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96th YEAR NO. 39

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2019

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

FREE

Scholarships awarded at Central Catholic Independence Supt. Hegedish presents 'State of the Schools' address

Scholarships were awarded to graduating seniors at Cleveland Central Catholic High School in Slavic Village last Thursday in St. Stanislaus Church at the annual Honors Assembly.

Among those receiving scholarships were Katiana Lyons, who received the James V. Psenicka Memorial Scholarship, named after the late The Neighborhood News owner and publisher who was at the helm of the paper for over 40 years.

Nyamweru Adronic was awarded the 2nd annual Kiwanis Club of South East Cleveland scholarship.

Both scholarships are given to senior CCC Key Club members who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and service to their school, community and fellow students in the tradition of Central Catholic and Kiwanis Club values.

Congratulations, Katiana and Nyamweru!



Nyamweru Adronic



Katiana Lyons

By Danielle Toth

Independence Local Schools Superintendent Benjamin Hegedish presented the annual State of the Schools address on both May 23 and May 29.

The big news for the district is a planned new pre-K to 8 facility that will house the primary and middle schools under one roof with shared amenities, such as a cafeteria and kitchen. To fund the school, the district plans to place an estimated 3.41 mill bond issue on the November 2019 ballot to raise roughly \$32 million. The board will fi-

nalize the plans at the June 25 Independence School Board meeting.

The district has identified three main areas of emphasis: social and emotional learning, instruction and construction, Hegedish said.

For social and emotional learning, Hegedish said the district created a voluntary drug testing program and collaborated with the city to hire a social worker and prevention specialist.

"We really care about our kids as a whole," Hegedish said. "We want healthy,



Superintendent Benjamin Hegedish

intelligent, aware, engaged and happy people that we launch into society, and I think that's what the moms and dads in our community want as well. I want our kids to know that passion to find a purpose and to live life well."

As for instruction, Hegedish said the district wants to refine the curriculum, as well as grow and develop its teachers.

Its focus is on more efficient, 21st-century learning, which trains students for the future job market, Hegedish said, citing a statistic that 60% of the jobs 10 years from now don't exist yet.

To help prepare students for the future, Hegedish said the district is using facility design to aid in communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking (what Hegedish calls the four Cs). This includes opening up spaces for more collaborative and flexible environments.

This is where construction comes in. The district is adding a media center to the high school, as well as a cafeteria that is more like a college campus student union.

Arrested in alleged assault of elderly Bedford woman

Maple Heights police have arrested a 34-year-old man who allegedly assaulted an 88-year-old Bedford woman, the department said.

Ronald Jerome Thompson has been charged with felonious assault in the May 6 incident, police said. The department said it received DNA evidence from the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and tips from the general public that led to the arrest.

The victim was seated near the sidewalk of Turney Road just west of Dunham Road awaiting an RTA bus when she said a man walked up to her and viciously struck her in the head, knocking her to the ground, according to police. The man then walked away. The victim was transported to Marymount Hospital for treatment and then transferred to MetroHealth Medical Center for further trauma care. The assault left the victim with multiple facial fractures, broken teeth and hearing loss, according to Bedford police, who assisted with the case. The woman spent almost a week in the hospital and is still recovering.

The Maple Heights Police Department would like to thank all those who assisted in this investigation.



Ronald Thompson

Opportunity CLE wants to spur economic development throughout county, including Garfield, Maple Hts.

By Danielle Toth

Opportunity CLE, an initiative for Opportunity Zone investment in Cleveland and Cuyahoga County, recently released its plan for taking advantage of zones in the Greater Cleveland area.

Opportunity Zones, which were added to the tax code by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in December 2017, are economically distressed census tracts where new investments may be eligible for preferential treatment. These areas have poverty rates of at least 20 percent. They are designed to spur economic development, improve job access and facilitate wealth creation.

Opportunity CLE has released an investment prospectus and website (opportunitycle.com) with information for developers and investors. The website includes a portal that allows both developers and business owners to promote their projects and provides investors access to these projects.

Opportunity CLE is comprised of several Cleveland organizations, including the city of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Greater Cleveland Partnership, Cleveland Development Advisors, the Fund for Our Economic Future and the Cuyahoga Land Bank.

There are two opportunity districts in the Neighborhood News readership area:

- Transportation Boulevard Development District: A 0.9-square-mile area in Garfield Heights. This site was selected due to its accessibility along I-480 and I-77, high visibility (180,000 cars daily along I-480) and central location within Cuyahoga County. This location is also home to Bridgeview Crossing, a more than 70-acre shovel-ready site on Transportation Boulevard.

