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97th YEAR NO. 25

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020

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

FREE

Garfield Hts. to purchase several new city vehicles; mourns loss of Bob Dobies

By Ellen Psenicka

Garfield Heights Council passed legislation at its regular meeting Monday night to purchase a new salt truck for the service department, a new fire truck for the fire department, two Chevy Tahoes for the police department and a four-year lease of a new bus for seniors.

And the city is paying cash for everything but the fire truck! Mayor Vic Collova said this is only the second time during his tenure as mayor the city was in a position to pay for these big ticket items up front.

"We may not be in the best of shape," Collova said at the meeting, "but we're doing a lot better!"

The meeting began on a very sad note, however, as

Councilman Tom Vaughn asked for a moment of silence for Parks & Recreation Director Bob Dobies, who died unexpectedly last Wednesday. The mayor and Finance Director Barb Biro praised Dobies as a kind, compassionate person who really cared about the hundreds of kids who came through the rec center each year, as well as a mentor and dear friend.

The following ordinances were passed by council at its Monday night meeting:

- Purchase of a 2020 Freightliner salt truck at a cost not to exceed \$78,000 from Hans' Truck and Trailer Repair, Inc. for the service department;

- Purchase of a snow and ice control equipment package through Concord Road

Equipment Mfg., Inc. for the 2020 Freightliner salt truck at a cost not to exceed \$68,000;

- Purchase of a 2019 Toyne fire engine demo model from Toyne, Inc. for a cost of \$438,310.47;

- Amending two ordinances relative to the rate of pay for substitute secretaries of the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals;

- Purchase of two 2020 Chevrolet Tahoes from Ganley Chevrolet of Aurora, estimated to cost \$36,273 per vehicle;

- Agreement with North Coast Two Way Radio for outfitting the two 2020 Chevrolet Tahoes with police equipment, for a total cost not to exceed \$19,000;

- Agreement with the Ohio Attorney General's Office to have it serve as the Garfield Heights Municipal Court's collection agent;

- Lease of a 2020 Ford/Elkhart Coach ECH from Tesco Transportation, LLC for a period of 48 months at a total cost of \$45,343.68 to serve as a bus for the Garfield Heights Senior Center;

(Continued on Page 2)

Drew Haney passes away; funeral services scheduled

Drew Haney, longtime owner of Vic's Floral in Slavic Village from 1977 to 2017, passed away Monday evening, Feb. 24.

Customers of Vic's Floral would line the sidewalk in front of his shop at the corner of Broadway and E. 71 St. every year in October when Drew and his wife, Cheryl, would give away 500 dozen roses just for the asking.

One of his employees, Kelly Hastings, purchased the company from the Haney's in 2017 and recently moved to a new location at 6304 Fleet Ave.

Mr. Haney was also a member of the statistics crew for the Cleveland Cavaliers for over 46 years, and was on hand for the "Miracle in Richfield" and LeBron James glory days for the team.

"Drew was a wonderful person," said Ward 12 Councilman Tony Brancatelli, "very compassionate and dedicated to our Slavic Village community."

Visitation will be held on Thursday, Feb. 27, from 3 to 8 p.m. at Fortuna Funeral Home, 7076 Brecksville Rd., Independence. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Holy Name Church, 8328 Broadway Ave., Cleveland, on Friday, Feb. 28, at 10 a.m.; burial in Maple Shade Cemetery in Independence. Arrangements are being handled by Komorowski Funeral Home.



LENTEN FISH FRIES



The Lenten season begins today with Ash Wednesday and continues until the celebration of Easter Sunday on April 12. For those of you who observe meatless Fridays (and even for those who don't) check out the Fish Fries advertised on Page 8 of this newspaper for some delicious meat-free meals right in your neighborhood.

Bedford officials announce big projects at State of City address

By Ellen Psenicka

"The current state of Bedford is one of extreme optimism," said Bedford City Manager Mike Mallis at the Feb. 13 Bedford State of the City Address at Light of Hearts Villa on Union St. "The needle is going in the right direction."

And he and Mayor Stan Koci gave the crowd in attendance lots of reasons for that optimism during the annual luncheon address, keeping it local and delicious with catering by Sirna's Cafe.

