

The Neighborhood News

THE GARFIELD HEIGHTS TRIBUNE

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94th YEAR NO. 13

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FREE



From the Mayor's Desk

By Maple Hts. Mayor Annette M. Blackwell

What to expect in the year ahead

Happy New Year! It is 2017 and I, the mayor of Maple Heights, have officially been in office for one year. What can one expect for this New Year from me and this administration?

You can expect our firemen and emergency personnel to rush to every call with a sense of urgency on a healing and lifesaving mission. And that a compassionate, highly-trained, effective and brave group of policemen and women will continue to make us proud and very safe every day.

You can expect my staff, this administration and my fellow elected officials, your councilpersons, to keep moving forward in spite of our significant challenge of a budget deficit. We will continue to embrace the very important job of making a difference in the quality of life for our 20,000+ residents.

I am your mayor and safety director, therefore it is my job to make the painful choices; to address the fears of city staff and residents; to collaborate with city school officials; to empower and support our children for success and the ability to make better choices; to create public relations and marketing campaigns; to promote this city to prospective residents and businesses; to tell our city's truth and not leave it to the press or sensational newsmen; to solicit the county and lobby state representatives for economic and social support; to overcome the hardships and make a big deal in celebrating our occasional victories!

So in conclusion, what I have learned as a new mayor in year one is that this job really is not about politics at all. It is about the people in the place where you have been chosen to lead. It is very important that during your time in office you leave a better future for the people who believed and trusted in you when they cast their votes. This job is one of the most important things that I will ever do in my life. It changes the lives of people. It inspires or fails them.

I did not accept the mission of this purposeful life to fail my God or any of those that he has blessed me to serve.

G.H. Council meets; mayor announces drug forum at library

By Ellen Psenicka

In his report to council at its regular meeting Monday night, Mayor Vic Collova announced a forum entitled "Heroin, Fentanyl, Carfentanyl: Triple Threat on Our Doorstep," on Tuesday, March 7, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Garfield Heights Library, 5409 Turney Rd.

The Cleveland Clinic will host this open discussion with community partners and local experts on the heroin epidemic. This forum is designed to provide education, prevention and resource information to communities surrounding Marymount Hospital.

Registration is required by calling 216-312-5640 or jameysj@ccf.org, or register at clevelandclinic.org/communityevents.

The mayor also said bidding has been completed for the Turney Road project and paving should start in the spring.

Council Monday night passed these emergency ordinances:

- Authorizing a contract with the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District for the purpose of public involvement and public education regarding soil and water conservation for 2017.

- Amending the contract with Kimble Recycling & Disposal, Inc. to update the number of homes receiving rubbish collection services.

- Amending and supplementing the city's plan of classification and compensation for non-union pay positions.

The following emergency resolutions were also passed:

- Ratifying the appointment by the mayor of Steven Green to the city's Recreation Board for the term effective January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2022.

- Applying for grant funds from the State of Ohio Local Government Safety Capital Grant Program for two police

and two fire vehicles.

- Authorizing the social services director to apply for annual grant funding through the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging for the senior meals program.

Milkovich eighth grade athletes host charity game



The eighth grade boys basketball team at Milkovich Middle School in Maple Heights is shown above with food donations collected at a charity basketball game in December. The items were donated to the Maple Heights Food Pantry. In the photo, from left, are: Maple Heights Mayor Annette Blackwell, Steven Bailey, Kenny Kennedy, Marshawn Fields, Linda Vopat, Elyric Bell-Collins, Davion Evans, Davon Smith Johnson, Davion Bush, Ty'Shynne Caver, Richard Marcus, Delonte Hall, Quentin Morris and Coach Justin Harnist.

The eighth grade boys basketball team at Milkovich Middle School in Maple Heights hosted its first charity basketball game, Baskets 4 Food, in December. During the week of December 5th, the young scholar-athletes collected over 500 items for the Maple Heights Food Pantry during the game.

At half-time the team, along with Coach Justin Harnist, made a presentation to Mayor Annette Blackwell with the items.

Building Principal Robert Klinar stated, "As a Milkovich School community, it is important for our student body to understand and embrace service to others. We hope that our students will regularly epitomize that ideal of giving as a lifelong mission."

Collova to give 'State of City' address Jan. 18

Garfield Heights 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., beginning at 11:30 a.m., sponsored by the Garfield Heights Chamber of Commerce.

The meeting includes lunch, \$20. All are welcome! RSVP is required by Monday, Jan. 16, by calling 216-475-7775.

St. Monica's to hold Winterfest this 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 clown 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.

Bedford officials consider raising proposed income tax hike to .75 percent for May ballot

By Judith Goldsworth

In an effort to address the city's deficit, make needed improvements and hopefully put more police officers on the streets, the amount of a proposed income tax increase for the May ballot in Bedford will be raised from a half to three-quarters percent if two pieces of legislation placed on first reading by Bedford Council at its meeting last week are ultimately passed.

If this new amount is approved by voters, the city's existing total income tax rate would be bumped from 2.25 to 3 percent, Finance Director Frank Gambosi confirmed, and would go into effect on January 1, 2018.

According to the resolution also placed on first reading last week that authorizes the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections to put the issue on the May ballot, the deadline for the city to file is Wednesday, February 1. Additional readings of both the ordinance and resolution will be held at future meetings.

Mayor Stan Koci and City Manager Mike Mallis both stated that the two pieces of legislation are the first steps in putting the income tax increase on the May 2 ballot. The city scheduled two public meetings yesterday afternoon and evening to obtain feedback from residents.

"This is just the first step to get this on the ballot," Koci emphasized. "We're not approving a tax increase right now. We're only setting the table to allow us to be able to do that in a timely fashion.... the rates could change, and we're not doing anything in stone until after the public hearing."

Gambosi gave a brief explanation

of what had been happening in the city in the past several years to prompt the need for the increase in revenue, including the 2013 closing of one of Bedford's largest employers, Ben Venue Pharmaceuticals, that resulted in 1100 employees losing their jobs.

