

The Neighborhood News

THE GARFIELD HEIGHTS TRIBUNE

DELIVERED IN SOUTHEAST CLEVELAND, GARFIELD HEIGHTS, NEWBURGH HEIGHTS, CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS, INDEPENDENCE, VALLEY VIEW, MAPLE HEIGHTS AND BEDFORD

94th YEAR NO. 17

CIRCULATION 15,000 COPIES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2017

PHONE: (216) 441-2141 • EMAIL: NNEWS1923@AOL.COM

FREE

G.H. school board treasurer explains how renewal levy impacted 2017 property taxes

By Allen Sluka
Treasurer, Garfield Heights
City Schools

Have you wondered why your school property taxes may have gone up with the start of the New Year, even though the Garfield Heights City Schools passed a renewal levy last year that stated no new taxes? This article will help the community understand why many tax bills increased with the new calendar year.

The answer goes back to the way schools are funded. Under Ohio law a school district can ask the voters for four basic types of property tax levies: Continuing, Emergency, Bond and Permanent Improvement. The district has currently one continuing levy, two bond issue levies, one permanent improvement levy and three emergency levies, including the renewal one passed by voters in November 2016. All of the above levies were approved by voters. Before going further, the community needs to know a few basic terms:

Assessed Valuation: This is the property values within the school community that the district applies its millage rates against to generate its property tax revenues. The assessed value of any property (land + building) is 35% of its market value.

Mills/Millage Rates: Mills are the basic unit used for property taxation in the state of Ohio. One mill is equivalent to \$1 in taxes for every \$1,000 in taxable value. In other words, for a home worth \$100,000, if you're assessed at a one mill tax rate, you will pay \$100 in taxes. Some millage is voted on by the people, which is called "outside millage," while other millage is unvoted, which is referred to as "inside millage."

Continuing Levies: These are permanent and will be collected until the school board or voters vote to cease collection. (The levies may collect at reduced rates, subject to reduction factors.)

Emergency Levies: These levies are collected for the number of years designated in the ballot language submitted to voters (e.g. 10 years). The maximum term is set by statute.

Bond Issue Levies: Bond issue levies are collected for the number of years designated in the ballot language submitted to voters (e.g. 10 years). The voters agree to be assessed the necessary millage to pay off the

annual principal and interest due each year.

Permanent Improvement Levies: These are collected for the number of years designated in the ballot language submitted to voters. The voters agree to be assessed per ballot language millage for permanent improvements.

So Why Did My School Taxes Increase?

Having a basic understanding of these terms will help you to understand the answer to the basic question as to why your property tax increased. Let's first start with the renewal levy that was passed last November.

This levy was renewed to collect \$4.1 million annually for the next 10 years, which is the same amount that was first passed in 2012. As for the other emergency levies, those amounts have not changed. Furthermore, the bond issue levies' annual debt service payment due had not fluctuated significantly from last year to this. So what did change to cause the tax increase? The district's "assessed valuation."

The district again saw its residential and commercial valuation drop by over \$1.35 million from the previous year, the most significant being \$1.19 million in residential.

So how does the lower assessed valuations affect my taxes? Since property tax rates are set using assessed valuation, by law, the county fiscal officer is required to set the millage rates to an amount that we meet the dollar amounts voted on for the emergency and bond issue levies. Here is quick summary. If your house value is the same as the previous year, but the overall assessed valuation of the community dropped, your tax rate was increased to offset the valuation loss and meet the levy amounts. Basically, you are picking up the slack of those homeowners who got their values reduced while yours stayed the same. Due to the valuation loss, the school district needed to increase the tax rate 6.83 mills just to meet the existing levies that are already in place.

"In every renewal levy I have dealt with, the tax implication never changed this significantly," Sluka told The Neighborhood News. "While the tax increase was spread over all of our levies, in my years as treasurer I have not seen a decrease in residential valuations of this

magnitude in a non-reappraisal year."

He said that looking back on statements he made during last year's school levy renewal campaign that the renewal would "absolutely not raise taxes," he should have re-phrased that statement with an additional clarification on valuation fluctuations having an effect on your tax rates.

What Can Be Done?

The bottom line is that the total assessed value of the community is the driving factor for tax rates. Preserving the existing assessed valuations and building on the valuation is paramount to keeping tax rates in check. Purchasing property below market value or filing for reductions has a significant impact on the valuation and ultimately your tax rate. This includes both residential and commercial valuations. Residents can remain informed about these matters by clicking to the website garfieldheightscityschools.com and learning more on the finance page.

