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FREE

Bedford officials answer questions on continuing probe into money missing from city water department

By Judith Goldsworth

Mayor Stan Koci answered questions from a resident at the Bedford Council meeting last month about an ongoing investigation into money missing from the city's water department funds and what letters of termination, signed by City Manager Mike Mallis, said "reflect criminal wrongdoing" by two longtime city water department employees.

Late last year, after disciplinary hearings, city officials fired the two water department employees. The investigation involves missing money, both Mallis and Koci stated.

During last month's meeting, Mallis confirmed that the state auditor's office was immediately contacted when discrepancies were found, and because of the nature of the investigation, which could take the better part of a year, not much information can be released.

Mallis stated that the amount of money missing could not yet be confirmed but that customer accounts "seem to be accurate and whole at this time."

Koci added, "Everybody's water bill was properly credited... so nobody was shortchanged or owed... it was all credited properly. It is being investigated, so we can't give you a whole lot of detail, other than the fact that this is being investigated heavily by the county and state."

Finance Director Frank Gambosi stated, "It's going to take a long time for the state to look at this and investigate this... the state auditor was called right away."

Koci added, "The city manager and the police chief did the right thing, as soon as they found out the irregularity. They called for the county and the state to step in, so nobody could say we tried to cover up. And we are doing this all up front, as much as we can right now... the details, as we go into them, will come out, but right now, it is under investigation."

Gambosi stated of customer billing, "All accounts have been accurately depicted, and you have been given credit for everything... you don't have anything to worry about."

"When a resident asked how the amount taken would affect the city itself, as far as money, Mallis replied, "The internal loss is to the city."

Open forums planned

A resident was praised for her quick action in helping to apprehend a suspect in a robbery of a convenience store in the city, and open forums are planned in the coming week for citizens to discuss issues, including a possible half percent income tax increase on the May ballot, which if passed could help fund the police department.

Mallis said that two individuals robbed John's Deli at gunpoint on Northfield Road recently, adding, "The resident should get a medal... the resident happened to be outside and saw two people that something didn't look right. She took the license plate down and called it in, and within a few hours we arrested the one individual, and two days later, with very good police work, led to the arrest of a second suspect... I want to thank the resident."

Mallis said that the open forums will be held at the Ellenwood Recreation Center, 124 Ellenwood Ave., on Tuesday, January 10, with a session at 3 p.m. and another at 6 p.m. Administration and council will not be present, although consultants hired by the city will be in attendance to seek "honest feedback" on the issues facing the city in recent months.

Legislation passed

Council passed numerous pieces of legislation on the agenda, including the following:

- Purchase of a 2017 Silverado truck for the Recreation Department from Jay Buick GMC, at a cost of \$29,141.50. This replaces a vehicle that was rear ended in an accident, and will be used for snow plowing, Mallis said.

- Extension of the current police Local 67 and firefighters Local 1683 union contracts.

Also passed were two ordinances seeking Cuyahoga County grant funding, including application for a \$150,000 Community Development Block Grant for Gateway Signage and the Historical District, and application for a \$50,000 Community Development supplemental grant for the Historic Bedford Commons.

Council authorized an ordinance for a contract for the village of Chagrin Falls to use the Bedford City Jail to house prisoners, and three ordinances regulating open burning and adoption of the state fire code regarding fires in the city.

Also approved was the purchase of six sets of firefighter gear from Warren Fire Equipment at a cost of \$13,854.

NOPEC director explains changes

Chuck Keiper, executive director of the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC), made a special appearance to explain that electricity customers in Bedford that were previously receiving their power through First Energy through the NOPEC consortium will now be supplied by NextEra Energy Services, after First Energy cancelled its contract, effective this month.

Keiper stated that NextEra, part of Florida-based FPL Group, will provide electrical power in place of First Energy, with a "greener" content, and at greater savings to customers.

"If you desire to stay in the aggregate, you take no action," Keiper said. "But if you desire to affirmatively get your power from First Energy, then you affirmatively have to enter an agreement with them."

Customers who desire to learn more about NOPEC, and their power options, may call 1-855-667-3201.



Ayden Stettin, at left, and Aceta Chike were just two of the hundreds of children receiving free bikes for Christmas last month in Slavic Village.

A Christmas surprise in S.V.

The team from Elves and More of Northeast Ohio, with the Cleveland Police Department and Deputy Chief Ed Tomba and Community Policing Commander Johnny Johnson, descended on Slavic Village December 18th to give away over 600 bikes to area children for Christmas at the corner of East 57th Street and Fullerton Avenue.

Founded by Brian Miner and Tim House, Elves and More has been giving away bikes for the past 10 years. This is their first visit to Cleveland, said Ward 12 Councilman Tony Brancatelli, and the Broadway Slavic Village community was the fortunate recipient of their efforts.

