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97th YEAR NO. 17

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2020

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

FREE

Happy 90th, to Betts Skrha!

Mrs. Betty Ann (Betts) Skrha, resident of the North Broadway community of Cleveland, civic leader, former nurse and all-around great lady, celebrated her 90th birthday yesterday on New Year's Day with family and friends.



Betts Skrha

Betts, the daughter of Camille and Dr. Raymond Stasny, is a lifelong Clevelander with the credentials to prove it. She attended Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary School and graduated high school from Notre Dame Academy in 1948. She went on to receive a bachelor of science degree from Notre Dame College and a bachelor of science in nursing degree from St. John College in 1955.

She met her future husband, Joseph Skrha, at St. Alexis Hospital, where she was a nurse and he a physician. The two married in 1954 and Betts continued working at St. Alexis as a nurse, teaching Obstetrics. Eventually she would work with Dr. Joe at his family medicine practice on Broadway, across from St. Alexis Hospital, until he retired in 1996, along the way raising a daughter and three sons.

When Joe pursued becoming a deacon in the Catholic church in 1977, Betts was at his side and became very active in the Deaconate program.

She volunteered in many organizations in the community over the years and initiated and chaired the St. Michael Hospital Community Board until the hospital was razed.

In 2005 she was invited to join the Cleveland Central Catholic High School Advisory Board and is still active in that capacity. Betts is also a board member of Lourexis/Alexia Manor. She is active with the Bohemian National Hall and Our Lady of Lourdes Church at East 55th and Broadway. And lastly, and most importantly to her, Betts is a loving mother and grandmother of five.

It is through her unbounded energy, curiosity and spirit that she has been recognized by many organizations and the state of Ohio as Senior Citizen of the Year. And through all the ups and downs of life, her deep Catholic beliefs have sustained and nurtured her.

A woman of incredible faith, endurance and joy, please join us in wishing Betts Skrha a very Happy 90th Birthday!

Bedford Council to hold special meeting

By Judith Goldsworth

Bedford City Council will hold a special organizational meeting at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 2, at Bedford City Hall, 165 Center Rd.

There will be a swearing-in ceremony to administer the oath of office to returning council members Walter Genutis in Ward 2, Paula Mizesak in Ward 4 and Donald Saunders in Ward 6.

Also considered during the meeting will be a motion to appoint a new vice-mayor to a two-year term. The vice mayor serves the city in the event of the mayor's absence. A motion to appoint a Bedford Historical Society member will also be on the agenda.

A reception will follow the adjournment of the meeting and the public is welcome to attend.

Genealogical group to meet

The Cuyahoga Valley Genealogical Society will meet on Monday, Jan. 6, at 7 p.m., at the Independence Civic Center, Willow Room, 6353 Selig Dr., Independence.

A "History of Woodland Cemetery" by Michelle Day will be the program. She founded Woodland Cemetery Foundation to assist with restoration and repair projects within the cemetery. Call President Bobbi Hamm, 330-225-0890, for more information.

SANTA VISITS FLEET AVE.



It was all about the children at the Breakfast With Santa the Sunday before Christmas as a new community planning group, Community Yahoos, helped the Polish Legion of American Veterans, Lincoln Post 13, celebrate the season at the post home on Fleet Avenue in Slavic Village. Volunteers, Councilman Tony Brancatelli and police officers from Cleveland's Fourth District also helped make it a day to remember.

Submitted photos

Maple Heights Council update

By Judith Goldsworth

Maple Heights Council will hold a special organizational meeting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 2, at the Maple Heights Senior Center, 15901 Libby Rd., to swear in newly elected officials and to pass legislation, Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella stated.

Sworn in to new terms of office will be returning Councilwoman Toni Jones

in District 2, and new council members Dana Anderson in District 4 and Richard Trojanski in District 6.

Trojanski had previously served the city as a District 6 council member from 2009-2015, and also as council president from 2016-2017. He was also a Maple Heights civil service commissioner in 2018 and 2019.

At the special meeting, council will consider a resolution observing the birthday of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and honoring his life. The official observance is Monday, Jan. 20.

