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95th YEAR NO. 22

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2018

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

FREE



Pictured are members of the Garfield Heights High School academic team competing this Saturday on the TV show "Academic Challenge." From left are: Allison Wierzbowski, Audrey Sajovie and Riyan Sita, with their coach, Ben Swope.

GHHS on 'Academic Challenge'

Members of the Garfield Heights High School academic team will appear on News Channel 5's "Academic Challenge" this weekend against students from Mayfield and North high schools.

Team members that will be featured on the show are Allison Wierzbowski (senior), Audrey Sajovie (senior) and Riyan Sita (sophomore). The students are coached by Ben Swope, a geometry and senior math teacher at GHHS.

"One word to describe this group of students is positivity," said Swope. "They are always smiling and laughing and just have an incredible attitude towards each other and the competition."

Tune in to Channel 5 this Saturday, Feb. 17, at 7 p.m. to see how they do!

New dispatch agreement on first reading in Maple Hts.

By Judith Goldsworth

A resolution authorizing Mayor Annette Blackwell to enter into a New Member Participation Agreement with the Chagrin Valley Dispatch Council for dispatch services for the city effective July 1, 2018, was placed on first reading at last week's Maple Heights Council meeting.

In an effort towards regionalization, Maple Heights was one of four communities that ceased providing their own in-house dispatching services to join the Southeast Emergency Communications Center in Bedford Heights in 2015, along with Garfield Heights, Bedford and Bedford Heights.

Continued on Page 4)



Garfield Hts. Council passes bills to get ball rolling on dispatch center

To implement its plan to move emergency dispatch services back to Garfield Heights, city council, at its regular meeting Monday night, passed two emergency ordinances to buy radio equipment and have it installed.

An agreement with Motorola Solutions, Inc. for the purchase of radio equipment, at a cost not to exceed \$70,000, was okayed by council, along with an agreement with B&C Communications to install the radios, at a cost not to exceed \$35,000.

Also passed by Garfield Heights Council were:

- Small fee increases at the Dan Kostel Recreation Center. Resident passes would be raised from \$10 to \$15, and nonresident passes from \$35 to \$40. Hikes were also approved for specific programs at the Rec Center.

- An agreement with Fire House to buy eight sets of fire gear at a total cost not to exceed \$24,000.

- A directive to City Engineer David Krock to prepare plans, per the OHM Advisors proposal, to go out for competitive bids for the Midwest Neighborhood Storm/Sanitary Sewer System Reconstruction Project - Phase 2. The purpose of this project is to eliminate residential basement flooding, improve water quality in area waterways and reduce and eliminate property damage.

- A directive to apply for the 2018 Community Recycling Awareness Grant.

- Approval of the adoption of the Cuyahoga County 2017-2022 All-Hazards Mitigation Plan as the official Hazard Mitigation Plan for the city of Garfield Heights.

- Slight raises for non-union pay positions with the city.

Parks & Recreation Director Robert Dobies said the 25th annual "Chuck Kurilko" Melt the Ice Hockey Tournament will be held at the Dan Kostel Recreation Center's ice rink, 5411 Turney Rd., this Friday, Feb. 16, through Monday, Feb. 19.

The next regular meeting of council is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 26.

Fatal M.H. house fire

A 100-year-old woman, Sophia Lingro, died in a house fire in Maple Heights last Thursday, Feb. 8, according to Maple Heights Police Lieutenant Joseph Mocsiran.

Around 5:45 a.m. last Thursday, Maple Heights police received a call for a possible house fire at 15000 James Ave. Officers responded, along with the Maple Heights Fire Department and other surrounding fire departments. Residents had already evacuated the single family home and indicated a female was still on the second floor, according to Mocsiran.

Firefighters subsequently located Lingro, who was unresponsive. She was transported to Marymount Hospital and later pronounced deceased due to smoke and soot inhalation, according to the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner.