Brancatelli said Linda Rocchi, another key volunteer for Elves and More, helped support the effort to reach out to a Cleveland neighborhood. Their volunteers raise money throughout the year and then before the holiday season assemble the bikes for a surprise distribution.

Hundreds of volunteers then participate in the one-day community outreach and start door-knocking to let residents know that Elves and More are in their neighborhood.

"It didn't take long for word to spread," said Brancatelli, "and hundreds of children and their parents were in line for their holiday gift. There were bikes for all ages from the youngest on tricycles to older teens, and hundreds of happy faces in our Broadway Slavic Village neighborhood."

Elves & More is made up of a community of volunteers whose sole intent is to bring hope and joy to children living within our communities during the Christmas Holiday Season, states the organization's website.

Brancatelli noted that the Cleveland Police Department recommended the Slavic Village neighborhood for the bike giveaway, and provided coordination and security for the event, as well as going door-to-door letting residents know that bikes were available.

"They were a huge help," he said.

Suspect sought in fatal shooting

By Judith Goldsworth

A man died after being shot in the early morning hours of New Year's Day at a Bedford bar and police continue to seek a suspect. A "person of interest" who turned themselves in was released early Tuesday, Jan. 3.

At about 2:25 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 1, Trevis Stephens, 33, was a patron at the Lounge 2.28 Bar and Grill on Northfield Road when he was fatally shot, police said. He died a short time later of his injuries at the hospital.

Det. Sgt. Rick Suts stated that another patron of the bar became unruly around closing time and bar staff threw him out. There was no indication that this man and Stephens knew each other. The other man tried to get back in the bar, and unable to gain entrance, fired two shots through a window, one of them striking Stephens, Suts stated.

Police searched for the suspect, and a person of interest turned himself into police on Monday, Jan. 2, however, Suts stated, "He has been cleared and is no longer considered a suspect. We are currently following up on fresh leads and will update when we have more."

Also being sought is a suspected female getaway driver. "We urge her to contact us immediately," Suts said.

Anyone recognizing the man in the accompanying photo is asked to call Bedford police detectives at 440-233-3408.

"This male is armed and dangerous, so do not attempt to confront him," Suts stated.

Unrelated shooting also reported

Suts stated that officers continue to investigate another shooting on Northfield Road that also occurred on New Year's Day. However, this incident is not believed to be connected to the Lounge 2.28 death.

At about 11:22 p.m., officers responded to a report of one male wounded. No further information is available, Suts said, stating, "We are in the process of looking for two males that were both involved in the incident... further information will be provided as the investigation progresses. This is not believed to be connected to the homicide which occurred earlier the same morning at 474 Northfield."

Broadway PNC robbed again

The PNC Bank at 7101 Broadway Ave. in Slavic Village was robbed for the second time in a month on December 27, around 11:50 a.m., according to a press release from the Cleveland Division of the FBI.



Suspect

The suspect entered the bank and handed a teller a demand note, and after receiving an undisclosed amount of cash fled on foot, running down East 71 Street, according to the release. No weapon was displayed.

The suspect is described as a white male, 5'6" to 5'8", medium build, about 130-150 pounds, 35-45 years old, with a small gap between his front teeth and "scruffy" facial hair. He was wearing a black hat and black gloves.

The bank was also robbed the afternoon of December 12, and a representative from the FBI said law enforcement is approaching both robbery investigations as being separate or possibly the same individual. No arrests have been made.

Tips can be given to the Cleveland Police Department, 216-623-5000, or the Cleveland Division of the FBI, 216-522-1400, and can remain anonymous.

Reward money is available for information leading to the successful identification and prosecution of the individual responsible, according to the FBI.

G.H. Council honors Wigdalski



Shown receiving a resolution from Garfield Heights Mayor Vic Collova, at right, is Turney Auto Parts founder Ed Wigdalski, along with family members, friends and coworkers, at the December 12th meeting of city council.

At its last meeting on Monday, Dec. 12, Garfield Heights City Council presented Turney Auto Parts founder Ed Wigdalski with a resolution honoring him for "his outstanding and dedicated service to the city of Garfield Heights."

Wigdalski opened Turney Auto Parts in 1975, and owned the business for 41 years. On October 1, 2016, Turney Auto Parts became a federated store owned by Fisher Auto Parts, but Wigdalski and his team "will still be at the store every day to continue to assist its customers with the finest service," according to the resolution.

Also passed at the December meeting was legislation to:

- Grant a one percent pay raise to all full and part-time non-union employees.

- Apply for Community Development Block Grant funds and enter into an agreement with the Cuyahoga County Department of Development to resurface city streets.

- Apply for Community Development Supplemental Grant funds and enter into an agreement with the Cuyahoga County Department of Development to refurbish the nearly 200-year-old Warner Family Homestead at the corner of Warner Road and Garfield Boulevard.

