

# The Neighborhood News

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97th YEAR NO. 20

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2020

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

FREE

## Things looking up in Slavic Village, say neighborhood leaders

By Ellen Psenicka

The Slavic Village “State of the Neighborhood 2020” was held last Thursday evening at Third Federal corporate headquarters on Broadway, with civic leaders and neighborhood stakeholders presenting an optimistic view of their community over the past year and beyond.

Third Federal Foundation President Kurt Karakul told residents and business people attending the annual event, which included a complimentary dinner, about the foundation’s mission since it was formed 12 years ago and how it has made a difference in the community.

Karakul said when Marc Stefanski made the choice to stay on Broadway Avenue in Slavic Village and expand Third Federal’s corporate headquarters there, he also made a decision to support the educational outcomes of neighborhood children, and established the Third Federal Foundation as a vehicle to make it happen. With it came the establishment of the P-16 Council, a program to promote education for preschool through college students with engagement and collaboration.

Karakul noted some of the achievements P-16 has made since its inception which include:

- Creation of a Health Clinic at Mound School.
- Allocating \$110,000 to keep families in their homes.
- Refurbishing donated computers and giving away over 200 of them to Slavic Village households under its “PC’s for People” initiative.
- Creating a reading room in the waiting room at Metro Health Clinic on Broadway.

(Continued on Page 5)

## Kurtz glad to be back in Indy mayor’s seat

“It is surreal to be sitting up here once again, but it is a wonderful feeling to be back and able to serve this outstanding community,” Independence Mayor Gregory Kurtz said in his mayoral report at the regular meeting of council on Jan. 14.

“I have truly been humbled and am extremely grateful for the warm reception of so many of you since returning to office,” he said. “I’m excited to work with city council and our finance director as we embrace and explore opportunities and make decisions that will positively impact our future and future generations.”

In a short legislative agenda, there were six ordinances presented on first reading and all were passed by council unanimously.

Ordinances passed pertained to:

- Payment to the Division of Water for the annual fee for use of water from city fire hydrants based on the total number of hydrants.
- Authorizing the city to enter into various Memoranda of Understanding with the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District for educational and technical assistance in carrying out Clean Water Act responsibilities for 2020.
- Accepting the proposal of Crawford, Murphy & Tilly



**Judge Jennifer Weiler of Garfield Heights Municipal Court is shown administering the oath of office to Independence Mayor Gregory Kurtz, as Mayor Kurtz’ wife, Lyn, holds the Bible in ceremonies at city hall on Jan. 2.** Photo courtesy of the city of Independence

for professional services in connection with the Hillside Road Sidewalk and Drainage Improvements Project (Hemoga St. to Twin Creeks Ct.).

- Accepting the proposal of GPD Group for construction inspection services in connection with the development of Chestnut Woods subdivision, Section 3, Phase 6.
- Accepting the bid of Vancuren Services, Inc. for general city tree trimming, removal, disposal and related labor and equipment for city property.
- Accepting the proposal of Finley Fire Equipment Co., Inc., an authorized dealer for Pierce Manufacturing, Inc., to refurbish the fire department’s 1997 Pierce Quantum truck.

## Maple Heights officials make special presentation to carjacking victim

By Judith Goldsworth

A Garfield Heights woman who was the victim of a carjacking at a Lee Road business the week before Christmas was honored with a special presentation by Maple Heights officials at the council meeting last week.

Anne Thompson, 44, had just left kidney dialysis on Thursday, Dec. 19, and had stopped at the Magic Hair and Beauty Supply store at Lee and Libby roads on her way home, when two males waited for her to get out of her car, physically attacked her, threatened to shoot her and drove off with her car, according to Maple Heights police reports.

Surveillance video showed the suspects punching Thompson and pushing her to the ground before driving off in her Nissan Murano, which was later recovered. East Cleveland police reported that five juveniles were taken into custody on Friday, Dec. 20, in connection with the incident.

Maple Heights officials, concerned with the heartlessness of the crime and touched by Thompson’s plight,

which was compounded by her ongoing medical issues, banded together to help replace some of what was taken from her car.

Councilman Stafford Shenett, chairman of the Maple Heights Community Life and Education Committee (CLEC), which also includes council representatives Tanglyn Madden and Edwina Agee, made a special presentation at last week’s council meeting.

“To promote brotherly love,” Shenett stated, “our commitment to moving in a positive direction and to show fellowship to our neighbor, the Community Life and Education Committee of the Council, along with a local business, ‘Vivid,’ operated by brothers Antonio Golston and Tremaine Golston, would like to present Ms. Anne Thompson with a new heating blanket and a traveling pillow.”

Additionally, Michael Barkley of Power Mike Electric, and an advocate for his daughter, who was recently a victim of a hit and run accident, presented Thompson with flowers.

Thompson, who is presently awaiting a new kidney as she continues to undergo dialysis, expressed her appreciation to everyone involved and thanked them for their kindness.

### Resolutions passed

Council passed a resolution concerning renewal of an existing 1.3-mill tax levy which is currently being used for expenses and general operations of the Maple Heights Senior Center, and requested the Cuyahoga County fiscal officer to certify the total current tax valuation of the city and the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by that renewal levy, with the intention to place the renewal issue on the August ballot.

