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97th YEAR NO. 18

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2020

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FREE

YEAR IN REVIEW

The new decade of the 2020s has arrived, full of promise and hope for a bright year ahead. Let's look back now at some of the memorable stories published in The Neighborhood News in 2019.

JANUARY

- Cornelius Pames, Jr., 25, was charged last week with aggravated murder in connection with the death of 94-year-old Eucebia Garcia in a violent home invasion on Gertrude Avenue in Slavic Village in September 2018.

- A public reception will be held for two local Good Samaritans on Wednesday, Jan. 16, at 5:30 p.m. at the Maple Heights Senior Center. Honored will be cousins Rayfield Hallman and Steven William Wood, who stopped while driving down Raymond Avenue in Maple Heights last month when they saw an unconscious woman on the ground in the doorway of her house and her toddler asleep on her chest on a bitterly cold day. They called police and stayed with the mother and child until help arrived.

- The new elementary school at E. 74th Street and Canton Ave. in Slavic Village, replacing the old Fullerton School, opened on Monday, Jan. 7, and will be known as A.B. Hart Elementary School after an official board vote this month.

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

- After three readings and lots of input from city officials and residents, Garfield Heights Council passed legislation Monday night to end the pit bull ban in the city and require every dog owner in Garfield Heights to have at least \$50,000 worth of liability insurance on their dogs.

- Stella Walsh Recreation Center, 7245 Broadway Ave., Slavic Village, will open its doors to help residents keep warm this Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, from noon to 8 p.m. Although Stella Walsh is not a formal 24-hour warming center at this time, they encourage residents to stop by if they want to warm up during the arctic freeze coming our way.

(Continued on Page 4)

Vic Fluharty chosen vice mayor in Bedford

By Judith Goldsworth

Councilman Vic Fluharty was chosen as the city of Bedford's new vice mayor, to serve in the absence of Mayor Stan Koci, and returning council members Walter Genutis, Paula Mizsak and Donald Saunders were sworn in to their new four-year terms of office at a special Bedford Council meeting last week.

Fluharty, who has served Ward 3 for a number of years, expressed his appreciation for being chosen to serve a

Mayor Blackwell, other Maple Heights officials sworn in at ceremonial meeting

By Judith Goldsworth

Maple Heights Mayor Annette Blackwell was sworn in to another term in office at a special ceremonial Maple Heights City Council meeting held on Monday at Milkovich Middle School, as was returning District 2 Councilwoman Toni Jones. District 4 Councilwoman Dana Anderson and District 6 Councilman Richard Trojanski were sworn into new terms of office.

Blackwell was sworn in to her second term by Pastor Reginald D. Willis of Philemon Community Baptist Church. Jones was sworn in by Ronald J. H. O'Leary, Anderson by Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Judge Deborah M. Turner and Trojanski by Phyllis Harris, executive director of the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland.

City officials gave special thanks to the Maple Heights City Schools, the Maple Heights Police Department, and the Maple Heights City Department of Human Services for their help in making the ceremony possible.

Special council meetings

Council 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.

At that special meeting council appointed Venita Sanders to the Planning and Zoning Commission to complete the unexpired term to May 31, 2022. Council also reappointed Kevin James to the Planning and Zoning

two-year term as vice mayor. At the meeting, council also passed a motion appointing Councilwoman Sandy Spinks to serve as a Bedford Historical Society member, a liaison position on behalf of the city.

And because the meeting was held on Thursday, Jan. 2, council passed another motion to cancel the regularly scheduled council meeting on Monday, Jan. 6.

(Continued on Page 2)



Shown at Monday's swearing in ceremonies for Maple Heights officials are, from left: Mayor Annette Blackwell, Councilman Richard Trojanski, Ohio House District 12 Rep. Juanita Brent, Councilwomen Toni Jones and Dana Anderson. Officials are holding certificates of recognition from the state presented to them by Rep. Brent. Photo courtesy of Brick City Productions, Louie Moore

Commission for the term expiring May 31, 2024.

