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97th YEAR NO. 21

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2020

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

FREE

Suspects in US Bank robbery in Garfield Hts. caught quickly by police

The US Bank at 5695 Turney Rd., in Garfield Heights, was robbed on Tuesday, Jan. 21, about noon, by two males wearing masks and hoodies, one of which was armed with a gun. Both suspects were captured within a half hour of the robbery by Garfield Heights police.

According to the police report, the two men pushed past a customer who was entering the bank. The taller of the pair was armed. He yelled, "You know what this is. Give me the money." He then pointed the gun at a teller and said, "You have until I get to zero before I start shooting." The shorter, heavier male poured the cash into his book bag and both left the bank.

A witness called police and reported the robbery. The caller stated that two people wearing dark clothing had robbed US Bank and got into a silver Pontiac parked on Eastwood and began heading towards Fairlawn. Officers located the car on E. 139 St., as the driver and passenger exited the vehicle and began to flee on foot. The passenger, a juvenile male, was apprehended moments later by police. The driver continued running eastbound through the backyards towards E. 141 St. in Maple Heights.

Officers set up a perimeter and fresh prints in the snow led them to a dumpster on N. Industrial Ave., where they found the other suspect along with a backpack containing a large amount of cash. Police and K-9 Arlo located a gun a short distance from the dumpster.

The adult suspect was placed under arrest and charged with aggravated robbery and obstruction. The juvenile suspect was transported to city jail with charges of aggravated robbery and obstruction pending through the Youth Bureau.

Garfield recycling center held in contempt of court

A Garfield Heights recycling center and its owner were held in contempt of court Friday after ignoring an order to cut down the size of a massive debris pile that caught fire last year.

"This mountain of debris could at any second become the fuel for a raging inferno," Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost said. "We've got to act."

Bill Baumann, owner of Baumann's Recycling Center LLC, must now completely remove the debris pile by March 20th or face a fine of \$5,000 per day. The pile consists of more than 30,000 cubic yards of construction and demolition debris.

Firefighters were called to the recycling center in January 2019 after an excavator caught fire on top of the pile. The conditions at the site were so poor that the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, City of Garfield Heights and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health referred the case to the attorney general's office for enforcement.



Baumann's Recycling Center in Garfield Heights has been held in contempt of court for not following an order to make this massive debris pile on its property smaller.
Photo by Michael Psenicka

Yost's office requested an injunction later that month out of concerns that another fire could break out, putting first responders and the community in harm's way. Temperatures on the pile topped 140 degrees on some days.

Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge Kelly Ann

Gallagher granted the injunction this past June and ordered Baumann to reduce the pile by a minimum of 2,500 cubic yards per week, which he failed to do, Yost's office said.

Baumann's inaction prompted Gallagher to hold him and his three businesses – Baumann's Recycling Cen-

ter LLC, Baumann Enterprises Inc. and Baumann Properties Ltd. – in contempt of court, saying they "blatantly and flagrantly disregarded an order of this court, with no justifiable excuse."

Yost's Environmental Enforcement Section is handling the case.

State of City address, Town Hall meeting on recreation coming up for Bedford

By Judith Goldsworth

The annual State of the City address, a Town Hall meeting on recreation, and the opportunities both events present for businesses and residents were discussed at the Bedford Council meeting last week.

The State of the City Address, to be presented by Mayor Stan Koci and City Manager Mike Mallis, will be held on Thursday, Feb. 13, at Light of Hearts Villa, 283 Union St., to give an update on the city's growth and progress in the past year, Mallis said.

Doors will open at 11:30 a.m. for the event, which is free and open to the public for the address itself, no reservations required. Those attending wishing to buy lunch, to be served at noon, must purchase a ticket for \$15. To reserve a lunch ticket, go to www.eventbrite.com/e/89601525575, or citymanager@bedfordoh.gov, or call 440-232-1600.

"The presentation will probably start at 12:30," Mallis said. He noted that it will also be available online.

The Recreation Department will be hosting a Town Hall meeting at Ellenwood Recreation Center, 124 Ellenwood Ave., at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 21, Mallis said.

(Continued on Page 3)

Newburgh Heights hires former Indy mayor as economic development director

Newburgh Heights Council, at its January meeting, passed legislation to hire former Independence mayor Anthony Togliatti to serve the village as its economic development director.

