

## Independence Around Town

### Economic Development Newsletter

Second Quarter 2017

### A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

With summer in full swing, the City of Independence has been busy with a variety of projects throughout the community. One high profile project recently completed was the demolition of the former Independence Middle School building. The demolition process was smooth, timely, and well executed. The removal of the building sets the stage for future plans for downtown. Information has been sent out to a number of consulting firms to solicit proposals for planning work for the former Independence Middle School site and Brecksville Road streetscape projects. As we progress in this process, we will keep you informed of opportunities where the public can become engaged and provide input.



In an effort to improve traffic flow along the Rockside Commercial Corridor, the addition of a dedicated turn-lane accessing the I-77 south ramp has been completed and new signalization has been added. Flashing yellow arrows at key locations near the I-77/Rockside Road interchange have been installed along with the implementation of a new "variable-use lane" for left turns onto I-77 southbound. During the afternoon hours from 3 - 6 PM, this "variable-use lane" will become a second left turn-lane onto I-77 south. At all other times, this lane will be a through-lane for westbound traffic. We are confident that once travelers become accustomed to these new options, it will help to minimize congestion and assist with improving the traffic flow along this corridor.

In conjunction with the theme for our 101st Home Days Celebration, "Proud to be an American", I am very pleased to have instituted a banner program to recognize and honor those who have ties to the City of Independence, and are veterans or are currently serving our country in the armed forces. The "Hometown Heroes" banners will be displayed along Brecksville Road from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. As we honor our "Hometown Heroes" all summer long, please mark your calendar for our annual Home Day's Celebration on August 4-5. This promises to be a fabulous and fun-filled weekend with a very patriotic theme.

In the meantime, I hope you will join us on Monday, July 3, for our Independence Day Celebration at Elmwood Park. Food booths will be open from 7-10 PM, so come early to enjoy a bite to eat before the fireworks.

As always thank you for your investment in the City of Independence and please remember that my door is always open! Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

Anthony L. Togliatti  
Mayor

## NOTABLE NEWS

### **I-77 SOUTHBOUND RAMP EXPANSION COMPLETE, EFFORTS TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW AND CONGESTION CONTINUE**

The Rockside Road and I-77 Southbound Entrance Ramp Widening project (Project), which began in July of 2016, wrapped up last month at a final construction cost approaching \$2.0 Million.

While this Project is complete, it is the first step of many that the City is planning to take with the goal of continually improving traffic flow and minimizing congestion on Rockside Road, particularly within the limits of the I-77 interchange. [Read more...](#)

### **INVOLTA'S INDEPENDENCE DATA CENTER GRAND OPENING**

On Thursday, June 8th Involta held a ribbon-cutting and [grand opening celebration](#) for its new 25,000 square-foot data center on East Pleasant Valley Road. The new data center features: temperature and humidity controls, fully-redundant power and HVAC, and 24/7/365 critical monitoring. The multi-tenant Independence data center is connected to Involta's Akron data center by a state-of-the-art fiber ring, providing millisecond latency between the concurrently maintainable sites. This allows for real-time services between the two locations. With the completion of this facility, Involta will have invested more than \$50 million in the State of Ohio.



Independence's robust regional workforce, excellent public infrastructure and a significant investment in conduit installation made the City an attractive and strategic data center location. [Involta's partnership with the City of Independence](#) was also important to the success of this project. The City provided the company with a job-based economic incentive, and a 10-year lease allowing Involta to utilize space in the city-owned conduit network. Gaining access to this network reduced the company's start-up costs and

solidified Involta's decision to construct the data center in Independence.

## **INDEPENDENCE COMPANIES WELL REPRESENTED ON LIST OF TOP WORKPLACES**

According to a list published by the [Plain Dealer/Cleveland.com](http://PlainDealer/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:



- [Aerotek](#)
- [Alliance Solutions Group](#)
- [American Fleet Services](#)
- [CBIZ, Inc.](#)
- [Cleveland Clinic Health System](#)
- [Fleet Response](#)
- [Hospitality Restaurants \(Delmonico's Steakhouse\)](#)
- [Hylant Group](#)
- [Independence Excavating](#)
- [Nations Lending Corporation](#)
- [ReliabilityFirst Corporation](#)
- [Total Quality Logistics](#)
- [University Hospitals](#)
- [Walthall CPAs](#)

Congratulations on this great accomplishment!

## **RESERVING ELMWOOD PARK'S OPEN AIR PAVILIONS**



Businesses located in Independence can reserve the open-air pavilions in Elmwood Park. The facilities are available for office-sanctioned events between the hours of 10 AM - 4 PM, Monday thru Friday.

Please contact the Independence Recreation Department by calling 216.524.3262 for additional information and to make a reservation.

## **THE EY ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR 2017 NORTHEAST OHIO WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

EY has recently announced winners of the [2017 Entrepreneur of the Year Award in the Northeast Ohio](#) region. The entrepreneurs were selected by an independent judging panel made up of previous winners of the award, leading CEOs, private capital investors and other regional business leaders. The 2017 Award winners include leaders from two Independence-based businesses.

The winners from Independence are Vic DiGeronimo, Jr. from [Independence](#)

[Excavating, Inc.](#) and David Conwill and Steve Kimmelman from [Redwood Living, Inc.](#)

Congratulations to these outstanding business owners!

## HOME DAYS 2017

The City of Independence is holding its annual Home Days on Friday, August 4 from 6 - 11 PM and Saturday, August 5 from noon - 11 PM. The parade starts at noon on Saturday and runs along Brecksville Road. This year the Home Days theme is "Proud to be an American." This popular event features 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.

[Rose Community Management](#) recently began operations at Freedom Square II, 6000 Freedom Square Drive.

[Kalibrate Global](#) has moved into office space in Rockside Square II, 6133 Rockside Road. The company was previously located in downtown Cleveland.

[7signal Solutions](#) has relocated its headquarters from Akron to Independence. The company is located in Rockside Square I, 6155 Rockside Road.

[Kindred Healthcare](#) has recently moved from Solon to office space in Freedom Square I, 4401 Rockside Road.

[New Horizons Computer Learning Centers](#) and [Centennial Contractors Enterprises, Inc](#) have both relocated to Plaza 45, 4500 Rockside Road.

[Access National Mortgage](#) has opened an Independence office in the Spectrum Building, 6060 Rockside Woods North Blvd.

Please join us in congratulating [Options for Senior America Corporation](#) for being selected as one of the [2017 Best of In-Home Care Award winners](#) on [SeniorAdvisor.com](#), the largest ratings and reviews site for senior care and services in North America.

# ODDS & ENDS

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

In response to interest from our business community, the City of Independence has enacted legislation to allow mobile food trucks to operate in our business districts. Permits for food trucks can be obtained from the police department at no charge. The operator will need to show that they have a current food service license from the Cuyahoga County Health Department or any other health department in the state, and they will also need to provide permission from the property owner or manager at the location they intend to operate.



In order to ensure the health and safety of patrons, the mobile food trucks are required to comply with all applicable health and fire codes and inspection requirements. The mobile food truck permit application, along with specific permit requirements, is available on the City [website](#). We are excited to provide the opportunity for some of the varied and highly popular mobile food vendors in the area to bring their business to Independence!

If you have any questions regarding mobile food vendors, please contact [Chief Mike Kilbane](#) at 216.524.1234.

## CONTACT THE INDEPENDENCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



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Independence Around Town  
Economic Development Newsletter



Second  
Quarter  
2017

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