

Independence Around Town

Economic Development Newsletter

Fourth Quarter 2018

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

It is hard to believe that 2019 is just over the horizon, but before we turn the page, I would like to recap some exciting accomplishments achieved in 2018. First, our Economic Development efforts have boosted the City's income tax collections by close to \$2 million and have reduced the office vacancy rate on Rockside Road to its lowest level in over a decade. In addition, infrastructure and construction projects completed and/or underway totaled nearly \$55 million.



By all standards this past year has been extremely busy and productive. The good news continues into the upcoming year as we anticipate the completion of the Hemlock Trail, Vista Springs and Topgolf.

My Administration looks forward to working with our business community to continue these successes into 2019. Wishing you and your family a blessed holiday season and a new year full of health, happiness and prosperity!

Sincerely,

Anthony L. Togliatti
Mayor

NOTABLE NEWS

TOPGOLF PROJECT UNDERWAY

[Topgolf](#) purchased approximately 16 acres of property near the Embassy Suites in early October and immediately began site work to prepare for the construction of a 65,000 square foot sports entertainment complex with 102 climate-controlled hitting bays, restaurants and meeting facilities. The site overlooks the intersection of I-480 and I-77 and will create a high-visibility location for Topgolf. The company expects construction to take approximately 12 months and hopes to be operating in the third quarter of 2019.

In conjunction with this project, the City will extend the four-lane Rockside

Woods Boulevard North from where it currently ends near the Embassy Suites across the Topgolf property to Brecksville Road. The project also includes the construction of an expanded signalized intersection at Brecksville Road. The roadway extension and intersection project will aid Topgolf, while creating opportunities to develop the remaining vacant land along Rockside Woods Boulevard North. Infrastructure improvements related to the roadway extension are currently underway with the majority of the construction scheduled to begin in 2019.



NEW GATEWAY SIGNS INSTALLED



When traveling along East Pleasant Valley Road, you may have noticed two sets of gateway signs installed at the east and west entrances to the business district. These signs are part of the City's efforts to better identify and define its commercial areas.

The gateway signs reflect the City's "[YourIndependence](#)" branding and community marketing standards. There are plans to install similar gateway signs at entry points of the City's other business districts in the near future.

CHAMBER UPDATES



The Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce (CVCC) provides many benefits to its members and communities, including: educational programs, insurance discounts, energy aggregate discounts, and many advertising and marketing opportunities within the Cuyahoga Valley.

The CVCC is offering a 20% discount for new members from December 15, 2018, to January 15, 2019. If you want to take advantage of the discount offer please visit the Chamber [website](#) and or download the [membership form](#).

New Member Discount Pricing: 1-10 Employees - \$120; 11-25 Employees - \$160; 26-50 Employees - \$220; and 51+ Employees - \$260.

For current and new members we are also offering a 20% discount on all sponsorship and advertising opportunities for the following 2019 Chamber events: [Taste of the Valley](#), State of the Schools, State of the Region, and any additional luncheons. Please review the [advertising form](#) for discount pricing and details.

To learn more about tickets, event participation, and sponsorship opportunities, visit the Chamber [website](#) or contact Executive Director, [April](#)

[Acuna](#) at 216.573.2707.

WEATHERHEAD AWARD WINNERS

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 \$100,000 to at least \$1,000,000. [Alliance Solutions Group](#) (60) and [Crescendo Commercial Realty](#) (46) have been recognized as 2018 Weatherhead 100 companies.

Independence also has businesses recognized as Upstart and Centurion companies. The Upstart winners met all the Weatherhead 100 qualifications, employed 15 or fewer employees and/or had less than \$5 million in net sales in 2017. [Wellness IQ](#) (3) and [Woodside Health](#) (7) were recognized as Upstart winners. Centurion companies meet all Weatherhead 100 qualifications while having net sales of \$100 million or more in 2017. [Nations Lending Corporation](#) (4) was a winner in the Centurion category.

Established in 1998, the Weatherhead 100 awards celebrate Northeast Ohio's spirit of entrepreneurship and companies leading 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.

Food delivery service, [HelloFresh](#), has opened a new Independence location at 4807 Rockside Road.

Akron-based, [Families First Health Services](#) is now providing patient services at its office in Freedom Square 1, 4401 Rockside Road.

[HomeTown Lenders](#) has relocated its operations from Middleburg Heights to One Independence Place, 4807 Rockside Road.

ODDS & ENDS

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Since 2017, the Independence Fire Department (IFD) has been using a company called Brycer Compliance Engine (Brycer) to assist in the tracking and maintaining of building fire systems. Many Independence businesses have recently received letters generated by Brycer on behalf of the IFD. These letters serve as reminders of upcoming system tests, overdue system tests or deficiencies that have not been addressed.



Following receipt of the letter from Brycer, several businesses have called the IFD stating that all required tests are complete. If this describes your situation, please contact your testing company and request they submit the testing results to Brycer, as required by Code.

As another reminder, fire system testing companies are required to notify the IFD Fire Prevention Bureau at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to performing any inspections or tests. This notice gives the IFD Fire Inspector an opportunity to witness the test. Failure to notify the IFD could result in retesting, which can be an inconvenience to the business, employees or tenants.

If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please contact Lt. Don Reis, IFD Fire Prevention Bureau at 216.524.5886.

CONTACT THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



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