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95th YEAR NO. 35

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2018

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FREE

## Bedford Council approves plans for church in former party center

By Judith Goldsworth

After extensive discussion, Bedford Council approved a recommendation of the Planning Commission for The Redemption Center Church to move into the former Catered Elegance facility at 1200 Broadway Ave., at its meeting last week.

Some officials expressed their concerns about having another church in the city, as some entities had presented themselves as churches, while using their facilities for "everything but a church," as Councilwoman Sandy Spinks stated.

Other concerns included the fact that the church's parking lot would be located across the street, requiring visitors to cross a busy Broadway Avenue, and that the site, originally

built as a gathering hall by the Sisters of Charity and used later for decades as a catering hall, would be used for a church and not as a banquet facility.

The church will be led by Bedford native Rev. Neal May, who currently oversees a congregation of 100 at a location in Bedford Heights, but told city officials he was seeking a more permanent facility where he could hold worship services on Sundays and mid-week, and also weddings and funeral services.

May said that The Redemption Center Church would serve all faiths, ethnicities and cultures, calling it an "evangelical" mission.

The location is on the grounds of the former Sisters of Charity Motherhouse, which housed and

educated nuns of the order from the 1930s until its closing in 2010.

Also on the grounds is a shrine that attracted visitors from throughout the area for decades. The gathering hall was originally built to serve meals to those who made pilgrimages to the shrine, stated Sr. Dorothy Ann Blatnica, a representative of the order who spoke about the property's history and legacy at last week's meeting.

Paul Testa of Testa Enterprises, which is in the process of renovating the former motherhouse property into senior housing units, is also the owner of the hall, and told city officials at the meeting that he had been seeking another occupant since Catered Elegance vacated the premises several months ago.

The church would be its own entity and not connected to the senior housing development, both Testa and May stated. Testa said that he would be selling the facility to May through a lease/purchase agreement, with May owning it at the end of the five-year contract.

In an unusual move, Mayor Stan Koci allowed May, Blatnica and Testa to speak publicly before council's vote on the recommendation. Another speaker was Tony Vacanti, a land use counselor with

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued on Page 4)

## G.H. Council moves on new Justice Center Project

By Ellen Psenicka

Garfield Heights Council met Monday night and passed legislation to hire OHM Advisors to explore the possibility of acquiring a vacant building at City View Center and using it to construct a municipal center to house the city's police department, courthouse and jail, to be called the Justice Center Project.

Under Phase 1 of the project, OHM Advisors and CT Consultants would work towards acquiring the site and performing a building assessment on the structure selected to determine the cost and its feasibility for use as a municipal center.

To provide these initial development tasks for the Justice Center Project,

OHM Advisors will be paid a sum not to exceed \$35,000, as Monday night's legislation indicated.

Council also okayed an increase in the number of police lieutenants from six to seven to allow a lieutenant to manage the day-to-day operations of the dispatch center once it returns. Police Chief

## Indy PD to join combined dispatch center in Brecksville

The Independence Police Department will become part of a new combined dispatch center in Brecksville, hopefully by the end of this year, according to Independence Police Chief Michael Kilbane.

Kilbane said Seven Hills, Brecksville and Broadview Heights will utilize the new center, which will be housed in the Brecksville Police Station, and hopes more cities will join the center in the future.

## Broadway building blazes in G.H.



**BasQue Entertainment Complex and Bistro on Broadway Avenue in Garfield Heights caught fire Monday afternoon around 4 p.m. A total of 15 area fire departments arrived to help bring the fire under control.** Photo by Michael Psenicka

A major fire at BasQue Entertainment Complex and Bistro on Broadway Avenue in Garfield Heights had members of the Garfield Heights Fire Department actively working the fire from 4 p.m. Monday evening to about 1:30 a.m. Tuesday, according to GHFD Captain Jim Toth.

Toth said a total of 15 departments responded to the building located at 10600 Broadway Ave. to help extinguish the flames on Monday, May 14. He said local departments came to help, and as the fire was declared a 3-alarm blaze, departments from Pepper Pike and Beach-

wood also arrived. "It was a major incident as far as manpower," Toth said.

