

Independence Around Town

Economic Development Newsletter

Fourth Quarter 2017

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

With the Holiday Season upon us, I would like to thank the community, elected officials, entire City staff, and companies that call Independence home, for their support throughout the year.

As we approach the end of 2017, the City's commercial vacancy rate is at its lowest in many years and our income tax revenue is the highest it has ever been, eclipsing \$30 million. In addition to many improvement projects completed this year throughout the City Campus and our facilities, the City also completed two major infrastructure projects - the Rockside Road and I-77 Southbound Entrance Ramp Widening, as well as the Rockside Woods Sanitary Sewer Replacement and Extension project. The community also said farewell to the old middle school which served a significant purpose in its day, but as we look to 2018 there is an excitement among our residents and stakeholders to formulate a plan for this property that meets the City's future needs.



My Administration looks forward to working with our business community to continue these successes into 2018. Wishing you and your family a blessed holiday and a New Year full of health, happiness and prosperity!

Sincerely,

Anthony L. Togliatti
Mayor

NOTABLE NEWS

THE CITY IS PARTNERING WITH INDUSTRIAL REALTY GROUP IN A MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Independence City Council recently passed an ordinance authorizing Mayor Anthony L. Togliatti to execute a Letter of Intent to negotiate an agreement with Industrial Realty Group, LLC (IRG) for the \$2.5 million purchase and

subsequent development of a 33-acre city-owned site on Rockside Road near the I-480/I-77 interchange. [Read more...](#)



CHAMBER UPDATES



The Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce (CVCC) is launching a membership drive by offering a 20% discount to new members that join in the month of January. Chamber members enjoy many benefits - events, programs and resources to help grow their companies, as well

as opportunities to benefit from group savings on healthcare insurance and workers compensation premiums. The new member application is available at the CVCC [website](#).

Please mark your calendar for one of the organization's signature events - [The Taste of the Valley](#). This year's event is scheduled for Thursday, February 22, 2018 from 4:30 - 9:00 pm at the Holiday Inn, 6001 Rockside Road, it is open to the public with special pricing for seniors and children under 13.

To learn more about tickets, event participation, and sponsorship opportunities please visit the organization's [website](#) or contact Executive Director, [April Acuna](#) at 216.573.2707.

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO HELP MANAGE ENERGY USE

The Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP)/Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE) offers a suite of energy services that provide companies and property owners with a total solution for reducing costs and improving overall energy efficiency. These solutions will add dollars back to your bottom line and impact your ability to reinvest in your business.

The suite of services provided include:

- [Energy audits](#) - this simple program saves participants an average of 25-30% on their operating costs. No cost, comprehensive audit paid for by FirstEnergy Ohio Utilities for buildings 10,000 - 150,000 square feet.
- [Green leasing](#) - bridging the dialogue between landlord and tenant to achieve energy efficiency.
- [Contractors](#) who can help with your facility.
- [Leveraging an interest rate reduction and rebate solutions](#).
- Reducing and managing gas and electric costs.

For more information, please visit the COSE [website](#) or call 216.592.2205.

WEATHERHEAD 100



Congratulations to these Independence companies that were honored by the Case Western Reserve University Weatherhead School of Management as part of the [Weatherhead 100](#) award recognition.

The Weatherhead 100 identifies the 100 fastest growing companies in Northeast Ohio. Winning companies are recognized for growth in net sales over the past five years - from at least \$100,000 to at least \$1,000,000. [Wellness IQ](#) (6) and [Redwood Living](#) (23) have been recognized as 2017 Weatherhead 100 companies.

Established in 1988, the Weatherhead 100 awards celebrate Northeast Ohio's spirit of entrepreneurship and companies leading the way in the region.

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.

[Century Federal Credit Union](#) has purchased 4600 Rockside Road and opened a new branch location.

[New York Life](#) has relocated from Seven Hills to a 25,438 square foot office in Park Center Plaza, 6100 Oak Tree Boulevard.

[NCS Pearson](#) recently opened a new location at Rockside Square I, 6155 Rockside Road.

Independence based [Vizion Solutions](#) and [TalentLaunch](#) have both recently relocated to larger office space within the City. Vizion Solutions has relocated from the AAA Building to a 6,800 square foot office at 4500 Rockside Road, while TalentLaunch is now occupying 17,000 square feet of office space at 6161 Oak Tree Blvd.

The [Ohio Tax Credit Authority](#) recently approved a seven-year, 1.345% tax credit to [Vox Mobile](#) for an expansion project. The company, which is based at 6100 Rockside Woods Blvd., expects to create 80 full-time equivalent employees generating \$3.6 million in new annual payroll. Vox Mobile also would retain \$7.9 million in existing payroll at its Independence location. Congratulations to Vox Mobile!

ODDS & ENDS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Independence Police Department strives to ensure that our City is the safest possible place to work, live, visit and raise a family. Unfortunately, as recent incidents across the nation have demonstrated, violence can occur almost anywhere. The decisions made by employees and management when these incidents occur can have a significant impact on the severity of the event. Programs such as The Department of Homeland Security's "Run, Hide, Fight" and ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) provide workers with strategies and options to react to occurrences of workplace violence.



Sergeant Brad Borowy is a certified ALICE instructor and has presented this training to the staff and students of the Independence Schools, City employees and he has also provided training to numerous businesses throughout the City. The Independence Police Department offers workplace violence training to any business in the City, and we will customize the presentation to your company's size, location and availability. If you would like any additional information regarding this training please contact [Chief Michael Kilbane](#).

CONTACT THE INDEPENDENCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



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