

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. 18

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2017

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FREE

US Bank on Turney robbed

The US Bank at 5007 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights, was robbed last Wednesday morning, and police and FBI are still searching for the suspect.

According to a Garfield Heights police report, a man came into the bank around 10 a.m. and showed a teller a note demanding money. He also allegedly said that if the teller gave him a dye pack or tracked him he would kill everyone in the bank. The teller complied and the suspect fled from the bank with an unknown amount of money.

The teller described the suspect as a black male, possibly in his 20s, approximately 5'6" tall and thin build, wearing a dark hooded sweatshirt with the hood pulled over his head, a black baseball cap, dark sunglasses and black pants. Another witness told police the man was wearing blue surgical gloves and had a thin mustache.

A Garfield Heights Service Department employee told police he was working on Vernon Ave. around the time of the robbery and saw a suspicious car parked near the corner at Turney Rd. A short time later, he saw a man who matched the suspect's description get into the car, a black Buick Lacrosse, which fled southbound on Turney.

Police searched the area for the suspect and vehicle with negative results. The FBI and Detective Bureau are still searching for the man. Anyone with information should call the Garfield Heights Police Department at 216-475-5686.

Garfield Hts. Council notes

By Ellen Psenicka

Garfield Heights Council met Monday night and passed legislation to apply to the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency for a grant to purchase another city bus for seniors and those with disabilities.

Also okayed was an emergency ordinance to enter into an agreement with the Cuyahoga County District Board of Health to perform Phase II stormwater activities.

The only other item passed by council was an ordinance to provide for holiday council meeting changes this year.

The second Monday of October falls on Columbus Day, so the council meeting that week will be rescheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 10.

The fourth Monday of December falls on Christmas, so the council meeting that week will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 27.

In his report to council, Mayor Vic Collova said the city of Bedford was leaving the Southeast Emergency Communications Center's regional dispatch service by the end of this year and would sign up with Chagrin Valley Dispatch, which is located in the basement of University Hospitals Bedford Medical Center.

He said the move was made basically for economic reasons, with Bedford getting a better deal by moving to Chagrin Valley.

City Engineer David Krock said work to be done on McCracken Road will necessitate its closing between East 126th Street and Broadway Avenue, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. beginning February 20th for approximately two weeks.

Celebrate black history in G.H.

Join the Celebration of Black History at the Garfield Heights Performing Arts Center, 4900 Turney Rd., this Friday, Feb. 17, at 6:30 p.m.

The special guest speaker will be Sandra Morgan, granddaughter of prolific inventor Garrett A. Morgan. She has been featured on Bio.com, the History Channel, NPR, cleveland.com and the Plain Dealer.

Distinguished Citizenship Awards will be presented to past and present leaders in the community. This family-friendly event is free and open to the public; includes prizes and refreshments. For details contact Councilman Michael Dudley, 216-324-7661.

N.H. STATION DEMOLISHED



The former police station in Newburgh Heights at Harvard Avenue and East 49th Street was demolished the morning of February 6th by X L Excavating, Inc. of North Royalton. The Village's new municipal building, located at 3801 Harvard, opened in November 2016.

Photo by Michael Psenicka

Debris from Shaker Hts. lakes to be hauled to Bedford landfill, city manager reports to council

By Judith Goldsworth

Debris dredged from lakes in Shaker Heights by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District will be transported at the rate of up to 60 truckloads per day to a landfill in Bedford later this year, City Manager Mike Mallis stated in his report at last week's Bedford Council meeting.

The landfill on Bartlett Road is owned and used by the city of Shaker Heights, even though it is located in Bedford, Mallis explained.

He stated, "We had a meeting with a contractor who is going to be working with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and Shaker Heights. The reason I bring that up is the Regional Sewer District is going to be dredging two lakes, and they notified us that they had permission from the EPA to dump those dredgings in the Shaker Heights landfill, which is in the city of Bedford, believe it or not.

"We had some significant concerns, given the amount of traffic, and it is going to be significant," Mallis continued. "They outlined a route, and it is going to be from Rockside to Bartlett and into the landfill, but they're talking about roughly 60 trucks a day, and this could take up to two and a half months."

"What we do know," Mallis continued, "is the weight limit is most likely going to exceed the limit on that roadway."

He and other officials asked who would be responsible for the roadway, adding, "I told them that in no way, shape or form were we going to start this project until there was some type of bond, or something protecting the city of Bedford's part of that road."

Mallis said the contractors working for the NEORSB would perform a preconstruction video, "but they were going to take it to the powers that be to figure out

who was going to take responsibility, should there be damages. So we don't have a timeline for that project, but they're going to come back to us."

Police officers honored

Mallis congratulated Bedford police officers John Lobenthal and Dave Kempksi, who were honored at the Cuyahoga County DUI Task Force Awards recently, for their outstanding work in keeping motorists safe. Mallis said Lobenthal and Kempksi were recognized for

(Continued on Page 4)

Indy 4th grade basketball champs

The Independence 4th grade travel basketball team won the 2016-2017 Greater Cleveland Basketball League (GCBL) Championship on their home court earlier this month, winning its third consecutive game of the day and fourth for the weekend.

The Independence 4th grade team, which is in its second year of travel basketball play in the GCBL, beat Avon in the championship game at Independence Field House, 31-25. The team notched victories over Hudson on Saturday, Highland in the quarter final matchup and Parma in the semifinal game. The team finished with an overall record of 14-2.



