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96th YEAR NO. 24

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2019

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

FREE

## Standing room only at Maple Heights Mayor Blackwell's 'State of City' event Garfield Hts. Council approves agreement with Topicz bar owner

By Ellen Psenicka

Maple Heights Mayor Annette Blackwell gave her "State of the City" address, sponsored by the Southeast Region Chamber of Commerce, to a packed house last Thursday at the Maple Heights Senior Center.

With a powerpoint presentation and an energetic delivery, she pointed out the many successes for the city over the past year along with an optimistic outlook for the year ahead.

Among the many highlights of 2018, Mayor Blackwell included:

- Bringing back Easterfest through the generosity of Mr. Chicken;
- Two Community Shred Days;
- Annual Hoop It Up;
- Holiday lighting at City Hall;
- New hires and promotions in the police department;
- Juvenile Diversion Program, with over 113 juveniles serving the community by doing landscaping, helping seniors citizens and countless other alternatives to detention. Blackwell said the recidivism rate in the program is less than 5%;
- Fire department has received \$747,000 in grant dollars, and the department recently swore in its first black firefighter;
- Senior Center awarded new vans, at a total cost of \$85,000;
- Publishing of Maple Heights Headlines to keep residents abreast of city services and honoring businesses in the community;
- Homestead Incentive Program;
- \$17.5 million in real estate sales in the city in 2018;



Photo by Michael Psenicka

**Maple Heights Mayor Annette Blackwell speaks to the capacity crowd last Thursday evening at her "State of the City" address at the Senior Center.**

- New LED lighting at City Hall;
- Cleveland Metroparks officially came to Maple Heights with their takeover of Dunham Park. A new \$200,000 pavilion will be constructed;
- Mayor's Breakfast Club at the Senior Center.

Mayor Blackwell noted several things on schedule to happen this year in the city which include Checkers/Rally's and KFC all setting up restaurants in Maple Heights, creating a Jeffrey

A. Lansky Memorial Park, and making it a priority to reopen Stafford Pool.

Several dignitaries were on hand at the event last week including County Councilman Pernel Jones, Garfield Heights Mayor Vic Collova, Bedford Mayor Stan Koci and Bedford Heights Mayor Fletcher Berger, all of whom were praised and thanked by Mayor Blackwell for their contributions and help in her efforts to make Maple Heights a good place to live and do business.

By Ellen Psenicka

Garfield Heights Council met Monday night and passed a resolution approving the settlement reached between the city and Niecy's Place, dba Topicz Sports Lounge, effectively shutting down the bar at 11321 Broadway Ave. under its present ownership and preventing the liquor permit holder or any members of her family from selling liquor there or at any other location in the city of Garfield Heights.

Topicz had been the scene of several police calls in the past, the most serious in February 2018, when six people were shot and one found dead on the sidewalk in front of the bar.

Last August Garfield Heights Council passed an emergency resolution objecting to the renewal of the liquor license at Topicz, which is now a moot point following the city's settlement agreement with the license holder.

Also passed Monday night was an ordinance to purchase a Bomag pavement roller for the Service Department and an ordinance to go out for competitive bids for the Midwest Neighborhood Storms/Sanitary Sewer System Reconstruction Project - Phase 3, and authorizing a payment of costs through funding by the NEORS, MCIP, OPWC and the NEORS/Community Cost Share Program.

City Engineer Dave Krock pointed out that no funds from the city will be required for this project.

Mayor Vic Collova, in his report to council, said that although Service Director Tim McLaughlin had announced his retirement and a retirement party had been held for him last Thursday at the Service

Garage, the mayor had talked him into staying for at least several more months.

"I asked him to stay and help out with the CityView and Bridgeview projects and he has agreed," Collova said.

Social Services Director Kathy Rush-Parsson reported that the Garfield Heights Senior Center will hold a program to learn about brain health fitness, the difference between typical age-related changes versus dementia, and brain exercises that can be done to improve as you age. The series is presented by the Alzheimer's Association and Kathryn Kilpatrick, creator of "Memory Fitness Matters."

(Continued on Page 2)

## County to locate BMV auto title office to Meadowbrook in Bedford this June

By Judith Goldsworth

Cuyahoga County has announced plans to relocate one of four of its Bureau of Motor Vehicles auto title offices from Garfield Heights to the Meadowbrook shopping center at Northfield and Rockside roads in Bedford, City Manager Mike Mallis said at the Bedford Council meeting last week.

