb as a one-time cost. Under this legislation, the city, on a means-tested basis, could assist the homeowner financially and the rest of the cost of the project paid out over time at no interest. Mayor Kurtz has expressed an interest in this type of model which helps the city to alleviate erosion and storm water problems on private property that impact homes and neighborhoods. I have thought for some time that a program like this is warranted and look forward to the debate on the topic with my colleagues. I think this a win-win scenario for our community.

Independence and the entire nation have seen an increase in crime over the past year. Mayor Kurtz and City Council are keenly cognizant of the potential for crime. When you have two interstate highways going through town and an accessible business and commercial district adjacent to on and off ramps of two major interstate highways, we all know that criminals see this as an opportunity.

Our city has been taking measures to combat this crime and dramatically stepped efforts to deter crime. We have increased the amount of police officers hired and to be hired. Allocating over \$1 million additional resource dollars to new security and interdiction cameras that can find stolen vehicles – the preferred choice of criminals during the commission of a crime – as well as vehicles that have expired licenses and have legal warrants out on the owner. Independence is using modern technology to address crime. Of course, nothing beats the boots on the ground approach, and more police and police vehicles are being deployed in our neighborhoods and commercial district to interdict crime.

But, while Independence is fighting crime, we must realize that there are factors a foot that are working against us and we do not control. Cuyahoga County and City of Cleveland prosecutors have pledged to release felony suspects in many cases without bail bond. That means criminals continue to be on the street, and we know from proven history that these individuals pose a

threat to commit additional crimes while waiting to be adjudicated. Same for the Juvenile Court who has not been operating fully since March of 2020. Hardcore criminals take advantage of closed courts, emptied jails, and policies towards criminals in the name of bail “reform” that allow criminals to roam the streets for months or years before they await trials on the crimes they are accused of committing. Criminal suspects are also not being charged for the crimes they commit and left on probation rather than serving time in prison as part of this policy change by Cuyahoga County elected officials. Sadly, the truth is that minor crimes lead to major crimes, a fact that we are seeing play out across the country.

Further, the Obama Administration Justice Department pressured the City of Cleveland to sign a so-called consent agreement. The Consent Agreement forces police officers to fill out hours of paperwork to justify routine policing, taking them off the streets and not actively policing. Rules of engagement make arresting criminal suspects more difficult, and fleeing suspects are often not chased due to this Agreement. As is logical, criminals are aware of these policies and feel emboldened. Thus, more criminal activity is being evidenced in NE Ohio including our community as spillover from Cleveland.

The pandemic has exasperated some criminal behavior. Motels located in our community are not seeing the volume that they once did of business travelers, events, family reunions. To bring people through their doors, the motels lower their rates, and sadly, some of the patrons they are attracting come with nefarious plans. Parties that spin out of control, patrons bringing firearms, illegal drugs, and individuals who seek to take advantage of other patrons.

Independence Police are on top of these patterns, and are aggressively pursuing a pre-emptive crime interdiction strategy, but some slip through the cracks. Mayor Kurtz as Safety Director, Chief Kilbane, our department, and your city Council will continue to innovate and be ahead of the criminal to protect the

public. We are committing new resources and new strategies to continue to protect you and I thought it important to explain some of the external factors that are making our job more challenging, but we are more than up to that challenge, and public safety is your community's absolute top priority.

That is my report Mayor. I thought I would leave with this bit of wisdom from my Father's overall commanding officer during WWII, General George S. Patton, still relevant today: **"Moral courage is the most valuable and usually the most absent characteristic in men."**

VEVERKA – STREETS & SIDEWALKS

As indicated by the City Engineer during the March meeting of the Streets and Sidewalks Committee, road projects have definitely been ramping up throughout the City. Biking and driving around the City, I have been able to observe crews hard at work on the new storm sewer on upper Brookside in preparation for the new road and sidewalk. Additionally, Catts is busy in Ranchland, in the Scenic Highlands and in Dalebrook, replacing curb and gutter. On Hillside Road east of Brecksville Road the sewer work that precedes installation of the sidewalk up to Twin Creeks is well underway.

I will be supporting Ordinance 2021-41 for inspections by QCI of the Hillside Road west sidewalk project. Ordinance 2021-42 for the resurfacing of Rockside Road from Brecksville Road to Valley View will also be receiving my support. This project will be half funded by Cuyahoga County.