- Outer Belt Development District: A 7.7-square-mile area including Maple Heights, Bedford Heights, North Randall and Warrensville Heights. The site was selected due to its proximity to cultural assets and medical institutions, availability of developable residential lots and new tax abatement program. There are several projects within this area, such as Southgate USA, which has a proposed renovation/reconfiguration.

**READ THE NEIGHBORHOOD
NEWS ONLINE AT
theneighborhoodnews.com**

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Neighborhood Connections names grant recipients

Neighborhood Connections will award \$299,162 in grants to support 113 projects in Cleveland and East Cleveland, it was announced last week, many of them in the Slavic Village neighborhoods.

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, the local public funder for arts and culture, will co-fund 16 of the resident-led arts and culture projects through a partnership with Neighborhood Connections. Cleveland Climate Action Fund will co-fund an additional 12 projects.

Slavic Village grants awarded include:

• **\$2,500 - Broadway Christian Church Summer Reading Program**, entering its 42nd year, will provide tutoring and its five-week summer session. The Summer Reading Program employs teenagers to serve as teachers and mentors to younger children in the neighborhood.

• **\$4,000 - Fruitful Life**, also known as the Power of 30, will support the development of 30 entrepreneurial businesses with skills training, coaching, mutual support circles and microloans. This group's mission is to support entrepreneurs in the Broadway-Slavic Village neighborhood.

• **\$2,250 - The Iron Ward Festival Committee** produces an outdoor concert series each Monday night in the summer at Dan Kane Park on East 65th near Broadway Avenue. This initiative, now in its 15th year, showcases local bands while also bringing people together from near and far.

• **\$2,250 - Junior Ironmen Wrestling** will give young people the skills to improve themselves and their community and will offer wrestling training to children in kindergarten through 8th grade. In addition to wrestling, there will be mentoring and study tables for participants.

• **\$2,500 - The Mound Block Club** addresses quality of life issues on its street. Funds will be used to bring neighbors together for a block party/back to school event in conjunction with Mound School while also bringing together neighbors to build relationships.

• **\$3,500 - The Slavic Village Bears** is a cheerleading program that now includes 70 youth members from the community. Funding will be used for uniforms, a banquet and to support members with snacks at practices.

• **\$3,145 - The Slavic Village Food Group** is organizing the Village Feast, a sit-down dinner that will bring together 500 residents for a meal and conversation on an open street in the Broadway-Slavic Village neighborhood.

• **\$3,625 - The Southside Lady Seahawks** is a cheerleading program that works with youth ages 5 to 14 years of age. Funding will go for uniforms and equipment.

• **\$4,000 - The Southside Seahawks** is a youth football program that promotes education, leadership and community for children on its team. Funding will be utilized to purchase new equipment (pads, helmets, mouth pieces) for youth on the team.

• **\$1,800 - The Women's Wellness Foundation** will use their funding to host its 2nd annual Career Fair that highlights nontraditional careers for women, particularly for women with obstacles to employment such as felony convictions, long term unemployment and homelessness.

Independence Supt. Hegedish

(Continued from Page 1)

Following an audit of its facilities, the district learned that it needed to repair the windows and roof and upgrade the electronics at the primary and middle schools at a cost of about \$16.5 million. If it also renovated the facilities to update them for 21st-century learning, the cost would increase to about \$30 million. However, if it constructed a new building housing both schools to the existing middle and high school campus, the cost would be roughly \$32 million.

Additionally, new construction would have a life span of about 50 years, while renovations would have a life span of about 20-30 years.

"We decided new construction was the most responsible approach, and that we needed to do it as soon as possible," Hegedish said.

The district sent a survey to the community to gauge its response to a potential bond issue. The sample was scientifically sound within plus or minus 5%. The data showed 46% of respondents would support a bond issue for new construction while 23% would not and 31% were undecided.

"We've been working very hard on identifying the needs, coming up with the most responsible plan, engaging hundreds of our community stakeholders and trying to do the best we can for our kids and for their futures," Hegedish said.

Hegedish also introduced the new principal of Independence Primary School, Timothy (T.J.) Ebert at the May 23 address. Ebert will be taking over for Cynthia Ipsaro, who is retiring at the end of this school year. Ebert comes to Independence from Redwood Elementary in Avon Lake, where he has been principal since 2011. He was also an assistant principal and summer school principal at Avon Lake High School for several years. Ebert began his career as a social studies teacher at Bedford High School.