Also considered will be a motion to authorize Finance Director Tinita Tillman to open a Health Savings Ac-

count (HSA)/Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) at Key Bank. The accounts will be set up in accordance with recently passed legislation regarding a contract with Medical Mutual of Ohio to provide health insurance to full-time city employees for 2020.

An HSA is a tax-advantaged personal savings account that can be used to pay for current or future health care expenses, and unused funds roll over from year to year, while an HRA is an employer-funded account that helps employees pay for qualified medical expenses not covered by their health plans, according to the Bank of America website.

(Continued on Page 3)

Happy New Year!

*To the Residents
of Ward 3 in
Garfield Heights*



Wishing you and your family all the best in 2020.

Michael Nenadovich and Family
GARFIELD HEIGHTS COUNCILMAN WARD 3

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richly
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2020 and
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The city of Cleveland is sponsoring an Exterior Paint Program in 2020 to provide paint and supply vouchers to homeowners and tenants under a certain income level who need the exterior of their homes repainted. Those who are eligible may qualify for up to \$1,500 in free paint and other supplies.

To participate, you must apply by Friday, Feb. 28, 2020. For more information and to apply, contact Lynn

Rodemann at Slavic Village Development, 216-429-1182, ext. 141, or lynnr@slavicvillage.org.

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TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS
VIA EMAIL: NNEWS1923@AOL.COM

*With Best Wishes
for a Happy and
Prosperous New Year!*

from the
City of Maple Heights

Mayor Annette M. Blackwell



**Wishing Everyone a very
Happy & Blessed New Year**

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2 Locations

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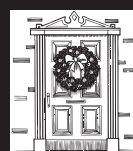
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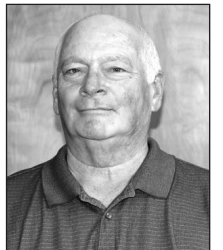
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Happy New Year!

May health and happiness
follow you throughout
the coming year!



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As we start 2020...

Wishing You and Your
Family All Good Things
in the New Year!



Jason and Anne Marie Blake

Councilman Ward 5 City of Garfield Heights

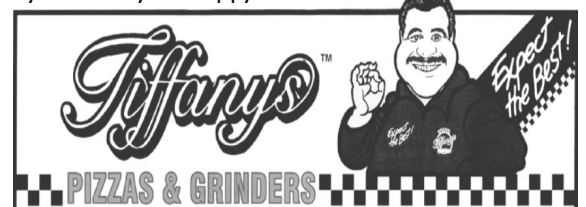
Happy New Year!

**Councilman Tom
and Barb Vaughn**

Garfield Heights Ward 7



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to your family ... Happy New Year! 216-587-3900



5035 TURNEY ROAD, ACROSS FROM TURNEY TOWN
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Maple Heights Council

(Continued from Page 1)

Formal swearing-in ceremony Jan. 6

The city of Maple Heights will hold swearing-in ceremonies for Mayor Annette Blackwell, who was elected to a second term in November, from 6-8 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 6, at Milkovich Middle School, 19800 Stafford Ave.

Council members Jones, Anderson and Trojanski will also be sworn in to their new terms at the ceremony. Light refreshments will be served.

2020 budget figure released

After council passed an ordinance last month for the city's budget for fiscal year ending Dec. 31, 2020, Tillman released the total figure for this year's budget.

"The total figure for the 2020 budget that was passed at last week's council meeting is \$25,849,570.95," Tillman stated on Tuesday, Dec. 24.

The budget legislation had to be passed by the end of 2019 and presented to the Cuyahoga County fiscal officer by Dec. 31, 2019.

Council also held a special meeting on Monday, Dec. 30, to enter into Executive Session to interview applicants and select candidates for two positions on the Planning and Zoning Commission, Cicirella stated. The results of that meeting were not available as of press time.

Neighborhood News 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.

Happy New Year!

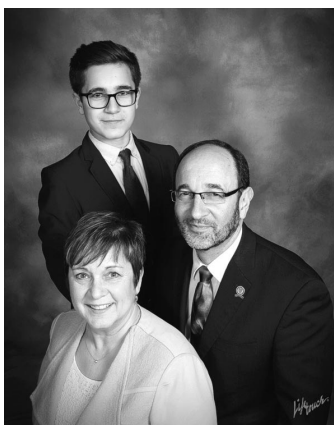


Wishing friends
the best in 2020!

