

# The Neighborhood News

THE GARFIELD HEIGHTS TRIBUNE

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

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FREE

## ATM SMASH-N-GRAB IN N.H.



The BP gas station at 4901 Harvard Ave., Newburgh Heights, fell victim to an ATM smash and grab last weekend, Cleveland Ward 12 Councilman Tony Brancatelli reports. "I am still working on legislation in Cleveland to help regulate these ATMs," Brancatelli said. "I have also started working with State Representative Martin Sweeney in looking at state legislation that would help all municipalities, not just Cleveland."

## FBI announces poster contest on effects of heroin/opiate addiction

The Cleveland Division of the FBI, along with the Cleveland Division of the DEA, the Northern District of Ohio United States Attorney's Office, Robby's Voice, FBI Cleveland Citizens Academy Foundation and the FBI Future Agents in Training announce a poster contest for area 7th through 12th graders regarding heroin and opiate addiction.

The FBI and DEA have collaborated and produced a documentary entitled "Chasing the Dragon: the Life of an Opiate Addict." This documentary was created to help individuals gain a deeper understanding of the dangers of opioid addiction. The documentary can be viewed at [www.fbi.gov/ChasingtheDragon](http://www.fbi.gov/ChasingtheDragon).

Heroin use and the misuse of prescription opioids are increasing in pandemic proportions everywhere, including here in Northeast Ohio. Overdose deaths in our area are among the highest in the country. Recent statistics show that the average age of the first-time heroin user is between the ages of 12 and 17.

Teens in grades 7 through 12 are invited to create and submit a poster that focuses on the consequences of using heroin and/or misuse of prescription opioids. Posters should be 24" x 36" and should be submitted, via mail or in person, to the FBI, Cleveland Division Field Office, 1501 Lakeside Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44114, by 5 p.m. April 30th, 2017.

Over 400 superintendents/school principals in the area received informational packets regarding the "Chasing the Dragon" poster contest in an effort to help spread the word.

Alumni of the FBI Future Agents in Training program will judge the submitted posters and announce the winners. Prize money is being provided by the FBI Cleveland Citizens Academy Foundation. Winning posters are likely to be displayed in public venues upon the conclusion of the contest.

Students wishing to create and submit a poster may contact FBI Community Outreach Specialist Tamara Larkin at [tamara.larkin@ic.fbi.gov](mailto:tamara.larkin@ic.fbi.gov) for additional information.

## Trinity High senior wins Hoops for Hope Contest



Trinity students are shown at Quicken Loans Arena, from left: Leroi Forte, Matt Sienkiewicz, Ryan Ribinskas and Tyler Borders with their teacher, Erin Barrett.

Students in Trinity's Advanced Physical Education class recently held a fundraiser and qualifying event for Hoops for Hope, a collaboration between the American Cancer Society and the Cleveland Cavaliers. The friendly free throw competition is meant to raise funds and create awareness in the fight against cancer.

Senior Ryan Ribinskas moved on from Trinity's qualifying event to the regional competition, which was held in February at Quicken Loans Arena. Ribinskas, a senior varsity bas-

ketball player, won the shooting contest in his age bracket, taking home a trophy and tickets to a Cavs game. Forty schools and over 500 students participated in the event.

Ryan said the support from his family, friends and classmates, and his teacher, Ms. Erin Barrett, helped him remain relaxed and focused on the contest, leading to his win.

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## Lenten Fish Frys begin

The Lenten season begins today and local restaurants, churches and organizations are offering delicious fish fry dinners! See the Fish Fry ads on Page 3 of this newspaper for details on Ash Wednesday and meatless Friday specials.

## Parma man dies five days after G.H. shooting

Alan Talbert, 21, of Parma, died on February 22nd after being shot on February 17th on Grand Division Boulevard in Garfield Heights, according to Cleveland police.

Officers were called to the 8100 block of Grand Division on February 17th, around 8 p.m., and found Talbert lying in a front yard with one gunshot wound to his stomach and one to his hip, according to a Cleveland police report. He was briefly treated at the scene, then taken to MetroHealth Medical Center.

Nearby residents told police they heard four to five gun shots and saw a man wearing dark clothing get into the passenger seat of a white SUV after the shooting speeding northbound on Warner Road. Officers were able to view security camera footage and saw Talbert walking on Grand Division and the white SUV in question, according to the report.

At the hospital, police spoke to Talbert's girlfriend who said she was with him at her mother's house on Garfield Boulevard around 5:30 p.m. the day of the shooting and he looked at his phone and stated he had to meet someone. She said she gave him \$10 and he left.

Police processed a possible suspect vehicle and had it towed. Fourth District detectives were requested to follow up.

