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96th YEAR NO. 19

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2019

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FREE

Cornelius Pames indicted for September murder of Eucebia Garcia in S.V.

Prosecutor Michael C. O'Malley announced last week that a Cuyahoga County Grand Jury has indicted Cornelius Pames, Jr., 25, for the murder of 94-year-old Eucebia Garcia.

Pames has been charged with aggravated murder, murder, aggravated burglary, aggravated robbery, kidnapping, felonious assault and attempted murder. This case is eligible for capital specifications and will be reviewed by the Capital Review Committee at a later date.

Eucebia, 94, and her daughter, Marina Garcia, 74, both from Honduras, were in Slavic Village visiting family for the summer. At about 1:45 a.m. on September 17, 2018, Pames broke into the Garcia's Cleveland home on Gertrude Avenue, according to a press release from the prosecutor's office, and forced entry into the residence by pushing in a window air conditioner unit and crawling through the window.

Once inside, Pames assaulted the women who were sleeping in their bed, stole valuables, and then fled the scene, O'Malley said. Both victims were transported to MetroHealth Medical Center where Eucebia died from her injuries.

The Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office connected Pames' DNA to the scene of the crime, according to the press release.

Enter to win brand new NN 'Freebies'

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.

Brand new Freebies include two tickets to the St. Michael School Drama Club presentation of the musical "Peter Pan, Jr." at the Independence Middle School auditorium, 6111 Archwood Rd., Independence, on February 21 and 22, at 7 p.m.

Two sets of tickets will be given away. Deadline to enter is Thursday, Feb. 14.

Also on the new Freebies list are tickets to the Sokol Greater Cleveland Winter Exhibition taking place on Saturday, Feb. 16, at the Garfield Heights High School gymnasium, 4900 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights, with festivities beginning at 5:30 p.m. Deadline to enter is Thursday, Feb. 7.

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!

M.H. Council overrides mayor's veto of finance director bill; Blackwell feels 'disrespected'

By Judith Goldsworth

Despite Maple Heights Mayor Annette Blackwell's contention that the terms imposed by council "illegally usurp the appointing powers of the mayor," Maple Heights Council voted at its meeting last week to override Blackwell's veto of a resolution council passed earlier this month to reappoint current Law Director Frank Consolo to a specific term of office.

Council members, including Stafford L. Shenett, Sr. and Edwina Agee, who sponsored the resolution, said the terms in the legislation do not take away from the mayor's powers to appoint, as the City Charter allows for the mayor to appoint directors with approval of council.

The resolution states that Consolo, who has served as the city's law director since his appointment by Blackwell in September 2016, will continue in his post until December 31, 2019.

Consolo's reappointment and contract renewals will be for terms of two years, according to the legislation, which also states that Consolo entered into his current contract with the city "providing that the term was 'at the pleasure of the mayor.'"

Blackwell vetoed the legislation on January 8th, stating the following objections: that it would violate the current contract between Consolo and the city; that it "illegally usurped" the appointing powers of the mayor to appoint city directors; and that the resolution treated Consolo differently from other directors appointed by the mayor by adding a term of service, "instead of

serving at the pleasure of the mayor, like the finance and service directors.

Shenett and Agee stated that regarding the phrase "serving at the pleasure/will of the mayor" addressed the mayor's executive power to remove directors with or without cause.

The city charter does not require directors' contracts to be similar, Shenett and Agee also stated. They explained that "duties of a specific person are defined by the needs of the organization. The law director works for both the mayor and council, and his/her service is essential to both the executive and legislative branch."

After overriding Blackwell's veto of the legislation, Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella stated that per the city's codified ordinances, "The legislation shall take effect as though signed by the mayor."

Blackwell said she was disappointed with council's decision to move forward and approve the legislation. "I certainly feel disrespected and undermined in my powers to appoint, remove or suspend the directors of service, finance and law, which is within my executive power and is clearly outlined in our city's charter, which goes on to say that 'these appointments shall serve until removed by the mayor, or until their respective successors are appointed and qualified.'"

Blackwell added, "I further believe that this action is the beginning of more actions to lessen the effectiveness of my power and ability, gradually and insidiously."

