



Gregory P. Kurtz

Mayor

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To: *Council Members & City Directors*
From: *Mayor Kurtz*
Subject: *Administrative Update for July 17, 2020*

Staying Ahead of COVID-19



The City of Independence has stayed ahead of the coronavirus by quickly adopting changing guidelines and staying focused on protecting the health and well-being of staff, residents, and the public. Our actions allowed us to open recreational facilities last month and continue city services uninterrupted for the most part.

Cuyahoga County remains at Level 3 (red) on Ohio's coronavirus alert system. It has been taken off a "watch list" that could have moved the county to a Level 4 (purple) -- the most critical level. It's a positive development considering the recent surge in new cases.

I urge residents, businesses, and anyone visiting the City to abide by Ohio's Level 3 mandate and wear a mask. No one wants to return to the situation we had in March with stay-at-home orders and businesses, schools, churches and other organizations being forced to shut down.

As businesses and restaurants navigate the coronavirus restrictions and develop new operating procedures, the City is reaching out to offer assistance and support. We will be making safety signage and provide it to local businesses upon request.

Homegrown Heroes

We must continue to recognize the healthcare workers who face the danger of COVID-19 every day and care for the most vulnerable. Anyone can contract the virus and not immediately know it because it is a symptomless transmission. Let's keep these dedicated professionals in our hearts and prayers. If you know someone, we should recognize, email us: cityhall@independenceohio.org.

Congratulations, Jim Polak



After 32 years of hard work and service, Deputy Chief Jim Polak has retired from the Independence Police Department. Jim has been a steady and reliable member of the Police force and someone I have counted on for many years. His unwavering dedication to the community and professional, calm demeanor will be missed. On behalf of the entire City, I wish Jim, his wife Lisa, and the entire Polak family a long and healthy retirement.

Water Mains Repaired

The recent water main breaks on E. Pleasant Valley Road, Chestnut Road, and Hawthorn Trace have been repaired. All three incidents occurred within a 24-hour period.

Hemlock Creek

The Engineering Department reports NEORSD has removed fallen trees and other debris from Hemlock Creek. Storm damage had accumulated in the creek's flow channel near where the sanitary sewer is located.

Independence Service Department

Despite the sweltering heat, the pandemic, and new operating guidelines, the Service Department has completed many projects and maintains the beauty of the City.

In addition to landscape maintenance, the crews have been busy with asphalt patching, catch basin cleaning, yard and waste collection, and recycling. Many residents have been cleaning out basements, attics, and garages. The crews picked up 343 tons of rubbish and 64.4 tons of recycling last month. The street sweeper collected an additional 39.02 tons of material. Well done!

Cheers to 10 Years



Congratulations to *Something White* for ten years in Independence. The bridal boutique at the corner of Brecksville Road and Sunset Avenue marked the milestone with style, elegance, and spectacular biodegradable balloon sculpture. Best wishes for continued success!

Need a Rain Barrel?



If you've been considering installing a rain barrel, here is a push to get you started. The Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District is selling [rain barrel kits for \\$60](#). It includes a diverter kit, and there is an instructional video. All you will need is a drill!

Pre-payment is required and there is a one barrel limit. The barrels will be available for pickup at the Independence Kiwanis Pavilion on Tuesday, August 4, from 5 - 7 PM.

***Let's work together
to get through this pandemic
sooner, rather than later.***

Please, wear a mask

If someone forwarded this email and you would prefer to receive it directly from Mayor Kurtz, please send your email address to CityHall@IndependenceOhio.org.