



Gregory P. Kurtz

Mayor

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Administrative Update for May 15, 2020

SAFETY FIRST

June will look a little more "normal" under the next phase of the **Responsible RestartOhio** plan that allows recreational facilities and camps to reopen.

I know everyone is anxious for the City to open the outdoor pool, Civic Center, baseball diamonds, and start day camp. Rest assured I have begun meeting with my team to determine the actions needed to comply with the state's 11-pages of mandatory and recommended best practices to protect residents' and staff's health and well-being. My top priority is to leverage functionality with necessary operational changes to ensure the highest safety standards. This will include comprehensive staff training to practice and enforce new protocols to keep everyone healthy and safe.

HONORING THE BRAVE

On **Memorial Day**, we will have an **abridged service on the Public Square starting at 9:30 AM**. There will be limited seating and social distancing. This year **there will not be a procession to Maple Shade Cemetery**, but as is tradition, flags will mark the graves of all who served.



It will be my privilege to pay tribute to ten Independence residents who died in service to this nation. One of the soldiers served during the Civil War, three in Vietnam and six in WWII. **Their names are inscribed on the Soldiers Memorial, and their Hometown Hero banners will be displayed every year on the Square.**

BON APPETIT



Senior Lunches resumed Friday, May 15 at the Civic Center with a twist. For the foreseeable future, seniors will be able to drive up to get **heat-and-eat meals between noon and 1 PM**. It was great to see so many residents this afternoon. Hope you enjoyed today's lunch and plan to come back and see us next week.

In honor of Older Americans Month, the City will provide a **free, luau-themed lunch to all our 55+ residents in two weeks on Friday, May 29**. Everyone will also receive a **washable face mask**. Anyone interested should call Community Services to sign up.



COMMUNITY SHRED DAY



This **Sunday, May 17**, residents and City employees may **discard paper/documents safely**, by **dropping off up to eight boxes to the Shred Truck** that will be parked at **City Hall between noon and 4 PM**. You do not need to remove staples or paper clips. Just put all the boxes in your trunk so you can stay in your car.

MAY CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The second virtual Council Meeting held on May 12 had over 30 attendees between panelists and public participants. I encourage residents to pre-submit questions and watch the proceedings every month via the Zoom platform. There is more information on how to sign-up on the City's website.

Despite a few minor glitches, we had a productive discussion of agenda items, meeting business, and subsequently went into Executive Session. I want to **thank Coral Jean Troxell**, who sat in for City Engineer Don Ramm. She participated as a panelist in the Caucus portion of the meeting. I appreciate the cooperation and patience of all our Councilmembers as we become more comfortable with this virtual platform. There were **nine Ordinances** and one Resolution on the agenda, of which seven pieces of legislation were supported unanimously on the Consent Agenda.

Ordinance 2020-42, which appeared on Second Reading, establishing the Chestnut Woods Phase VI Incentive District, was also **approved unanimously**.

Ordinance 2020-48 authorizing an Easement Agreement for highway purposes in conjunction with the Daisy Boulevard Road Improvements was **adopted (6-1)**.

Ordinance 2020-54 regarding the purchase of land located at 6248 was left on **First Reading**.

Lastly, I would like to **thank Finance Director Blaze** for again providing the Council Prayer before our meeting.

Here are the meeting/events scheduled later this month:

- A **Strategic Planning Meeting of Council** is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 19 at 4:30 PM**.
- **Memorial Day Ceremony, Monday, May 25** at the **Soldiers Memorial in Public Square will begin at 9:30 AM**. ***Please note there will be no parade to Maple Shade Cemetery this year.**

HOMEGROWN HEROES

As we appear to be emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is abundantly clear that staying at home, avoiding crowds, and practicing social distancing reduced the spread of the virus in Ohio. It's not over yet.

We cannot thank enough the doctors, nurses, and healthcare professionals who are saving lives and caring for people every day. Their work is especially challenging and vital during this health emergency. Many residents have reached out to let me know about **healthcare workers from Independence** -- some who are working nearby and others out-of-state. **We want to continue to recognize these Homegrown Heroes**, so if you know someone, we should salute, please contact my office.

IT'S ALL FUN, UNTIL SOMEBODY GET HURT

Many people have been enjoying the warmer weather by hiking The Hemlock Creek Trail. It is a popular place to soak in the sunshine and get some fresh air.

Unfortunately, some young people were spotted jumping off the bridge into the creek. **Due to the recent heavy rains, the water appears deep – it is not.** Jumping into the creek is dangerous regardless of the water levels. Let's all make sure we are being smart and safe.

THORIN J. CHAPPEL

I was finally able to recognize **Thorin J. Chappel for his outstanding accomplishments both academically, athletically and musically.** He is the son of Kathy and Matthew Chappel and will graduate from Independence High School on June 6 with honors and a GPA of 4.434.



Thorin excelled academically, earning an AP Scholar with Honors Award, was inducted into the National Honor Society last year, and was a National Merit finalist. When he wasn't hitting the books, he excelled in sports and music. As Captain of the Cross Country Boys Team for three years, he earned the Coach's Award. This talented senior was also a member of the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus and Honor Choir and was inducted into the Tri M Music Honor Society. He also found time to give back and volunteer. He starts at Duke University in the fall.



On behalf of the entire City, congratulations Thorin -- your future looks bright! Also, hats off to your parents for raising such an exceptional young man.



Make Your **MARK!**



May is Older Americans Month. Make your mark and make a difference in the life of one of our senior residents by participating in our "Indy Pen Pals!" program to become an "Intergenerational Pen Pal!"



Indy Pen Pals!

It's fun to connect with each other! You can brighten the day of an Independence Senior Citizen in an easy way! Get out your pens, crayons, and markers and write a letter, make a card, or color a picture. Put your creation in an unsealed stamped envelope with your return address. Then drop off at our Pen Pal Mailbox located outside the Civic Center entrance.

Our Community Services staff will mail your letter to one of our Senior Citizens to start your Pen Pal connection!

Together We Are Better!