The Independence 4th grade travel basketball team recently won the Greater Cleveland Basketball League Championship. The team is shown above. In the bottom row, from left, is Masha Durden, Brennan Vollman, Bryce Meitin, Matt Jirmasek, Noah Terrano and Alex Mack. Second row: Evan McNamara, Sam Crooks and Evan Solar. Third row: Head coach Tom Mack and assistant coaches Jim Crooks and Brian McNamara.

Maple Hts. finance director's resignation confirmed; bills passed at recent meetings

By Judith Goldsworth

The resignation of Maple Heights Finance Director Irene Crowell was confirmed by Law Director Frank Consolo recently. An investigation into the finance department's practices by the state auditor's office is ongoing, Consolo also stated.

Crowell, who was hired as the city's finance director in 2014, "voluntarily resigned her position with the city, effective Dec. 31, 2016," according to a statement released by Consolo.

His statement continued, "The State Auditor's office is investigating certain matters at the city's request, which the city cannot provide further comment on because the investigation is ongoing."

Mayor Annette Blackwell had placed Crowell on administrative leave with pay, pending results of the state auditor's investigation, Blackwell stated. Council members also confirmed Blackwell's appointment of Thomas F. Greve as special prosecutor to coordinate the investigation.

At the end of December, Crowell announced her resignation. The city announced last month that applications were being sought for the finance director position, with the post "requiring knowledge and experience with municipal fund accounting." Other requirements include knowledge of preparation and implementation of municipal budgets and knowledge of laws regarding municipal accounting and finance.

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree in accounting, or an equivalent of five year's experience in municipal or corporate finance. Applicants must submit a letter of interest and resume to the City of Maple Heights, Department of Human Resources, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, OH, 44137, by Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2017.

Recent legislative actions

In an effort to "offer incentives to individuals who purchase residential properties"

and occupy them in the city, Maple Heights Council passed an ordinance at a recent meeting, similar to one passed last year, that continues the 100 waiver of the escrow requirement to correct violations resulting from point of sale inspections.

The Owner Occupied Homeowner Incentive Program will be in effect from January 2 through December 31, 2017. This is for individuals "who purchase and renovate residential properties, so long as the purchaser actually occupies such residential property," according to the legislation.

Passed was a resolution authorizing the addition of the position of "lead man" to the city's service department bargaining unit, at an hourly rate of \$23.50.

The position was created after negotiations between the city and the service department's union, Local 507, resulted in an agreement, that during times when the Service Director is not at work, "the city will no longer permit a bargaining unit employee to work as 'acting foreman' and will not pay that bargaining unit employee the wage rate of \$27.69 for the non bargaining unit position of foreman," according to the legislation.

The resolution states that the "lead man" will be responsible "for directing the work of other bargaining unit employees during times when the Service Director is unavailable."

Cuyahoga Hts. lifts moratorium on cultivating medical marijuana; growers need permit from state

Cuyahoga Heights Council passed legislation at last Wednesday's meeting to lift the moratorium on the cultivation, processing, distribution or sale of medical marijuana in the village for a period not to exceed 12 months.

Ohio passed a bill last year to legalize medical marijuana in the state, which is in the process of determining how the growing and sale of the substance will be accomplished.

Mayor Jack Bacci said that part of the application process to be allowed to grow medical marijuana is that applicants must declare where the growing will take place and it must be in a community that allows it. Cuyahoga Heights, with passage of last week's legislation, is now one such community.

"All we're doing is allowing a home for applicants," Bacci said, noting that if a Cuyahoga Heights grower gets one of the coveted permits from the state, it would bring added tax revenue to the village.

Also passed by council was a resolution to enter into an agreement with North Pointe Engineering for environmental and hydrogeologic engineering services in connection with the Nicky Boulevard Storm Sewer and Slope Stabilization Improvement Project.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with the city of Strongsville for prisoner housing services was okayed, as well as the creation of the position of administrative accounting assistant and the appointment of Amanda Domzalski to fill that position.

A resolution to purchase property located at 5037 E. 71 St. from the estate of Michael Mallos, to be used for greenspace, was also passed.

FBI seeking information on unsolved area bank robberies

The Cleveland Division of the FBI is seeking information from the public on 2017 unsolved bank robberies. It is believed the following robberies were committed by the same individual:

US Bank on Broadway Avenue in Bedford robbed February 6th, a Brinks Armored Car on Harvard Avenue in Cleveland robbed February 8th, and the US Bank on Turney Rd. in Garfield Heights also robbed February 8th.

Reward money is available for information leading to the successful identification and prosecution of the individual responsible for these robberies. Tips can remain anonymous and can be provided to the Cleveland Division of the FBI, 216-522-1400, Crime Stoppers at 216-252-7463, or the respective police departments.

Other 2017 unsolved bank robberies include: A US Bank in Highland Heights January 9th; Citizens Bank in Euclid January 12th; Ohio Savings Bank on W. 25 Street in Cleveland January 20th; PNC Bank on Lakeshore Boulevard in Cleveland January 21st; Huntington Bank in Garfield Heights on January 30th; and US Bank on Shaker Boulevard in Cleveland February 9th.

Community calendar

Wednesday, February 15

St. Hyacinth Meeting

A neighborhood meeting for residents of the St. Hyacinth area in Cleveland will be held Wednesday, Feb. 15, at 6 p.m. at Elizabeth Baptist Church, 6106 Francis Ave. Bring addresses to abandoned houses and any other issues or concerns. Refreshments will be served.

