

Independence Around Town

Economic Development Newsletter

Second Quarter 2016

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Summer is upon us and Northeast Ohio and Independence have much to celebrate. With the Cleveland Cavaliers NBA Championship and the upcoming Republican National Convention (RNC) the eyes of the world will continue to focus on Northeast Ohio.

Throughout the region, we are still basking in the glow of the CAVS championship. Since the Cleveland Clinic Courts, the CAVS world class practice facility, opened its doors in Independence in 2007, we have developed a great partnership with the Cavaliers organization and consider our community as their second home. I extend the community's sincere heartfelt congratulations to a very talented team on their well-deserved title.



The RNC will be held in Cleveland the week of July 18 and Independence will be a prominent location with our many hotels, restaurants and meeting locations. Several states' delegations will be headquartered in Independence this week, as well as numerous national media representatives. The City's safety forces continue to plan and develop strategies to ensure the event is safe and enjoyable. I encourage you, as a local business that will be affected by the influx of travelers to our City, to please be aware of how external situations may impact your business. Every business and citizen has a role in community safety, and Police Chief, Mike Kilbane offers some important reminders on how we can all assist with community policing in the Odds and Ends section of this newsletter.

In conjunction with the RNC, the City of Independence is once again sponsoring an edition of the Independence Magazine. This RNC-themed issue includes a Restaurant and Hospitality Guide, providing location and contact information for each of our City restaurants and hotels. While valuable for the City's RNC guests, the Guide will also be a useful resource for our local businesses.

In addition, the City will provide information for our Convention guests through a social media marketing program. By using Twitter at #YourIndependence, RNC visitors can access information about Independence and Northeast Ohio. With #YourIndependence, the City's ambassadors, or virtual concierge, will provide information and answer questions in real-time during the RNC. The conversations occurring on Twitter

are available for community contribution; I encourage you to follow #YourIndependence and help provide our visitors with information and suggestions on the great amenities available in Independence and Northeast Ohio.

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable summer,

Sincerely,

Anthony L. Togliatti
Mayor

NOTABLE NEWS

RTA ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO FARES AND SERVICES

The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority Board of Trustees on Tuesday, June 7, approved a fare increase and service reductions to help address a projected budget deficit. The 77F bus route, which serves the Rockside Road Business District, was initially identified for the cancellation of weekend service. The cancellation of weekend service on the 77F bus route was opposed by Independence's elected officials, businesses and residents.

Ultimately, the Greater Regional Transit Authority Board of Trustees decided there will be no elimination of the weekend 77F bus service, only a reduction in the frequency of weekend service to every 90 minutes. Although this change may cause some challenges for riders, this is still a great outcome as opposed to a complete cancellation of 77F's weekend service.

ROADWAY PROJECTS SCHEDULED TO START AFTER THE RNC

In August, watch for significant capital road improvements in Independence's major Rockside Road Business District.

The much-anticipated \$2.0 million turning lane and I-77 southbound entrance ramp widening improvements project is slated to begin immediately after the RNC, and will include adding an eastbound lane on Rockside Road between Summit Park Drive and the entrance ramp to I-77 southbound. [Read More...](#)

INDEPENDENCE COMPANIES WELL REPRESENTED ON LIST OF TOP WORKPLACES

According to a list published by the Plain Dealer/Cleveland.com, Independence is proud to be home to several top workplaces in Northeast Ohio. The Independence companies recognized with this honor include the following:

- Alliance Solutions Group
- American Fleet Services
- Blue Chip Consulting Group
- CBIZ, Inc
- Cleveland Clinic Health System
- Hospitality Restaurants (Delmonico's)
- Independence Excavating
- Nations Lending Corporation

Congratulations on this great accomplishment!

NEW PROGRAM TO FUND ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS

Commercial property owners in Independence now have a way to finance energy efficiency improvements to their property through a new Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) loan program. NOPEC's program is designed to meet the needs of property owners by providing up-front capital to complete energy efficiency improvements, in a structure that provides stable, predictable payments over the term of the loan. This structure is called PACE - Property Assessed Clean Energy. [Read More...](#)

HOME DAYS



The City of Independence is holding its annual Home Days on Friday, August 5 from 6:00 pm - 11:00 pm and Saturday, August 6 from noon - 11:00 pm. The parade starts on Saturday at noon on Brecksville Road. With this year being Independence's 100th Home Days, it will undoubtedly be the most memorable one yet! Live entertainment, great food and rides for the kids...this year's Home Days has something for everyone.

For more detailed information about the Home Days schedule, please visit the City of Independence [website](#).

WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES/BUSINESS UPDATES

Help us keep the community up-to-date on our newest neighbors! Drop us a line when you learn of a new business calling Independence home. Please join us in welcoming the following new businesses.

Involta, a provider of data center, technical and managed technical services nationwide, recently held a groundbreaking ceremony for a new data center on East Pleasant Valley Road. The new 23,000 square foot facility will consist of conditioned data center space, additional storage space, mechanical and electrical infrastructure and additional office space for client and business continuity use.

A fiber ring will connect Involta's Akron data center to the Independence facility to allow clients to keep redundant production configuration. The network has been designed to allow near time replication with sub millisecond connectivity.



The new **SpringHill Suites by Marriott** recently opened its doors. The new 121-room hotel at 6060 Rockside Place expects to be fully occupied during the upcoming RNC.

Independence also welcomes **Prolink Staffing Services, LLC** to Summit 1.

Humana / Seniorbridge has joined the Independence Community and is located in One Independence Place.

Licata Law Group is new to Independence and is located at 4500 Rockside Road.

ODDS & ENDS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

On July 18-21 the RNC will be held in Cleveland and Independence is playing a large part in this historic event. The City has been planning for this event for over a year, with the goal of making this a safe and enjoyable experience for all of our visitors.

The safety forces have been preparing with several joint training sessions and exercises involving police, fire and EMS personnel from across the region. You will notice an increased police presence during this busy week, and our goal is to minimize any potential disruptions and traffic issues that may arise. We will also maintain sufficient staffing to respond to non-convention related incidents and meet the safety needs of our community.

A vital part of our City's great safety record is the relationship and cooperation we have with our residents and business community. Public safety is very much a shared responsibility, and not just during the convention, but at any time we ask that you let us know if you see something suspicious. Here are some guidelines from The Department of Homeland Security:

Suspicious activity is any observed behavior that could indicate terrorism or terrorism-related crime. This includes, but is not limited to:

- **Unusual items or situations:** A vehicle is parked in an odd location, a package/luggage is unattended, a window/door is open that is usually closed, or when other out-of-the-ordinary situations occur.

- **Eliciting information:** A person questions individuals at a level beyond curiosity about a building's purpose, operations, security procedures and/or personnel, shift changes, etc.
- **Observation/surveillance:** Someone pays unusual attention to facilities or buildings beyond a casual or professional interest. This includes extended loitering without explanation (particularly in concealed locations); unusual, repeated, and/or prolonged observation of a building (e.g., with binoculars or video camera); taking notes or measurements; counting paces; sketching floor plans, etc.

Some of these activities could be innocent-it's up to law enforcement to determine whether the behavior warrants investigation. The activities above are not all-inclusive, but have been compiled based on studies of pre-operational aspects of both successful and thwarted terrorist events over several years.

The Independence Police Department can be reached 24/7 at 216-524-1234, and in case of an immediate emergency, call 911.

CONTACT THE INDEPENDENCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



Jeremy Rowan, Director
216.524.4131 ext. 2246
rowanj@independenceohio.org

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