(Continued on Page 3)

M.H. FIREFIGHTERS SWORN IN



On Monday, Jan. 14, Maple Heights Mayor Annette Blackwell swore in four new cadet firefighter/paramedics, Aaron Cammon, Scott Damas, Joshua Waddell and Ryan Rolf.

Cammon is the city's first African-American cadet firefighter/paramedic since the full-time union fire department was organized in 1953.

In the photo, from left, are: Fire Chief Vito Kavaliunas, Mayor Blackwell, new cadets Damas, Cammon, Waddell and Rolf, and Fire Captain Daniel Syphen.

Major theft at Bedford Recycling

Bedford Recycling, 144 Northfield Rd. in Bedford, was broken into overnight between January 12th and January 13th, and approximately \$137,000 worth of cash and precious metals were stolen, as well as a gun, according to a Bedford police report.

Police said someone broke through the cinderblock wall on the north side of the building, and once inside managed to open a safe and steal its contents, according to the report. Police found a sledgehammer and ball peen hammer at the scene.

Valley View Council notes

Valley View Council met Tuesday, Jan. 8, and authorized Mayor Jerry Piasecki to enter into a project agreement with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) for local cost sharing as part of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Homeowners will pay 12.5 percent of the local match for the 2018 HMGP program and the Village will reimburse homeowners 6/25 percent from the

NEORS grant.

Piasecki announced that resident Alyssa Kraig, a member of the Lady Barons hockey team, will attend the eighth Winter International Children's Games at Lake Placid. Young athletes from over 70 countries will compete and experience cultural exchanges. Alyssa is an eighth grade honors student at Cuyahoga Heights. She plays soccer, softball and volleyball.

Nominations for council positions were also held. The following people were elected to the respective positions:

Councilman David Wingenfled, council president pro-temp for 2019; Councilman Dan Westfall, council representative to the Planning Board for 2019; Rocco Casadonte, Jeff Grabel and Doug Dyer reappointed to the Recreation Board for two-year terms; Alan Sprague, Joe White, Michael Bertovich and Tony Fini reappointed to the Planning Board for one-year terms; Marty Johnston, Maria Eder (school board representatives), Sid Caplan and Jeff

Wyatt, EDG Committee for two-year terms; Elaine Pinter, Joni Piasecki, Dave Wingenfled, David Birth, Ingrid Koscielski and Frank Gosselin, Valley View Advisory Board for four-year terms.

The following ordinances were among legislation that was also passed at the meeting:

- An ordinance authorizing the mayor to enter into a project agreement with the NEORS for local cost sharing as part of the Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program.

- An ordinance authorizing the mayor to enter into an agreement with a real estate appraiser for assistance in the acquisition of homes as part of the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program.

- An ordinance authorizing the mayor to enter into an agreement with an architectural design firm for assistance in the elevation of homes as part of the Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program.

Council also authorized the Service Department (Grounds Division) to make repairs to the 2015 F350 plow/salt truck from Cenwald at a cost not exceed \$5,000.

Newburgh Hts. won't appeal ruling in defamation lawsuit



Newburgh Hts. Mayor Trevor Elkins

Newburgh Heights Mayor Trevor Elkins and three of his colleagues on Newburgh Heights Village Council — Dorene Kray, Steven Moran and Brian Schaffran - have announced that they do not intend to appeal a December 13, 2018 decision by Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge Stuart Friedman dismissing their lawsuit alleging that they were defamed by a news story produced and aired by WEWS-TV News 5 Cleveland entitled "How a Government-Sanctioned Deception in Newburgh Heights Has Taken Thousands of Dollars from Drivers."

In the lawsuit, Elkins and the council members sought damages for what Elkins said in a press release last Thursday was Scripps Media and Jonathan Walsh's "false portrayal" of the Newburgh Heights practice of billing at-fault drivers' insurance companies for village services that the insurance companies were contractually obligated to pay as a "scam" and "widespread scheme" to "charge people for calling the police" or for "getting into an accident" in Newburgh Heights.

Judge Friedman granted the defendants' request for dismissal based on a finding that the plaintiffs could not show that the false statements were made with the "actual malice" or "knowing or reckless" disregard for the truth that the First Amendment requires in defamation cases by public figures.