"Mr. Ebert stood out throughout our entire search process as an engaging, dedicated and intelligent leader," Hegedish said. "We welcome him to the Independence Local Schools' team, and I can't wait for our primary school staff, students, parents and community to meet him."

Those who missed the State of the Schools presentation or who would like to view it again can watch a live stream on the Independence Local Schools' Facebook page.



CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS

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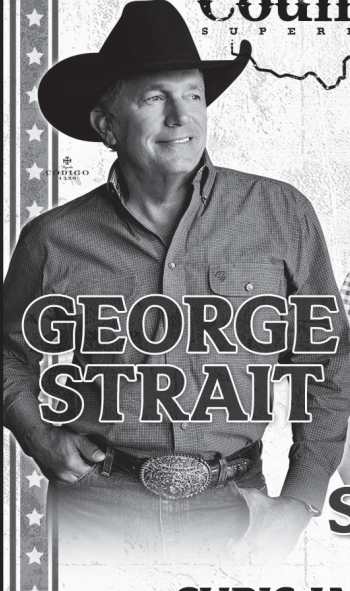
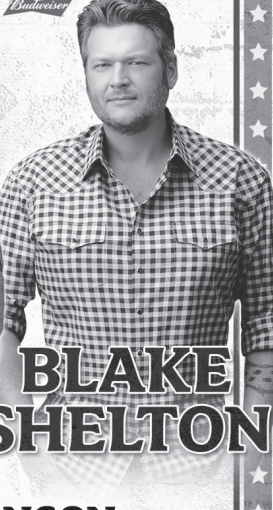


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Applications and requirements can be downloaded from City of Strongsville website at www.strongsville.org, Human Resources Tab; or picked up at Strongsville City Municipal Offices at 16099 Foltz Parkway, Strongsville, Ohio, 44149. Applications, with all requirements, will be available beginning Monday, June 10, 2019. You must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and have a valid driver's license. Applications along with the required materials **must be returned in person no later than Wednesday, July 10, 2019 by 4:30 p.m.**

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Opportunity CLE wants

(Continued from Page 1)

To receive an opportunity zone designation, a local government submits an area for review by the county and its partners, said Noreen M. Kuban, Esq., economic development director of the City of Garfield Heights. Not all zones receive approval. Those that are approved are sent to the state. Each state's governor "nominates" the areas, which are then certified by the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury.

"I explain the concept as: An investor has an investment, call it 'Investment A,' that is profitable. If the investor sells, he or she has to pay capital gains tax on the profit," Kuban said. "This program will allow the investor to invest in another project, 'Investment B' (basically move the profits to 'Investment B'), without having to pay taxes on the profits."

There is no cap on the amount of capital that can be invested into qualified Opportunity Zones, she said.

"The city applied for a zone designation for the area north of I-480 at Transportation Boulevard and Granger Road," Kuban said. "The property is owned by the Craig Realty Company, and the company has been working on a very large development project. When completed, jobs will be created, which will not only be a benefit to the city but also to residents who will have opportunities for employment."

Garfield Heights Mayor Vic Collova said the Transportation Boulevard tract in Garfield Heights that is a designated part of the Opportunity Zone is an ideal location for investment and that the city has worked with the Ohio Department of Transportation to make improvements there, making it even more attractive.

"I am pleased that our local leaders are developing a strategy to take advantage of the federal program, and I certainly hope Garfield Heights will benefit from the Opportunity CLE initiative," he said. "I see economic investment in the Transportation Boulevard site as a catalyst for new development that will bring jobs and stimulate growth. We will work with the collaboration to encour-

age and attract business to Garfield Heights."

The Opportunity Zone is a significant investment opportunity for the City of Maple Heights, as well, Maple Heights Mayor Annette Blackwell said.

"It will help to attract interested local business owners, real estate project developers and investors," she said. "This designation in targeted communities like ours with fiscal challenges and in dire need of economic development helps to change our story from failing to recovered."

Blackwell said the city is very optimistic about the benefits these investments will bring to the city and its residents. However, the most impactful will be the job creation and increased revenue, which she said would help the city to execute and fund a comprehensive revitalization of the city's infrastructure and neighborhoods.