I have real concerns about Ordinance 2021-35 that would eliminate overnight parking on ALL city streets from late fall until early spring. We currently have a night time parking ban from 2 to 6 in the morning. If we are able to have a few more residents cooperate with the existing regulations then there is little need for the inconvenience to all residents the five month restriction a new ordinance would require.

It is great to welcome two new companies (MAI Capital Management and

Investors Diversified Realty) into our community. Congratulations to the Economic Development Director for the new additions.

Spring has arrived in its splendor, so as we traverse the streets of Independence, please be especially aware of workers and safety forces in the roads.

WALCHANOWICZ – PUBLIC LANDS & BUILDINGS

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable St. Patrick's Day and Easter. We have had some amazing weather the last few weeks. It's been nice seeing residents walking and enjoying our park.

I had a Public Lands and Buildings meeting last month where we discussed many topics. We had a representative from GPD on, and he went over our future improvements to both City Hall and the Civic Center. I must say we are all in for a nice surprise when the project is complete.

With regard to Maple Shade Cemetery, our survey is complete, and we can begin to move forward with the creation of our next section along with some new burial options, along with pricing out our fence project to protect our loved ones.

Also in March we had a Community Services committee meeting. There are some very promising things that are coming from our Recreation Department and some nice programming coming from Community Services.

On April's legislation Ordinance 2021-35, we have gotten many questions concerning our overnight parking ban. I would like to address my reasons behind this ordinance. Every morning I drive my girls to school, and as I am driving I watch our school busses struggle to make turns on so many of our side streets. My concern is the safety and well-being of our children on these busses. There have been many times that I was almost sideswiped by cars going around parked cars. We as Council understand many of your concerns. We are not worried about cars parked in the streets for holiday parties or birthday parties. We just want everybody

to be safe while they are driving in our community. While I was talking about our streets, we have many children in our community that should be able to play safely in the yards and driveways. It has been brought to my attention about people speeding through our developments, using them as shortcuts. We need to get a handle on this so please reach out to me, and I will speak with the Mayor and Police Chief. It must stop.

I hope everyone enjoys the rest of April and hopefully we continue to have wonderful weather.

I would like to wish Debi Beal a Happy Birthday!

DIRECTORS' REPORTS



BUILDING OFFICIAL – GERO

The Building Department is continuing to review plans, issue permits, and perform inspections while taking precautions to keep both our employees and our customers safe and healthy. Please wear a mask should you need to come into the Building Department. Feel free to use e-mail or call should you need to contact us.

Over the last month, the Building Department sent out 7 sets of construction drawings for plan review. Twenty-nine commercial permits were issued, and 27 commercial construction inspections were performed. Plans were approved for tenant build outs on East Pleasant Valley Road, Rockside Road, Rockside Wood Blvd., and Oak Tree Blvd. Plans were also approved for a tenant alteration on Freedom Square Drive. An occupancy permit was issued for a 3,047 sq. ft. tenant build out on Rockside Road.

The Department also issued 66 residential permits and performed 86 residential construction inspections. Plans were reviewed and approved for 4 new dwellings on Acacia Court, and one each on Bexley Court, Linden Lane and South Great Oaks Parkway. An occupancy permit was issued for a 3,277 sq. ft. single family dwelling on Linden Lane. Eighteen new dwellings are currently under construction in the City, and there are

6 more in the plan review process.

Spring is coming and our inspectors have been and will be actively addressing issues to improve the appearance of our community.



CITY ENGINEER – RAMM

A total of twenty-six (26) permits were issued: Two **Change-of-Grade Permits** were issued. One for a new in-ground pool on a residential property and one for a new parking lot on a commercial property. Two

Miscellaneous Concrete Permits were issued to install or replace concrete driveways; one for a commercial property and one for a residential property. Two **Residential Plumbing Permits** were issued to repair/replace storm or sanitary sewers. Four **Right-of-Way Permits** were issued to install fiber-optic cables and to repair sewer utilities. Eight **Grade Permits**, and eight **Landscape Permits** were issued to home builders for New Dwellings. Eight **Topographic Site plans** was reviewed and approved for new residential homes.

We have been busy planning and coordinating various tasks for upcoming projects, resulting in five separate items on tonight's agenda, as summarized below:

Ordinance 2021-41 authorizes a construction services contract with **QCI, Inc.** in the amount of **\$50,000**, primarily to help oversee the upcoming **Hillside Road Sidewalk Improvements (West) Project**.

