

# The Neighborhood News

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CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS, INDEPENDENCE, VALLEY VIEW, MAPLE HEIGHTS AND BEDFORD

96th YEAR NO. 23

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2019

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

FREE

## Independence Council honors 'Shop with a Cop' organizer Nick DiMarco

Independence City Council began its Feb. 12 meeting with a special proclamation.

Judge Deborah Nicastro, presiding and administrative judge of Garfield Heights Municipal Court, presented Nick DiMarco, former Garfield Heights Police Department lieutenant and current Independence resident, with a proclamation declaring Feb. 12 as "Lieutenant Nick DiMarco Day."

DiMarco was instrumental in bringing the Shop with a Cop program to the George Murray Fraternal Order of Police, which represents 18 southeast Greater Cleveland law enforcement agencies. The program, adopted in the area in 1996, now includes 20 local police departments. This year it provided 352 children with \$150 each so they could shop with a local officer for holiday gifts.

In legislation action, council approved an ordinance accepting the base bid of Fabrizio Trucking & Paving Co. for the Rockside Woods Boulevard North connection to Brecksville Road. Fabrizio had the lowest bid. The city plans to begin stage one of the project in front of the Topgolf site on June 30.

"This connection is key to improving the level of service for Rockside Road as there currently are limited east/west connections, and this new roadway will allow the Rockside Road traffic to travel to I-77 north, bypassing the accident-prone I-480/I-77 merge," Mayor Anthony Togliatti said.

Council also approved the preliminary plan for Quarry Lee Estates. The project includes 12 lots, and the city expects bids this



**Independence Mayor Anthony Togliatti (at left) presented Independence resident and retired Garfield Heights Police lieutenant Nick DiMarco with a proclamation at last week's council meeting honoring DiMarco's longtime work with the Shop with a Cop program.**

*Photo courtesy of Independence City Hall*

spring with construction to begin in the summer and paving before fall.

In addition, council also approved an ordinance to hire American Fireworks Company for fireworks displays in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Fire Chief Steve Rega said he thinks this is a good idea for the city, which will lock in its rates for the next three years.

"We have been working with American Fireworks for a long time now, and they do a great job for us," he said. "They are an importer of fireworks and a distributor. So they are a good local source for these displays."

Council also authorized the purchase of six new 2019 Ford SUV Interceptors for the police department. The department will retire three vehicles this year and three next year. Council approved the purchase and installation of in-

car dash cam systems and vehicle graphics on the new vehicles.

Director of Technology and Communications Kyle Collins updated council on the status of the city's new website.

"We are awaiting a mock-up to go through the general look and feel of the website and to give us some options of some different color schemes," he said. "Then those all will be workshop discussed and discussed with the mayor."

The new website will be more cohesive and user-friendly, Collins said. He anticipates it will launch in mid-July.

Also okayed by council was an ordinance amending a previous ordinance authorizing an increase in the amount of funds requested from \$20,000 to \$40,000 for professional services by Clemans Nelson & Associates, Inc. in connection with labor relations, consulting and negotiation.

## Garfield Hts. mayor to give State of City Address

Garfield Heights Mayor Vic Collova will give his State of the City Address on Wednesday, March 6, at the Cleveland Clinic Marymount Hospital Auditorium, 12300 McCracken Rd., Garfield Heights. Doors open at 11:30 a.m.; lunch at noon; address at 12:15 p.m.

The luncheon buffet of pasta, chicken, vegetable, salad, garlic bread, desserts and beverages is \$15 per person. Make checks payable to Southeast Region Chamber of Commerce and RSVP by March 1st to: [director@southeastchamber.org](mailto:director@southeastchamber.org) or call 440-232-0115.

The State of the City Address is free and open to the public. Reservations are only needed if you are having lunch.

## Woman arrested in connection with murder of G.H. man

Last Wednesday, Feb. 13, members of the Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force arrested Shakira Graham, 24, on a warrant for homicide stemming from an incident in Garfield Heights in December 2018.

It is alleged that on December 17, 2018, Graham shot and killed 27-year-old Meshach Cornwall inside his Garfield Heights home on Darlington Ave.

Graham and Cornwall supposedly met on a dating website and Graham stayed over at Cornwall's residence on December 15, 2018, according to a press release from the U.S. Marshals Service. Two days later, Graham allegedly returned to kill Cornwall and steal various items from his residence.