At a special organizational meeting held on Thursday, Jan. 2, Law Director Frank Consolo administered the oaths of office to Blackwell, Jones, Anderson and Trojanski.

Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella said that council passed a resolution to observe the birthday of civil rights pioneer Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and honoring his life.

The official observation of Dr. King's birthday this year will be Monday, Jan. 20, and the city of Maple Heights "encourages all Americans to celebrate his memory by performing acts of kindness through service to others," the legislation states.

At the Jan. 2 meeting, council also approved a motion authorizing Finance Director Tinita Tillman to open an HSA/HRA account at Key Bank for the sole purpose of depositing/withdrawing funds related to the employees' HSA/HRA accounts.

The accounts are being 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. Employees will pay a co-pay amount into an HSA (Health Savings Account) to partially fund their deductible, with the city contributing the remaining amount necessary to fully fund the deductible for each employee.



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NARI Home Improvement Show moves downtown

After 38 years at the I-X Center, the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) Home Improvement Show is moving to downtown Cleveland!!

"In the last decade a lot of good things have been happening in Cleveland, especially with the downtown area. Old buildings, many that used to be vacant, have come alive and are being remodeled for residential use. Downtown Cleveland is happening and we plan to be a big part of that," said Kathy Masterson, executive director of NARI Greater Cleveland.

The show will run from Thursday, Jan. 9, through Sunday, Jan. 12, at the Huntington Convention Center.

Masterson said many of the over 200 exhibitors were thrilled with the new location, which is easily accessible for people from both the east and west sides of town. Also, parking is more convenient with 1,200 spaces at the Huntington Park Garage with direct indoor access to the venue.

The 2020 NARI Home Improvement Show will have two feature areas: The "Garage Mahal," presented by Ohio Garage Interiors, which features a complete garage transformation into more usable and functional space; and The Chef's Table, presented by Artistic Renovations, featuring induction cooking demonstrations by area chefs in this working display of the latest kitchen renovations.

Also, HGTV star Alison Victoria, as seen on "Kitchen Crashers, Windy City Rehab" and "Rock the Block" will be appearing on the main stage on Saturday, Jan. 11. Her

appearance is sponsored by Ohio State Waterproofing and Remodel Me Today.

Admission to the 2020 NARI Home Improvement Show is \$14 for adults. Those 16 and under are free of charge. All military get half-off full admission. Seniors 60 and over receive half-off full admission on Friday only. Tickets can be purchased online at www.NARIHomeShow.com. Discount coupons for \$2 off are available at Sherwin-Williams, Discount Drug Mart, Mr. Hero locations and also at www.NARIHomeShow.com.

Fluharty chosen vice mayor

(Continued from Page 1)

The next regularly scheduled Bedford Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 21, due to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, city officials stated.

After the returning council members were sworn in and spoke, Ohio House District 12 Rep. Juanita Brent, who had sworn in Mizesak and whose district includes the city, extended her formal congratulations to all three councilpersons and presented them with certificates of recognition from the state for their accomplishments and winning reelection.

"It takes an exceptional work ethic and dedication to get to where you are now," Brent said. "Winning an election is no easy task. Therefore, you can be proud of your impressive attainment."

Brent stated, "Let your excellent service serve as great examples for the council members who are following in your footsteps... You truly represent the best of Ohio House District 12."



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Community police reports

CLEVELAND

Felonious Assault

Cleveland police responded to Marymount Hospital on Tuesday, Dec. 31, at 6:29 p.m. for a male shot who had driven himself to the hospital. The victim, a 27-year-old Garfield Heights resident, was LifeFlighted to Metro, where police were able to speak with him. He told police he went to buy marijuana from an unknown male in the Connecticut-Warner area that he met through "some people." He had just bought the weed and was unsure if he shortchanged the suspect or not, when he saw the man running towards his car and then heard a gunshot. When the victim realized he had been shot, he drove himself to Marymount.

Police learned the victim had suffered a gunshot wound to the left side of the head with the bullet resting against his brain. His car was parked at the main entrance to Marymount Hospital. Police checked it out and saw a bullet hole in the left rear passenger frame and the window shot out. A small bag of suspected marijuana was sitting on the front seat. 4th District detectives were requested to follow up.