According to the legislation, the home was also owned by Antonio and Pasqua Ceo, whose family operated a popular tavern and meeting place. Garfield Heights utilized Cuyahoga County Land Bank demolition funds to remove the bar and party room areas of Ceo's in an effort to prepare the site for preservation.

- Entering into an agreement with Lexipol, LLC for updating and maintaining a law enforcement policy manual.

FEMA awards nearly \$1.3 million to Valley View for flood-prone homes

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released \$1,292,805 in Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) funds to the village of Valley View for the mitigation of 10 flood-prone residential structures in the floodplain of the Cuyahoga River.

Four of the structures will be acquired and demolished, and six will be elevated so the first floor is two feet above the base flood elevation of the river's floodplain.

"The Pre-Disaster Mitigation program enables communities to implement critical mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate the risk of loss of life and property," said Janet M. Odeshoo, acting regional administrator, FEMA Region V. "This project will lessen the financial impact on individuals and the community when future flooding occurs in this area."

PDM provides grants to state and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures. Through PDM, FEMA will pay 75 percent of the \$1,723,740 eligible project cost. The remaining 25 percent of the funds, \$430,935, will be provided by the participating homeowners.

"The state of Ohio is pleased to continue our mitigation efforts to Valley View," said Sima Merick, executive director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. "The PDM funds by FEMA will continue to allow us to remove or elevate flood-prone homes, which will greatly reduce the chance of future damages caused by heavy rains and flooding."

Community calendar

Friday, January 6

Post 309 Fish Fry

American Legion Post 309, 15521 Broadway Ave., Maple Hts., will serve Fish Fry dinners on Friday, Jan. 6, from 4-7 p.m. Dinners, side dishes and extras range from \$1.25 to \$8. Carryouts available. Open to the public. 216-662-7768.

Saturday, January 7

Mobile Food Pantry

The Maple Hts. Mobile Pantry, 20760 Southgate Park Blvd., will

be open Saturday, Jan. 7, from 10 a.m. to noon while supplies last. Fresh produce will be distributed on the first Saturday of each month. Bring a photo ID.

Thursday, January 12

Remington Blood Drive

Minority blood donors are needed for the "3 Lives Blood Drive" to be held at Remington College, 14445 Broadway Ave., Cleveland, on Thursday, Jan. 12, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Minority blood donors will help local patients battling sickle cell and other

blood disorders. However, all donors are encouraged to donate at this event. Donors must be at least 17 years old and weigh at least 110 pounds. Info, www.3Lives.com.

Saturday, January 14

ACE Movie

The Adult Catholic Education organization will sponsor a viewing of "The Way," a movie following the journey of a man on a pilgrimage known as the Camino, or "The Way of St. James," on Saturday, Jan. 14, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. Basil Parish, 8700 Brecksville Rd., Brecksville. Free popcorn provided; hot dogs for sale for lunch. Info, 440-526-1686.

Wednesday, January 18

State Of City Address

Garfield Hts. Mayor Vic Collova will deliver his "State of the City" address on Wednesday, Jan. 18, at the Knights of Columbus Grand Ballroom, 10808 Granger Rd., at 11:30 a.m. The meeting includes lunch, \$20. All are welcome. RSVP is required by Monday, Jan. 16, by calling 216-475-7775.

Community Awareness Meeting

The Garfield Hts. Ward 6 Community Awareness meeting will be

held Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m. at the Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd. Residents' concerns will be discussed. All are welcome. www.MattBurkeWard6.com.

St. Monica's annual Winterfest next weekend!

St. Monica Parish's 6th annual Winterfest will be held Saturday, Jan. 14, from 5-9 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 15, from 1-6 p.m. at the parish campus, 13623 Rockside Rd., in Garfield Heights. Help the church offset utilities costs with a fun-filled weekend of activities, raffles, prizes and live music.

Family activities include a flower crown Sunday at 1:30 p.m.; "The Dance Sound of Music" Sunday at 2 p.m.; Big Band, Polkas and dancing, Sunday at 5 p.m.

Raffle tickets for a \$2000 grand prize, plus additional prizes, will be sold for \$1 each or six for \$5.

There will also be Chinese raffle baskets, a 50/50 raffle and instant bingo; live music featuring local artists; games of chance; kids' booths with prizes, multiple interactive games and activities; delicious, home-cooked food available for purchase.

Admission to the event is free and open to the public.

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Golden Ager's Grapevine

Bingo

Seniors are invited to play Bingo on Wednesdays from 1-2:30 p.m. at Stella Walsh Recreation Center, 7345 Broadway Ave., Slavic Village. Play for free; winners will receive prizes.