Last Wednesday night members of the U.S. Marshals Violent Fugitive Task



**Shakira Graham's booking photo (GHPD)**

Force arrested Graham at her mother's home on Fairmount Boulevard in Cleveland. She was taken straight to the Garfield Heights Police Department for questioning and is currently being held on a \$3 million bond.

US Marshal Pete Elliott commented, "Thanks to the tireless efforts of the Garfield Heights Police Department and our task force members, a violent fugitive is off the streets. We are very proud of the working relationships we share with the local police departments in Northern Ohio."

## Win tickets to see Kelly Clarkson show at The Q!

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.

The latest addition to our Freebies list is two tickets to see performer/singer Kelly Clarkson at Quicken Loans Arena on Thursday, March 21, at 7 p.m. - and they're good seats! Deadline to enter is March 14th.

Also on the list are general admission tickets to the 2019 I-X Indoor Amusement Park valid for any one day March 29th to April 22nd. Deadline to enter is March 25th.

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 drawings!

And thanks go out to Wayne Williams who donated two tickets in memory of his wife, Susan, to this Saturday's Garfield Heights 100th Anniversary Celebration Dinner given away this week. The event is sponsored by the Garfield Heights Historical Society.

## Cuyahoga Hts. Council notes

Cuyahoga Heights Council met last Wednesday, Feb. 13, and passed the following legislation:

- Accepting the NOPEC Energized Community Grant;

- Adopting the Solid Waste Management Plan for the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District;

- Authorizing the village administration to execute

**(Continued on Page 2)**



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Cuyahoga Hts. Council

(Continued from Page 1)

an arrangement with the city of Solon for use of its jail facilities on an as-needed basis;

- Executing certain easements relative to Permanent Parcel No. 522-08-035.
- Accepting the bid of Fabrizio Trucking & Paving Co., Inc. for the Nicky Boulevard Storm Sewer Extension & Slope Stabilization Improvement Project - Phase I.
- Supporting the establishment of the Cuyahoga River

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Water Trail as a designated water trail by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources;

- Adopting a credit card policy and a cash deposit and revenue receipts policy to comply with the state auditor's office and House Bill 312.

Moral claims were approved for two individuals: \$94.10 for a flat tire from a pothole on Canal Road and \$75 for damage from heavy machinery work.

Council also approved the mayor's appointment of Eric McKenzie to fill the full time Labor I position in the Service Department beginning February 25, 2019.

A motion was passed to move forward with plans and specs for demolition of 4585 E. 71 St.

The Finance Committee approved the purchase of a new 52" Scag mower for landscaping from Sohar Mower Service in the amount of \$7,237.

Approval was also granted for a slope study needed for the Canal Road Project from NTH Consultants, Ltd. They will perform an evaluation and analysis and make recommendations for a fee not to exceed \$20,500.

The Neighborhood News

Serving Southeast Cleveland since 1923

Fish fry at St. Andrew's

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, Feb. 22. For more information or carryouts, call 216-475-9365.

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.

LET'S DO LUNCH!

(For a small donation)

Seniors in Cuyahoga County aged 60 and over at the

Garfield Hts. SENIOR CENTER

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## Garfield Heights Municipal court program helps offenders get their driver's licenses back

The Garfield Heights Municipal Court is helping people clear their outstanding court cases and get their driver's licenses reinstated. The court is initiating the Fresh Start Program for people who have not paid their fines and court costs, and as a result their driver's licenses have been suspended and a warrant issued for their arrest.

The court is willing to give them a fresh start. First the person must pay \$200 to the clerk of court. They will get a release for their driver's license and a date to come back to set up a payment plan for any balance due.

"If the offender has multiple cases, the release will be issued on all cases with the payment of \$200 being applied to the oldest case

first," Garfield Heights Municipal Court Judge Deborah Nicastro said.

The Fresh Start Program, which runs until July 31st, does not apply to offenders who failed to appear for a court date and they were never sentenced.

"In these cases the offender must post bond and get a new court date," Judge Nicastro added.

As long as the person

sticks to the payment plan, they will be considered in compliance and their driver's license will remain valid. This is all done without any additional court proceedings or having to go before the judge again.

The Fresh Start Program also enables the offender to apply to the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles for its Reinstatement Fee Amnesty Program. More information on that program

can be found at [www.bmv.ohio.gov/susp-fees-amnesty.aspx](http://www.bmv.ohio.gov/susp-fees-amnesty.aspx).

This program pertains to both outstanding criminal and traffic cases in the eight communities served by the Garfield Heights Municipal Court:

Garfield Heights, Maple Heights, Brecksville, Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, Newburgh Heights, Valley View and Walton Hills.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

HAVE A SPECIAL EVENT YOU WANT TO ADVERTISE???