Garfield Heights History Fact

Garfield Park was opened in 1898 as Newburgh Park owned by the city of Cleveland. It was a getaway place for Clevelanders. The park was renamed after the assassination of President James A. Garfield.

There were walkways, a lake for boating and ice skating, swimming pool, picnic areas, baseball diamonds and clay tennis courts.

Learn more about Garfield Park history at the Garfield Heights Historical Museum, 5405 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights, call 216-475-3050 or visit its website: www.ghhist.org.

FLOODING IN GARFIELD



Garfield Heights police closed Broadway Avenue for several hours yesterday morning into afternoon along the stretch of road near Midwest Avenue as flooding made the road impassable. Spring came early yesterday as afternoon temperatures reached 60 degrees at Cleveland Hopkins Airport, tying the record set in 1925, according to the National Weather Service.

Photo by Michael Psenicka

G.H. schools to host family fun night this Friday

The Garfield Heights City Schools is hosting a Winter Family Fun Night event this Friday, Feb. 10, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Garfield Heights High School auxiliary gymnasium, 4900 Turney Rd.

This fun and exciting event is a great way to spend time with family, friends and community members, said organizers. Pre-sale tickets will admit a family of 5 for only \$10 and are available at the main office of each elementary school through Friday, Feb. 10, and includes food, games, prizes, competitions and more.

Each ticket also provides free admission into the boy's varsity basketball game. The event is \$20 per family when purchased at the door. All proceeds from the event will benefit Citizens for Garfield Heights.

For more information, contact the Garfield Heights City Schools at 216-475-8100 or visit www.CitizensforGarfieldHeights.com.

US Bank in Bedford robbed

The US Bank at 680 Broadway Ave., Bedford was robbed Monday afternoon and police and FBI officers are still searching for the suspect, according to a Vicki Anderson with the FBI Cleveland Division.



Suspect

Anderson said a man walked into the bank around 3:50 p.m. and passed a note to a teller indicating he was armed, that he was committing a bank robbery and demanded no dye packs. It read in part, "I don't care about my life or yours just give me the money."

Anderson said the suspect also verbally demanded money and told the teller to "hurry up" multiple times.

The teller gave the suspect cash and he left the bank on foot heading southbound on Broadway Avenue. According to a Bedford police report, witnesses reported the suspect got into a vehicle heading southbound on Broadway which was later abandoned at the Tim Lally field on Willis Street. Police learned the car had been stolen from Cleveland.

The suspect is described as a black male, approximately 6'0" to 6'2", 180-200 pounds, between 23-27 years old. He was wearing a navy blue hooded sweatshirt cinched tight around his face, sunglasses with mirrored frames, light blue knit gloves and dark-colored, loose-fitting pants.

No weapon was seen although the demand note indicated he was armed. No physical injuries were reported, according to Anderson.

Tips can be provided to the Bedford Police Department, 440-232-7600, or the Cleveland Division of the FBI, 216-522-1400.

Reward money is available for information leading to the successful identification and prosecution of the individual responsible. Tips can remain anonymous.

Medical examiner reports over 40 overdoses in January; 14 fatal overdoses over weekend

Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner Dr. Thomas Gilson announced Cuyahoga County suffered at least 46 confirmed fatal overdoses in January due to heroin, fentanyl or a combination of the two. Furthermore, 11 January cases are still pending further toxicology testing, which may cause the total to increase. At least 517 victims have died in 2016 from heroin, fentanyl or a combination of the two.

January residential demographics are as follows: 23 city of Cleveland residents and 23 suburban residents. Beachwood, Berea, Cleveland Heights, East Cleveland, Euclid, Garfield Heights, Independence, Lakewood, Maple Heights, Middleburg Heights, Newburgh Heights, Olmsted Township and Parma, and eight out-of-county residents in Brunswick, Canal Fulton, Columbia Station, Concord, New London, North Ridgeville and Wickliffe, according to a press release.

Since February 1st, there have been at least 24 fatalities. Over the weekend (February 3-5), at least 14 suspected fatal overdoses occurred, according to Gilson.

Additionally, January also suffered 31 cocaine-related deaths, with 19 being mixed with heroin, fentanyl or a combination of the two. Cocaine deaths are projected to have doubled from 115 to approximately 230 in 2016.

For additional information and to view the complete report, visit: <http://medicalexaminer.cuyahogacounty.us>.

Proposed tax increase, dispatch discussed in Bedford meeting

By Judith Goldsworth

In a wide ranging informational meeting held last week at Bedford City Hall, Bedford city

officials discussed the proposed .75 percent income tax increase on the May ballot, ending the city's agreement with the Southeast Emergency Communications Center, the progress of the state's investigation into missing funds involving now-terminated water department employees, and other issues.