"They're (the BMV) ironing out the lease," Mallis said, "but they are going to be investing 300,000-some dollars in the space and moving jobs to that area, so that's a good thing."

According to a press release from Cuyahoga County Council, the title office expects to relocate to the property by the end of June. The title bureau is currently located in the BMV office on Broadway Avenue near I-480 in Garfield Heights.

The title bureau in Garfield Heights was considered a temporary office until the county could find a more permanent location, county officials stated, adding that other operations at the Garfield Heights location, such

(Continued on Page 8)

## Indy finance director headed to Macedonia

Independence Mayor Anthony Togliatti, in his online Administrative Update last week, shared the news that Finance Director John M. Veres will be accepting the position of finance director for the city of Macedonia starting next month.

"After much discussion with my wife and family I have made up my mind that I was not going to seek re-election this fall for my seventh term as finance director (in Independence)," Veres told Togliatti. "Although I have enjoyed my role for the last 19 years with the city, at the end of the day not seeking re-election is the best decision for me and my family going forward."

He said an opportunity presented itself sooner than expected, and he has accepted the finance director's position in Macedonia starting in March, 2019.

Veres noted that after discussion with both Macedonia Mayor Nicholas Molnar and Mayor Togliatti, he will be working in both communities through the transition to a new Independence finance director.

"I am confident that the Finance Department staff will be more than capable of managing the day-to-day operations, and I will assist as long as needed to ensure a smooth transition to the new director," Veres said.



# G.H. Council approves

(Continued from Page 1)

Sessions will be held before the senior lunch program from 10 to 11 a.m. on March 28, April 11, April 25, May 14, and May 23, at the Garfield Heights Senior Center, 5407 Turney Rd. Each program is free and open to the public. Call Annie at the senior center to register, 216-475-3244.

Maple Heights Police Chief Todd Hansen read a letter from himself and sev-

eral other city officials thanking Garfield Heights Finance Director Barb Biro for all her "above and beyond" work with Maple Heights officials navigating their financial path in the wake of the city's fiscal emergency status with the state and the loss of their finance director last year.

The letter also expressed appreciation to Mayor Collova and council and

said how thankful Maple Heights was to have had Biro's expertise, calling her "a true professional."

## Seeking blood donors

The American Red Cross has a severe shortage of type O blood and urges type O donors – as well as eligible blood and platelet donors of all blood types – to give now to ensure life-saving patient care isn't impacted this winter.

Type O blood is the most in-demand blood type, helping patients facing life-threatening conditions and emergencies every day. Type O negative blood can be transfused to patients with any blood type and is what emergency room personnel reach for when there's no time to determine a patient's blood type. Type O positive blood is also especially needed because it is the most transfused blood type and can be given to Rh-positive patients of any blood type.

Individuals of all blood types – especially type O – are asked to make an appointment to donate blood or platelets by downloading the free American Red Cross Blood Donor App,

visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

The following are local opportunities to donate:

### Independence

Wednesday, March 6, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., 6200 Oak Tree Blvd.; Wednesday, March 13, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Crown Centre II, 5001 Rockside Rd.; Monday, March 25, 1 to 7 p.m., Independence Community Center, 6363 Selig Dr.

### Valley View

Friday, March 22, 2 to 7 p.m., Valley View Community Center, 6828 Hathaway Rd.

ADVERTISE! Call 216-441-2141

## Remington College

Remington College, Cleveland Campus, with blood partner, Vitalant, will hold a blood drive on Monday, March 18, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 14445 Broadway Ave., Cleveland, 44125.

## Lenten programs at GHUMC

Rev. H. Daniel Drew of Garfield Heights United Methodist Church, 4977 Turney Rd., announces the following Lenten activities:

**Ash Wednesday Worship** - All invited for a worship service to mark the beginning of the Lenten season, Wednesday, March 6, at 7 p.m. The service will include the opportunity for Holy Communion and the ministration of ashes.

**"Simon Peter, Flawed but Faithful Disciple"** by Rev. Adam Hamilton will be the Lenten Study book for Garfield Heights United Methodist Church. The study will be led by Pastor Drew and will meet Thursday evenings at 7 p.m., March 7 to April 11. The study session includes a video teaching plus the scriptural references about Simon Peter. Study books are also available for purchase. For information or to register for the study call 216-641-4149.