He said the fire ripped through the building causing the roof to collapse and the interior to be "pretty much gutted." When GHFD arrived Toth said there was heavy smoke coming from the second and third floors of the building, but officials are still unsure where the fire started.

Due to structural damage and debris, the Garfield Heights fire investigator and the state fire marshal were unable to enter the building to determine the cause of the fire Monday

and were to start investigating Tuesday morning, according to Toth.

"I'm thankful for having so many departments respond. It was a fantastic help and they did a fantastic job," said Toth.

## G.H. fugitive arrested

Re'Jon Luttrell, the 19-year-old featured as Fugitive of the Week on the front page of last Wednesday's Neighborhood News, was arrested by the US Marshals Fugitive Task Force in Warrensville Heights last Thursday. Luttrell was wanted by the Garfield Heights Police Department for attempted murder.

Luttrell was arrested near the 4700 block of Walford Rd. in Warrensville Heights, according to a release from the US Marshals. His arrest was a result of a tip provided to the task force.

## Cuyahoga Hts. Council news

The Village of Cuyahoga Heights Council met last Wednesday, May 9, and authorized the issuance of notes not to exceed \$3,585,000 in anticipation of the issuance of bonds to construct and renovate various municipal facilities, including construction and equipping of a police facility, and various road and sidewalk improvements.

Also approved was a winter contract with the state for 1,000 tons of road salt for the 2018-19 season.

A resolution was okayed for a contract with

Sundance Systems for computer software and services for the dispatch radio.

The \$45,236 bid of Fabrizi Trucking & Paving Co. was accepted for site preparation for the Willowbrook Connector to Bacci Park Trail. A contract with Fabrizi was also approved for annual catch basin, sewer and pavement repairs at a cost not to exceed \$25,000.

Mayor Jack Bacci was authorized by council to apply for an Ohio Natureworks Grant through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

And the Finance Committee approved an amount not to exceed \$18,000 for Verrocco Construction to update the dorms at the Fire Department.

Prior to the Cuyahoga Heights Council meeting last week, Mayor Bacci introduced 4-year old Miss Poppy, Brianna Budner from Newburgh Heights Post 627. Her older brother, Dezmond, was the Post's Master Poppy five years ago.

Before asking everyone for a poppy donation, which goes to help veterans and their families,

Brianna asked the mayor if there were any veterans in the audience. There were: retired Fire Chief Neal Cash, resident Richard Grabowski and Patrolman Kevin Stack, who is a United States Army veteran who served in Iraq.

Also that evening, Detective Jeremy Grabowski was sworn in as Lieutenant with the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department. Mayor Bacci commented that he looks forward to him taking on this leadership role – not only bringing his investigatory skills, but also his administration skills back on shift.



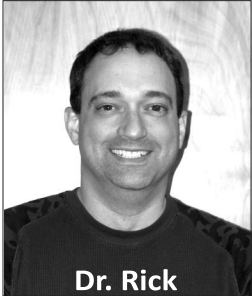
Newly sworn in Lt. Jeremy Grabowski is shown here with some of his Cuyahoga Heights Police Department colleagues. From left are: Patrolman Kevin Stack, Lt. Kenneth Schoeffler, Chief Brian Sturgill, Lt. Jeremy Grabowski, Lt. Joe Wallace and Deputy Chief Mark Davis.



Little Miss Poppy Brianna Budner visited with Cuyahoga Heights officials at last week's council meeting. She is shown here with Mayor Jack Bacci.

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### Lupus support group meets

The Lupus Foundation of America, Greater Ohio Chapter, will hold its monthly Maple Heights Lupus Support Group meeting on Saturday, May 19.

In observance of Put On Purple (POP) Day, the group will meet at Tower City in downtown Cleveland from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to help spread lupus awareness. Tower City will also be lit up with the color purple.

