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95th YEAR NO. 13

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2017

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FREE

Coin flip decides C.H. council race

According to an official recount last Thursday by the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections for the November 7th general election, Cuyahoga Heights incumbent councilwoman Lois Henley and challenger Rick Centa remained tied for a spot on the Village Council.

Board media spokesman Mike West announced that a coin flip held in Cuyahoga Heights November 20th and won by Centa will stand and he will fill the remaining seat on council.

Send in holiday church services

Area churches are encouraged to send us their holiday service schedules for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to be printed free of charge in next week's holiday edition of The Neighborhood News.

Email to nnews1923@aol.com or fax them to 216-441-0058, no later than 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18.

Garfield Hts. Chamber merging with SE

The Garfield Heights Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors has announced that effective January 1, 2018, all Garfield Heights Chamber memberships will transfer to the Southeast Region Chamber of Commerce, which includes the communities of Bedford, Bedford Heights, Garfield Heights, Maple Heights, Oakwood Village and Walton Hills. As always, membership will remain open to interested parties located in other cities. The Garfield Heights Chamber of Commerce will be dissolved and the necessary paperwork filed with the State of Ohio.

Garfield Heights Chamber Executive Director Gabriella Huszarik will be part of the Southeast Region Chamber of Commerce staff and continue as a member of the leadership team. The Southeast Region Chamber of Commerce is located at 33 Park St., Bedford, in the historic downtown train depot. Huszarik will be working out of that office.

The Southeast Region Chamber sponsors a variety of events including the popular weekly Parties in the Park throughout the summer months and Christmas in Bedford Falls. Some of the Garfield Chamber's successful events, programs and networking opportunities, particularly its popular annual Golf Outing, will be coordinated into next year's calendar and beyond, Chamber officials said.

"Becoming part of the Southeast Region Chamber of Commerce will provide each of our members a chance to build relationships with a different circle of companies, service providers, government officials, and present additional opportunities for your business," Garfield Chamber board members said.

LeBron & Co. take in Bulldogs basketball game



LeBron James, Dwyane Wade, J.R. Smith and members of James' family are shown above at a Garfield Heights High School varsity boys basketball home game last week.

Basketball royalty visited Garfield Heights last week as members of the Cleveland Cavaliers came to watch the Garfield Heights High School varsity basketball team play last Tuesday. The Bulldogs are the current Number One ranked high school team in Cleveland by cleveland.com. LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and J.R. Smith were in the stands to surprise the team.

"Our basketball team has been a powerhouse in Garfield Heights for years and this year is no exception," said Head Coach Sonny Johnson. "LeBron, his wife and kids, and his agent, Rich Paul, came to take notice of our team," he said.

The Bulldogs next home game is this Thursday in the high school gymnasium, 4900 Turney Rd. Junior varsity plays at 6 p.m., varsity at 7:30 p.m.

Metroparks to take over operation of Dunham Park in Maple Heights

By Judith Goldsworth

The Cleveland Metroparks moved a step closer to taking over operation of Dunham Park in Maple Heights, after Maple Heights Council passed a resolution approving a lease agreement at its meeting last week.

The resolution authorizes Mayor Annette Blackwell to enter into a lease agreement with the Board of Park Commissioners of the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District (Metroparks) for Dunham Park, located in the Schreiber-Dunham area of western Maple Heights, and comprising about 53 acres.

Blackwell said next spring Dunham Park will be added to Bedford Reservation, which is 2,336 acres, making it the first Cleveland Metroparks property in the city of Maple Heights.

The Metroparks has advised Blackwell that the park district wants to enter into a 99-year lease with the city for Dunham Park, and to operate it and maintain it, thereby adding it to the existing 18 Metroparks reservations throughout Northeast Ohio, according to the legislation. The plan now goes to the Metroparks board for approval.

As part of the lease agreement, the Metroparks will pay Maple Heights the rent of \$1 per year, with the option of payment as a lump sum, the agreement states. The city has not yet applied for a tax exemption for the leased property, but "anticipates pursuing such exemption" with the cooperation of the Metroparks.

Also as part of the agreement, Dunham Park will be patrolled by Metroparks Rangers, and the Metro-

parks will have the right to operate its own concessions in the park and be responsible for utilities serving the park.

"This is the kind of positive recognition that this city has been waiting for," Mayor Blackwell said in a news release. "I want others to know about the wonderful assets and great things that Maple Heights has to offer and, more importantly, for our residents to enjoy the education, recreation, safety and quality of a nationally-recognized park system."

Maple Heights had received \$200,000 in 2017 Cuyahoga Community Department Block Grant funds for improvements at Dunham Park, including construction of a new pavilion, parking lot and sand volleyball courts, and demolition of tennis courts and aged structures.

The agreement with the Metroparks stipulates that Maple Heights will use the 2017 grant funding to construct a new parking lot and new entrance road, and also to demolish the old tennis courts and old pavilion, and forego the construction of sand volleyball courts. The Metroparks agreed "to design and construct a future new pavilion of at least similar size" to the old one at Dunham Park by June 30, 2021.