Opportunity Zones aim to spur economic development by providing tax benefits to investors. The program allows individuals to defer any

tax owed on capital gains by investing the realized gains in zones with greater incentives the longer the investment is held.

In Cuyahoga County, there are 64 opportunity zones grouped into 11 districts based on geography, existing development areas, recent planning efforts, common land uses and assets, and infrastructure. Besides the Transportation Boulevard Development District and Outer Belt Development District, the other nine districts are: Downtown Cleveland, West 25th-MetroHealth Corridor, Health-Tech Corri-

dor, Opportunity Corridor, Glenville-Rockefeller Park Innovation District, Euclid/Collinwood Industrial Corridor, Aerozone Innovation Hub, Cuyahoga County Airport District, Caledonia Park District.

"The floodgates are about to open regarding investment in Opportunity Zones, and we are gearing up to aggressively compete for investments in Cuyahoga County projects," said Joe Roman, president and CEO of Greater Cleveland Partnership. "This program has the potential to raise hundreds of millions of dollars

for catalytic urban development opportunities here, stimulating growth and job creation in Cleveland and surrounding communities."

Opportunity Zones have

been designated covering parts of all 50 states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. Territories. Federal rules clarifying investment in the zones are expected to be finalized soon.

The following are actual examples of the type of calls and letters Members of Council receive. We are aware of the misinformation that is spread by various special interest groups. We are developing plans to improve our communication with our residents, to ensure you have facts - not rumor and innuendo from fringe groups.

From a concerned citizen...

"...I get concerned with all of these fringe groups forming in this city. Bring Back Garfield Heights has become a Ray Cook ... group that posts ... anti-Democratic postings. Garfield Heights United is a Republican led group trying to get a 501c (3). This is a political group, not charitable. Although there are good people in this group my concern is that it has formed to be an alternative form of government. We have a paid government. Garfield Heights was a Democratic stronghold. I was all set to make a donation until I heard this young man is trying to be our mayor. I do not see diversity in this group. I do not fund political groups...

...I want my information from paid officials. There are many fine people getting involved. I support them but I don't support fringe government. We don't need to Bring Back Garfield Heights. It has always been here as a working-class community. It has always had diversity...

...I want my information from all of you not fringe groups. Someone should address Ray Cook's postings. Jim Feeney and his wife are not running the city...

...I support our Mayor and council. They inherited a mess (City View) and other situations. Yes, Garfield Heights is an inner ring suburb...last years senior's won millions of dollars in scholarships. I am proud of my working-class city. My street had many new roofs. Houses that sold at asking price. I am proud when the football team goes to the play offs...

...I think you are doing a good job..."

The 2019 municipal election is extremely important. Garfield Heights does not need fringe groups or obstructionists (like my opponent) in office. We need a Council that will continue to work with our Mayor for the benefit of our citizens.



Joe LaMalfa, G.H. Councilman – Ward 2
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CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS LEGAL NOTICE REGARDING A CHANGE IN COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

In accordance with Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code, and Chapter 208 of the Administrative Code of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Maple Heights, notice is hereby given for a change in the 2019 Public Meeting Schedule for the City of Maple Heights, Ohio. The Regular Meetings of Council of the City of Maple Heights have been changed for the summer months. Regular Meetings of Council will be held on **Wednesday, June 5, 2019, Wednesday, July 3, 2019 and Wednesday, August 7, 2019**, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Maple Heights Senior Center, 15901 Libby Road, Maple Heights, Ohio with Caucus Meeting at 6:30 p.m. Special Meetings of Council may be held as needed, with proper notice of time and place.

Leonette Cicirella
Clerk of Council
City of Maple Heights

The Neighborhood News
May 29, 2019
June 5, 2019




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Community police reports

Bedford

Suspicion

On May 28 at about 11 a.m., the Bedford Parks and Recreation Department received an anonymous tip that four men were smoking marijuana in a park pavilion in the 100 block of Ellenwood Avenue. Police arrived and arrested one man.

Fight

On May 27 at about 1:50 a.m., police responded to the Automobile Inn at 76 Broadway Ave. for a report of two females fighting inside the bar. One woman sustained a head wound and was transferred to Bedford Medical Center. The other woman was taken into custody and charged with disorderly conduct.

Theft

On May 27 at about 4:40 a.m. officers responded to the

Circle K at 1480 Broadway Ave. for a theft report. A man took cigarettes from the store and had a warrant with Shaker Heights. He was arrested for theft.