Shots Fired

Calls to police were received on Saturday, Dec. 28, about 2:30 p.m., that three shots were fired in the vicinity of Dorver Ave., off Warner Rd. Caller stated that a male and female were shooting off their back porch.

GARFIELD HEIGHTS

Theft From Auto

Complainant went to GHPD headquarters to report that his guns were stolen out of his friend's vehicle sometime between 10 p.m. and midnight on December 27. The car was parked in the Turneytown lot across from Unkut Lounge, 5011 Turney Rd. Persons unknown broke out the left rear passenger door, rummaged through the inside of the car and took a black Taurus .38 special and black Walther .22 caliber. Victim provided serial numbers for both guns and they were entered into L.E.A.D.S. as stolen.

Traffic Offense

Officer observed a black Pontiac on the tree lawn, which had been traveling south on Warner Rd. and had run off the road to the left just past Garfield Blvd. on December 29, at 3:11 a.m. A driver's side mirror was lying on the ground and a small tree was keeping the running vehicle

from moving. The driver, a 40-year-old male, was incoherent and smelled of alcohol. Officer requested GHFD to take driver to Marymount Hospital to be sure he was not suffering from a medical condition or drug use. He was released from Marymount on \$10,000 bond and issued traffic tickets for failure to control, driving under suspension and OVI urine. Court date set.

Robbery

On December 29, at about 9:22 p.m., officers responded to the 13100 block of Cranwood Park Blvd. for a motor vehicle theft report. The victim said he had pulled into the GAS USA at 4561 E. 131 St. to make a purchase. He parked the vehicle and went inside the station, leaving the keys in the ignition and the vehicle running, with the doors unlocked. When he returned to the car he saw an unknown black male in his early 20's wearing a black hoodie, white shirt, light blue jeans and black skull cap enter the car through the driver's side. He tried to pull the suspect from the car but the suspect put the car in reverse and began driving off while the victim was still fighting with him, dragging him for a couple of feet until he was thrown out of the vehicle. The victim then went back to the gas station and called police. He suffered minor scratches and bruises and refused medical attention.

The victim was found to have an active misdemeanor warrant for failure to appear in court, was placed in handcuffs and taken to Garfield Heights jail. He was held on 10% of a \$3,500 bond for driving under suspension.

Theft

A 23-year-old woman went to GHPD headquarters on December 29, at 9:20 p.m., to report that she had gone to the parking lot of Elmwood School at 1 p.m. that day to sell her Apple Iphone 10 for \$380 to someone she had met on Offerup.com, but the money she received was counterfeit. She said she had met two males, both about 18-years-old, and when she exchanged the money for the phone, both males ran from the parking lot with the phone. The victim saw that the money they had given her was seven \$20 bills and was what she called "toy money."

Scholarships offered for Ohio engineering students

The Engineers Foundation of Ohio (EFO) is offering over \$32,000 in academic scholarships to qualifying engineering students for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Each year EFO offers the scholarships to top engineering students from throughout Ohio.

To qualify for most EFO scholarships, applicants must be U.S. citizens, permanent residents of the state of Ohio, and be graduating high school seniors admitted to an engineering program approved by the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology at an Ohio engineering college or Notre Dame.

Candidates must also meet the minimum academic standards of a SAT score of 600 in math and 500 in reading or composition (or an ACT score of 29 in math and 25 in English) and a 3.0 grade point average on the 4-point scale.

Additional criteria apply to some scholarships. For instance, the Lloyd A. Chace, PE, Memorial Scholarship provides \$2,000 annual grants to college juniors and seniors who must apply in their sophomore years.

EFO, a nonprofit charitable organization established in 1964 by members of the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers, also sponsors educational programs including MATHCOUNTS for junior high school students and the Imagine Engineering coloring contest for second graders. All EFO-supported programs and scholarships exist to elevate interest in math, science and engineering.