Garfield Hts. United Meets

Garfield Hts. United, a group of concerned Garfield Hts. residents, will meet Wednesday, Feb. 15, from 6-8 p.m. at the Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd., to discuss city issues and present ideas to city council members and the mayor. The group is open to all residents and busi-

nesses in Garfield Hts. Attendees are asked to bring a nonperishable food item to be donated to the Garfield Hts. food bank. 216-856-4628.

ACE Presentation

The Adult Catholic Education (ACE) group will meet Wednesday, Feb. 15, from 7-9 p.m. at St. Matthias Parish, 1200 Sprague Rd., Parma, to discuss "Immigration 101." This free program will present information on how immigrants are vetted for entrance to this country and give views of the refugee experience with a focus on how church members can welcome the stranger. All are welcome. 440-888-8220.

Submit Community events to NN via Email: nnews1923@aol.com

Friday, February 17

Mobile Food Pantry

The monthly Mobile Food Pantry will be open to the public in the parking lot of the former Broadway United Methodist Church, 5246 Broadway Ave., on Friday, Feb. 17, from 3-4 p.m. Proof of address and ID are required.

Medicare Meeting

Learn about MedMutual Advantage Plans with SilverSneakers and medical, prescription, dental and vision coverage at a Medicare meeting on Friday, Feb. 17, from 3-5 p.m. at Metro Health Broadway Health Center, 6835 Broadway Ave., Cleveland. For info or to reserve a spot at this free event call 216-687-7705 (TTY 711 for hearing impaired). The program will also be offered on Monday, March 6, at the same time and location.

St. Andrew Fish Fry

St. Andrew Church on Maple Park Drive in Maple Hts. will hold Fish Fry dinners on Friday, Feb. 17, from 4-7 p.m. in the parish hall. Menu: crispy cod with pirohi or fries, shrimp dinners or combos. Takeouts available. 216-475-9365.

OperaCircle Event

Opera Circle Cleveland, with the Cleveland Women's Orchestra, invites the public to a special, free performance on Friday, Feb. 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the Polish American Cultural Center, 6501 Lansing Ave. This concert of Valentine opera favor-

ites will be the group's final rehearsal before the main concert at First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland on February 19. Free; donations accepted.

Saturday, February 18

Lupus Support Group

The Lupus Foundation of America, Greater Ohio Chapter, will host its monthly Lupus Support Group on Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Maple Hts. Library, 5225 Library Ln., from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Individual differences and confidentiality are respected. Most discussions focus on "how-tos" of living with a chronic illness. For more details, call 1-888-NO-LUPUS or visit www.lupusgreaterohio.org.

Gymnastic Exhibition

Sokol Greater Cleveland will present its Gymnastic Winter Exhibition on Saturday, Feb. 18, in the Garfield Hts. High School gymnasium, 4900 Turney Rd. The Sokol concert band will perform at 6 p.m.; gymnastic portion will begin at 6:30 p.m. Also performing will be the Sokol Greater Cleveland Czech dancers and the Sokol Aerial Silks artists. Advance sale tickets, \$5; at the door, \$7. A free social will follow the program at Bohemian National Hall, 4939 Broadway Ave., Slavic Village. For tickets or more info call Howie Wise at 216-642-1429.

Sunday, February 19

GriefShare Support Group

A GriefShare Support Group will begin Sunday, Feb. 19, from 4:45-6:15 p.m., at Walton Hills Church of Christ, 7166 Dunham Rd., Walton Hills. Program

will be offered through May 14. Registration fee, \$15; scholarship available. Call 440-439-4339 or visit waltonhillschurchofchrist.com.

Tuesday, February 21

Healthy Heart Workshop

Cleveland Clinic's "Protect Your Heart: Know Your Numbers" program will be offered at the Garfield Hts. Senior Center, 5407 Turney Rd., on Tuesday, Feb. 21, from 10-11:30 a.m. The free program will help identify risk factors and teach the effects that high blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar and being overweight can have on your quality of life. Free health screenings also provided. Register at www.ccf.org/HealthyHeart Marymount or 216-312-5640.

Community Awareness Meeting

The Garfield Hts. Ward 6 Community Awareness Meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m. at the Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd. Concerns about crime, trash bins and other issues will be addressed. Everyone welcome. www.MattBurkeWard6.com.

Saturday, February 25

Diabetes Workshop

The Garfield Human Development Corporation will sponsor a free Diabetes Self-Management Workshop on Saturday, Feb. 25, from 10 a.m. to noon, followed by a free lunch at The Rock Community Church, 9403 Garfield Blvd., Garfield Hts. Learn signs, symptoms and treatment regimens,

Sunday, February 26

Sokol Dinner

Sokol Greater Cleveland will serve an ethnic dinner on Sunday, Feb. 26, at Bohemian National Hall, 4939 Broadway Ave., Cleveland, from 1-2:30 p.m. Menu: Pork goulash, dumplings, veggie, dessert, coffee/tea. Cost, \$14 per person. Reservations required by calling Olga Nemecek, 216-447-0264.

Saturday, March 4

Church Rummage Sale

The Rock Community Church, 9403 Garfield Blvd., Garfield Hts., will host a Rummage Sale on Saturday, March 4, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Shop a selection of 5-for-\$1 items, candy, household items, personal care and more. Kitchen will be open serving breakfast and lunch; take outs available.