Gambosi added, "The city has been able to get back approximately \$2 million from the last levy we passed in 2009, but since then the housing values have dropped and the city has cut and cut and cut... we put in the refuse fee to make up some of it, \$700,000 of that total, which is now where we're at today. We're still \$1 million short. Last year we lost \$2 million; this year we've got it down to \$1 million."

He said that another pharmaceutical company (Xellia) was now occupying the Ben Venue site, however, "We went from 1100 employees... we have about 100 right now, with 70 more yet to come. So as much as that sounds promising, that's a lot of jobs lost. That's a lot of revenue."

He said that 85 percent of the money from an income tax levy comes from businesses in the city.

Gambosi said officials are offering residents "different scenarios" on how to make up the projected deficit, adding, "We need to address it this year, 2017, and that's why we're looking at doing a May ballot issue

for more tax, not a levy, but income tax; I want to make that clear."

Mallis said that the .75 percent income tax increase would help with street and sidewalk repairs and "obviously involves the hiring of up to three additional police officers, one officer per shift, to increase our police presence, because that's an important issue... more information will come out."

Legislation passed

In accordance with the recommendation of the presiding judge for a five percent raise to coincide with the raises provided by the Supreme Court to the Judiciary, and "in consideration of the outstanding efforts of the clerk in regards to the efficiency and economics of the administration of the court," council passed an ordinance to raise the annual salary of Bedford Municipal Clerk of Courts Tom Day to \$106,173, effective January 1, 2017.

Gambosi said of the legislation, "They are putting the salary in line with other elected clerk of courts, and they are asking council to pass it. Our city's share of this will be approximately 15 percent of the total paid in salary, and also allocated amongst the 14 different communities [also served by the court] for 60 percent. Forty percent will be paid by the county."

(Continued on Page 3)

Kiwanis helps make happy ending

Thieves broke into Holy Name Elementary School last summer and made off with 10 violins and 2 cellos belonging to Jones Road Family Development's Literacy Through the Arts Summer Academy, which rented space at the school, as well as 16 laptop computers used by the school itself.

The Kiwanis Club of South East Cleveland, based in Slavic Village, presented checks last month to Ione Parry, executive director of Jones Road Family Development, and Lorenzo Jones, principal of Holy Name Elementary, to replace the stolen items.

Parry said she will now be able to replace all the lost instruments and Jones has already ordered computers for the school.

Both Parry and Jones thanked Kiwanis and all who attended its spaghetti dinner fundraiser in November and other donors who made contributions to buy new instruments and computers.

The South East Kiwanis Club's mission is to support initiatives



Shown following check presentations at Jones Road Chapel at a recent South East Kiwanis meeting are, from left: Lorenzo Jones, principal of Holy Name Elementary School; Jerry Seppelt, president of SE Kiwanis; Ione Parry, executive director of Jones Road Family Development; and Kiwanis Lt. Gov. Farai Malianga of Division 15.

helping children in Slavic Village. It meets the first Wednesday of each month at noon at Jones Road Chapel, 8000 Jones Rd., Cleveland, and the third Wednesday of each month at 5 p.m. in the upstairs of Scorcher's, 3662 E. 65 St., Cleveland, across from St. Stanislaus Church. Prospective members are welcome to attend.

Teen arrested in Monday robbery of Ohio Savings Bank in Garfield

An 18-year-old Cleveland man was arrested Monday afternoon after allegedly robbing the Ohio Savings Bank at 6016 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights.

According to a Garfield Heights police report, the suspect came into the bank at 2:45 p.m. to use the restroom but was told it was not for public use and left. He came back to the bank 15 minutes later to get a drink of water, then walked up to a teller and threw a plastic bag at her along with a demand note. The note stated he was in possession of a grenade, according to the report.

Police were told the teller put money in the bag but the suspect said he wanted more. He demanded money from the ATM and jumped onto the counter when the teller said she couldn't get him the money, according to the report. Another employee was able to get an unknown amount of cash from the ATM and handed it to the suspect, the report continued. He told everyone inside the bank not to move, then fled on foot eastbound. The tellers said they then locked the doors and called police.

(Continued on Page 3)

Winter Wonderland ice skating event at Dan Kostel Rec in G.H.

The Dan Kostel Recreation Center, 5411 Turney Rd. in Garfield Heights, will host a Winter Wonderland Extravaganza ice skating event on Sunday, Jan. 15, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Reduced admission, \$5, for ages four and up; under four admitted free with paying adult. Skates included but are limited. The event is for residents and nonresidents. All proceeds will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House.

For more information call 216-475-7272 or visit www.garfieldhts.org.

Community calendar

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 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. More info, 440-526-1686.

Sunday, January 15

Polish Day Committee Meets

The Cleveland Polish Constitution Day celebration committee will meet Sunday, Jan. 15, at 1 p.m. at the Polish American Cultural Center, 6501 Lansing

Ave. All are welcome to help plan the celebration's return to Fleet Avenue in May. 216-469-4806.

Wednesday, January 18

G.H. 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., sponsored by the Garfield Hts. Chamber of Commerce. The meeting includes lunch, \$20. All are welcome. RSVP is required by Monday, Jan. 16, by calling 216-475-7775.

Bedford State Of City Address

The city of Bedford's annual "State of the City" address will be held at the Light of Hearts Villa, 283 Union St., on Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 12:30 p.m. Lunch will be served at noon, \$10; those who wish to attend the address only can attend for free. Reservations for lunch required by calling the Southeast Region Chamber of Commerce at 440-232-0115 or director@southeastchamber.org, by Friday, Jan. 13.

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.

Wednesday, January 25

K Of C Dinner

The Knights of Columbus Club 4130, 10806 Granger Rd., Garfield Hts., will serve a beef stew dinner on Wednesday, Jan. 25, from 4-7 p.m. Includes biccuits and salad bar. Adults, \$10; children under 12, \$8. Isabella Guild will also be selling fresh bakery. Reservations required by Monday, Jan. 23, by calling 216-662-2277, mailbox #2.