The legislation to hire Togliatti notes that the village and its community improvement corporation have accumulated various parcels of real property which it hopes will be redeveloped and has adopted formal plans for the continued development of various areas throughout the village, including the Harvard Avenue Redevelopment Plan and the plan for development and redevelopment of the city's parklands.

It also states the village wishes to continue its efforts to promote construction of infill housing on vacant residential lots, and cites Togliatti's "extensive experience in leading economic development efforts."

Council authorized Mayor Trevor Elkins to hire Togliatti for the part-time position at the rate of \$32,000 per year plus health and hospitalization insurance benefits, and employer contributions to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, in accordance with the customary payroll practices of Newburgh Heights.

Togliatti will be required to work about 16 hours per week as an exempt employee, and his appointment will be for a two-year period.

As stated in the ordinance, his position will require him to "create and facilitate programs that attract and retain both residents and businesses, and which enable sustainable growth of the city's tax base and the economic stability of the community."

Togliatti served four years as mayor of Independence from 2016-2020. He was defeated in his reelection bid by former mayor Gregory Kurtz in last November's election.

Holiday Lighting Contest winners awarded at Garfield Heights Council meeting Monday

Winners of the 2019 Garfield Heights Holiday Lighting Contest were announced at Monday night's meeting of Garfield Heights Council with many on hand to accept their awards.

The overall **Citywide** winner was Sharon Scott of 12408 Granger Rd.

In **Ward One**, two neighbors tied for awards: Daniel Gordon, 12117 Marguerite Ave., and David and Alexis Hurley, 12109 Marguerite Ave.

Ward Two winner was Mark Orahoske, 5089 Turney Rd., **Ward Three:** Tom and Lisa Johnson, 4945 Donovan Dr.; **Ward Four:** Mark and Kim Butcher, 10306 Grace Ave.; **Ward Five:** Tom and Pam Gerak, 5584 Saxon Dr.;

Ward Six: Jason Martin, 12301 Oak Park Blvd.; and **Ward Seven:** Damon and Annette Fletcher, 13703 Rybak Ave.

Passed Monday night were the following ordinances and resolutions:

- Entering into an agreement with Meritech, Inc. for the lease and maintenance of office equipment for 2020, which includes 19 black & white laser printers, 17 multifunction products, and 6 color printers for a total cost of \$1911 per month;

- Entering into an agreement with Phoenix Safety Outfitters for the purchase of eight sets of fire gear for a total cost not to exceed \$25,500;

- Entering into an agreement with Southeastern Equipment Co., Inc. for the purchase of a Bomag pavement roller for applying cold and hot patch throughout the city;

- Entering into an amended agreement with Kimble Recycling & Disposal, Inc. for collection and disposal of rubbish and recyclable material for an additional cost of 20 cents per unit per month;

- Applying for the \$6,000 2020 Community Recycling Awareness Grant;


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HOURS: Sunday, 12 Noon - 4:00PM
 Mon. & Tues., 10:00AM - 6:00PM
 Wednesday & Saturday CLOSED
 Thursday, 10:00AM - 7:00PM
 Friday, 10:00AM - 4:00PM

5841 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights 216-475-4040

CITY OF BEDFORD, OHIO

List of Meetings for February 2020

Monday, February 3, 2020	Council Work Session - 7:15p.m. Organizational Meeting - 8:00p.m.
Tuesday, February 4, 2020	Planning Commission (if needed) Work Session - 5:30p.m. Regular Meeting - 6:00p.m.
Wednesday, February 12, 2020	Southeast Area Law Enforcement (SEALE) Board of Trustees Meeting (if needed) Work Session - 10:00a.m. Regular Meeting - 12:00p.m.
Tuesday, February 18, 2020	Council Work Session - TBD Regular Meeting - 8:00p.m.
Tuesday, February 18, 2020	Planning Commission (if needed) Work Session - 5:30p.m. Regular Meeting - 6:00p.m.
Tuesday, February 25, 2020	Board of Zoning Appeals (if needed) Work Session - 6:30p.m. Regular Meeting - 7:00p.m.

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

All Meetings will be held at Bedford City Hall, 165 Center Road, Bedford, Ohio 44146. For agendas please go to www.bedfordoh.gov or call the Clerk of Council, at 440-735-6510.

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- Applying for Holiday Meals for Seniors program funding.

Placed for second reading was an ordinance to increase the number of captain positions in the Garfield Heights Fire Department from no more than three to no more than four and to decrease the number of lieutenant positions permitted in the Garfield Heights Fire Department from no more than seven to no more than six effective immediately.