NOTE: A new N.N. policy is now in place for Community Calendar submissions. Events that are free and open to the public will be printed in this section free of charge. Any event that costs money to attend must be submitted as a display ad (minimum \$40). In addition, the event notice will also be printed one time free of charge in the calendar section. Call The N.N. with questions or for further details, 216-441-2141, or email to: nnews1923@aol.com.

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.

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 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.

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.

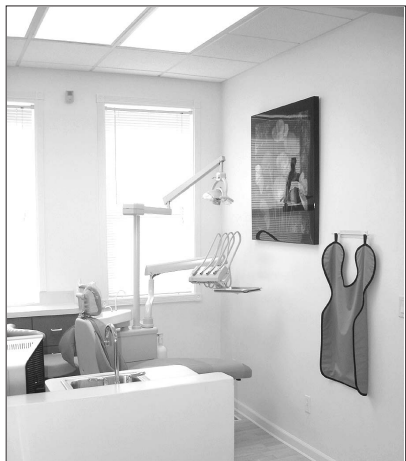
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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

By order of the Council of the City of Maple Heights, sealed bids will be received in the Finance Department, at Maple Heights City Hall, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137, until 12:00 Noon, local time, on the 3rd day of March, 2017 for the "MAPLE HEIGHTS SALT STORAGE FACILITY" in the City of Maple Heights, Ohio, NO FAXED COPIES ACCEPTED.

Plans and complete specifications may be procured at the office of Chagrin Valley Engineering, Ltd., 22999 Forbes Road, Suite B, Cleveland, Ohio 44146. Bidders shall deposit the sum of \$100.00 for the plans and specifications. This sum is not refundable. Checks shall be made payable to: Chagrin Valley Engineering, Ltd.

Each bidder is required to furnish with its proposal, a Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond in accordance with Section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. Bid security furnished in Bond form, shall be issued by a Surety Company or Corporation licensed in the State of Ohio to provide said surety. Each bid must be made upon the Proposal Form provided in the set of specifications and must be accompanied by a bank check or cashier's check drawn on a solvent bank in Cuyahoga County in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the amount bid, or a bid bond in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the amount bid, as a guarantee that if said bid is accepted, a contract will be entered into and a Surety Bond satisfactory to said City in an amount equal to 100% of the total bid will be furnished. Checks shall be made payable to the City of Maple Heights, Ohio.

Each Proposal must contain the full name of the party or parties submitting the proposal and all persons interested therein. Each bidder must submit evidence of its experiences on projects of similar size and complexity.

Bids will be opened and read at the time and place stated above. Those who submitted Proposals or their representatives are invited to attend.

Bidders must comply with the prevailing wage rates on Public Improvements in Cuyahoga County and the City of Maple Heights, Ohio, as determined by the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, Wage and Hour Division, (614) 644-2239.

The right is reserved to accept any bidder, to reject any or all bids, and to waive informalities should it be deemed to be in the best interest of the City of Maple Heights to do so.

Bids are to be submitted in accordance with the plans and specifications on file in the office of the Finance Director. Sealed bids must be marked, "MAPLE HEIGHTS SALT STORAGE FACILITY"

Letters to the Editor

The tragedy of drug addiction

When I came back from El Salvador for a brief visit your headline in the February 8 edition about the 40 overdoses in January and the 14 fatal ones over the weekend reminded me of a recent experience.

I was with some friends in the beautiful mountain village of Ataco in El Salvador and we visited the very traditional parish church there. It has a famous statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary as a small baby that many Salvadorans visit on pilgrimage. After praying in the Eucharistic chapel, we walked into the main church, which was rebuilt after an earthquake with help from the U.S.

The church is filled with colonial-style statues of Christ and the saints. But I stopped suddenly at a niche on the side of the church to stare at a particular statue. My friends even asked me what I was doing, why I had been so arrested by the image of what is called in Spanish "El Cristo Yacente." In English, the statue would be called a Recumbent Christ and depicts Him lying in the tomb, with wounded torso and legs still twisted from the cross.

It was not until after I said a few prayers and we left the church that I told my friends why I had been so moved by the statue. Just before I had left for El Salvador, I had been called to a house to speak with a bereaved mother and bless the body of her son who had died of an overdose.

A policeman barred the door to his bedroom, so we prayed from the doorway. The young man was lying on the floor. Instead of wounds, his torso was tattooed in colors that the bruises painted on the carved wooden statue of Jesus recalled for me. His legs were also at an angle like those of the Cristo Yacente in Ataco. He had been nailed to a different cross.

He was only in his early twenties. May he rest in peace. His own passion and death was not like Christ's certainly in many ways. There is a great difference between self-sacrifice and self-destruction. However, the boy's body was like Christ's and I mourn the despair that made him another casualty in the real war that the epidemic of drugs represents in our society. It is a war and there is a body count every day. The confusion that reigns in our common life, the rudderless drift of a society so stripped of Christian values that hedonism gains ground every day is one of the prime sources of this violence. The young fall in the losing battles of the war of spirit and flesh.

I have seen the glimmer in the eyes of the friends of those who have overdosed — some men who are afraid to cry; I have seen the pallor of their loves and the painful endurance of their mothers and fathers. Of the hundreds of deaths last year from heroin a number were people I knew or knew of. We need to mourn their deaths and also create a consciousness about solutions. Some solutions must be deep, as deep as the malaise of American culture. It is a crisis of faith we are living through and only God can give us what we need. But there are some practical things to be done, for instance, increasing the availability of Narcan for emergency use and of detox and recovery beds in hospitals and centers.