"The Metroparks is committed to protecting Dunham Park, like its existing park properties, by implementing natural resource and green infrastructure practices to create and manage urban park spaces more resilient to ecological change and disturbance as part of the surrounding and regional community," the resolution stated.

(Continued on Page 2)

Gunshots ring out in G.H. neighborhoods; one injury reported

Several Garfield Heights residents reported hearing gunshots near their homes on Wadsworth Avenue and Grace Avenue last Tuesday night, according to reports filed with Garfield police. Some of the gunfire resulted in one reported injury and damages to vehicles and businesses.

Around 10 p.m. last Tuesday, Dec. 5, police were dispatched to the 10600 block of Wadsworth Ave. and spoke to a resident who said he heard 6-10 gunshots outside his front window, then after a brief pause, heard 4-6 more shots. When he looked out the

window, he saw a silver or gray vehicle in the street but did not see any people. Eight shell casings were found in the street.

While investigating on Wadsworth, dispatch notified police that someone had been admitted to Marymount Hospital ER with a gunshot wound. The victim, 17, said he was in a car with his friends on Wadsworth Avenue when they heard gunshots. The teen "ducked" to protect himself, but was shot in the left hand, he told police.

(Continued on Page 2)

Metroparks to take over

(Continued from Page 1)

"The Metroparks is committed to protecting Dunham Park, like its existing park properties, by implementing natural resource and green infrastructure practices to create and manage urban park spaces more resilient to ecological change and disturbance as part of the surrounding and regional community," the resolution stated.

The resolution also stated that the Metroparks addition of Dunham Park "will advance connections and trail systems that complete the Emerald Necklace and, in partnership with other agencies and communities, will connect Maple Heights with local, state and regional trail networks, communities and places of interest," and is committed to improving, expanding and strengthening outdoor experiences and recreation opportunities for the residents of the city."

Kokosing to provide materials for park

Council passed another resolution pertaining to work

at Dunham Park, and utilizing part of the \$200,000 in county grant funding, by contracting with Kokosing Materials Inc. to provide asphalt materials for the Dunham Park Improvement Project in spring 2018.

Although the county has extended the deadline for expenditure of \$150,000 of that grant funding to May 31, 2018, it has maintained the deadline for expenditure of the remaining \$50,000 in supplemental grant funding to December 31, 2017, or risk forfeiture, according to the legislation.

In November, council passed a resolution for the city to enter into a contract with C & J Contractors at a cost of \$26,962 to perform demolition work at Dunham Park.

And last week council approved the contract with Kokosing at a cost of \$23,038 for the asphalt materials, thereby spending the entire \$50,000.

Other legislation passed

Council also passed a resolution amending previous legislation concerning a contract with inSITE Advisory

Group LLC to perform additional economic development services for the city, at an hourly rate of \$175, in an amount not to exceed \$32,500. Previous legislation had set the cap at \$17,500.

Also passed at the meeting were three additional resolutions: one to request that the city participate in the Tax Advance Program of the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer to receive tax advances for 2018; another adopting the county's 2017-2022 All Hazards Mitigation Plan, as required by federal law, to outline processes for identifying natural and human-made hazards, and also to plan for activities that will "reduce losses to life and property;" and another resolution for an agreement between the city and Assurant for group dental insurance for full-time employees of Maple Heights for the year 2018.

2018 budget on second reading

Placed on second reading at last week's meeting was an ordinance for the city's budget for 2018, with total appropriations set at \$20,239,959. Council will continue to discuss the budget before passage at a future meeting.

Also placed on second reading for further discussion was an ordinance to make final amendments to this year's appropriations for the fiscal year ending December 31.



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Gunshots

(Continued from Page 1)

Police said the teen drove himself to Marymount in a gray vehicle parked outside the hospital entrance. Police saw bullet holes along the driver's side of the car and a single bullet hole in the front glass, according to the report. A spent casing was also found below the windshield wipers and Marymount staff said a casing fell from the teen as he entered the hospital. The teen said no guns had been fired from inside the car.

It was later learned that the Subway in Turneytown Shopping Center appeared to have been damaged by the Wadsworth Avenue gunfire. Two window panes had been struck.

Also around 10 p.m. last Tuesday, police were dispatched to the E. 105th Street and Grace Avenue area for a report of shots fired. A total of 10 spent casings were found between the 10300 and 10400 blocks of Grace Ave., and a bullet fragment was also found in the street.

A resident had possible surveillance footage of the incident which showed a vehicle that appeared to be chasing another vehicle at a high rate of speed on E. 102nd Street, then onto Grace. Police saw flashes of light coming from the second vehicle which were believed to be the gunshots, according to the report.

Police believe the Grace Avenue and Wadsworth calls may be related and continue to investigate.

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Dollar General chain to open new store in former Medic building in Bedford

By Judith Goldsworth

Dollar General, a Tennessee-based chain of variety stores that operates more than 14,000 locations throughout the United States, will be investing about \$1 million to open a new store in the former Medic building on Broadway Avenue, after Bedford Council gave its approval at its meeting last week.

