



Gregory P. Kurtz

Mayor

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To: *Council Members & City Directors*
From: *Mayor Kurtz*
Re: *Administrative Update for July 2, 2020*

2020 Top Workplaces: Independence

Congratulations to the Independence companies that were recognized as Top Workplaces by The Plain Dealer and Cleveland.com this year. The annual ranking included 175 organizations representing a wide range of sectors including, nonprofits, schools, law firms, manufacturing, construction companies, and financial services. Here are the local winners:

Vizion Solutions

Hylant

Liberty Home Mortgage Corp.

Independence Excavating

Redwood Living

Nations Lending

CBIZ

Hobe & Lucas CPAs

Microsoft

American Fleet Services

Improving

Keyfactor

Reliability First

Beautification of the Independence Gateway

The City has purchased the property at 6248 Brecksville Road, located just south of Rockside Road. City Council authorized the purchase by a 4-to-3 vote during a special meeting on May 19.

The deal will allow the City to enhance the property to make the gateway to the community more welcoming.



The existing house will be removed and the City will construct a fence between the residential and commercial areas to increase neighborhood security.

A drainage issue that created a driving hazard across Brecksville Road during heavy rains will be mitigated and eliminated.

The Engineering Department has prepared an *initial* green space concept for the property

St. Michael Church Property Development

City officials met with St. Michael Church leadership this week to begin discussions on how we can collaborate on a master plan for the area. The next step will be a meeting with residents to hear their ideas for the neighborhood.

Farmer's Market: July 5



The Farmer's Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Market will open on Sunday, July 5 from 9 AM to 1 PM at the old Middle School site (6565 Brecksville Road). *Everyone will be asked to practice social distancing.*

Food Truck Friday & Porsche Auto Show

The Independence Historical Society's Food Truck Friday will be held outside Historical Hall on **July 10th from 4-7 PM**. DiLauro's Woodfire Pizza will be back and there were be a Porsche auto show and auto trivia quiz.



Roadwork on Rockside Road

Contractors will continue striping Rockside Road between 8 PM and 5 AM through the end of the week.

Virtual Meeting: July 6-10

Tuesday, July 7
5:30-6:30 PM

Planning Commission Virtual Meeting
[Register here](#)

A Simple Request

I continuously ask myself and my team if we are doing everything possible to protect residents, staff, and visitors from the evolving coronavirus situation. Our phased reopening of the pools, ball fields, recreational facilities, and some summer programs has worked well. On Thursday, the Summer Community Band Concert series kicks off, and we are in the early stages of planning a community celebration for the end of September.

However, the recent uptick in new COVID-19 cases is concerning, especially since more young people are contracting it. While the elderly usually suffer most from the effects, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports an increase in coronavirus hospitalizations for patients ages 18-to-49.

The virus is unlike the common flu. The symptomless transmission makes it more dangerous and more difficult to fight.

Protecting the City and residents is my responsibility. However, we each have an individual responsibility to protect ourselves and others from this deadly virus. The restrictions can be burdensome, but we cannot ignore the potential life-and-death risks of the disease. Efforts to contain the coronavirus have entered a new phase where individual choices will have a more significant impact on how quickly this outbreak is contained.

Please continue to practice physical distancing, wear a mask, and limit group activities. If you see others taking unnecessary risks, remember there is no reward for bad choices. We are making progress. Let's all do our part to avoid returning to the situation we had in March when this all began.



Happy Independence Day!