"At this time there is no indication of foul play," said Mocsiran. The State Fire Marshals are investigating.

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.

G.H. man indicted on drugs, firearms charges

Tyrone Cammon, 29, of Garfield Heights, was recently charged in a seven-count indictment with possession with intent to distribute carfentanil, fentanyl, heroin and fentanyl analogues, using a firearm in relation to drug trafficking, and being a felon in possession of a firearm, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Ohio.

"This defendant sold the same drugs that have killed thousands of our friends and relatives and illegally carried a firearm as part of his drug trafficking," said U.S. Attorney Justin Herdman in a press release.

Cammon possessed fentanyl for distribution on April 9, 2016, as well as a firearm he used in relations to his drug trafficking, according to the indictment.

He possessed heroin and more than 12 grams of methoxyacetylfentanyl, carfentanil and fentanyl pharmacophore for distribution, according to the indictment.

Cammon possessed two Glock .40 caliber pistols and a FNH 5.7x28mm pistol at various times in March 2016, April 2016 and November 2017, despite three previous convictions for drug trafficking, a previous conviction for assault and a previous conviction for attempted tampering with evidence, the indictment states.

The case is being prosecuted by assistant U.S. attorneys Scott Zarzycki and Kelly L. Galvin following an investigation by the Lakewood and Cleveland police departments, the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms and the U.S. Marshals.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, the press release concludes.

Cuy. Valley Republicans meet

The Cuyahoga Valley Republicans (CVR) will meet Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m. at the Brecksville Community Center, One Community Drive.

Special guests will be Mike Gibbons, candidate for the U.S. Senate, and State Representative Christina Hagan, candidate for U.S. Congress (16th District).

The public is welcome. For more information visit www.cv-gop.com.

St. Michael School drama club presents...

The St. Michael School Drama Club will present "Mirror Image, A Real Enchanted Musical" on Thursday and Friday, Feb. 22 and 23, at 7 p.m. in the Independence Middle School auditorium, located

at 6111 Archwood Rd.

The play is directed by Jarred Nichols; Choreographer/Teacher: Judy Lasecki; Music Director/Alumnus: Gregory Paparizos; Advisor/Teacher: Adam Cottos.

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

~ Death notice ~

PAUL J. WITKIEWICZ, longtime employee of Dave's Supermarket on Harvard Avenue, passed away February 7th. He was 61.

Paul was the beloved son of the late Joseph and Virginia (nee Merva); dearest brother of Mike and the late Joseph Jr.; dear uncle of many.

Services were handled by Komorowski Funeral Home. Private burial at St. Mary Cemetery. Mr. Witkiewicz was an avid fan of Cuyahoga Heights school sports and helped with small chores and maintenance at Komorowski Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions for funeral services. A GoFundMe account has been set up in his name at www.GoFundMe.com.

Happy Valentine's Day!



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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, Feb. 16. For more information or carryouts, call 216-475-9365.

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



1st Annual Youth Boys & Girls "3x3 Basketball League"

Games played Wednesday Nights at Elmwood Elementary School
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NEW G.H. FIREFIGHTER Community police reports



Gary Abshire was sworn in recently as a new firefighter in Garfield Heights. Shown above in council chambers following the ceremonies are, from left: Fire Chief Tom Nemetz, Firefighter Abshire and Mayor Vic Collova.

GARFIELD HTS.

Attempted Theft

A Twinsburg resident called police on February 11th and said she had been in her car in the parking lot of the Garfield Heights library around 5 p.m. when she was startled by a knock on her driver's side window. She said a man had been standing at her window with a green bandana covering his face and he demanded that she give him \$40. No other threat was made and she did not

see a weapon, according to the report. She said she immediately put her car in reverse and left the parking lot. Police searched the area for the suspect with negative results.