Ordinance 2021-42 authorizes a partnership agreement with **Cuyahoga County** to participate in their **50/50 Road Maintenance program**, securing **\$250,000 in grant funds** to resurface **Rockside Road** between Brecksville Road and the easterly Corporation Limit with Valley View.

Ordinance 2021-44 authorizes a **Permanent Storm Sewer Easement Agreement** with a residential property owner on Upper Brookside Road, in connection with our major capital infrastructure project currently underway there.

Ordinance 2021-46 authorizes a Public **Partnership Agreement (PPA)** with the **Army Corp of Engineers** for the **Cuyahoga River Flood Risk Management Project** to protect our businesses on **Old Rockside Road** and **Commerce Park Oval** from flooding.

Ordinance 2021-57 authorizes an environmental engineering services contract with **Hull & Associates, LLC** in the amount of **\$25,000** to perform due-diligence work for a potential development parcel on Rockside Woods Boulevard North.

The *Notice to Proceed* was issued to **Catts Construction** in connection with our **2021 Concrete Road Maintenance & Repairs Program**. Curb & gutter replacements and catch basin repairs has begun on the following streets: Scenicview/Ranchview/Midland/Timberlane Roads, Midland & Highland Roads, Eastview Drive. Identical upcoming work is planned in the Dalebrook Estates.

We have been coordinating with **Catts Construction** and **Ronyak Paving**, in connection with road work on **E. Schaaf Road**, set to resume this spring as a carry-over project from late last season.

We are executing contracts with Specialized Construction in connection with our **2021 Crack Seal Program**. We hope to get underway with work early this spring, as weather permits.

We have been coordinating various tasks with **Catts Construction** and with **Geotech Services** in connection with our **2021 Creek, Utility & Infrastructure Maintenance & Repairs Contract**. This work is ongoing.

We have been working on plans, specifications and bid documents for our **2021 Asphalt Road Maintenance & Repairs Contract**. We hope to soon be in a position to advertise the contract for bidding and to make an award at an upcoming City Council Meeting.

Lastly, we said “so long” last

month to our full-time **Administrative Assistant, Coral Troxell**. Coral has been an excellent employee in the Engineering Department for the last five years. She has taken a new position with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSD) to pursue a career opportunity there. **We wish Coral all the best success for her future - she will be missed!**

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Bunny Trail held on Saturday, March 27th was safe and successful! Several hundred families enjoyed walking through the park on the beautiful day and getting photos with the Easter Bunny. This fun event was made possible through the cooperation of the Civic Center departments and the Kiwanis Club of Independence. All donations benefitted the local food pantry.

Summer Camp registration started on Monday, April 12th and spots are filling up fast! After a year off, Summer Playground is back with registration starting Wednesday, May 5th. Online registration is available for both programs.

In the month of March our team distributed nearly 3,300 meals for our 55+ Lunch program. The popular burger lunch with the Fire Department is coming up soon on Friday, May 21st and our annual luau lunch will be the following week.

May is Older Americans Month and the theme for 2021 is “Communities of Strength”. Our Adult Program Coordinator has a few special programs planned in May for our seniors to enjoy. On May 13th we will have Outdoor Music Bingo and Ice Cream. On May 17th we will have a Live Cooking Demonstration by the chef from Vista Springs Ravinia.

Red Cross Blood Drives will be at the Elmwood Recreation Center Monday, May 3rd and Monday, May 17th from 1 - 7 pm. Appointments are strongly suggested. Visit redcrossblood.org to make your appointment and for more information.



FIRE CHIEF – REGA

I would like to congratulate Firefighter/Paramedic Mike Guzi on his recent retirement from the Fire Department. His last day was Friday, March 31st and marked over 36 years of service to the City of Independence.

Mike started out his career as a part-time firefighter in 1985 and later obtained full-time status in 1988. His career can only be characterized as being a steady hardworking calm, cool and collected firefighter. Nothing seemed to bother Mike. This calming effect in the face of challenging events was admired and respected by everyone.

As a token of our appreciation, Resolution 2021- 2 allows Firefighter/Paramedic Mike Guzi to retain his Independence Fire Department Helmet and Badge. I wish him the best in his retirement.