In doing so, however, Judge Friedman also stated that, "The evidence shows that defendants' exposé is nothing more than superficial stringing together of unrelated actions by the village — all perfectly legal — in order to create the illusion that there is something fishy happening in Newburgh Heights," the press release stated.

"A primary objective of our lawsuit was to obtain official recognition that News 5's story was a bogus smear-job, that the village's conduct in recovering funds from insurance companies for the unlawful acts of their drivers is perfectly legal, and that there was no "scam" going on in Newburgh Heights," said Mayor Elkins. "Judge Friedman's opinion expressly confirms all of this, and in light of this recognition, we've concluded that it is no longer worth undertaking the burden and expense of this lawsuit any further."

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Meetings:

G.H. Ward 7

The Garfield Heights Ward 7 Block Watch will meet Thursday, Jan. 31, at 7 p.m. in the St. Augustine Room of St. Benedict School, 13633 Rockside Rd., Garfield Heights. All are welcome. Nikki Majka, 216-310-6514.

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M.H. Council overrides

(Continued from Page 1)

In response, Shenett stated: "Council stands on its previous response to this issue, and will reiterate that the legislation coincides with the same requirements [that] prior law directors and their law firms served under. The resolution passed at the last council meeting is not unique to this administration. The city engineer and his firm, along with the law director and his firm, serve under contract with the city. Both contracts have expiration dates. The issue of appointing power is being used out of context and/or being overstated in this subject matter."

Biro appointment remains in committee

A resolution for the city to hire Garfield Heights Finance Director Barbara Biro to also serve as acting finance director for Maple Heights was on last week's agenda in an amended form, but remained in the Finance Committee, Cicirella stated.

The legislation still states that if Maple Heights Council passes it, Blackwell is authorized to enter into a contract with Garfield Heights, which has already passed legislation approving its end of the agreement, and also with Biro, to render temporary municipal finance services as set forth in the proposed contract.

However, the amendment states that the mayor is not authorized to pay Biro for any raise she may receive from Garfield Heights, and her contract shall end by April 30, 2019.

Posted on the city's website is notice of a special council meeting that was to be held last night at Maple Heights City Hall to discuss the Biro resolution. Further details were not available as of press time yesterday.

Senior transit contract okayed

A resolution authorizing Blackwell to enter into a contract with Senior Transportation Connection to conduct the day-to-day call center and scheduling operation of the city's Senior Transit Operations for 2019, was passed by council.

Blackwell and Human Services Director Linda Vopat recommended its passage for the transportation needs of senior citizens over 60 years of age and disabled citizens in Maple Heights to medical appointments, the Senior Center, group shopping and other locations, for the fixed amount of \$730 per month for the duration of the contract, ending December 31, 2019, according to the legislation. Fares are a \$1 donation except for the Food Bank, which is no pay, the contract states.

Council also passed a resolution observing the birthday of civil rights icon Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, Jan. 21, and honoring his life.

Slavic Village honors best holiday decorators

The streets of Slavic Village looked a lot like Christmas in December and a local arts group has given recognition to several property owners as winners of the 2018 Holiday Decorating Contest in the Village.

The winners are: The Kovar household on Ottawa Avenue, the Shutway household on Pallister Drive, and a Fullerton Avenue household which wishes to remain anonymous.

The Kinder household is in line for a lifetime achievement award for its years of extraordinary Christmas-time accomplishments on and around their property on Independence Road.

In addition to these private residences, Broadway Public Art has singled out several Fleet Avenue business owners who made a special effort to brighten up the neighborhood's signature streets.

They are: Fleet Bike Shop, Anthony Trzaska's Law Office, Bush Heating and Air Conditioning, Magalen Gallery, Saucisson Butcher Shop, Fortuna Funeral Home, Fairchild Printing, Commercial Enterprises, PLAV Lincoln Post #13 and Seven Roses Cafe.

Organizers regretted they were unable to fully acknowledge all holiday decorators. They say they'll hold the contest again in 2019.

From the courtroom...



Robert Jackson, 19, of Cleveland, was recently sentenced to six years in prison for felonious assault and criminal gang activity stemming from an April 2018 incident in Garfield Heights, according to Cuyahoga County Municipal Court records.