Vince and Kay
Liotta



The year 2020 is here, and we hope
everyone enjoys all good things
throughout the coming days and months.



Jack, Gail and Tony

Councilman Anthony Brancatelli

Cleveland, Ward 12

216.664.4233 ABrancatelli@ClevelandCityCouncil.org

New Year's GREETINGS

*The time has come for us to wish you
much happiness and success in this
exciting new year.*

Best Wishes in 2020

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LIBRARY SPECIAL PROGRAMS

(The following events are being held at various branches of the Cuyahoga County Library system.)

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Call 216-475-5000 to register for the following:

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Chinese Calligraphy for Adults, Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 6 p.m. Celebrate the Chinese New Year by learning Chinese calligraphy from an instructor. All supplies will be provided.

Creating Winning Resumes and Cover Letters, Monday, Jan. 27, at 6:30 p.m. Tired of using the same resume over and over again? Or have you been asking yourself, "Do I really need a cover letter?" If the answers to both are "Yes," then join the library for an enriching workshop that offers the latest tips and trends that you can use to help your resume and cover letter stand out from your competitors! This workshop also provides information about the different styles of resumes and cover letters, as well as the power of optimizing both documents with keywords so that you can pass through applicant tracking system (ATS) used by employers to quickly narrow down the top choices of candidates using.

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(Continued on Page 8)

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LEGAL NOTICE
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2020 PUBLIC MEETINGS 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 the **2020 Public Meetings Schedule for the City of Maple Heights, Ohio.**

The **Council of the City of Maple Heights, Ohio** shall meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 pm (with Caucus Meeting at 6:30 pm) at the Maple Heights Senior Center located at 15901 Libby Road, Maple Heights, Ohio. Council may amend their regular meeting schedule during the summer months. A regular meeting that falls on a holiday shall be held on the day following the legal holiday. The Mayor, President of Council or any three (3) members of Council may call a Special Meeting of Council upon written notice served at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the time fixed for such meetings, except in the case of a public emergency. Any such request for a Special Meeting shall state the specific subject(s) to be considered at the meeting and no other subject(s) shall be discussed. Nothing in this section shall prohibit, limit or restrict the right of Council or any of the other bodies to cancel or reschedule any scheduled meeting or to adopt, in accordance with law, a different schedule of meetings at any time during the remainder of the year.

As per these rules, the first Regular Meeting of Council for 2020 shall be held on **Thursday, January 2, 2020** at the same time and place as listed above.

The **Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Maple Heights, Ohio** shall meet on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 pm (with Caucus Meeting at 6:00 pm) in the Maple Heights City Hall Council Chambers, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio. If the need arises, the Building Commissioner may call a second meeting during the month on the fourth Monday of the month with proper notice. Please call the Clerk's Office at least one week before the meeting at 216-587-9000 to arrange for handicap assistance if needed.

Leonette F. Cicirella, Clerk of Council
City of Maple Heights

The Neighborhood News
January 2, 2020

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Community police reports

CLEVELAND

Felonious Assault

A woman in the 6500 block of Sebert Ave. called police and told them her nephew, who lives in the same apartment building as she does, had been shot. She said he had banged on her apartment door on Friday, Dec. 27, shortly after midnight and told her he had been shot; she let him in and called police. The victim walked out of her living room and told police he had been shot in the back. Police observed a suspected bullet hole in the back of the flexible back brace he was wearing. EMS was called to respond and conveyed the victim to Metro.

Police went to Metro to get more information from the victim. He said he had gone to a convenience store on Fleet Ave. with a younger male friend and that his friend began speaking with another male (the suspect who later shot him). The suspect got angry when the victim told his friend it was time to leave. The two drove off, with the suspect firing a shot into the victim's vehicle while he was driving away. After realizing his vehicle had been shot, the victim parked in his driveway and walked down Sebert from his residence toward E. 65 St., where he encountered the same man who had shot his car. The suspect then shot the victim three or four times, striking him at least once when he was on the sidewalk, somewhere near his apartment building. The victim then went to his aunt's for help.