EFO's scholarship application and brochure, which details the specific criteria for the scholarships offered this year, may be obtained from the website www.ohioengineer.com (click on "Students & Educators", then on "Programs for Students", then on "Scholarships" and print from PDF files) or in high school guidance and career offices throughout Ohio or by calling EFO at 641-223-1177. Applications must be postmarked by 5 p.m., January 15, 2020.

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Carry-out Cafe OPEN Friday, Jan. 10th

YEAR IN REVIEW

(Continued from Page 1)

FEBRUARY

•Anthony Balducci, 41, of Cleveland, has been charged in the fatal shooting of a Newburgh Heights man found dead on the footbridge over I-77 in Slavic Village last month, according to a posting on cleveland.com.

•Maple Heights finally has a finance director. After a failed attempt to share the services of the Garfield Heights finance director, Mayor Annette Blackwell's appointment of Tinita Tillman to that office was approved by Maple Heights Council at its meeting last week.

•The Historical Society of Garfield Heights is marking the 100th anniversary of the city of Garfield Heights with a 100th Anniversary Celebration Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 23, at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Granger Road, catered by Maple Heights Catering.

•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 Darlington Ave. home in Garfield Heights.

•Garfield Heights Council Monday night 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, under its present ownership.

•The last of the former Geo'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.

MARCH

•This Saturday, March 9, at Bohemian National Hall, 4939 Broadway Ave., Cleveland, the Slavic Village community will celebrate the 22nd annual Neighborhood Summit from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This year's theme is "LOTS to Do in Slavic Village," highlighting all the vacant lot projects and side lot expansions.

•Elizabeth Bulanda of Bedford, an eighth grade student at St. Benedict Catholic School in Garfield Heights, was named the winner in her grade category of the Martin Luther King Essay Contest, sponsored by the Ohio Civil Rights Commission.

•Beginning Thursday, March 28, the Harvard Avenue bridge over I-77 in Newburgh Heights will close for 180 days for a bridge replacement. The project was awarded to the Ruhlin Company for \$6,073,897 and is expected to be completed by October.

•Frank Austin, a senior at Max S. Hayes High School and a youth leader in the Slavic Village neighborhood, has been named the Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland's Youth of the Year for 2019.

•The Maple Heights Police Department has issued warrants for the arrest of a suspect in the March 16th shooting on Brunswick Avenue that killed two men and left one seriously injured, according to MHPD.

the grand opening of Terrasana Cannabis Company, which opened a medical marijuana dispensary on Antenucci Boulevard on March 28. It is the first dispensary to open in the Greater Cleveland area.

•Win your Easter ham in the annual Neighborhood News Ham Giveaway. 53 to be given away. Sign up today at participating merchants.

•Chefs from EDWINS Leadership & Restaurant Institute were in the kitchen cooking at the April 7th Pancake Breakfast put on by the Kiwanis Club of South East Cleveland at Holy Name Church and got rave reviews from those attending the annual fundraiser.

•Slavic Village legend Tony Zajac passed away April 16 at the age of 76. He was a lifelong Cleveland resident and retired executive assistant to Ward 12 Councilman Tony Brancatelli. Funeral services were held May 4, at St. Monica Church in Garfield Heights.

•Events commemorating the 1791 Polish constitution, the world's second oldest constitution, begin this Friday, April 26, and climax Sunday with a parade down Fleet Avenue in Slavic Village at 1:30 p.m.

MAY

•Bedford Mayor Stan Koci and Fire Chief Dave Nagy thanked University Hospitals Bedford Medical Center officials at the council meeting April 15th for the donation of a \$30,000 cardiac monitor to the Bedford Fire Department.

•The Village of Newburgh Heights voted at its May 7th council meeting to raise the minimum legal sales age for all tobacco products from 18 to 21. This includes e-cigarettes and vape pens.