In January, Bedford Council voted to put the increase on the Tuesday, May 2 ballot, which if approved by voters would increase the city's income tax rate from 2.25 to 3 percent, effective Jan. 1, 2018.

City Manager Mike Mallis, Mayor Stan Koci and Finance Director Frank Gambosi all spoke at the meeting to inform residents of what the revenue would be used for, including hiring additional police officers to increase safety, improving the city's infrastructure and services and help balance the budget.

Mallis said that in addition to the revenue lost through the closing of Ben Venue Laboratories, the city also suffered cuts in federal, state and county funding over the past several years, which was detrimental to needed improvements.

(Continued on Page 3)

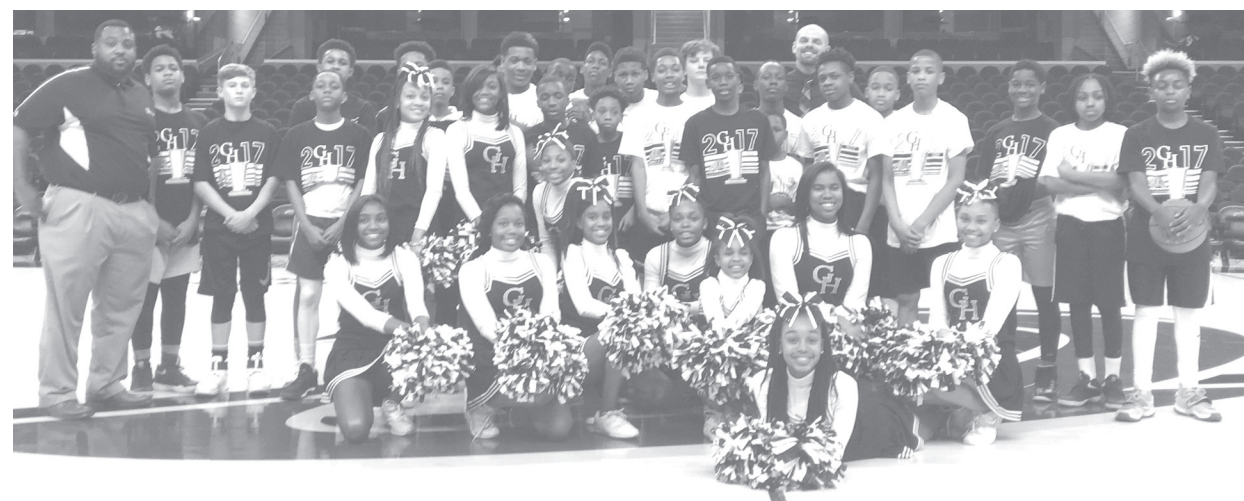
Thrill of a lifetime for Central Catholic Ironmen, G.H. Bulldog hoopsters



Cleveland Central Catholic Ironmen and cheerleaders on the court at The Q.

The Cleveland Central Catholic High School Ironmen boys basketball team staged a thrilling 64-62 upset victory over the

Garfield Heights Bulldogs team last Wednesday playing an afternoon game at Quicken Loans Arena, home of the Cavaliers.



Garfield Heights Bulldogs teams and cheerleaders pause for a photo at the home of the Cavs.

Central Catholic scored a basket as the final buzzer sounded to win over the much higher ranked Bulldog team.

"It's a lifetime memory, especially the way the game ended," said Central Catholic head coach Jordan Duke.

Garfield Heights Middle

School also shared the spotlight with the varsity teams as they participated in an exhibition game before the high school game, then followed by the Cavs vs. Timberwolves at 7 p.m.

Paul Glazer of the Garfield Heights Middle School athletic department said LeBron James

delighted the crowd when he came out on the court to warm up for his game before the high school teams had enough time to get off the court.

"Thank you to our continued partnership with the Cleveland Cavaliers and LeBron James for sharing the court," Glazer said.

Proposed tax increase

(Continued from Page 1)

"We have an aging infrastructure and an aging city," Mallis said. "Right now we don't have a line item on an annual basis where we budget to address those aging streets."

Officials said passage would result in bringing back a line item of \$400,000 on an annual basis to do two to three streets a year, and also bring back the sidewalk program.

They said the .75 increase would also help provide funding to hire three additional police officers.

Mallis said hiring additional police officers would fortify all three shifts, adding, "Our plan is not just for 2017 and 2018, this is a plan for the next 8 to 10 years. We have built in plans to address our infrastructure, our safety is sound... we can continue down the path of doing the things that we were doing 10 and 12 years ago."