The next regularly scheduled council meeting is set for Monday, Feb. 10.

Sokols to present winter gymnastic exhibition

The Sokol Greater Cleveland Winter Gymnastic Exhibition will be held on Saturday, Feb. 15, in the Garfield Heights High School gymnasium, 4900 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights, starting at 6 p.m.

At 5:30 p.m., the Sokol Greater Cleveland Concert Band will begin the festivities with a pre-concert program.

The fast paced program will include gymnastic and aerobic demonstrations by over 225 class members ranging in age from 3 to 75. There will be a presentation by the Sokol Czech Folk Dancers as well as a performance by the Sokol Aerial Silks and Circus Arts Performers.

Advance sale tickets are \$7. Tickets at the door are \$10. For tickets or information contact Howie Wise, 216-642-1429. A free social will follow the program at Bohemian National Hall, 4939 Broadway Ave., Cleveland, with food and beverages available for purchase.



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State of City address

(Continued from Page 1)

As announced by the Recreation Department, the meeting is a chance for community members, participants, neighbors and friends to share thoughts and ideas on the future of recreational and educational opportunities in Bedford. Current programs will be discussed as well as ideas for the future.

Mallis explained, "Obviously, we've worked together to put together new programs and new ideas for everybody of all ages in town, but we also want to hear from the public. There might be something that you want to see, and we've been working to implement some of those programs and ideas. If you have experience in teaching a class, or if you have a hobby or if there's something you're good at, let us know."

Councilman Vic Fluharty noted that Bedford residents over age 62 were able to take advantage of a \$50 rebate to take part in the recreation program offered by the neighboring city of Bedford Heights. "You go there, and it's \$115 for the year, minus \$50, comes out to \$65, so you can't beat that program," he said.

To view a new Bedford Recreation Department brochure that will be mailed to residents, visit bedfordoh.gov/departments/parks-recreation/, and click on the picture of the brochure to download the file and open it.

Legislative action

Also regarding recreation activities in the city, council passed an ordinance at last week's meeting establishing rental rules, regulations and fees at the Archibald Willard Park Pavilion (also known as Ellenwood Pavilion), located behind the Ellenwood Recreation Center.

"The Recreation Department has recommended that park rules be established and/or modified to ensure that the park is used in an efficient and appropriate manner, according to the legislation.

Mallis said the new legislation details more defined

rules for when groups rent the facility. It establishes a small rental fee to reserve the area and spells out the regulations that must be followed for its use.

"This allows someone to really secure that area for a family reunion or a picnic, and also lays out various other guidelines to follow," he said.

"We did have three actual readings for it (the legislation), and nobody called me about it, so it's good to go," Koci said.

Another ordinance dealing with Bedford recreation was passed at last week's meeting, to amend existing legislation on "fees, deposits and charges" regarding recreation centers.

"First and foremost, this is not an increase of fees in any which way at the recreation center," Mallis emphasized. "This is cleaning up the language on how we collect the security deposit and put it towards a specific rental, in lieu of having to reimburse individuals after their party."

NEORSRD cost share agreement approved

Council also approved an ordinance authorizing Mallis to enter into a Community Cost Share Agreement with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSRD) for the Community Cost Share Storm Line Root Cutting and TV Inspection Project, with the city paying \$11,267.25 from its Community Cost-Share Account to participate.

The NEORSRD serves a small part of Bedford that is not served by the city's own sewer program and manages the Community Cost-Share Account.

Updates

Police are still investigating an incident where shots were fired into a house on Cresswell Ave. in the early morning hours of Wednesday, Jan. 15, Councilwoman Sandy Spinks said, adding that no one was injured.

Mallis said the former YMCA facility on Northfield Rd., now owned by the city, has been discussed as a potential development site. He said the city was also working with Cuyahoga County on appraising all of the remaining

property that is undeveloped in Tinkers Creek Commerce Park so it can be developed.

The Cleveland Metroparks will be conducting deer culling as part of its deer management plan through March in its parks. Proper signage will be posted in the parks affected.

The Dominion gas line project is continuing at the Five Points area of the city, and also includes Powers Rd. and a small section of Center Rd., Mallis said.