For information or to RSVP as a volunteer, call 1-888-NO-LUPUS by 5 p.m. today, Wednesday, May 16.

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## G.H. Council moves

(Continued from Page 1)

Robert Byrne indicated that May 31st is the "go-ahead date" for the center's move back to Garfield Heights.

Also passed was an emergency ordinance to hire Motorola Solutions, Inc. to install the Emergency Callworks system for the new dispatch center. Byrne said the computer system is used to direct the 911 calls.

An emergency resolution authorized the Garfield Heights Fire Department to apply for the Lowe's Community Partners Grant, which awards between \$2,001 to \$100,000 to support high-need projects such as building renovations, grounds improvements, technology upgrades and safety improvement.

Council also passed the following ordinances to:

- Issue and sell \$2,200,000 in notes in anticipation of issuance of income tax revenue bonds to pay for street improvements in the city.
- Authorize Judge Deborah Nicastro of the Garfield Heights Municipal Court to accept two grants from the Supreme Court of Ohio totaling \$26,780 to support local court technology projects.
- Amend the collective bargaining agreement between the city and Local 2729 and Council 8 AFSCME, AFL-CIO to reflect a two percent wage increase or a 48-cent per hour wage increase, whichever is greater.
- Provide for holiday council meeting changes for 2018, including rescheduled meetings to May 29th, November 13th and December 27th.
- Establish a pay grade for a new position of part-time safety coordinator to handle Worker's Compensation issues.
- Authorize the mayor to enter into an amended agreement with Craig Realty Group to provide a funding mechanism for the Granger/Transportation Blvd. Improvement Project - Transportation Blvd. Bridge Widening, and an agreement with the GPD Group to prepare engineering design services for the Granger/Transportation Improvement Project, Phase 2.

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## Community police reports

By Amber Weisbarth

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

### BEDFORD

#### Att. Breaking & Entering

Police were called to a home on Glendale St. on May 9th, around 11:35 a.m., for a report of a male trying to break in. When police arrived they saw the back door had been broken and a window was smashed. Upon seeing police arrive, the suspect fled on foot but was eventually tackled and arrested nearby. He was in possession of several criminal tools including a pipe cutter, screwdrivers and a knife. Police said some of the tools had been identified as stolen from a vehicle in Bedford the night before.

The 27-year-old Bedford resident was held on a \$4500 bond for attempted breaking and entering, receiving stolen property and possession of criminal tools. He had two active warrants with Bedford PD and was wanted by several other departments.

### CLEVELAND

#### Aggravated Robbery

On May 9th, around 11:15 a.m., a 38-year-old woman said she pulled off the freeway and got out of her car near the 6300 block of E. 49th St. near Fleet Ave., after her tire had gone flat. A male approached her with a handgun and demanded money. She said the male repeatedly yelled at her to get back in her car but she refused and told him several times that she

did not have any money. She told police the man then fled the area on a bicycle. She said he was wearing a cream-colored sweatshirt with sports team patches, blue cut-off shorts and black shoes. Officers did not locate the suspect.

Police spoke to a woman at E. 65th St. and Fleet Ave. about 20 minutes earlier who said a male matching that description had tried to rob her while she was doing yard work outside. She described him as a teen, possibly 16-18 years old. She said he pointed a gun at her and demanded money, but when she said she didn't have any, he fled the scene on a bicycle that was lying nearby. Police again searched for the suspect but came up empty. Detective Bureau to continue investigation.

An employee of L&M Auto Sales at 6444 Union Ave. told police she was sitting at her desk on May 10th, around 10:30 a.m., when two armed males wearing gloves and bandanas over their faces came into the office, pointed their handguns at her head and demanded money. She told the males she didn't have any money, so they demanded all the keys to the vehicles in the lot and she complied, giving them a total of 87 keys. The males

also stole the woman's purse and that of another employee then fled the scene. Fourth District detectives were called to continue with the investigation.