POLICE CHIEF – KILBANE

April 21st is Administrative Professional's Day, and our City is fortunate to have an outstanding staff of administrative professionals whose tireless efforts keep the City running smoothly. I would like to recognize the administrative staff of the Police Department, Mary Cox and Jamie Pollack, for their incredible work. They handle all of the administrative and data entry functions for the entire department and are also the public face of the department when dealing with our residents. Their workload increased significantly with the burdens placed on us by COVID, and they adapted to this challenge with professionalism and creativity. I want to thank them for their great work and dedication.

We are pleased to announce that Safety Town will be returning this summer, and to accommodate social distancing requirements, we will be moving the location to the outdoor pavilion at Independence Primary School. Extra sessions have been added to accommodate the students who were unable to

attend last year due to the cancellation. Thank you to Superintendent Hegedish and the Independence Schools for partnering with us to make Safety Town happen this summer. For information please call the Police Department at 216-524-0375 Monday through Friday between 8 A.M. and 4 P.M.



RECREATION DIRECTOR – WALCHANOWICZ

Following the recent adjustments to the State health orders, we have lifted some restrictions in the Civic Center facility, as follows: The Recreation Atrium is now open for residents' usage. Lockers are now open, although we request that residents bring their own lock. The downstairs gymnasium is open. Residents must bring their own equipment. Resident children 13 & up are allowed into the Civic Center without a parent/guardian accompaniment (this supersedes our current Covid restriction of 15 and over). The non-resident guest policy is still suspended. We still require social distancing whenever possible, and mask usage is still required while in the building, although they can be taken off during exercise and pool usage. We will continue to abide by the required State guidelines while sensibly lifting restrictions when possible.

Our spring soccer program is now in full gear. The High School softball and baseball teams are playing games on a regular basis on our fields. Our youth travel teams are in full practice mode with games soon to start. Our little league registration has just concluded, coaches meetings and team forming will begin shortly with practices to follow! Spring is here and hopefully everyone gets out to enjoy the beautiful weather we have been having - it's been great to see all the activity in Elmwood Park!

I would like to remind everyone to please fill out our Community Recreation Survey if you haven't already. This will help give us a gauge of where we are and what everyone wants in regards to programing and facilities for both the Community Services and Recreation Departments. The link can be found on our website

and you can also pick up a copy at the Civic Center Customer Service desks.

Finally, I would like to thank all the staff and volunteers that were involved in making this year's Bunny Trail Walk a success! Over 330 children and their families visited stations throughout the park. The weather was perfect and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves with this "new way" of offering an Easter Egg Hunt event in a socially safe manner!



SERVICE DIRECTOR – KARAS

With spring arriving, crews have been busy cold patching the roadways and breaking down the winter snow plows for summer storage. The department has also completed washing down the brickwork on Rockside Road and the center islands on Brecksville Road. Over the last few weeks crews have been out landscaping, mulching and mowing all City grounds and buildings.

At the beginning of April the Service Department began collecting yard waste throughout the City. I would like to remind all the residents, please do not mix any household waste or plastic bags with yard waste. Those items will not break down and will be part of the compost delivered back to you.

On tonight's agenda is Ordinance No. 2021-48 authorizing emergency repairs for the City's combination sewer vacuum/jet truck. The vehicle is in overall good condition with only 19,400 miles on it. It is a critical piece of equipment used several times a week by the Department.

Also on tonight's agenda are Ordinance Nos. 2021-50 and 2021-52. These Ordinances allow the Service Department to purchase new equipment to replace aging equipment within the department. Ordinance 2021-48 is the purchase of a Bobcat E50R2 Mini Excavator which the department uses for several road projects, sewer projects and is also utilized at the Maple Shade Cemetery. Ordinance 2021-52 is the purchase of a Brush Bandit

15XP chipper. The department uses a chipper nearly every day throughout the year. The current chipper has nearly reached the end of its effective life cycle. The Service Department has been planning this purchase for several years.

If you have any questions regarding yard waste collection and guidelines or to purchase a yard waste Toter cart, please do not hesitate to call the Service Department or refer to the yard waste link on the City's website under the Service Department tab.

The Department began delivering compost on Tuesday April 5th. Over the past few weeks the Department has delivered 149 loads of compost to residents. Please call the Service Department for your free delivery today.



TECHNICAL SERVICES DIRECTOR – SNYDERBURN

We recently completed new track lighting in the Independence Fieldhouse. The new LED bulbs broadcast a brighter and broader light along the entire track. We also updated the controls for ease of operation.

