



Gregory P. Kurtz

Mayor

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To: *Council Members & City Directors*
From: *Mayor Kurtz*
Re: *Administrative Update for June 26, 2020*

Economic Development

Economic Development Director Jessica Hyser was introduced at the June 24 Economic Growth & Development Committee meeting. She talked about her 20+ years of economic development experience, most recently with the City of Green, in Summit County.



Ms. Hyser explained the current COVID-19 environment for businesses and outlined some of her priorities, including:

- Updating economic development marketing
- Updates to the Website, including adding information on commercial property
- Potential creation of the Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) as another economic development tool
- Targeted business outreach
- Emphasis on supporting downtown businesses
- Northwest quadrant: The City and IRG have met, and future discussion about the project is in the works

Support Local Businesses

As we emerge from the coronavirus pandemic, please continue to support local businesses that are essential to our economy and community. The federal government is providing limited financial relief and initiatives to businesses impacted by the virus. As residents and customers, we should do all we can to support these businesses that provide products, services, jobs, and bring innovation and growth to our City.

Home Days 2020

Our traditional Home Days Celebration will not occur on August 7th and 8th as initially planned, due to the pandemic. It is disappointing, but I had to prioritize the health and safety of residents, vendors, volunteers and staff.

We are planning an alternative celebration for the end of September. More information should be available next month.

Grief, Loss, and COVID-19

Every time I learn that one of our residents has passed away, I am saddened. The death of a loved one is always difficult. The pandemic restrictions have compounded the anxiety for those facing death and those who are unable to be physically present during a person's final days.

For the bereaved, not being able to conduct a traditional funeral or practice end-of-life rituals surrounded by people who can support them only compounds the pain and sorrow.



Over the years, I have done my best to pay my respects to our grieving families and friends. Since March, that has not been possible due to the virus. Please know that my thoughts, prayers, and condolences go out to everyone who has experienced the wrenching pain of loss. Now more than ever, we must show compassion for others to let them know that we are not indifferent to their suffering.

Virtual Meetings June 29-July 3

Tuesday, June 30
4:30 PM

Streets & Sidewalks Virtual Committee Meeting
[Register here](#)

Wednesday, July 1
4:30 PM

Public Lands & Building Virtual Meeting
[Register here](#)

Thursday, July 2

Architectural Board of Review Virtual Meeting
[Register here](#)

Friday, July 3

Independence Day Observed – City Hall Closed

Pool Safety

Thanks to everyone who has complied with the new precautions the City has put in place to protect residents and staff from the coronavirus. All restrooms have touchless fixtures, including soap and towel dispensers. An outdoor water bottle filling station was installed at the South end of the track in the Field House, and there are outdoor showers. Together with enhanced cleaning procedures and schedules, the chances of germs being transferred has been dramatically reduced.



The outdoor pool is featured in a new Cleveland Clinic video titled “Reducing Coronavirus Spread at the Pool” being released to national media outlets.

Protect Yourself, Protect Others

It’s great to see Little League games on the ball fields with families and friends cheering on their teams from outside the fences. Unfortunately, not everyone is consistently practicing social distancing.

The easing of pandemic restrictions does not mean the threat of this deadly virus has been diminished. In Ohio this week, there was a significant increase in the number of new cases. The situation is dire in other states where the number of cases has been trending up for weeks.

Be wise, be thoughtful, and protect yourself and others until an effective treatment or vaccine for this virus is developed.

55+ Lunch Expands

The **55+ Lunch program will expand to Tuesdays and Fridays starting July 14.** For older residents, it is a great way to get outside, drive to the Civic Center, and have a delicious lunch including dessert dropped off at your car. Reservations are required.

There **will not be a 55+ Lunch next Friday, July 3** due to the Independence Day holiday.



Food Truck Friday at the Historical Society

Bring your chairs, blankets, and appetite to the Independence Historical Society's Food Truck Friday event on July 10th. This year it will be held outside Historical Hall on the east side of the Public Square on the green from 4-7 PM. Everyone is invited and asked to please practice social distancing.

DiLauro's Woodfire Pizza, owned by Independence High School grad Adam DiLauro, will be back by popular demand. This year the event includes a Porsche auto show and auto trivia quiz.

Summer Concert Series

The **Summer Community Band Concert series kicks off next Thursday, July 2 at 7 PM.**

The popular **Chardon Polka Band** will perform on the Town Hall Bandstand. Please bring a chair or blanket and practice social distancing. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be held at the Kiwanis Pavilion. Please call 216.524.7373 to confirm.



Next week's Administrative Update will be posted on Thursday, July 2 due to the Independence Day holiday.

Make it a great weekend!