



***Gregory P. Kurtz***

**Mayor**

[City of Independence, Ohio](#)

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***MAYOR KURTZ'S WEEKLY UPDATE FOR SEPTEMBER 24, 2021***

**New Police Chief**



After a rigorous recruitment process, I am pleased to announce that I have appointed Robert Butler as the next Police Chief for the City of Independence.

Captain Butler has been with the Cleveland Metroparks Police Department since 2018 and currently oversees patrol operations. He has also overseen special and administrative operations with Metroparks Police. Before that, he worked for the Cleveland Heights Police Department for ten years, where he rose through the ranks from officer to sergeant to lieutenant. He is also a part-time law enforcement instructor at Cuyahoga Community, Lorain Community, and Lakeland Community Colleges.

Recently the **International Association of Chiefs of Police** honored him with their [40 Under 40 Award](#). The award recognizes law enforcement professionals worldwide that demonstrate leadership and exemplify a commitment to their profession.

I was impressed by Butler's collaborative leadership style, intelligence, energy, and commitment to meaningful community engagement. He possesses the integrity, vision, and communication skills to lead the Police Department into the future as we consider additional staffing and other measures to bolster our public safety services.

This week Councilmembers had an opportunity to interview Captain Butler and ask him about his experience, credentials, and vision for the future.

Butler said, "It would be my privilege to join such a respected police department," adding, "As Chief, I look forward to working with the officers, community, and city leaders in continuing the highest level of safety and service."

If confirmed by Council at the October 12 meeting, Butler's first day as Police Chief would be November 1.

### **Fall Fest & Clambake**

I hope everyone is ready for Sunday's **Fall Fest & Clambake at Elmwood Park from noon to 4 pm**. As always, the City is asking people to **bring a canned food item** or make a \$1 donation which will go to the local food bank.

**Fall Fest** has something for everyone. There will be music, hayrides, a petting zoo, magician, face-painting, balloon artist, car show, clambake, and more.

If you didn't pre-order a dinner, we've got you covered. There will be many food and beverage vendors around the Park.

### **Community Shred Day is Coming**



A reminder that next **Saturday, October 2 is Community Shred Day**. Residents and City employees may drop off up to eight boxes of paper/documents that will be shredded on-site in the truck that will be parked at **City Hall from 9 AM to noon**.

You do not need to remove staples or paper clips and if the boxes are in your truck, there will be people who can remove them so you can stay in your car.

Download **Finance Director Blaze's Weekly Report for [September 24, 2021](#)** [here](#).

## Time for Us Updates

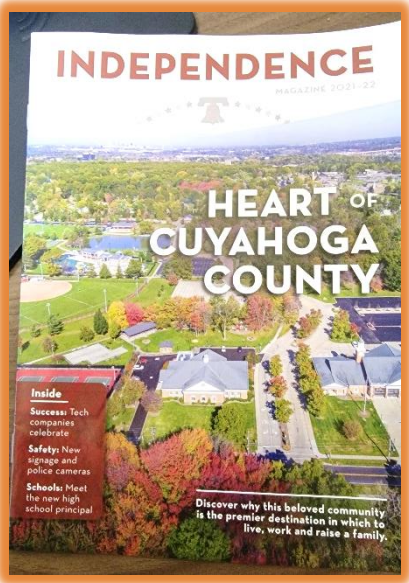
The 40 preschoolers enrolled in the *Time For Us* program learned about the shapes and flavors of fall this week and enjoyed tasting Ohio farm-picked apples and pears. Some parents said this was the first time their children tasted pears or caramel sauce (yum).



During the arts and crafts portion of the program, children colored and leaf-stamped a placemat, and created handprint squirrel tails and leaves. The finished artwork is on display in the hallway outside the banquet rooms.



## Independence Magazine



Did you receive your copy of the **2021-22 Independence Magazine** this week? The City contracted the same folks who publish *Cleveland Magazine* to produce this special edition.

In addition to mailing a copy to each resident, the magazines will be available to local businesses and hotels to share with employees and visitors.

*If you received more than one copy in your mailbox, we apologize. The publisher is reviewing the distribution list and investigating what caused the problem.*

If you miss the Mayor's **SwiftReach** call, you can [read the message here.](#)

If you know someone who would like to subscribe to Mayor Kurtz's Weekly Updates, please ask them to email their name and email address to [CityHall@IndependenceOhio.org](mailto:CityHall@IndependenceOhio.org).