### GARFIELD HTS.

#### Criminal Damage/Theft from Auto

Several residents reported damage done to their vehicles, car windows broken out and items stolen between May 7th and May 13th in the following neighborhoods: 13100 block Mapleleaf Dr.; 5100 block E. 113th St.; 5100 block E. 114th St.; 4900 block E. 106th St.; 6000 block of Andover Blvd.; 8000 block Garfield Blvd.; 12600 and 12700 blocks York Blvd.; and 5300 block E. 131st St.

#### Recovered Property

On May 7th, police were dispatched to Alvin Ave. to look for a stolen vehicle.

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## Independence Council update

Independence Council met in regular session on Tuesday, May 8, and passed several pieces of legislation for the city's the police and fire departments.

An ordinance was passed on second reading which provides for an increase in the maximum number of firefighter/paramedics for the fire department from 20 to 23.

"This change will allow council the flexibility to increase full-time shift staffing when needed," said Fire Steve Chief Rega.

Council also okayed the purchase and delivery of a brush truck for the fire department.

"The new vehicle will be replacing a 36 year-old unit," said Mayor Anthony Togliatti. "In addition to the old unit's capabilities, the new truck will have a much greater equipment-carrying capacity and will

allow for quicker deployment of equipment that is currently stored at the station. It will also carry rehabilitation supplies for on-scene rehab of personnel."

And the mayor said the new brush truck will be capable of accessing the new Hemlock Trail, which is currently under construction.

Other purchases approved by council were for a new police car for the police department, and for purchase and installation

of outdoor pool boilers and inline pumps that heat the Elmwood Park pool.

"Over the last two months we have experienced issues with the existing pumps and boilers, and in an effort to be pro-active and eliminate the chances of issues during the peak swim season, we are currently replacing the equipment," Togliatti said.

An ordinance enacting a temporary moratorium on small cell facilities and wireless support structures within the city for 120 days was also passed.

## Garfield Hts. Historical Society PLANT SALE EXTENDED

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## Garfield firemen sworn in



Three new firemen were sworn into the Garfield Heights Fire Department by Mayor Vic Collova at the Garfield Heights Council meeting Monday night. Shown above, from left, at the swearing in ceremonies are firefighters Gregory Pankuch, Brannon Barnes and Joseph Koe. *Photos by Wendy Walters*

# Death Notices

**ANDREW J. PAUL**, 60, of Garfield Heights, passed away May 11th.

He was the beloved son of Lucille (nee Kline) and Robert S. Paul (both deceased), a loving brother to four sisters and six brothers, a dear uncle and great-uncle.

Services will be Wednesday, May 16, at 11 a.m. at Holy Name Church, 8328 Broadway Ave., Cleveland. Visitation Wednesday from 9-10:30 a.m. at Golubski Funeral Home, 6500 Fullerton Ave., Cleveland.

**STEVESON (STEVE) V. PULEO**, 91, of Maple

Heights, passed away on May 8th.

Mr. Puleo was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1863, member of the Duca Degli Abruzzi Lodge of the Order of the Sons of Italy and Plasters and Masons Local 80.

Family suggests memorial contributions in his name to Veterans of Foreign Wars. Arrangements were handled by Ferfolia Funeral Home and a Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church.

**WAYNE W. SCHELIEN**, 73, passed away on May 8th. Mr. Schelien spent his teaching career serving the young people of Garfield Heights, specifically as a teacher, coach, and after retirement, as a building substitute, jobs coordinator and continued as a coach.



He was the beloved husband of Ann (nee Shelvey); loving father of Heidi, Ryan (Janice), Todd (fiancee Nicole Tagliarini); dear grandfather of Ryleigh, Jack, Mason, Kacie, Liam, Khloe, Luke, Avery; brother of the late Margaret Shutt and Carol Hufnagel; loving uncle and cousin of many.

Services were handled by Ferfolia Funeral Home. Memorial contributions are suggested in his name to the American Cancer Society, 10501 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44106.

## Bedford approves plans

(Continued from Page 1)

the law firm of Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, representing Testa Enterprises.