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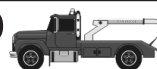
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St. Therese Church will be holding its annual INDOOR GARAGE SALE on Saturday, February 16, from 9am - 2:30pm in the St. Therese Church Hall, 5276 East 105th Street and Granger Rd., Garfield Hts. Admission \$1.00. Vendor tables still available for rent, \$25 per table.

Call 216-624-8334 for more information

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Slavic Village holiday decorators honored

Broadway Public Art has announced the winners of the 15th annual Slavic Village Holiday Decorating Contest. They are:

- Donna Smith household of Fleet Ave.
- Matt Cawley household of Forman Ave.
- Catherine Plut household of East 55 St.

In addition, judges handed out numerous honorable mention awards to distinctive residential and commercial displays in many pocket neighborhoods, and acknowledge all the hundreds of residents who in large and small ways brightened the dark nights of December with their Christmas spirit.

HIRING?

BUSINESSES NEEDED TO ATTEND

FREE COMMUNITY JOB FAIR at The Rock Community Church, Saturday, April 4, Noon-3PM

Your company is invited to participate in a free Community Job Fair to be held on Saturday, April 4, from Noon-3pm, at The Rock Community Church, 9403 Garfield Blvd, Garfield Heights, OH, 44125. We will provide free advertising on Indeed.com and local newspaper. **If interested, please email perezd@ccf.org**

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Click on the front page to download the remaining pages. Archives and other features will be added as the website evolves.

Fish fry at St. Andrew's

St. Andrew Eastern Orthodox Church, 16029 Maple Park Dr., Maple Heights, will be serving fish fry dinners from 4-6:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 31. For more information or carryouts, call 216-475-9365.

Earhart series available

For The Neighborhood News readers who may have missed one or more of last summer's 7-part series of articles by Ellen Psenicka on the Kothera group's search for the remains of Amelia Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, on Saipan in 1968, the entire series will be available via email.

To request the complete Earhart story and its Garfield Heights connection, email to: nnews1923@aol.com.

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Two new firemen sworn in for Village of Valley View

Valley View welcomed two new full time firefighters to the village after swearing in ceremonies were held for them at council's first meeting of the new year on Jan. 7. Mayor Jerry Piasecki announced at the meeting that John Suchy, Jr. and Brian Sala were present to be sworn in and that both men "possess impeccable character and desire to serve the community."

The mayor said Suchy, Jr. has been a part-time member of the fire department since July 2017, and Sala has been a part-time village firefighter since December 2018.

Fire Chief Kenneth Papesh congratulated both firefighters and their families.

The mayor announced the appointment of Nita Justice and reappointment of Tina Paulson to the Recreation Board for two-year terms. Debbie Hartman, the mayor said, elected to step down from her board seat after 20 years of service. Motions to accept the appointments of Justice and Paulson were passed by council.

Piasecki announced the reappointment of Joe White, Alan Sprague, Mike Bertovich and Tony Fini to the Planning Board for one-year terms, which was also okayed by council. Councilman Matthew March was elected council representative to the Planning Board for 2020. A motion to accept the nomination of Councilman Jeff Wyatt as council president pro-temp for 2020 was passed.

Only three pieces of legislation were on the agenda and all were okayed. They included an ordinance to pay certain claims mentioned during the month of December, a resolution authorizing the advance of funds from the Capital Projects Flood Mitigation Assistance 2017 Fund to the General Fund, and an ordinance approving the editing and inclusion of certain ordinances and adoption of new matter in the updated and revised codified ordinances, publishing such new matter and repealing ordinances and resolutions in conflict with new or revised legislation.

In financial matters, council authorized acceptance of a proposal for the removal of asbestos at a home located at 9700 Frances Dr. from Residential Asbestos Removal at a cost of \$4,300 as part of the FMA 2017 FEMA program.

Also authorized was the Grounds Department approval for the 2020 horticulture budget submitted by Stefanie Verish at a cost of \$4,000.

During his report to council, Engineer Todd Sciano said Canal Road north of Warner Road is now open. He added that Allega temporarily restored the pavement and that it will be closed again some time this spring, with an expected completion in 30 days.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the Manager of the City of Bedford, Ohio, at his office, 165 Center Road, Bedford, Ohio until 12:00 Noon E.S.T. on the 12th day of February 2020 for the furnishing of:

UNIFORM SERVICE

Each bid must contain the full name and address of every person or company interested in said proposal, and be accompanied by a bid bond or certified check in the sum of Two Hundred Fifty (\$250.00) Dollars to the satisfaction of the City Manager as a guarantee that if the bid is accepted a contract will be entered into and its performance properly secured.