Last month the Planning Commission recommended council's approval of a proposal by Bedford DG, LLC, of Birmingham, Alabama, the developer, and Hilco Acquisition (Medic Real Estate) LLC, owner of the building located at 647 Broadway in Bedford, to completely renovate the exterior and interior of the property, which has been closed since Medic drugstores went out of business in 2005.

Council's approval of the recommendation means that Dollar General can go forward with its plans to take a long-vacant structure and turn it into a viable commercial enterprise that will employ 8 to 10 people, according to information released by the city.

According to the minutes from the November 21 Planning Commission meeting, Civil Engineer Jeff Paulson, representing Dollar General, stated that upon council's approval, Dollar General would move forward to purchase the building, with interior and exterior renovations figured at \$700,000 to \$1 million.

Paulson stated that since Medic Drug had vacated the Broadway building, the premises had been neglected for many years and the current condition was "basically condemnable" because of the years it sat empty, citing a leaky roof, peeling floors and ruined walls as part of the deterioration.

He said interior renovations would be conducted during the winter months, with exterior renovations addressed according to the weather conditions. Plans were for the project to be completed hopefully in the next three to four months.

City Manager Mike Mallis stated that he understood that Dollar General was investing a substantial amount of money to renovate the building, but that he also struggled with not keeping Bedford's historical downtown district as a "quaint historic district."

A petition from residents stating their issues with having a Dollar General in downtown Bedford had also been formally submitted as record at the Planning Commission meeting. However, Law Director John Montello noted that no one was officially present to submit the petition or speak on its behalf.

In response, Paulson said that he understood and appreciated the concerns of Mallis and the residents and that the changes being made to the appearance of the building as a future Dollar General location were at the request of the Historical Preservation Board. He also stated that Dollar General usually had a set structure for its stores, but out of respect for the board's desire for the building to fit in the historical area, the company would accommodate those wishes.

Councilman Walter Genutis commented that "an empty, dilapidated building that's been empty for many,

many years is getting a million dollar renovation, and the description that has been given to us is not unlike what was in there in the first place, and also historically going back to Franklin's Five and Dime."

Dollar General representatives stated that cameras would be installed inside the store, and contingent upon studies of crimes reported in the area, they would determine how many security cameras may be installed on the outside.

Tax ordinances passed

Only two ordinances were on the agenda at last week's meeting, both to clarify existing legislation regarding the filing of income taxes in the city in the wake of House Bill 49 enacted by the Ohio General Assembly in September.

As explained by Finance Director Frank Gambosi, the first ordinance mandates that municipal income tax codes be amended by January 31, 2018, dealing with penalties, interest, fees and charges, with the following amendment: "With respect to any unpaid withholding tax, a penalty equal to and not to exceed 50 percent of the amount not timely paid shall be imposed."

The second ordinance establishes two different due dates for declaration of estimated tax, with businesses in the city having to file by December 15, and to allow individuals to file by January 15, 2018.

"Be aware of federal tax laws and deductions," Gambosi stated, adding, "All we are doing is matching our dates with their dates in this ordinance."

Announcements

Councilwoman Paula Mizsak said that the annual "Lights Out For Hunger" observance in the city would be held on Wednesday, Dec. 20, during which residents were encouraged to turn their holiday lighting displays off that evening and donate the money they would have spent on electrical costs to local food banks.

With the onset of winter weather, officials reminded residents of the parking ban in Bedford if snowfall exceeds two inches. Councilwoman Marilyn Zolata also

reminded residents to keep fire hydrants and sidewalks free of snow.

A suspect had been apprehended in connection with recent thefts of materials, tires and other items from various dealerships in the Auto Mile, Mallis stated, commending the police department for their work.

Golden Ager's Grapevine

St. Stanislaus

The St. Stan's Golden Agers will meet Thursday, Dec. 14, at 1:30 p.m. in the Social Center on Baxter Ave. A light lunch, raffle and games will be followed by a short meeting.

Immaculate Heart

The Immaculate Heart of Mary Golden Agers will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 11:30 a.m. in the parish hall.

Grandmother's Club

The Grandmother's Club will meet Thursday, Dec. 21, at 11:30 a.m. at Cuyahoga Heights Village Hall, 4863 E. 71 St.

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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Death Notices

JAMES BERAN, 73, of Garfield Heights, passed away December 10th.

He was the beloved husband of Vera (nee Phipps); father of Timothy Phipps, James Jr., Matthew, and Mark (Paula); grandfather of 10; great-grandfather of two; brother of Nancy Adzema, Barbara Jean Burns (deceased), Richard, Patricia Brown, and George, Jr.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, Dec. 16, from 10 to 11 a.m. at Vito-Nero Funeral Home, 6130

Turney Rd., Garfield Heights. The family requests no flowers.

MARY A. STRADIOT (nee Pavlik), 92, of Garfield Heights, passed away on December 8th.