Thursday, January 26

Taste Of The Valley

The Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce will host its first annual Taste of the Valley on Thursday, Jan. 26, from 4:30-9 p.m. at the Holiday Inn on Rockside Rd. in Independence. Local restaurants and caterers will provide a variety of food selections for patrons to sample. Adult tickets in advance, \$25; children 13 and under, \$10. Adult tickets at the door, \$30. To purchase, visit cuyahogavalleychamber.com or call 216-573-2707.

Saturday, January 28

S.V. Nite At The Races

Slavic Village Development's Nite at the Races will be held Saturday, Jan. 28, at Bohemian National Hall, 4939 Broadway Ave. Doors open at 6 p.m.; races at 7 p.m. Tickets at \$25 each include food, drinks and 11 horse races. For tickets, horses, sponsorships and ad space, contact Andrew Kinney at andrewk@slavicvillage.org or 216-429-1182, ext. 141. Visit www.svdtraces2017.eventbrite.com to purchase online.

Saturday, February 4

Wing Ding Fundraiser

The Garfield Hts. Titans 14U travel baseball team will host its Wing Ding fundraiser on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 7-9:30 p.m. at Canal Towpath Bar and Grill, 5143 Canal Rd., Garfield Hts. The team will be selling raffle tickets for a chance to win an autographed Carlos Santana baseball bat and the winner will be drawn at the event. To purchase raffle tickets or tickets to the wing night call or text Lauri Nenadovich at 216-394-1319 or email fluffy7171@yahoo.com.

Monday, February 6

Genealogy Society Meets

The Cuyahoga Valley Genealogy Society will meet Monday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m. in the Willow Room at the Independence Civic Center, 6363 Selig Dr. Topic: "Ohio's Canal System," presented by John Dailey. All are welcome. Coffee and refreshments served. 216-524-3162.

Saturday, February 11

Vendors Needed

St. Therese Boy Scout Troop 361 is seeking vendors for its annual Indoor Garage Sale set for Saturday, Feb. 11, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the St. Therese Church Hall on E. 105 St. and Granger Rd. in Garfield Hts. Vendor tables, \$25 each. Contact Jeff Holler for info, 216-524-1923.

Tuesday, February 14

Indy Art Guild Meets

The Independence Art Guild will meet Tuesday, Feb. 14, at 7 p.m. at the Independence Civic Center, 6363 Selig Dr. Kathleen Gips will craft a variety of aromatherapy scents to sample and will provide recipes. Cost for members, \$3; nonmembers, \$5. RSVP to Carol Braverman, 216-524-1045. New members also welcome.

Miscellaneous

Lupus Foundation Shoe Drive

The Lupus Foundation of America, Greater Ohio Chapter, will host a Shoe Collection Drive fundraiser while partnering with a social enterprise called Funds2Orgs. The Lupus Foundation will earn funds based on the total weight of the shoes collected. Those interested in donating can drop off their new or gently used shoes to the Lupus Foundation office, 12930 Chippewa Rd., Suite 4, in Brecksville, any weekday between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. There is no start date or end date to this ongoing fundraiser.

Red Cross issues emergency call for blood and platelet donations during severe winter shortage

The American Red Cross has a severe winter blood shortage and has issued an emergency call for blood and platelet donors to make a donation appointment now and help save patient lives. Upcoming blood drives include:

Independence:

January 11- 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Crown Centre II, 5001 Rockside Road; January 12- 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine, 6000 Rockside Woods Blvd. North; January 19- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Rolta AdvizeX, 6450 Rockside Woods Blvd. South, Corporate Plaza I Building; January 20- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Kichler Lighting, 7711 E. Pleasant Valley Road.

Valley View:

January 17- 2 to 7 p.m. at Valley View Community Center, 6828 Hathaway Road.

"Blood and platelet donations are critically needed in the coming days so that patients can continue to receive the lifesaving treatments they are counting on," said Christy Peters, external communications manager of the local Red Cross Blood Services Region.

"We encourage donors to in-

vite a family member or friend to donate with them to help meet patient needs. Right now, blood and platelet donations are being distributed to hospitals faster than they are coming in."

For a complete list of donation drives visit redcross.org.

AARP volunteers to help file taxes

AARP volunteers will be e-filing 2016 income taxes for residents of Maple Heights and Garfield Heights beginning in February, by appointment only.

Volunteers will be at the Maple Heights Senior Center, 15901 Libby Rd., every Monday, from February 6 through April 10. Call 216-587-5481 to schedule an appointment.

Volunteers will be at the Garfield Heights Senior Center, 5407 Turney Rd., every Friday, from February 10 through April 7. The center will begin taking calls for appointments on January 30th, from 2 to 5 p.m. only, 216-475-3244.

Organizers ask that residents do not arrive more than 10 minutes early to their appointments.

Friends of S.V. meet January 19

The first Friends of Slavic Village meeting of 2017 will be held Thursday, Jan. 19, at Third Federal Savings Corporate Campus, 7007 Broadway Ave. Dinner will be served at 5 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Residents, business owners and stakeholders are invited to a presentation on "The State of the Neighborhood" by Slavic Village Development Executive Director Chris Alvarado. Attendees are also invited to share information on upcoming events and projects.

Parking available in the lot off of Aetna Road. Attendees are reminded to enter through the Rotunda doors.

RSVP is required by contacting Andrew Kinney: andrewk@slavicvillage.org or 216-429-1182, ext. 141.

St. Michael's teacher wins contest

Adam Cottos, the fifth and sixth grade social studies teacher at St. Michael School in Independence, was announced the winner of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) Social Media Influencer Contest. Winning this

contest means that Cottos will be attending the NCEA 2017 Convention and Expo in St. Louis as a guest of the NCEA along with other prizes.

