



Gregory P. Kurtz

Mayor

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

(216) 524-4131 • FAX (216) 524-4832
www.independenceohio.org
cityhall@independenceohio.org

TO: *Council Members*
City Directors

FROM: *Mayor Gregory P. Kurtz*

DATE: *January 31, 2020*

RE: *Administrative Update*

MY WEEK IN REVIEW:

Another busy week as we continue to sort through numerous issues to take advantage of as many opportunities to increase the City's service and serviceability.

I met with the Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) District 12 Director John Picuri and Michael Kubek, Capital Program Director to look at various areas including resurrecting the opportunity for an emergency vehicle ramp onto I-77 via Selig Drive. We also discussed utilization of their previously used yard on Old Brecksville Road. All in all much of our conversation revolved around finding mutually agreed upon solutions to traffic issues such as the timing of the traffic lights at Pleasant Valley and I-77, and safety issues throughout the City.

Yesterday I attended the January meeting of the Cuyahoga County Mayor and City Managers Association. A variety of topics and concerns across the county were deliberated coupled with discussion of opportunities that will mutually benefit the county as well as enhance programs within the City of Independence.

The Association agreed to support the Health and Human Services proposed Tax Levy issue that is going to be on the ballot in the Primary Election on March 17th. CSU also discussed the various grant opportunities being offered throughout the County which we (Independence) will be looking into.

A representative from the Cleveland Food Bank was also present to explain the need for increased participation in its food donation program. The City of Independence will be looking into increasing our participation in that program in the future to help those in need.

We continue to look at Economic Development and redefine the City's strategy to take

advantage of the opportunities unique to the City as well as develop a strategic plan that will promote the City of Independence and create stability for future generations.

We continue to work through staffing and possible restructuring to promote enhanced communication and efficiency. as well as looking at possible new legislation to assist us in our endeavor to clean up the City.

PUBLIC LANDS & BUILDINGS:

I attended the Public Lands and Buildings Meeting held this past Thursday, January 30th at 4:30 pm in the Council Caucus Room at City Hall. Chairman Walchanowicz put together a robust agenda which included discussion involving the possibility of engaging an outside expert to do a complete assessment of the condition of our inventory of City buildings. *Thank you* to Dennis Zdolshek for his presence and input regarding this proposal.

Another topic of discussion surrounded the expansion of Maple Shade Cemetery. As a result, the Committee has requested the Administration to research the potential areas for expansion along with providing information on columbarium and other burial options.

In addition, I made a presentation concerning a few parcels of land that could potentially be utilized for public purpose.

STAFF MEETING:

I held my regular scheduled Team Meeting this past Tuesday with my Administrative Team. Human Resource Director Letitia Linker provided important information regarding the City's Compensation Ordinances for our non-bargaining employees as well as updates on the City's Healthcare initiatives. I also took this opportunity to share a strategic plan and vision for the future of our City and engaged the Directors, encouraging them to provide both their positive and negative feedback. I value their input and the wealth of knowledge they provide to this City!

ROAD AND RIGHT-OF-WAY SURVEYING ACTIVITY:

A Resident Notice was dispersed informing affected residents that the City of Independence is initiating preliminary survey and design work for the Hillside Road Sidewalk and Drainage Improvements Project. The project will result in new sidewalk and storm sewers along the north side of Hillside Road from Hemoga Street to Twin Creeks Court.



The City has contracted with the firm Crawford, Murphy and Tilly (CMT) to complete preliminary engineering for this project. In order to perform the necessary work, crews from CMT will need to enter onto designated homeowners' property in this area over the next 30 days to collect data.

Any questions or comments may be directed to Crawford, Murphy and Tilly by contacting Jake Barbour at 440.462.4021 or email at jbarbour@cmtengr.com. The City Engineering Department is also available to answer any questions by calling 216.524.1374.

PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD CLOSURE:

The County Department of Public Works notified the City that the bridge deck of the Pleasant Valley Road Bridge over Canal Road/Towpath is in immediate need of repair.

Effective immediately, the westbound lane of the Pleasant Valley Road Bridge spanning Independence and Valley View will be intermittently closed. Two-way traffic will be maintained in a single lane by portable traffic signals. Vehicles traveling in the area should expect delays and may want to consider alternate routes.

The closure will remain in effect until County crews can finalize repairs. Repairs are anticipated to be completed by the end of March 2020, weather permitting. Signs notifying travelers will be installed on Pleasant Valley Road at the intersections of Brecksville Road and Hub Parkway.