Some of the positive things going on in the city over the past year and into this year included Simon's Supermarket opening sometime before summer, the new Mazda dealership, new businesses at the former Wal-Mart thanks to rezoning, new restaurant in the old Applebee's and the growth and 62 new hires last year at Xellia Pharmaceuticals as they approach a total of 300 employees.

Mallis also pointed with pride to the fact that 93% of Bedford's firemen are certified paramedics and that the police department is fully

staffed with 34 officers.

He said the city got a grant last year to plant 100 trees throughout the city and that would continue to happen. Ellenwood Recreation Center was renovated and over \$25 million in residential and commercial building permits were issued.

Mallis also pointed to the growth taking place in the once vacant Meadowbrook Shopping Center, the expansion of Light of Hearts Villa Memory Unit this year and the investment of over \$100,000 in street lighting and municipal buildings. He stated that Bedford is getting a signage update this year with 65 new signs going up all over town, and that new development at Tinker's Creek Commerce Park will soon be seen.

Two of the major highlights the city hopes to make happen are the connection of the Metroparks' Bedford Reservation to the downtown district and enhancement of the Bedford Downtown Historic District.

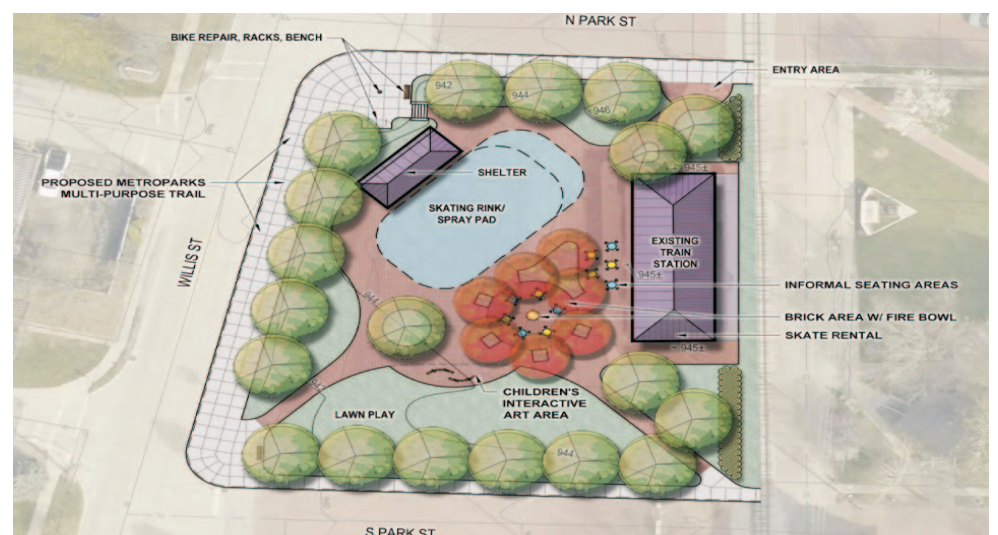
Mallis said a direct connection from Bedford Reservation to the downtown

area and the parks "will happen," and that Economic Development Director Jennifer Kuzma has already submitted a \$1 million request for grant funding for the project.

"We won't be sticking in a shovel tomorrow, but it's a first step. I think we will find a way to do it," Mallis said.

As for the enhancement of the Historic District, Mallis said an artist's rendering was presented to council earlier this month and council gave its okay to explore the possibilities of a complete redevelopment of the parking lot space behind Bedford Commons and the train station, complete with a shelter, greenspace, skating rink/spray pad, children's interactive art area and more.

"Jen (Kuzma) has identified three different funding sources that would cover half of it," Mallis said. He went on to say there will be public meetings over the next few months to get input on the proposed project from residents and business people in the community.



Shown above is an artist's rendering from the city of Bedford of what the area behind the old train station off Bedford Commons could look like if funding to enhance the Historic District can be secured. Rendering courtesy of the city of Bedford

Garfield Hts. to purchase

(Continued from Page 1)

•Authorize competitive bidding for the Multi-Street Reconstruction & Waterline Replacement Project—Phase 5, which costs will be funded through the city of Garfield Heights, Cleveland Water Department and an Ohio Public Works Commission grant.