After listening to our resident's concerns, Tech installed a new water bottle filler at the South end of the Fieldhouse. The new unit has been well received with many compliments.

A statewide tornado drill was conducted on Wednesday March 24th. All of our eight sirens were activated with one on Schaaf Road failing to respond to the radio signal. A monthly follow-up test was conducted on Saturday April 3rd and all of our sirens covering the entire city worked perfectly.

Wishing everyone a wonderful spring.

LEGISLATION SECOND READING

ORDINANCE 2021-19 An Ordinance amending Chapter 13 (Building Code) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Independence to reduce

residential construction-related nuisances and restrict noise (Rev. 2). **Enacted 5 yes/2 no (S,V).**

ORDINANCE 2021-35 An Ordinance amending Chapter 351 (Parking Generally) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Independence to prohibit overnight parking on public streets during winter months. **Removed for further review.**

ORDINANCE 2021-41 An Ordinance authorizing the retention of Quality Control Inspection, Inc. for General Construction Engineering Inspection Services 2021 and for the Hillside Road Sidewalk Improvements (West) Project. *(In an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00).* **Enacted 7 yes/0 no.**

ORDINANCE 2021-42 An Ordinance authorizing an agreement with Cuyahoga County for the resurfacing of Rockside Road *(Route 21 to East Corporation Limit).* **Enacted 7 yes/0 no.**

ORDINANCE 2021-43 An Ordinance accepting the proposal of Dell Marketing L.P. for the purchase, assembly, and delivery of computer workstation hardware. *(In an amount not to exceed \$50,155.82).* **Enacted 7 yes/0 no.**

ORDINANCE 2021-44 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Easement Agreement with Gail Ann Warrick PPN 563-24-002 (5166 Brookside Road). **Enacted 7 yes/0 no.**

ORDINANCE 2021-45 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a job relocation and creation grant agreement with MAI Capital Management, LLC to relocate operations to a location within the City. **Enacted 7 yes/0 no.**

ORDINANCE 2021-46 An Ordinance authorizing a Project Partnership Agreement with the Department of the Army for the design and construction of the Cuyahoga River, Independence, Ohio – Flood Risk Management Project. *(In a total amount not to exceed \$2,621,500.00, which represents the City's 35% share of*

the total construction cost). **Enacted 7 yes/0 no.**

ORDINANCE 2021-47 An Ordinance authorizing the implementation of a document imaging system for the Mayor's Court and approving a service agreement. *(For a total amount not to exceed \$30,381.65).* **Enacted 7 yes/0 no.**

ORDINANCE 2021-48 An Ordinance authorizing emergency repairs to the Service Department's Vac-Con Jet and Vacuum Truck. *(In a total amount not to exceed \$47,000.00).* **Enacted 7 yes/0 no.**

ORDINANCE 2021-49 An Ordinance authorizing the purchase of two golf carts for the Recreation Department. *(In an amount not to exceed \$24,655.65).* **Enacted 7 yes/0 no.**

ORDINANCE 2021-50 An Ordinance authorizing the purchase of a Compact Excavator for the Service Department. *(In an amount not to exceed \$72,641.02).* **Enacted 7 yes/0 no.**

ORDINANCE 2021-51 An Ordinance authorizing the purchase and installation of police vehicle equipment, in-car video systems and vehicle graphics on newly purchased Police Department vehicles. *(In an amount not to exceed \$141,929.80).* **Enacted 7 yes/0 no.**

ORDINANCE 2021-52 An Ordinance authorizing the purchase of a chipper for the Service Department. *(In an amount not to exceed \$65,276.25).* **Enacted 7 yes/0 no.**

ORDINANCE 2021-53 An Ordinance authorizing an increase in the amount of funds allocated to the retention of Mazanec, Raskin & Ryder Co., LPA for professional legal services. *(Authorizing an increase in the amount of funds allocated to the retention of Attorney McLandrich and the law firm of Mazanec, Raskin & Ryder Co., LPA to represent Anthony Togliatti, in his former official and individual capacity in accordance with their proposal relative to the Lawsuit, in an amount*

not to exceed \$8,039.47, and for a total amount not to exceed \$98,039.47). **Enacted 5 yes/2 no (N,W).**

ORDINANCE 2021-54 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Job Relocation and Creation Grant Agreement with Investors Diversified Realty, LLC to relocate operations to a location within the City. **Enacted 7 yes/0 no.**