"I am so thankful for the support, ideas and prayers I received throughout this contest. It was an honor to be able to share the great work of the St. Michael community to educators from around the country," said Cottos.

The NCEA is an organization that provides leadership and direction for Catholic schools throughout the country through professional development opportunities for educators at the schools.

A lunch provided by D&R Catering, followed by raffles, games and bingo. Attendees are asked to bring one wrapped gift to be used for games.

Cottos was one of 12 teachers selected from across the country to participate in this 11-week contest.

We are selling Girl Scout Cookies

to raise money for our Girl Scout Silver Award project.

We have: Thin Mints (\$4) Samoas (\$4)
Tagalongs (\$4) Do-Si-Dos (\$4)
Savannah Smiles (\$4) Trefoils (\$4)
Toffee-Tastic (\$5) S'mores (\$5)



Phone: (216) 375-4868

Email: girlscoutsrule2@gmail.com

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 <p style="text-align: center;">50 LB. Calcium Chloride \$19⁹⁹ Bag Melts to -25 degrees</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Triple Expanding Foam Sealant \$4⁹⁹ can</p>

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Submit your Community events to The Neighborhood News via Email: nnews1923@aol.com

JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND OF FAMILY FUN!!

ST. MONICA PARISH'S 2017 WINTERFEST

St. Monica's Parish Campus,
13623 Rockside Rd., Garfield Hts.

Help support the church offset utilities with a fun-filled weekend of activities, raffles, prizes and live music!

Family Fun Activities
Flower Clown
Sunday 1:30pm

"The Dance Sound of Music"
Sunday 2-5pm
-Big Band, Polka Dancing

SATURDAY, JAN. 14th, 5:00 - 9:00 P.M.
SUNDAY, JAN. 15th, 1:00 - 6:00 P.M.

• Raffle Tickets: \$1 each, or 6 for \$5. . .

GRAND PRIZE of \$2,000! (Plus additional prizes)

- Chinese Raffle Baskets, 50/50 Raffle, Instant Bingo
- Live Music featuring Local Artists performing Big Band, Polka Dancing
- Gambling Wheels and Games "Of Chance"
- Kids Booths with prizes, multiple interactive games and activities
- Delicious, Home-Cooked Food will be available

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Information? Contact the Chairs, Angie and Bill Noyes at (216) 912-8679.

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G.H. man charged after high speed chase

By Amber Weisbarth

A 26-year-old Garfield Heights man led police on a high speed chase through Garfield Heights Monday night and was arrested after crashing his car in Cleveland, police said. The following information is according to a Garfield Heights police report.

While on patrol around 8:40 p.m., a Garfield Heights officer saw the 26-year-old speeding on Turney Road near Robinson Avenue and followed him. The driver sped through stop signs and weaved through traffic, nearly causing several accidents and travelling in excess of 80 miles per hour. The officer was not able to keep up with the driver but kept him in sight.

The 26-year-old continued into Cleveland, and as he crossed Harvard Ave., the car became airborne over the railroad tracks at East 93rd Street and Meech Avenue. After crossing the tracks, the man crashed into two other vehicles near Nelson Ave. and his car was heavily damaged. Cleveland police were called and also arrived at the scene.

As Garfield Heights officers approached the car they saw a female passenger trapped inside. She was bloody and began screaming in pain as police saw the dashboard crushed around her legs. The driver then began using profanities at police and said his teeth had been broken by the steering wheel.

Officers verbally warned the man he was under arrest after they were unable to get the car door open to pull him out. Police said the man suddenly got out of the car and would not comply with officers trying to arrest him.

Police said he smelled of alcohol and warned him he would be Tased if he did not comply.

The man began physically struggling with the five police officers who were trying to handcuff him and he was Tased. A cartridge struck him in the head but it was ineffective. He became tangled in Taser wire and was eventually arrested.

Police said the passenger was trapped inside the car throughout the struggle and was extracted from the car once the Cleveland Fire Department arrived at the scene.

Before being taken to MetroHealth Medical Center, she told police the man had picked her up from her sister's house and began driving "crazy." When she saw police were chasing him and asked him to stop he replied, "I'm not stopping. I'm going to take them on a run."

The driver was taken to Marymount Hospital for treatment and emergency room staff said he was not injured by the Taser. He told ER personnel he had been using heroin and cocaine and had been drinking alcohol. Police found an open bottle of liquor in the car on the driver's side floor.

The 26-year-old was charged with resisting arrest and obstructing official business and held on an \$8500 bond. He was cited for operating a vehicle while intoxicated, driving under suspension, reckless operation, fleeing and eluding, not wearing a seatbelt and other traffic violations.

Police said the conditions of the other drivers involved in the crash were reported to dispatch and handled accordingly. No major injuries were reported.

Bedford officials consider

(Continued from Page 1)

Koci added, "Also, his pay raise is mandated by the state, and we're just complying with their wishes. It's not like he's getting a special raise... that's the state law and we've got to deal with it. Tom Day does a great job over there in the court. You don't see him; he works behind the scenes, but he does a great job, day in and day out, and he's been a good friend of our city, too, in helping with the budget items."

Also passed was an ordinance for a contract with GPD Group for engineering services in the city of Bedford for 2017; and an ordinance for a one-year extension of the contract between the city and the Ohio Council 8 and Local 2007 American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

As with the city's police and fire unions, in an effort to address the city's ongoing financial issues, the service department employees agreed to a one-year freeze of their existing contract which was expected to expire at the end of 2016, Mallis said, adding, "With zero increases in wages, zero changes to health care... this is a good thing, that everybody recognizes some of our challenges moving forward and working together to make sure we overcome them."

Former 'First Lady' honored

Koci presented a proclamation to the family of Rose Grossenbaugh, who passed away last month at 84. Mrs. Grossenbaugh was the wife of the late former Bedford Mayor Donald Grossenbaugh, who led the city from 1984 to 1999, and she had served as a leader herself in the city she called home for more than 50 years.