Jackson was accused of shooting a 17-year-old male in the chest and hand on April 2nd on North Parkway Avenue in Garfield Heights. Jackson was 18 at the time of the shooting.

He was arrested on April 11th and was initially charged with attempted murder, but pled guilty to felonious assault and criminal gang activity and the attempted murder charge was dropped, according to court records.

Jackson will serve his sentence at Lorain Correctional Institution.

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Ward 2 Councilman, City of Garfield Heights



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NOTARY

Fish fry at St. Andrew's *The Neighborhood News has new policy on meeting notices*

St. Andrew Eastern Orthodox Church, 16029 Maple Park Dr., Maple Heights, will be serving fish fry dinners from 4-6:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 25. For info or carryouts, call 216-475-9365.

The Neighborhood News management would like to inform NN readers and advertisers of the following new policies regarding meetings:

Beginning in January, no

meeting notices of any kind will be accepted as free news items except for community meetings organized or sponsored by a council member. All other meetings will cost \$10 and will include date, time, place and contact information.

Deadline to submit infor-

mation is Monday by 5 p.m. For further information call 216-441-2141 or email nnews1923@aol.com.

Send your favorite seasonal recipe to The Neighborhood News at nnews1923@aol.com. It may be featured in an upcoming issue! Please include name, phone number and city of residence.

Reader's Choice Recipe: Quick Corn Chowder

Serves 6-8

- 1 can cream of celery soup
- 1 can cream of potato soup
- 1 can New England Clam Chowder
- 1 can whole kernel corn, undrained
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Gloria Seneff, Slavic Village



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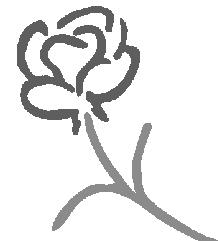
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PERSONALS

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, who light all roads, so that I can attain my goal. You who give me the Divine gift to forgive & to forget all evil against me & that in all instances of my life you are with me. I want this short prayer to thank you for all things, to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you even in spite of all material illusions. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer for 3 consecutive days, after 3 days the favor will be granted even if it may appear difficult. This prayer must be published immediately after the favor is granted without mentioning the favor. Only your initials should appear at the bottom. **L.O.**

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, who light all roads, so that I can attain my goal. You who give me the Divine gift to forgive & to forget all evil against me & that in all instances of my life you are with me. I want this short prayer to thank you for all things, to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you even in spite of all material illusions. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer for 3 consecutive days, after 3 days the favor will be granted even if it may appear difficult. This prayer must be published immediately after the favor is granted without mentioning the favor. Only your initials should appear at the bottom. **D.D.**

NOVENA TO SACRED HEART

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past, I have asked for many favors; this time I ask you for this special one (mention favor). Take a dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your heart where your Father sees it, then in his merciful eyes, it will become your favor, not mine. Amen. Say this prayer, 3 times for 3 days and your favor will be granted. Never known to fail. Must promise publication of prayer. **D.D.**

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Community police reports

By Amber Weisbarth

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

GARFIELD HEIGHTS

Aggravated Robbery

A 19-year-old woman said she was riding the RTA bus home from work on January 20th, and when she got off the bus near Marymount Hospital around 1:10 a.m., a man followed her off, which she said was unusual as she typically exits the bus alone. She said she started walking away and the man tried to get her attention, but she ignored him. She eventually stopped walking when the man approached her and waved his hand in front of her to gain her attention. The man then asked to see her cell phone, but she refused. Feeling unsafe, she ran towards the hospital hoping to find security. The man chased after her, got in front of her face, pulled out a gun and demanded she give him her cell phone and the code to unlock it. She finally complied

and the man fled the area.

Police contacted the phone carrier, Sprint, and employees were able to track the phone's location to E. 116th and Kinsman. No further details were included in the police report.

The RTA Police Detective Bureau was to obtain any surveillance video footage from the bus at the time of the incident for further investigation.

Criminal Damage

On January 14th, around 10:30 p.m., a resident of the 11200 block of Wallingford Ave. said he had been sitting in his living room watching TV when he heard what sounded like a gunshot that was fired through his front door. He said he saw a dark colored sedan drive by after the shot was fired. Upon further inspection by police, it was determined that a BB gun caused the damage to the door.