ORDINANCE 2021-55 2021 Annual Appropriations Ordinance. **Enacted 7 yes/0 no.**

ORDINANCE 2021-56 An Ordinance establishing the Home Improvement Assessment Public-Private Partnership for the purpose of assisting residents and homeowners to maintain and assure properties remain in compliance with the Codified Ordinances for stormwater management, creek maintenance, sewer maintenance, adherence to city code, and outdoor maintenance. **Placed on Second Reading without objection.**

ORDINANCE 2021-57 An Ordinance authorizing an Environmental Engineering Services Agreement with Hull & Associates, LLC. (*In an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00*). **Enacted 7 yes/0 no.**

RESOLUTION 2021-2 A Resolution authorizing Michael Guzi to retain possession of his Fire Department Helmet and Duty Badge upon retirement. **Adopted 7 yes/0 no.**

PLANNING COMMISSION RESULTS – April 6, 2021

Saucy Brew Works, PPN 561-24-023, Rockside Woods Blvd. – Seeking approval for an accessory use to operate a brewery and the company's corporate offices on the premises. **Tabled.**

8801 East Pleasant Valley Road, CSA America Testing & Certification, LLC – Requesting a variance to Chapter 1383 to permit encroachment into the steep slope setback and a variance for

additional parking. **Approved.**

8600 Pleasant Valley Road, Independence Auto, LLC – Requesting a Special Conditional Use Permit to permit a used car dealership to be located within the existing building. **Set for Public Hearing May 4, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.**

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS RESULTS – April 15, 2021

4520 San Fernando Circle, Craig & Annie McGhee – Requesting the following variances: a variance to permit a second accessory structure (not permitted); a variance to permit a one car detached garage to be 18' x 25' (16' x 24' permitted) and a variance of 10' to permit an accessory structure to be 5' from the side lot line (15' permitted, 5' requested). **Approved.**

6203 Sunset Avenue, Dennis Puening – Requesting the following variances: a variance of 7' to permit an accessory structure to be 3' from the rear lot line (10' permitted, 3' requested); a variance of 48 sq. ft. to permit an accessory building to be 192 sq. ft. (144 sq. ft. permit, 192 sq. ft. requested) and a variance of 4' to permit an accessory structure to be 2' from the side lot line (6' permitted, 2' requested). **Approved.**

6500 Brecksville Road, Ace Hardware – Requesting the following variances: a variance to of 8.26 sq. ft. to permit a wall sign to be 83.26 sq. ft. (75 sq. ft. permitted, 83.26 sq. ft. requested); a variance of 5' ½" to permit a wall sign to be 8' ½" vertical dimension (3' vertical dimension permitted, 8' ½" requested) and a variance of 11.03 sq. ft. to permit a second wall sign to be 26.03 sq. ft. (15 sq. ft. permitted, 26.03 sq. ft. requested). **Approved.**





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**If you have questions regarding
Coronavirus/COVID-19 please call
1-833-4ASKODH (1-833-427-5634)**

Website: www.independenceohio.org
Email: cityhall@independenceohio.org



Outdoor Pool Opening Day
Sunday, May 30th Noon - 8 pm

SAVE THE DATE MAY 2021

*** DUE TO THE COVID-19 SITUATION ALL MEETINGS WILL BE VIRTUAL UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.
PLEASE CHECK THE CITY WEBSITE TO DETERMINE IF PUBLISHED MEETINGS/EVENTS ARE CANCELLED. ***

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 Community Shred Day 9am - Noon
2	3	4 Public Hearing 5 pm Planning Commission Mtg. following Public Hearing	5 Cinco de Mayo	6 National Day of Prayer Architectural Board of Review 3 pm	7	8
9 Mother's Day	10 Please call City Hall for Mayor's Listening Night 5 - 6 pm	11 Caucus 5:30 pm Regular Council Mtg. 7 pm	12	13	14	15 Armed Forces Day
16	17 Tax Day	18	19	20 Architectural Board of Review 3 pm Board of Zoning Appeals following Caucus 5:30 pm	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Tentative Outdoor Pool Opening Day	31 Memorial Day	1	2	3	4	5

Please confirm Caucus and Council Committee Meeting times by calling the "Council Meeting Line" at 216-328-1477 or visiting www.independenceohio.org