Weapon Offense

During a traffic stop on February 4th, around 7:15 p.m. near Turney and Granger rds., police found a loaded gun, two glass jars containing fresh marijuana and a digital scale inside the vehicle. The driver, 20, of Garfield Heights, said the gun and one of the jars

was his. The passenger, 19, also of Garfield Heights, said the second jar of marijuana belonged to him. As the males were detained and searched, police found a large amount of cash on each male. Due to the presence of drugs and weapons, the cash was seized.

The 19-year-old was issued a summons for possession of marijuana and was released. The driver was taken into custody and charged with improper handling of a firearm in a vehicle and no rear license plate illumination. He was issued a summons for possession of drugs and para-

phernalia. The case has been forwarded to the Detective Bureau for further investigation.

MAPLE HTS.

Attempted B&E

Two residents in the 5100 block of Catherine Street, one a cousin of the suspect, reported that a man armed with a butcher knife kicked in their doors around midnight on February 9th. Another resident in the area reported hearing gunshots fired and someone banging on her front door. Police quickly responded and arrested the 25-year-old male.

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New dispatch agreement

(Continued from Page 1)

However, last year, citing concerns with responsiveness and other issues, Bedford chose to leave the SECC and join Chagrin Valley Dispatch Center, based at University Hospitals in Bedford, which serves many other communities in Northeast Ohio. Garfield Heights recently announced plans to return dispatching services to its

city's own Justice Center in the coming months. Maple Heights Council is expected to discuss the resolution to join Chagrin Valley for possible passage at a future meeting.

First reading for declaring bar a nuisance

Occurrences of gunshots, weapons offenses and other incidents at the Spotlight Lounge over the past 10 months, as reported by Mayor Blackwell and Police Chief John Popielarczyk, were the focus of a resolution declaring the business a "nuisance," that was also placed on first reading by Maple Heights Council at its meeting last week.

Spotlight Restaurant and Lounge LLC and 1723 Entertainment Inc. jointly operate at the premises, located at 5154 Warrensville Center Road, the resolution states, with the liquor permit owned through its sole owner, Dallas Owens, of Maple Heights.

According to the resolution, incidents reported at Spotlight include thefts, fights, gunshots, weapons violations, assault, liquor violations, suspicious activity, repossessed vehicle and falsification.

The legislation states that

Blackwell and Popielarczyk have found and reported their findings that use of the Warrensville Center Road property from March 2017 to the present "constitutes a nuisance subject to abatement due to repeated calls for service and criminal activity occurring on the property."

Additionally, on Wednesday, Jan. 24, police received a call from the Ohio Investigative Unit which was conducting an investigation at Spotlight regarding nudity and strip dancing.

Council is expected to discuss the legislation before possible passage at a future meeting.

Senior living facility legislation fails

A resolution authorizing Blackwell to enter into a Real Estate Option Agreement with Wallick Asset Management LLC, which

has proposed developing a 46-unit senior living facility on the former Petitti's property on Lee Road, failed to pass at last week's council meeting.

A special meeting of council will be held this week to consider a new resolution on the Wallick proposal, Council President Ron Jackson stated.

Legislation passed

An ordinance to extend the 100 percent escrow requirement to correct violations resulting from point of sale inspections in the city in order to offer an incentive to individuals who buy residential properties and live in them for two years was passed at last week's meeting. The waiver, which is being extended from last year, is retroactive to January 2, 2018, and is effective until December 31, 2018.

Also passed was an ordinance that had been tabled at previous meetings authorizing Finance Director Tracy Smith to prepare and file an amended 2018 Certificate of Estimated Resources with the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer, which reflects this year's budget. Total funds are stated at \$23.6 million, according to information released by Smith.

An ordinance authorizing Blackwell to enter into a grant agreement to accept the balance of the 2018 NOPEC Energized Community Grant for the LED Municipal Lighting Program was approved by council.