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## Maple Hts. to apply for Safe Routes To School funds

By Judith Goldsworth

In an effort to improve safety for students going to and from school in the city, Maple Heights Council approved legislation to apply for funding from the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program, at its meeting last week.

The U.S. Congress has set aside monies for the SRTS projects through the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), and total cost of the project in Maple Heights is estimated at just under \$300,000, according to the resolution.

The city "will work closely with the Maple Heights City Schools to improve student safety as children go to and from school, which is a transportation activity eligible to receive federal funding," the resolution states.

The mission of the Maple Heights Safe Routes to School coalition "is to create opportunities that will increase and encourage students and families to bike and walk to school safely while improving the overall health and wellness of the community and fostering environmental responsibility," the ODOT plan states.

Upon completion of the project, the city is required to provide adequate maintenance for the project according to state and federal laws, provide financing for maintenance, maintain the right of way and keep it free of obstructions and keep the right of way intact for public highway purposes.

### Property transfers

Council passed a resolution authorizing Mayor Annette Blackwell to transfer two residential properties owned by the city's Land Reutilization Program to Slavic Village Development for the Maple Heights Home Ownership Program.

The two properties to be acquired by SVD are at 16010

Corkhill Rd., and at 21414 Clare Rd., and will be transferred into the Maple Heights Ownership Program, which is a unique partnership between Maple Heights and SVD "for residential development of lightly distressed homes in the city," the legislation states.

Blackwell and other city officials, as seller of the properties, are authorized to file all documents and pay any closing fees to the Cuyahoga County Recorder and the Fiscal Officer from Maple Heights to Slavic Village Development.

### Vacant lots to be sold

Council passed a resolution determining that two vacant residential lots owned by the city are not needed for municipal purposes, a necessary step before they are offered for sale to adjacent homeowners.

One of the two vacant lots is on a "paper street" (only visible on maps) section of Schreiber Road, while the other vacant lot is on Rockside Road, according to the legislation.

A homeowner on Woodbrook Avenue has expressed his wish to purchase the vacant Schreiber lot, located behind his house. And a homeowner on Rockside Road

has stated he wants to purchase the vacant lot next door to his house through the side yard program.

### Other properties donated

Two pieces of legislation were passed by council at last week's meeting to authorize the city to accept the donation of two unimproved lots into the Land Reutilization Program, one on Milan Drive and one on E. 146th St.

### Park expenses approved

Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella stated that council also approved, by separate motions at last week's meeting, two expenditures for the Lee-Libby pocket park, to be paid through the remaining balance of a 2018 Cuyahoga County Community Development Supplemental Grant.

Authorized were payments of \$4,962.48 to Rusty Oak Nursery for purchase of 24 trees and \$2,200 to Gales Garden Center for purchase of four other trees for the project, Cicirella stated.

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## More 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.

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!

## GED classes at Bedford library

The Southeast (Bedford) Branch Library, 79 Columbus Rd., Bedford, offers free GED/HSE (High School Equivalency) classes on Mondays and Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m., through Aspire Greater Cleveland.

Students must attend an orientation session before beginning classes. For orientation and class information, call 1-833-ASPIRE2 or visit [aspiregreatercleveland.org](http://aspiregreatercleveland.org). Registration required at 440-439-4997.

## CEO'S COMES DOWN



Photo by Michael Psenicka

The last of the former Ceo's Tavern property on Warner Road and Garfield Boulevard in Garfield Heights was razed Monday as the house, owned by the city, was determined to be unsafe and should be demolished. The city had acquired the property through tax foreclosure and had hoped to restore the old Warner Homestead, which was built in the 1800s, but funding was not available and the house continued to deteriorate. The property zoning is U-4, retail/general business, and will be marketed for sale once it is graded and cleaned up, according to Garfield Heights Economic Director Noreen Kuban.

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# Community police reports

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

## CLEVELAND

### Burglary

On Monday, Feb. 18, at 8:40 a.m., police responded to the 3900 block of E. 74th St. and spoke with a woman who stated that when she got off work that morning and returned home at 7:20 a.m., she found her house cold, windows open and ransacked. She stated 3 flatscreen televisions, a Sony X-box game system, 2 Apple kids' tablets, an engagement ring, a necklace and a Pandora bracelet had been taken.