Mrs. Grossenbaugh was a president of the local Democratic Club, in addition to serving as the city's First Lady, Koci stated in his proclamation, adding, "She was a dedicated and exceptional volunteer at many various festivals, parties, events, ticket drawings... she continued to support the city and always held Bedford near and dear to her heart."

'State of City' January 18

Mallis announced that the annual "State of the City" address will be held at the Light of Hearts Villa, 283 Union St., on Wednesday, January 18, at 12:30 p.m.

A lunch at \$10 per person will be served at noon; however, those who wish to attend the address only without the meal can attend for free. Reservations for lunch required. Contact the Southeast Region Chamber of Commerce at 440-232-0115 or director@southeastchamber.org by Friday, Jan. 13.

January Ampol Hall menu, bands

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 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.



Pictured above is retired Judge Ralph Perk, Jr., at left, and St. Joseph Society Lodge #156 officers: Audrey Schmidt, recording & financial secretary; Joe Kocab, vice president and former host of the radio show "The Czech Voice of Cleveland"; Robert Cermak, president; Kathy Cermak, trustee; Jane Miliczewski, trustee and head of the Kitchen Committee; Fred Malec, trustee; and Dennis Kocian, sergeant-at-arms.

St. Joseph Society officers sworn in

The officers of the St. Joseph Society Lodge #156 of the Czech Catholic Union, whose national office is located in Slavic Village near Our Lady of Lourdes Church, were sworn in at their January meeting by retired judge and member Ralph Perk, Jr.

Newly elected president Bob Cermak thanked all for their attendance and support of the society. After its regular agenda plus some brief announcements including the upcoming Communion Breakfast on March 19, 2017, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church on East 55th Street just south of Broadway, with Mass at 10 a.m. and breakfast following, the meeting was adjourned.

Food Pantry

A nonperishable Food Pantry will be open every Sunday from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at Community Friends Church, 4509 Warner Rd. in Cleveland. Each person is permitted to come once per month. A current photo ID is required. The pantry will be closed when there is a fifth Sunday of the month.

Call Crime Stoppers with anonymous tips

Crime Stoppers encourages members of the community to assist local law enforcement agencies in the fight against crime.

Crime Stoppers provides an anonymous telephone number, Text Tips and Web Tips to encourage citizens to volunteer vital information helpful to law enforcement agencies. By offering anonymity and cash rewards for information leading to indictment or arrests, the program encourages otherwise reluctant callers to provide information.

The 24/7 hotline number, 216-252-7463, allows the caller to remain anonymous. The phone does not have a caller ID function and calls are not recorded.

Those with information can also text TIP657 plus your message to 274637, or can submit information online at www.25crime.com.

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Teen arrested

(Continued from Page 1)

Police and the K-9 Unit searched the area for the suspect and followed footprints left in the snow. The prints led police to a backyard in the 6100 block of Turney Road which led to a truck in the yard. The 18-year-old was found hiding in the truck and the tellers positively identified him. He was arrested without incident, all according to the police report.

He was held on no bond for investigation of robbery. He admitted he robbed the bank and told police the money was hidden behind a tree in the yard where they found him. The Detective Bureau found the money and returned it to the bank, the report confirmed.

According to a post made by the Garfield Heights Police Department Facebook page, this has been the second bank robbery in Garfield Heights in the past few months.

The Facebook post stated that on November 30th, the Key Bank at 4967 Turney Road was robbed. With help from bank employees and dispatch, Garfield Heights officers were able to track the suspects to Park Knoll Drive where they were located and taken into custody. The money was also recovered, all according to the post.

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Garfield Hts. police news



By Amber Weisbarth

Breaking and Entering

On January 6th, around 2:50 a.m., police were called to the Marathon gas station on Broadway Ave. due to an alarm drop. Officers said a brick had been thrown through the front door of the business and the top half of an ATM had been damaged and forced open. The business owner arrived and said nothing had been stolen from the store and the money was still in the bottom half of the ATM. The area was checked for possible suspects with negative results.

Criminal Damage

• A resident of the 4800 block of East 94th St. told police she heard gunshots near her home during the early morning hours of January 7th. When she woke up in the morning, she noticed three bullet holes in her front living room window. Police also found two holes in the woman's couch in front of the window. A bullet was pulled out of the couch and taken as evidence. Officers said around 2 a.m. on January 7th they responded to East 94th St. on a call of shots fired and were looking for a silver Ford Taurus with a temporary tag but were unable to find the car. The investigation is ongoing.

• A resident of the 5000 block of East 88th St. said she and a friend were home on January 7th, around 10:30 p.m., and heard a loud noise but did not think much of it. When she woke up in the morning she found her front window had been broken and police determined it was damaged by a pellet gun. Four more pellet dents were also found in the siding of the house.

• On January 8th, a resident in the 13200 block of Shadyoak Blvd. told police he went to the back of his home to get a snow shovel that had been leaning against the house. When he moved it, he found a bullet hole in his siding and the shell casing on the ground. He did not know when the damage occurred.

Shoplifting

Police were dispatched to the CVS store at the corner of Granger and Turney rds. on January 2, around 4 p.m., and saw the manager of the store on Turney at Elmwood with a man believed to be a shoplifter. Police detained the man, 46, of Cleveland, and found seven bottles of body wash inside his sweatshirt and tucked into his pants.

The manager of the store said he saw the 46-year-old conceal the items and attempt to leave the store without paying, and when he approached the man he fled on foot but quickly gave up and stopped running. The suspect was taken to City Jail, and while being processed, a jailor found a small amount of cocaine and Chore Boy in the man's pocket. He was charged with theft, issued a summons for attempted possession of a controlled substance and held on a \$3500 bond. The stolen items were returned to the store.