Two resolutions were also passed by council, one to apply for the 2019 Assistance to Firefighter Grant through the Department of Homeland Security, and the other requesting council's support in signing the One Ohio Memorandum of Understanding to permit collaboration between the city, State of Ohio and other local governments in resolving the pending opiate litigation.



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Laws of the Land in Garf. Hts.

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Answer - You cannot park cars anywhere on your lawn (frontyard or backyard). You may not park cars in your driveway if they interfere with pedestrian traffic on the sidewalk. Cars should be parked in your garage at night. If you have more cars than garage space, you may park them in the driveway, close to the garage. If your residential area allows street parking, you may not park a car within 3 feet of a driveway. **Codified Ordinance Section 351.03**

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Programs at St. Monica's GHUMC Lenten Study

St. Monica Church, 13623 Rockside Rd., Garfield Heights, has two programs planned this month. Call 216-662-8685 to register or with questions.

Tuesday, March 10 – Springing into Creative Blossoms. Come find out how creating can encourage brain activity and relieve stress. Shcarra Benn from Creative Leo Designs will be at St. Monica's; painting and art made easy for everyone.

Tuesday, March 24 – Drumming Circle. Sponsored by The Gathering Place. Drumming uses rhythm to promote healing and self-expression. Come experience and participate in a Drumming Circle and find out how it can help you.

Garfield Heights United Methodist Church, 4977 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights, will hold a Lenten Study on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., March 4 through April 8. Each week the study will include selected Bible passages, a video and time for reflection and discussion. The study is free to all, but there is an option to purchase the study book.

Call 216-641-4919 for more information or to register for the study.

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Tuesday, March 17th

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THESE NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCHES WELCOME YOU

<p>Garfield Heights United Methodist Church 4977 Turney Rd. 216-641-4149 Garfield Heights <i>Sunday Worship & Sunday School 10:30am</i> <i>Rev. Daniel Drew, Pastor</i></p>	<p>Greater Holy Ghost Missionary Baptist Church 12210 Miles Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44105 <i>Services 11:30 am Sundays</i> <i>Rev. Robinson Crenshaw, Pastor</i></p>	<p>Jones Road Church 8000 Jones Rd., Cleveland, 44105 (216) 883-8572 Sunday Service: 11:00 a.m. <i>Rev. Lovel Henderson, Pastor</i></p>	<p>The Lutheran Church of the Covenant 19000 Libby Rd., Maple Heights, Ohio (216) 662-0370</p>	<p>St. Monica Church 13623 Rockside Road Garfield Heights 216-662-8685 <i>Pastor: Rev. Thomas Haren</i> Daily Mass time: 8:00am, Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00pm, Sunday Mass times: 9:00am & 10:45am <i>All are welcome!</i></p>	<p>Your Church Here Cost is \$10 per week for this size ad To Advertise, Call Mary at 216-441-2141</p>
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Special Maple Heights Council meeting tonight

By Judith Goldsworth

There will be a special meeting of Maple Heights Council tonight, Wednesday, Feb. 26, as the city continues its efforts to update Spafford Park pool for use this summer, also passing legislation towards that goal at last week's meeting.

Mayor Annette Blackwell has stated her intention to reopen the pool to residents after it was closed several years ago due to financial constraints.

At tonight's meeting, to be held at 7 p.m. in Room 7 of Maple Heights City Hall, 5353 Lee Rd., council will consider two pieces of legislation, one authorizing Blackwell to enter into a contract with Hastings Water Works to open the Stafford Park pool's "sprayground."

Also considered will be legislation authorizing the

purchase of equipment for the sprayground. This meeting is open to the public and residents are welcome to attend.

Council has passed numerous pieces of legislation authorizing work at the pool. At last week's meeting, council passed an ordinance authorizing Blackwell to spend up to \$100,000 in State of Ohio Capital Budget Funds for LED lighting upgrades, security cameras and

(Continued on Page 7)

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, Feb. 28. For more information or carryouts, call 216-475-9365.