Bids are to be submitted on the Bid Forms provided in this bidding documents and shall be in an opaque sealed envelope plainly marked **UNIFORM SERVICE PROPOSAL** and shall bear the name of the bidder.

Copies of the Bidding Documents will be on file for inspection and may be obtained at the City Hall, 165 Center Road, Bedford, Ohio. All questions should be directed to the Service Director (440) 735-6581.

Should any bid be rejected such check will be forthwith returned to the bidder and should any bid be accepted such check will be returned to the bidder upon proper execution of the contract.

The right is reserved to reject any and all bid.

Michael Mallis
City Manager
Bedford, Ohio

N.N.: 29 JANUARY 2020
05 FEBRUARY 2020

PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held on **Monday, February 10, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.**, before the **Maple Heights Planning and Zoning Commission** in the Maple Heights City Hall Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 5353 Lee Road, Maple Heights, Ohio, to consider the following applications:

2020-PZ-03 An application from Shaura Rodgers of Nailtorious Iconz requesting approval of a Conditional Use Permit under Sect. 1278.04(Q) of the MH Codified Ordinances to operate a nail salon as a Personal Services Business in a Neighborhood Commercial (NC) Zoning District at 5247 Warrensville Center Road, Maple Heights, Ohio.

2020-PZ-04 An application from Clifford R. Flenory, Sr. on behalf of Temple of the Living God requesting approval of a Conditional Use Permit under Sect. 1278.04(T) of the MH Codified Ordinances to operate a Religious Place of Worship in a Neighborhood Commercial (NC) Zoning District at 5670 Dunham Road, Maple Heights, Ohio.

2020-PZ-05 An application from Vincent Pelose of Access to Independence on behalf of Ronell and Kimberly Chambers requesting approval of a Variance from the requirements of Sect. 1272.06(A) of the MH Codified Ordinances regarding front yard setbacks to reduce said setback from 35' to 15' for the installation of a proposed handicap ramp in a Residential Single Family-Medium Density (RSF-M) Zoning District at 15304 Steinway Boulevard, Maple Heights, Ohio.

2020-PZ-06 An application from Connie Thomas of Heavenly Kids, LLC requesting approval of a Variance to operate a Child Day Care Center/Activity Center in a General Commercial (GC) Zoning District located within the Broadway Corridor Overlay (BCO) Zoning District at 17096 Broadway Avenue, Maple Heights, Ohio.

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

Leonette Cicirella
Clerk of Council
City of Maple Heights

The Neighborhood News
Wednesday, January 29, 2020

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GAS LINE WORK ON BOULEVARD



Orange barrels and single lane traffic have become the norm these days along Garfield Boulevard in Garfield Heights, as Dominion East Ohio works to replace gas lines along the thoroughfare.

According to Jim Sickels of OHM Advisors, the city's engineering firm, the gas lines are being replaced from Turney Rd. to E. 88 St. along the Boulevard, as well as up to two blocks on side streets to the south.

Wartko is the contractor for the project, which started the week of Jan. 6, with a completion date in early May 2020. Sickles said the majority of the gas line work will be done by the end of February, with just yard and other cleanup continuing to May.

Cleveland Council eases marijuana regs

Cleveland City Council Monday night approved an ordinance that eliminates any fines or jail time for possessing low-level amounts of marijuana. Anyone possessing up to seven ounces of marijuana would not face prosecution.

Also, anyone convicted of a misdemeanor possession of marijuana would not carry the conviction as a criminal record or be required to report it on an employment application.

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More NN 'Freebies' offered to readers

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 Sokol Greater Cleveland Winter Gymnastic Exhibition being held Saturday, Feb. 15, at 6 p.m., in the Garfield Heights High School gymnasium, 4900 Turney Rd., with a pre-program concert at 5:30 p.m. by the Sokol Greater Cleveland Concert Band. Deadline for entry is Monday, Feb. 10.

Also on the Freebies list 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.

Winners will be notified by phone and are limited to one winning entry every six months. Stop in today during normal business hours and enter the drawings!

Board of Elections seeks poll workers

The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections is seeking civic-minded individuals to assist voters at the March 17th Presidential Primary election.

Poll workers (precinct election officials) earn up to \$200 and have the satisfaction of being part of the democratic process.

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