Theft of Motor Vehicle

Residents of the 8800 block of Plymouth Ave. told police their van had been stolen from the driveway between 3 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. on January 7th. It was entered into LEADS and on January 9th, around 3:30 a.m., Wickliffe police said they recovered the vehicle. It was involved in a smash and grab of an ATM at a Sunoco gas station on Euclid Ave.

The Plymouth Ave. resident told The Neighborhood News that her husband is a 69-year-old Vietnam veteran that used the vehicle to go to work every day. "You stole his means of transportation," she said, directing her comments to the thief.

Weapon Offense

Residents of a home in the 4600 block of East 93rd St. told police their home was damaged in a shooting on January 1st, around 11:30 p.m. The homeowners said their children had been home at the time.

One of the children, 15, told police her 18-year-old brother may have been the target because he had "an incident" with a boy from Maple Heights, according to the report. The 18-year-old had left the home before police arrived.

Police found five bullets in the front room which came in through the side of the house. Police also found four spent casings in the street. Neighbors said they saw a small four-door vehicle with a loud muffler speed away from the scene heading southbound on East 93rd St. around the time of the shooting. Both witnesses also said the vehicle was black or dark in color. The investigation is ongoing.

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LIBRARIES PLAN SPECIAL PROGRAMS

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.

• **Affordable Care Act Enrollment Assistance**, Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Get free help with Affordable Care Act enrollment. Representatives will be at the branch every week through January, except on holidays. Drop in any time during these free sessions.

• **Cuyahoga Works: Cuyahoga County Public Library Job & Career Services**. One-on-one counseling sessions with a certified career counselor are available at no charge. Make an appointment by calling 216-475-2225.

• **Family Storytime**, Wednesday, Jan. 11, 6:30 p.m. Caregivers and their children (newborns to 8 years) will enjoy rhymes, songs, fingerplays and stories.

• **Lifeline Phones**, Wednesday, Jan. 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 activate cell phone in just ten minutes.

• **Engage With Me Series**, Creating S.M.A.R.T. Goals and Vision Boards, Thursday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m. Families of students in grades K-8 are invited to learn about different resources and ideas to help your students succeed in life and meet other people from your community to share ideas and support while enjoying pizza. Registration required.

• **Excel 101: Data Basics**, Friday, Jan. 13, 10 a.m., adults. This session will introduce spreadsheets using Microsoft Excel. Topics covered include entering data, using autofill and performing calculations using formulas and functions. Prerequisite: Word 101 or experience using Excel Registration required.

• **Gaming Tournament/Youth Pit Tournament**, Tuesday Jan. 17, 3:30 p.m., grades 4-12, using the official Hasbro instructions. This frenzied trading card game is fun and addicting! No previous experience necessary. Registration required.

• **3D Design/Technology**, Tuesday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m., adults. Explore hands-on digital creation as you create your own design using 3D modeling program, Tinkercad! Your item will be printed on Cuyahoga County Public Library's 3D printer and will be available for pick-up one week after the program. A valid email address and basic computer skills are required. Space is limited and registration is 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.

• **Kids Cafe**, Monday-Friday after school. Free, healthy, nutritious bagged meals available for kids thanks to a partnership with the Cleveland Food Bank.

• **Super Sleuth Readers**, Fridays, through Jan. 27, 11:30 a.m., ages 3-5. After reading fun stories, singing songs and rhymes, Super Sleuths will look further into their stories through play and crafts.

• **Media Monday**, January 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.

• **Fun at Fleet: Lunar New Year**, Monday, Jan. 23, 4 p.m. Kick off the Year of the Rooster by discovering your Chinese Zodiac sign and sampling fortune cookies.

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.

• **Homework Center**, Monday-Thursday, 4-6:30 p.m. Students grades K-8 may register to attend the Homework Center. Applications are available at the library.

• **Affordable Care Act Enrollment Assistance**, Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Get free help with Affordable Care Act enrollment. The library is partnering with a regional Enrollment Assistance Program to raise awareness, facilitate access and assist enrollment of qualified individuals. Representatives will be at the branch every week through January, except on holidays. Drop in any time during these free sessions.

• **Teen Art Club**, Wednesday, Jan. 11, 7-8 p.m. Experiment with new techniques and mediums each month. Participants may be recorded and/or surveyed to capture programs effectiveness. More info at cuyahogalibrary.org/parent-options.

• **GED Orientation**, Thursday, Jan. 12, 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.

• **Innovation Center Orientation**, Saturday, Jan. 14, 9:30 a.m. Come during this time for a drop-in orientation at the Innovation Center. Expect sessions to last between 30-45 minutes; arrive early. Bring your library card or photo ID.

• **3D Design**, Saturday, Jan. 14, noon to 1 p.m. Explore hands-on digital creation as you create your own design using 3-D modeling software. A valid email address and basic computer skills are required. Space is limited and registration is required.

• **Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day!** Monday, Jan. 16, 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Come to the library for a special storytime from 10-10:45 a.m. and a craft all day long celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day! No registration necessary.

• **New Year, New Jobseeker**, Monday, Jan. 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Ring in the New Year by learning tips for reorganizing your job search. This includes tips for: setting new, achievable goals, revising your resume, job search strategies and developing a winning attitude that will lead to a successful job search. Registration required.

• **Excel 101 Data Basics**, Monday, Jan. 16, 7-8:30 p.m. This session will provide an introduction to spreadsheets using Microsoft Excel. Topics covered include entering data, using

(Continued on Page 5)

Library programs

(Continued from Page 4)

autofill and performing calculations using formulas and functions. Prerequisite: Word 101 or experience using Excel.

•Drop In and Innovate, Wednesday, Jan. 18, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Having trouble getting started in the Innovation Center? Library staff will get you embroidering, engraving, laser cutting or designing your project in no time. Get your projects rolling with some basics and get your questions answered. Prior Innovation Center Orientation required.

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.

•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, then encourage each person to express themselves through writing. Students will have the opportunity to share their work at the end of the session if they choose.

•Volunteers, 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.