Shortly after arriving at the scene, GHPD received another call near Turney and Vernon for a male that had been shot at by a BB gun while walking. The victim said he was walking in the 5000 block of Turney Rd. when a black sedan stopped in the middle of the street and a back seat passenger pulled out a BB gun and fired four shots towards him, two of which struck him in the mid section. The vehicle then fled the area.

Police believe the incidents are connected.

Criminal Damage/Theft from Auto

Residents in the following neighborhoods reported their cars were broken into between January 16th and January 17th: 5300 block E. 129th St.; 10300 block Sladden Ave.; 10000 and 10100 blocks Greenview Ave.; 4500 block E. 104th St.; 4800 block E. 108th St.; two in the 4600 block E. 93rd St.; 9700 block Parkview Ave.; 4600 block E. 90th St.; 5500 block Turney Rd.

Call Crime Stoppers with anonymous tips

Crime Stoppers encourages members of the community to assist local law enforcement agencies in the fight against crime.

Crime Stoppers provides an anonymous telephone number, Text Tips and Web Tips to encourage citizens to volunteer vital information helpful to law enforcement agencies. 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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Letter to the Editor Thanks for clearing driveways

Dear Editor,

We just wanted to thank our wonderful neighbor on Orme Road in Garfield Heights.

On Sunday, Jan. 20, in all the cold and snow, our neighbor, Todd, removed the snow from our driveway and two other neighbors'. He is our angel.

Thank you also to all those out there that help their neighbors in times of need.

Gratefully,
Residents of Orme Road
Garfield Heights

New Neighborhood News policy regarding printing death notices

The Neighborhood News management would like to inform NN readers and advertisers of the following new policies regarding death notices:

Beginning February 1st, there will be a minimum fee of \$50 (up to six column inches) for death notices. This includes a photo and/or funeral home logo. Any death notice larger than six column inches will be subject to additional fees.

Information for death notices must be submitted by the funeral home handling the arrangements via email, nnews1923@aol.com. Deadline to submit is Monday by 5 p.m. For further information and pricing, email The Neighborhood News or call us at 216-441-2141.

Death Notices

EILEEN DeROBERTS (nee Crane), 92, of Bedford, passed away January 8th.

She was the beloved wife of the late Robert; devoted mother of David and Doug; cherished grandmother of Isabel, Sebastian, Ambrose, Blaise and Jesse; loving aunt of Sandy Duffy and Robert Fisher.

Arrangements were handled by Ferfolia Fu-

neral Home. Inurnment at All Saints Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in her name to Regina Health Center, 5232 Broadview Rd., Richfield, OH 44286.

N.N. online

Neighborhood News readers can now get their favorite newspaper on the web 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. Archives and other features will be added as the website evolves.

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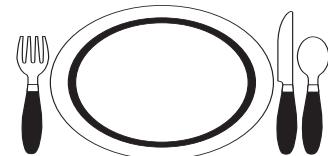
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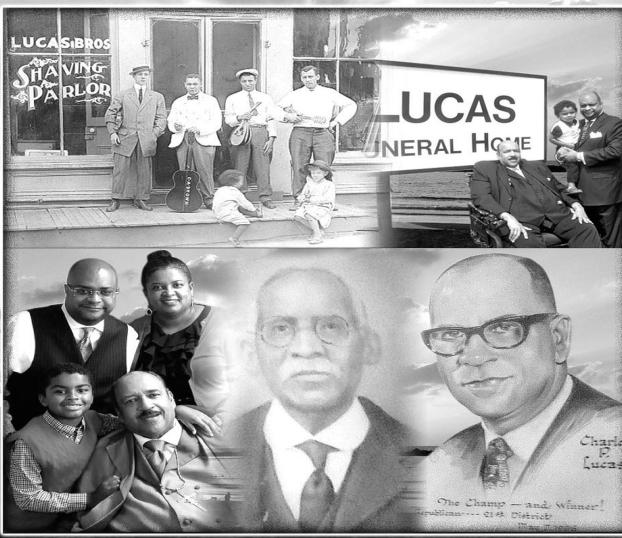
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