She was the beloved wife of Michael W. for 69 years. Loving mother of Michael (Beth), Diane Schnable (Randal), Janice Wiegand (Thomas), and James (Cynthia); dearest grandmother and great-grandmother; predeceased by one brother and a brother-in-law and a sister-in-law; dear aunt and great-aunt.

Friends may call at Ferfolia Funeral Home, 356 W. Aurora Rd. in Sagamore Hills, Wednesday, Dec. 13, from 3-7 p.m. Funeral services will be held Thursday, Dec. 14, at 9 a.m. at the funeral home. Mass of Christian Burial to celebrate Mary's life at St. Monica Catholic Church, 13633 Rockside Rd. in Garfield Heights, at 10 a.m. Interment in All Saints Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions in her name to Alhambra Carmona Caravan #75 of St. Monica Parish.

BARBARA JEAN SIRNA, 38, of Garfield Heights, passed away December 3rd.

She was the loving daughter of Sam Sirna (deceased) and Barbara Jean (nee Fiozzo) (Carl Gulla); beloved sister of Joseph "Jodi" Tvergyak, Tom Sirna (Loretta) and Sophia Schilk (Larry); special god-daughter of Mary, Pete and Trudy; dear aunt, great-aunt, niece, cousin and friend to many.

Arrangements were handled by Ferfolia Funeral Home, where services were held.

JOSEPH M. KAMRAD, JR., 78, of Garfield Heights, passed away December 3rd in Naples, Florida.

He was the beloved husband of the late Donna (nee Rammel); loving son of the late Edith and Joseph M., Sr.; dear brother of Joan Esler (Lee) and Judith Gossett; cherished uncle and godfather of Heather Longwell (Adam) and uncle to Daphne Weldon Fetsch (Johnnie), Mark Weldon and James Gossett; great-uncle of Kendall Longwell; best friend of Paulette and Jeff Skinner and Todd and Kevin Skinner, who Joe considered his nephews.

Mr. Kamrad was born in Akron and graduated from St. Mary High School in 1957. He then attended the University of Akron and Cleveland State University. Joe was employed at Ace Glass Inc., retiring in 2004. Joe was a mentor to many in his career and a friend to all. He loved sports, especially the Cleveland Indians.

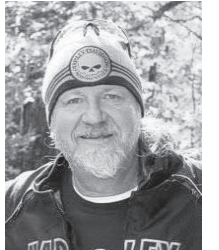
In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Mr. Kamrad's name can be made to The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, 6931 Arlington Rd., Bethesda, MD. 20814. Arrangements were handled by Ferfolia Funeral Home. Friends will gather at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church, 14300 Turney Rd., Maple Heights, for a funeral Mass on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2018. Private interment in All Souls Cemetery.

JOSEPH M. LUPICA, 67, of Bedford, passed away on December 1st.

He was the beloved son of Lucille R. (nee Sangeduluce) and the late Joe F. Lupica; loving brother of MaryLynn Lupica and Anthony Lupica; dear uncle and friend to many.

Family and friends are invited to a Mass of Christian Burial on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 10 a.m. at St. Basil the Great Catholic Church, 8700 Brecksville Rd. in Brecksville. Inurnment in Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery.

TIMOTHY BARTOSZEK, 57, of Brecksville, passed away November 20th. Mr. Bartoszek grew up in the Slavic Village area, was an active member of the American Legion Post 627 in Newburgh Heights and was director of the American Legion Riders.



He was the beloved husband of Kathy (nee Rodes); loving father of Timothy (deceased), Lauren and Katlyn; grandfather of Alan Bartoszek and Harley Faye; son of the late Joseph A. and Agnes C. (nee Jaskowiak); brother of Joseph (deceased) and Suzanne Krusoe (Dale); son-in-law of James and Betty Rodes.; dear uncle and great-uncle of many.

Arrangements were handled by Fortuna Funeral Home and a Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. John Nepomucene Church. Interment in Maple Shade Cemetery.

For those who wish, the family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Timothy J. Bartoszek, Jr. Benedictine High School Scholarship Fund, 2900 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., Cleveland, Ohio 44104, 216-421-2080.

NORMAN J. COX, 93, of Maple Heights, passed away November 19th.

Loving husband of Marie; beloved father of Linda Luffler (Michael), Norman (Dee Dee), and Debbie Sullivan; dear grandfather of Brent, Kirstin, Courtney, Kevin and Kayla.

Mr. Cox was a World War II Army veteran. Private family services were held; arrangements were handled by Ferfolia Funeral Home. Memorial contributions are suggested in his name to Vinnie Hospice of Montefiore, 1 David N. Myers Parkway, Beachwood, OH 44122 (216-360-9080).



CAROL A. KOVARIK (nee Duccieschi), age 76, passed away Saturday, Nov. 11.

Longtime friend of Barbara Prosek; loving sister of John (Beverly) Pikus; daughter of the late Bernie and Henrietta Duccieschi.