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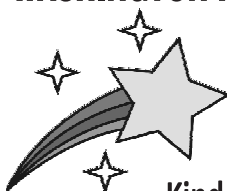
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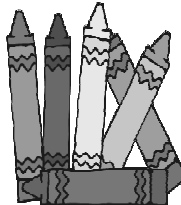
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Broadway Ave. resurfacing schedule in Bedford moved up, city mgr. announces

By Judith Goldsworth

After a recent meeting with Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) officials, the much needed resurfacing of Broadway Avenue, originally scheduled for 2026, has been moved up to 2023, and other preparations, including water line replacements, will start immediately, City Manager Mike Mallis said at last week's Bedford Council meeting.

Mallis commended the city's service and engineering departments for their efforts in helping to get the resurfacing started early.

Regarding the Northfield Road bridge, Mallis said that had also been a topic of discussion with ODOT, "specifically the fencing and the walks as well as Northfield Road itself in that condition, because that is deteriorating as well. They did say they would look into that. They did not have any timeline for us, but they were going to follow up with us within 30 days."

New hire, promotions in BFD

Mayor Stan Koci swore in

Rory Coleman as a new firefighter/paramedic to the Bedford Fire Department at last week's meeting, and also administered the oath of office to Tim Grote, who was promoted to lieutenant, and to Dan Dopslaf, who was promoted to assistant fire chief.

Coleman comes to Bedford from the Brimfield Fire Department in Portage County, while Grote and Dopslaf were promoted within the fire department; Dopslaf is replacing Shawn Solar, who retired as assistant chief recently.

On agenda

Council passed was an ordinance written by the state of Ohio for a project to upgrade guardrail end treatments on Rockside Road in the city. This work is part of a larger project to upgrade guardrail end treatments on National Highway System routes within Cuyahoga and Lake Counties.

Placed on first reading was an ordinance for the city to enter into a contract with Cintas Corporation for uniform services for three years

for service department workers.

Also placed on first reading was an ordinance to purchase two 2020 Chevrolet Tahoes from Ganley Chevrolet of Aurora for the police department, at a cost of \$72,560. The city might be able to get a better price on those vehicles, resulting in the first reading, Koci said.

And placed on first reading were three ordinances regarding a vehicle and equipment for the city's animal warden, all to be purchased through the State Cooperative Purchasing Program - a contract with Jay Auto Group Inc. to purchase a 2020 GMC Sierra 2500 HD (\$32,655.20); a contract with Deerskin Manufacturing Inc. for a 6-compartment Chassis Animal Control Unit (\$12,500); and a contract with Northcoast Two Way Radio to outfit the GMC Sierra (\$3,068.04).

The city of Bedford Heights will pay half of the costs, as part of its agreement with Bedford to share the animal warden services.

Garfield Hts. community mourns loss of Parks & Rec Director Bob Dobies

Robert A. Dobies, Sr., age 68, passed away suddenly on Wednesday, Feb. 19. Mr. Dobies was Parks & Recreation director for the city of Garfield Heights for the past 10 years and currently also served on the Garfield Heights Board of Education as vice president.

He was the beloved husband of Michelle (nee DeMassimo); loving father of Robert A. "Bert" II (deceased), Joseph (Crystal) and Justin (Jacqueline); cherished grandfather of Austin, Hunter, Miller and Leo; devoted son of Joseph and Florence (both deceased); dear brother of Jerry (Karen, deceased) and Sandy (Bob); dear uncle and great uncle of many.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Monday at Saints Peter and Paul Church. Arrangements by Golubski-Deliberato Funeral Home.



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Special Maple Hts. Council

(Continued from Page 5)

sprayground improvements at Stafford Park.

Also passed at last week's meeting was a resolution authorizing Blackwell to enter into a contract with D.E. Williams Electric, Inc., to provide services for the Maple Heights Senior Center Site Lighting Renovations Project, at a cost of \$19,000.

The Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council has a community grant program for participating NOPEC communities called the NOPEC Energized Community Grant (NEC) Program. Maple Heights received a \$61,782 grant in 2019, and a \$58,732 grant in 2020, to be used for municipal energy efficiency and energy infrastructure projects, according to the resolution.

More 'pocket park' improvements

Council has passed many pieces of legislation in the past few years to establish and build a "pocket park" in the Lee-Libby intersection of the city, funded through Community Cost Share Program funds paid out by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District. A rain garden and permeable pavement as part of a storm water management plan

have been installed.