When police confronted the victim with evidence that he, too, had been firing a weapon, he was evasive but denied doing so several times. Metro hospital staff told police the victim had two suspected gunshot injuries to his abdomen, with no foreign objects inside him - likely a through and through wound from a single gunshot. He was admitted to Metro for treatment. 4th District detectives to follow up.

Burglary

Cleveland police received a report of a burglary on Saturday, Dec. 28, at 2 p.m., from a home in the 4100 block of E. 79 St. The reporting person told police she went to her brother's house on E. 79 St. When she pulled up she saw that the front door was wide open. She walked around the back of the house and noticed that the back door had been kicked in. She entered and saw that her brother's microwave, blinds, fan, two flat screen televisions, leather couch and pressure washer were gone.

She then went outside and saw some of the missing items (fan, microwave, and blinds) were in the bed of the neighbor's pickup truck. Police questioned the neighbor, who said she was pulling into her driveway when she saw the items were blocking her from getting all the way in so she picked them up and put them in the bed of her vehicle. 4th District detectives to follow up.

Assault

Police received an assault complaint on Saturday, Dec. 28, at 11 a.m., from an apartment in the 8100 block of Harvard Ave. A man living in an adjacent apartment told police his neighbor had punched him in the face after he asked the victim if "he's been messing with his mail." The suspect left the location in an unknown direction. The victim was given a report number and advised to the prosecutor. Police noted the victim had no visible injuries.

FBI upping attack on violent crime in Cleveland

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is partnering with local, state and federal law enforcement under a new initiative that will tackle crime in seven of the country's most violent cities, according to its website, with the city of Cleveland included in the list.

Operation Relentless Pursuit will increase the number of federal law enforcement officers and bulk up federal task forces in Cleveland, Detroit, Memphis, Baltimore, Kansas City, Milwaukee and Albuquerque.

Up to \$71 million in federal grant funding will be available for new hires, mission-critical equipment and technology, and other needs.

The FBI already has dedicated resources in the cities chosen for Operation Relentless Pursuit but will now contribute even more.

FBI Director Christopher Wray says the Bureau will provide its unique investigative tools and techniques to the collective effort.

"We'll do that by reassigning a number of special agents and other personnel to each of these cities to help investigate and take the worst offenders off the streets and cripple their organizations," Wray said.

The FBI combats violent crime across the country through hundreds of task forces, including the Violent Gang Safe Streets Task Forces and Violent Crimes Task Forces.

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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SPECIAL PROGRAMS

(Continued from Page 4)

The Golden Age of Shopping in Cleveland, Friday, Jan. 3, 12:45 p.m. Which was more glamorous - riding the elevator (with an operator) or your first few tries on the escalator? Reminisce about Halle Brothers, May Co., Higbee's and the Sterling Lindner Christmas tree. A historian from the Western Reserve Historical Society will lead this look back at the height of downtown elegance and elaborate holiday displays. Sponsored by the Friends of the Independence Branch Library and presented in partnership with the Independence Civic Center. This program will

be held at the Independence Civic Center, 6363 Selig Dr.

Dying for Love: A Library Murder Mystery, Thursday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m.

Join us for an exciting night of murder and mystery. Meet the suspects, find the clues, and help us solve the crime! Just before the opening night premier of "Dying for Love," a local play, the lead actor, Austin Jane, is found dead! Join in for an exciting night of murder and mystery.

Meet the suspects, find the clues and help solve the crime!

BEDFORD

Call 440-439-4997 to register for any of the following:

Homework Center, Grades K-8, Monday-Thursday, 4-6:30 p.m. Students who participate in the program receive homework assistance from trained tutors in the following subjects: language arts, math, reading, science and social studies. Must register.

New Year, New You, New Skills - Lynda.com, Saturday, Jan. 18, 10 a.m. Learn how to access quality, authoritative online learning for free. Certificates are available for some online classes. Come meet Lynda.com. With Lynda.com you can learn music production, 3D modeling, coding, grant writing, technical writing and so much more! Must register.

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