

## Independence Around Town

### Economic Development Newsletter

First Quarter 2018

### A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

It's hard to believe we are wrapping up the final month of the first quarter of 2018! City Hall has been buzzing with activity and much has been accomplished in just a couple of months.

In January, we held a Swearing In Ceremony for our newly elected City Council. The new Council didn't waste time getting to work, the group met early in the month to discuss its goals at a Strategic Planning Session. A number of significant topics were discussed during this session including the City's Five-Year Capital Plan in relation to the planned infrastructure projects throughout the City; along with a debate on the merits of expanding the City's housing options.



At the February Council Meeting, legislation was passed to approve a U-3 Special Use Permit to allow for Topgolf, a first-class entertainment center to be constructed on Rockside Woods Boulevard North. This is not only an exciting asset for economic development reasons, but it also brings a new attraction to Rockside Road providing an additional evening destination for our local businesses and residents. We have heard nothing but rave reviews from those who have visited this well-known family entertainment venue which will soon have over 60 locations worldwide. Topgolf will begin construction later this year and plans to open in 2019.

We are excited to add this new entertainment facility to our commercial roster and are certain it will be a great amenity for not only our City, but our business community as well.

As always, my Administration and Economic Development Department are committed to serving our business community and maintaining Independence as one of the best corporate environments in Northeast Ohio. If we can be of assistance to you or your business, please remember my door is always open.

Wishing you and your family a joyous spring and a successful 2018!

Sincerely,

Anthony L. Togliatti  
Mayor

# NOTABLE NEWS

## TOPGOLF WILL OPEN INDEPENDENCE LOCATION IN 2019

Global sports entertainment leader Topgolf has officially announced that the Cleveland market will be home to its third Ohio venue. Topgolf plans to start construction on the 65,000-square-foot venue this fall, located in Independence, with a projected opening in 2019.



"Adding Topgolf to the Independence business community is a significant win for us, as it broadens the Rockside area's amenity mix," said Independence Mayor Anthony L. Togliatti. "Its presence here will serve our families and corporate citizens alike with entertainment options that no one else in the region has." [Read more...](#)

## 2018 ROADWAY PROJECTS PLANNED FOR ROCKSIDE ROAD BUSINESS DISTRICT



The City is planning two major infrastructure projects in the Rockside Road Business District this year. Engineering design work is underway for the extension of Rockside Woods Boulevard North from its current terminus at the Embassy Suites, northeast toward the AAA Building and Brecksville Road, where a new signalized intersection will be constructed. Brecksville Road will be widened north and south of the new intersection as part of the project to accommodate new designated left and right-turn lanes into the newly-created intersection at Rockside Woods Boulevard North. [Read more...](#)

## PLANNING CONTINUES FOR DOWNTOWN PROJECTS



Over the past few months, the City has been working to determine the future of the former Independence Middle School property and develop plans to remake the Brecksville Road streetscape from Selig Drive through downtown Independence. The City continues to work with Environmental Design Group (EDG) on designs for both the streetscape and community greenspace planned for the former Independence Middle School property.

After gathering feedback and input from residents, businesses and elected officials through workshops, surveys and public meetings, EDG presented design concepts for the downtown greenspace and streetscape during a public meeting held on March 6 at the Independence Civic Center. Approximately 75 individuals attended the public meeting and were provided with an opportunity to offer input on the design elements for both downtown improvement projects. The City and EDG will review and incorporate feedback from this meeting as plans are finalized for these important areas.

To learn more about the planning process and find information on future public meetings, please refer to the City [website](#) or [contact](#) Jeremy Rowan, Economic Development Director at 216.524.4131.

## RESERVING ELMWOOD PARK'S OPEN-AIR PAVILIONS



Businesses located in the City of Independence can reserve the Elmwood Park open-air pavilions. The facilities are available for office-sanctioned events between the hours of 10:00 am and 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

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

## UPCOMING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS



[The Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce](#) (CVCC) has some exciting networking events scheduled over the next few months. Please mark your calendar for these upcoming CVCC [events](#).

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is a Reality!

Cynthia M. Kula, CPA/PFS, CFP, Walthall Rea

Holiday Inn, 6001 Rockside Rd, Independence

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Cost: \$25 (members), \$30 (non-members)

Thursday, May 17, 2018

State of the Schools

Panel Discussion with Moderator

Holiday Inn, 6001 Rockside Rd, Independence

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Cost: \$25 (members), \$30 (non-members)

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

## **IT JOB FAIR PART OF TECH WEEK 2018**

Launched by OHTec in 2011, [Tech Week](#) (April 16 -22) is an annual initiative to support, celebrate and engage the local tech community. Tech Week includes programming that supports entrepreneurs, executives, students, educators and other stakeholders of the IT industry.



One of the signature Tech Week events is the annual Linking IT Talent to Opportunity job fair. This year the event is scheduled for April 18 from 12:00 - 4:30 pm at the Independence Civic Center. To learn more the Linking IT Talent to Opportunity job fair please visit the OhTec [website](#) or contact [Sarah Adams](#), Greater Cleveland Partnership at 216.592.2302.

## **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.

[Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Company](#) has opened a new location in Summit Three.

[Nine Sigma North America](#) has relocated from Beachwood to office space in Summit One.

[Spins Bowl Independence](#) and [Verso Craft Kitchen & Bar](#), 5619 Old Brecksville Road have completed renovations and will be hosting a grand opening event on April 12 at 5:30 pm. Congratulations!

## **ODDS & ENDS**

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Independence Fire Department has an active fire safety inspection program that involves inspecting every business at least once a year. While the Independence Fire Prevention Bureau attempts to identify all safety violations at the time of these annual inspections, sometimes things change in-between inspections.



The State Fire Marshal provides an excellent checklist to assist businesses with assessing fire safety. Please refer to the [Business Fire Safety Checklist](#) throughout the year to keep your business and employees safe.



If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [Lt. Don Reis](#) in the Fire Prevention Bureau at 216.524.5886.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

As spring approaches and brings warmer weather, I would like to remind our business community that the City of Independence allows mobile food trucks to operate in our commercial districts. Permits for food trucks can be obtained from the police department at no charge. The food truck operator is responsible for obtaining the permit and will need to provide evidence 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 the 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 Michael Kilbane](#) at 216.524.1234.

## **CONTACT THE INDEPENDENCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**



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