We must all do something.

Rev. Richard C. Antall
Pastor, Holy Name Parish, Cleveland

N.N. Letters to the Editor policy

The Neighborhood News will accept Letters to the Editor that are written in response to a story that appeared in one of its weekly editions and will be printed on a space available basis.

Letters must be submitted with a name and city of residence, which will be published with the letter. The Neighborhood News reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, not content.

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Cuyahoga Community College

Scholarships offered for Ohio Conservation Camp

The Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is looking for five high school students with an avid interest in the natural sciences, especially earth science, biology, botany and environmental studies, who would like to spend a week at the recreational and educational Ohio Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp from June 11-16, 2017.

This is a week-long camp help at Camp Muskingum in Carroll County. Students must be 15 years of age by June 2017 and have completed 8th grade. Interested students are encouraged to download the scholarship application from the Cuyahoga SWCD website: <http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/programs/ohio-forestry-and-wildlife-conservation-camp> and return it by 4 p.m. on April 14, 2017.

Scholarships will be awarded by April 21, 2017. When notified of acceptance, health forms and a detailed registration form will be mailed to the applicant. At that time a \$25 deposit will be required. Total camp fee is \$375 so scholarship awardees will be getting a \$350 discount on the camp.

This camp concentrates on forest ecology including: silviculture, tree identification and

forestry products. For more information, contact Amy Roskilly at 216-524-6580, ext. 22 or aroskilly@cuyahogawcd.org.

Toybox Preschool awarded by State

Toybox Preschool, 4536 Warner Rd., Cleveland, has been given a 1-Star Award by the state of Ohio for meeting quality standards established by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Department of Education.

Step Up To Quality is a five-star tiered quality rating and improvement system created to recognize and promote early learning and development programs that meet quality standards over and above the health and safety licensing requirements.



Shown above with their state Step Up To Quality award are, from left: Angela Rehus, Charmaine Tufts, Monique Sharp, Patricia Stone, Brandy Scott, Nicole Clark, Yazmin Price and Shaquille Roberson.

Golden Ager's Grapevine

Grandmother's Club

The Grandmother's Club will meet Thursday, Feb. 16, at 11:30 a.m. at Cuyahoga Heights Village Hall, 4863 E. 71 St.

Immaculate Heart

The Immaculate Heart of Mary Golden Ager's will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 11:30 a.m. in the parish hall, weather permitting.

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. For more information call Annie at 216-475-1100, ext. 2435.

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Garfield Hts. police news



By Amber Weisbarth
Attempted Burglary

•A resident of the 4700 block of Birchwood Rd. told police he was asleep in an upstairs bedroom on February 7th and was woken up by loud pounding noises around 1:35 a.m. and did not see anything suspicious when he got up to investigate. When he woke up the next morning he noticed mud on the outside of his door as if someone attempted to kick the door open. Another resident also heard the loud noises.

•Two residents of the 13100 block of Shady Oak Blvd. called police around 3:15 p.m. on February 12th and said three juveniles attempted to break into their homes. Officers arrived and located the suspects running through yards on Woodward Blvd. and in the area of East 128th St. and Darlington Ave.

After short pursuits, one of the teens was arrested in the 12600 block of Woodward and another was arrested in the 12800 block of Shady Oak. The third male would not comply with officers' demands to stop running and was Tased. He was then arrested at East 128th and Darlington. Charges are pending through the Youth Detective Bureau.

Burglary

A 13-year-old Grand Division resident told police she and her 14-year-old sister were home on February 6th, around 6:20 a.m. getting ready for school. The 13-year-old said she heard a loud "bang" and assumed it was her sister leaving the house, but a moment later her bedroom door opened and a man in a hooded sweatshirt looked into her room. She said once he saw her he fled out the back door and got into a red vehicle parked in the street. No adults were home at the time of the break-in and police said the teens did not seem to be affected by the incident.

Recovered Stolen Auto

An off-duty Cleveland police officer was following a silver Toyota Corolla on February 10th, around 11:30 p.m., after he saw the driver swerving on the highway. The

driver exited at Transportation Blvd. with the off-duty officer trying to conduct a traffic stop behind him. The driver abruptly turned into the Giant Eagle parking lot, drove over a curbed island and struck a tree, then got out of the car and tried running from the officer, but soon surrendered.

He was identified as an 18-year-old Cleveland resident and was arrested. Police checked LEADS and learned the car had been reported stolen out of Cleveland on January 20th. Police said it was stolen during a car-jacking.

The 18-year-old was held for judicial review with pending charges of receiving stolen property, obstructing official business, traffic charges, no driver's license, no seat belt, fleeing and eluding, reckless operation and fictitious plates.

Shoplifting

Police were called to CVS on Granger Rd. on February 10th, around 1:30 a.m., because a shopper was seen concealing merchandise in his pants and was not aware he was being watched. Police arrived and confronted the male, 36, of Bedford Heights, who admitted he was stealing the two cans of soup. Employees said they did not want to pursue theft charges but told the man not to return to the store or he'd be charged with trespassing.

While being patted down for stolen merchandise, police found a small baggie of marijuana in the man's pocket. Police also learned the man had a warrant with Oakwood PD. He was cited for possession of marijuana and turned over to Oakwood PD.

Theft of Motor Vehicle

A resident of the 4600 block of East 88th St. called police around 6:20 a.m. on February 6th when she noticed her car had been stolen after leaving it running in the driveway to warm up.