## Local Applebee's restaurants collecting donations to send children to MDA camp; continues fight against muscular dystrophy

Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar locations in Northeast Ohio invite guests to join them in making a difference in the lives of local children faced with the challenges of muscle-debilitating diseases.

Starting this past Monday and running through Sunday, March 19, all 37 Applebee's locations owned and operated by Apple American Group, including the Applebee's on Vista Way in Garfield Heights, Northfield Road in Bedford, and Rockside Road in Independence, will participate in the nation's largest St. Patrick's Day fundraising program.

Customers are invited to visit Applebee's for the opportunity to purchase MDA Shamrock pinups for \$1.00, \$5.00, or a larger donation. Patrons that donate \$5.00 or more will receive an Applebee's voucher with \$8.00 in restaurant savings.

Each shamrock is signed by the customer and is prominently displayed in the restaurant, symbolizing strength, independence and life for Muscular Dystrophy Association families in the community. One-hundred percent of the proceeds will be donated directly towards sponsoring a local child's trip to MDA camp this summer at Camp Cheerful in Strongsville.

## Collova announces retirement of building commissioner at Monday's council meeting

By Ellen Psenicka

At Monday night's meeting of Garfield Heights Council, Mayor Vic Collova announced that Building Commissioner Bill Wery will be retiring March 27th. He said the city has hired an interim commissioner to work with Wery before he retires and learn the ropes of the position before taking it on full force at the end of this month.

Collova said he will introduce the new commissioner at the next city council meeting, scheduled for Monday, March 13. The mayor said the new hire is presently building commissioner for another city in the area and comes with a wealth of experience.

He also noted that six of the 50 security cameras purchased for surveillance throughout the city are up and running in the area of Fire Station #1 on Turney Road.

Council Monday night passed two emergency ordinances giving a lump sum payment of one percent of the base salary for all sworn police officers and all firefighters.

Also passed was legislation to enter into an agreement with The Fire House for the purchase of eight sets of fire gear with a total cost not to exceed \$22,000.

An emergency ordinance was okayed to amend a section of the codified ordinances of the city of Garfield Heights to make an exception for domestic violence being considered a criminal activity nuisance.

When asked to explain the intent of this legislation, staff attorney Jeff Jerome told The Neighborhood News that if police are continually called to a house, the residents can be sighted under the city's nuisance laws.

In explaining the amendment

to exclude domestic violence as a nuisance activity, he said: "We just want to make sure victims of domestic violence can call police as many times as they need to without fear of breaking the law."

Also approved by council was an ordinance to increase the number of patrolman positions permitted in the Garfield Heights Police Department.

Another emergency ordinance which outlaws the use of plywood boarding on vacant and abandoned houses was

passed to comply with recently passed House Bill 463.

The legislation noted that clearboarding is an acceptable material.

Council also passed legislation to apply for a grant to purchase a multi-user body worn camera system for the Garfield Heights Police Department, and a resolution to participate in a joint grant application on behalf of five communities in the First Suburbs Consortium for grant funding from The Cleveland Foundation.

## GHHS Music Express named grand champion at recent competition



Shown above are Ben Glowik and Tamia Cook (in foreground), and other members of the Garfield Heights High School's show choir Music Express, performing at the Walsh Jesuit Great Lakes Invitational. The group was named "Grand Champion" at the competition.

Garfield Heights High School's widely acclaimed show choir student group Music Express recently took home "Grand Champion" honors at the Walsh Jesuit Great Lakes Invitational.

Competing against 11 other high school teams from Northeast Ohio, Music Express not only won first place, but earned honors for Best Costume, Best Show Concept, Best Male Vo-

calist, Best Choreography and Best Choral Sound.

Music Express features more than 30 male and female participants from Garfield Heights High School who specialize in singing, dancing, instrumentals or who are crew members for the team's set designs.

The group, which participates in a total of six competitions throughout the school year, will travel to Solon on March 4 and Fairfield High School on March 11 for their final two competitions of the year.

## Man charged in Topicz shooting

Carlos Thomas, 20, of Horton Avenue in Garfield Heights, has been charged with attempted murder and felonious assault for a shooting at Topicz Sports Lounge on Broadway Avenue in Garfield Heights last week, according to a press release from the Garfield Heights Police Department.

The victim, 26, of North Randall, was shot in the lower abdomen outside the bar around 2:30 a.m. on February 19th.

Bond has been set at \$500,000 by Garfield Heights Municipal Court and the case has been bound over to the Cuyahoga County Grand Jury.

## New restaurant coming to old Champps in V.V.

Rodizio Grill, a Brazilian steakhouse with restaurants nationwide, has announced on its website that it will be opening soon at 5989 Canal Rd., in Valley View, the former Champps restaurant.

According to the website, Rodizio's offers "an unlimited and succulent variety of rotisserie grilled meats, glazed pineapple, a gourmet salad bar, authentic Brazilian sides and an experience like nowhere else."