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The Neighborhood News Advertising deadline is Mondays at 5:00pm

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Admission: \$6.00, Under 12 Free

More Info? 216-642-0692 EMAIL: [KDTRAINS@ATT.NET](mailto:KDTRAINS@ATT.NET)

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#### Maple Heights Headlines

[https://www.citymapleheights.com/  
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#### Slavic Village Voice

[http://www.slavicvillage.org/2018/01/  
15/new-slavic-village-voice-fall-2017/](http://www.slavicvillage.org/2018/01/15/new-slavic-village-voice-fall-2017/)

#### Union Miles Messenger

<http://unionmiles.org/newsletters>

## Reader's CHOICE RECIPES

### Chorizo Fireball Poppers

½ lb. mild or spicy bulk chorizo  
1 Tbsp. finely crushed white corn chips  
1 Tbsp. finely grated sharp cheddar cheese  
1 Tbsp. finely chopped sweet onion  
1 large can enchilada sauce

Combine first four ingredients together; shape into bite size meat balls. Arrange in baking dish. Pour enchilada sauce over meatballs, cover with foil and slide into a preheated 350° oven for 40 minutes.

*"Big John" Duhanich, Garfield Heights*

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### ST. ANDREW'S FRIDAY FISH FRY DINNERS

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### Bourbon Street Pecan Pie

1 cup packed brown sugar  
¼ cup unbleached flour  
¼ tsp. sea salt  
1 cup dark corn syrup  
2 eggs, lightly beaten  
6 oz. heavy cream  
1 Tbsp. bourbon  
1 cup roughly chopped pecans

Have ready an unbaked pie shell of choice. Preheat oven to 400°.

In mixer bowl with flat beating, using the lowest possible setting, combine the brown sugar, flour and salt. Add the corn syrup and blend thoroughly. Add the beaten eggs and continue to blend very slowly (you do not want frothy bubbles). Blend in the heavy cream and bourbon, then add the pecans.

Pour into the prepared pie shell - cover edges with a pie crust protector or foil strips. Bake at 400° for 15 minutes, then lower heat to 350° and bake an additional 45 to 50 minutes.

*Doris Watson, Maple Heights*

## Bedford K9 officer dies

*(Taken from Bedford PD Facebook page)*

"We are very sad and heartbroken to report that our K9 Mike passed away unexpectedly last week. K9 Mike, a Belgian Malinois, was born July 13, 2013 in Holland. He displayed the drive to be a K9 officer and came to the United States shortly after via Castle K9. He began his training there.

Mike was then selected by our K9 Officer, and came to the Bedford Police Department in August of 2015. Mike was certified through the state of Ohio and began protecting and serving in October of 2015 until this last Monday, February 11, 2019 when his tour of duty unexpectedly ended.

Mike was credited with many arrests during his tenure here and was also responsible for saving a life. There will be a link to that story in the comments section. He was a great dog and will be missed by all of us.

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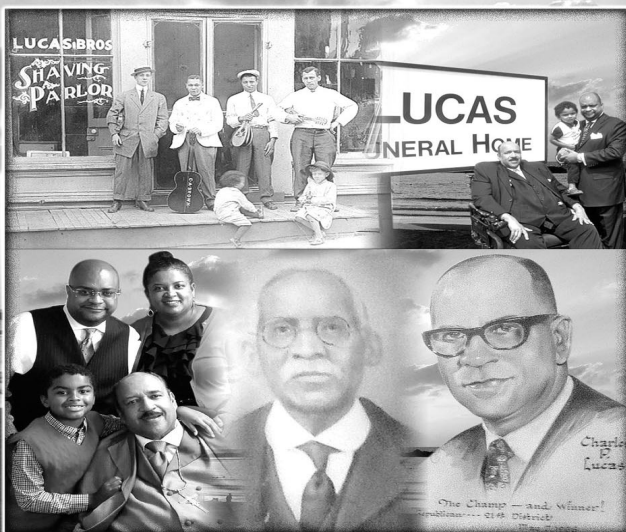
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#### Garfield Heights United Methodist Church

4977 Turney Rd. 216-641-4149  
Garfield Heights  
Sunday Worship & Sunday School 10:30am  
*Rev. Daniel Drew, Pastor*

#### Greater Holy Ghost Missionary Baptist Church

12210 Miles Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44105  
*Services 11:30 am Sundays*  
*Rev. Robinson Crenshaw, Pastor*

