



# *Gregory P. Kurtz*

Mayor

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**To: Council Members & City Directors**  
**From: Mayor Kurtz**  
**Subject: Administrative Update for August 7, 2020**

## Ongoing Impact of COVID-19

As a community and as a nation, the last few months have been a time of unprecedented challenges. Stay-at-home orders, masks, social distancing, and other required precautionary practices have changed everyone's regular routines and lifestyle.

In March, schools closed when the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Now, nearly five months later, school administrators and teachers struggle to figure out if, when, or how to reopen. Many parents are panicking. Will their students return to the classroom, and if so, will it be safe?

This week, Governor Mike DeWine announced that the state would issue an **order requiring all K-12 students to wear face coverings this fall**. The action coincides with the recommendations made by the Ohio Children's Hospital Association and the Ohio American Academy of Pediatrics. There will be exemptions for the mask requirement for students with health or medical issues. State officials are also working with FEMA to distribute 2 million masks to schools across Ohio.

During a conference call with Superintendent Ben Hegedish and Independence Local School District officials this week, the priority was to determine the most effective way to enforce all federal, state, and local guidelines to protect students, teachers, and school employees. *Everyone stressed the importance of classroom learning and firmly believes that attending school is fundamental to child and adolescent development and well-being.*

**The City strongly supports the ILS district, parents, students, and staff.** We will continue to work together to ensure best practices are in place to protect children and adults and provide a safe and productive learning environment.

The Community Services Department is working with ILS officials to modify the **Before and After School Programs**. We will have more information next week.

## Good Neighbor Policy

It has been a challenging home-buying season with housing supplies in desirable communities like Independence at dramatically low levels. The low supply and high demand from buyers wanting to lock in low-interest rates have led some people to "stalk" property owners.

I recently had a call from a long-time resident *who is NOT selling her home*. She told me she has found strangers walking around her yard, and that some people, including neighbors, knock on her door and ask personal questions about her future plans.

*No one should be put on the spot and made to feel uncomfortable or intimidated in their own home.* I know this resident is not alone. The same thing has happened to members of my family.

Buyers may think they are friendly when they inquire about someone else's house that they admire. It is **presumptuous, illegal, and an invasion of privacy**. I suggest buyers get the address of the home *from the street*, write a short note to the *Family or Residents*, and drop it in the mail.

The City has **No Soliciting and No Trespassing** ordinances. Residents may pick-up a free **No Soliciting sign** at the Police Department or the Civic Center. If a resident is unable to pick one up for some reason, a police officer can deliver one. Residents are encouraged to call the **Police at 216-524-1234** if they have suspicions about solicitors or strangers on their property. The City requires every solicitor to obtain a permit and display it while they are soliciting.

Let's all be good neighbors and respect other people's homes and privacy.



## New Bus Shelter



A new, ADA-compliant bus shelter was installed on the east side of Brecksville Rd., across the street from Drug Mart this week.

The City worked with the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority to modify the design to blend with the neighborhood. Riders will now have a comfortable place to sit to wait for a bus and be protected from inclement weather

## City Council Meeting August 11

The public is invited to attend the *virtual* City Council Meeting next **Tuesday, August 11**. The Caucus begins at 5:30 PM and the Meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. All participants must [pre-register here](#).

## Rain Barrels

It was great to see so many neighbors picking up the rain barrel kits they purchased from the *Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District* on Tuesday, August 4.

Rain barrels conserve water and save homeowners money on their water bills. Among the environmental benefits, rain barrels collect roof runoff and reduce the amount of water that flows from a residents' property which prevents pollutants found in storm water from entering rivers and streams.



Mayor Kurtz, Amy Roskilly, CSWCD



## 55+ Lunches

The popularity of this year's *drive-thru*, 55+ Lunches continues to grow. Every Tuesday and Friday between noon and 1 PM, the Community Services team delivers lunches with desserts curbside *to senior residents who have pre-ordered a meal*. This week **400 lunches** were picked up at the Civic Center - that's a new record!



Each week I receive calls from residents who say they miss socializing with neighbors at the Civic Center but appreciate the hearty meals and the friendly, drive-up service.

The City is happy to subsidize these lunches to keep the cost low while providing quality nutrition for our 55+ residents. It also gives them a reason to come by and see us!

Pictured with Mayor Kurtz, Gabby Schultz and Lori Rizzardi, Adult Program Coordinator



On Friday, lunches included a coronavirus **Care Kit** for senior residents and anyone with a compromised immune system. Each kit included two disposable masks, a City of Independence washable mask, and a bottle of Purell hand sanitizer.

Residents can find the menus through September 4 in the **August Community Spotlight** on page 13. **Reservations are required.**

## Summer Community Concerts Extended to September 2

The always popular **Logan Wells** will perform at the just-added Community Concert on **Thursday, September 3**.

**Masks are mandatory at all concerts.** We do ask everyone to bring a chair or blanket and social distance.

Below are images from yesterday's Summer Concert with [Risk Factor](#) and the [Barrio Tacos](#) food truck and the updated line-up of performers and food trucks in **August**:



**SUMMER COMMUNITY BAND CONCERTS**  
**THURSDAYS 7 - 8:30 PM**

Aug 6th "Risk Factor" - Barrio Food Truck  
 Aug 13th "Wayne Tomsic" - Pizzeria DiLauro  
 Aug 20th "Kurt Freeman" - Original Steaks & Hoagies  
 Aug 27th "Juke Box Heroes" - Southern Thangs

**All Concerts held at the Town Hall Bandstand**

## Community Shred Day



The City is hosting a “Community Shred Day” for residents and all City employees on **Saturday, September 19 from 9:00 AM to noon**. The Absolute Shred truck will be parked in the City Hall parking lot and will safely destroy paper documents “on site.” There is an **8 box/bag limit per resident and employee**. Staples and/or small paper clips do not need to be removed. City Departments may also participate.