If voters choose not to approve the issue, Mallis said that laying off firefighters in the city's fire department was a possibility, which could in turn reduce the city to one squad. Also, the city pool could be closed, the senior programs and senior van transportation could be eliminated and three or four service department employees could lose their jobs. This could result in the loss of sewer services, and also in chipper services for residents, Mallis said.

In response to questions from residents in attendance at the meeting, Mallis said that there were "zero cuts" planned for the police department... we don't think that is in the best interest of the city. To do so is not an option."

Bedford to leave SECC

Addressing a story that broke last week, Mallis confirmed that the city of Bedford's police and fire dispatchers, which have been housed in the Southeast Emergency Communications Center since 2015, will be leaving that facility within six months. Plans are underway to join another regional dispatch facility in the Northeast Ohio area, hopefully in the summer.

In an effort to save money through regionalization, the cities of Bedford, Bedford Heights, Maple Heights and Garfield Heights agreed to consolidate their 911 dispatch services into the SECC, a brand new facility which was built next door to the Bedford Heights police station and opened in 2015.

However, in the two years since Bedford's joining the new dispatch center, residents have reported issues with the level of services provided.

"We knew there would be some hurdles on the way," Mallis said, adding, "Some hurdles we were able to overcome and others we couldn't."

"It comes down to what is best for the city of Bedford. We felt it was the best decision, from an operational and financial decision, to back out of that partnership," he said.

"It's nothing that's going to happen tomorrow," he continued. He said the city has given

its six-month notice and there will be more information to come on this.

Missing water funds probe continues

State Auditor Dave Yost's office is still investigating missing funds from the city's water department, an issue that arose last year after auditing practices turned up discrepancies in the department's finances. Two employees were terminated by Mallis late last year, and the total amount of missing money has not yet been determined.

In April of last year, Mallis said that although funds were balancing, he and Gambosi had sought to implement additional controls in the city's departments. After the new controls took effect in June and July there were some "questionable items" that turned up.

He added that the city wanted to be "completely transparent" with the information as it received it, stating that the state came in and found "some additional concerns, and we discharged both employees." He said that the police department was also working with the state in the investigation.

Mallis said that employees of the city were bonded and insured. "Should something happen... we'll get every dollar back because of that policy we implemented." Also all customer accounts were "accurate and whole" and were not affected, he said.

He said the investigation could take 8 to 12 months to conclude.

Area blood donation sites

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:

Bedford:

February 13- Ellenwood Center, 124 Ellenwood Drive, 2 to 6 p.m.

Do You Know Where Your Loved One Is? We Guarantee We KNOW. That Is Why You Called Us At

Blessing Cremation Center
216-475-2626

\$597.00

FREE CREMATION URN

Joseph Nero

Licensed Funeral Director

Your Loved One

Never Leaves Our Care

Nobody has money to burn

www.blessingcremationcenter.com

Garfield Heights:

February 13- Garfield Heights Civic Center, 5407 Turney Road, 2 to 6 p.m.

February 28- Marymount Hospital, 12300 McCracken Road, 1 to 6 p.m.

Independence:

February 27- Independence Community Center, 6363 Selig Drive, 1 to 7 p.m.

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

Order bricks for Walkway of Recognition

Create a memory that will last a lifetime by purchasing an engraved brick to be placed on the Garfield Heights Walkway of Recognition, located in front of the 9-11 Memorial at the Veterans Plaza in the Civic Center Complex, 5407 Turney Rd.

Standard bricks are \$40. Bricks with military logos are \$60. Forms are available at the Civic Center or online at www.garfieldhts.org. The walkway was installed in 2016 and additional bricks will be added this spring. The deadline to order an engraved brick is March 30.

The city also continues to accept donations for the 9-11 Memorial erected last year. Send your donations to 5407 Turney Road, Garfield Heights, OH, 44125, Attn: Mayor Vic Collova's office.

For information about the Walkway of Recognition or the 9-11 Memorial Fund, contact Pat Salemi at 216-475-1100, ext. 2425, or e-mail psalemi@garfieldhts.org.

Block watch

The East 63rd Street Block Club will meet Thursday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m. at St. Stanislaus School, 6615 Forman Ave., Slavic Village. A 50/50 raffle will be held. All are welcome.

RUMMAGE SALE

Sat., March 4, 8am-4pm

Famous 5 for \$1 tables!

Clothes/Books 25¢ or 5/\$1 Household/Candy/Antique Dolls

Breakfast/Lunch @ The Rock Community Church (takeout available) 9403 Garfield Blvd. (Garfield Hts.)