Carol was the longtime owner of Carol's Maple Leaf Tavern in Maple Heights. Arrangements were handled by Vodrazka Funeral Home. Private services were held.

Fish fry at St. Andrew's

St. Andrew Eastern Orthodox Church, located at 16029 Maple Park Dr. in Maple Heights, will be serving fish fry dinners from 4-7 p.m. on Friday, Dec 15. For more information or carryouts, call 216-475-9365.

Annual Christmas Concert with Raine Austen
Sunday, December 17th at 7:00 pm at St. Martin of Tours Church on Turney Road
www.raineausten.com

Raine Austen and Sax man, Dave Millen will be joined by David Pratt on vocals (Renegade Gentlemen), Frank Restifo on guitar with his daughter, Alanna Restifo on violin & viola. Award winning drummer, Pete Politis, will make an unforgettable cameo, and the usual surprises.
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Services 11:30 am Sundays
 Rev. Robinson Crenshaw, Pastor

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant
 19000 Libby Rd., Maple Heights, Ohio
 (216) 662-0370

St. Andrew Eastern Orthodox Church
 16029 Maple Park Drive, Maple Heights, 216-475-9365
Great Vespers - Saturdays at 4:00pm
Sunday Divine Liturgy - 10:00am

St. Monica Church
 13623 Rockside Road
 Garfield Heights 216-662-8685
 Pastor: Rev. Thomas Haren
 Daily Mass time: 8:00am,
 Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00pm,
 Sunday Mass times: 8:00am, 10:00am & 12 Noon
All are welcome!

Garfield Hts. resurrects position of safety director

By Ellen Psenicka

Garfield Heights Council met Monday night and passed an emergency ordinance to reinstate the position of safety director in the city.

The position had been abolished in 1990 and council did not reassign the duties of safety director. Currently Mayor Vic Collova has been performing the duties of safety director with no additional pay. The ordinance passed Monday will rectify that situation and provide the mayor with a rate of pay of Range 1, Step 1 (minimum wage).

Other ordinances passed by council Monday included:

- Amending the codified ordinances of the city regarding municipal income tax to conform to new state law.
- Clarifying the definitions of homeowners and contractors as relates to obtaining permits to perform work within the city.
- Engaging the law firm of Walter/Haverfield jointly with the Regional Income Tax Agency and other municipalities to initiate litigation to challenge the constitutionality of amendments of the Ohio Revised Code regarding municipal income tax in order to assert its home rule authority to control the administration and collection of the municipal income tax.
- Preparing plans to go out for competitive bidding for self-contained breathing apparatus.
- Authorizing City Engineer David Krock to prepare plans for the Midwest Neighborhood Storm/Sanitary Sewer System Reconstruction Project - Phase I.

Council also voted to cancel its December 27th meeting as there is no city business on the agenda. A special meeting may be called as needed. The next regular meeting of council will be Monday, January 8th, 2018.

In his report to council, Police Chief Robert Byrne said there continues to be a rash of thefts from autos, locked and unlocked. He said to make sure valuables are not left in cars and that police have the best luck of catching these thieves when calls are made to police immediately upon discovering the theft. If victims actually see the criminals taking off, take note of what direction they go and what they are wearing, Byrne said.

Parks and Recreation Director Robert Dobies announced the annual Skate with Santa this Sunday from 3 to 5:15 p.m. at the Dan Kostel Recreation Center. Reduced admission of \$5, which includes rental skates if needed, is for residents only. All children age 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.



Shown above from left are: First Tee of Cleveland Executive Director Patricia LoPresti, Rep. Marlene Anielski, and Trent Meyerhoefer, board chair of The First Tee of Cleveland.

Rep. Anielski celebrates First Tee of Cleveland

State Representative Marlene Anielski (R-Walton Hills) recognized First Tee of Cleveland, located at the Washington Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks in Newburgh Heights, on being named the National Council of Youth Sports 2017 STRIVE Award for Organization of the Year.

The award recognizes organizations that embrace a "kids first" approach, evidenced by its implementation of recognized best practices and policies that protect kids by promoting responsible health, wellness and safety within their organization.

"I am proud to recognize First Tee of Cleveland for its commitment to introducing children to the sport of golf," said Rep. Anielski. "These kids not only learn how to play golf, but engage in the character building elements that come along with the sport. Fair play, sportsmanship and the thrill of competition can lead to a life-long commitment to the sport as well as establishing lessons for life."

First Tee of Cleveland is a chapter of The First Tee, founded in 1997 and dedicated to bringing the sport of golf to children of all ages and economic stages. The First Tee was formed by a partnership of the Ladies Professional Golf Association, the Masters Tournament, Professional Golf Association of America, the Professional Golf Association Tour, and the United States Golf Association.

Patricia LoPresti, executive director of The First Tee of Cleveland, said, "We couldn't be more thrilled to receive the national STRIVE Award. We're very proud of our efforts and it's rewarding to be recognized for keeping our kids healthy and safe. Also, we're grateful that Rep. Anielski could be present at our community breakfast to present a proclamation in celebration of this prestigious award."