#### Jones Road Chapel

8000 Jones Rd., Cleveland, 44105  
**Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.**  
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#### St. Andrew Eastern Orthodox Church

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# Community police reports

By Danielle Toth

## Garfield Heights Assault

Police responded to Marco's Pizza on Turney Road at about 10:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 11. Employees said a woman repeatedly called to say she was unhappy with the amount of time it was taking for her delivery. When the delivery driver arrived at the Robinson Avenue residence, the woman threatened to "cut up" employees and smacked him in the face. She later came to the store, where she yelled and cursed at employees and threatened further assault. Officers responded to the residence, where a man opened the door and stated the woman was intoxicated and asleep. He could not wake her. The parties were advised to follow up with the prosecutor's office.

## Aggravated Robbery

On Tuesday, Feb. 12, at about 3:30 p.m. police were called to CVS on Granger Road for an aggravated robbery. Employees reported two men entered the store. One pointed a hand-

gun at a cashier and demanded all the money in the register. The employee opened the drawer, and the man took the contents, which were estimated at about \$200.

An officer on patrol followed and then stopped a suspicious vehicle matching the employees' description of the suspect. The vehicle initially stopped, but then fled the scene. Officers pursued the vehicle through Garfield Heights, Maple Heights and Cleveland but ultimately decided to terminate the pursuit due to safety concerns.

On Wednesday, Feb. 13, officers located the vehicle on East 73 Street. While it was being towed, a woman approached the officers. She said the car was her uncle's, but she drives it on a regular basis. Officers informed her that the car was being seized via a search warrant and would be processed for evidence.

## Robbery

On Tuesday, Feb. 12, at about 9:50 p.m., police responded to a report of a robbery on East 93 Street. The complainant reported

that he was at his niece's home when his nephew asked him to jump a car battery. He declined. The nephew then punched the man twice and stole approximately \$600 in cash from him. He also attempted to rip gold chains from around the man's neck. Officers could not locate the nephew and forwarded the case to the prosecutor's office for review.

## Call Crime Stoppers with 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](http://www.25crime.com).

## N.N. online

Neighborhood News readers can now get their favorite newspaper on the

web at: [theneighborhoodnews.com](http://theneighborhoodnews.com). The entire newspaper is available on the N.N. website every Wednesday morning and can be read in Adobe Acrobat.



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## Former Cleveland cop charged with felony sex offenses in Garfield Hts.

Ex-Cleveland police officer Mario Lozada has been charged with two felony sex offenses following his Nov. 14, 2018 arrest.

The charges include pandering sexually oriented material involving a minor and unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, according to court records. They stem from an incident near Donovan Park in Garfield Heights in which police discovered 55-year-old Lozada in a dark-colored SUV with a 15-year-old girl.

The park closes at dusk, and an officer noticed the SUV enter the area around 11:45 p.m., according to the police report. The officer stopped Lozada for a traffic violation and noticed a gun in the vehicle, the report states. Officers searched the vehicle and found a Cleveland police uniform, badge, duty belt and other police gear. Lozada stated he was a Cleveland police officer.

When asked why he did not originally identify himself as a police officer, Lozada said he did not want to identify himself while officers wore body cameras and "was not that kind of guy," according to the report.

Lozada was previously charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor and improperly handling a firearm in a motor vehicle in connection with the incident. However, those charges were dismissed. The felony charges stem from additional investigation, including interviews and evidence from the SUV and a cell

phone, Garfield Heights Police Lieutenant Robert Petrick told cleveland.com. Lozada retired shortly after the November arrest. He was a 26-year veteran of the force.

Lozada waived his right to a preliminary hearing during his arraignment in Garfield Heights Municipal Court. The case was bound over to a Cuyahoga County grand jury. Bail was set at \$1 million.

## Garfield Heights meetings

### Ward 6

Garfield Heights Ward 6 Councilman Matt Burke, Mayor Vic Collova and other city leaders will discuss issues going on in Garfield Heights at a Ward 6 Community Awareness Meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 20, at 6:30 p.m. in the Garfield Heights Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd.

This month's guest speaker will be Garfield Heights grant writer Pat Salemi. All are invited to come and have their questions answered and be informed.

### Ward 7

The Garfield Heights Ward 7 Block Watch will meet Thursday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. in the St. Augustine Room

of St. Benedict School, 13633 Rockside Rd. Nonperishable items for the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry would be appreciated. All are welcome. Nikki Majka, 216-310-6514.

## Neighborhood News policy on 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.

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