•Middle School Book Discussion, Thursday, Jan. 12, 3:30 p.m. Teens in grades 5-8 are invited to enjoy food and a fun discussion of a different book each month! Stop by the library to pick up the current title.

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•Brain Fitness, Mondays, Jan. 16, 23 and 30, 7 p.m. Exercise your brain with Kathryn Kilpatrick, M.A. CCC/SLP. Research supports the fact that challenging your brain is an important component of successful aging. Week 1: Basic Keys to Your Memory Fitness; Week 2: Memory Strategies for the 21st Century; Week 3: Keeping Your Brain Sharp.

•Discover Careers That Fit Your Personality, Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2 p.m. Customize your job search to match your personality to a career you can love! A Career Counselor will introduce the concepts and help you identify individual, preferred personality types by utilizing areas of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) instrument.

•Wednesday Night and Thursday Afternoon Book Discussions, Jan. 18, 7:15 p.m. and Jan. 19, 2:15 p.m. A casual and lively book discussion of "Grandma Gatewood's Walk: The Inspiring Story of the Woman who Saved the Appalachian Trail," by Ben Montgomery. Books available at the checkout desk. All are welcome! Those that are new to the group are asked to register.

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.

•Affordable Care Act Enrollment Assistance, Mondays, 11 a.m. The library has partnered with a regional Enrollment Assistance Program to raise awareness, facilitate access and assist enrollment of qualified individuals. Representatives will be at the branch every week through January, except on holidays. Drop in any time during these free sessions.

•Studio Saturday, January 14, 2:30 p.m., grades K-5. Come to the library for a story and a

chance to create something amazing!

•Cookies and Books, Monday, Jan. 16, 2:30 p.m., grades 1-5. Enjoy cookies and milk while listening to a live reading from books that celebrate the history of the Civil Rights Movement, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Caregivers must sign a Release and Hold Harmless form and return to program location at least one week prior to the program date. The form and more information can be found at cuyahoga.library.org/parent-options.

•Global Village: One World Rhythm, Monday, Jan. 16, 3 p.m., grades K-8. Celebrate MLK Day with Baba Jubal Harris from the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning. Journey across the world in this fun workshop that involves call and response, dance, music and stories.

Obituary

MARGARET P. HOCEVAR (nee Dvorak), age 86., of Bedford, passed away on December 20.

She was the beloved wife of Andrew R.; loving mother of Louise Szabo, Lawrence, Stephen (Marijo), Deborah and Therese; dear grandmother of Michael Szabo (Yulia), Jamie Struna, Jason Szabo, Renee, Dina, Alex and Daniel; great-grandmother of Taylor Struna, Oscar Szabo and Anelia; sister of Marian Fleck (the late John) and the late Louis Dvorak.

Mrs. Hocevar was a longtime member of the Newburgh-Maple Heights Pensioners, SNPJ and AMLA. "When you save bread crumbs and go out to feed the birds, you are keeping Marge's memory."

Arrangements were handled by Ferfolia Funeral Home and a Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church. Interment in Calvary Cemetery.

St. Michael School basketball team adopts students for Christmas



Shown above is Greg Garvis and his "adopted" student, Miracle, opening the presents he bought her for Christmas.

The St. Michael School seventh and eighth grade basketball team and cheerleaders in Independence helped make the Christmas season brighter for 21 students from Louis Aggasiz Elementary School in Cleveland.

Each year the basketball team receives a list of students and what they want or need for Christmas. The team buys and wraps the gifts which they then deliver to the students.

On December 19, the basketball team and cheerleaders made the trip to Louis Aggasiz Elementary School to deliver the presents and meet their adopted students. This is the fourth year for the program and many of the players have had the same adopted students for multiple years.

"It is a very humbling experience for our children," said basketball team parent Terese Yontek. "These students are asking for crayons, paper and socks; there's no Xbox on the list, yet they are just as excited to open these gifts."

The students weren't the only ones who received gifts. Many parents of the basketball team and cheerleaders donated

items to the teachers like coloring books and pencils. Besides opening presents, the basketball team sang carols and the cheerleaders did a special performance for the students. Each adopted student also received a healthy snack bag to take home over Christmas break.

Clothing recycling encouraged in G.H.

Garfield Heights residents can recycle clothing, shoes and household textiles using the city's free curbside program.

Garfield Heights officials are working to reduce the amount of recyclable material that ends up in landfills. Clothing and shoes are 100 percent recyclable, yet 85 percent still ends up in landfills, officials said. Garfield Heights residents have the Simple Recycling program available to them to help change the statistics and improve the environment. This program is separate from the Kimble curbside collection, yet occurs the same day.

Once a resident determines that items are no longer useful, they can place them in a green Simple Recycling bag, provided by the company at no cost, and put it on the curb the same day as their regular rubbish pick up. Bedding, belts and ties, hats and gloves, stuffed animals and more can be recycled.

Collected items are sorted and graded for condition. Top quality materials, approximately 20 percent of what residents no longer want, are sold to local thrift stores. The vast majority of clothing collected, about 80 percent, will not be resold in the United States, so it is further sorted for international export or broken down for raw materials.

Only five percent ends up as waste. The other 95 percent is exported as secondhand clothing, converted to other materials such as cleaning rags for industrial and residential use, or recycled into fiber used in home insulation, carpet padding, etc.

Residents can pick up Simple Recycling bags at the Garfield Heights Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd. For additional information about the program, contact Simple Recycling at 866-835-5068.

Residents also can contact Pat Salemi at Garfield Heights City Hall, 216-475-1100, ext. 2425, or e-mail psalemi@garfieldhhs.org. Simple Recycling also benefits the Garfield Heights Family Resource Center.

Golden Ager's Grapevine

Immaculate Heart

The Immaculate Heart of Mary Golden Ager's will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 17, at 11:30 a.m. in the parish hall. A luncheon will be served, birthdays honored, raffles and games played.