On February 11th, she called police again and said her friends saw her car parked on East 81st St. and Harvard Ave. in Cleveland. She confirmed it was her car and said the keys were missing and it had a flat front tire. She could not provide information on possible suspects.

Public Notice

Jennings Center for Older Adults, a private nonprofit corporation, intends to submit a proposal for a capital grant under the provision of 49 USC Section 5310 of the Federal Transit Act to provide door-to-door transportation service for the elderly and disabled within Southeast Cleveland, Garfield Heights, Maple Heights, Bedford, Bedford Heights and Warrensville Heights. The grant proposal will request a wheelchair-equipped light transit vehicle. It is projected that 200 elderly and disabled persons will use the service five days per week for various activities annually, including transportation to adult day services, medical appointments, outings and shopping. Jennings invites comments and proposals from all interested public, private and paratransit operators including taxi operators, for the provision of transportation service to the elderly and disabled within our service area. Operators who are interested in offering proposals to provide service should contact Colleen Lavelle, Chief Planning Officer at Jennings, 10204 Granger Rd., Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125 to obtain full details of the type of transportation service that is needed prior to preparing a proposal. Written comments or proposals must be submitted within 30 days to the agency at the above address with a copy to the Northeast Ohio Area-wide Coordinating Agency, 1299 Superior Street E, Cleveland, OH 44114; Attention: Jim Thompson re: Section 5310-Public notice.

Neighborhood News 2/15/2017

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SAY THIS PRAYER 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. **W.B.**
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Debris from Shaker lakes

(Continued from Page 1)

the most seatbelt citations and the most OVI (Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence) arrests, "which is a pretty big accomplishment... and on top of that, the department itself received a couple of different awards. We were able to receive a new laser, which is valued at about \$2,000."

He said that out of all the cities in Cuyahoga County, Bedford and Bedford's police department received the award for most social media outreach, for the most posts, the most information that has gone out.

Tax increase survey results now online

Over the past several months, officials have been discussing a proposed income tax increase, now on the Tuesday, May 2 ballot, that if approved by voters would raise Bedford's current tax rate of 2.25 percent to 3 percent.

In late January, council approved legislation to place the .75 percent increase on the May ballot. Council's action followed a phone survey and focus group meetings that had been conducted by the Impact Group, a Hudson-based company hired by the city to determine the feasibility of putting the tax issue before voters and gathering and disseminating information to residents.

Mallis said there was a link on the city's website, www.bedfordoh.gov, that residents can click on to view the full presentation (as of yesterday, that link was functioning).

The survey of about 320 residents, 75 percent of whom were identified as homeowners and 54 percent of whom were identified as female, revealed that the majority of citizens felt that the quality of life in Bedford was "very good, good, or okay," with about half stating that the city was "headed in the right direction."

A little over a third of residents taking part in the survey were "very supportive" or "supportive" of a proposed tax increase, "required to maintain current service levels... to replace revenue losses and cuts in state funding."

Almost half of those taking part in the survey were "very supportive" or "supportive" of the proposed .75 percent income tax increase, with an increased cap of 2.25 percent credit, "if the additional amount was used to hire three additional police officers to provide a higher level of police presence in our community... non-working seniors and wage earners paying 2.25 percent or more to another city would not see any increase in taxes they currently pay," the results stated.

Mallis said at last week's meeting that he, Mayor Stan Koci and Finance Director Frank Gambosi were willing to speak to any groups or organizations that were interested in learning more about the proposed income tax issue.

City successful in point of sale lawsuit

The city prevailed in a federal lawsuit filed by two landlords against the city last year that challenged the constitutionality of legislation requiring point of sale inspections prior to selling a home in the city, Mallis said in response to a resident's question at last week's meeting.

Council passed an ordinance last summer to repeal existing legislation and enact new provisions, including an administrative search warrant procedure.

"Speaking for myself on this, that was a huge win for the city of Bedford," Mallis said of the outcome of the lawsuit filed by the landlords in U.S. Northern District Court, Eastern Division.

According to the lawsuit, the inspections subjected those who withheld consent to "criminal liability and/or inability to occupy their homes."

"We will be able to resume point of sale inspections," Mallis said, although not immediately. He said city officials will take some time to step back and look at its point of sale policies and how it goes about them, and should things be changed.

Legislation on agenda

The only piece of legislation passed at last week's meeting was an ordinance for a contract between the city and Nicks Tree Service Division at a cost of \$2,750, for removal of a large diseased tree at 198 Logan St., that because of its size could not be done by city crews.

Placed on first reading for additional discussion was an ordinance to promote economic development by adopting a six-year job creation and retention program grant by the city to Data Basics, Inc. The company has announced plans to relocate from another community to Bedford, in the former Doty & Miller Architects building on Broadway Avenue.

Mallis said roughly 35 employees would be working at the new location and that number was expected to grow.

Announcements

Ward meetings for residents will be held in the coming weeks, according to information released by Council Clerk Lorree Villers. All meetings will be held in Bedford City Hall Council Chambers, 165 Center Rd., at 7 p.m.

Meeting dates are as follows: Wards 1 and 2- Monday, February 27; Wards 3 and 4- Thursday, March 16; Wards 5 and 6- Monday, March 27. All are open to the public.

The Bedford Lions Club, celebrating 90 years in 2017, was congratulated by city officials on its milestone anniversary. Councilwoman Paula Mizsak also stated that the Bedford Historical Society would be holding its Annual Dinner on Friday, March 3.

