



# *Gregory P. Kurtz*

Mayor

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**To: Council Members & City Directors**  
**From: Mayor Kurtz**  
**Subject: Administrative Update for August 28, 2020**

## Hurricane Laura

Let us all pause from our pandemic-lives to say a prayer for the people in Texas, Louisiana, and other states who have experienced Hurricane Laura. The storm weakened as it moved inland, but not before creating a path of destruction. The high winds caused a catastrophic storm surge, flash flooding, and has left hundreds of thousands of people without power. Our thoughts and prayers are with those directly impacted by the storm and their families and friends.

## COVID-19 Community Testing

The Cleveland Clinic has partnered with Ohio's Minority Strike Force and the NAACP to offer **free COVID-19 testing on Saturday, August 29 between 10 AM and 2 PM** at the Clinic's **South Pointe Hospital**, 4180 Warrensville Center Road, in Warrensville Hts. The tests are available for people **WITH OR WITHOUT COVID symptoms**.

Anyone interested in being tested must **[pre-register online](#)** or call **216.491.6153**. Testing is limited to 200 tests and will be given on a first-come, first-serve basis. Drive-thru and walk-up only - **NO WALK-INS ACCEPTED**. Please wear a face mask covering.

## Mail-In Ballots



The pandemic-year elections are shaping up to be unlike anything we have ever seen. When the COVID-19 health emergency was declared on March 16, Ohio was forced to postpone the state primary from March 17 to April 28.

Now with less than ten weeks until the Tuesday, November 3 elections, state officials **urge prospective mail-in voters to request and cast their absentee ballots *as soon possible***.

As the U.S. Postal Service operations face national scrutiny, Cuyahoga County officials are concerned about local mail delivery delays. The Ohio Secretary of State's office estimates they will be sending **mail-in-ballot applications** to 7.8 million registered Ohio voters around the Labor Day weekend.

**All registered voters** can vote by mail. Ohioans do not need to give a reason for requesting an absentee/mail-in ballot. A ballot can be requested online at [443vote.com](https://443vote.com).

If *you are NOT registered to vote in Ohio*, you can do that at [VoteOhio.gov](https://VoteOhio.gov).

In Ohio, the following information is **required to register AND to request a mail-in ballot**: Your name, signature, address, date of birth and a form of identification that could include an Ohio driver's license number, partial Social Security number (last four digits), valid photo identification, various forms of government IDs and even a utility bill.

Early, in-person voting will begin October 6. You can find more information [here](#).

There will be in-person voting on Tuesday, November 3, at the Civic Center.

**The Board of Elections is also looking for poll workers** to assist at the in-person polling sites. For more information, please go to <https://boe.cuyahogacounty.us/>.

## 2020 Census Deadline

I urge everyone to fill out your 2020 Census form before the September 30 deadline. The Census count decides how much funding we receive for infrastructure repairs, school funding, safety programs, and other projects because they are based on population. Knowing the number of people who reside in Cuyahoga County and Independence is important.



Cuyahoga County is behind in the number of residents who have responded with a 64% response rate. I was pleased to learn that Independence is at an 85% response rate. We can do better!

If you have not filled out the form or misplaced it, you can complete the 2020 Census online - **it only takes 5 minutes** -- by visiting <https://my2020census.gov/>.

Let's all do our part and make sure the City of Independence is counted and doesn't lose funding.

**Are you looking for work?** There are still employment opportunities with the U.S Census. For more information or help applying, please call 1-855-JOB-2020.

## **Building a Better Independence**

Public works construction is considered essential work under Ohio's stay-at-home orders during the coronavirus epidemic. That made for a busy summer for the Engineering Department. I want to thank the staff for their tireless work and the residents' for their cooperation and patience as the City moves forward with multiple projects.

This week Catts Construction began installing permanent mailboxes in the **Lafayette** subdivision. The newspaper holders below the mailbox units are on backorder due to COVID-19. The contractor will return to install those attachments when they are available.