UPPER BROOKSIDE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS – PHASE 1 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE:

Work completed in the last two weeks:

- The Week 1 Road Closure work went very well, and the contractor accomplished the larger-diameter storm sewer work as necessary to enable the road to be re-opened.
- To date, the Contractor has installed approximately 1,100 feet of mainline storm sewer, including eleven precast concrete storm sewer manhole structures.
- A 2nd storm sewer crew began installing precast concrete curb inlet basins and storm sewer cross-overs (starting at the Eastview Drive-end of the project, and working to the south.
 - Adjacent Yard Drains are also being installed by this crew.
- Temporary concrete pavement has been installed to repair the storm sewer trench across the limits of the open travel lane of the roadway.
 - Sections of temporary concrete pavement have also been placed to repair the storm sewer trench across the limits of residential driveways.
- The temporary “gang mailbox unit” which was initially installed on Lake Charles Drive was recently moved to the Eastview Drive-end of the project, where it should remain for the duration of the Phase 1 project work.

Work planned for the coming weeks:

- Two (2) Crews will continue installing mainline storm sewers, manholes, curb inlet basins and storm sewer crossovers, including yard drains.
 - Early this coming week, the contractor will dig test holes along the east edge of the roadway, between E. Sprague and Lake Charles Drive to locate the existing gas and water mains. This effort will aid in the completion of the Phase 2 project

design.

- 1-lane, 1-way traffic will continue to travel southbound and westbound through the work zone.

Please call the Independence Engineering Department at 216.524.1374 (or contact us via email at engineering@independenceohio.org) if you have any questions or concerns.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS IS HIRING POLL WORKERS FOR THE MARCH 17, 2020 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION:

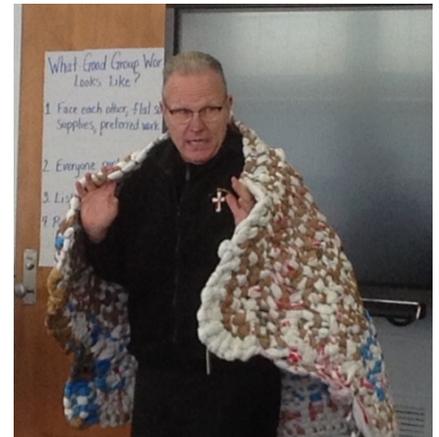
The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections is seeking civic-minded individuals to assist voters on Election Day. Poll Workers (Precinct Election Officials) earn up to \$200 and have the satisfaction of being part of the democratic process.



Individuals may apply on the Board's website: www.443vote.us, or call the Poll Worker Hotline at 216.443.3277.

INDEPENDENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT HOMELESSNESS THROUGH HANDS-ON PROJECT:

The fourth graders at Independence Primary School learned about existing outreach groups for homeless people and worked to help these people with their own service project.



On January 22, Deacon Lou Primozi from St. Basil the Great Catholic Church in Brecksville spoke to the fourth graders about homelessness. He gave a presentation about his outreach program and how it helps those in need in the area. The students then gave their own presentation about their project-based learning lesson that focused on the homeless. Students created mats and blankets using plastic bags and attached an inspirational message to each one. Deacon Lou explained that to crochet a blanket of that size takes up to 20 hours and is very time consuming. He assured the students that their mats were appreciated and would truly make a difference in the lives of the people in need.



OHIO BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO BEGIN SENDING DRIVER LICENSE RENEWAL REMINDERS

Beginning tomorrow, the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) will begin sending driver license renewal reminder emails to customers.

“We understand that drivers have a lot of obligations and deadlines in their everyday lives,” said Ohio Governor Mike DeWine. “We hope these new email reminders serve as a convenience for those who are approaching their driver license expiration date and remove the stress of remembering to renew at the last minute.”

The email reminders will include a link to create a personal document checklist to help customers verify they have the right documents needed to obtain a [federally compliant driver license](#) which will be needed beginning on Oct. 1, 2020, to board commercial flights, or enter U.S. federal buildings and military bases.

“The BMV is committed to providing innovative customer service,” said Charles Norman, Ohio BMV Registrar. “This is another example of our dedication to enhancing the overall customer experience by using technology to provide new options to meet their needs.”

A driver license that is current or has been expired less than six months can be renewed at any deputy registrar license agency. If a driver fails to renew his or her license six months or more beyond the expiration date, he or she must obtain a temporary permit and successfully complete all required testing before a new license can be issued.



For more information, including how to opt-in for this service, please visit www.bmv.ohio.gov

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

- A **Finance Meeting** has been set for **Tuesday, February 4th at 4:00 pm** in the Council Caucus Room at City Hall.
- The **February Planning Commission Meeting** is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 4th at 5:30 pm** beginning with a Planning Caucus in the Council Caucus Room at City Hall followed by the meeting in Council Chambers.
- A **Streets and Sidewalks Committee Meeting** has been scheduled for **Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 4:30 pm in the Council Caucus Room at City Hall.**
- The Cuyahoga Valley Chamber has set the date for their 4th Annual **Taste of the Valley** for **Thursday, February 27th from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Holiday Inn, Rockside.**

Ticket prices are as follows:

- Adults \$25 in advance,
\$30 at the door
- Children (under 13) \$10
- Seniors (60+) \$15