Cleveland PD investigates suspicious death on 55th

Cleveland police and the Homicide Unit are investigating the death of Henry Menefee, a 34-year-old man found at E. 55th St. and Blanche Ave. last week, according to Cleveland police Sgt. Jennifer Ciaccia.

Around 5:30 p.m. last Thursday, Feb. 8, officers responded to the intersection of E. 55th St. and Blanche for a male down in the street with head trauma. He was taken to MetroHealth Medical Center where he was pronounced deceased, according to Ciaccia.

At the hospital, police learned the victim had a pacemaker. The cause of death has not yet been determined, according to the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner.

Members of the Homicide Unit, along with the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner, responded to the scene and to the hospital for investigation. The medical examiner will determine the final cause of death. The incident remains under investigation.

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Defibrillators to be installed in city buildings throughout Bedford

By Judith Goldsworth

In the interest of safety, City Manager Mike Mallis announced at last week's Bedford Council meeting that Fire Chief Dave Nagy and the Bedford Fire Department were instrumental in acquiring several new automated external defibrillators (AED) to be installed throughout city buildings.

AEDs are electrical devices that can be used in an emergency to help save the lives of individuals undergoing cardiac events, including arrhythmia, until emergency personnel can respond and give additional life-saving treatment.

"I commend the fire department and Chief Nagy, as they have collectively gotten together and looked at acquiring an AED device for multiple departments in City Hall," Mallis stated. "We're acquiring three of these devices for areas of the Recreation Department in the building, at the pool, on the senior van, and we will have one here in the lobby of City Hall] if needed, as well as one over in the police department. So well done to the fire department for that," he added.

Mallis also commended the city's service department for applying for funding assistance for repair work on Cuyahoga County roadways, including Rockside and Columbus roads.

Mallis also stated that 2018 was the first year that the city was eligible to apply for a county grant to update Bedford's Master Plan, as the plan has not been updated for 10 years.

"We want to make sure, if we do go after funding, to be as successful as we can and put the proper procedures in place," Mallis said.

Council action

Legislation amending an ordinance entitled "Recreation Program Registration Fees" was placed on first reading by council at last week's meeting, for further discussion. (Continued on Page 7)

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Defibrillators to be installed

(Continued from Page 5)

The ordinance currently lists registration fees for the following recreation programs: \$40 for basketball (\$60 for nonresident); \$40 for baseball/softball (\$60 for nonresident); \$40 for soccer (\$60 for nonresident); \$90 for a family of three or more children (\$140 for nonresident); and \$500 for playground/summer camp (nonresident N/A).

Mayor Stan Koci stated, "Our wish is to put this on first reading, and it is not to change or increase fees; it is only to change how we allow the recreation director to establish them. That is why we are putting this on first reading."

Passed at last week's meeting were two ordinances dealing with energy costs in the city, one regarding acceptance of Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) Energized Community Grants for 2018, the other authorizing a contract for electrical power with Dynegy Energy Services East, LLC, to provide electrical power to all non-NOPEC consumption accounts at municipal facilities.

Eagle Scout honored

Koci presented a proclamation at the meeting honoring Matthew Hunter, a member of Troop 233 at Our

Lady of Hope Church in the city, for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor bestowed in the Boy Scouts of America.

For his Eagle Scout project, Hunter and his crew planted and mulched all the flower beds at Our Lady of Hope.

Announcements

Gambosi said interested candidates can take the next police test on Saturday, April 7. For more information, contact the city at 440-232-1600.

Go Nuts Donuts shop has opened up on Center Road next to Burger King in the city, Gambosi said, and encouraged residents to patronize the new business.

The Ellenwood Recreation Center will be closed in the coming months for asbestos removal, Councilwoman Heather Rhoades stated, adding that any groups meeting at the center would have to make alternative plans until the removal project is complete.

Residents who are interested in helping the elderly and disabled with yardwork and home repair tasks are invited to participate in a volunteer list that will be compiled in the city, Rhoades stated.