Fechko Excavating began paving new streets in Phase 6 of the **Chestnut Woods** subdivision on Wednesday. Traffic may be delayed by slow-moving cement trucks entering and exiting from Hillside Road and turning around at the intersection of South Great Oaks and Pine Ridge Oval. The work is expected to continue for two weeks.

The City of Independence is also preparing design plans for constructing a sidewalk on the north side of **Hillside Road from Hawthorn Trace to Great Oaks Parkway**. The City hired an engineering firm, Euthenics, Inc., to survey the area to provide design plans and specifications for the sidewalk improvements.

If you have any questions regarding any of these projects, contact the Engineering Department at (216) 524-1374 or by email at [engineering@independenceohio.org](mailto:engineering@independenceohio.org)

## **Summer Winds Down**

A Cuyahoga County Board of Health inspector was on site this week at the Outdoor Pool and Pool concession stand. **All facilities passed with no issues found.**

The Recreation Department staff continues to participate in ongoing training and informational meetings with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health and other local organizations to discuss evolving Ohio Pool Codes based on the CDC's Model Aquatic Health Codes.

The Indoor Whirlpool reopened Monday after being shut down for a week for repairs. Technical Services rebuilt both the filter pump and jet pumps.

## **Public Meeting Regarding CLE**



Cleveland Hopkins International Airport will hold its first *virtual public workshop* to gather views from airport users and others about important issues including safety and the environmental impact of CLE. Northeast Ohioans are encouraged to attend this informative meeting on Thursday, September 3 from 6:00 – 7:30 PM. You can find more information about the workshop and [register online here](#).

## September Concert Series

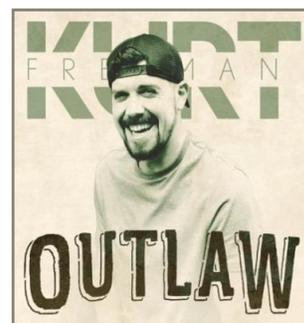


**SUMMER COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT**  
Town Hall Bandstand  
Thursday, September 3rd • 7 - 8:30 PM  
Bring your own chair or blanket!  
"The Alley Katz featuring Logan Wells and Patti Ann"  
Food Truck on Site:  
The September 3rd Summer Concert will have Bearden's Food Truck featuring burgers, sides, and shakes!  
We will be practicing social distancing at this event. Masks are mandatory for attendees.

Live concerts will continue every Thursday in September on Public Square. The **End-of-Summer Community Concerts** will kick-off on September 3, with "The Alley Katz," featuring Logan Wells and Patti Ann.

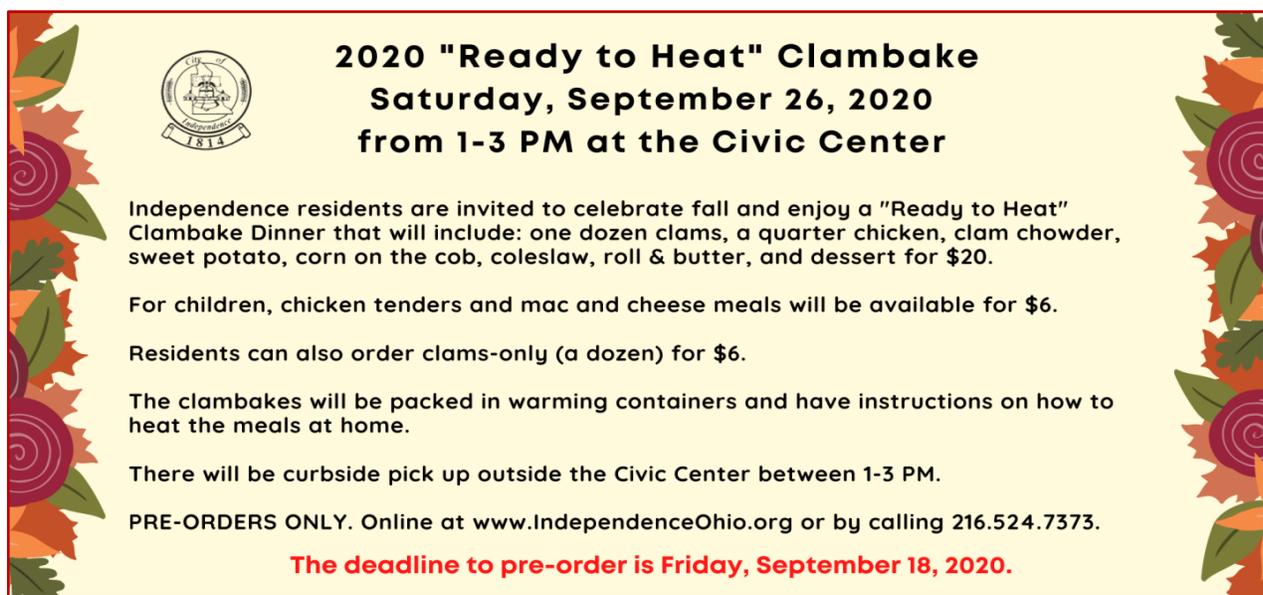
We also have two homegrown talents performing in September. **Taylor Tripodi** will perform on **September 17<sup>th</sup>** with Dana Catherine.