Daniel J. Klonowski
LAW OFFICE

- Personal Injury
- Medical Negligence
- Criminal Law
- Drunk Driving/DWI
- Wills & Trusts
- Probate Estates
- Workers' Comp
- Wrongful Job Termination

(216) 241-0666

920 TERMINAL TOWER CLEVELAND, OH 44113-2206 | www.clevlaw.com | 5001 TURNEY ROAD GARFIELD HTS., OH 44125

Local historian to discuss Millionaires Row

DeJohn Funeral Homes in Chesterland will host a special evening to benefit Mended Little Hearts of Northeast Ohio when it presents "A History of Cleveland's Great Millionaire Row" with local historian and storyteller Dan Ruminski on Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 6 p.m. at the DeJohn Funeral Homes & Celebration Center, 12811 Chillicothe Rd.

Mended Little Hearts is a support program for parents of children with heart defects and heart disease.

"We are looking forward to Dan entertaining us with his rich history of our community," said Patty DeJohn. "Once considered to be the grandest avenue in the world, Euclid Avenue's Millionaires Row has a captivating history filled with fortunes and tragedies," she added.

She said it is also hoped the evening will not only raise awareness for children with congenital heart defects but also provide opportunity for DeJohn's and the community to give back.

Cost is \$10 per person and includes wine and cheese. Pre-registration is recommended but not required. RSVP online at DeJohnCares.com

Inclement weather backup date is Saturday, Feb. 25, at 6 p.m.

Autism Society plans events

The Autism Society of Greater Cleveland will offer the following free events on Tuesday, Feb. 14, from 6:30 to 8:15 p.m. at the Independence Civic Center, 6363 Selig Drive:

Parent/Professional Meeting- Brenda Richards, OTR/L The Center for Lifeskills co-owner

and TimberNook of Greater Cleveland co-director, will present "Why Nature Play is Important" and how to encourage kids of all abilities to go outside and play.

Social Skills Activities and Fun, for ages 3-14. Pre-registration is a must for adequate supervision by sending a text message to 216-556-4937 with the children's names and ages. Those that have not pre-registered will not be allowed to participate.

Game Night- Students in high school and adults are welcome to bring a game and a snack or soda to share. Pre-registration is a must for adequate supervision by sending a text message to 216-556-4937. Those that have not pre-registered will not be allowed to participate.

The Neighborhood News
Serving Southeast Cleveland since 1923

UNIQUE 216-641-1040
Tax & Accounting 6116 FLEET AVE.

THE IRS IS DELAYING REFUNDS DUE TO RECENT REGULATIONS

OUR SOLUTION:

AN **ADVANCE UP TO... \$1200** ...IF YOU QUALIFY

As much as \$100 DISCOUNT - Ask for details! Expires: Feb. 28, 2017

STAN KEBE, JR. - CPA

FREE CONSULTATION
AND REVIEW OF PRIOR YEAR TAX RETURNS

CALL NOW FOR APPOINTMENT

N O T A R Y

Independence Coin & Collectibles

WE PAY MORE, SHOP & COMPARE!

Gold \$1235 per oz.
Silver \$17.70 per oz.

Gold & Silver Prices Are At Record Highs & There Has Never Been A Better Time To Sell!

STATE LICENSED
WWW.INDECOIN.COM

FREE NO OBLIGATION ESTIMATES

WE BUY and SELL
COINS • GOLD • SILVER • ESTATES • ANTIQUES • JEWELRY

Hours: Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm • Sat, 10am-3pm • Sun, By Appointment
6495 BRECKSVILLE RD. • INDEPENDENCE • 216-524-3520

SKIN - HAIR OR NAIL PROBLEMS

ROBERT BRODY, M.D.

Board Certified
DERMATOLOGIST

30 years experience
Marymount Hospital
12000 McCracken Rd.

Same week appointments.

216.752.2480

TIME FOR A NEW KITCHEN!

WOLF CLASSIC CABINETS **KITCHEN COMPACT CONTRACTOR'S CHOICE**

FREE DESIGN LAYOUT

Aristokraft CABINETRY

40%-50% OFF ALL KITCHEN CABINETS

233 DIFFERENT DOOR STYLES & COLOR COMBINATIONS AVAILABLE IN: OAK, MAPLE, CHERRY, HICKORY & BIRCH

50% OFF

PRE-FINISHED KITCHEN STARTER SET

60" 72"

Includes: One Sink Base Cabinet Two Wall Cabinets

OAK \$357 \$410
MAPLE \$407 \$468
(NO ASSEMBLY REQUIRED)

BIG "D" LUMBER
8022 BROADWAY AVE. www.bigdlumber.com 216-341-8200

LET'S DO LUNCH!
(For a small donation)

