



Gregory P. Kurtz

Mayor

City of Independence, Ohio
6800 BRECKSVILLE RD INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131

(216) 524-4131 • FAX (216) 524-4832
www.independenceohio.org
cityhall@independenceohio.org

TO: *Council Members*
City Directors

FROM: *Mayor Gregory P. Kurtz*

DATE: *April 3, 2020*

RE: *Administrative Update*

MY WEEK IN REVIEW:

This has been another dynamic week with many changes and recommendations coming from the Governor's office. The decision to keep the schools closed and extend the Stay at Home Order until May 1st has required us to be flexible in our operations. Nonetheless, we continue to provide critical services to our community, and for that, I am very grateful to the outstanding employees of the City!

The dedication of our employees was evidenced last weekend when we experienced one of the largest historical floods on record in our area with the Cuyahoga River cresting at 21.62 feet. The Hemlock Trail was severely impacted along with a number of residences having to deal with storm water issues, debris and mud. Our Service Department and Recreation Department worked together to provide assistance to homeowners and to remove debris on the Hemlock Trail which was impassable in many areas after the storm. In the coming week, we will have crews out on the Hemlock Trail to complete the clean-up and begin the process of restoring any and all areas that were comprised. A big **thank you** to all who came out to assist on Sunday!

In conjunction with the flood incident, we were unfortunately made aware that our Emergency SwiftReach, which has been in place for many years to alert businesses of the river rising and potential flood issues, was not dispatched. Apparently this may have fallen through the cracks in transition to the new regional dispatch system. As a result, we are currently in the process of upgrading to a new system that will coordinate with other agencies in order to alert our business community as the need arises.

I would like to **thank** members of our Community Services Department for completing the first

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round of calls to our senior population. I received many messages of gratitude, but in my opinion, making calls to check on these residents who have contributed so much to our community over the years is a small gesture in comparison. Our seniors should know the City will continue to reach out to them in various ways to ensure they are okay and to see if they need anything.

I would also like to *thank those residents who are complying* with the Governor's mandates. To the best of your ability, we encourage you to follow the CDC's guidelines at www.cdc.gov. Please stay informed as this is a very serious issue.

NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR:

If you or a friend has the time and the ability to help a neighbor or fellow resident, now is the time. You may want to check on a neighbor who is older and/or lives alone to see if they are in need of groceries, or call them on the phone and take a few minutes to chat so they know someone cares.

That said, our Community Services Department will continue to coordinate Meals on Wheels and provide pick-up service for medications and essentials to those who are in need. If you have the time and would like to participate, please consider calling Community Services at 216.524.7373 to be put on a list and we will call you as needed. *Thank you!*

SPRING EASTER SURPRISE:

Easter is just around the corner but unfortunately due to the Stay At Home Order, our traditional Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Kiwanis Easter Egg Hunt were cancelled. However, the creative and compassionate members of our Community Services Department have put together some Easter treats for the children of Independence.

If you would like to register your children to receive a treat bag, please visit the City's website: www.independenceohio.org and click the Red Star "Activity Registration", or you can call the Community Services Department on Monday or Tuesday of next week to register. The deadline to register your child/children will be Tuesday afternoon at the end of the business day (5:00 pm).

On Saturday, April 11th from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, you can pick up your treat bags by driving through the Civic Center turnaround and the Easter Bunny will come to your car to deliver his special goodies! For safety reasons, all persons coming in contact with the treat bags will be wearing masks and gloves.

SPRING ART PROJECT:

The Community Services Department will also be offering an art project for individuals and families who would like to decorate a puzzle piece to reflect their COVID-19 family time/memories. This is a great project for all ages.

Puzzle pieces will be distributed during the Easter Surprise pick-up on Saturday, April 11th from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Puzzle pieces can be decorated with paint, markers, crayons, pictures, gems, glitter, etc. When completed, you can drop your artwork at the Civic Center in the clearly identified receptacle under the overhang at the entrance to the building. After we collect your artwork and put the puzzle pieces together, a display will be created for the Civic Center and/or Home Days.

Should you wish to participate in this activity, please register online at www.independenceohio.org by clicking on the Red Star, “Activity Registration” or call the Community Services Department at 216.524.7373 Monday or Tuesday of next week.

SWIFTREACH MESSAGES:

Every Friday at 7:00 pm I am sending out a SwiftReach message to our residents to keep you informed. The most recent message can be viewed on the City’s website. If you or anyone you know has not been receiving these messages, please call the Community Services Department at 216.524.7373 to be registered.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- A virtual **Streets and Sidewalks Meeting** has been scheduled for **Tuesday, April 7th at 4:00 pm**. Please check the City’s website on Monday of next week for more information on how you can join this meeting.
- The **April Council Meeting** scheduled for **Tuesday, April 14th** at 7:00 pm will also be held in a virtual format. For more details, check the City website next week.