### Stolen Vehicle

On Wednesday, Feb. 20, at 12:58 p.m., police responded to Lansing Ave. for a stolen vehicle taken from the owner's driveway. The victim stated he pulled into his driveway, left his truck running with the doors unlocked and went into his house to get some paperwork. He came outside about five minutes later and his truck was gone. It was notified for citywide broadcast.

## GARFIELD HEIGHTS

### Stolen Vehicle

On Friday, Feb. 22, police responded to a report of a stolen auto on Maplerow Ave. The victim stated that he

was out of town for three days and upon returning he came home to find his 1999 Chrysler Sebring convertible was missing. The car was entered into LEADS as stolen.

### Aggravated Robbery/Kidnapping

On Tuesday, Feb. 19, at 4:30 p.m., four males, one showing a gun in his waistband, approached a juvenile outside a Turney Rd. business and ordered him to come with them. They made their way to Thraves Ave. where he was robbed of his watch and a silver ring. When police were called, they noticed two males matching the descriptions that were given. They were detained and searched and police found a Smith & Wesson handgun along with a camo face mask. Both were placed under arrest and taken to City Jail. Charges of aggravated robbery and kidnapping through the Youth Detective Bureau are pending.

### Purse Snatching

On Wednesday, Feb. 20, at 1:45 a.m., a woman was walking to her home at Valley Lane Apartments when someone came up from behind and put a gun to her head and stole her purse. The robber then fled. Police tried to track her cellular phone in the purse but it was turned off.

### Aggravated Robbery

Also on Wednesday, Feb. 20, at 7 p.m., a man was sitting in his car at Arthur Treacher's restaurant on Rockside Rd. when a male opened his door and pointed a gun at him demanding cash. The victim gave him \$20, but the suspect was not happy with that and demanded his phone and car keys. The victim refused, jumped out of the car and started to run away to safety when he heard two gunshots. When police arrived they found two shell casings in the parking lot and will review camera footage from the car wash next door.

## PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held on **Monday, March 11, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.**, before the **Maple Heights Planning and Zoning Commission** in the Maple Heights City Hall Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio, to consider the following applications:

**2019-PZ-04** An application from Joy Thomas of Vision Financial Services requesting approval of a Conditional Use Permit to operate an accounting services business in a Neighborhood Commercial (NC) Zoning District at 14181 Granger Road, Maple Heights, Ohio.

**2019-PZ-05** An application from Gloriesteen Miller requesting approval of a Three-Year Conditional Use Permit to operate a Type A Day Care as a Home Occupation in a Residential Single Family-Medium Density (RSF-M) Zoning District at 15409 Wingate Road, Maple Heights, Ohio.

All persons and/or their representatives desiring to be heard are invited to attend. The applications and all supporting materials are available for review during normal business hours in the Maple Heights Building Department, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio. Please call the Clerk's Office at least one week before the meeting at 216-587-9000 to arrange for handicap assistance to the second floor if necessary.

Leonette Cicirella  
Clerk of Council  
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The Neighborhood News  
Wednesday, February 27, 2019

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## County to locate BMV

(Continued from Page 1)

as license plate and driver's license renewals, are expected to remain open.

### Xellia news

Mallis also announced that Xellia Pharmaceuticals, located in the former Ben Venue plant on Northfield Road, has received U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval for production of a premixed intravenous drug at its facility.

Mallis said that the drug, identified by Xellia as the antibiotic vancomycin used to treat serious infections, "is a bag-type drug, instead of the vials previously produced, which they're also going to be producing."

He said the new production line at Xellia will mean new construction at the plant.

Mallis said, "It's going to be an investment of over \$60 million, and definitely when it's all said and done it's going to result in more jobs coming to Bedford."

Xellia Chief Scientific Officer Dr. Aleksandar Danilovski, in a statement released by the Denmark-based company last week, said, "It is a testament to our science, formulation and medical expertise that enabled us to successfully overcome the long-standing industry challenge of stabilizing vancomycin in solution at room temperature for an extended time, 16 months."

"We are continuing innovative R&D (research and development) efforts with the goal to further broaden

our portfolio of novel anti-infective therapies aimed at enhancing patient care and improving convenience and ease of use for health care professionals," Danilovski continued.

### Council passes window lighting ban

The only piece of legislation that was passed at last week's meeting was an ordinance amending existing legislation which will now prohibit "the use of window frame lighting, whether by a continuous light strip or other similar product, illuminating the perimeter of one or more individual window panes or a group of window panes" at businesses in the Historic Downtown District.