Another resolution passed at last week's meeting provides for an amendment to the Community Cost Share Agreement for additional funding not to exceed \$82,000, "to provide for additional eligible construction and engineering costs... to complete the required scope of work." This additional funding will bring the total NEORSD allocation to \$167,000.

Also regarding the sewer district, council passed a resolution at last week's meeting authorizing Blackwell to execute an agreement with the NEORSD for Community Cost Share Program Funds for 2020 Stormwater Management "and to complete work to ensure the city... remains compliant" with Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and stormwater permit requirements.

The city has been informed by the NEORSD that extension of the street sweeping pad "to prevent non-authorized stormwater discharges" and enable "proper disposal of street sweeping materials" at the service department's facility at 5501 Dunham Rd., qualifies as a storm water management program eligible for \$115,000 in Community Cost Share Program funds, according to the resolution.

And also related to storm water discharge in the city,

council passed a resolution authorizing Blackwell to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District and the NEORSD to provide U.S. EPA Phase II Stormwater Services for the 2020 calendar year.

Also on agenda

Council passed a resolution authorizing Blackwell to enter into an agreement with James G. Zupka, C.P.A., Inc., to prepare and file the annual Generally Accepted Accounting Principles financial statements for the city for the years ended Dec. 31, 2019 and Dec. 31, 2020.

Project totals are anticipated as being \$11,988 apiece for 2019 and 2020, respectively.

Council passed a resolution authorizing the Community Life and Education Committee to expend public funds and accept private donations to host the following 2020 community events in Maple Heights: Hoop It Up, Trunk Or Treat, Gobble Gobble Turkey Giveaway, and Youth Holiday Party in December.

Also passed was a resolution recognizing the Cuyahoga County Public Library System for earning the top rating among the nation's largest library systems for the 10th consecutive year in the Library Journal publication.

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Saucisson beat Bobby Flay on Food Network!

Last Sunday, Feb. 23, the Lady Butchers of Saucisson in Slavic Village were featured on the Food Network show "Beat Bobby Flay." Filmed last fall in New York, butchers Penny Barend and Melissa Khoury were sworn to secrecy about the outcome. But now we know – Barend, representing the team, beat Bobby Flay.

"This was a true testament to the creativity and skill of the Lady Butchers at Saucisson on Fleet Avenue in Slavic Village," Councilman Tony Brancatelli said. "Penny Barend and Melissa Khoury continue to serve amazing lunches along with their artisan cured meats, hand crafted soups and specialty foods."

The show pits two chefs against each other to see who then takes on Bobby Flay. The chefs prepare a dish using an item of Flay's choice in the first round, then that victor chooses a signature dish to battle Flay.

The first round pitted Khoury and Barend with the ingredient being bison. Guest hosts and first round judges Michael Symon and Courtney Rada encouraged the ladies while needling Flay. Moving on to round two, Barend chose pork sandwich as her signature dish, creating a delectable combination of grilled pork, chorizo and slaw, while Khoury boisterously supported her from the gallery.

Three culinary judges unanimously chose Barend, aka The Meat Maven, as the winner. Congratulations to the ladies for representing Cleveland and coming home with the championship.

Barend and Khoury created Saucisson after both working in restaurants post-culinary school. Both have a passion for butchering which led them to open the shop. Since moving in the ladies have been very active in the community and with the Fleet Avenue Stakeholders, including cooking for the annual Village Feast and catering many events.

Saucisson is located at 5324 Fleet Ave., in Slavic Village and is open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and features locally sourced meats and daily specials.



Shown here are the Lady Butchers of Saucisson, Penny Barend and Melissa Khoury.

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PUBLIC HEARING
A Public Hearing will be held on **Monday, March 9, 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-07 An application from Tisha Smith requesting approval of the following: a Variance from Sect. 1278 of the MH Codified Ordinances to conduct Fitness Classes, Educational Classes and Community Meetings; and a Conditional Use Permit under Sect. 1278.04(W) of the MH Codified Ordinances to operate a Retail Business in a Neighborhood Commercial (NC) Zoning District at 5225 Warrensville Center Road, 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, February 26, 2020

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