Send us your recipes

It's the holiday season! Send us your favorite Christmas and New Year's recipes to be printed in a future edition of The Neighborhood News.

Ideas for recipes include: cookies for Santa, New Year's Eve party cocktails and appetizers, prosperous New Year's Day traditions and more.

Simply email your recipe to nnews1923@aol.com. Don't forget to include your name and city you live in.

Happy Holidays!!

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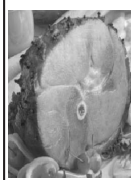
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Community police reports

By Amber Weisbarth

(The following information was obtained from filed police reports and police dispatch logs.)

GARFIELD HTS.

Aggravated Robbery

• A Mayfield Heights resident said he was robbed and shot in the hand by someone he was supposed to meet with to purchase a gaming system through the website Offer Up on December 2nd, around 5:50 p.m., in the area of E. 144th and Cranwood Park Blvd. He said he and his girlfriend pulled into a driveway on Cranwood and were greeted by the suspect. The suspect told the victim to follow him to the back of the house, and once there the suspect pulled out a gun and told the victim to give him his money. When the victim said it was in the car, the suspect led him back to the car and again demanded money from the victim and his girlfriend at gunpoint. The victim tried to reverse out of the driveway and flee but instead only revved the engine. The suspect fired one round before the victim was able to reverse the car and leave the scene. He noticed he had been hit by a bullet which grazed his thumb. Detectives found a bullet hole in the victim's dashboard. Officers from Garfield Heights, Solon and Maple Heights were called to the area to search for the suspect with negative results.

• A man wearing a black coat, gray beanie and royal blue jogging pants with white stripes down the sides allegedly robbed the Walgreens at Turney and Rockside last Thursday, around 9:25 p.m., according to reports. Employees said the man brought a package of toilet

paper to the checkout counter, then demanded all the money from the register be put in a Walgreens bag. The employees complied and the man fled. The employees were not sure if a getaway vehicle was involved. A copy of surveillance video footage was to be given to the Detective Bureau for further investigation.

Criminal Damage/Theft from Auto

Criminal damage and thefts from vehicles were reported to GHPD on November 6th from the following neighborhoods: 12900 block Orme Rd., 13200 block Hathaway Rd., 13100 block Willard Ave., 5400 block E. 129th St., 4700 block Blythin Rd. On November 7th and 8th, damage to vehicles was also reported in the 12600 block of Oakview Blvd. and the 13600 block of Mapleleaf Dr.

Disorderly Conduct

On December 10th, around 10:10 p.m., police were dispatched to the area of E. 131st and Maplerow Ave. and found a man sitting completely naked in the middle of the roadway with cars passing by; his clothes were scattered in the road. Police were able to identify him as a 42-year-old Cleveland resident and noticed he had been sweating, even though the temperature outside was 20°F, and officers believe the man was high on PCP. Police said that as they approached the man he took a defensive stance and refused to turn around and put his hands behind his back. Officers deployed one round from a Taser and the man was arrested. He was taken to Marymount Hospital to be treated/evaluated and was issued a summons for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Fleeing

While on patrol on December 7th, around 2:15 a.m., officers heard a vehicle with a loud exhaust in the Warner Rd. and Garfield Blvd. area. Police followed the vehicle and attempted to pull the car over on Blythin but the vehicle fled and eventually crashed into a fence on Garfield Blvd. The driver, a 24-year-old Cleveland male, and the passenger, an 18-year-old female from Maple Heights, were immediately taken into custody. Inside the car, police found clear plastic baggies, 131 grams of marijuana, two plastic bags containing over 9 grams of a pink rock substance consistent with carfentanyl, several cell phones and over \$2000 in cash. The 18-year-old said the drugs were hers. The male and female were arrested and held on investigation of drug possession. The 24-year-old was cited for reckless operation, fleeing and eluding, driving under suspension, failure to control, muffler, excessive noise and running stop signs. The 18-year-old was issued a summons for possession of marijuana and the pink rock substance.

Theft

A 73-year-old woman told police someone snatched her purse from her shopping cart while she was loading groceries into her car in the Marc's parking lot on December 6th, around 6:40 p.m. A similar incident was reported to GHPD on December 1st. The woman said the male got into a black, 4-door sedan and fled the lot towards Turney Rd.

While police were still at Marc's, GHPD received a similar call concerning a purse theft at Dave's Supermarket at Turneytown. The suspect vehicle was described as a black Chrysler 200. GHPD had a report of a vehicle stolen matching that description on December 2nd. The same vehicle has also been reported as being seen in robberies and thefts in Cleveland. Police continue to investigate.

Weapon Offense

• Around 11:40 p.m. December 4th, police were dispatched to the Edgepark Dr. area near the Metroparks after receiving several complaints of shots fired in the area. Police found no evidence of shots fired on Edgepark but were flagged down by a Russell Ave. resident who said he heard several gunshots near his home, then noticed fresh damage to his vehicle. The front bumper had been grazed by a bullet and the front driver's side tire was flattened. He told police he did not believe he was specifically targeted.