**Kurt Freeman** will have an encore concert on **September 24<sup>th</sup>**. Both concerts will be staged in Elmwood Park from 7 – 9 PM.



## September Clambake

The Oktoberfest that was initially planned for September has been postponed. Instead the City is hosting a "Ready to Heat" Clambake on Saturday, September 26.



**2020 "Ready to Heat" Clambake**  
**Saturday, September 26, 2020**  
**from 1-3 PM at the Civic Center**

Independence residents are invited to celebrate fall and enjoy a "Ready to Heat" Clambake Dinner that will include: one dozen clams, a quarter chicken, clam chowder, sweet potato, corn on the cob, coleslaw, roll & butter, and dessert for \$20.

For children, chicken tenders and mac and cheese meals will be available for \$6.

Residents can also order clams-only (a dozen) for \$6.

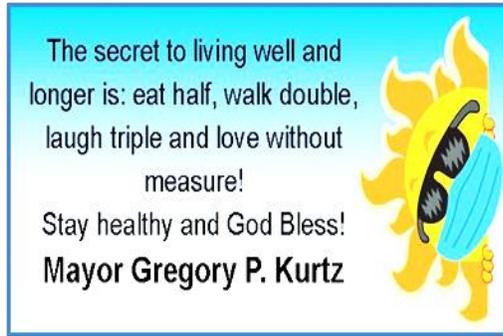
The clambakes will be packed in warming containers and have instructions on how to heat the meals at home.

There will be curbside pick up outside the Civic Center between 1-3 PM.

PRE-ORDERS ONLY. Online at [www.IndependenceOhio.org](http://www.IndependenceOhio.org) or by calling 216.524.7373.

**The deadline to pre-order is Friday, September 18, 2020.**

## Brought a Smile to My Day!



It was such a pleasure to say hello to residents and see their smiling faces when they picked up their senior lunches outside the Civic Center this week. The City supplements the Tuesday and Friday lunches to allow seniors to get out of their homes and pick up affordable, nutritious lunches.

The Community Services team does an incredible job delivering the meals curbside and always with a warm and friendly greeting to every person who drives up.

This week, we hit a new record for lunch reservations -- more than 530 meals were pre-ordered. Remember, the menus are available in the Community Spotlight magazine. **To pre-order lunch, call 216.524.7373.**



## Upcoming Meetings

### Tuesday, September 1

*Virtual Public Lands & Building Committee Meeting*

2:00 PM

[Register here](#)

*Virtual Streets & Sidewalks Committee Meeting*

3:30 - 4:30 PM

[Register here](#)

*Virtual Planning Commission Public Hearing & Regular Planning Commission Meeting*

Starts at 5 PM\*

[Register here](#)

\*The public hearing starts at 5 PM followed immediately by the regular Planning Commission Meeting. Register for both meetings here.

## Labor Day Is 10 Days Away



Monday, September 7th, is Labor Day. City Hall, City Annex, the Civic Center and the Service Department will be closed in observance of the holiday to honor working people, their contributions, achievements, and sacrifices to pursue national prosperity.