



# *Gregory P. Kurtz*

Mayor

City of Independence, Ohio  
6800 BRECKSVILLE RD INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131

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## Administrative Update for May 29, 2020

### Civic Center

On Monday, June 1, the Civic Center's indoor pool and fitness center will open for **residents only**. Fewer people will be permitted in the building to accommodate social distancing, and there will be reduced operating hours. *The gymnasium, atrium, showers, and all common areas will remain closed.*

### Recreation Department Temporary Summer Hours

Monday-Friday	6 AM to 8 PM
Monday-Friday	8 AM to 11 AM reserved for seniors & immunocompromised individuals
Saturday	8 AM to 2 PM
Sundays	9 AM to 1 PM

Due to the health pandemic, new policies have been established to protect residents and staff, including:

- A parent or guardian must accompany all children ages 14 and under while in the building.
- Each facility will have signs posted explaining new guidelines for visitors.
- Counters will have Plexiglas shields, and markings will be on the floor to denote 6-foot intervals.
- We have temporarily suspended the guest policy. If you have a pass, you will need to show it or enter your PIN. Anyone who needs to renew a pass must provide proof of address.
- There will be increased availability of hand sanitizer for both the public and employees.
- There will be mandatory temperature and symptom checks for staff at the beginning of each shift.

The ball fields opened on May 26 for Independence teams, organizations, and residents only. Permits and reservations are required.

The Pavilions, Fieldhouse, and Elmwood Recreation Center remain closed. However, the construction of Liberty Park, landscaping of Elmwood Park, and *cleaning of all recreational facilities, including the outdoor pool*, continued this week.

The Community Services side will not host any reservations until at least July 1.

## **Independence's Own**

Jessica Hyser begins as the City's new Economic Director on Monday, June 1. She replaces Jeremy Rowan, who stepped down in March.

Ms. Hyser has more than 20 years of economic development experience. Most recently, she was with the City of Green in Summit County. She was responsible for the City's business retention, expansion, and attraction projects, incentive programs, business outreach/communication, and semi-annual business events.

Earlier in her career, Hyser worked at a national non-profit that helps the economic development community utilize financing tools and also worked for the Greater Cleveland Partnership/COSE.

Hyser earned a master's degree in Public Administration from Cleveland State University's Maxine Levine College of Urban Affairs, with a concentration in Economic Development and holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Ohio University.



Ms. Hyser grew up in Independence and now lives here with her husband, children, and an energetic dog named Baxter.

## **Seventh Wettest May on Record**

The Engineering and Service Departments responded to a number of calls from residents who reported flooding, drainage, sewer, and erosion problems due to the recent heavy rain. The record-setting rainfall across the region has waterlogged communities throughout Northeast Ohio. The City is updating its master flooding list.

## **Beautiful Independence**

I met with Service Director Leon Karas and Recreation Director Tom Walchanowicz to discuss the routine upkeep of streets, public areas, and landscape improvements to City properties. The City needs to maintain and enhance "green spaces" and other common areas to showcase the beauty and benefits of the natural environment - it provides a sense of community. Studies show that green space and landscaping support a person's health, happiness, and intellect.

## Salute to the Class of 2020



Independence High School has organized a **High School Commencement Parade** for next Friday, June 5, starting at 7:15 PM. Students and parents are invited to line up in their cars on Lafayette Blvd. beginning at 6:45 PM. A police escort will lead the procession down Brecksville Road to Selig Drive and up to the Fieldhouse parking lot. A Graduation Video will premiere at 8 PM.

Graduating seniors are encouraged to decorate their cars, and *everyone* - students, families, and residents - must practice social distancing.

The City will also salute the Class of 2020 with special signage on Selig Dr., and a two-page photo spread in the June edition of *The Independence Post*.

Congratulations, 2020 grads!

## Free Lunches for Seniors

In honor of Older Americans Month, the City of Independence provided free lunches for 170 residents on Friday. The cookout-style menu included burgers made on the grill by Independence firefighters. Each resident was able to stay in their car and pick up their lunch using the drive-up pickup system outside the Civic Center.



## Hometown Heroes

[Fox 8 News](#) recognized Independence Firefighter Jim LoParo and his son Nick, a fellow firefighter in another city, as **Cleveland's Own**. Jim also has a second career as a nurse at the VA Hospital in Cleveland.

We salute you both for devoting your careers to helping and saving others. Bravo!



## Memorial Day 2020



It's was great to see so many people attending this year's Memorial Day ceremony.

The weather was perfect and everyone practiced social distancing while honoring the brave men and women who served and sacrificed for our nation. You can [watch a video of the remembrance here](#) or read about it on [Cleveland.com](#).

## Virtual Meetings June 1-10 - Mark your calendars

Tuesday, June 2 at 6 PM	Planning Commission Public Hearing & Meeting
Thursday, June 4 at 3 PM	Architectural Board of Review
Monday, June 8, 5 to 6 PM	Mayor's Listening Night - <i>phone calls only</i>
Tuesday, June 9, 6 PM	City Council Caucus
Tuesday, June 9, 7 PM	City Council Meeting

# Welcome June