Zumba

The Garfield Heights Senior Center, 5407 Turney Rd., offers its Zumba for Seniors program on Thursdays from 12:45-1:45 p.m. Each class costs \$3. There will not be a class on November 24th or December 22nd. For more information call Annie at 216-475-1100, ext. 2435.

Ampol Hall news

Ampol Club dinners are \$7.50 each and are served each Wednesday at the Ampol Hall, 4737 Pearl Rd., Cleveland, from 5 to 7 p.m., with music from 7 to 10 p.m. Admission is \$8 if you are staying for the music. Reservations are needed for the Wednesday dinners, catered by Bonnie's Catering, by calling Ron Smotek at 216-581-4362.

Menu and entertainment for January include: January 4- roast pork, dumplings and sauerkraut; music by K & C Band. January 11- chicken paprikash; music by Polka Pirates. January 18- breaded pork chops dinner; music by Bill Lemke. January 25- stuffed cabbage dinner; music by John Pastirik.

Duck dinners are also available on Wednesdays for \$12 each, but must be reserved by 9 a.m. Tuesdays.

Rec Center news

The ice rink at the Dan Kostel Recreation Center, 5411 Turney Rd. in Garfield Heights, is now open. For office hours call 216-475-7272 and for detailed program info visit www.garfieldhts.org.

ID cards are \$10 for residents and \$35 for nonresidents and are required for all Rec activities. Birth certificates are also required at sign-ups and all residents must bring two proofs of residency.

Futsal (Indoor Soccer)

Futsal, an indoor soccer league, is open to any boy or girl who will be at least five-years-old on February 1, 2017, and will not be 15-years-old on March 1, 2017. Registrations will be taken through Saturday, Jan. 14.

Fitness Classes

The new session of fitness classes will be held Monday, Jan. 9 through Wednesday, March 29. Cardio Blast/Boot Camp, 6-7 p.m.; Strength training, 7:15-8:15 p.m. Deadline to register, January 7th.

In-House Hockey

Beginner in-house hockey is a municipal program for kids ages 3-13 and will teach children how to skate first, then teach the fundamentals of ice hockey. New player registration deadline, Friday, Jan. 6, by 4 p.m., with no late fee. Returning players will be subject to the fee.

Learn to Skate

Registrations for Session 4 of the Learn to Skate program will be taken until Monday, Jan. 23, for beginner and advanced lessons. The six-week session begins January 24th.

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Christmas Drive at St. Benedict's Suspect arrested in New Year's fatal shooting in Maple Heights



The student council of St. Benedict Catholic School in Garfield Heights sponsored two Christmas drives during the holiday season. Students collected toys for the Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland, which offers a place to stay at little or no cost so families can access the healthcare facilities nearby. The student council also sold candy grams. Students were able to send special messages to their friends along with a candy cane. Blankets, gloves and hats will be purchased for the homeless for the Labre ministry with the money raised.

By Judith Goldsworth

A Maple Heights man has been arrested and charged with aggravated murder in the death of another man during a New Year's Eve party at a house on Morgan Street, Police Capt. Todd Hansen stated.

Arrested was suspect Charles Hundley, 47, after officers responded to the 5400 block of Morgan at about 1:17 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 1, regarding a male who had been shot in the head.

Officers located the victim, 31, in the basement of the house, who had sustained a gunshot wound to the head. He was transported to MetroHealth Medical Center and subsequently died from his injury, Hansen stated.

"An investigation revealed there was a New Year's Eve party being held at the home, and an argument ensued, which escalated to a physical fight inside the home," Hansen stated, adding, "During the altercation, a person pulled out a handgun and fired the weapon, hitting the victim in the head." Hundley was subsequently arrested and charged and taken into custody.

Anyone with information related to this case is urged to contact the Maple Heights Detective Bureau, 216-587-9624, or Detectives@mhp-d-ohio.com, Hansen stated.

Three shot at bar on Dec. 23

In an unrelated case, officers continue to investigate the shooting of three people at the All-Stars Ultra Lounge, 15755 Broadway Ave., early Friday, Dec. 23, Hansen stated.

At about 1:21 a.m., officers were called to the bar for a report of a

disturbance and shooting. Investigation revealed there had been a shooting with injuries, and three injured people were treated at area hospitals for their wounds, none of them believed to be life-threatening.

Several people were taken into custody for possible involvement in the incident but information on possible charges filed was not available as of press time. The incident is under investigation, and as with the January 1 fatality, anyone with information related to this case is urged to contact the detective bureau, 216-587-9624, or Detectives@mhp-d-ohio.com.

Information on either of these cases can also be submitted to CrimeStoppers of Cuyahoga County, 216-252-7463.

U. Settlement awarded \$150,000 for 'Strengthening Families' program

Last month the board of trustees of Saint Luke's Foundation announced grants to 20 organizations totaling \$3,215,657. These investments advance the Foundation's strategic priorities in the areas of Healthy People, A Strong Neighborhood and Resilient Families.