Placed on first reading was an ordinance to update Bedford's policy on use of city credit cards by city officials and employees to bring it into compliance with recent changes in state law.

The employees authorized to use credit cards are the mayor, council members, city manager, law director, finance director, all other directors and chiefs, assistant directors, deputy police chief and assistant fire chief. Other credit cards are authorized and assigned to employees as deemed necessary by the city manager and finance director, the draft legislation reads, adding a schedule for a detailed list of assigned/authorized cardholders, expiration dates and credit card limits.

Also placed on first reading was an ordinance to clarify what city employees may receive overtime pay and how much they are allowed to be paid. Finance Director Frank Gambosi said it was the first time the ordinance had been updated in 28 years.

### Motions on agenda

Also on the agenda were a number of motions approved by council, including one to reappoint Laura Hulett to a three-year term on the Board of Zoning Appeals, and another to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation to approve the application of Sam Sparks, owner, and Harlan Ebherhardt, architect, who are proposing to open the Blue Water Seafood Restaurant at 339 Columbus Rd.

Council approved a motion to deny the tabled application for a 24-hour residential care facility/group home for five to six residents at 172 John St., as Tiffany Johnson and owner Jamil Zayed failed to submit requested documentation.

### Announcements

Councilwoman Heather Rhoades said that the Bedford Downtown Alliance would be holding First Fridays in the downtown district, with the first event, "March For Art," scheduled for Friday, March 1. Student artwork will be featured in businesses in the downtown area, she said, along with music and food.

Councilwoman Sandy Spinks said that the Bedford Historical Society would be hosting a "Celebration of Dr. Suess" on Saturday, March 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Old Church in the Square. Kids under age 10 and their families are welcome.

Ward meetings will be held at City Hall, 165 Center Rd., from 7 to 9 p.m. on the following Mondays: Wards 1 and 4 on March 25, Wards 3 and 5 on April 8, and Wards 2 and 6 on April 22.



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**The Board of Directors of Washington Park Community School**  
will conduct a Special Board Meeting  
on Thursday, March 7, 2019  
at 5:30 p.m. at  
4000 Washington Park Blvd.,  
Newburgh Heights, OH 44105  
216-271-6055  
This meeting is open to the public.  
N.N.: 2-27-19

**VIEW THESE OTHER LOCAL NEWSPAPERS ONLINE;**  
**Maple Heights Headlines**  
<https://www.citymapleheights.com/media/5c5ac273c3d67.pdf>  
**Slavic Village Voice**  
<http://www.slavicvillage.org/2018/01/15/new-slavic-village-voice-fall-2017/>  
**Union Miles Messenger**  
<http://unionmiles.org/newsletters>

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**CITY OF BEDFORD, OHIO**  
**List of Meetings for March 2019**

Monday, March 4, 2019	Council Work Session - TBD Regular Meeting - 8:00p.m.
Tuesday, March 5, 2019	Planning Commission (if needed) Work Session - TBD, Regular Meeting - TBD
Wednesday, March 13, 2019	Southeast Area Law Enforcement (SEALE) Board of Trustees Meeting (if needed) Work Session - 10:00a.m. Regular Meeting - 12:00p.m.
Monday, March 18, 2019	Council Work Session - TBD Regular Meeting - 8:00p.m.
Tuesday, March 19, 2019	Planning Commission (if needed) Work Session - TBD Regular Meeting - TBD
Tuesday, March 26, 2019	Board of Zoning Appeals (if needed) Work Session - 6:30p.m. Regular Meeting - 7:00p.m.

It should also be noted that the Board of Building Standards and Appeals, Civil Service Commission, Bedford Arts and Cultural Board, Bedford Historical Preservation Board, Assessment Equalization Board, Public Hearings, Planning Commission, Animal Appeals Board, Board of Zoning Appeals and Tree Board meet **as needed**. Notification of these meetings will be posted at the five most public places in the City per **Ordinance No. 8461-09**.

All Meetings will be held at Bedford City Hall, 165 Center Road, Bedford, Ohio 44146. For agendas please go to [www.bedfordoh.gov](http://www.bedfordoh.gov) or call Lorree Villers, Clerk of Council, at 440-735-6510.

*Lorree Villers*  
Clerk of Council  
NN: 2-27-19