Another Russell Ave. resident told police he saw someone at the intersection of Russell and Edgepark exit a vehicle from the driver's side, shoot indiscriminately in a southwest direction, then get back into a dark colored Ford 4-door and leave the area towards Edgepark Dr. Police found two spent rounds in the intersection.

• Police were dispatched to the area of Woodward and Eastwood Blvd. on December 6th, around 1 a.m., for a report of shots fired. Three males were congregating next to a white SUV but one of them fled on foot before police could question him. The two other males said they agreed to fight someone who lives on Hastings Rd. and when they got next to the Ace Hardware on Turney Rd. near Hastings they saw someone standing down the street who began firing shots at them so they ran away. They did not believe it was the same male they wanted to fight.

Police went to the suspect's home on Hastings and spoke to him. Six shell casings were found in front of his house. The man said the two males did want to fight him but when he went outside he didn't see anyone. He went back inside and heard several gunshots, then ran back out but didn't see anyone, according to the report. Police continue to investigate.

MAPLE HTS.

Aggravated Robbery

Police were called to the CD Game Exchange on Warrensville Center Rd. on December 8th, around noon, after a man came in with a gun and robbed the store. Dispatch notes said the man left on foot towards Libby Rd. and one shot was fired inside the store. Police put Milkovich Middle School on lockdown shortly after the incident was reported. The lockdown was lifted about 25 minutes later after officers searched the area for the suspect with negative results.

Burglary

A resident of the 5200 block of Henry St. told police someone broke into his unlocked garage overnight

(Continued on Page 11)

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P.D.S.

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Police reports

(Continued from Page 8)

between December 9th and 10th and stole a BB gun and flat tire.

Criminal Damage/Theft from Auto

Criminal damage and thefts from vehicles were reported to MHPD on December 8th and December 10th from the following neighborhoods: 15500 and 15600 block Rockside Rd., 19100 block Watercrest Ave., 16000 and 16100 block Edgewood Ave., 5100 and 5200 block Theodore St., 16000 block Friend Ave., 5200 block Henry St. and 16700 block Libby Rd.

Community awareness meetings set

G.H. Ward 5

The Garfield Heights Ward 5 Community Awareness Meeting will be held tonight, Wednesday, Dec. 13, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Garfield Heights Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd.

Guest speaker will be Jennifer Burke of Coldwell Banker. She will give a presentation related to the

Garfield Heights community and housing market. For more info contact Jason Blake at 216-338-7883 or Jake5585@yahoo.com.

G.H. Ward 6

The Garfield Heights Ward 6 Community Awareness Meeting will be held Monday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m. at the Garfield Heights Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd. This will be a Christmas Party meeting; bring a donation of canned food for the food bank or a dish to share.

Guest speakers will be State Representative Stephanie Howse and County Councilman Pernel Jones. Also join Councilman Matt Burke, Mayor Vic Collova, Police Chief Robert Byrne and other city leaders to discuss community issues. For more information log on to www.MattBurkeWard6.us.

N.N. online

Neighborhood News readers can now get their favorite newspaper online at: theneighborhoodnews.com.

The entire newspaper is available on the N.N. website every Wednesday morning and can be read in Adobe Acrobat. Just click on the front page to download the remaining pages.

MHPD investigating car accident, homicide

The Maple Heights Police Department is investigating a motor vehicle accident that happened near Friend and Paine aves. on Sunday and the shooting death of the driver, according to a press release from MHPD Captain Todd Hansen.

On Sunday, Dec. 10, at 10:19 p.m., Maple Heights Police received a call of gun shots heard, someone screaming, and a motor vehicle accident near the intersection of Friend Avenue and Paine Avenue. When officers arrived they found an Audi SUV that had driven off of Paine Avenue through some property and came to rest partially in the driveway of a home in the 16000 block of Friend Avenue.

Officers located a male, identified as 28-year-old Melvin Ephraim, in the driver seat of the vehicle with what appeared to be multiple gunshot wounds. The male was transported to Marymount Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 10:55 p.m., according to the press release. The Maple Heights Detective Bureau is investigating the case.

Anyone with information related to this case is urged to contact the Maple Heights Detective Bureau at 216-587-9624 or Detectives@mhpd-ohio.com.

Anonymous information can also be given to Crime Stoppers by calling the 24/7 hotline number, 216-252-7463; texting TIP657 plus your message to 274637; or online at www.25crime.com.

Man sentenced in C.H. School District fraud case

David Donadeo, 43, formerly of Broadview Heights, was ordered to pay \$2.6 million in restitution to the Cuyahoga Heights School District at his sentencing in Federal Court last week. Donadeo pled guilty to mail fraud conspiracy and money laundering.

Federal court Judge Benita Y. Pearson sentenced Donadeo to nearly six years in prison for his part in a scheme to defraud Cuyahoga Heights School District out of millions of dollars, according to court documents. Joseph Palazzo is serving an 11-year prison sentence for his role in the fraud case.