Seniors in Cuyahoga County aged 60 and over
at the

GARFIELD HTS. SENIOR CENTER

11:30 A.M.
Mondays thru Thursdays
CALL FOR RESERVATIONS
216-475-3244
COME EARLY & SOCIALIZE
MEAL APPROVED BY WESTERN RESERVE AREA AGENCY ON AGING

SUBWAY TURNEYTOWN DELIVERS LUNCH AND DINNER FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

YOU MUST ORDER THROUGH **SKIP the DISHES.com** SKIPthEDISHES.COM

SUBWAY

SUBWAY - TURNEYTOWN
4984 Turney Road
Garfield Heights, OH 44125

ORDER TAKEOUT & DELIVERY ONLINE

FREE DELIVERY FOR ORDERS OF \$25.00 OR MORE

DELIVERY HOURS:
Lunch 11:30AM to 2:00PM
Dinner 4:30PM to 8:30PM

Allowing 1/2 hour for their drivers to pick up and deliver your order. Orders must be placed through their website...skipthedishes.com

MATTRESS & FURNITURE 4 LESS

NEXT DAY DELIVERY

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

\$79 MATTRESS

\$199 SOFA OR LOVE

- PILLOWTOPS • RECLINERS
- LAMPS • TV STANDS
- MOTION SOFAS
- SECTIONALS
- SPLIT BOX SPRINGS
- HEADBOARDS
- BUNK BEDS

Bedroom Sets AS LOW AS \$499

Layaway & Financing Vouchers accepted

AREA RUGS \$49

5728 BROADWAY AVE. OPEN 10 AM to 8 PM 216-883-8300

SLAVIC VILLAGE

Union Miles Development names new executive director

The Union Miles Development Corporation Board of Directors and staff have announced that Roshawn Sample has been named executive director for UMD. A nonprofit leader, Sample brings robust experience, infectious energy and creative innovation to UMD as the organization begins its next phase of work toward a better Union Miles neighborhood, board officials said.

As an employee of the organization since 2012, officials said she has developed programs that has improved the quality of life of residents and has a no nonsense approach in bringing successful conclusions to complex situations.

"We believe Roshawn is the right leader for UMD strate-

gic goals and the emerging environment for the southeast side of Cleveland," board members continued. "She passionately and honestly believes in the Union-Miles residents and has a clear-eyed vision for making it even better. She has demonstrated the ability to successfully lead initiatives and programs that integrate a broad range of communication strategies, and we look forward to the experience and energy she will continue to bring to the organization and community."

In 2016, Sample was recognized as one of the professionals in the "Who's Who of Black Cleveland." She is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Wisdom Chapter #51, and National Council of Negro Women-Cleveland Section.

She was born and raised in the Union-Miles neighborhood and received her undergraduate degree from the University of Akron and her master's degree from Cleveland State University.

Free classes at Univ. Settlement

University Settlement, located at 4800 Broadway Ave., Slavic Village, will host several classes to prepare students for successful entry into specified fields.

Administrative Assistant Training, a 6-week program to teach skills employers are looking for, will begin this Friday, Feb. 10, at 10 a.m.

Health Careers Training, an 8-week training program, will begin Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 10 a.m. This session only is held at 4909 Broadway Ave.

Job Fair Preparation Clinics will be held February 27 and March 6, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Those looking for resume tips, soft skills and interview practice, or tips on how to make the best first impression, are invited to attend.

Tuition is free for all programs listed above. Registration is required by contacting Sandra Buckner, NEO Skills Corps Program Manager, at 216-456-0914.

Health, wellness initiative in G.H.

The Cleveland Clinic Marymount Hospital in Garfield Heights is offering residents from all communities a free, five-week Health and Wellness initiative - "You Change You: Take Charge of Your Health!" This includes your mind, body and spirit.

The program will be held every Thursday, from February 16th through March 16th, from 10 a.m. to noon at St. Monica Church, 13623 Rockside Rd. in Garfield Heights. Registration is required by contacting Jeff Jameyson at jameysj@ccf.org or 216-312-5640.

Participants will be introduced to various exercises and relaxation techniques. Dress comfortably. Seating is limited.

Rep. Anielski presents local Eagle Scout with Ohio House commendation



Nicholas Mroczynski was recently presented an Ohio House commendation for earning the rank of Eagle Scout in Boy Scout Troop 297. In the photo above, from left, is Nicholas' father Mark Mroczynski, State Representative Marlene Anielski, Nicholas and his mother, Maureen Mroczynski.

State Representative Marlene Anielski (R-Walton Hills) recently presented an Ohio House commendation to Nicholas Mroczynski of Independence, for earning the rank of Eagle Scout in Boy Scout Troop 297.