University Settlement, 4800 Broadway Ave., Cleveland, was awarded \$150,000 to support the Settlement's Strengthening Families program. The program combines parent empowerment workshops with individualized case management to support families in overcoming barriers and mak-

ing progress toward self-identified goals in areas that include parenting, health, legal, education and employment.

"We are very excited Saint Luke's Foundation has increased funding to expand the Strengthening Families program," said Derrick Fulton, executive director of University Settlement.

"There are a number of families in the Broadway/Slavic Village community facing challenges as it relates to homelessness, unemployment and family instability. The Strengthening Families program is designed to work with these families providing intentional support and guidance with the goal of overcoming the challenges they are facing," Fulton continued.

Funding will partially support two existing program staff positions and one new position, as well as ancillary costs for group activities, a small pool of flexible funds to help with families' one-time needs toward achieving goals, and consultation around program evaluation and parent leadership development.

University Settlement is a 90-year-old settlement house in the

Slavic Village neighborhood that provides a range of services for individuals and families, cradle to grave.

"Our third-round 2016 grants bring to life the Foundation's mission of improving and transforming social and physical conditions in our neighborhood and improving the health and well-being of individuals and families in Greater Cleveland," said Anne C. Goodman, Saint Luke's Foundation president and CEO. "We have invested in vital, life-changing work, and I'm excited to see what our grantee partners will be able to accomplish with our support."

"Congratulations to University Settlement for being awarded a St. Luke's grant for its Strengthening Families program," said Ward 12 Councilman Tony Brancatelli. "This is a truly transformative program for the parents in our community to support families in overcoming barriers in health, legal education and employment needs."

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Letters to the Editor

Grateful for bike giveaway

Dear Editor:

Christmas came early for many children in Slavic Village. On December 18th Elves and More of Northeast Ohio teamed up with Santa Claus and the Cleveland Police Department to distribute over 500 bicycles to the children of Slavic Village. I took four children to this event and each received a brand new bike! Many children in this neighborhood have never had a bike, let alone a new one. So it was overwhelming to see the look of joy and gratitude on their faces!

I would like to thank all involved in this special event. It truly made Christmas special for so many children. I would like to mention that Elves & More has a Facebook page featuring all of the photos taken at the event. It would be nice if all of the families who received bikes posted a special thank you to this organization.

With Gratitude,
Denise S. Persinger, Forman Avenue

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Vince and Kay Liotta

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Clorox® Concentrated Bleach, 64 Oz. 1498674
Limit 2 at this price.

SALE \$7.99
-\$3 with card
\$4.99 Ea.
Select Ace Trash Bags
6225858, 6214910, 6186761, 6187116
Limit 4 total at this price.

*Ace Rewards card Instant Savings ("Instant Savings") amount is available on mail-in savings for non-Ace Rewards members (see store for details). Where applicable by law, tax is charged on the sale price before application of Instant Savings or mail-in savings. You must present Ace Rewards card to receive Instant Savings in store. You cannot redeem Instant Savings and mail-in savings on the same purchase. Instant Savings (or mail-in savings for non-Ace Rewards members) listed in this advertisement are valid through 1/31/17, at participating stores.

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Prices good through January 31, 2017.

GARFIELD HEIGHTS

5680 TURNEY ROAD

(216) 662-8719

SALE \$37.99
-\$8 with card
\$29.99
Steel Shelving Unit
72" H x 34" W x 14" D.
S296221 Limit 3 at this price.
Heavy-Duty Steel Shelving Unit, 72" H x 48" W x 24" D, S406382. SALE \$61.99, You Pay \$69.99 After \$12 Instant Savings.* Limit 3 at this price.

SALE \$2.99
7-1/2 Qt. Latching Storage Tote
6166849
15-1/2 Qt. 6165195, \$4.99
31 Qt. 6162309, \$6.99
64 Qt. 6161087, \$8.99
112 Qt. 6164123, \$12.99

SALE \$9.99
32 Gal. Tote
6299374

Ace stores are independently owned and operated. The prices in this advertisement are suggested by Ace Hardware Corporation, Oak Brook, IL. Individual retailer regular and sale prices may vary by store, which may impact actual savings amounts in either direction. Except for Red Hot Buys, which extend through the end of the month, and except as otherwise stated, prices advertised in this circular are valid at participating stores through January 31, 2017, while supplies last. Sale and Instant Savings dates set forth herein are national dates suggested by Ace Hardware Corporation and may vary by local retailer. See local retailer in-store signage for details. Offers, Ace Rewards® benefits, product selection/color, sale items, clearance and closeout items, Ace everyday low prices, return and rain-check policies, and quantities may all vary by store, as well as from acehardware.com. Some items may require assembly. Ace is not responsible for printing or typographical errors.