Upon release from prison, Donadeo is to serve a three-year term of supervised release with standard and special conditions of supervision.

Send in nominations for G.H. holiday lighting contest

Nominations for the annual Garfield Heights Holiday Lighting Contest are still being accepted. One winner in each city ward and a citywide winner will receive a certificate during a City Council presentation in January.

Send the address of your favorite residential holiday lighting display to the Garfield Heights Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights, OH 44125, Attn: Holiday Lighting Contest, or e-mail jduber@garfieldhts.org.

Nomination forms also are available at the Civic Center. Deadline for all nominations is December 21. For information, call Pat Salemi at 216-475-1100, ext. 2425 or e-mail psalemi@garfieldhts.org.

Call Crime Stoppers with tips

Crime Stoppers encourages members of the community to assist local law enforcement agencies in the fight against crime. By offering anonymity and cash rewards for information leading to indictment or arrests, the program encourages otherwise reluctant callers to provide information.

The 24/7 hotline number, 216-252-7463, allows the caller to remain anonymous. The phone does not have a caller ID function and calls are not recorded. Those with information can also text TIP657 plus your message to 274637, or can submit information online at www.25crime.com.

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City of Maple Heights working on Master Plan

After being awarded a grant from the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission for an updated Master Plan, the city of Maple Heights held its first of several public meetings last week. Various goals were established at the meeting with the input of the Steering Committee members comprised of residents, some elected officials, business owners and other stakeholders.

Work on the city's new 5- to 10-year master plan will continue through May 2018, as members of the county's Planning Commission and Maple Heights complete their work together to develop a comprehensive Master Plan for the city of Maple Heights.

"We are putting in the hard work for a defined and designed plan for the future by citizens and stakeholders for a better, successfully diverse and prosperous city," said Mayor Annette Blackwell. "One that no one can label as failing. We are winning again on so many levels."

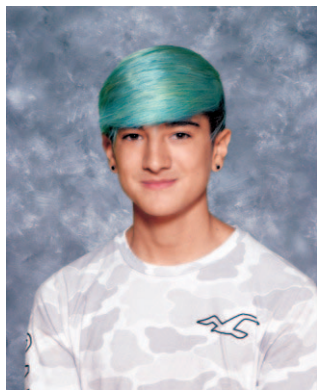
CHHS students of the month

Cuyahoga Heights High School has named the Students of the Month for December. They are: Jaxson Williams (9th grade); Tyler Del Valle (10th grade); Brooke Wilson (11th grade); Emma Lipkowski (12th grade).

Each month teachers nominate students who have shown examples of hard work, good deeds, positivity, etc., and Principal Matt Young decides who becomes the Student of the Month in each grade. Congratulations to these hard-working students!



Jaxson Williams



Tyler Del Valle



Brooke Wilson



Emma Lipkowski

HOLIDAZZLING!



The 2nd annual HoliDazzle, hosted by Fleet Stakeholders, brought over 300 neighbors together on Friday, Dec. 1, to enjoy camaraderie over bountiful food and drinks at the Magalen on Fleet Avenue. Many Slavic Village business owners and residents shared their favorite dishes at the spectacular potluck dinner.

After the tree lighting across the street, the sights and sounds of Christmas filled the room as The Good Knights encouraged residents to sing along to Americana-styled Christmas carols. Children enjoyed making holiday ornaments and lit up when Santa (shown above) and

Mrs. Claus made their appearance. A holiday market was held on the second floor, where food and craft makers lined the room.

Fleet Stakeholders said they were happy to host the event for the neighborhood and plan on keeping this as an annual tradition in Slavic Village.

G.H. museum open Sats.; offers sale of holiday gifts

The Garfield Heights Historical Museum, located at 5405 Turney Rd. in front of the Civic Center, will be open to the public every Saturday in December from 1 to 4 p.m., containing hundreds of items from the rich history of Garfield Heights dating back to the 19th century. Admission is free.

Three popular historical pamphlets are available for sale for holiday gift giving, as well as t-shirts and a more detailed history of Garfield Heights. Group tours of the museum are also available.

The museum also hosts

next meeting is set for Saturday, Jan. 13. For more information, call 216-475-3050 or visit www.ghhist.org. New members are always welcome.

Block watch

The East 63rd St. Block Club will host a Christmas meeting on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. in the St. Stanislaus School basement, 6615 Forman Ave., Cleveland. There will be a Christmas pot luck dinner; bring a covered dish to share if possible. A 50/50 raffle will be held. All are welcome!

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Learning Circle annual performance

The Learning Circle, located at 10204 Granger Rd. in Garfield Heights, will host its annual Christmas performance this Friday, Dec. 15, at 6:30 p.m.

All will find joy in the sweet songs of children's voices that is sure to kick off your Christmas spirit! Attendance is free with advanced reservations. Call Rachiel at 216-365-3341 for details.

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When the front page appears, click on it to download the rest of the pages

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