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed bids will be received by the Commissioner of Purchases of the City of Garfield Heights until 1:00 p.m. on Friday, February 23, 2018 for the following:

General Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA's)

Specifications for the above are available at the Finance Department, Room 224, Civic Center, 5407 Turney Road Garfield Heights, OH 44125. Funding for this project is listed under FEMA AFG Grant No. EMW-2016-FO-05192 and Cuyahoga County FY2016 Assistance to Firefighters Grant.

THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS.

The Neighborhood News
Wednesday, February 7, 2018
Wednesday, February 14, 2018



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Valley View police chief to retire; other council notes

Valley View Police Chief Matthew March is retiring from the department effective this Friday, Feb. 16, after over 30 years with Valley View PD. He started as a patrolman in 1984.



Chief March

At the Valley View Council meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 6, Mayor Tom Piasecki thanked Chief March for his years of service and wished him well in future endeavors.

Legislation passed at Tuesday's meeting included an ordinance to make appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the Village during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018 totalling \$17,241,895.

Three ordinances involving the purchasing of homes under the FEMA Grant were also passed. The overall project cost should be \$1,723,740 for homes on Canal Road, Murray Road and Fosdick Road that have been affected by flooding. "The worst part of losing the homes is losing the families," said Piasecki.

Council passed legislation authorizing the police and

fire departments to purchase accessories for the new 800 MHZ portable radios from various vendors at a cost not to exceed \$14,400.

Council also passed legislation allowing the Village to hire Independence Cement for the 2018 Salt Bin and Bus Garage Pavement Improvements project at a cost of \$45,765 and for the Village to hire R.C.U. Architects to prepare plans and specifications for the Soccer Field Restroom Facility in Valley View Woods Park at a cost of \$13,500.

Recreation Director Todd Von Ville thanked council, the Recreation Board and Engineer Todd Sciano for their help with the project and hopes to have it up and running by the fall soccer season.

New NN 'Freebies' offered

The Neighborhood News has free tickets to give away for local events published in its weekly edition. Stop in to The Neighborhood News, 8613 Garfield Blvd., Garfield Heights, and enter to win free tickets to local events.

The newest addition to the Freebies list is two tickets for the February 22nd performance of "Mirror Image, a Real Enchanted Musical," by the St. Michael School Drama Club, being held at 7 p.m. at the Independence Middle School auditorium, 6111 Archwood Rd., Inde-

pendence. Deadline to enter drawing is Thursday, Feb. 15.

Winners will be notified by phone and are limited to one winning entry every six months. Stop in today during normal business hours and enter the drawing!

The Neighborhood News
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Block watch

The Garfield Heights Ward 7 Block Watch will meet Thursday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. in the St. Augustine Room of St. Benedict School, 13633 Rockside Rd. Non-perishable items for the St. Vincent DePaul food pantry appreciated. Nikki Majka, 216-310-6514.

Happy Valentine's Day...

from



JOE LAMALFA

Ward 2 Councilman
City of Garfield Heights

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



- Happy Valentine's Day, TJ and Ryleigh! Love, Grandma
- Happy Valentine's Day to my lovely wife Arlene. With true love forever. Yours, Gary
- Happy Valentine's Lenore. I Love You Very Much. Love, Skip
- David, Our valentines may be a smile, a cheerful word or two, a helping hand, a tender glance, that signals "I Love You." -Shelly
- To my favorite wifey. 17 years of laughs, tears and adventure my love, helper, my best friend. GO STEELERS.
- Mark, for all you do and all you are! Love, Debbie
- How ironic you feed everyone at Arconic. I love you, Carol. Your Airman Comic, Denny.
- Sandra Rae, Just wanted to say. Going on 33 years and you still make my barn dance and shower stall. There's plenty more that's not all. 143 D
- Happy Valentine's Day, Mushy. You're the sweetest Valentine we know. Love you. Michael, Malcolm, Maxx

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