Stolen vehicle

On May 26 at about 12:10 p.m., a caller reported that her vehicle was stolen from her driveway in the 90 block of Talbot Drive sometime overnight. The vehicle was not left running and had been stolen without keys.

Cleveland

Aggravated robbery

On May 27 at about 8:45 p.m., police received a report of an armed robbery at the BP gas station at 4901 Fleet Avenue. The victim said that on May 26 at about 2 a.m., a man assaulted him, striking him in the face and taking his car keys but leaving the car at the gas station. He said the suspect left but returned to the gas station with a handgun and threatened to "shoot up" the victim's car if he did not return the man's property. The victim said he has no knowledge of the property. Police were directed to the suspect's home. The man said he took the keys but did not have a handgun. He was arrested for aggravated robbery.

Garfield Heights

OVI

• On June 2 at about 2:55 a.m., police responded to a motor vehicle accident involving a police vehicle near the intersection of Turney Road and Antenucci Boulevard. A vehicle rear-ended the cruiser, causing damage to both vehicles. Officers observed the driver had a strong odor of alcoholic beverage on her breath. She also had glassy eyes and low-hanging eyelids. The woman failed standardized field sobriety tests and was arrested for OVI. She provided a breath sample of .22% BAC and was cited for OVI over .17% and assured clear distance ahead.

• On May 31 at about 2:20 a.m., an officer observed a vehicle exit the Burger King at 4869 Turney Rd., which was closed, at a high rate of speed and travel west on Runnymede Avenue. The vehicle then failed to stop at the stop sign at the intersection of Turney Road and Runnymede and made an improper turn into the center lane. The officer stopped the vehicle near Turney Road and Garfield Boulevard. The officer detected odors of alcohol and marijuana coming from the driver and the vehicle. The driver also had red, watery eyes and slurred speech. The man was asked to exit the vehicle for standardized field sobriety tests. However, he said he was going to call his brother, who was a cop, to see if he was being arrested. Officers advised that he was not being arrested and by refusing to exit the vehicle and being on his cell phone, he was obstructing the officer's ability to conduct the traffic stop. He refused standardized field sobriety tests and was then informed that he was under arrest. During an inventory of the vehicle, officers discovered an open bottle of Remy Martin Cognac and small pieces of raw marijuana that were too small to collect. The man supplied a breath sample at the jail of .064. He was cited for OVI, stop signs, improper turn, tinted glass and open container in a motor vehicle.

(Continued on Page 7)

POOL OPENS SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH AT THE DAN KOSTEL RECREATION CENTER, 5411 TURNEY ROAD

Passes & ID Cards will go on sale May 28th during open office hours. Call ahead as office hours are still limited. Beginning Tuesday, June 4th there will be evening hours available — 8:00am - 7:00pm, for those wishing to make purchases prior to opening day. Call 216-475-7272.

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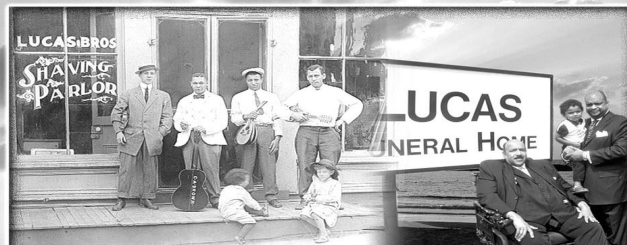
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4501 McGregor ALL DAYS 3922 Washington Park *THURS-FRI-SAT

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit, 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.

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Community police reports

(Continued from Page 4)

• On May 29 at about 5:10 p.m., officers responded to a motor vehicle accident in the 12500 block of Rockside Road. The male victim said the female driver attempted to pull into a lot and struck his vehicle. The woman said she had four mixed drinks throughout the day. She failed standardized field sobriety tests and was arrested for OVI and cited for failure to yield and a prior OVI refuse. She had prior OVIs in 2002, 1999, 1997 and 1992.

Burglary

On May 24 at about 5:50 p.m., officers responded to the 9800 block of Sladden Avenue for a report of a home invasion. A man had run from his residence to the 9400 block of Cardwell Avenue and asked the homeowner to call police.

The man said he and the first-floor female resident were in his second-floor

apartment when two unknown men with hoods wrapped around the lower part of their faces entered through the back door. One of the men had a gun. The male resident said he ran to the balcony and jumped to the front lawn, injuring his right foot. He looked up and saw one of the men pointing a gun toward him. He then fled to Cardwell.