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Pernel Jones, Jr. Community Relations Director
Pernel Jones, Sr.
Michael Jones

7120 Cedar Ave. Cleveland, Ohio 44103
216-431-9205

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LEGAL NOTICE

The Garfield Heights Board of Education will hold a public hearing during its Organization Meeting on the proposed 2018 Tax Budget. The Board's Organization Meeting will be held on Monday, January 9, 2017 at 12:00 pm at the Board of Education Offices, 5640 Briarcliff Drive, Garfield Heights, Ohio. Copies of the tax budget and the 2016 General Purpose Financial Statements are available for review at the Treasurer's Office, which is also located at the Board of Education Offices.

Allen D. Sluka, Treasurer/CFO
Garfield Heights Board of Education

N.N. 14-17

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LEGAL NOTICE FOR NOTIFICATION OF 2017 MEETING DATES

In accordance with Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code, and Chapter 208 of the Administrative Code of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Maple Heights, notice is hereby given for the **2017 Public Meeting Schedule for the City of Maple Heights, Ohio.**

The Council of the City of Maple Heights, Ohio, shall meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Maple Heights Senior Center located at 15901 Libby Road, Maple Heights, Ohio. Council may amend their regular meeting schedule during the summer months. A regular meeting that falls on a holiday may be rescheduled. The Mayor, President of Council or any three (3) members of Council may call a Special Meeting of Council upon written notice served personally upon each member or at his or her usual place of residence, at least twenty-four (24) hours previous to the time fixed for such meetings, except in the case of a public emergency. Any such request for a Special Meeting shall state the specific subject(s) to be considered at the meeting and no other subject(s) shall be discussed. Nothing in this section shall prohibit, limit or restrict the right of Council or any of the other bodies to cancel or reschedule any scheduled meeting or to adopt, in accordance with the law, a different schedule of meetings at any time during the remainder of the year.

The **Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Maple Heights** shall meet on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Maple Heights City Hall Council Chambers, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio. If the need arises, the Building Commissioner may call a second meeting during the month on the fourth Monday of the month with proper notice. Please call the Clerk's Office at least one week before the meeting at 216-587-9000 to arrange for handicap assistance to the second floor if needed.

Leonette F. Cicirella
Clerk of Council
City of Maple Heights

The Neighborhood News
January 4, 2017

Your ONLY Newspaper For Community News!

THE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2017

May you have New Hopes, Aspirations and Resolutions for the coming new year.

Mayor Vic and Jeannie Collova
City of Garfield Heights

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GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO 44125
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Fax: (216) 341-2229

CITY OF BEDFORD, OHIO ORDINANCE NO. 9445-16

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH C & J CONTRACTORS FOR THE DEMOLITION OF 154 GREENCROFT AVENUE (P.P. #811-02-046) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, on September 6, 2016 by Ordinance No. 9426-16, the Council of the City of Bedford declared the real property located at 154 Greencroft Avenue, Bedford, Ohio a nuisance and condemned the same due to the need of significant repairs; and

WHEREAS, the Building Commissioner has determined that there are life safety issues, including no electricity, water, or gas which render the premises not habitable; and

WHEREAS, the Building Commissioner has determined that the property is vacant; and

WHEREAS, the owners have failed to maintain the premises as required per the City of Bedford Codified Ordinances, and

WHEREAS, the City of Bedford wants to demolish the structure and C & J Contractors has submitted an acceptable quote to demolish the structure.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Bedford, County of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio:

Section 1. Council for the City of Bedford hereby authorizes the City Manager to enter into a contract with C & J Contractors to demolish the structure at 154 Greencroft Avenue, Bedford, Ohio, (P.P.#811-02-046) to abate the nuisances.

Section 2. Council hereby authorized the Finance Director to appropriate and pay the sum of Eight Thousand Fifty Two Dollars & 00 Cents (\$8,052.00) from Fund No. 200-4201-00-5-5332-0 to C & J Contractors for the demolition.

Section 3. The Clerk of Bedford Council is hereby authorized and directed pursuant to Chapter 715 of the Ohio Revised Code and Chapter 1341 of the City of Bedford Codified Ordinances to certify the cost of Eight Thousand Fifty Two Dollars & 00 Cents (\$8,052.00) together with a proper description of the Property to the County Fiscal Officer of Cuyahoga County for placement upon the tax duplicate and collection as other taxes and to create a lien on the property as of the date of such certification.

Section 4. The Clerk of Council is hereby directed to cause Ordinance No. 9445-16 to be published as required by this City's Charter and Codified Ordinances.

Section 5. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this Ordinance were passed in an open meeting of this Council and that all such deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including the City's Charter and Codified Ordinances and Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 6. This ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the public peace, health, safety, and welfare and for the further reason that it is necessary to protect the property owners and to protect residents in the City of Bedford from the adverse effects of the nuisance and blight itself.