Vacanti said that he was aware of safety concerns expressed by officials, stating, "We're here to tell you that we're willing to work with the city. We certainly don't want any safety issues. We're willing to put in reasonable safeguards, such as a crossing guard, striping, better signing, those types of things."

## Also on agenda

Council acted on several pieces of legislation on the agenda, including passing an ordinance requiring owners of rental units to pay up on delinquent property taxes before they can renew rental license and inspection certificates for their properties. Other communities that have enacted similar legislation have seen an almost 80 percent drop in delinquent property taxes, City Manager Mike Mallis said.

An ordinance to approve a Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) Agreement between the city and Qua, Inc., for the planned Mazda auto dealership on 12-plus acres of land at the Meadowbrook Shopping Center area was passed at the meeting. The agreement will provide for an 80 percent real estate tax abatement on the property for 15 years. The city will continue to collect all payroll taxes, Koci said. Mallis said the amount to be invested in this new development is over \$3 million, and that the former FirstMerit bank building will be torn down for the dealership's relocation.

Approved was legislation for a contract with LEFFELECTRIC Energy Solutions for LED lighting and equipment at Ellenwood Recreation Center (\$5,000) and a contract with L.E. Scott Electrical to install the lighting (\$8,000), both of which will be reimbursed through a NOPEC grant, Mallis said.

Council rejected the recommendation of the Planning Commission which was to not allow a restaurant/entertainment complex at 339 Columbus Rd. After further details were submitted to the city on what would take place at the business, council approved Gregory Washington's request to open the establishment, Koci said.

Council approved the recommendation of the commission to allow Alex Jones to open a cigar store at 776 Broadway Ave.

## Announcements

Mayor Koci honored Larry Zilbert, owner of Cleveland Jewelry on Rockside and Northfield roads, for his 30 years of business in the city.

The Hawthorne Valley Youth Council, which consists of students in the Bedford School District, was recognized for efforts in participating in and improving the schools and community through educational programs and public service.

There will be a Shred Day held in the City Hall parking lot, 165 Center Rd., from 9 a.m. to noon this Saturday, May 19.

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(Continued from Page 3)

The vehicle's owner, a Bedford Heights resident, said she reported her car stolen earlier in the day and the car's GPS locator indicated the car was on Alvin Ave. As police arrived they saw the car exiting the E. 131st St. apartments and stopped the vehicle as it pulled into Gas USA. The female driver and three other occupants claimed they had no idea the car had been stolen.

Police searched the driver's purse and found three glass pipes, all containing suspected cocaine. The woman admitted to being an addict and police confirmed through LEADS that she had a felony war-

rant with Geauga County Sheriff's Department and a misdemeanor warrant with Macedonia. She was arrested and charged with receiving stolen property and possession of drug paraphernalia. There was no further information about the other three occupants in the report. The vehicle owner was contacted and arrived at the scene to reclaim her car.

**Theft of Vehicle**

A Garfield Heights man said he drove into the Boulevard Convenient parking lot on Garfield Boulevard on May 9th, around 3:35 p.m., and turned his truck off but left the keys in the ignition while he went into the store. While he was in

the store, his car was stolen. Police watched security camera footage and saw a green sedan pull into the lot next to the truck. A man got out of the sedan and got into the truck, then both vehicles fled southbound on E. 88th. St. Police searched the area for the suspects with negative results.

**Final meeting on Brecksville Rd. projects**

Independence Mayor Anthony Togliatti will share the Brecksville Road Streetscape and Downtown Greenspace project plans at a final public meeting set for Wednesday, May 23, from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Red Oak Room at the Civic Center, 6363 Selig Dr.

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## Volunteers install smoke detectors in S.V. homes during 'Operation Save-A-Life'

Dozens of volunteers fanned out into the Forest City and Fleet Avenue neighborhoods of Slavic Village last Saturday, visiting dozens of homes and making them safer by helping residents create fire escape routes and installing free smoke detectors and batteries.

Sponsored by the American Red Cross, the "Operation Save-A-Life" program also saw volunteers passing out literature on safety awareness and giving residents dusk to dawn porch light bulbs.