If approved by voters later this year, the renewal would be in effect for another five years, and the proceeds would be first made available in 2021, according to the resolution.

(Continued on Page 3)



## Genealogical society to meet

The Cuyahoga Valley Genealogical Society will meet on Monday, Feb. 3, at 7 p.m. at the Independence Civic Center, Willow Room, 6353 Selig Blvd., Independence. A talk on "Forensic Genealogy and 21st Century Research" will be presented by Cynthia Turk. Learn some techniques from heir searching to finding living cousins.

Call President Bobbi Hamm, 330-225-0890, for more information.

## Correction

The Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District's weeklong Camp Canopy at Camp Muskingum in Carroll County will run from June 7-12, 2020. Incorrect information was listed on the CSWCD website and published in last week's paper.

# Reader's CHOICE RECIPES

## SWEET MEATBALLS

Frozen cooked meatballs from GFS, 80 oz. or 5 or 6 lb. bag

1 or 2 12-oz. jars of Heinz cocktail sauce

1 or 2 12-oz. jars of Heinz chili sauce

24-oz. jar grape jelly, Smuckers brand

Put cocktail sauce, chili sauce and jelly in saucepan and heat on stovetop until sauce is warm. Put frozen meatballs in a large crockpot and pour warm sauce over them. Cook on high for 45 minutes to an hour. You may double up on the sauce if you are making a large amount of meatballs.

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### The Neighborhood News

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## Maple Heights officials

(Continued from Page 1)

Also regarding the needs of senior citizens in Maple Heights, council passed a resolution authorizing Mayor Annette Blackwell to enter into a contract with Senior Transportation Connection (STC) of Cleveland "to conduct the day-to-day call center and scheduling operations of the city's senior transit operations for the calendar year 2020, in the amount of \$750 per month."

Van operating days and hours are 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Friday, with the last pickup for the day from 3:15-3:30 p.m., according to the contract between the STC and the city approved through the legislation last week.

All fares are a \$1 donation, except for the Food Bank, which is no charge.

Council approved a resolution authorizing Blackwell to

reappoint Ed Hren of Chagrin Valley Engineering Ltd. as city engineer for another two years and also authorizes a contract for engineering professional services.

Also approved was a resolution authorizing Blackwell to enter into a one-year contract with three one-year extension options with Quality Control Inspection Inc. of Bedford, to provide inspection services for construction projects in the city.

An amended resolution was passed granting the appeal of Evelyn Lewis of the Bloo Print LLC, in a Planning and Zoning Commission case, for a conditional use permit to operate a restaurant and lounge in a neighborhood commercial zoning district at 5180 Northfield Rd.

The permit was granted contingent upon Planning and Zoning approving a variance for off-street parking, a security plan being presented to the police department for approval and a lighting plan, Council Clerk Leonette Cicirella stated.

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## 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 Freebie is two tickets to the St. Michael School in Independence production of the musical "Disney's The Little Mermaid JR," being held on Thursday, Feb. 20, and Friday, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m. at Independence Middle School, 6111 Archwood Rd., Independence. Deadline to enter the drawing is Thursday, Feb. 13.

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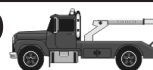
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# Things looking up in Slavic Village

(Continued from Page 1)

- Mound and A.B. Hart schools have advanced to a “C” grade on the state report card.
  - Service scholarship program at Cleveland Central Catholic High School which allows students and their parents to do public service in the community and receive \$10 an hour credit towards student tuition. Last year CCC had a 100% graduation rate and 89% of graduates went on to college.
  - Say Yes Cleveland, to which Third Federal donated \$1 million, is providing scholarships that fill gaps in tuition at public colleges and universities.
- P-16 meets the first Thursday of every month at Third Federal, 7007 Broadway Ave. Email Natalie Friedl at natalief@slavicvillage.org for more information.

## Census workers needed

Michael Jones of the U.S. Census Bureau followed Karakul to the mic and explained the benefits of all residents being counted during the 2020 Census tabulations. Jones said Slavic Village was one of the most undercounted areas in the 2010 Census, and residents are urged to participate in the 2020 Census to reap the benefits that being counted will bring.

He also said thousands of workers are needed this year by the U.S. Census Bureau, and they will receive \$22.50 an hour in Cuyahoga County. Check the website for more details.

## New housing, retail project

Sara Amato, University Settlement development director, told attendees about the new four-story multi-family and commercial development to be located at 5163 Broadway Ave., site of the former St. Alexis Hospital. She said Slavic Village Gateway is a partnership between University Settlement, Slavic Village Development and Third Federal, and is the biggest investment in Slavic Village in decades. The townhouses will provide affordable and mixed income housing.

Amato said they are in the midst of a \$6.5 million capital campaign for the project, which should break ground in July 2020. Those seeking more information should contact Earl Pike, executive director of University Settlement, at 216-931-6210 or email: epike@universitysettlement.net.