•Four people were injured in a shooting that occurred in the 9500 block of Cardwell Avenue, in the Broadway-Slavic Village neighborhood on the border of Garfield Heights on Thursday, May 16, at about 10:35 p.m. Officers arrived on scene to find multiple victims lying in

(Continued on Page 7)

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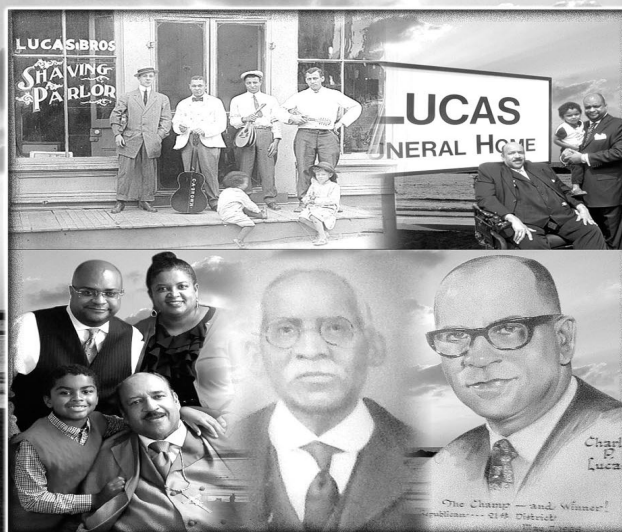
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APRIL

•Congratulations to Azlan Smith, who received the Mayor's Trophy in the 2019 Cinema Skates 51st annual Ice Show in Garfield Heights.

•Garfield Heights Mayor Vic Collova cut the ribbon for

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PERSONALS

PERSONALS

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

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

NOVENA TO ST. JUDE
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be Adored, Glorified, Loved & Preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, help of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer for 9 days. Publish it, it has never been known to fail. Thank you St. Jude for prayers answered and favors received.
BABY VINNY & M.J.

NOVENA TO ST. JUDE
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be Adored, Glorified, Loved & Preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, help of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer for 9 days. Publish it, it has never been known to fail. Thank you St. Jude for prayers answered and favors received.
L.O.

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YEAR IN REVIEW

(Continued from Page 4)

in the street.

- Richard Krzynowek, owner/barber at Ye Olde Clip Joint on Fleet Avenue in Slavic Village, has been named Cleveland Ward 12 Senior of the Year for the Senior Day festivities through the Cleveland Department of Aging at Cleveland Public Auditorium.

- The unveiling of the Robert Loeffler Varsity Baseball Complex will take place at Bedford High School on Saturday, June 1, at 10 a.m.

- On May 29th, starting at about 7 a.m., construction crews working on Section 3 of the Opportunity Corridor Project will begin setting the closure of I-490 between East 55th St. and I-77. I-490 will be closed for approximately two years.

JUNE

- 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.

- In an effort to “help deter and prosecute criminal behavior,” Maple Heights Council passed an ordinance at its meeting last week to begin the process of installing a security camera system at Stafford Park and other parks in the city.

- In an effort to raise funds to care for the families of pediatric brain tumor patients, on Sunday, June 9, the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation hosted the 15th annual Cleveland Ride for Kids in Independence, which raised \$49, 292 for the foundation, through the scenic, police-escorted motorcycle ride event.

- Cuyahoga County is relocating one of its five automobile title bureaus from Garfield Heights to Bedford. The temporary auto title location at 14000 Broadway Ave., Garfield Heights, was permanently closed yesterday at

the close of business. The license plate and driver’s license services in Garfield Heights ceased doing business there several weeks ago.

(More of the Year in Review in next week’s paper)

Give blood and you might win a trip to Super Bowl!!!

The American Red Cross currently has a critical need for blood donors of all blood types – especially type O – and platelet donors to make an appointment now to give and help replenish the blood supply after the holiday weeks. Right now, the Red Cross has less than a three-day supply of type O blood.

To help tackle the critical need, the Red Cross and NFL are working together to offer one lucky winner a trip to Super Bowl LIV in Miami.

Donors are urged to make an appointment to give now using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

As a special thank-you, those who come to give blood or platelets now through Jan. 19, 2020, will automatically be entered for a chance to experience the Super Bowl live. The Red Cross and NFL have teamed up to offer one winner two tickets to Super Bowl LIV, entry to the official NFL Tailgate, tickets to Super Bowl Experience at the Miami Beach Convention Center, round-trip airfare to Miami, three-night hotel accommodations at The Alexander® - All Suite Oceanfront Resort (Jan. 31 to Feb. 3), and a \$500 gift card for expenses. Additional details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl.