## Maple Hts. wrestlers win at Orange

The Maple Heights High School wrestling team topped a field of 11 teams to capture the championship of the 1st Annual Audrey Genovese Memorial Tournament held on February 18th at Orange High School.

The Mustangs finished with 206 points to easily outdistance

## Drug program

A discussion on heroin, fentanyl and carfentanyl, sponsored by The Cleveland Clinic, will be held at the Garfield Heights library, 5409 Turney Rd., on Tuesday, March 7, from 6 to 8 p.m. The program is free.

Registration is required by emailing to: [www.clevelandclinic.org/garfieldtriplethreat](http://www.clevelandclinic.org/garfieldtriplethreat) or by calling Jeff Jameyson at 216-312-5640.

runner-up Newbury with 152 points. Bedford was third with 149, host Orange was fourth with 129.5 points, followed by Independence with 95 points, Cardinal with 94 points, Ashtabula Lakeside with 85.5 points, Horizon Science Academy with 71 points, Columbus Academy with 52 points, Warrensville Heights with 42 points and Canton Central Catholic failed to score.

Giovanni Rasheed, Antoine Holloway, Skyler Muscenti and Theron Williams captured individual titles with Cahmaal Walker, Justin Primous and Dwayne Eggleton finishing runners-up in their weight classes. Other place winners for Jamie Milkovich's Mustangs were Justin Bencie, Trevion Ross, Chrisean Merritt and Tysean Weatherspoon.









# St. Michael CYO cheerleaders hold Cheer Clinic for Up Side of Downs girls



St. Michael CYO cheerleaders held a cheer clinic recently with several girls from The Up Side of Downs of Northeast Ohio in the gym at the school.

On Saturday, Feb. 4, St. Michael CYO cheerleaders held a cheer clinic with several girls from The Up Side of Downs of Northeast Ohio. The cheerleaders taught the girls various cheers and performed their competition routine for them.

At the beginning of the day several of the girls were shy and nervous to participate, but by the end they were smiling, jumping, cheering and laughing, said the cheerleaders.

"By the end of the event there wasn't a dry eye in the gym. All the girls were touched in some way and I don't think anyone

wanted it to end," said St. Michael CYO Cheer Coach Maureen Ressler. "The cheerleaders didn't know what to expect going into this and came out enlightened and moved."

One of the participant's mom's, Leslie, said, "This Cheer Clinic was a lot of fun. We were a last-minute attendee and the girls were so organized. The girls did such an awesome job with our kiddos. I know my daughter, Genevieve, would love to attend another clinic."

The event was a huge success and the cheerleaders are working on making this an annual collaboration.

The Up Side of Downs of Northeast Ohio (USOD) provides programs and services to

improve the quality of life for individuals with Down syndrome and their families. The USOD serves more than 900 families caring for a loved one with Down syndrome in the Northeast Region of Ohio.

## Rec Center news

The Dan Kostel Recreation Center, 5411 Turney Rd. in Garfield Heights, will offer the following spring programs. For more info visit [garfieldhts.org](http://garfieldhts.org) or call 216-475-7272.

### T-Ball

Registration for the Rec's T-Ball program, for any boy or girl age 5-7 on or before July 1, will be held now through March 31. Fee for residents, \$30; non-

residents, \$60. Season begins mid-April and will conclude late-June. All practices and games held at Garfield Park Reservation, Old Birch area.

### Baseball League

Registration is now in progress for the Garfield Heights Boys Baseball League. Applications can be found on the city's website (link GHBBL) or can be picked up at the Rec. The program is for boys ages six and up.

### 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.

### Requirements

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.

### Managers/Umpires

Managers and umpires are needed for the Rec's municipal girls softball program for kids ages 7-17, set to begin in May. Call the Rec 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 manag-

ers. Those interested in the baseball league should call Bob Marek at 216-990-8386.

## Order bricks for Walkway

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](http://www.garfieldhts.org). The walkway was installed in 2016 and additional bricks will be added this spring. 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](mailto:psalemi@garfieldhts.org).

## Obituary

**JANET M. KURES** (nee Monahan), 97, of Maple Heights, passed away on February 21st.

She was the loving wife of the late Donald Bott and John Kures; adored mother of Judy (Bob) Treacy; cherished grandmother of Jennifer Miller (Andy); treasured great-grandmother (Baba) of Maggie, Ben, Mia and Nate; sister of the late Jack Monahan (Alice, living); sister-in-law of Jean Cameratta (John); granddaughter of the late Louis and Barbara Picha; cherished aunt and friend of many.

Arrangements were handled by Ferfolia Funeral Home. Interment in Crown Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be made in her name to Hope United Methodist Church, 79 Center Rd., Bedford, 44146.

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