A junior at Independence High School, Mroczynski earned 25 merit badges through Independence United Methodist Church. His project benefited St. Michael Catholic Church, where he removed the old landscaping surrounding the St. Francis Center and replaced it with new plants and shrubs, as well as mulching the area.

"I was honored to present a commendation to Nicholas in recognition of his great achievement," Anielski said.

"Through his selfless acts of service to his community, he is a tremendous example and role model to people of all ages."

Coming Soon! . . . Lenten promotion to start on March 1st. To advertise in this special section, call Mary for details at 216-441-2141 or email: mnews1923@aol.com

Happy Valentine's Day...

from **JOE LAMALFA**

Ward 2 Councilman
City of Garfield Heights

Contact Joe at 216-581-1665 or Email: jlamalfa@garfieldhts.org

Hospice of the Western Reserve offers volunteer education series

Hospice of the Western Reserve is seeking volunteers to assist in private residences, nursing homes, assisted living communities, its three Hospice House locations and hospital settings.

The next series of volunteer classes will be held at Hospice of the Western Reserve, 4670 Richmond Road, Warrensville Heights, 44128, on Saturdays, April 1 and 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Non-clinical volunteers attend only the first four hours on April 1, while most other volunteers attend all classes. Pre-registration is required.

Opportunities to serve are diverse: Visit patients and families to provide companionship; help with legacy work, transportation and light housework; run errands; make phone calls and more.

Volunteers with specialized professional qualifications are also needed: attorneys, licensed hair dressers, mass therapists, pet therapy dogs and their handlers.

For more information or to register, call 216-255-9090. It is required to wait 12 months after experiencing a significant loss before volunteering directly with patients.

FREE **TAKING CONTROL**

Diabetes Self-Management Workshop
Sat. Feb 25, 10am-Noon (free lunch after)
The Rock Community Church (9403 Garfield Blvd, GH)

Facilitated by Rushia Edwards, R.N.

Learn Signs and Symptoms
Improve Quality of Life
Overcome Personal Barriers
Increase Awareness
Prevent Complications
Treatment Regimens

Supported by The Higley Fund

Valentine's Day Specials!

IN-STORE SPECIAL: Cash-n-Carry ONLY

ROSES

Medium Stem Roses **\$39.99** A DOZEN WRAPPED

Long Stem Roses **\$55** **\$65** BOXED ARRANGED

Stop in for other In-Store Specials!!

VIC'S FLORAL
7100 Broadway Ave. (216) 341-4758

Drew and Cheryl Haney Celebrating 39 years in business!

www.vicsfloral.com

MATRIX III INCOME TAX SERVICE
Located in Garfield Mall

\$25 Off TAX PREPARATION WITH THIS AD EXPIRES: FEB. 28, 2017

TAX REFUND ADVANCE LOANS*
\$1,200 ✓ Apply for \$500, \$800, or \$1,200 fast
\$800 ✓ No cost loan with no penalties
\$500

NO MONEY OUT OF POCKET: FAST, CONVENIENT, SIMPLE

CALL TODAY! 216-332-3AVE
216-332-7283

IRS e-file AUTHORIZED PROVIDER

"Our Phone Number Says It All" WALK-INS WELCOME

*The EPS Tax Refund Advance is an optional tax-refund related loan provided through MetaBank® (it is not the actual tax refund) at participating locations. The amount of the advance will be deducted from tax refunds and reduce the amount that is paid directly to the taxpayer. Tax returns may be filed electronically without applying for this loan. Loans offered in amounts of \$500, \$800, or \$1,200. Availability is subject to satisfaction of identity verification, eligibility criteria, and underwriting standards. IRS delays may affect the delivery timing of loan proceeds.

Valentine's Day Love Lines 2017

Stephan, Happy Valentine's Day. I love you very much. Love forever & always, mom.

PEGD loves JLMT.

Happy Valentine's Day to my girls, my wife - Jessie, Mia, Anna. Love always, Papa.

Grandma Carol loved by all Summer, Spring, Winter or Fall. You my Brown-eyed girl.

STEPHAN ♥ CODY ♥ DANIEL
I've got to be the luckiest Mom in the world to have 3 smart, funny, kind, loving boys; without you there would be no me. I'm so proud of each of you!
I Love You and I Always will, no matter what.
Happy Valentine's Day! Love, Mom

We love you Luke, Becky, Harley and Jacob. Love, mom and dad.

Peter Pan, Let's fly away together to Neverland. Thank you for everything you are doing for me. Happy Valentine's Day! Love you, Brown-eyed girl.