"I want to thank the Red Cross, Cleveland Fire Chief Angelo Cavillo and all the volunteers and sponsors for helping install smoke detectors and porch lights to families in our community," said Ward 12 Councilman Tony Brancatelli. "Operation Save-A-Life is a wonderful opportunity to edu-

cate residents on fire safety and awareness."

Residents who would like a smoke detector are asked to call the Smoke Alarm Hotline, 216-361-5535.

To volunteer for this initiative, call Volunteer Services at 216-431-3328 or email NEOvolunteer@redcross.org.

Timothy O'Toole, regional disaster officer with the American Red Cross, thanked Councilman Brancatelli and all those who helped make Saturday such a great success.

"We were able to provide smoke alarms to 175 homes and installed over 425 smoke alarms thanks to the dedicated volunteers from all over. This is truly an accomplishment," O'Toole said.

In the 20-plus years since Operation Save-A-Life was established, smoke alarms have been installed in more

than 150,000 homes, and the number of deaths caused by fire has decreased almost 90 percent.



Volunteers are shown installing a free smoke alarm in this Slavic Village home last Saturday.

## Hyacinth meeting set

The St. Hyacinth's Community Meeting is set for Wednesday, May 16, at 6 p.m. at Elizabeth Baptist Church, 6114 Francis Ave.

Representatives will discuss the impact of the Opportunity Corridor Project. Representatives from ODOT, Great Lakes Construction Company and Kokosing Construction Company will also attend.

For more info call 216-315-4593 or email johnr@slavicvillage.org.

**The Neighborhood News**  
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## G.H. community awareness meeting, cook-out next week

### G.H. Ward 6

Garfield Heights Ward 6 Community Awareness Meeting organizers will host the annual cook out next Wednesday, May 23, at 6:30 p.m. at the Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd. This will be the final meeting before summer break.

Garfield Heights United will supply hot dogs and hamburgers; attendees are asked to bring a dish to share. All members of the community are welcome. Info at [www.MattBurkeWard6.us](http://www.MattBurkeWard6.us).

SUBMIT YOUR COMMUNITY EVENTS AND ADVERTISING TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS VIA EMAIL: [NNEWS1923@AOL.COM](mailto:NNEWS1923@AOL.COM)

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## G.H. Civic Center closed Tuesday due to electrical fire

The Garfield Heights Civic Center was closed yesterday due to an electrical fire in the basement electrical room, according to fire officials. This is the second electrical fire at the building this year; the first was reported in early March.

The Garfield Heights Fire Department responded to the Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd., around 7:45 a.m. Tuesday. Officials found moderate smoke in the basement and found water in power supply lines that had leaked into an electrical box, melting electrical mechanisms, according to the fire report.

Two fans were used to ventilate the building. Electricians from Garfield Heights and contractors worked with CEI to assist the fire department in securing power, according to the report.

The scene was cleared just before 9 a.m. and the Civic Center remained closed for the day. City officials say it is likely that the building will reopen today. Call 216-475-1100 for office hours.

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### PUBLIC NOTICE FOR OPEN POSITIONS

Planning and Zoning Commission Applications will be available to qualified Maple Heights residents beginning **Wednesday, May 16, 2018** in the Clerk of Council Office, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio, 44137, to fill two (2) open positions for terms expiring **May 31, 2021 and May 31, 2023**.

The Planning and Zoning Commission consists of five (5) qualified electors of the City not holding any other official office in the Municipality, who have resided in the City not less than two (2) years prior to appointment, and who shall retain such residency during their appointed term.

Persons interested in applying for this position are to obtain an application from and submit completed applications to the Clerk of Council, Maple Heights City Hall, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio, 44137. **The deadline for submission of said applications is no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 25, 2018.** For further information, call the Clerk's office at (216) 587-9000.

Leonette Cicirella  
Clerk of Council  
City of Maple Heights

The Neighborhood News  
May 16, 2018  
May 23, 2018

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