Come sample some of the delicious food our local restaurants and caterers have to offer. Not only will this be a fun event for you and the family, it is a great opportunity for advertising and networking. This event is open to the public and all proceeds go to benefit the Chamber's Annual Scholarship Fund.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Following are some highlights of recent activity, updates, events and/or statistics from various departments:

The Engineering Department Reported- (Week ending January 24)

- Engineering has been working with the Service Department to televise the storm sewer system and house service laterals on Upper Brookside Road in connection with our major infrastructure project.
 - The support and efficient involvement of the Service Department has tremendously aided our efforts to strategize and identify needed drainage work to be facilitated by the contractor on the project.
- A Permit was issued to Dominion East Ohio to connect gas service at 5115 Brookside Road.
- An inspection of the landscape at 6114 Elmarge Drive was approved.
- Two (2) Site Plans were re-approved
 - 6882 Linden Lane sub-lot 111
 - 6894 Linden Lane sub-lot 110
- Engineering conducted **two meetings** this week, one with a consulting engineer to review the scope of work for a sidewalk improvement on Hillside Road. As a result of this meeting, the consultant will prepare a draft scope and fee for survey for preliminary planning and engineering on the project. The second meeting was held with the Project Engineer from Bohning and Associates to coordinate design issues for the Phase 2 component of the Upper Brookside Road Improvements Project. The goal is to finalize the Phase 2 design as early as possible in February.
- Catts Construction commenced work on the Upper Brookside Road Improvements Project.
 - The one (1) week "Road Closure" went according to plan and the road was opened up to 1-lane, 1-way traffic on Monday, January 27th.

- DiGioia Suburban Excavating continues to install storm sewer and drainage improvements along both sides of Brookside Road, in connection with the Brookside/Bramley Drive Improvements Project.
 - This project is moving along in accordance with the construction schedule.
 - An opinion of probable cost study was performed to estimate the costs of changing the typical section of Brookside Road for the addition of curb and gutters.
- Fabrizi Trucking and Paving continues to perform earthwork in connection with the road and utility extension project on Rockside Woods Boulevard North.
 - Subcontractor, Thompson Electric, continues to install street light pole foundations along the west-side of the street within the project limits on Brecksville Road (near the AAA office building).
 - This project is moving along in accordance with the construction schedule.

The Police Department Reported- (Week ending January 24)

Misdemeanor Arrests	Felony Arrests	Traffic Citations	OVI Arrests	Accident Reports	Calls for Service
5	2	27	0	11	348

The Fire Department Reported: (Week ending January 24)

	Week	YTD
• EMS Incidents	26	92
• Fire Incidents	9	32
• Mutual Aid:		
○ Engine Responses	7	7
○ Squad Responses	2	4

The Recreation Department Reported- (Week ending January 24)

Highlights:

- The Greek Orthodox Youth Association Basketball Tournament that was held at the Fieldhouse on January 17th, 18th, and 19th took in \$2915 for the facility rental. In addition, 30 teams competed and approximately 120 rooms were filled for the weekend between the Residence Inn, Springhill Suites, the Marriott and Hyatt Place Hotels on Rockside Road.
- The Civic Center was very busy on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday with many families enjoying the day together.
- The W.B. Mason Company recently won the bid for the City’s cleaning and janitorial paper supplies contract for the year beginning April 1.

- Tuesday marked the last home meet for the high school swim team, held at the indoor pool. Congratulations to the Blue Devils for defeating Padua at this meet!
- The Recreation Department is testing a newer model chlorinator for the indoor main pool. The pump has a variable speed motor and is more energy efficient.
- Technical Services Director Snyderburn and I met with a metal refinisher to discuss possible brass surface improvements to the Civic Center elevator due to discoloration over the years.
- A representative from Adler's came out to measure The Recreation Department is obtaining quotes for a set of new volleyball poles and nets for the Civic Center Gym.
- The Activity Pool was drained on Wednesday evening as part of our preventative maintenance plan.

The Community Services Department Reported- (Week ending January 24)

- Youth Highlights:
 - All programs are near capacity! Time for Us, Fantastic Friday's and Children's Cooking Class.
 - Kangaroo Kidz – Weekly Program held in the gym averages 20 children a week.
 - The Knights of the Round Table is another wonderful program for parents and their children.
- Afterschool enrollment:
 - 92 children (K through 8th grade)
 - Servicing 72 families
- Adult Program Highlights:
 - 28 people participated in the bus trip to the Berea Union Tavern on January 16th.
 - 75 residents attended the 55+ lunch held on Friday, January 17th and enjoyed the entertainment of Stan Mejac on his accordion.
 - 46 people enjoyed a bus trip to Playhouse Square on Wednesday, January 22nd to enjoy "Jersey Boys."
- 616 seniors are signed up for Snow Plow services
- The Community Services Department is in the planning stages for new programming for all age groups.
- The Mayor has requested the department return to offering three trips a week instead of two for the Teen/Tween Summer Camp.

Enjoy your Superbowl Weekend!