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Obituaries

WILLIAM R. COLLINS, SR., age 89, of Walton Hills and formerly of Bedford, passed into eternal rest on January 30th.

He was the beloved husband of Nadine (nee Fondriest), for 65 years; loving father of William R., Jr. (Patricia), Maureen Sorensen (Keith), Kathleen Tobasko (Andrew), Loreen Duraj (John), Eileen Battles (Stephen), Thomas (Elaine), Nadine Maynard (Murray), Patrick (Nancy), Brian (Laura); dear grandfather of 18. Mr. Collins was predeceased in death by his brothers Jack (Dorothy), Leo (Margaret), and Lawrence (Clara).

He served in the U.S. Army during the years of the Korean War. Mr. Collins served the city of Bedford for over 30 years, first on the Planning Commission and the Municipal Hospital Board. He served multiple terms as a city councilman and was the Director of Public Works and Services in both Bedford and Streetsboro. He went on to manage the Permit and Inspection Desk for the Cuyahoga County Sanitary Engineers Office.

Mr. Collins spent his spare time volunteering at St. Mary Catholic Church in Bedford as an usher, with the Knights of Columbus, Holy Name Society and in the basketball program.

Arrangements were handled by Ferfolia Funeral Home and a Mass of Christian burial was held at St. Mary Catholic Church. Interment

in All Saints Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested in his name to St. Jude Research Hospital, Memorial and Honor Gifts, P.O. Box 1000, Dept. 142, Memphis, TN 38148.

RICHARD J. ADLER, 69, of Parma, passed away on February 8th.



He was the loving husband of Joyce (nee Mayette); loving father of Sean Adler (Lindsay) and Scott Adler; step-father of Cassandra Boley (Jason) and Richard Bartley (Michelle); grandfather of Ryder Adler and step-grandfather of five. He was the son of the late Louis and Anne (Kacmar) Adler; brother of Patricia Yama and Michael Adler (Susan); brother-in-law, uncle and friend to many.

Services were held at Hopko Funeral Home in Parma and St. Columbkille Church. Entombment in Brooklyn Heights Cemetery.

Church news

Hope United Methodist Church, 79 Center Rd., Bedford, will offer a "Soup's On!" free meal on Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 6 p.m.

On Ash Wednesday, March 1, Rev. Nestor Nazario will offer "Drive thru Ashes" from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Hathaway United Methodist Church, 6060 Turney Rd., Garfield Hts., and from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Hope UMC.

Mustang wrestlers capture LEL title

The Maple Heights High School Mustangs wrestling team captured their sixth consecutive Lake Erie League Championship Saturday, Feb. 4, at Wylie Athletic Complex. The win marked the Mustang's 43rd overall title in both the Greater Cleveland Conference and Lake Erie League since 1954, and the 20th for Head Coach Jamie Milkovich.

Maple Heights tallied 227.5 points to outdistance runner-up Lorain with 204 points. Bedford finished in third place with 158 points followed by Cleveland Heights with 135 points, Shaw with 80 points and Warrensville Heights with 62 points.

Giovanni Rasheed, Antoine Holloway and Skyler Muscenti all claimed individual titles for the Mustangs in their weight classes. Rasheed's victory placed him

among an elite group of just 19 Maple Heights wrestlers with three individual League championships.

Holloway, a sophomore, garnered his second championship setting him on course to be the third Mustang with four individual titles. Muscenti also became a multiple winner as the title was his second.

Mustang wrestlers finishing runner-up in their weight classes were Justin Bencie, Cahmaal Walker, Justin Primous, Dwayne Eggleton, Theron Williams, Chrisean Merritt and Tysean Weatherspoon. Other Mustang place winners included Trevion Ross, Zakeleigh Linder, Shamarr Simmons and Kendale Young.

The Mustangs also defeated Trinity High School 57-15 on Thursday, Feb. 9, and Garfield Heights High School 54-21 on Saturday, Feb. 11, in one of the longest standing neighborhood rivalries in the history of Ohio scholastic sports.

These victories helped Maple

Heights finish out their dual meet season with an impressive 13-1 record.

The visiting Garfield Heights Bulldogs earned victories from Joe Riley, Ethan Boufford, Leon Webb and Aaron Watson.

Garfield Hts.

Rec Center news

Spring is not far away! The Dan Kostel Recreation Center, 5411 Turney Rd. in Garfield Heights, is seeking managers and umpires for its municipal girls softball program for kids ages 7-17, set to begin in May.

Call the Rec at 216-475-7272 or Commissioner Kevin Koelliker at 216-244-6077 if interested.

Managers are also needed for the Rec's co-ed t-ball program for kids ages 5-7 beginning in April, and the boys baseball league is also in need of managers.

Those interested in the baseball

league should call Bob Marek at 216-990-8386.

Information regarding registrations and further details on all programs will soon be available at www.garfieldhts.org and at the Rec.

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

Hockey Tournament

The annual Chuck Kurilko "Melt the Ice Youth Hockey Tournament" will be held February 17-20 at the rink. Stop by and watch the Rec's youth hockey players at their finest!

Skating Show

The 49th annual ice skating show titled "Setting the World on Fire" will be held April 8 and 9. Enjoy the talents of skaters of all ages enrolled in the Rec's figure skating program.

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St. Michael School presents...