WHEREFORE, this Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest date permitted by law.

Mayor - President of Council
Clerk of Council

Prepared and approved as to legal content by:
John J. Mantell, Law Director

PASSED: November 7, 2016

I, Lorree Villers, Clerk of Council, of the City of Bedford, Ohio do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Ordinance No. 9445-16 passed on the 7th day of November 2016 by said Council.

PUBLISHED: January 4, 2017

Happy New Year! - 2017 -

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In Celebration of the New Year

The year 2017 is here, and we hope everyone enjoys all good things throughout the coming days and months.

Councilman Anthony Brancatelli
Cleveland, Ward 12
216.664.4233 ABrancatelli@ClevelandCityCouncil.org

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E. 131st & Harvard. Single house, 3 bedrooms, carpet. No Section 8. No pets. No smoking. \$725 + security deposit. (216) 799-1633.

Single house. Quiet street. E. 71st & Grant. 10 minutes to downtown. 3/4 bedrooms, 2 baths, central air. Fenced-in yard, basement and garage. No Section 8. No cats. Background check. \$690/month + security deposit. Call after 6 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; any time Sat., (216) 906-1651.

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Newburgh Hts. apartment. \$475/month. 2 bedroom + security deposit required. Appliances included. Street parking only. No pets. \$25 application fee and background check. (216) 308-0593.

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G.H. police news

Attempted Auto Theft

• An employee of Jennings on Granger Rd. told police someone tried to steal a company van overnight between December 26th and 27th. The employee was unsure how someone was able to get inside the van but noticed the ignition had been removed.

• On December 31st, a resident of the 13200 block of Thraves Ave. told police her husband went outside around 6 a.m. and found her car running with the driver's side and passenger side doors open and the column broken. Police followed footprints in the snow leading away from the home southbound, then eastbound and then trailed off.

Criminal Damage

On January 1st, around 1 a.m., a lieutenant with the Garfield Heights Fire Department reported that one of the glass panels on the department's front overhead bay door had been damaged by a BB or pellet gun, though no projectiles were found.

Drug Abuse

Police were dispatched to the area of East 136th St. and South Parkway on December 27th, around 4:30 p.m., for a report of a suspicious vehicle. As police arrived they saw the vehicle drive through a stop sign and stop in the crosswalk

at the intersection of Johnston Parkway and McCracken Blvd. Officers pulled the vehicle over and spoke to the driver, 29, of Mantua, who appeared very nervous. He gave police several confusing stories as to why he was in the area and would not let officers search his vehicle. The K-9 Unit arrived and alerted police to the driver's side door. Police found heroin in the door handle along with a crack pipe. Other drug paraphernalia was found in the passenger side door and the trunk. The man was issued a summons for attempted possession of heroin and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Theft

A delivery driver told police he made a delivery to the Sunoco station at 6009 Turney Rd. on December 27th, and about an hour later he noticed approximately \$480 that belonged to the delivery company had been stolen from inside his vehicle.

Police went to the gas station and watched security camera footage which showed the driver entering the parking lot around 11:25 a.m. and as he is unloading the delivery, a gray van pulls up to a pump facing the delivery truck. Once the employee is out of sight, a man gets out of the gray van, walks up to the driver's side of the delivery truck and begins rummaging through the cab. After a few minutes, the man gets back in the gray van and leaves the area.

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BEDFORD

The Southeast Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library is located in Bedford at 70 Columbus Rd. To register or for more information, call 440-439-4997 or visit cuyahogalibrary.org.

• **Lifeline Phones**, Wednesdays, Jan. 4 and 18, 9 a.m. to noon. The Library is partnering with CLE Solutions Inc., an authorized distributor for Assurance Wireless, to provide free Lifeline cell phones to those who are on government assistance or at a certain income level. Those who qualify for the Lifeline program will receive an activated cell phone in just ten minutes.

• **Brain Fitness**, 3-week class beginning Saturday, Jan. 7, 2 p.m. Exercise your brain with Kathryn Kilpatrick, M.A. CCC/SLP. Week 1: Basic Keys to Your Memory Fitness; Week 2: Memory Strategies for the 21st Century; Week 3: Keeping Your Brain Sharp. Registration required.

• **January Make-it Take-it Craft**, Monday, Jan. 9, 3-5 p.m. School-age children will create a fun penguin project to keep or share.

• **Understanding Addiction**, 3-week series beginning Monday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m. The number of drug overdoses in our area is growing at an alarming rate. If someone you know is struggling with addiction or mental health problems, come to the library for a three-week series as Recovery Resources shares prevention, intervention, treatment, recovery and support services available. Registration required.