Grandmother's Club

The Grandmother's Club will meet Thursday, Jan. 19, at 11:30 a.m. at Cuyahoga Heights Village Hall, 4863 E. 71 St. Luncheon served, birthdays honored, raffles and games played.

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. Call Annie at 216-475-1100, ext. 2435.

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S.V. plans to build time capsule

Slavic Village is looking to the future, way into the future, and it's inviting the public to share the view.

One of the oldest neighborhoods in Cleveland is planning to build a time capsule to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Broadway Slavic Village Neighborhood Summit, an annual civic meeting that this year takes place in early March. The theme of this year's summit is "Back to the Future."

A time capsule is a formal collection of items and messages from a particular moment in history that is laid away for future generations to discover. Inside are deposited often simple, ordinary things that today are quite common but that someday may be nearly unheard of: copies of local newspapers, ticket stubs, a popular toy or device, samples of music and art, menus from restaurants, business cards and advertisements showing current prices. Organizers say they'll also include publications representing neighborhood churches, schools, organizations and businesses, as well as messages addressed to the future from community leaders, and a photographic record of local streets.

They're encouraging your input as well - write down your predictions about the future or ask a question: what does 21st century Cleveland look like? How large has our population grown? How have health care, education, careers and social life changed? Have men walked on Mars? Has the climate changed?

The capsule will be relatively small, about three cubic feet, with limited space, so flat items are preferred. Call 216-469-4806 to participate. And join the neighborhood at Bohemian National Hall on Broadway on Saturday, March 11, when the Slavic Village Time Capsule will be ceremonially closed and sealed with the label "Do Not Open Until March 2117!"

Given the rapidity of change, the committee is confident that our great-great-grandchildren will be thrilled to see what today's generation of Clevelanders has saved for them.

CVCC offers ACT prep course

Busy college-bound students can prep for the ACT in just one day at the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center (CVCC), located at 8001 Brecksville Rd., Brecksville, on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Area students will master testing strategies, conquer core subjects and build confidence to ace the college entrance exam and stay competitive among peers for college admission and scholarships. The workshop costs \$99 and includes lunch and materials.

Five-session courses will also be available from 6 to 8 p.m. at

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.

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 and will end with the annual Ice Show in April.

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Grand jury to consider charges against suspect in New Year's shooting in Bedford

Allegedly fired shots into bar after being thrown out

By Judith Goldsworth

The Cuyahoga County Grand Jury will consider charges against a Cleveland man who turned himself in to Bedford police last week after a murder warrant had been issued for his arrest as a suspect in the fatal shooting of a man at the Lounge 2.28 Bar and Grill on New Year's Day, according to Bedford police and county court records.

John Word, 35, whose last known address was on E. 112 St. in Cleveland, waived his rights to a preliminary hearing at an arraignment held on Friday, Jan. 6, in Bedford Municipal Court, where Judge Brian Melling set his bond at \$2 million, according to Bedford court records.

Initially Word was held on no bond until Friday's arraignment, which was held via video from Bedford City Jail. Word's case has been bound over to Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court.

Bedford police obtained an arrest warrant for Word after he was named as a suspect in the killing of Trevis Stephens, 33, at the Northfield Road bar in the early morning hours of Sunday, Jan. 1. Word had been involved in a scuffle and was thrown out by bar personnel only to return a short time later and fire two shots into the establishment, Bedford Police Det. Sgt. Rick Suts stated.

One of the shots fatally wounded Stephens, who died a short time later at MetroHealth Medical Center, according to the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office. Suts stated that there was no indication that Word and Stephens knew each other, nor was he involved in the altercation that resulted in Word's ejection from the bar.

After the shooting, police said that Word fled the scene in a car being driven by Clairese Murray, 35, of the same E. 112 St. address where Word lived in Cleveland. With the assistance of Cleveland police, Murray was arrested without incident by Bedford police on Wednesday, Jan. 4, and was charged with complicity to murder in her alleged role as getaway driver.

Murray's bond was set at \$250,000 and her arraignment via video, also from Bedford Jail, was also held in Bedford Court last Friday, according to court records. Melling kept Murray's bond at the \$250,000 figure. The grand jury will also consider charges against Murray, whose case also has been bound over to Common Pleas court.

A warrant for Word's arrest was issued after Murray was taken into custody and he turned himself in early Thursday, Jan. 5, police said. Word, who has a long history of incarceration on felony charges, in-

cluding aggravated assault, attempted felonious assault, attempted robbery, and drug related charges, per county court records, had been on parole since April 2016, when he was released on probation in a federal case.

In 2007, Word was sentenced to 12 years in federal prison, after being found guilty of being a felon in possession of a firearm, according to court records. He was released in April after he filed a motion for relief and was sentenced to time served and three years probation, court records stated.

Suts expressed his appreciation to all those who assisted, stating, "Thank you to everyone that provided tips in this case." Anyone with any additional information can contact the Bedford detective bureau, 440-232-3408.

Block watch

E. 63 St.

The East 63rd Street Block Club will meet Thursday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. at St. Stanislaus School, 6615 Forman Ave., Cleveland. A 50/50 raffle will be held. All are welcome.

Cleveland boy's death confirmed accidental

The Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office confirmed that the death of a three-year-old Cleveland boy was accidental carbon monoxide poisoning.

The boy had been riding in a van with his father for over two hours that had no catalytic converter attached to its exhaust system, according to The Plain Dealer.

CVCC offers college workshop

A workshop for college-bound seniors and their parents hosted at the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center, 8001 Brecksville Rd., Brecksville, will be held Wednesday, Jan. 25, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

This free event is an opportunity to learn how to research private scholarships, what scholarship opportunities are available to students from Northeast Ohio, foundation support, scholarship scams and how to write effective scholarship essays.

Reservations are available by contacting Darden Blake, 440-746-8242 or register online at <http://tinyurl.com/CVCC-1-25-17>. For more information visit www.cvccworks.edu.



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