Enjoy the St. Michael School Drama Club's production of "OZ!" on Thursday, Feb. 23 and Friday, Feb. 24, at 7 p.m. at the Independence Middle School, 6111 Archwood Road.

The play is directed by Jarred Nichols, along with choreographer/teacher Judy Lasecki, music director/alumnus Gregory Paparizos and advisors/teachers Bob Clark and Adam Cottos.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for students and seniors. To purchase, call Kristen at 216-225-1106 or email Drama.club@stmichaelschoolinfo.com.



In the photo above are members of the cast of the St. Michael School Drama Club's upcoming production of "OZ!", from left: Emma Grace Canzano as Aunt Em, Abriana Marchetta as Glinda, Quinn Hartman as Scarecrow, Emily Matas as Dorothy, Paige Hojdar as Toto, Rocco Grassi as Cowardly Lion, Sean Lynch as Oz, Patrick Firrell as Tinman and Sidney Katona as the Wicked Witch.

Arrested in connection with robberies in Bedford, Maple Hts.

By Judith Goldsworth

A Maple Heights man arrested in connection with robberies in Maple Heights and Bedford last month had his bond set at \$100,000 and his case bound over to the Cuyahoga County Grand Jury, Bedford police stated.

Darold L. Thomas, 49, of Evening Star Ave., was pursued by police from Bedford to a house on E. 163 St. in the Lee-Miles neighborhood of Cleveland the morning of Friday, Jan. 27, and arrested. Bedford police were assisted by Maple Heights and Cleveland police and the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department in the

pursuit and Thomas' arrest, according to the report.

Shortly after 8 a.m., an employee of the BP gas station on Broadway Ave. in Bedford called police to report he had just been robbed by a black male wearing a white coat who left in a silver van westbound on Broadway. No weapons were seen, but the suspect, described as the same suspect in the robbery of a Speedway gas station in Maple Heights, took money from the register, police stated.

Bedford and Maple Heights officers pursued the silver van onto Lee Road and into Cleveland, where the suspect left the van at the American Pride Car

Wash at Lee and Miles. A Cleveland police K-9 unit responded to assist in the search of streets in the area.

Officers heard arguing and a blue Dodge van, identified by Maple Heights police as the vehicle used in the Speedway robbery, was seen in the driveway of a house in the 4200 block of E. 163. Officers also spotted footprints leading to this address. Cleveland police and the sheriff's task force were on scene and assisting by this point.

Police found the suspect, later identified as Thomas, in the attic of the E. 163 house at about 8:46 a.m. He was uncooperative and taken into custody, according to the report.

Officers recovered cash taken in the Bedford and Maple Heights robberies, and took Thomas to the Bedford Jail for booking. A felony affidavit for robbery was issued for Thomas, who was on parole for previous offenses. His parole officer was contacted and advised of the arrest.

Thomas appeared in Bedford Municipal Court later in the day on January 27, where bond was set at \$100,000 cash surety or 10 percent. On Monday, Jan. 30, a preliminary hearing was held. Bond was continued for Thomas on Wednesday, Feb. 1, and his case bound over to the Cuyahoga County Grand Jury for robbery charges, police said.

Area blood donation sites

The American Red Cross 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:

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

Garfield Heights:

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

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

G.H. Municipal Court offers '2nd Chance' program

The Garfield Heights Municipal Court is once again giving people a second chance to clear up outstanding warrants, and in the process forgive some of the court costs. The 2nd Chance Program involves both criminal and traffic cases.

When a person does not pay their fines and court costs, an arrest warrant is issued and the person's driver's license is suspended. The case is also sent to a collection agency where an additional 30 percent fee is added to the outstanding balance.

The 2nd Chance Program allows people to pay the original bill without any additional charges. The \$100 warrant cost and the added collection agency fees are forgiven.

"By law, we can't suspend the fines, but we can suspend these additional costs. And we are willing to do it to give everyone a second chance," said Garfield Heights Municipal Court Presiding Judge Deborah Nicastro.

The Court used the 2nd Chance Program for the first time over a three-month period last year. About 50 cases were cleared each month, but many more people could have taken advantage of the program.

"At any given time, we have between 8,000 to 10,000 outstanding warrants for people's

arrest, and many of those are because people did not come back to court on hearings on their fines and costs," Judge Nicastro added.

With the 2nd Chance Program, no additional court costs are incurred. Payment can be made in-person or by phone to the Garfield Heights Municipal Court cashier. The court accepts cash or credit card payments. A three percent convenience fee is added to all credit card payments.

Clearing up these outstand-

ing court cases also means the person will again have a valid driver's license and avoid being charged with driving under suspension. People can take advantage of the 2nd Chance Program now until May 31st.

The court jurisdiction covers Garfield Heights, Maple Heights, Brecksville, Independence, Cuyahoga Heights, Newburgh Heights, Valley View and Walton Hills.

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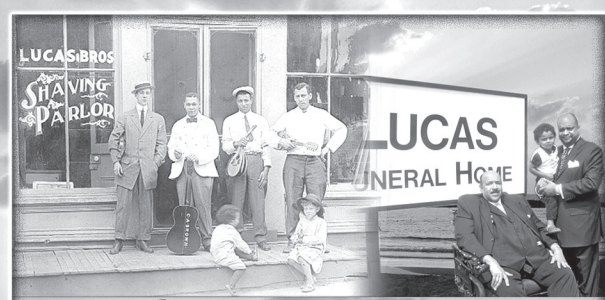





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