CLEVELAND

The Cleveland Public Library's Fleet Branch, 7224 Broadway Ave., Slavic Village, will offer the following programs. To register or for more information, call 216-623-6962 or visit www.cpl.org.

• **Fun at Fleet: Winter Wonderland**, Monday, Jan. 9, 4 p.m. Warm up your winter with a cool craft.

• **Media Mondays**, January 9 and 23, 4:30 p.m. Experiment with different computer programs, software and 3D printing technology to create unique pictures, songs, art and more. All ages welcome.

• **Share the Dream: A Celebration on Martin Luther King, Jr.**, Wednesday, Jan. 11, 4 p.m. In honor of Dr. King's commitment to civic engagement, participate in the library service project of creating cheer cards for local senior citizens.

GARFIELD HEIGHTS

The Garfield Heights Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library is located at 5409 Turney Rd. To register or for more information call 216-475-8178.

• **Storytimes** for all ages are scheduled throughout January. Call the library for more details.

• **Jazz/Music Icons**, beginning Wednesday, Jan. 4, 6:30-8 p.m. Mark Russo from the Cleveland Jazz Revolution will perform live music of an iconic figure in jazz/music history while sharing interesting facts about the artist and/or music industry. Week 1: Stevie Wonder; Week 2: Duke Ellington; Week 3: Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie.

• **Innovation Center Orientation**, Wednesday, Jan. 4, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Sessions take 30-45 minutes and are required for future access to the center. Bring your library card or photo ID.

• **GED Orientation**, Thursday, Jan. 5, 9:30 a.m. to noon. The Parma City School District's Adult Education department provides free GED classes at Cuyahoga County Public Library branches. Students must attend an orientation session before beginning classes. To register for orientation, call Parma City School District's Adult Education department at 440-885-8797.

• **Audio and Video Recording Studio Orientations**, Saturday, Jan. 7. Drop in studio orientations. Audio studio orientation

from 9:30-10 a.m. Video studio orientation from 10-10:30 a.m.

INDEPENDENCE

The Independence Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, 6361 Selig Dr., will offer the following programs. Call 216-447-0160 or visit www.cuyahogalibrary.com for more details or to register.

• **Storytimes**, for newborns and up. Storytimes are scheduled through April. No registration required. Children and caregivers will enjoy books, rhymes, songs, fingerplays and much more.

• **Meet Me on Lake Erie, Dearie!** Thursday, Jan. 5, 7 p.m. Author John Vacha will bring Cleveland's Great Lakes Exposition of 1936-1937 to life during the two exciting summers of the Depression. A book sale/signing will follow the program.

• **Teen Creative Writing Club**, Tuesday, Jan. 10, 3:30 p.m. Join other teen writers (grades 5-12) and stretch your imagination with exer-

cises to help you through the creative writing process. Use prompts and other techniques to get your creativity going. Feel free to bring any of your writing with you.

• **Creative Writing for Kids**, Wednesday, Jan. 11, 4 p.m. Students in grades 3-5 are invited to get their creative juices flowing! Writing ideas and exercises will be provided to get thoughts focused.

• **Volunteens**, Wednesday, Jan. 11, 7 p.m. Teens are welcome to help the library prepare for its Children's Winter Carnival to be held January 28th.

MAPLE HEIGHTS

The Maple Heights Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library is located at 5225 Library Ln. To register for any of the following programs, call 216-475-5000.

• **Baby & Toddler Storytime**, Thursday, Jan. 5, 10:30 a.m. Caregivers and their children (newborns to 35 months) will en-

joy rhymes, songs, fingerplays and stories.

• **Monday Morning Book Lovers**, Monday, Jan. 9, 10 a.m. Enjoy lively discussions of good books.

• **Homeschool: Picturing America**, Monday, Jan. 9, 10:30 a.m., grades 1-5. This program for

homeschoolers will combine art, history and hands-on creativity.

• **Messy Monday**, January 9, 7 p.m. Children (newborn to 8 years) with a caregiver will enjoy stories, songs and a fun activity. Share a creative playtime and leave the mess at the library.

Cleveland boy dies from carbon monoxide poisoning

The death of a three-year-old Cleveland boy on Maryland Avenue is being investigated as a probable accidental death from carbon monoxide poisoning caused from being inside a vehicle on January 1st, according to Cleveland Police Sgt. Jennifer Ciaccia.

A police report said the boy and his father were rushed to Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital around 1 p.m., and the boy was pronounced dead about 30 minutes later. The boy's father was also treated for elevated carbon monoxide levels.

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To the Residents of Ward 3 in Garfield Heights

 Wishing you and your family all the best in 2017.
Michael Nenadovich and Family
 GARFIELD HEIGHTS COUNCILMAN WARD 3

Happy New Year, 2017!
 As the new year rolls in we want to thank you for your trust and friendship throughout the past year.

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New Year's GREETINGS
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