# *Gregory P. Kurtz*

**Mayor**

City of Independence, Ohio
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***MAYOR KURTZ'S WEEKLY UPDATE FOR JUNE 24, 2022***

**TRAFFIC ALERT**

On **Saturday June 25th**, Chagrin Valley Paving will be closing one lane of Brecksville Road (SR-21) over I-480 for a bridge deck concrete pour. Traffic will be flagged bi-directionally in one open lane on the bridge.

The hours anticipated for this closure are **3 AM to 3 PM.**

## Ohio Fireworks Law

Ohio's new fireworks law will take effect next Friday, July 1. It allows people to legally set off consumer-grade fireworks on certain holidays.

Under current law, individuals could purchase consumer-grade fireworks in Ohio but had to transport them out of state within 48 hours.

The new law includes a provision that allows communities to opt-out of the state law and enforce their own local restrictions and bans within city boundaries.

Last March, City Council voted unanimously to opt-out of the new law which means it is still illegal to discharge consumer-grade fireworks in the City of Independence.

On average, fireworks are responsible for starting about 19,000 fires each year and more than a third of fireworks injuries occur to children under the age of 15. Also, the loud booms late at night scare children, adults, and pets.

Sparklers, snaps, snakes, small noise makers, and smoke bombs are considered novelty fireworks and they remain legal in the City.

Please enjoy your Independence Day celebrations safely and leave the pyrotechnics to the professionals who will be putting on the City's fireworks show on Friday, July 1 at Elmwood Park.

## One More Shopping Day!

You have one more day to shop the City-Wide Garage Sale. Here's a link to the more than 90 participating families with a list of items for sale.

## Safety Town Graduation

Nearly 40 children graduated from Safety Town on Friday, June 24. The two-week program prepares pre-kindergarten children for school by teaching them about school bus and playground safety, how to safely cross the street, traffic lights, stranger danger, 9-1-1 usage, animal safety, and so much more.

Each child received a graduation certificate and a coupon for free ice cream from the Elmwood Park concession stand from Mayor Kurtz.

Kindergarten Teacher Patricia Kandzer, School Resource Officers Brad Borowy and Kevin Repicky were the instructors and had the support of a strong team of volunteers.

## Deadline to Pay Property Taxes

Cuyahoga County Treasury Department has mailed property tax bills for the second half of 2021. Property owners have eight options for paying property taxes by **Thursday, July 14, 2022.**

To avoid long lines, residents should consider paying property taxes by drop box, on-line or by phone. Taxpayers can still pay by cash, check, money order, credit and debit card in the Cashier Department located on the first floor of the County Administrative Headquarters, 2079 East Ninth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Extended hours, Thursday, July 14, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

## Summer Concerts

The Independence Community Band will be performing on the Square next **Wednesday, June 29 from 7-8:30 PM** for a bonus summer concert.

***There will not be a summer concert, Farmers Market or food trucks on the Square next Friday, July** 1* due to the Independence Day holiday. The summer concert series will resume on July 8 with the band Sumrada playing the best of the 80's, 90's and today. Also, the Wrap It Up food truck and Kona Ice will be on site. Remember to bring a blanket or chair!

## Cosmic Bowling!

The second week of IDEA (Independence Discovery, Exploration & Adventure) Camp was JAMMED PACKED with fun activities! There was a dance party, the outdoor pool and splash pad, fieldtrips to TopGolf, Arena 51 Cosmic Bowling and a presentation from everyone's favorite inspirational speaker, Jim "Basketball" Jones!

## Independence Youth Wrestling Camp

**When**: Saturday, July 9th 10:00-11:30 & 12:00-1:30
Sunday, July 10th 10:00-11:30
**Where**: Independence Middle School
**Who**: ***Free*** for any K-8th grade Independence wrestler or resident

The Independence Coaching staff, and High School wrestlers will be instructing basic wrestling skills over 3 sessions. Please bring a bagged lunch on Saturday to eat in between sessions. Please fill out the Google Form to register

If you have any questions, please contact Coach DeAngelis:
**kdeangelis@independence.k12.oh.us**

## Weekly Finance Review

Read Finance Director Vern Blaze's Weekly Review for June 24, 2022 here.

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