## Progress at SVD

Chris Alvarado, executive director of Slavic Village Development, noted some of the

(Continued on Page 8)



Third Federal Foundation President Kurt Karakul is shown speaking to the crowd on hand last Thursday evening for the Slavic Village "State of the Neighborhood 2020" presentation. He explained the foundation's mission and how it has made a difference in the community.

Photo by Michael Psenicka

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# Community police reports

## GARFIELD HEIGHTS

### Burglary

• Last Friday, a burglary was reported in the 9600 block of Dorothy Ave. at 9:27 a.m. Officers arrived and spoke to a man who lives in an upstairs unit of the property who said he heard a commotion in the unit below him and assumed it was the resident who lives there, his sister-in-law. A short while later he went downstairs and saw that the door to his sister-in-law's residence was ajar. He entered to check on her but no one was home. He noted that a bedroom window was open and two televisions were missing. Victim referred to insurance company.

• Officers were dispatched to a home in the 13600 block of Thornhurst Ave. last Saturday at 8:11 a.m. for a burglary report. The victim stated that sometime between Friday night and Saturday morning someone had entered her home through an unlocked bathroom window and stole a television from her bedroom. Her bedroom doors were all open and her mattress had been moved. Her front door was unlocked, making this the likely exit point, the report noted. Boot prints led from the front door.

Detective Bureau will follow up for evidence.

• A resident living in the 12600 block of Rexwood Ave. called police on Jan. 19, at 9:49 p.m. to report that an unknown man burst through her door saying, "Call 911, I have been shot." The resident grabbed her small children and fled to her bedroom, locked the door and called police. While en route, police received another call about a man being shot on E. 126 St. Arriving on Rexwood, officers entered the home through a back door which appeared to have been forced open. They cleared the home and found only the resident and her children inside. They observed no blood or other evidence of a victim at the home, but did see fresh tracks in the snow heading from the rear of the home to E. 126 St.

Police were advised by dispatch that a caller in the 4500 block of E. 126 St. saw a man with a gunshot wound get in a blue Chevy Cruze and drive off. Responding to the E. 126 St. home, officers spoke with the daughter of the homeowner, who said her cousin's boyfriend had picked her up in a blue Chevy Cruze on the west side and took her home to get gas money. The girl said her cousin's boyfriend parked in the driveway of the home on E. 126

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St. while she went inside. A few moments later a man, believed to be the cousin's boyfriend, began banging on the front door yelling, "I'm shot." She said she hesitated to open the door not knowing what was happening. After calling 911, she looked out the window and saw that the boyfriend and the Cruze were gone. She called her cousin and learned that her boyfriend had been shot and was on his way to UH Ahuja for treatment while her cousin followed in a separate car. No victim was discovered at all area hospitals checked by police.

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# Things looking up

(Continued from Page 5)

progress SVD has made over the past 10 years.

Some of the highlights Alvarado mentioned included a 10% increase in population, 46% of once-vacant houses being utilized or demolished, home values rising and the number of boarded up houses going down 67% since 2016.

Alvarado pointed out the Healthy Home Initiative that SVD has been operating for the last several years, which aims to keep people in their houses with assistance to homeowners and renters in correcting code violations.

He said the Exterior Paint Program is back in the city, which provides paint and supplies vouchers to homeowners and tenants under a certain income level who need the outside of their homes repainted.

Alvarado pointed with obvious pride to the new Morgana Bluffs Nature Preserve and Learning Center dedicated last year next to the Broadway Boys & Girls Club, creating an urban park that is bringing nature so much closer to approximately 1,700 kids in the Slavic Village neighborhood.

## Community Stewards

And he also announced the creation of the Community Stewards program which is kicking off this year, with 21 Slavic Village residents working with SVD to be the voice of their neighborhoods, updating Slavic Village’s community plan so it reflects the needs of residents.

The stewards’ training, meetings and work focus on equity, resilience and climate protection. For those wishing to talk with the steward closest to them, Alvarado said to check out SVD’s website by the end of the month for contact information.

In closing out the festivities last Thursday, Alvarado thanked everyone in attendance and invited all to Slavic Village’s annual celebration, the Broadway-Slavic Village Neighborhood Summit 2020, coming up March 14, at Bohemian National Hall.

## G.H. Ward 7 Block Watch

The Garfield Heights Ward 7 Block Watch will meet Thursday, Jan. 30, at 7 p.m. in the St. Augustine Room of St. Benedict School, 13633 Rockside Rd. Guest speaker will be Judge Deborah Nicastro. Nonperishable items for the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry appreciated. All are welcome. For more information contact Gail, 216-662-9213.

## Call Crime Stoppers with tips

Crime Stoppers encourages members of the community to assist local law enforcement agencies in the fight against crime.

Crime Stoppers provides an anonymous telephone number, Text Tips and Web Tips to encourage citizens to volunteer vital information helpful to law enforcement agencies. By offering anonymity and cash rewards for information leading to indictment or arrests, the program encourages otherwise reluctant callers to provide information.

The 24/7 hotline number, 216-252-7463, allows the caller to remain anonymous. The phone does not have a caller ID function and calls are not recorded.

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