The woman gave a similar story, adding that after the resident jumped from the balcony, the suspects fled after taking the man's wallet, which contained \$11, his Social Security card and a KeyBank debit card.

A witness who resides in the 9800 block of Sladden confirmed the man jumped from the balcony and that a man pointed a gun at him as he lay in the grass.

Motor vehicle theft

On June 1 at about 7 a.m., police responded to the 12200 block of Valley Lane for a report of a motor vehicle theft. The complainant said she returned home May 31 at about 7 p.m. and

parked the vehicle in front of the apartments. When she awoke the next morning, she noticed the vehicle was gone. She said she has the only key to the vehicle.

Assault

On June 1 at about 12:30 a.m., officers responded to Futures Bar at 4912 Turney Rd. for a handgun left behind following an incident. Employees said a man pulled up in front of the bar holding a black handgun. He spoke to an employee at the door, accusing him of striking him earlier, and hit him on the right side of his head behind the ear. During the altercation that followed the man dropped the gun. Another customer picked it up and turned it into the bar.

Several customers followed the man to the 9600 block of David Road. Officers responded to the address and spoke to the man, who denied brandishing the gun. He said he had been assaulted at the bar earlier and that the "bouncer" struck him in the face. The employee was advised to follow up with the prosecutor's office.

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Department Chair
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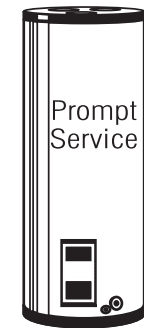
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Fugitive felon shot during apprehension in Bedford ST. JP II STATUE DEDICATED



On Sunday, May 19, at about 7:25 a.m., City Bail Bonds contacted Bedford police to say that they were in the area attempting to apprehend a violent fugitive felon with a warrant, Bedford Deputy Chief Rick Suts said.

At about 9:35 a.m., police received a call of shots fired from the 90 block of Solon Road. Responding officers arrived and saw the City Bail Bonds agents ad-

ministering first aid to Charles Jones-Hill, 27, who was wanted for two felony weapons violations.

Jones-Hill has a lengthy criminal history, including kidnapping, robbery, burglary and drug and weapons offenses, Suts said.

Investigating officers learned that Jones-Hill jumped out of his apartment window to evade the

agents, landing on one of them. A struggle ensued, and a shot was fired while Jones-Hill attempted to disarm the agent. No one was injured at this point.

A separate agent in Jones Hill's apartment fired a round in defense of the agent on the ground, striking Jones Hill once in the lower back. He was transported to MetroHealth Hospital for treatment and is expected to recover.

Fired Trinity teacher charged with furnishing alcohol to a minor

The Trinity teacher who was fired May 6 after reportedly providing alcohol to students has been formally charged, according to court records.

Eric Kisela, who was a gym teacher at the high school, was charged with furnishing alcohol to a minor.

His arraignment is set for

today, June 5, at 8:30 a.m. in Garfield Heights Municipal Court.

Kisela allegedly provided alcohol to a small group of students following an event at the school on May 3, according to the police report. A student and her mother reported the incident to police.

Local author to discuss 'Cleveland Then and Now'

The Independence branch of the Cuyahoga County Library, 6361 Selig Drive, will host author and Plain Dealer reporter Laura DeMarco on Friday, June 21, at 12:30 p.m. at the Independence Civic Center, 6363 Selig Drive.

DeMarco will discuss her book entitled "Cleveland Then and Now."

Pairing vintage photos with their modern-day viewpoint, DeMarco will take program attendees on a tour through the many dramatic transformations of this vibrant city.

The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Independence Library. Registration is required by calling the library at 216-447-0160.



The dedication of the St. John Paul II statue at the Polish Cultural Garden in Rockefeller Park was held on Saturday, May 18, with Bishop Roger Gries in attendance as well as the sculptor, Andrzej Pitynski. A reception followed the ceremonies at the John Paul II Polish American Cultural Center in Slavic Village. Shown in the photo at the dedication are Rev. Fr. Jerzy Kusy, at left, with Bishop Gries. Photo by Monika Sochecki

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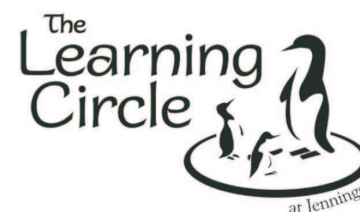
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