Jack, Every minute on my mind; Forever in my heart. Always, Freida

Dearest Peanut, I treasure all the love we share, honey! I love you! Your Valentine.

Ta-Ta, I love you. Happy Valentine's Day. "Love" Auntie Mindy.

David, Jamie, Taylor, John, Brooke, Josh, Camden, Brantley, Owen, Ella, Jonas - Happy Valentine's! Love, Granny.

Myles and Addie, Mommy loves you to the moon and back!

TO ALL
You Know Who You Are
Keep a green tree alive in your heart and a songbird may come to sing there.
Happy Valentine's Love and God Bless

Mike, Happy Valentine's Day! I love you! Love, Jenny.

Happy Valentine's Day and 97th Birthday, mom, Betty (B.J.)! We love you! You're the best! Beth, Frank, Joey and Bernie.

Miranda, wish you were here. We miss you so much. Love, Mom, Dad, Bethany, Misty.

Thank you for being my support this past year... Happy Valentine's Day Bayba! Love, Shotgun.

Mindy, it was love at first sight for us. Love, the wife.

Jesus, you're the King of my Heart. Lots of Love, from Mary.

Happy Valentine's Day, Arlene, with love. You make my life so happy. With love, Gary.

Daniel, Happy Valentine's Day! I love you so much! XOXO Love, Mom.

Here I am again in the good old year of 2017... To all of you who make my life a blessed and happy one - I am 99 years young with Parkinson's disease. If it weren't for my family and friends, my life would be meaningless.

I want to thank my sons Butch, Dan and Karl, and my daughter, Sally. My dear sister Eva and Walter and her beloved family. The Blatnik Family: Chuck, Mary Lou, Tommy, Larry and Paula and Vanessa, Kim and Anthony. My grandson Stephen and Great-grandson Anthony. My Grandson Karlton and Melissa and my Great-grandchildren, the amazing and beautiful twins, Aiden, Joseph and Madeline Francis. Roseanne and Lenny.

Also my dear friends Bobby Hill, Paul Suhay, Carol Genevieve, the wonderful staff of the Villa St. Joseph, Spencer Keech and Jen. Sunday and not to forget the Broadview Multi-Care Center.

Special acknowledgment to Father Dominick, Father Jenne, Father Rebol. Also Dr. Lango-Mader, Dr. Iiin, Dr. Charles LoPresti, Dr. Michael LoPresti and Lynette.

May God Bless each of you with Peace, Health and Happiness. I Love You All!!

FRANCES WEISKOPF

FREIDA

Happy Valentine's Day
I Love You for now and forever.
Always will be watching out for you!
With Eternal Love, Jack

Mom (Crystal), Happy Valentine's Day! Thank you for everything you do! I love you. Love, (your son), Freddie.

Steven B., I love you love bug. You mean the world to me. Happy Valentine's Day. Love, Mindy.

Mike, no better man for me than you. Love you forever. Happy Valentine's Day. Deb.

Cody, Happy Valentine's Day! I love you to the moon and back. XOXOX Love, Mom.

Happy Valentine's! Rich, Ronae, Lisa, Daniel, Michael. Love, Mom.

Nicky, I love you, big sis! Happy Valentine's Day! Love, Mindy.

To my hubby Steve and son Dave, you'll always be in my heart. Bug Mom.

Happy Valentine's Day
Laura and Paulette
Love, Riff Raff

Jim, glad you're my husband and future, my best friend. All my love always, Doris.

Happy Valentine's Day Kelly and Alexis! Love you up to the stars. Mom, Gabba.

Happy Valentine's Day Angelo M, Isabella, Antonio, Tina, Shyan, Ryan, Mom, Austin, AJ, lover, bestfriend, JP.

Dot, Dee, Cody, Jacee, Jossie, Jojo, Lenore, Jimmy, Juggie, Velma, Shari, Robert. Love y'all, Mz. T.

Happy Valentine's Day, Armani. You're the best girlfriend anyone can wish for. I love you. Love, Cody.

Are you or someone you know FACING FORECLOSURE?

CALL TODAY for **FREE, Fair and Unbiased Assistance**
216.458.HOME
(4 6 6 3)

NHS GREATER CLEVELAND

For over 32 years, as a trusted non-profit organization, we have provided families with the education they need to buy, improve and keep their homes.

We also have programs in:
Home Buyer Education • Affordable Home Repair Loans
Refinance Seminars • Reverse Mortgage Assistance

Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland
5700 Broadway Avenue . Cleveland, Ohio 44127
216.458.HOME (4663) . www.nhscleveland.org

Se Habla Español

NeighborWorks CHARTERED MEMBER