Local blood donor opportunities include:

Garfield Heights

1/6/2020: 1-6 p.m., Garfield Hts Civic Center, 5407 Turney Rd.

Independence

1/7/2020: 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Park Center Building I, 6100 Oak Tree Blvd.;

1/8/2020: 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Crown Centre II, 5001 Rockside Rd.;

1/13/2020: 1-7 p.m., Independence Community Center, 6363 Selig Dr.;

1/23/2020: 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Merrymeeting Group, 7100 East Pleasant Valley Rd.

Valley View

1/14/2020: 2-7 p.m., Valley View Community Center, 6828 Hathaway Rd.

LEGAL NOTICE

Redi Storage, 4620 Northfield Road, North Randall, OH, 44128, 216-714-5869 is hosting the following auctions on www.storagetreasures.com, Items to be auctioned off by whole unit. Friday, January 31st, 2020. Cash only and each unit has a \$50 cleaning deposit.

Zakee Ali, 1159 Carver Rd., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118, Unit #1116,10x10, Unit appears to contain: barber chairs, bookshelf, chest, end table, night stand, chair/step stool, shelving, heaters, weed wacker, wall pictures, clothing, boxes, bags and misc items. 12:00PM auction end time.

Jay JW Smith, 13444 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44112, Unit #2113, 5x10, Unit appears to contain: wrapped chest, stackable drawer storage bins, personal effects, boxes, misc items. 11:20AM auction end time.

Natasha S. Welch, 9001 Hough Ave., Cleveland, OH 44106, Unit #1328, 7x10, Unit appears to contain: mattress and box spring, headboard and bed frame, dresser, playpen, computer and equipment, baby items, baby/child toys, clothing, boxes, totes, bags and misc items. 11:10AM auction end time.

Marcie C. Young, 26302 Buckthorn, Bedford, OH, 44146, Unit #1103, 5x10, Unit appears to contain: futon, ironing board, couch, rugs, chair, vacuum cleaner, pillows, comforter, tote, bags, misc items. 11:00AM auction end time.

Redi Storage, 17101 Rockside Rd., Maple Heights, OH 44137, 216-662-6610 is hosting the following auction on www.storagetreasures.com, Items to be auctioned off by whole unit. Friday, January 31st, 2020. Cash only and \$100 cleaning deposit.

Newell Wickham, 14209 Brunswick Ave., Maple Heights, OH 44137, Unit #1124, 10x30, Unit appears to contain: pallets/moving equipment, vehicle sports rack, coolers, metal tool boxes, shelving, furniture, boxes, bags, totes and misc items. 11:40AM auction end time.

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Heating assistance available for low income, older residents

Home Energy Assistance Program now accepting applications

Cuyahoga County residents who struggle to pay their winter heating bills are encouraged to apply for assistance through the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), a federally funded utility assistance program.

The Cuyahoga County Division of Senior and Adult Services (DSAS) administers this program for county residents ages 60 and over, and residents with disabilities ages 18-59, thanks to a grant from the Ohio Department of Aging, through the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging. Applications for HEAP will be accepted through March 31, 2020.

To be eligible for the program, an applicant's household income must fall below 175% of the federal poverty guidelines. Eligible residents can download an application in English or Spanish, and contact the office at 216-420-6700 to schedule an appointment.

Applicants need to bring copies of the following documents to their appointments:

A list of all household members

Proof of income for the past 30 days and 12 months for all household members

Income documents for all household members

Gas and electric heating bills regardless of account status

Proof of citizenship

Proof of disability (if applicable)

Social Security numbers for all household members

A one-time benefit will be applied directly to a customer's utility or bulk fuel bill after Jan. 1.

Other energy assistance programs are also available, including the HEAP Summer Crisis Program (SCP), HEAP Winter Crisis Program (WCP), Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP), the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP), and the Electric Partnership Program.

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